

# REFORMATION TIMES

VOLUME 31 NO. 1

JANUARY 2010

## WEST POINT CHOIR IN CONCERT AT REFORMATION ON JANUARY 15

The West Point Protestant Chapel Choir, under the direction of Mr. Craig Williams, will give a concert at Reformation on Friday, January 15 at 8:00 p.m. The concert, will benefit Healthy Communities Initiative through a free will offering. Plan now to attend this wonderful event and call the church office if you are interested in hosting cadets.



## SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

### January 3 – The Second Sunday of Christmas – Winter Rally Day

Our second term of Sunday School begins today at 9:45 a.m. After the second worship service we will dismantle Christmas decorations and prepare the church for the Epiphany season.

**Sermon Series: Hit the Reset Button:** When Health Resolutions Rebound

Worship: 8:30 a.m. Traditional /11:00 a.m. Contemporary

### January 10 – The Baptism of our Lord

Today we will immerse ourselves in the theme of baptism. At 4:30 p.m. we have the Rejoicing Spirits Worship service for those in our community with special needs.

**Sermon Series: Hit the Reset Button:** When Family Life Falters

Worship: 8:30 a.m. Traditional /11:00 a.m. Contemporary

### January 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend

#### WEST POINT CHOIR AT BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES!

Reformation is delighted to host the West Point Protestant Chapel Choir under the direction of Craig Williams. The choir will sing several selections at both 8:30 a.m. and our 11:00 a.m. worship services.

**Sermon Series: Hit the Reset Button:** When Work becomes Weary

The Media Community will have a special worship service at the Media Methodist Church at 4:00 p.m. to honor Dr. King's memory.

### January 24 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Worship: 8:30 a.m. Traditional /11:00 a.m. Contemporary

Forum at 9:45 a.m. – 2010 Budget review and Finance overview.

**Sermon Series: Hit the Reset Button:** When Relationships Grow Dim

### January 31 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Following the second worship service, we will have the Annual Congregational meeting in Creighton Hall. A light lunch will be served.

**Sermon Series: Hit the Reset Button:** When Faith is Fading

Worship: 8:30 a.m. Traditional /11:00 a.m. Contemporary

### Know Your Church Council

President:	Debbie Felton
Vice-Pres.:	Gary Kamin
Secretary:	Kathy Ewens
Treasurer:	Tom Conroy
Members:	Cynthia Atwood, Andy Benzing, Ron Brzowski, Carol DeLuca, Joe Mirarchi, Wilson Moffett, John Prichard, Connie Richardson, Carol Steinbrecher
Youth Rep:	Lizz Baldwin

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

Articles for the *Reformation Times* should be emailed to Sandy Niss at [ssmlniss@verizon.net](mailto:ssmlniss@verizon.net) by the second Friday of each month.

## COUNCIL NOTES

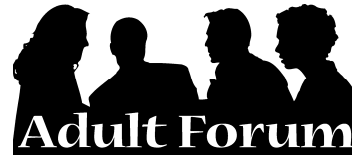
- Elected Joe Mirarchi to fill John Walter's unexpired term
- Noted that November offerings were very strong and thanked members for their extra efforts. Membership giving remains behind projections but ahead of 2008.
- Elected Jameson Troutman as Treasurer of the RELC School Board.
- Noted that the West Point Chapel Choir will be at Reformation and will seek sponsorship for the choir costs.
- Approved a long-range planning session under the leadership of Pastor Janet Corpus on February 5-6.
- Set Sunday, January 31 for the annual congregational meeting.
- Expressed thanks to the congregation for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and for the 200+ gifts that were donated for various agencies and organizations in our St. Nicholas emphasis. Thanked Delaware County Chapter of **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** for their donation of \$900 for turkey's for the Thanksgiving food baskets and our Congregational Thrivent Team for a \$750 donation for Christmas hams.

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 31, 12:30 p.m.

Light Lunch following worship

**Council Elections; Ministry Review and Celebration; Financial Overview and Budget Approval**



Sundays at 9:45 AM  
Creighton Hall

The Adult Forum meets Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Creighton Hall and is open to all adults. Topics vary from Bible study to current issues that impact faith and life.

**January 3** – Big Questions of the Bible – What kind of Authority Does the Bible Have? How can the Bible help make sense in your life? How does God's authority become evident in scripture?

**January 10** – Big Questions of the Bible – Conclusion. The on-going story of the Bible – and we are the authors.

**January 17** – West Point Cadets share the role of faith in the lives of cadets.

**January 24** – Financial Overview and 2010 Budget Preview. Treasurer Tom Conroy will give an overview of Reformation's finances and a preview of the 2010 budget. **THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION ON FINANCIAL ISSUES PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.**

**January 31 -- God's Work, Our Hands – Video's of the work of the Church**

See some of the wonderful and amazing work of our Synod and the ELCA and what other congregations are doing in ministry. An inspiring series of short video's.

PARISH NURSE



Pat Woerheide

The holiday season is over and all of us are ready for less stress! What is the solution to STRESS ? Let's start this year by setting achievable goals for ourselves especially considering New Year resolutions. Stress is linked to control. How many times have you heard, my job, my health, my children, my bills are driving me crazy! What we are feeling is reduced control! How can we deal with problems in life without unhealthy stress? Break up your problems into achievable reasonable steps. When resolutions are not reasonable then stress actually increases! Don't replace seasonable stress with resolution stress! What are achievable goals?

Weight management:

Unachievable: I will finally loose all the weight I have wanted to lose over ten or twenty years!

Achievable: I will not buy high fat foods and will research what this means.

Money:

Unachievable: I will recover from bills and job losses in one month!

Achievable: I will discuss with my family how we can reduce spending.

Family:

Unachievable: I will not let my family get to me anymore!

Achievable: Once a month our family can recreate in a positive way together.

Spend time looking at your stressors and define achievable goals and let God know about them! List things accomplished instead of problems. Take joy in simple steps accomplished. Ask God to help you define what you can and cannot change. When everything seems overwhelming, let Jesus carry your problems! Matthew 11:28 says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Happy New Year and Happy Stress free life to you all in 2010!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMEMORATION

Sunday, January 17

4:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
State and Lemon Streets in Media

This is an annual service commemorating the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. The service will include klezmer music by BIMAS from Congregation Beth Israel, a children's gospel choir led by LaTisha Mays of Second Baptist Church in Media, an adult interfaith choir, led by Chris Schroth of the Unitarian Universalist Church, as well as participation by local clergy. The keynote speaker will be John Alston, director of the renowned Chester Children's Chorus. Following the service, refreshments will be provided by the Media Chapter of NAACP. All are invited to attend.



VINCE PAPALE TO BE
AT HCI TOWN MEETING!

Vince Papale, former Philadelphia Eagle whose story was told in the movie Invincible, will be the keynote speaker at a Town Meeting hosted by Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI). The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Penncrest High School and will be an opportunity to learn about the critical work of HCI to change and save the lives of our young people.



**FROM THE DIRECTOR  
OF LAY MINISTRY**

*Diane Black*

Reformation had a great start to the new church year. All of our ministries and groups participated in the Advent/Christmas season. The amount of work seems overwhelming when you consider all the activities that take place. A heartfelt **Thank you** to all of the volunteers who made it happen. The new church year activities began with:

Gift giving to Aid for Friends, Kencrest, Chester Eastside Mission, Silver Springs Lutheran School, the Migrant Ministry of Kennett Square and Rockpoint Mission School.

Brass Concert to benefit City Team, The Live Nativity with refreshments.

OWL's luncheon and celebration.

The Children's pageant and rehearsals and lunch. Caroling to our homebound.

Hanging of the Greens and Unhanging of the Greens.

Three Christmas Eve services. Christmas Day service with a birthday cake for Jesus.

2010 budget prepared. Counting offerings for all the services.

Financial reports for 2009 Annual Reports submitted, prepared, printed and bound.

Fellowship coffee and refreshments after both services.

Altar prepared, Christmas tree decorated and undecorated.

Lenten devotions organized, submitted and ready to be printed.

Chancel Choir, Souls of Fire, Rocks, and the Children's Choir all had hours of rehearsals and performances.

Even with a list this long I am sure I forgot something. The point is that an endless list of activities makes for an endless need for all of our great volunteers! You all have our endless

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

**A NOTE FROM OUR NEW ASST. PASTOR**

As you might imagine this has been a very busy time since receiving your call to serve as Reformation's new associate pastor. During the last two and a half weeks I've found a home, packed up my things at The Barn Apartments and moved to Rosetree Crossing. To make things just a little more interesting, my cat also had tail surgery which is *not* a small thing if you're a cat and almost twenty years old. But Holly has rallied and already settling into her new life with me in Media.

Scripture tells us the "Lord directs our paths." How he does that is often quite perplexing and beyond our understanding. It is only in our prayerfully looking at past events and circumstances, in the process the church calls discernment that we can begin to see, even if not perfectly, where God might be leading us. This process is best not done alone but through ongoing relationship and conversation with others in the church. The life of faith is an exciting one; each of us has stories to tell. I am delighted to be invited into the life of faith here at Reformation Church and look forward to hearing your stories as well as sharing my own.

Finally, I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the kindness I've received since starting the call process here. Your personal warmth, caring and helpfulness has been truly gratifying. A very BIG thank you to Pastor Smoose, the Call Committee and Council in making this a truly wonderful call experience. Who knew there could be so much laughter during the interview process?? I am honored to be selected as your new associate pastor. I hope to serve you well.

Well, it's time to take Holly to meet her new vet and then it's back to unpack some more boxes!

Blessings!

Pastor-to-be Anita

# C H U R C H E V E N T S

## CHAIRPERSONS MEETING

**Monday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Calendar Look-ahead  
Annual Meeting Preparation  
Mid-year reviews**

## VISIT AFRICA!

In the summer of 2010 Pastor Smoose will lead a group on a trip to Africa to learn more about our partnership with Pangani. The trip will include a visit to the Serengeti and Kilimanjaro as well as an opportunity to see Sebastian Kolowa University College.

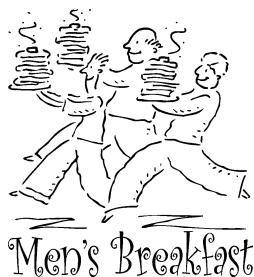
Join us for an interest meeting on Wednesday, January 6 at 7:30 p.m. to learn details about the trip and have your questions answered.



## MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2010  
7:30 A.M. Breakfast**

**Topic:  
Winemaking-- A California Experience**



## COOKIE BAKE-IN A BIG SUCCESS

The cookie bake was a huge success! In a little over two hours, we had filled 60 boxes with cookies--45 for the Christmas food distribution and 15 to go with the carolers when they visit shut-ins on December 13. In addition, there were two bags for the cookie ministry.

This event honors the memory of Jeanne Roberts, a Reformation member who baked hundreds of cookies on the Friday after Thanksgiving and during Advent would use them as random acts of kindness – for friends, neighbors, local nursing homes, doctors' offices and many other locations. Those who participated this year were Edna Bogert, Phyllis Brady, Sandy Coll, Karen Rechner, Alma Santella, and Jane Umstead. In addition, a number of people sent in already baked cookies. We all had a great time!



## FROM THE LIBRARY

### NEW BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We've received some great new donations for young people! They include: Survival Guide on Campus; Bringing Up Parents; and The Idiot's Guide to Volunteering.

### OTHER NEW BOOKS...

We also have new books by such revered personages as Mother Teresa and Bishop Desmond Tutu, as well as by theologians, Martin Buber, Paul Tillich, Martin Luther, and Marcus Borg. These will be available on our library shelves shortly!

In the fiction genre we have received, Sufficient Grace, a highly recommended first novel about a woman who leaves her old life behind and seeks a new life in southern towns. Look for it and also for The Kite Runner, the "powerful first novel by an Afghan physician now living in California. This book "tells the story of fierce cruelty and redeeming love, which transform the life of Amir, Khaled Hosseini's privileged young narrator, who comes of age during the last peaceful days of the monarchy, just before his country's revolution and its invasion by Russian forces." The DVD of the film version of this novel will also soon be available in the video section of our library.

Thanks to the following for donations of books

Anonymous donors  
Edna Bogert  
Erika Brooks  
Laura Reiter



O. W. L. S.  
Older, Wiser, Lutherans

The OWLs and their guests were treated to delightful sounds of the season at their December meeting. The entertainment group, *Sunshine Singers*, including our own Marlyn and Al Martinson, and led by Sharon Kope, gave a well-received performance, after devotions by Doris Gilmour and lunch in Creighton Hall. Afterward, we all met and mingled over dessert in the Narthex.

Our January meeting will feature David Whitenack. Following a special lunch, he will speak to us about financial matters. Watch the bulletins for details!

*Thank You!*

*We want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, visits, and other expressions of sympathy on the death of our brother (brother-in-law) David Guy Bogert. Families are so important to all of us. When we lose a member of our immediate family, it helps lessen the pain when our church family is there to lend support. We are very grateful to Pastor Smoose and our Reformation Church family.*

*~ Ernie and Edna Bogert*

### A Note from Wanda Quay

*Dear Pastor and members of Reformation,*

*I owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the many people who prayed for me at the time of my surgery this summer. Once more I felt very personally the power of prayer as I made a remarkable recovery from a difficult surgery. . . . Thank you for your prayers, your cards and your phone calls. I appreciated deeply the outpouring of love and encouragement that you provided me as I worked my way back to health. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless you and the ministries of Reformation.*

*~ Wanda Quay*

*(The full note is on our "Thank you" bulletin board.)*

# G O D ' S P E O P L E A T W O R K

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The Community Action Ministry and many local families in need say “thank you” for your generosity. The bags of groceries; the donated turkeys and hams; the cash toward the purchase of turkeys, hams, bread, and eggs; and the fresh baked cookies all went to make Thanksgiving and Christmas a time of happiness for many families in the area.

Those of us who distributed the food to the agencies saw and heard the gratitude. We felt good that we as a congregation were able to help where help was so needed; and that is why we, too, say “thank you” to all of you who helped with this important ministry.



### The Community Action Ministry

## SeKUCo Update

See our narthex bulletin board for the full report from Dr. Anneth Munga, Provost of Sebastian Kolowa University College (SeKUCo)

There are 824 students now with 772 in the Bachelor of Ed. with Special Needs and the others in the Bachelor of Sc.in Eco-tourism and Nature Conservation and the Bachelor of Laws. The biggest challenge is the library, which is too small for the size of the student body. Some classrooms are also too small for the number of students that want to take specializations in Visual impairment, Hearing impairment or Cognitive Disabilities and Teaching.

The Bachelor of Science in Eco-tourism and Nature Conservation is done in cooperation with Penn State University.



## FROM OPERATION WARM

Thank you for the contribution to ensure that children in need will be warm this winter. Your donation of \$300 (from the Holiday Offering Fund) will provide 20 coats but also improve the self-esteem of the children who receive them and reduce social isolation. Thanks for your kindness and commitment to Operation Warm.

Kim Fremont Fortunato, Esq.  
President



## OUR MISSIONARIES IN NAIROBI

Michael and Kay Johnson were home in the Philadelphia area from June to August. However their schedule was very busy with family events. They attended their son Elijah’s closing ceremonial dinner of his surgical residency in general surgery out in Las Vegas. Then they visited Minneapolis where Kay received her Master’s Degree in Business from Walden University. While still at home a second daughter was born to their other son Emmanuel. Their daughter, Keturah, has joined the Army National Guard in Fort Jackson, South Carolina and a second daughter, Christina, has a job as a medical billing auditor. As you can see their schedule was full!

Kay has undergone several new evaluations for a difficult to treat pulmonary problem due to a previous treatment regimen being unsuccessful. On a more pleasant note Michael and Kay celebrated their 32<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.

Some of the never-ending challenges they face on return to Nairobi are:

- One out of three Kenyans is on the edge of starvation.
- High civil unrest with massive unemployment and poverty.
- 2 million AIDS orphans.

Michael and Kay do a valiant job in helping to alleviate these problems. Please pray for them.



Last month I mentioned the welcoming spirit at Reformation. This month, as we begin a new year and welcome a new associate pastor, let me lift up with thanks the way that Reformation cares for each other.

I am no longer amazed, but always pleased when I visit members who are ill or homebound or have suffered a loss, to hear about phone calls they have received and to see cards that have been sent. This is especially true for members who have participated in a small group or ministry activity. These involvements breed friendships and over the years, it makes a real difference. This kind of unplanned caring is the best kind.

However, in a larger congregation, not everyone has close connections and it is important for the congregation to develop intentional circles of caring. Over the years, these intentional ministries have expanded. Our parish nurse (originally Joyce McNally and now Pat Woerheide) have been wonderful care givers and coordinators and their efforts to supplement Pastoral visits is a tremendous help. Through them, we have developed "Caresharers" and "Friendly Visitors." Caresharers are a group of members trained to serve communion, who visit our homebound members every month. Friendly visitors do additional visits each month to keep in touch with homebound or members who are ill. Their caring qualities are so much appreciated and it means all of our homebound members keep in close touch with the church.

I continue to visit as well – with priorities on members who are ill, having surgery, asking to see me for various personal concerns or in a crisis. I also visit prospective members and use the telephone to try to stay in touch.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? First, please don't assume "the pastor is too busy." Yes, I am busy, but let me set the priorities. We need to know if you are ill or in the hospital or going to the hospital. People are in and out of the hospital so fast these days that sometimes it is difficult to get there quick enough – but we want to try and we want to do what we can to support you. Call if you know someone is in the hospital – two or three calls is better than none.

I also appreciate it when people realize the pastor is not the only one whose visit counts. Anytime a church member or parish nurse or caresharer or friendly visitor takes time to visit and care and pray – it is the church showing its concern – we care for each other. Those visits are just as important and valuable as mine, probably more so, because it is the healthy congregation that has all of these visiting systems in place.

~ Pastor Smoose

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*Called by Christ, we INVITE all people, SERVE our neighbors, BUILD a living Faith*

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Volume 31, No. 1

*JANUARY 2010*

**Friday, January 15**

West Point Choir Concert  
8:00pm  
Reformation Church

**Sunday, January 17**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend  
WEST POINT CHOIR AT  
8:30am and 11:00 am WORSHIP SERVICES!

4:00 pm  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration  
First United Methodist Church  
State and Lemon Streets in Media

**Sunday, January 31**

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
12:30 pm  
(Light lunch following 11:00 am Service)

