

The Bellringer

The Newsletter of The Wyckoff Reformed Church

Kids will *"Rock the House!"* Children's Sunday, May 23

In preparation for this Sunday's Children's Service, ALL of the WRC Sunday school AND junior high AND senior high kids have learned a beautiful song chosen just for them. They will be accompanied by our Senior High musicians.

There will be a final rehearsal on Wednesday Night, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Heneveld Hall.

This Sunday we will worship together at a combined, single service in the Traditional sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. The children and youth of our congregation will be conducting many parts of the service, as well as joining in song

When kids' voices come together to have fun and praise God, great things

happen. This Sunday should be a truly memorable experience.

The Church Picnic has been moved to Sunday, May 23

Immediately following the Children's Sunday worship, games for kids and adults will be enjoyed by all. Once we're all good and hungry, we can enjoy the church picnic.

First single-service Sunday set for June 6

Our summer worship schedule begins on June 6, when Traditional and Genesis worship services will occur at 9:30 a.m. ~ there will be no 11:00 a.m. Traditional worship service during the summer. The summer worship schedule runs through the second week in September.

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Fellowship Notes

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Golf Outing fundraiser on Monday, September 20, at the Forsgate Golf Club in Jamesburg, NJ.

Proceeds will go to Mission. The \$200 entrance fee includes 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner and prizes. **You must sign up by June 30.** Please email Barb Van Hassel at barbaravh1@yahoo.com.

Cookies, coffee cakes and assorted baked goods are also needed for coffee hour. Anyone who would be willing to bake or bring such goodies can call Dot O'Connor at 201-337-3506.

Ladies Aid Spring Potluck Luncheon Set for May 26

All women of the church are invited to the Ladies Aid Spring Potluck Luncheon at 12 noon on Wednesday, May 26, in Heneveld Hall.

If you haven't signed up for a special dish, bring your own unique "whatever." Dessert and beverage will be provided.

A short business meeting will follow. Please join us for great fellowship and a fulfilling food experience.

We need volunteers to plant vincas anytime during the day on May 19, 20 and 21. On Saturday, May 22, Rev. Dave has scheduled planting to begin at 9:00 a.m.

Please remember in your prayers Marjorie Bogart and Elsie Golden.

We offer congratulations to Lynn Groel-Lynch and Rich Lynch on the birth of their grandson, Sean Patrick Thomas. Sean is the son of Tara and Michael Thomas and joins big sister, Kaleigh and cousins Jasper and Tristan Riza.

We offer congratulations to Gordon and Willa-Jean MacDougall on the birth of their first grandchild, Colby James Comer, son of Erin and Cary.



Adult Education, Bible Studies & Book Groups

“Odd Sundays For Out-of-Sync Disciples” meets on odd-dated Sundays at 10:30. *Due to the church picnic, the May 23 meeting has been moved to May 30*, when the topic will be an overview of the New Testament from *Reading the Bible* by Chad J. Pierce. 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 June 14, the group will discuss *“The Art of Racing in the Rain”* by Garth Stein.

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

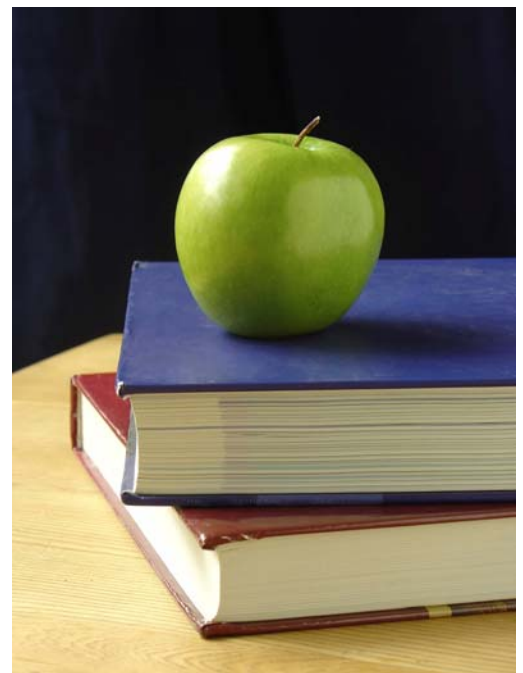
The Women’s Bible Study meets each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Please bring your Bible and join them!

The Daytime Book Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:15. At their

next gathering on June 8, they will discuss *“No More Words: a Journal of My Mother”* by Reeve Lindbergh.

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.” This group looks forward to having you join them. 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, we have just started the book of Proverbs, 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!



Church Feud

*~ submitted by a faithful
"Our Town" reader*

There was a feud between the Pastor and Choir Director of the Hicksville Southern Baptist Church. It seems the first hint of trouble came when the Pastor preached on "dedicating yourselves to service" and the Choir Director chose to sing, "I Shall Not Be Moved."

Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the Pastor put the incident behind him. The next Sunday he preached on "giving." Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the director led them in the hymn, "Jesus Paid it All."

By this time, the Pastor was losing his temper. Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on "the sin of gossiping." Would you believe it: the Choir Director selected, "I Love to Tell the Story."

There was no turning back. The following Sunday, the Pastor told the congregation that unless something changed, he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the

Choir Director led them in "Why Not Tonight?"

Truthfully, no one was surprised when the Pastor resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away.

The Choir Director couldn't resist: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Your assistance is needed to fill Holiday Fair Baskets

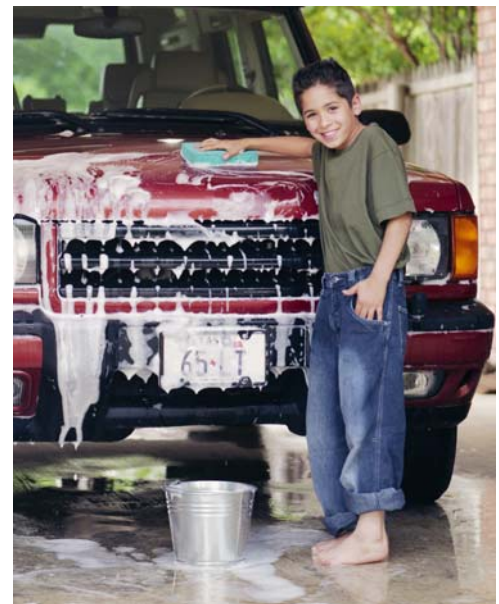
Arleen Ritter will be at each coffee hour during the month of May to hand out baskets, which you can help fill. Arleen has started each basket with several items according to a particular theme. Your job, should you choose to accept it, is to fill the basket with additional items in keeping with the theme.

Youth Car Washes to Benefit Mission Trip

Youth Group car washes are scheduled for Saturday, May 22 and Saturday, June 12, from 9:00 – 12:00.

Proceeds will benefit the Mission Trip to Scranton, PA., scheduled for June 27 through July 4, 2010.

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The Heroism of "Hanging in There"

~ Rev. Dave Bach

We sometimes underestimate the heroism of "hanging in there." The Bible's definition of a hero is different from the dictionary's definition of being a hero. The Bible's definition of a hero is someone who does the hardest thing of all, which is "hanging in there."

Therefore, I would like to fly the flag of courage for simply holding on. I would like to highlight how difficult it is--and how necessary it is--to "stick with it." This is something we seldom think about or talk about. Because, it's not dramatic. It's not exciting. It's not inspiring. Nobody applauds. Frankly, few people even notice it. And yet, there more courage in "sticking with it," and more satisfaction in fulfilling our commitments, than in anything else.

This subject is close to my heart. Many years ago, when I went to Wisconsin one summer to visit my parents, I was deeply discouraged. Everything that could go wrong--personally, professionally and financially--was going wrong! And I was wondering and praying, day and night, what I could do about it.

While I was in Wisconsin, I went to get a haircut in the new shopping center next to

the high school I once attended. And outside the barber shop I, unexpectedly, met Rabbi Aaron Barak. Years earlier I had known Rabbi Barak because his daughter was one of the girls in the group of friends I often hung out with in high school. Much to my surprise Rabbi Barak remembered me.

Maybe because he looked so distinctive with his long black coat and long grey beard, maybe it was because of his interest and compassion, maybe it was because his eyes sparkled with vitality, maybe it was because I felt safe talking with him--I'm not sure--but as we talked outside that barber shop, I told him about all my problems and all my difficulties. Rabbi Barak carefully listened for about an hour, and when I was through, he paused for several minutes, stroked his beard and finally said, "I think God wants you to do something very hard, I think God wants you to 'hang in there.'"

That's the best theology, and the best advice, I have ever received. And that's what I did. I hung in there. And that's the same, very difficult, seemingly impossible, thing which I think God might want you to do right now. I think God wants you to be a hero. I think God wants you to "hang in there."

I thank God for Rabbi Barak! And if you follow his seemingly

simple, profoundly spiritual and immensely difficult advice--I think you will too!

* * * * *

*Members sometimes say to me, "You have been writing Stillpoints for several years. Where does the word "stillpoint" come from?" The answer is that it's not really a word, but it comes from T.S. Eliot, who once wrote: "At the still point of the turning world...there is a dance. And do not call it fixity, where past and future are gathered.... Except for this point, the still point, there would be no dance...."





It was a close call. A windy day in April brought down this old silver maple narrowly missing the parsonage. The force of nature is a marvel to behold and reminds us we are not as powerful nor as in control of the earth as we think we are. God's power is always greater than anything we can imagine.

The parsonage is blessed with a wonderful wooded area that includes a number of rarely seen native plants. Here we have a North American orchid called, Lesser Yellow Lady Slipper. It's botanical name is *Cypripedium parviflorum*. It can be found in all but Florida, Louisiana, Nevada and Hawaii. In our area it blooms May to Spring.



This past April we had a show of our tulips and hopefully by the time you see this they will be replaced by Vinca; Madagascar periwinkle *Catharanthus roseus*. The flowers along the sidewalk have become a blessing to the walkers and motorists along Wyckoff Ave. I hear from shop keepers that they look forward to the beauty of our flowers. For those of you who may have forgotten we began the practice of planting tulips and vinca for our two hundredth anniversary in 2006. Now five years later people still remark about how nice the church yard looks. The Tulip is part of our church's Dutch heritage and is used to remind us of the five points of Calvinism:

- **Total Depravity** (also known as Total Inability and Original Sin)
- **Unconditional Election**
- **Limited Atonement** (also known as Particular Atonement)
- **Irresistible Grace**
- **Perseverance of the Saints** (also known as Once Saved Always Saved)

We covered these points of Calvinism from the Cannons of the Synod at Dort as part of our Lenten Lunch and Learn series in February and March.



The Wyckoff Reformed Church



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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

June 6 & 20

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Upcoming Events at a Glance

- May 19, 20 & 21 Vinca Planting
- May 22 Vinca Planting / Car Wash / Parade Float Creation
- May 23 Children's Sunday / Single 9:00 a.m. service / Picnic
- May 26 Ladies Aid Spring Luncheon
- May 31 Memorial Day
- June 6 Confirmation Sunday, 9:30 single service-Traditional sanctuary**

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

John Brewer	1	Nickolaj Zabriskie	24
Len Addison	2	Kathy Cabalar	25
Carol Fredrick	2	Michael Garfalo	25
Gracie Baker	3	Carole Addison	26
Brayton Holman	3	Tom Bodnar	26
Heather McDonald	4	Donna Brady	26
Charlie Denekamp	5	Deborah Diaz	26
David Melnichuk	5	Abigail Kokkinakis	26
Carl DeMarco	6	John Brady	27
Gregory Holman	6	Jim Button	27
Herman Jeffer	6	Kimberly Ackerson	28
Rebecca Franco	7	Helen Hess	29
John Brain	8	Susie Musson	29
Karen Levy	8	Michelle Myer	29
Cole Van De Water	8	Neal Schlendorf	29
Bob Mutch	9	Jennifer Bolline	30
Walter White	10	Jung Ho Lee	30
Dave Bogert	11		
Cassandra Possess	11	Anniversaries	
Emily Addison	12	Nancy & Richard Mangino	6
Jeff Leach	12	Nancy & David Kunis	7
Peg Marra	12	Owen & Laura Uscher	7
Jessica Spierenburg	12	Robert & Corrine Spierenburg	8
Jack Morton	13	Jim & Kathy Davenport	10
John Raney	13	Michael & Sue Geering	11
Jacob Kofler	14	Don & Joyce Christie	13
Lois Durante	15	Dave & Jane Hug	13
Karen Gatlin	15	Chuck & Kristi Austin	14
Jennifer Galgano	17	Jack & Paulette Ramsey	14
Craig Platt	17	Peter & Janie Bennorth	16
Charly Conklin	18	Ray & Eva Hopf	20
Daniel Baez	19	Nick & Carolyn Stokes	20
Lisa McMackin	20	Henry & Helen Lawton	22
Matt Jufer	21	Mark & Karen Repetto	22
John Myers	21	Peter & Leslie Rubacky	23
Heather Williams	21	Alan & Teakie Welty	23
Christine Pasqueretta	22	John & Holly Wormald	23
Mia Zabriskie	22	Mike & Jenny DeRosa	24
David Kennedy	23	Dick & Helen Van Hassel	24
Jane Schimenti	23	Joe & Hellin Desiderio	26
Michael Turnamian	23	Doug & Sandi Haan	26
Ida Zabriskie	24	Roger & Kathy Lane	30