

REFORMATION TIMES

VOLUME 33 No. 1

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

ANNUAL

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 12:45 P.M.

(Light Lunch after the
11:00 a.m. Worship Service)

Celebrate our Ministries

Hear the Transition Team Report

Enjoy good Fellowship

Elect Council Members

Adopt our 2012 Budget

Help Seal our 2050 Time Capsule

January 1 – New Year’s Day – The Name of Jesus Day.

There is no better way to begin the new year than giving thanks and worshipping our Lord Jesus, who eight days after he was born was taken to the temple for dedication and the bestowing of his name – Jesus.

Worship: Traditional 8:30 am/ Contemporary 11:00 am

January 8 – The Baptism of our Lord – Winter Rally Day – “Sparked by the Spirit”

This will be a special day as we remember our own baptism and celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Festive holiday “Poppers” will be given to all the children so that they can help add some dazzle during Pastor Smoose’s sermon – “the First Fireworks” Remember Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m

Worship: Traditional 8:30 am/ Contemporary 11:00 am

January 15 – Second Sunday after Epiphany – Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend

As our nation honors a great leader and proclaimer of truth, Reformation begins a new three week series on Discipleship. It helps us think about how we too have been called by Jesus to make a difference in the world. The series begins – “Discipleship: simple invitations.”

Worship: Traditional 8:30 am/ Contemporary 11:00 am

January 22 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Do we over think what it means to be followers of Jesus or do we hesitate to consider what it means for the church today. As we approach our annual congregational meeting Pastor Smoose preaches the second in the new series – “Discipleship: Ordinary People”

Worship: Traditional 8:30 am/ Contemporary 11:00 am

January 29 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Congregational Meeting day.

After the second service members are encouraged to stay for a light lunch and the annual congregational meeting where we celebrate our ministries and carry out some of the basic work of the church with electing council members and approving our spending plan for ministry. Today will be the third in our discipleship series as Pastor Smoose preaches on “Discipleship: Wonders that Astound Us.”

Worship: Traditional 8:30 am/ Contemporary 11:00 am

START THE YEAR OFF WITH A BANG -- WINTER RALLY DAY IS JANUARY 8!

You won’t want to miss our Winter Rally Day on Sunday, January 8! After two Sunday’s that coincide with major holidays, we will be Sparked by the Spirit! The occasion is the Baptism of our Lord, when God’s Spirit anointed Jesus’ for his ministry. The SCS *Spark* curriculum will come alive at both worship services as children will receive holiday poppers and help with the sermon as Pastor Smoose preaches on “The First Fireworks.” The service will also feature a renewal of baptism as we all remember that we have been Sparked by the Spirit. Bring a friend and enjoy the start of the new year at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.



C H U R C H L I F E

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The Transition Team members are Sandy Niss, Deb Felton, Betsy Kamin, Sarah Bocian, Bill Grauer, Dave Helms and John Pritchard with ex officio help from Tom Conroy and Carol Steinbrecher. The team met in November to set up their near term key activities. These include meeting with the Bishop in January to discuss the call process; reviewing the most important Skills, Traits and Knowledge that we want in a new pastor and helping Council assemble a strong Call Committee as soon as possible. The Call Committee and Transition Team will work in concert with the Transition Team managing process details to pave the way for the Call Committee to focus on selecting the very best candidate.

NEW MEMBER DINNER

Reformation's Marketing and Growth Ministry is sponsoring a Newcomer's Dinner on Sunday, January 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Children are welcome at this informal event designed as a way to get to know each other and congregational leaders. While invitations we sent in December, those interested in attending should contact the church office at 610-891-0600.

Know Your Church Council

President: Carol Steinbrecher Vice-Pres.: Kathy Ewens
Secretary: Sally Helms Treasurer: Tom Conroy
Members: Ron Bingemen, Deb Felton, Bill Grauerk
Gary Kamin, Eric Lucas, Joe Mirarchi, Wilson Moffett, John Prichard, Jen Troutman

Newsletter Submission

Articles for the Reformation Times should be emailed to Sandy Niss at reformationnews@gmail.com by the second Friday of each month.

ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum is a weekly educational program that provides a range of topics for discussion and reflection. It meets at 9:50 a.m. in Creighton Hall.

ADULT FORUM – Focuses on Community Organizations that Care

January 8 – City Team Ministry. Richard Williams of City Team Ministry will outline the amazing work of that organization as it reaches out to the homeless, those battling addiction and those facing difficult economic times.

January 15 – Chester Eastside Ministry. Another faith-based ministry that Reformation has worked with in the community that does a lot with a little. Come and learn about their work with housing and hunger and community development.

January 22 – The annual budget review! Treasurer Tom Conroy reviews the congregational finances and gives an overview of the 2012 budget the week prior to the annual meeting. This is the opportunity to ask questions and learn about church finances since time at the annual meeting is limited.

January 29 – The Center Foundation – a community program that helps women in transition and gives support to teen mothers. Susan Garrison and Michael Campbell, founders of TCF will share its history, growth and future plans.

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE



Monday, January 16

7 PM in the sanctuary.

The one-hour service consists of prayerful songs to guitar accompaniment, scripture readings, responsive prayers and a period of meditative silence. Please plan to come and experience this hour of serenity.

C H U R C H L I F E

PARISH NURSE



Pat Woerheide

Dear RELC members when you make 2012 resolutions consider resolving to be a more active health care provider for yourself. I have listed a few ideas to consider. Most of us get nervous when we need health care. Any of these points will make a difference in your healthcare. God bless you in 2012.

Keep written health records that include:

- current health problems
- concerns about your health
- hospitalizations
- medicines you take, including over-the-counter and herbals

Plan ahead for visits to your Doctor, by writing down questions and concerns. Share them at the beginning of an appointment.

Let your doctor know about stress in your life that affects your health and ability to manage daily activities.

Do research at the library or on the computer about your conditions and medicines

Let your doctor know the treatment options you don't agree with.

Ask questions about anything that confuses you.

Get written instructions that you can keep.

Know your medicines and why you take each one.

Ask how you will get results of any tests or treatments.

Get the name and telephone number of a person to call if you have a problem.

Ask someone to come with you to your appointment to help you.

Ask your Doctor if there is any way that you can save money with treatment options, sometimes timing things differently can save you money.

Save the Date for the

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration!

January 15th is the actual birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is fitting that the celebration this year will fall on that very day! This annual event is sponsored by Media Fellowship House, local churches, and the Media Area NAACP. For the third year in a row the service will include music by the *Media Area Interfaith Choir*, under the direction of Christine Schroth. This year's speaker will be noted columnist, Annette John-Hall, of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

The service will be held at the First Methodist Church, located at State and Lemon Streets in Media. The dignitaries begin processing at 4:00 pm. Refreshments will be served at 5:15 pm, immediately following the service. Everyone is invited to attend!



INVITATION TO SINGERS

Once again an Interfaith Choir of singers from the Media area will perform at the annual Martin Luther King service. There will be two rehearsals in January, plus another rehearsal on January 15th, the day of the service. All voice parts are needed. Call Edna Bogert (610 566 9241) for details.



The Eco Committee at Reformation Lutheran Church sponsored a trip to Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River to observe the wintering Bald Eagles, plus other water birds. It Was a great day.



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.
- Brass Concert to benefit City Team. The Chester Children's Choir Concert and reception following and dinner served to the children.
- 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.
- 2011 budget prepared. Counting offerings for all the services.
- Financial reports for 2011 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!



THANK YOU!

To all who helped to make December's Chester Children's Chorus concert such a big success! We especially want to thank Diane Black- who provided a wonderful dinner for the children before the concert, Kathy Ewens- who organized the after concert reception, the men who handled overflow parking, the ushers who managed the "standing room only" crowd, our photographer, Steve Niss, and to all who contributed goodies and helped organize and serve the after concert reception for the chorus, their friends and their families.

With special thanks to you all from the Worship and Music Ministry.

THANK YOU COOKIE BAKERS

Thanks to all who brought in cookies for the Jean Roberts Cookie Bake. We filled 62 boxes! These boxes will be going into the Christmas food bags and also for the Christmas Carolers.



FROM THE HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Sign up to bring a salad or dessert for the Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan. 29th, 12:15. The Ministry will supply the hot sandwiches, drinks and chips.

Please fill out the form below and bring it to church or sign up on the sheets in the narthex. Thank You.

NAME

I will bring a:



SALAD

DESSERT



ECO MINISTRY

Pot Luck Dinner and Movie Night

Friday, February 3

Dinner at 6:00 pm/ Movie at 6:45 pm

On Friday, February 3rd (snow date February 10th). The Eco Committee is planning its annual Pot Luck Dinner and Movie Night. Dinner will begin at 6 PM; the movie at 6:45. This year we will feature "Gasland" written and directed by Josh Fox and nominated for an Academy Award

Narrating a first-person account, Fox relates how a natural gas company made him a lease offer for \$100,000 to explore on his land, which includes the house his parents built in Pennsylvania's Delaware River Basin abutting upstate New York. Fox begins to do his own research on drilling, and leaves countless unreturned messages with natural gas drillers.

Once Fox learns that his beloved Delaware River watershed is being targeted by drillers as part of the massive Marcellus Shale field, he goes on the road to track down residents living near drilling sites. As Fox ventures west, to Colorado, Wyoming and Texas, states riddled with natural gas drill sites, he documents horror story after horror story.

The primary cause is the cornucopia of toxic chemicals, blended with water, which must be used in fracking. Infrared-camera footage records venting of polluting gases coming off drill rigs, crushing the myth that natural gas is "clean" and a greenhouse solution

Come join us for dinner and discussion following the movie. Look for a sign up in the Narthex.



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

At the December meeting we celebrated the season by singing carols to the accompaniment of our own Bill Meehan, had fun with some Christmas games, and gathered gifts for Fair Acres, we look forward to January's change of pace. Cathy and Jim Thorne will inspire us with tales of their trips around the world, including the one when Cathy climbed Mt. Kilomanjaro—*after* her cancer treatment!

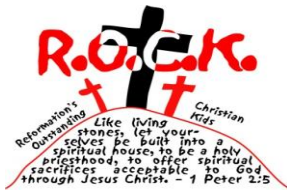
Cathy and Jim also shared many artifacts and memorabilia from their many adventures. They love to share their stories and are available to speak to interested groups! All are welcome to come to this meeting on Monday, January 9th at

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Remember the library when you're looking for things to do over the holidays. This is a good time to come into Reformation's Library to browse for reading materials while the kids are off from school or home from college!

In January, the book cart will resume visits to Sunday School and will become available to participants at Sunday's Bible Study, too! Also, January 23 is the date of the second meeting of Reformation Book Club! *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* is the title of the book to be discussed on that night. A lively discussion, along with refreshments, is a great way to begin the new year! If you are a reader, plan to join us then!





JANUARY 2012

- Jan. 1** *Happy New Year!*
- Jan. 8** *R.O.C.K. and Friends at the Movies.* Enjoy a matinee of a new release. **Bring a friend** and we'll share their ticket cost! Movie location and times TBA.
- Jan. 15** *Martin Luther King Sunday,* Community Service at *First United Methodist Church, Media,* 4:00 p.m.
Meet here at 3:30 p.m.
- Jan. 22** *Arnold's Family Fun Center,* Norristown, NJ
Join us for an afternoon of indoor fun including go-karts, rides, arcade games, laser tag, mini-golf and more. \$20 per person: **Bring a friend** and we'll share their ticket cost! Leave here at 1:30 p.m., return at 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 29** *Annual Congregational Meeting, 12:15 p.m.*
Required for all Confirmation students



Congratulations to our students who received the following awards for their attendance at Sunday School and Worship:

25 Stars - Certificate

Allison Bocian Marissa Kamin

50 Stars - Certificate

Emily Joyce Gregg Kylie Jane Polito

75 Stars - Certificate

Robert Schaub Ciara Bradley
Melanie Walls Madeline Walls

100 Stars - Certificate & \$10 Gift Card

Keegan Bradley Lindsey Gamlin

125 Stars - Certificate

Sarah Michelle Bingeman Tyler Reed Bingeman

150 Stars - Certificate

Julia Biordi Maia Simmons
Madison Benzing

175 Stars - Certificate

Jordan Sharer Rachel Bingeman

200 Stars - Certificate & \$15 Gift Card

Brett Conley Matthew Gane
Tyler Troutman

225 Stars - Certificate

Richard Cotter Mitchell Davis
Mairi West

250 Stars - Certificate

Joelle Emery Hacik

300 Stars - Certificate & \$20 Gift Card & End of Year Trophy

Alexis Bingeman

325 Stars - Certificate

Layla Phillips Lauren Niss

375 Stars - Certificate

Matthew Walter

450 Stars - Certificate

Katharine-Thi Koethe

Save the date!



**Saturday, March 17, 2012
at 5:30pm**

Reformation Spring Auction

Benefitting the Youth Mission
Trip and Scholarship Fund

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day
in Creighton Hall at church.

Enjoy a great auction, eat delicious food,
and support our youth mission programs!



THE PASTOR PONDERES... Another Year of GRACE

There is a hymn in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* that did not make it to the new ELW – *Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year*. I recognize that it was only appropriate on New Year's Day or the Sunday closest to it, and I'm not lobbying for its inclusion in our new hymnal, but I did want to remember the thoughtfulness its words impart:

Greet now the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace.

With Christ as Lord to lead our way in want and in prosperity
What need we fear in earth or space in this new year of grace!

It already seems like a swiftly changing year as the months seem to fly by toward my retirement. There seems to be so much to do, but then that has always been the case throughout my ministry and I don't expect that to change. The words of this hymn seem to me to give us the proper perspective for whatever changes we face in the coming year.

First it reminds us that this new year, indeed Luther would say each new day, is an opportunity for new beginnings. It brings with it great hope and possibilities and anticipation of joy and it is an acknowledgement that those faults, foibles, short-comings and mistakes of which I repent are past – over – forgiven by God, which is why hope and joy are possible.

Secondly it reminds us that Christ our Lord leads the way into the future. This same Lord has guided Reformation for sixty years and has guided his church for over 2000 years. God is faithful and so long as we also remain faithful to the mission God has given us, our Lord will guide us into the future prepared for us. What need we fear with such a promise – nothing!

And so we begin a new year of grace – with youth mission trips being planned and the return of Rolf Jacobson as our Scholar in Residence. A new year of grace – with Duncan Stearns expressing his faith on the organ and Bill Lafty filling us with the words and music he has composed. A new year of grace with a transition team in place and plans for the kitchen ready for approval. A new year of grace – with Rose Tree Road ready to be widened and a community thankful for the work and ministry of Reformation.

All of this and more will be evident at our annual meeting and at worship services and special events in the months to come. And so some of the trepidations I feel and apprehensions you may have are calmed as I remember again God is in charge. This new year will begin with a BANG – literally, as Sunday School children and youth help kick off the new year on January 8 – you won't want to miss that worship service! It begins another year of grace.

~ Pastor Smoose

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

REFORMATION TIMES

Volume 33, No. 1

JANUARY 2012

Sunday, January 1

New Year's Day – The Name of Jesus Day.
Worship: Traditional 8:30 am/ Contemporary 11:00 am

Sunday, January 8

The Baptism of our Lord- WINTER RALLY DAY
Worship: Traditional 8:30 am/ Contemporary 11:00 am

Sunday, January 15

Martin Luther King Weekend
Worship: Traditional 8:30 am/ Contemporary 11:00 am

Sunday, January 29

Annual Congregation Meeting- held after the 11:00 am
service.
Worship: Traditional 8:30 am/ Contemporary 11:00 am



COUNCIL NOTES

- Reviewed the Constitution and Bylaws to bring recommended amendments to the congregation
- Reviewed preliminary reports on the stewardship results which has projected income at the same level as the actual income received in 2011. A final report with the recommendations for the 2012 spending plan will be finalized at the January meeting.
- Noted that the City Team Holiday concert and the Chester Children's Chorus concerts were both well received with the Children's chorus having a standing room only crowd of over 300.
- Voted to use \$750 from Holiday offering to support the Chester Children's Chorus
- Voted to contribute an additional \$1000 toward the Thrivent Habitat for Humanity house in Chester.
- Voted to contribute the Thanksgiving Offering of \$821 to Philabundance and to give \$500 from Holiday Offering to The Center Foundation *Holiday from the Heart* event for low income families.
- Thanked congregational members for their generosity in bringing *St. Nicholas Day* gifts for so many children and agencies and for their support of Holiday Food Baskets.
- Noted that an architect is revising Kitchen plans to meet township regulations.
- Reported that an agreement has been signed with PennDOT for the purchase of land along Rose Tree Road in preparation for road widening next Spring.
- Reported that Reformation will have as many as THREE teams next summer for the Appalachia Service Project
- Reported that Reformation youth are combining with Holy Trinity, Wallingford and St. Matthew, Springfield for the New Orleans National Youth Gathering.

CORRECTION NOTICE

**Pastor Smoose's new address as printed in the new Pictorial Directory
Is not valid until June, 2012**

**Please use the old address: 651 Niblick Lane, Wallingford, PA 19086
Until that time.**