

news & VIEWS

THE MASSAPEQUA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June 2008

Volume 9, Issue 6



A Pastor's Perspective...

Dear Friends,

I was very grateful for the great turn out for our recent Adult Ed Series on the RCA's "One Thing Conference". As I said at our Adult Ed Series, this conference is part of a national conversation within the Reformed Church that I am happy we can participate in. The conversation is about the positive impact that can occur when "we look at the Church through Kingdom of God eyes, as opposed to looking at the Kingdom of God through Church eyes".

An example that might make this distinction clearer is found right in this newsletter. For looking at the Kingdom of God exclusively through Church eyes would mean that rather than taking Mission trips to College Point, Warwick and Stony Brook this Summer, we should stay right here in Massapequa and spend those four weeks cleaning and renovating our own Church Building. **Now don't get me wrong, I am very grateful for the wonderful work that gets done at our "Fall and Spring Spruce Up Days", but I am also grateful for the fact that we understand our Christian Commitment includes Massapequa but is not limited to Massapequa!**

To continue and extend our participation in this RCA conversation, I would like to devote this month's Pastor's Perspective to this topic! I would also invite you to send comments on this topic or to our Web site at: <http://www.massreformedchurch.org/mboard/mboard.php> (you can also just click on easy messages which is on our Home Page). **Your comments and our responses to one another will make it a richer conversation!**

Let me begin my perspective by challenging one of the assumptions of this RCA conversation that concerns me. For at times, as I listened to the speaker at the "One

Thing Conference" or have received other communications about this Denominational focus, I have felt that a false dichotomy has been created that would suggest that we must choose between looking at life and ministry from a Kingdom Perspective or a Church perspective. I would argue that the best option is to combine these perspectives so that we demonstrate a concern for both our individual Church and the greater kingdom of God. Again, let me illustrate this point. I am reading a John Grisham novel right now that is entitled "The Street Lawyer". In this novel, a Pastor of a local Church expresses his Kingdom concern for the poor by on occasion canceling the Sunday Service so that there will be a site for the homeless to "weather a storm". Now here, in the non-novel real world of ministry at the

Massapequa Reformed Church, we are not going to be canceling Church but we are founding members of The Family Promise Ministry for Homeless Families and we will continue to seek out opportunities to minister to those, whom the Gospel of Matthew describes as "the least of our brethren".

But having challenged this assumption, let me continue by honestly saying that my observation after 30 plus years of enjoying the privilege of ministering with dedicated and committed people like you is that the RCA is correct when it challenges its congregations to take a serious look at the balance between Church and Kingdom concerns that exist within their Church's ministry. One of the challenging truths that was included in the "One Thing Conference" was the fact that of the \$300 billion dollars given in America during the year 2007 \$95 billion dollars went to the Church. However, of that \$95 Billion dollars, within over 50% of the congregations, less than 10% went for Mission Services. I am very glad that we are not part of that 50% but I also feel that we need to continue to honor our commitment to provide the time, talents and treasures that make our outstanding ministry vital and

*Church
&
Kingdom Eyes*

Continued on Pg. 2....

WITH
GRATITUDE
TO GOD
WE WELCOME
THE
FOLLOWING
CHILDREN
TO THE
LORD'S TABLE:

Brandon Ballato
Deborah Lobaccaro
Brian Stefane
Erik Treble
Jack Veltri



News & Views "Staff"

Rev. Dr. Stephen Giordano
Pastor
Barbara Kohler, *Secretary*
Linda Wong, *Editor*

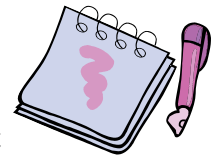
...Continued from cover page

possible. Look at all of the great Church and Kingdom concerns that are described in this Newsletter. **It's not getting easier to maintain that commitment and that is why your support is so important and appreciated by myself and your fellow Church members!**

Finally, let me extend a special invitation to you to attend this Sunday's (June 1) 11 AM Adult Ed session. We will be completing our conversation about "Kingdom and Church Eyes" and I would love to have your participation in this conversation. We will also enjoy a special presentation from Juan Toro and his Band. It should be another great Sunday!

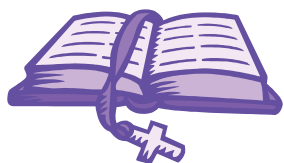
Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

Consistory Highlights



Consistory met on May 21st and discussed the following:

1. The Consistory received and endorsed a request to support the MICAHA Marathon. Two twin brothers, Andrew and Michael have set the goal of running the length of Long Island in 7 days in order to raise awareness and funds to support MICAHA's Interfaith efforts for poor and hungry Long Islanders. All are welcomed to make a gift to our L.I. Good Samaritan Fund to support MICAHA.
2. The Consistory received an exciting report about the work of our Youth Director, Juan Toro and his wife Victoria. Over \$530 was raised at their recent "Youth Mission Car Wash" and excitement continues to grow for their Warwick and Stony Brook Mission trips this Summer. On June 1st, we will have a special "Bon Voyage" for Juan and Victoria who leave for their Concert Tour in England on June 3rd. Juan and his brothers will be performing some special music during our Service and at Adult Ed on that same date.
3. The Consistory was grateful to hear that Pastor Steve has heard from several of our former Pastors who will either be present or send greetings for our Church's 45th Anniversary Gala Dinner. Seating is limited so all are encouraged to make their reservations as soon as is possible.
4. The Consistory expressed its appreciation to: Jo-Ann Dammacco; Juan and Victoria and all of the Sunday School staff who helped our Youth provide an excellent Youth Sunday Service. We look forward to a great Children's Day Service on Sunday, June 22 that will be led by our Sunday School students and be followed by our Church Picnic in the Church Yard. We are in need of some new teachers for next Fall's Program. If you would consider serving in this important ministry, speak to our Sunday School Superintendent, Laurie Baach or Pastor Steve.



**PRAISE AND PRAYER
CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
LED BY PASTOR STEVE
EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING AT 7:30**



Music Notes

Spring Talent Show - June 14th A star-studded, talent show will be coming to our church on Saturday, June 14 at 7:00 pm! Yes, we're going to have a fun-filled night of great entertainment with many surprises! To top the night off we'll have a reception of tasty desserts for everyone afterwards! The organizers of the show are our Handbell Choir who planned this event as a fundraiser to raise funds to purchase new bells for the choir. A nominal fee will be charged for the show and reception. Tickets will be on sale at our action table on Sunday mornings, and also at the door. Tell all your friends and neighbors to come for an enjoyable night of entertainment, and reception all for a great cause!

Handbell Choir first year – This has only been the first year of our new Handbell Choir and already they have performed 6 times. This is all possible since we were able to borrow a set of old handbells from our sister church in Sayville. This allowed us to get started. Now that we have a regular group of 10 members who want to continue, we need to plan on purchasing a set of bells.

Give-a-Bell-Campaign

This month we are starting our campaign to raise funds for new handbells for our Handbell choir. In addition to our talent show, we are raising funds through our Give-a-Bell-Campaign. This will be an opportunity to donate the cost of one or more bells in memory of a loved one or to the glory of God and our church's music ministry. Each donated handbell will have a personalized inscription engraved on the inside of each handle with the name of the person whose memory the bell is donated. The cost of donating each handbell will be \$200. A special display will be set up in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays that will include a sample Handbell as well as other detailed information about the handbells and a form you can use to make a donation. Please consider giving one or more bells in memory of a loved one. This will be a wonderful way to make a living memorial that will also add greatly to the music ministry of our church.

John Mayhew

Director of Music & Organist

In A Different Voice...

RCA: A Missionary Church

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

Matthew 28:19

The Reformed Church in America was one of the first North American Protestant denominations to understand the importance of the last words of Jesus for the life of the church.

Today we continue to commit to mission in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Russia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Through Reformed Church World Service we meet emergency needs caused by natural disasters. Words of Hope is an RCA-affiliated radio ministry that broadcasts in 35 languages around the world. Mission efforts closer to home include outreach to Appalachia, Canada, Native American Indian ministries and urban as well as local sites.

Here at MRC we have a long history of devotion to mission--with partners locally, nationally and internationally.

This summer we again have the opportunity to serve in various “hands-on” projects. Under the direction of Charlie Coles and Art Armstrong we will travel to serve other Reformed Church congregations and Warwick Conference Center.

Join others of our congregation in a time of work, fellowship and service on a local level.

We reserve this column each month for inspirational thoughts. We welcome contributions from everyone! Send your poems, prayers or thoughts to the church office.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY JUNE 22nd

Please join us at our 9:30 AM worship service and enjoy what the children of the Sunday School have planned!

This very special worship service will be followed by the MRC Annual Picnic, where ice cream will be available for the children.

Come join us for fun, food, games and ice cream!

Food Pantry

Did you know?

There are Waldbaum's vouchers, which are used just like cash, in the food pantry. If you would like to donate money for this community outreach, please place your gift in a Good Samaritan envelope and indicate:

"Food Pantry."

For more information, contact:

Judy Boyd (798-6033),
Daphne Blount
(631)952-3812) or
Maureen Kours
(631-691-6369)

and they will take care of the details. We can also use the following items in the pantry: children's cereal & snacks, juice, macaroni & cheese; tuna, pasta & sauce, coffee, canned vegetables and soup and the like.



Please check expiration dates.

"Sea To Shining Sea" Bike Tour

**This summer, our former Pastor,
the Rev. Dr. David Dethmers
is participating in a
Pacific to Atlantic Oceans Bike Tour
to raise funds for
Reformed Church World Service.
If you would like to support this effort,
please use the LI Good Samaritan Envelope
that is included in this newsletter.**



Summer Mission Trips Update

Tuesday, June 3, is the first day of a summer filled with exciting opportunities to live out our faith by participating in one of our Summer Mission Trips. You can sign up for a day or more by calling 516-799-5158.

Our schedule is as follows:

June 3rd - 13th and July 7th - 11th
at the First Reformed Church
of College Point in Queens

July 14th - 18th and August 18th - 22nd
at Christ Community Church
in Stony Brook

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

On Saturday, June 14th,
we will have a special
pre-Father's Day gathering
at 8 AM at the Nautilus Diner.



Please RSVP at 516-799-5158 by June 12th.

Youth Club and Group News

June 1st is Juan and Victoria's final Sunday before they leave for their Concert Tour in England. To mark this occasion, we will have a special schedule for June 1st as follows:

- 11 AM We'll have a joint meeting of our:
Adult Ed, Senior High and Junior High classes
that will serve as a "Bon Voyage" for
Juan and Victoria
- 12 PM Youth Club
- 7 PM Youth Fellowship

June 8th from 1-4 PM will be the year-end BBQ
and Pool Party at the Schachters.



MRC BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, June 8th

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sign up at the Action Table following Worship Service

YOUR DONATION CAN SAVE UP TO FIVE LIVES

Eligibility Criteria:

Weigh at least 110 lbs.

Age 16 (with parental consent form) through 75 years

Have valid ID and know social security number

Eat well and have plenty of fluids

Healthy Habits Support Group

Starting on Wednesday, June 11th at 7 PM,

all are welcomed to a weekly

Healthy Habits Support Group.

We will meet in the Friendship Room
and discuss such healthy habits as
weight loss and exercise.

Our guest speaker on June 18th will be
nutritionist Joe Garbarino.



DID YOU KNOW?

Children's Day

Our denomination has a history of caring for children and the observation of Children's Day. Traditionally celebrated the second Sunday in June, it may be held at different times. In many churches, this is a day that the congregation commits to love, cherish and nurture the children of the Sunday School.

Children are our future and they need our Christian love and nurture.

Children need their own special day, just as parents have theirs — Mother's Day and Father's Day. A special day for children helps accent their needs for love, protection, healthcare and secular and religious education.

Many Christians feel that Children's Day should be recognized on a national level.

Come celebrate Children's Day at MRC on June 22. Enjoy Sunday School presentations in the Sanctuary and have fun at our annual congregational picnic.



Fair & Auction News - October 4, 2008

October 4th is coming soon. We need another great year for our church. Let's show our commitment by participating in this year's Fair and Auction. Many volunteers are needed. During the summer people are needed to organize, clean and number the auction items. This would enable us to have the Auction Catalog completed by September 14th. Please let us know during the summer the area of the fair you are going to work. We need your help! The Fair and Auction is a great time of fellowship, community bonding, and an opportunity to make new and lasting friendships.



Do you do crafts, knit, crochet, paint, etc.? Do you bake? Are you cleaning out your attic or basement? We need your treasures.

Now is the time for you to start bringing in your auction items. Yes, we are accepting items June through September 9th. Sufficient time is needed to research, repair, and advertise these items. Please no large pieces of furniture — only small antique or unusual pieces will be accepted.

As you know, over the years the auction has been raised to a new level. This year will be no exception.

These are some items which can be donated over the summer: cases of soda (diet, regular and Sierra Mist); brown paper/plastic bags; utility bags; 2 liter bottles of 7-Up; coffee and tea (decaf and regular); sweet & low (1 box); packets of sugar; and small bottles of water.

So, please keep us in mind this summer!

Please call:

Auction: Judy Boyd—798-6033

Fair: Leanore McKinley - 541-4866

Suggested Items for Flea Market

lamps	small kitchen items
pictures	trivets
frames	salt & pepper shakers
jewelry	towel rack
jewelry box	pots and pans
mirrors	cookie jars
ice bucket	spice jars or racks
new perfume	mason jars
sewing basket	scales
<u>new</u> candles	glasses
pottery	canisters
brass	egg beaters
doll houses	irons
dolls	small kitchen appliances
ties	old perfume bottles
games	<u>new</u> perfume bottles
Christmas items	dishes
games, small	tools/garden tools
sporting equipment	(good condition)

PLEASE NO:

Computers	Bicycles
Phones	Exercise equipment
Paints	Skis
TVs	Fax Machines
Records	

These items DO NOT SELL and must be environmentally disposed of.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ITEMS ARE IN WORKING CONDITION AND ARE CLEAN FOR RESALE.

WE URGE YOU TO BRING YOUR ITEMS EARLY IN THE WEEK SO THERE IS SUFFICIENT TIME TO PRICE THEM.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2nd, IS THE LAST DAY TO BRING IN ITEMS.

THE WEEK BEFORE THE FAIR, WE WILL NEED HELP WITH PRICING.

IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CALL LEANORE MCKINLEY AT 541-4866.

Women's Guild News

InStep TOGETHER



for the future of women in the Reformed Church in America

LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP!

Come to our "END OF CHURCH YEAR"
dinner on Monday, June 2nd
at Dick and Dora's - - 6:30 PM

Sign up Sunday, June 1st
during Coffee Hour



A Mother's Day Thank You

Once again this year, all of the ladies of our Church Family received a wonderful Mother's Day Gift in the form of a delicious Brunch that was served to us and the entire Church Family.

Our deepest thanks go to Jamie Cassidy, Harry Kastros, Todd Klingler, Jones Wong and the members of our Youth Group who prepared, served and cleaned up!

On behalf of all of the grateful Women of our Church Family,

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, October 4th
Annual Fair & Auction



It's Time to Celebrate our Church's 45th Anniversary!

On Friday, October 17th, we will be having a "Gala Dinner Dance" to celebrate our Church's 45th Anniversary!

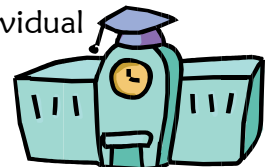
The dinner will be held at
The Sterling Manor
345 Hicksville Road, Bethpage

The cost is \$65 but we want everyone to come, so speak to Pastor Steve if the cost is a concern. We have invited all of our former Pastors and members to attend, so we hope you will join us in welcoming these good friends to our celebration.

Speak to Dot Doxey or Pastor Steve to get more details or to make your reservation!

Hamlin-Thayer College Loans Available

One of the accounts in the church's Hamlin-Thayer Fund provides interest-free loans to church members attending college. Funds are limited, and all loans must be approved by Consistory. Anyone interested in applying must fill out an application, available in the Church Office. Applications must be received in the office by Monday, July 28th, to be eligible for consideration. Repayment shall commence not more than two years after the individual ceases attending school on a full time basis.



In The News

Chit Chat



Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Dates!



- June 1st-13th Mission work (day trips) to College Pt .Reformed Church
- June 2nd 6:30 PM Women's Guild Dinner
- June 8th Graduates Recognized at 9:30 Worship
- June 8th MRC Blood Drive - 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
- June 8th Youth Group BBQ and Pool Party - 1-4 pm
- June 14th 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast at the Nautilus Diner
- June 14th 7:00 PM Spring Talent Show
- June 22nd Children's Sunday and Picnic
- June 29th Choir Recognition Sunday
- July 19th Youth Mission Trip Fund Raising Dinner - 6 pm
- July 20th-25th Summer Mission Trip at Warwick

Calling All Graduates



On Sunday, June 8th, during our 9:30 AM Worship, we will be recognizing and honoring all of our 2008 graduates.



Please call the Church Office at 516-799-5158 if you have a graduate we can honor.

Welcome Pulpit Guests

On Sunday, June 15th, we will welcome Rev. Linda Burlew-Gold who will lead our 9:30 AM Worship and Adult Ed Forum. Pastor Linda serves at the 1st Reformed Church of College Point, our Mission Site for June 3-13 and July 7-11. Pastor Steve will be leading Worship at College Point, which is also his Home Church on that same Sunday.

On Sunday, June 29th, we will welcome the Rev. Clara Woodson of the New Brooklyn Reformed Church and one of our Synod Area Ministers to lead our Worship and Adult Ed Forum.

Finally, on July 13th, we will welcome our former Interim Pastor, the Rev. Norman Stanton, who will lead our 9:30 AM Worship, as part of our Church's 45th Anniversary Celebration.

Massapequa High School Hall of Fame Dinner - August 4th

How would you like to enjoy a wonderful dinner at the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course and raise funds for a good cause? That's the opportunity we all have as we have been invited to attend the 13th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Dinner. The cost is \$75 but all of the profits are used to provide scholarships for 2009 Graduates of the Massapequa School District.

If you would like to attend, call the Church Office at 516-799-5158, or speak to Donald Spruck, who is one of our Church members who has been inducted in the MHS Hall of Fame and is serving on the planning committee. For the truly adventurous among us, there is also a full round of golf and other events scheduled for earlier on this same date.

JUNE



USHERS

- 1 - Harriet Cummings, Bill Brown, Kaaren Hajohn, Judith Harvey
- 8 - Kelly and Kristin Kraemer, Ryan Cassidy, Jason Wong
- 15 - Betty and Art Armstrong, Rowan Brooks, Al Brecht
- 22 - Children's Day Participants
- 29 - Richard, Ryan and Daphne Blount, John Hoblin

July 6

The Cassidy Family

GREETERS

- 1 - The Kastros Family
- 8 - The Clagnaz Family
- 15 - The Klingler Family
- 22 - Children's Participants
- 29 - The McCool Family

July 6

The Spero Family

COUNTERS

- 1 - Art Armstrong, Jones Wong
- 8 - Cathie Spruck, Verna Robinson
- 15 - Alec Duncan, Joe Garbarino
- 22 - Dot Doxey, Jane Smits
- 29 - John Hoblin, Julian Bacchus

July 6

Judy Boyd, Lois Schmitt

CHILD CARE

1- 9:00 AM

Jack Lobaccaro,
Richard and Ryan

Blount

8- 9:00 AM

Janet Pianese, Brian

Helft

15 - 9:00 AM

Toni Stevenson,
Marsha and Zach Silva

22- 9:00 AM

Joan and Jacqueline
McCool

29- 9:00 AM

Verna Robinson

July 6

COMMUNION PREPARATION

- 1 - Tom and Eileen Lockhoff

July 6

Carol Watt and Maureen Kours

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 1 - J. Hoblin, C. Spruck,
D. Bove, R. Boyd,
K. Casserly, D. Spruck

July 6

A. Duncan, J. Wong, H. Doall,
L. Duncan, W. Fluhr, K. Goodwin

COFFEE HOUR

- 1 - Carol & Joe Garbarino
- 8 - To be announced
- 15 - To be announced
- 22 - Children's Day
- 29 - To be announced

July 6 -

To be announced

Adult Education Schedule

June 1

"Just One Thing" Part 3 - Pastor Steve

June 8

A Conversation About Predestination - Alec Duncan

June 15

An Update on Summer Mission Projects - Pastor Linda

June 22

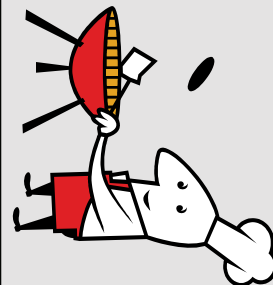
Children's Day and Picnic - No Class

June 29

A Conversation About Prayer - Rev. Clara Woodson



SCHEDULES



MISSION ??????????????????

The Massapequa Reformed Church

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Massapequa, NY 11758

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Church Office: (516)799-5158 Fax: (516)799-4725

Website: www.massreformedchurch.org

Email: pastorsteve@massreformedchurch.org

July/August News & Views Deadline: June 15th, 2008

news & VIEWS

THE MASSAPEQUA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June 2008

THE MASSAPEQUA REFORMED CHURCH STATEMENT OF MISSION:



The Massapequa Reformed Church is a diverse and welcoming family of faith where the worship of God in Jesus Christ is the center of our life and purpose. We aim in these challenging times to affirm God's love for the world by the power of the Holy Spirit and strive to embody the grace, love, and hope of Jesus Christ through opportunities for spiritual growth and faithful service.



For Children's
Sunday??????

