

news & VIEWS

THE MASSAPEQUA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September 2008

Volume 9, Issue 8



A Pastor's Perspective...

Dear Friends,

Have you seen the current film "Swing Vote"? It's described by one reviewer as: "a lightweight comedy that delivers an accidentally savvy political lesson". It tells the fictional story of how one voter holds the deciding vote in a Presidential Election and how the candidates try to win that vote. In some communities, the idea of one vote being so important might seem ridiculous, but here in Massapequa, you may remember that our most recent Board of Ed Elections were decided by, yes, one vote!

Of course on a National level, the mathematic possibility of one vote making the difference is a "long shot" at best but whatever inspiration this movie may provide for us to get out to vote, for me the story of this film has inspired this letter that is entitled: "Swing Vote Theology".

Now before you organize the "heresy trial", let me explain what "Swing Vote Theology" is all about. The basis of this Theology is found throughout the Scriptures but my specific reference is found in 1 Corinthians 12: 27, which reads: "All of you are Christ's body, and each one of you are a part of it". What Paul was talking about when he wrote this letter to the Corinthians is the same thing I am talking about in my "Swing Vote Theology", which is that **each and every one of us make an incredible difference in terms of our individual and collective Christian witness!**

You know I hate to make myself or my family the "Hero" of a story but once in a while we can be pretty good. For instance, let's go back to that Massapequa School Board Election Date. You may remember that it was "raining cats and dogs that day". As we looked out at the weather and considered the "joy of getting the wheel chair in and out of the car" we were tempted to take a pass. But, the idea of our Christian responsibility to be faithful to our duties as a citizen won the day and we got out to vote. Little did we think that our vote would make a significant difference but in an election won by one vote, every vote matters. And, the

greater truth is that whether a vote is decided by one or thousands of votes, our decision to personally be faithful to our responsibilities is always significant.

Of course, "Swing Vote Theology" is also at the heart of my appeal to each and every one of you to help us make September 7th's Rally day Worship and Brunch a huge success! We have had a wonderful Summer of ministry here at our Church highlighted by the dozens of people who participated in our Mission Trips to College Point and Christ Community Reformed Church and the 25 youth and chaperones who were part of our Youth Mission Trip to the Warwick Center. But now September comes and there is an even greater need for each and every one of us to step forward so that we can have a great Fall of Ministry, Fellowship and inspiration.

To illustrate the need we have for your support and participation, let me share some of the concerns we have for the ministry and witness of our congregation. Yes, we praise God for the 20 plus members of our Church Family who have signed up to be members of our Sunday School teaching staff. But do you know that up until August 10th, we had several spots in our teaching roster that were not filled. And yes, we praise God for the generous support of our entire Church family that provides over \$300,000 worth of local, national and international ministry. But did you know that our usual "Summer Slump in offerings" have left us with a \$10,000 deficit?

Do you think that your participation will make the difference? Let me assure you that it will! It will make all of the difference not only in terms of providing the time, talents and treasures that make our Church's ministry possible and it will also make all of the difference in the sense of satisfaction that comes from honoring our Christian responsibility to serve as an instrument of God's grace in the lives of our loved ones and all who are effected by our faithful witness. **Yes, your presence on Rally Sunday and beyond will make all of the difference in our "Swing Vote Theology and Ministry"!**

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

SWING VOTE THEOLOGY



Music Notes

As we kick off our new church year we invite you to become an active part of our music ministry! Our church offers choirs for all age groups. Each choir has open enrollment and welcome all who enjoy singing, fellowship, and praising our God. Why not offer your time and talents in something meaningful this year and join one of our ministering music groups.

Senior Choir

The Senior Choir is our primary ministering group in our music program and helps lead our worship each Sunday morning. This choir is open to all adults who are post-high school age. This group enjoys singing a variety of musical styles including contemporary, classical, gospel, as well as hymn arrangements. This choir presents a Christmas Cantata, and participates in a local Choir Festival each year. It is also featured at our special worship services throughout the church year. The choir also enjoys good fellowship at our planned social events.

Youth Choir

This choir is a great opportunity for the youth in grades 6-12. This group enables our youth to enjoy music with a more contemporary, upbeat flair geared especially for young adults! This group sings on special occasions throughout our church year.

Junior Choir

This group is for children in grades 1-5. The music for this group will be bright and energetic and gives our children a good opportunity to learn to sing and enjoy music! This group sings in our Sunday worship services once each month as well as other special occasions with our Senior and Youth Choirs.

Handbell Choir

For those instrumentalists in our church, we invite you to join our Handbell Choir. This group is open to all those in high school through adult and will practice and perform on special occasions during the year with a brand new set of handbells!

Praise Team

For those qualified adults who enjoy singing and playing contemporary praise music. This group leads our congregation in singing our praise music in our worship services each week.

John Mayhew

Director of Music & Organist

News & Views "Staff"

Rev. Dr. Stephen Giordano

Pastor

Barbara Kohler, *Secretary*

Linda Wong, *Editor*

Mid-Week Contemporary Service Is Back

Starting Wednesday, September 17th, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

All are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Especially those whose schedule makes

Sunday attendance impossible!

RALLY DAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 2008

**Re-Connect with your Church Friends
as we start a new Church Year!**

**9:30 AM Worship Service with Sunday School
teachers and staff commissioned.**

10:40AM Traditional brunch of fruit and bagels.

NO SIGN-UP IS NEEDED. ALL ARE WELCOME.

**Sunday School Registration
Fall Schedule Overview
And Election of Consistory Nomination***

*Join us as we rally to be the
Church of Jesus Christ here in Massapequa.*

** If you can't attend, call 516-799-5158 for your ballot.*

***In A Different
Voice...***

New Beginnings

The end of the summer is upon us, as is the end of the mission trip experience for the youth and adults of our congregation.

As Christians we are blessed with two new years. In January, we celebrate the start of a new calendar year and in September, the start of the new church year.

This is the time for new beginnings—to paraphrase a famous quote by John F. Kennedy—ask not what your church can do for you—ask what *you* can do for MRC.

Opportunities to serve abound. Coffee hour hosts, communion preparation, child care, Sunday school teachers, choir, hand bell choir, Scripture readers, greeters, bulletin folders, ushers, News & Views collators. The list is virtually endless. There is something for everyone regardless of ability.

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

Helen Keller

**See you on Rally Sunday
for Worship and Brunch!**

We reserve this column each month for
inspirational thoughts.

We welcome contributions
from everyone!

Send your poems, prayers, or thoughts to the
church office.

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 2008

9:30 AM WORSHIP

*** 10:30 AM BRUNCH ***

MEETING TO FOLLOW

**ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE
MASSAPEQUA REFORMED CHURCH
ARE REQUESTED TO BE PRESENT FOR THIS VERY
IMPORTANT MEETING**

***CHILD CARE PROVIDED**

***CONSISTORY ELECTION FOR 2009-2011**

***INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF 2009 BUDGET**

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 (516-798-6033),
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.

Consistory Highlights



... The Consistory heard a wonderful report on all of the exciting and successful Summer Mission trips. Twenty-five youth and chaperones attended the Youth Mission Week at Warwick and over 50 youth and adults participated in our Daily Mission Trips to 1st Reformed Church in College Point, Christ Community Reformed Church in Stony Brook and our MRC Work Day.

...The Consistory reviewed the 2008 Budget and approved the 2009 Challenge Budget. All of our MRC members and friends are encouraged to help eliminate our current "Summer Slump Deficit" and to attend our October 26th Congregational Meeting which will include the review and approval of our 2009 Budget.

...To increase the participation in the election of our Consistory Nomination Committee, the Consistory agreed to this item added to our September 7th Rally Day Program.

Women's Bible Study

*Come join us every Tuesday morning
for Women's Bible Study.*



*Refreshments are served at 9 AM
Bible study begins at 9:30 AM*

We are currently studying the parables of Jesus.

Beginning September 16th, we plan to begin the Study of Acts.

Youth Report

Welcome back Juan and Victoria!

After a great
Youth Summer Mission Trip
and other fellowship events,
our Youth Group (7-8:30 PM on Sundays)
and
Youth Club (12-1:30 PM on Sundays)
will resume their regular meetings
as of September 7th.



Try to make the first meeting,
as pizza and planning
for the fall
are on the schedule.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

at the Nautilus Diner

Saturday, September 13th

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Come and join us in a time of fellowship,
conversation and renewal!



DID YOU KNOW?

Sunday School

“Sunday School” is the generic name for many different types of religious education pursued on Sundays by various denominations.

Sunday School takes the form of one hour or longer of Bible study which can occur before, during or after morning worship. Most are focused on providing instruction for children but adult classes are popular and widespread.

The founding of Sunday Schools are commonly associated with Robert Raikes, editor of the *Gloucester Journal*, who saw the need to prevent children in the slums descending into crime. He started the first Sunday School in London at Surrey Chapel. By 1831, Sunday Schools were attended by 1,250,000 children in Great Britain.

Closer to home we have Brooklyn–Queens Day (also known as Anniversary Day) which is celebrated on the first Thursday in June to commemorate the founding of the first Sunday School on Long Island, in the early 1800s. (Yes MRC—Brooklyn and Queens *are* part of Long Island!)

We are blessed here at MRC with many skilled, dedicated and caring Sunday School teachers and helpers. From nursery care to Adult Education — we have it all.

Remember — Sunday School starts with

Rally Day on
September 7th.

We'll save you a seat!

Fair & Auction News-Oct. 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.

Please call:

Auction: Judy Boyd - 798-6033

Fair: Leanore McKinley - 541-4866

Suggested Items for Flea Market

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

PLEASE NO:

Computers	Bicycles	Phones
TVs	Paints	Skis
Records	Fax Machines	
Exercise equipment		

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 OR KAAREN HAJOHN AT 541-6694

On October 4th, 2008, at the Fair & Auction, we will be having a *Christian Rock Concert.*

It will be given by Juan Toro and his brother's band. A lot of help will be needed that day—especially from the men and older boys to help set up.

Please keep the date open! This is the biggest undertaking we have ever done!



Women's Guild News

InStep TOGETHER



for the future of women in the Reformed Church in America

September 8th, 2008

Board Meeting at 7:45 PM

We welcome all women to come with new ideas for the next year and what you would like to have us do.

If you cannot attend with your ideas, please feel free to put them in my mail box.

Thank you,
Leanore McKinley

Remember

To

Volunteer

For the

Fair and Auction



PLAN AHEAD! NOVEMBER 7th and 8th

It is not too early to think of the Annual Fall Rummage Sale. Start to clean out your closets, shelves, etc. for all of the "stuff" that we promise to find new loving homes for.

We start to set up on Sunday, November 2nd and will need all of the willing and able hands during that week, Monday, November 3rd through the sale days of the 7th and 8th. If you missed it in the past, this year is the time for a week of renewed friendships, old friendships, lots of fun, good lunches and yes, quite a bit of work!

Stay tuned for the next issue of News & Views for all of the scheduled times.

See you in the fall!

Peace and love,
Rowan Brooks

WELCOME BACK

IN THE NEWS

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Dates!

- September 7th Rally Day
- September 8th Women's Guild First Planning Meeting - 7:45 PM
- September 13th Men's Breakfast at the Nautilus Diner - 8:00 AM
- September 14th News & Views Deadline
- September 17th Consistory Meeting
- September 17th News & Views Deadline
- October 4th Fair & Auction
- October 17th 45th Anniversary Dinner
- October 26th Fall Congregation Meeting
- Nov. 7th-8th Fall Rummage Sale

9/11 Memorial Service

Once again this year, Pastor Steve will be one of the participants in the 9/11 Memorial Service that will be held on September 10th at 7 PM at the Tobay Bay 9/11 Memorial Site.
All are welcomed!



To our Church Family,

We would like to thank everyone for your prayers and cards at a very trying time.

Al is having a very slow recovery but with all your help, he will make it.

Al and Edith Lockhoff

Dear Church Members,

Thank you all for the many cards, flowers, and visits that I received during my recent battle with cancer. A special thank you to Pastor Steve for his many visits and prayers.

I hope to be able to return to Bible Study and Church Services in the near future.

God Bless You All,
Fondly,
Doris Hartzell

Return of the Cookie Walk



By popular demand, yes, once again this year we will have a Cookie Walk at the Fair & Auction.

Donations of home baked or purchased cookies are needed. Cookies can be dropped off at the Church the night before or the morning of the fair. Thank you for your support which is greatly appreciated.

Carla Giordano



SEPTEMBER

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH IF YOU CAN'T SERVE!

USHERS

- 7 - The Cassidy Family,
Jamie, Johanna, Taylor and Kelsey
- 14 - Gary and Jake Spero,
Lew and Alex Breslau
- 21 - Al Brecht, Dennis Hill,
Richard and Ryan Blount
- 28- Jones and Daniel Wong,
Rick and Nick Pollich

October 5 -

Art and Betty Armstrong,
Kaaren Hajohn, Jean Knowles

COMMUNION PREPARATION

September 7

Peggy Mitchell and Family

October 5

Carol and Jack Washington, Al Brecht

COMMUNION SERVERS

September 7

J. Hoblin, A. Duncan,
C. Spruck, D. Spruck,
B. Thompson, R. Thompson

October 5

J. Wong, J. Boyd,
D. Bove, R. Boyd, K. Casserly, C. Coles

COUNTERS

- 7 - Alec Duncan, Joe Garbarino
- 14 - Dot Doxey, Jane Smits
- 21 - John Hoblin, Julian Bacchus
- 28 - Judy Boyd, Lois Schmitt

October 5

Art Armstrong, Jones Wong

GREETERS

- 7 - Bob and Candee Auletta
- 14 - Bill Brown, Harriet Cummings
- 21 - Joan Petrie, Vera Redeker
- 28- The Smits Family

October 5 -

Verna Robinson, Lois Schmitt

CHILD CARE

- 7 - 9:00AM
Marsha and Zach Silva

- 14 - 9:00 AM
Jason and Wendy Saar

- 21 - 9:00 AM
Joan and Jacqueline McCool,
Brooke Klingler

- 28 - 9:00 AM
Toni Stevenson,
Taylor Cassidy

October 5

9:00 AM
Karyn Del Toro,
Jake Spero

COFFEE HOUR

- 7- Rally Sunday Brunch
- 14 -
- 21 - Valerie and Lou Breslau
- 28 -

October 5

Adult Education Schedule

- Sept. 7 Rally Day Brunch
- Sept. 14 Off to a good start with Spiritual Wellness - Pastor Steve
- Sept. 21 Off to a good start with Nutritional Wellness - Joe Garbarino
- Sept. 28 Off to a good start with Whole Body Wellness - Gary Spero



SCHEDULES



The Massapequa Reformed Church

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Massapequa, NY 11758

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October News & Views Deadline: September 17, 2008

news & VIEWS

THE MASSAPEQUA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September 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.

45th Anniversary Celebration!

For 45 years, on the good days and the challenging ones, the Massapequa Reformed Church, with your help, has served as an instrument of God's grace for the members of our Church and the communities near and far that we serve!

Now it is time for us to celebrate the past, present and future ministry of our Church. To that end, we have planned three special events that we encourage you to participate in and support!

EVENT 1

On Rally Day, September 7th, and on Sunday, September 14th, we invite you to help us participate in the September 11th Memorial effort to "Adopt-A-Battalion" by donating: toothbrushes; foot powder; hard candy; snacks; black or tan socks; all travel size toiletries; chapsticks; and children's clothes or toys that our soldiers use to build positive relations.

Bring your donations to the Church or drop them off at either Massapequa Library site!

EVENT 2

Our 9:30 AM Worship on Sunday, September 28th will be our 45th Anniversary Celebration and our former Pastor, the Rev. David Dethmers will bring an Anniversary message.

EVENT 3

On Friday, October 17th, we will enjoy a "45th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Dance" at The Sterling Manor. All of our previous Pastors have been invited to attend! Seating is limited. Make your reservation at the Church Action Table or call the church office. The cost is \$65 (all inclusive) and checks should be made out to MRC.



Don't let this special time slip by unnoticed. Join us for all three events and help us make a joyful noise to the honor and glory of our faithful God!



Last call for Memorial Bell orders.

Each bell costs \$200.

Call the church office for more details.



**THE
MASSAPEQUA REFORMED CHURCH**

**LOCATED AT
MERRICK ROAD AND OCEAN AVENUE**

**INVITES YOU
TO**

OUR CHURCH FAIR & AUCTION

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
10 AM - 3 PM**

**At 1:00 PM
Christian Rock Concert
By
*Universal Royalty***

**Includes: Old fashioned church auction;
antiques; baked goods; snacks and lunch;
crafts and many other items!**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL 516-799-5158 or
[www. Massreformedchurch.org](http://www.Massreformedchurch.org)**