



The Newsletter of the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack
a Reformed Church in America Congregation

The Fisherman

February 2012

2012 Consistory

Elders

Jane Case
Wendy Cook
Russell Holze
P-L Schroeppe
Bob Weinman
Karen Winch

Deacons

Mike Bowman
Ed Cramer
Mike Daly
John Dunham
Dianne Slusar
Cindy VanAlphen

Missionaries

Judy Estelle
Bruce and Laurie Hawley

Staff

Lloyd Lawrence
Director of Bell Choir
Andrea Matrianni
Director of Music
Roberta Lieberman Nicholson,
Administrative Assistant
Nelson Santiago,
Sexton

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Claverack, NY 12513

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Why and how do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice which many Christians have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. On Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our baptism.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried: "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

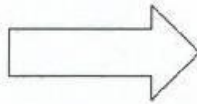
In the Ash Wednesday liturgy the confession and imposition of ashes follow the biblical readings and song. This confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence. The Maundy Thursday absolution is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposition of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy.

The Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire to receive the ashes come. Ashes are applied with the minister's thumb in the form of a small cross on the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Silence may be kept or appropriate music can accompany the imposition of ashes.

This year Ash Wednesday falls upon the 22nd.

Pastor Kathy Davelaar



Keep Up To Date With New Opportunities & Happenings!!

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY continues to meet at Pine Haven on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am. Betty Ostrander will lead our group as we continue discussing the series: **JESUS: HIS POWERFUL LIFE**. Please join us if you can. Contact Linda Theiss at 851-9442.

ASSESSMENTS: The assessment for confessing (active) members for 2012 is as follows:

General Synod	\$45.24	
Albany Synod	28.15	
Classis	<u>8.33</u>	
TOTAL	\$81.72*	This comes to \$20.43/quarter.

FINANCIALS: During the month of November the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack took in \$17,800.51 in income and expended \$15,984.96 in expenses. During the month of December the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack took in \$27,413.35 in income and expended \$26,959.53 in expenses. Fully itemized reports are available at the church office upon request.

If you would like to join the EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN FAMILY to be aware of the present needs and concerns of church members and friends, and to offer prayer support for them, please contact me in person, by phone, or by email. I will be very happy to explain the process to you and get you on the email list.

A reminder to those who are already on the PRAYER CHAIN:

If you contact me by email and don't see a response within hours of your request, or if you feel there is an urgency about your prayer request, please call: me, Linda Theiss (851-9442)...the church office (851-3811)...Tom Patterson (828-3505)...or anyone on consistory...to get the message activated.

Linda Theiss (518) 851-9442 theiss@mhonline.net

Please note new hours for the CHURCH OFFICE: Monday – Wednesday 9 am – 1 pm, Tuesday 9 am – 2 pm.

COFFEE HOUR sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board on the right just inside the front doors of the CEB. Sign ups are available through most of March.

A Spiritual Retreat: Encouraging the Nurture of a Listening Heart.

March 6 – 8, 2012, Linwood Spiritual Center, Rhinebeck, NY. Retreat to reflect on your life and listen to God, using a variety of contemplative prayer practices. Individual Spiritual Direction will be provided. Retreat guides: Ellen Ratmeyer, Ella Campbell and Arlene Wilhelm. Cost: \$150.00 per person. For more information contact Arlene Wilhelm 845-240-1690. See the registration form and a more detailed description of the retreat on our synod website.
www.albanysynod.org/events.htm.

The Synod has a Lending Library of Lent and Easter Resources. There are a good number of resources that cover children through adult curricula, intergenerational activities and events, and worship. Resources can be checked out and if necessary, sent to you on request. Check out the complete listings on the web site.
www.albanysynod.org/synod/library.htm.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK – the church just received another check from Green Fiber for \$67.76 for its recycled paper. Keep it coming!!!

Correspondence: A thank you was received from Columbia Opportunities: “Thank you for your recent donation to aid the Columbia Opportunities Emergency Food Pantry. Our community work throughout the year is made possible by many contributors like you – those who see the needs of others and offer help to find solutions.” Columbia Opportunities assisted with more than 500 families including 1300 requests for emergency food.

Valentine's Day is February 14th



Everyone knows that Valentine's Day is the day for love, chocolate and cards but did you know the Valentine's Day trivia below?

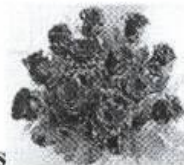
Only the USA, Canada, Mexico, France, Australia and the UK, celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th

Valentine's Day Card Trivia

Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, and then, sweethearts. Children ages 6 to 10 exchange more than 650 million Valentine's cards with teachers, classmates, and family members.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. [An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas].

Hallmark has over 1330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.



Valentine's Trivia about Flowers and Chocolates

110 million roses, the majority color red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.

The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love. Red stands for strong feelings

California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America.

15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.

While 75% of chocolate purchases are made by women all year long, during the days and minutes before Valentine's Day, 75% of the chocolate purchases are made by men.

Over \$1 billion USD worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day.

One-third of all Valentine cards are accompanied by gifts.

An estimated 25% of Valentine's Day cards are humorous.

70% of those celebrating the holiday give a card, followed by a telephone call [49%], gift [48%], special dinner [37%], candy [33%], restaurant meal [30%], and flowers [19%].

The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.

About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets. (Probably chocolate.)



Valentine's Day History

There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that Saint Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine.

January 11, 2012 – Consistory Highlights

Present: Dianne Slusar, Russ Holze, Karen Winch, Wendy Cook, Mike Bowman, Kathy Davelaar, Mike Daley, Cindy VanAlphen, Bob Weinman, PL Schroepfel, John Dunham, and guest, Classis Clerk Gary DeWitt

Absent: Ed Cramer, Jane Case

Opening Prayer: Meeting opened with prayer by Kathy at 7:10
12/14/11 & 1/4/12 Consistory Minutes: Minutes approved.

Sign Ups: List passed around

Appointments/Elections: Motion made to separate Elder VP and Senior Elder positions – Motion approved. Motion made and approved for the following positions: Elder VP – Wendy Cook, Senior Elder – Russ Holze, Senior Deacon – Dianne Slusar, Treasurer – Nate Winch, Clerk – Mike Daly, Classis Delegates – Nancy Rasweiller, Snookie Patterson (alternate)

Classis Matters – Dissolution of the pastoral relationship and other ending matters. Reading of formulary was completed and signed. Questions asked of consistory and Kathy, action completed. All salaries/benefits will be paid thru the end of January. The congregation can ask for a supervisor or classis will appoint. Susanne Peckham will be contact person. Kathy's last Sunday will be 1/29/12.

Reports – (Kathy excused from meeting) Consistory reviewed the recommendation from finance committee regarding "gift" for Kathy's exit. Finance committee recommended - benefit package paid thru 3/31, salary thru 1/29, 1/12th vacation and 1/12th professional reimbursement, church will pay normal payroll taxes on those items. Motion made and approved to pay the following: benefit package paid thru 3/31, salary thru 1/29 plus 2 additional pay periods in February including payroll taxes.

Closing Prayer as Adjournment: Wendy at 9:00pm

Next Consistory Meeting: 2/8/12 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
(Outgoing Clerk)
Karen Winch



Darcy Colwell	2/1
Laurel Clapp	2/3
Nancy Rasweiler	2/3
William Cook	2/4
Samantha Steenburn	2/6
John Essig	2/7
Jim Mackerer	2/7
Edward Stone	2/14
Hattie Hotaling	2/15
John Hardy	2/16
Henry John Theiss	2/22
Bruce Kline	2/22
Karen Case	2/23
Jeremy Hotalen	2/23
Pam Kline	2/25
Russ Holze	2/25
Robert Hardy	2/25
Shirley Shumsky	2/29

Sylvia & John Hardy 2/21

PRAYER CONCERNS LIST

Please pray for:

Dan Barrett's loved ones
 Marilyn Barry's loved ones
 Bliss Family friends...**Gene, Geneva**
 Champion Family friend...**Jeffrey, Robert**
 The Case Family...**The Nissen and Canavan Families**
The Carr Family
 Darcy Conor's Family...**Jake**
 Dunhams' friend...**Shaquanda**
The Gardner Family

Andrea Mastrianni's friend...**Ray**
Jay Mayo
 Kathy McNamee's friend...**Donna**
Dale Nicholson's loved ones
 L/K Niver's family/friends...**Keith, Ginny, Nikki+Steve/Linda, Ed**
 H/R Niver...**dear friend**
 Doerfer-O'Neill Family...**Carol's Mother's loved ones**
 Kitty Osterhoudt's friend...**Kevin**

Lois Gorts' daughter/nephew...
Carol/Donald

Mary Hallenbeck's friend's husband,
Terry

Hallerans' family/friends...**Patricia,
Dee's husband/Mikey, Kathy,
Diane**

Hardy Family...**Karen, Robert**

Lisa and the Hogan Family

Russ Holze's friend...**Kathleen**

Holzchauer's nephew...**Greg**

Bob Ihlenburg's parents

Irene Kitchie's friends...**Denise, Sandy,
2 Debbies**

Pam Kline's family/friends... **The
Bill McGuire Family, Lisa/
Peter+Julie Zapp**

Knoll Family

LaRocque Family/friend...**Rob,Charlotte,
Sandy/Adelaide**

Jan Lynch's family/friend...**Mother,
Sandy and family, Kayley, Laura,
Mary Lee, Janet/Rosemary**

Margaret MacIntyre

Jim Mackerer

Ruth Manning's family/friend...
Chantal/Ellie

Betty Ostrander's family/friends ...**Valerie,
5-yr old Peter/Joanne, Don**

The Rasweiler Family...Bill's father

Schoep Family/friends...**Dan, Vic/Zach,
Robert, Danielle, Tom**

Schroepel Family/friends...**Helen,
Bronson**

Thomas Seymour

Denise Smith's friend...**Susan**

Steenburn Family...**Samantha's friend's Dad**

John Stickle

Terry Stone

Jennifer Stubblebeen's grandfather...
James Krom

Sullivan Family...**Sophie**

Jennie Case Sullivan's friends...
White Family

Anne Terwilliger...**Parents, Dan**

Cindy Van Alphen

Linda Van Der Meulen's friend...**Shirley**

Deb Van Dyke's friends...**Melissa's Mom,
Toby T and family**

Linda Van Loon Nack's nephew...**Justin**

Julie Veronezi's family/friends...**Aunt Alice,
Uncle Willard,Marion+family, Laura/
Jen, Donahue Family, Jason, Tom**

Bob Weinman's/Delamaters' friend...**Laura**

Westendorfs' friend...**Stan Scott**

Karen Winch's mother...**June**

Wilber Family/friend...**John, Kevin, Donna, Alan,
Jackie, Glenda, Shirley/Jennifer and son, Dru**

...and those who are housebound or in nursing/assisted-living homes:

HOME: **Leon Cook, Nelson Dickey** (Virginia Ambrose's father, who is living with her)

BARNWELL: **Dr. Robert Johnson**

THE ELIOT: **Hazel Ormerod**

PINE HAVEN: **Margaret Mac Intyre, Ellen Essig**

WHITTIER: **Richard Siter** (Tammy Rigos' father)

NOT LOCAL: **Judy Dunham** (John's sister-in-law), **Dorothy Griswold** (Jan Lynch's mother),
Anne Terwilliger's parents

HELP KEEP THE POSTAGE COSTS DOWN AND THE GREEN EFFECT UP!!

Some of you obtain the Fisherman by picking it up in church, others by getting via email. Still others are having it mailed.



Please let us know if you would like to receive The Fisherman via email. If so, please email the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack at rdcc88@yahoo.com or call us at 518-851-8311 and we will put you on the email list or fill out the bottom of this form and drop it off at the church office.. Make sure you give us your email address!!

Thank you.

Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack

Please take me off the mailing list. I would like the Fisherman emailed to me.
(please print)

Name _____

Email address _____

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bridge Club 11:30-5 F Bible Study 9:30 Pine Haven		4
5 Worship 9:30 am Sub Sale	6 HVCS 7-9 F AA 8 pm	7 Lectionary Mtg 11 am L Boy Scouts 7 pm F	8 Consistory / Mtg. 7:00 pm	9 Bridge Cl 11:30-5 F Garden Club 12:30-3:30 L 6-7:30 Girl Scouts Bible Study 9:30 Pine Haven	10	11 Private Use F 5-10:30
12 Worship 9:30 am	13 HVCS 7-9 F AA 8 pm	14 Lectionary Mtg 11 am L Boy Scouts 7 pm F	15 Girl Scouts 6:30-8:30 F	16 Bridge Club 11:30-5 F Bible Study 9:30 Pine Haven	17	18 Girl Scouts 12-4 F
19 Worship 9:30 am	20 HVCS 7-9 F AA 8 pm	21 Lectionary Mtg 11 am L Boy Scouts 7 pm F	22 ASH WEDNESDAY Agape Supper 6:00 pm	23 Bible Study 9:30 Pine Haven Bridge Club 11:30-5 F 6-7:30 Girl Scouts	24	25
26 Worship 9:30 am	27 HVCS 7-9 F AA 8 pm	28 Lectionary Mtg 11 am L Boy Scouts 7 pm F	29			