

The Bellringer

The Newsletter of The Wyckoff Reformed Church

Calling All Members!

~ by Rev. Jim O'Connell

Individual Highlights:

Annual Meeting	1
Prayer Concerns and Celebrations	2
Habitat Walk / Dinner	2
Adult Education, Bible studies, Book Groups	3
Christian Employment Support Network	4
Ladies Aid Meeting	4
Crossroads Retreat	5
Blessing Boxes	5
Family Egg-stravaganza	6
Scholarship Applications Now Available	6
Talents & Treasures	7

Sunday, March 21 is the annual congregational meeting. It is also Youth Mission Sunday, the day our Mission trippers share with us the power of the mission trip they took and lead us in worship. It is always a high point in the life of our congregation.

To add to this we will be welcoming in new members into the formal life of this body of Christ. In order to accommodate all of this for the life of WRC, we will have only one service that day at 9:00 AM in the traditional sanctuary. It should be a full house, which I believe will be exciting for everyone. It will be an opportunity to reconnect with the larger (and I mean larger) membership of the congregation. It will be a celebration

in worship of what God is doing through us and how the Holy Spirit is growing us.

The brunch afterward will be an excellent time to catch up with old friends and to make new friends. The meeting after the meal will help us all appreciate how God has blessed us over the past 12 months, and to see direction in which the Consistory and I believe God is leading us for the next year.

Your presence is very important at both the single service and annual meeting. You will vote on some important issues and learn about where we hope to be a year from now. As we close out our fiscal 2009/2010 budget year and begin a new fiscal year, your participation will help us know what we can

expect to see a year from now.

This is an important day in the life of the church and I look forward to your support, your prayers and your presence. I would love to see standing room only in worship. It would be a tremendous expression of love and support for our youth.

Everyone is Invited to Bring Something to the Brunch

Families whose names begin with A-M are asked to bring a dessert, and families whose last names begin with N-Z are asked to bring either a vegetable or salad. You may bring the food to the kitchen in Heneveld Hall before going to worship.

10th Annual WRC Habitat Walk scheduled for Saturday, April 17

You are encouraged to participate in the Bible-Reading Marathon Between 6:00 a.m. Saturday and 6:00 a.m. on Easter Dawn.

The walkers will leave the church parking lot at approximately 8:30 a.m. If you would like to sign up, please contact Norma Leonhard, 201-891-1359.

In this anniversary year, the committee is asking anyone who has ever walked to tell us just how many years you've got "under your belt." One year, every year, or anything in between, please contact Kristi Austin, 973-454-8906 and tell her how many years you've participated.

Pre-Walk Pasta Dinner celebrates 10 years of commitment to Habitat



Please join us for a pre-walk pasta dinner at 6:30 on Friday, April 16, in Heneveld Hall. We will honor all those who have "walked the walk" to support Habitat for Humanity over the last ten years.

Walkers will enjoy salad, pasta and meatballs in tomato sauce, and dessert and coffee free of charge; a \$10 fee will be received for all others.

RSVP to the church office by April 4. All proceeds will go to Paterson Habitat.



Prayer concerns and celebrations

Please remember in your prayers:

Fred Dau, Doug Wiley, George and Malignano.

We express our Christian sympathy to Walter, Sandy, Heather and Whitney White on the death of Chrissie, their daughter and sister, last week.

The family will receive visitors this **Saturday, March 20**, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Heneveld Hall.

At 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, March 21**, you are invited to Heneveld Hall to share memories of Chrissie, followed by a memorial service in the sanctuary.

Adult Education, Bible Studies & Book Groups

A Journey with Jesus on his Walk to the Cross

During Lent, Rev. Dave will lead "The Road to Christ's Coronation," a course which will examine the last weeks of Jesus' life. What will emerge is a vivid encounter with a King who lived solely to serve rather than to be served—who welcomed outcasts as family, who touched the "unclean," who performed miracles that made astonishing spiritual declarations, and who raised the dead—all the while challenging and confounding the religious authorities of His day. And finally, five days after Jesus entered Jerusalem, the center of religious and political power at the time, His "coronation" - crucifixion on a cross, took place.

"Odd Sundays For Out-of-Sync Disciples"

meets on odd-dated Sundays at 10:30. The topic on April 11 will be "Ways of Praying." We welcome you to join us when you are able. Questions can be addressed to Phyllis O'Connell (ooncfam@verizon.net; or (201) 891-0808)

The Women's Evening Book Discussion Group meets on the second

Monday of each month. On April 12, we will discuss "Prayers for Sale," by Sandra Dallas.

The first and third Wednesday Women's Evening Bible study meets at 7:30 p.m. We are currently reading the Book of James. Questions? Contact Phyllis O'Connell, 201-891-0808, or by email at ooncfam@verizon.net.

The Women's Bible Study meets each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Please bring your Bible and join us!

The Daytime Book Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:15. At our next gathering on April 13, we will be discussing "An Altar in the World" by Barbara Brown Taylor.

The Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study, which meets at 9:30 a.m., with the exception of the first Thursday of the month, is currently studying "*What's So Amazing About Grace?*" by Philip Yancy.

Yancy is an award winning author who "gives us a probing look at grace: what it looks like ... what it doesn't

look like ... and why only Christians can and must reveal the grace the world is searching for."

We look forward to having you join us. Questions: Call Cyndie Bach at 201-891-7058.

Promise Keepers men's Group meets - at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

This group is open to all men who have an interest in growing their faith and being held accountable for their goals. The attire is casual, the study is currently the book of Exodus, the conversation is lively, and the prayers are powerful. Pastor Jim facilitates this gathering of men from WRC and other churches. There is plenty of coffee on hand, as well as hot water for tea drinkers. The door is open ~ join us!



Christian Employment Support Network Needs Your Support

The CESN group includes church members and friends of the church who are looking for employment opportunities and need your support. Brief summaries of their needs are listed below.

"Executive with a broad skill set across all aspects of international business leadership, finance and operations. Seeking a leadership or general management position in any industry. I have a B.A. in Accounting and M.B.A. in Management." Tom Zitelli - tomzitelli@yahoo.com

"Communications and public relations professional, will help you create and execute your consumer and employee communications strategies. Keen expertise in speaking to ethnic and international audiences." Erenay Jackson - erenaylouise@aol.com

"Seasoned Human Resources leader in multiple industries seeking full time work in a small or medium sized company. Start up, compliance, and people solutions experience."

"Seasoned Project Coordinator & Customer Service Rep is seeking a

part-time position in a small or medium sized company. Experience spans a range of industries." kriether@gmail.com

" Person seeking work as an **Assembly Mechanic**. Has tools and precision instruments." gmelignano@optimum.net

If you can help, please contact the person listed above or Karen Riether@kriether@gmail.com to make connections. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Ladies Aid Meeting to Follow Lenten Luncheon

All women of the church are invited to attend the meeting on Wednesday, March 24 at 1:15 p.m. in the Memorial Room. Please consider attending the Lenten Luncheon at noon in Heneveld Hall and then join us for the meeting.

We'll spend some time planning for our semi-annual Rummage Sale, which is coming up in April.

Also, please remember a donation for the Food Pantry. It's needed now more than ever.

If you can help, please contact the person listed above or Karen Riether @ kriether@gmail.com to make the connections. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



Communion Breakfast Set for Saturday, March 27

Tickets for the annual Communion Breakfast are now on sale and may be purchased from any Consistory member or in the church office. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Communion will be served at 8:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by breakfast in Heneveld Hall at 8:30. Our speaker is Rev. David Krentle, from the Christian Health Care Center

Crossroads Retreat Registration Deadline April 1

“Challenges in Our Spiritual Journey” is the theme for the annual weekend retreat at Harvey Cedars Conference Center, April 16 – 17, in Long Beach Island, NJ.

Courses offered include “Decision Making and the Will of God,” “Forgiveness,” and “Bad Girls of the Bible.” Prices for the weekend vary depending upon the room’s location and the number of people in a room. Registration forms are available in the office.

Count Your Blessings

The season of Lent is upon us. The traditional purpose of Lent is to prepare for the joyous celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Lent can be a time for reflection, growth, and change for us and our children. For the remainder of Lent, the Sunday School children will be raising money for our mission to the children at the Josiah and Bethany Children’s Home in Reynosa, Mexico.

Each child will receive a wooden church bank to collect money for this offering. The bank will remain at home and be returned on Easter Sunday.

I encourage you to have your children reflect on all of the wonderful things they have in their lives, many of which they may take for granted. One way to do this is to challenge your children to find blessings in the world around them. The list below can get you started. Once the children begin looking, I think you will be amazed at what they have to be thankful for.

In order for these blessings to grow into an offering, count the number of a certain blessing and choose an amount to donate for that particular item. For example, after counting the number of pairs of shoes in your house, let your child decide how much money s/he will added to his/her bank for each pair that was counted.



So, if there are 20 pairs of shoes and the chosen donation for that blessing is 5¢, then your child will add \$1 to the bank for that blessing.

Ideas to get you started

Number of...

- pairs of shoes
- letters in the names of your family members
- television sets
- boxes of food in your pantry
- siblings
- cars in your garage
- vacations you take each year
- computers in your home
- board games
- pairs of pants
- stuffed animals
- video games

Sunday School Roundtable Generates Ideas for Future Programs

Kat Naumann, Coordinator of Special Children's Programs, writes: In January, Rev. Jim hosted a Sunday School Roundtable meeting to assess our Sunday School programs and generate ideas for the future. A lot of great feedback came from this session. We also sensed a lot of excitement as to where our programs can go in the future.

I would love to capitalize on the excitement that is obvious in our Sunday School parents by establishing parent-led discussion groups called "Children's Ministry Task Forces."

These "task forces" will consider:

- Curriculum** – by looking for ways to provide a more sophisticated curriculum for the older elementary children. Sampling other curriculums to decide if our current curriculum is the best match.
- Family and Intergenerational Activities** – by brainstorming new ideas

for families, as well as ways to involve the entire church community with the children.

- Growing the church family community** – considering how we can, 1) encourage regular attendance, and 2) reach out to Nursery School families and others in the community.

It is only through a combined effort that our Sunday School and children's programs can be the best that they can be. I ask each of you to consider joining me on one or more of these "task forces."

Please prayerfully consider where you see yourself making a difference in the lives of the children of the Wyckoff Reformed Church, and let me know as soon as possible.

College Scholarship Applications are Now Available

Applications for 2010-2011 college scholarships are now available in the literature rack outside the church office or at youth.wyckoffreformed.org.

Hard copies need to be completed and submitted to the church office by **Wednesday, April 21**. Financial forms are to be completed by a parent or guardian and return in a separate envelope marked "Confidential." High school seniors, college and vocational school students are eligible for the scholarships, provided through the generosity of the Van Grouw family. Preference is given to students pursuing careers in the fields of nursing, engineering and education.

Vacation Bible School Registration Now Open

Registration for Vacation Bible School begins Sunday, March 21 for church members.

Applications are on top of the book shelf near the Nursery School office, on the shelf outside the church office and in a pocket on the bulletin board in the Sunday school hallway.



Family Easter Egg-stravaganza

All families are invited to join Pastor Billy and Kat Naumann for a night of food, fellowship and Easter fun on Saturday, March 27, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. There will also be an old-fashioned Easter egg hunt. Please bring a dinner to share. Drinks and dessert will be provided. RSVP to katnaumann@gmail.com by March 25.



“Talents and Treasures” Showcased Members Hobbies and Interests



The Outreach Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the recent “Talents and Treasures” event.



Thanks, too, to those who came out to support this event. We collected lots of food for the pantry.



The Bellringer

The Wyckoff Reformed Church



580 Wyckoff Avenue
Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481

PHONE:
(201) 891-1782

FAX:
(201) 891-1260

E-MAIL:
contactus@wyckoffreformed.org

Rev. James O'Connell
Rev. David Bach
Rev. William Norden

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wyckoffreformed.org
www.genesiswrc.com

**Bellringer deadlines
are the first and
third Sunday of each
month.**

**Next deadlines are
March 21 & April 4**

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- March 21** Single Service, Youth Sunday
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND
POTLUCK LUNCHEON**
- March 27** Communion Breakfast, beginning at 8:00 a.m.
March 28 Palm Sunday – **All children are to begin worship
in the traditional sanctuary with their parents.**
- April 1** Maundy Thursday worship at 8:00 p.m.
April 2 Community Good Friday worship at 12:00 noon
Good Friday worship at 8:00 p.m.
April 3 24 Hour Bible-Reading Marathon
April 4 **Easter Sunday**
- **Worship at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

**The Sr. High Youth Group
will be selling gourmet
desserts that will arrive in
time for Easter dinner!**

NY Cheese Cake	\$23.00
Caramel Apple Pie	\$29.00
Carrot Cake	\$24.00
Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough	\$15.00

Deadline for orders will be
Sunday, March 28.

Pick up, delivery and
distribution will take place on
Wednesday, March 31st.

Desserts can be ordered at
coffee hour or directly through
High school students.

Proceeds go towards the
summer mission trip.

The youth will also wash cars
on May 22 and June 12 to
raise funds for the trip.

Ladies Night Out "Miami Nights"

The Parent Committee of The
Wyckoff Reformed Church
Nursery School invites you to
their sixth annual Ladies Night
Out fundraiser set for
Thursday, March 25 at 7:00
p.m. in Heneveld Hall.
Admission is \$5 and light
refreshments will be served.
Bring a friend and receive free
raffle tickets!

Some of the prizes available
this year include a Flip video
recorder; iPod Touch, Kindle,
and gift certificates to local
stores and restaurants.

Vendors will be displaying
merchandise which includes
hair accessories, jewelry,
children's books and toys,
purses, make-up and skin care
products.

Come enjoy an evening of fun
and fellowship, while helping to
raise money for the Nursery
School.

