

THE REFORMED INFORMER



The Colts Neck Reformed Church

April / May 2018

**AN EVENING OF
AMERICAN GOSPEL MUSIC AND SPIRITUALS**
Sunday, April 15th at 7:30 p.m.

You will not want to miss this concert! Our Sanctuary Choir and the Monmouth University Chamber Choir will combine to sing a number of familiar gospel songs and spirituals such as *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho*, *Steal Away*, *Peace Like a River*, *Wade in the Water* – just to name a few. This music will feed your soul and get your toes tapping! Bring your friends and family to what promises to be a wonderful evening of music!

A 6:00 p.m. potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall **will precede the concert**—sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office!

And tell your friends who live at Seabrook Village in Tinton Falls that we're going to repeat the concert in their auditorium on Saturday, April 21st, at 7:30 p.m.!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – MAY 3—4, 2018
by Dianne O'Hara and Maggie Tripold

National Day of Prayer calls on people of all faiths in the United States to pray for the nation and its leaders. The 2018 theme, **Pray for America — UNITY**, is based upon Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer, "*Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*"

In observance of *National Day of Prayer*, the upstairs of the Ministry Center will be transformed into stations of prayer entitled "*Celebrate Jesus: A Personal Prayer Journey*" where you can come and spend one-on-one time with God in prayer and reflection.

The Prayer Journey will be available 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 3rd, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on May 4th. Prayer is central to developing and nurturing a relationship with God.



HANDBELL CONCERT
"MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD"
Sunday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m. at CNRC

This year marks our 15th Handbell Concert at CNRC! Mark your calendars and make plans now to come out **Sunday evening, May 6th, at 7:00 p.m.** to hear our five handbell choirs – *Echo Ringers*, *Joyful Ringers*, *Morning Bells*, *Celebration Ringers* and *Exultation Ringers* – in concert. Our 60+ ringers will delight you with a variety of handbell selections in different musical styles – in fact, this year our theme is "*Music from Around the World*". Invite your family, friends and neighbors! You won't want to miss this wonderful evening of bell music. The free concert will be followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

(Continued on page 5, see Concert)

HOLY YOGA RETURNS BEGINNING MAY 1ST!



Holy Yoga is back and is now being taught by Barbara Tucker, who has gone through an extensive Holy Yoga training. You may know Barb as she leads our Women's Coffeebreak Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

Join us in our beautiful Yoga Room, located on the lower level of the Ministry Center, to participate in any or all of our Holy Yoga sessions.

Holy Yoga (HY) is an experiential worship of our glorious Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. Come honor Him through movement at any or all of our scheduled classes. They are for all skill levels, for men and women, for anyone who would like to deepen their faith and improve their wellness. These HY classes are accessible to any adult, regardless of their mobility, flexibility or strength. Modifications are possible with all of the poses. Dress comfortably (and appropriately for an activity held at a church) so you can move with ease.

(Continued on page 4, see Holy Yoga)

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FOCUS ON FAITH



Dear Friends,

The Reformed Church in America is going through a time of disagreement and contention. As with many denominations, not to mention other groups in society, the RCA is growing more partisan with both the conservatives and progressives (*to put broad labels to a very complex set of theological issues*) being unable to find common ground or reach a consensus on differing theological issues. Those who oppose women's ordination and LGBTQ inclusion (*the two big issues for RCA conservatives*) are well organized and continue to push for their view of biblical purity over unity. I am not writing so as to be an alarmist as much as to seek to keep you informed. Many are saying that this sets the stage for an inevitable split. How I pray that that doesn't happen!

There are several reasons for this denominational divide. One is that the more conservative members of the RCA disagreed with the removal of the "*conscience clause*" which allowed those who oppose women in leadership to opt out of ordaining women ministers, elders, or deacons. Also, within the last three decades, the RCA made it easier to ordain ministers who studied at non-RCA

seminaries, typically very conservative seminaries which do not teach mainline theology or RCA governance; those ministers are now in strong positions of influence.

This means that the Reformed Church as it has been historically known – where unity was the motto, where mission bound us together, where doctrines that were not understood as "*salvation issues*" (for example those about human sexuality) were allowed to be left to individual scriptural study and to the classis, not the denomination – is no longer present. This leads to a "*my way or the highway*" mentality in what I perceive to be a very vocal and influential minority. I pray that the silent majority will continue to prevail, but each year that is getting harder and harder. For many, the question is not "*will the RCA split?*" but "*when?*" To this end, I've shared with the consistory that other congregations are looking into the possibility of dually associating with the United Church of Christ (another Reformed denomination that more closely fits our theological stance.) Dual affiliation means we would still be part of the RCA but, as part of the UCC, would also allow us to affirm our acceptance of all people in the name of Jesus Christ and provide a safe/soft place to land if division occurs. Again, I pray that a schism won't happen, but this is an issue that is much bigger than our congregation, and I wanted to keep you in the loop and to ask for your prayers.

Grateful for our congregation of grace and faithfulness,

Scott D. Brown

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Colts Neck Reformed Church, 139 Route 537, P.O. Box 57, Colts Neck, NJ 07722

Church office phone: 732-462-4555 • Nursery school phone: 732-462-4662
Fax: 732-866-9545 • Church e-mail: coltsneckreformedchurch@verizon.net • Website: <http://www.coltsneckreformed.org>
Church office administrative hours: (Monday — Friday) 8:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Office Staff

- ◇ Scott D. Brown, *Minister* — Home #732-683-0530
email: revscottbrown@verizon.net
- ◇ Debi Jensen, *Pastor*
email: cnrc.associate@gmail.com
- ◇ Maggie Tripold, *Director of Music and Worship Arts*
email: mtripold@verizon.net
- ◇ Dianne O'Hara, *Congregational Care Coordinator*
Director of Health and Wellness Ministries
email: cnrc.care@gmail.com
- ◇ Paul and Debbie Horan, *Directors of Youth Ministry*
email: coltsneckyouth@gmail.com
- ◇ Dr. David Tripold, *Organist and Sanctuary Choir Director*
- ◇ Pam Licata, *Church Administrator/Secretary*
email: coltsneckreformedchurch@verizon.net
- ◇ Stacey Savage, *Director of Early Childhood Ministries*
email: cnrcns@verizon.net
- ◇ Joy Lenz, *Administrative Assistant, Nursery School Secretary*
- ◇ Betsy Aras, *Newsletter Editor* email: betsy.cnrc@gmail.com

Consistory

Elders:

Reed Feuster *Vice-President*
Barbara Battles ... *Worship*
Brian Allain *Discipleship for Ongoing Ministries*
Claire Morris *Long Range Planning/Health & Wellness*
Sean Horan *Discipleship for Youth/Young Adults*
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Paul Anderson *Stewardship and Finance*
Bob Gassaway *Building & Grounds*
LuAnne Petrie *Mission*
Nancy Holm *Mission*

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Submissions may be edited.

Email Submissions to: Reformed.Informer@gmail.com

FINANCIAL SECRETARY~

The consistory is pleased to appoint Greg Robinson to the post of financial secretary. Greg has served on consistory for eight years in the past and now, in his vocational retirement, is eager to serve our church in a new way. Greg resides with his wife Laurie in Howell Township. They have been members of the church for 31 years and have three adult children and four grandchildren. Greg also serves as treasurer for the Monmouth County Habitat for Humanity and recently co-led our hurricane-relief mission trip to Florida. Fun facts: Greg's favorite vacation spot is Cape May, his hobbies include golf and woodworking, and his favorite Bible verses can be found in Genesis 9:8-17.



Greg is taking over for Tom Russell who has retired after 35 years of faithful service to God and our congregation. Tom has volunteered to continue to help when he and his wife Ginny are not away on a vacation trip. Fun facts: Two of their favorite movies are "The Gods Must Be Crazy" and "Oh God!" - favorite line is at the end

of that latter movie when George Burns as God says to John Denver's character "You talk, I'll listen." Tom and Ginny are looking for another couple who might be interested in joining them for a self-driving safari tour of Kruger National Park in South Africa.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS~

On January 31st we welcomed two new members into the life of the Colts Neck Reformed Church. Please find time to say "hello" and welcome them into the church.

RICHARD AND VIRGINIA HASKIN live in Applewood and know many folks from CNRC. Richard began working for Prudential Insurance in 1956 in Kansas City, Missouri. He started as a special agent selling insurance policies. This was the beginning of a 37-year career with Prudential that



took him all over the United States and the world. He was Marketing Vice President in Spain and Italy and started two new foreign insurance companies for Prudential. During the course of his career, he earned

advanced certifications: CLU (Chartered Life Underwriter) and CHFC (Chartered Financial Consultant).

Virginia taught in public schools wherever the family was living. Her experiences included teaching primary grades and administering programs for children with special needs including autism, learning disabilities and preschool special education. After receiving a Doctor of Education degree from the Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University, Virginia continued to teach at the college level until her retirement.

WHO AM I?



1. I was born in Roanoke, Virginia, but grew up in West Virginia and Maplewood, New Jersey.
2. In high school I was voted the class best actor, and also set a pole vault record of 11' 5-1/2".
3. After graduating from Kean University, I was a draftsman for an architectural firm.
4. I've taught electricity, electronics, and computer networks at high school, technical school, and university levels.
5. After developing a teaching machine, I wrote a book and sold the manufacturing and publishing rights to a local engineering company.
6. By the grace of God, I have survived cancer and a five-way bypass surgery.
7. I have attended CNRC since 1977, but didn't join the church until seventeen years later.
8. My spouse and I have been married for 22 years and share five children, nine grandchildren and two great grands.
9. I sing bass and enjoy photography.
10. I am currently the president of my homeowner's association.

Give up? Turn to page 10 to see my name and picture!

Tullis Savage, R.N., will be offering free Blood Pressure screenings on Thursday, April 12th, and Thursday, May 10th, from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center break room. No reservation required.

NEW MEMBER CLASS OFFERED IN APRIL~

by Dianne O'Hara

The journey of faith, although very personal, is not meant to be traveled alone.

Periodically we hold new member classes for those who are interested in finding out more about the Colts Neck Reformed Church and are considering church membership.



**New
Member
Classes**

If you have been worshipping with us and you would like to learn more about our church, we invite you to attend our next class on **Wednesday, April 18th, from 7:00—8:45 p.m.** in the Ministry Center Conference Room. If you are interested in becoming a member, we ask that you attend this class where Rev. Scott Brown will talk about the history of CNRC and what it means to be a member.

Participation in the class does not commit you to church membership, but it is an opportunity for you to find out about the life and ministry of CNRC.

If interested in attending, please contact Dianne O'Hara at [cnrc.care@gmail.com] or call the church office (732-462-4555) to register.

MEET YOUR CHURCH STAFF — PAM LICATA~

Pam serves as the Church Administrator here at CNRC and just celebrated her fourth anniversary working at the church! She's been married to her husband, Joe, for almost 29 years and they have three children—Daniel, 26; Peter, 24; and Leanne who is 20. They have lived in Freehold Township for the past 23 years.

Pam grew up in Little Falls, NJ; when she was 14, her father moved the family cross-country to California for a job transfer. She attended Calabasas High School and then graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a B.A. in Business Economics. After graduation, Pam worked for Security Pacific National Bank in Los Angeles, before moving back to the east coast in December of 1987. Within three months of moving back, she met her husband on a blind date and they were married two years later!



Pam then worked for Drexel Burnham Lambert on Wall Street, involved with recruiting for the Fixed Income Trading Training Program and then worked as the Associate Personnel Manager for Macys, Bridgewater until she had her first child. She was in direct sales for many years while raising the children – selling Longaberger baskets, Silpada jewelry, and even real estate. As the children grew up, she accepted a part time position at Barnes and Noble in customer service working in their corporate offices as a support service for the stores and worked there for nine years before getting laid off in May of 2012. She then got to try out her lifelong dream of working in travel, accepting a job at Liberty Travel in October of 2012. Pam worked for Liberty for a year and a half, but unfortunately the hours and restrictions did not work for the family and that's when she made the move to CNRC.

Pam's passion is travel, so when she's not working in the church office, you will find her helping customers plan their dream vacations with Suite Dreamz Travel, which is actually based in MD, but she gets to do what she loves from home! Pam defines a vacation as cruising! She's been on about 13 cruises and her next cruise will be this May when she and Joe fly to Rome for three nights and then get on a nine-night Greek Isles cruise. Needless to say, they are very excited.

When asked what she likes most about working at CNRC Pam says, *"Working at the church has given me great flexibility so I can be there for my family as well as pursue my love of travel. I have met so many incredibly faith-filled people here at CNRC! It is a pleasure to be a part of such a warm and loving congregation. Thank you for all your support!"*



(Holy Yoga, continued from page 1)

- **Holy Yoga:** Tuesdays (beginning 5/1) 10:00 a.m. Poses are done on a mat. Bring your own, or borrow one of ours. The flow is slow moving.
- **Balance Holy Yoga:** Thursdays (beginning 5/3) 11:15 a.m. Poses are done with a chair or standing if you are able. These poses help anyone with balance, inner-ear or mobility challenges.
- **Chair Holy Yoga** Fridays (beginning 5/4) 11:15 a.m. This popular class is comprised of poses done in chairs or standing. Stretch and strengthen your way to health and happiness.



These no-cost classes will continue over the summer months and, depending on the interest, more classes will be added in the fall.

Please email Barb Tucker at [barbaratucker@aol.com] with any questions.

NURSERY SCHOOL SIZZLES AT SCIENCE NIGHT~ by Stacey Savage

The nursery school hosted its 6th Annual Family Science Night appropriately themed for the month of March *The Science of Dr. Seuss*. Children were engaged in hands-on science exploration using some of Dr. Seuss's children's books as the catalyst for exploration. Fizzy green eggs lent themselves to chemical reactions, while Oobleck showed children the difference between liquids solids, and polymers. Over 75 families took part making this our most successful family science night yet.



Science Night

OUR BELL CHOIRS RING OUT IN THE COMMUNITY~

All five of our handbell choirs have had or will have the opportunity to ring out in the community in the upcoming months!

- **Exultation Ringers** participated in the 19th Annual Ecumenical Handbell Festival at First Presbyterian Church in Toms River on Sunday, February 25th.
- **Morning Bells** will give a concert at The Brookside in Freehold on Monday, April 30th.
- **Echo and Joyful Ringers** will give a concert at The Arbors in Spring Lake on Monday, May 7th.
- **Celebration Ringers** will give a concert at The Reformed Church Home on Wednesday, May 9th.

SPRINGTIME SINGING WITH THE SENIORS~

Do you want to brighten the day of senior citizens and bring a smile to their faces? If so, come and sing with us! No rehearsals required – just come when your schedule permits. Our schedule for April and May is as follows:

- **Wednesdays – April 18th and May 16th at The Reformed Church Home**
Meet there at 11:15 a.m. or at church at 11:00 a.m. if you'd like to carpool.
- **Saturdays – April 21st and May 19th at Brandywine Reflections in Colts Neck**
Meet there at 10:30 a.m. or at church at 10:00 a.m. if you'd like to carpool.

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to indicate your availability. Questions? Contact Maggie Tripold at [mtripold@verizon.net] or 732-462-4555.

(Concert, continued from page 1)

The members of our handbell choirs are as follows:

Echo Ringers – Kelly Tyma, director

David Goetke, Ariana Hopper, Owen Horan, Neve McMenamy, Maia Noble, Colin Purcell, Emily Schmocker, Olivia Schmocker

Joyful Ringers – Tamar Goetke, director

Cameron Busico, Frankie Guadagnino, Toni Guadagnino, Cayla Lamegos-Outwin, Jayna Sass, Kiki Sass, Brayden Savage, Hadley Schachter, Logan Schachter

Celebration Ringers – Kay Brown, director

Elizabeth Applegate, Kelly Applegate, Emily Contract, Julia Contract, Daniel Freeman, Sean Gassaway, Alex Geissler, Amanda Geissler, Cassidy Kemp, Caitlin MacClellan, Josh Nestorowicz, Luke Nestorowicz, Josh Sass, Michael Walker

Morning Bells – Maggie Tripold, director

Alicia Dimtsios, Sandy Freeman, Betty Gomory, Janice Hammond, Ginne Hooper, Grace Leibel-Niemann, Ginny McGall, Brenda McQuerrey, Jim McQuerrey, Vera Santucci, Jillian Sherman, Len Simicich, Jeanne Sokol, Kelly Tyma, Allison Walter, Dottie Weidman

Exultation Ringers – Maggie Tripold, director

Crissy Applegate, Jan Applegate, Betsy Aras, Jeff Brown, Kay Brown, Matthew Goetke, Tamar Goetke, Lucy Lennox, Joy Lenz, Lyn Lewis, Kelly Tyma, Allison Walter, Dottie Weidman



CELEBRATION RINGERS/JUBILATION! TERRIFIC TOUR~

Thank you to the congregation for being so supportive of our Celebration Ringers and Jubilation! choir. We had a fabulous weekend tour from February 9th-11th to churches in Wyckoff, NJ and Wynantskill, NY.

Our teens (and chaperones!) made memories that will last a lifetime. The youth in Celebration Ringers and Jubilation! that participated in the trip are: *Elizabeth Applegate, Kelly Applegate, Will Beldowicz, Cameron Busico, Jessica Cerny, Emily Contract, Julia Contract, R.J. Edwards, Daniel Freeman, Cassidy Kemp, Caitlin MacClellan, Sarah Maxwell, Josh Nestorowicz, Luke Nestorowicz, Seth Nestorowicz, Caleb Sass, Josh Sass, and Michael Walker*. Many thanks to the adult chaperones: *Jeff Brown, Kay Brown, Len Simicich, Maggie Tripold, Kelly Tyma and Allison Walter*.

This note was received from Rev. Dawn Alpaugh, Pastor of First Reformed Church, Wynantskill, NY:

Dear friends at Colts Neck,

We are all still so filled with joy over our time with you the weekend of February 10th and 11th. Everyone was not only amazed at the talent of everyone who came, but also at their willingness to come and share that talent. All of your young people were warm, gracious and so appreciative.



What a group you have! And thank you also to the leaders and directors who kept everything and everyone organized and happy! We enjoyed the music, but also just getting to know everyone better. Thank you for your generous gift! We are blessed by you! Love, peace, and joy, Pastor Dawn and everyone at First Reformed Wynantskill

ALLELUIA JAZZ BRINGS SMILES to Residents of The Brookside in Freehold

Our Alleluia Jazz instrumental ensemble brought joy to the residents of The Brookside in Freehold with their concert on Sunday afternoon, March 25th. With songs like *Blue Skies, Over the Rainbow, Pennsylvania 6-5000, Satin Dolls* and more; there were smiles abounding! We don't know who had more fun – the audience or the band! Members of Alleluia Jazz are: *Jim McQuerrey, director; Crissy Applegate, John Applegate, JC Cerny, Kevin Cerny, Mel Chayette, Pete Engelman, Brad Gates, Chris Heider, Ken Howlett, Joy Lenz, Lyn Lewis, Len Simicich, Vinnie Soviero, Maggie Tripold, and Al Zaccaria*.

EXCITING NEWS AT CNRC YOUTH MINISTRY

We are pleased to announce the implementation of an Elementary and Middle School youth group. *Karen Nestowowicz* and *Christin Outwin* will be leading the Junior High Youth Group (6th—8th graders). *Jeanne and Peter Sokol* will be leading the Elementary Youth Group (2nd—5th graders) Information regarding dates and times will be posted in Fellowship Hall.



Directors of Youth Ministry, Paul and Debbie Horan, can be reached by email at [coltsneckyouth@gmail.com] or by phone at 732-768-7202 (*Paul*) or 908-902-6625 (*Debbie*).

"LES MIS" AT MATER DEI PREP HIGH SCHOOL~

Join Paul and Debbie, Directors of Youth Ministry, on **Sunday, April 15th, at 2:00 p.m.** to support our talented youth, Sarah Maxwell, who will be performing in the Mater Dei Prep High School production of "*Les Mis*". Youth in grades 9-12 are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend.

Contact the Horans at [coltsneckyouth@gmail.com] if you are interested. Tickets are not provided.

MISSION TRIP BBQ~

The Senior High youth who are participating in the Easter Mission trip to Clendenin, West Virginia, will meet at Paul and Debbie's Horan's home at 28 Village Lane on **Saturday, April 21st from 5:00-9:00 p.m.** We will be discussing our trip, sharing our thoughts and feelings and gathering for fellowship; (*all youth are welcome*). Contact the Horans at [coltsneckyouth@gmail.com] with any questions.

GRAB YOUR PAINT BRUSH AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

All youth in grades 9—12 are welcome to a painting party at Paul and Debbie Horan's home (28 Village Lane) on **Saturdays, April 28th and May 5th, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** We will be painting our new "*Youth Lounge*". Come join the fun. Contact Paul and Debbie Horan at [coltsneckyouth@gmail.com] with any questions.

YOUTH SUNDAY IS MAY 20, 2018



Come support our Senior High Youth on **Sunday, May 20th at 9:15 or 11:00 a.m.** as they lead us in worship on Youth Sunday! Our youth will be participating in the service by sharing their faith and exhibiting their talents. Please join us for this special service.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP SCHEDULED~

by Paul and Debbie Horan

A SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP will be held in Virginia Beach from **June 24 – June 30, 2018**, and will be led by Directors of Youth Ministry, Debbie and Paul Horan. This trip is being coordinated with an organization called *TEAMeffort Ministries*.



We will stay at a summer camp location with other youth groups and will work on home repair and renovation for local families living in nearby towns. There will

be a free, fun day to relax and wind down. The trip costs \$300 to help cover the cost of the organization fee, transportation, and free day activities. Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Look for more information in Fellowship Hall including an application form.

Applications along with a \$150 deposit were due on March 25th. Youth can still register; however, spots are not guaranteed. Speak with Paul or Debbie Horan at [coltsneckyouth@gmail.com] for more information.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

At the end of the school year, in the June/July/August newsletter, we recognize members of our church family** who are graduating from eighth grade, high school, college, graduate school, or from a special school or program this current school year — but we need to know who you are first!

A form will be available in the Sunday bulletins beginning **mid-April** and it **must be returned by May 14th**. You can download the form from the church website [coltsneckreformed.org] or request one by emailing Pam [coltsneckreformedchurch@verizon.net] in the church office.

***information about adult children and grandchildren who live out of the area will only be included if space permits!*

SUMMERTIME REFRESHMENTS ON THE PATIO~

by Dianne O'Hara

Beginning June 17th and continuing through September 2nd there will be one summer worship service beginning at 9:15 a.m. (*two services—9:15 and 11:00 a.m., will be offered on Sundays, July 1st and August 5th.*)

After the service you will have the opportunity to greet people by participating in "*patio refreshments*" time. Weather permitting, there will be iced tea and lemonade served by cheerful volunteers, under and around the Ministry Center portico. One of those volunteers could be you!

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the main bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for you to select a Sunday that you would be able to provide and serve cold drinks. Unlike coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, we do not offer food in the summertime. Any questions please email or call Dianne O'Hara at [cnrc.care@gmail.com] / 732-462-4555.

CHURCH SCHOOL CHATTER~



Our 2nd and 3rd grade class is one of our largest and can always be counted on for being lively and full of questions. We have one first time teacher in this class but she is well known to the Church School! Jillian Sherman was an assistant for many years and has taught Pre-school as well during our summer program. Our other teacher, Kathy Rodman, has also taught before as well as working as one of the Church School administrators. They are ably assisted by our high school helpers Daniel Freeman, Gavin Hager, and Michael Walker.

This year, the class was moved from the Community Center to Room 22 in the Ministry Center. They have made this classroom a reflection of their personalities. With the help of their teachers, their walls are decorated for the seasons as



well as with prayer requests.

The children's lessons have included some of the parables of Jesus that have led the children to think and marvel at the teachings of our great Lord and Savior.

If you have a child in this age group, we hope they enjoy coming to the class. We give thanks for Kathy and Jillian and their assistants for leading this class of learners. May they continue to be excited and interested while they learn about the greatness and graciousness of God!

BIBLE STUDIES HEADED FOR SUMMER BREAK~

Our Bible Studies will finish up their program year during the months of May and June. We have five Bible Studies that meet at different times during the week. Even though they are finishing for this program year, it is a good opportunity to check out one of their meetings. Drop in and join in and check them out this spring and then plan to be a part of a Bible Study when they begin again in September! Here is a summary of our studies:

The **Women's Coffee Break Bible Study** meets on Thursdays from 9:30—11:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center Conference Room and they will conclude in mid-June. This Bible Study is led by Barbara Tucker. Their final Bible study is about *Galatians – Experiencing the Grace of Christ* and will begin on **April 5th** and continue for 12 weeks.

The **Thursday Evening Bible Study** gathers Thursdays from 6:00—7:15 p.m. in the Ministry Center Conference Room. Debi Jensen along with other participants lead this discussion based Bible study. They are studying the Gospel of Luke and will conclude on **June 14th** with a pizza dinner celebration. Join in with this mixed group of men and women – some singles and some couples.

Continued in next column

Senior Bible Study meets Friday mornings from 10:00—11:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center Conference Room. This group is led by Scott Brown (with occasional leadership by Debi Jensen) and usually studies the scripture passage that will be the sermon topic for the coming Sunday. Come and join them anytime and get a preview of the Sunday message. Their last meeting will be May 25th at 11:00 a.m. as they celebrate with a "picnic" in Fellowship Hall.

The **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** meets the first Saturday of each month in Fellowship Hall from 7:30—9:00 a.m. Art Peslak and Paul Anderson are the leaders for this group and they have been studying *Matthew: Sermon on the Mount*. They will meet on April 7th and their **last breakfast meeting will be May 5th**. Come and enjoy food, discussion and fellowship.

The **Young Women's Bible Study** meets on Sunday in the Ministry Center Conference Room from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. Their leader is Nancy Holm-Friedauer and they have been studying *Travelling Light: Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear*. **They concluded their meetings on March 25th**. Plan to join them in the fall when they begin another study and discussion time.

If you need more information about any of these Bible studies, contact Debi Jensen (cnrc.associate@gmail.com or call her at church 723-462-4555 x115).

REMINDER FOR CHILDREN AT THE LORD'S TABLE~ by Debi Jensen

On April 22nd and April 24th, we will hold a class for children who wish to learn about the sacrament of Communion and then take their **first Communion on May 6th**. The first class will include the student and parent(s) or sponsor and we will learn about the history and significance of communion. The second class will be held for the students (parents or sponsors can attend but are not required) where we practice the celebration of the sacrament. All fifth graders should have received a letter of invitation. If you did not receive a letter and have a child you would like to have in the class (younger and older children are welcome), please contact Debi Jensen at the church office (732-462-4555) or by email [cnrc.associate@gmail.com].

CHURCH SCHOOL LEADS WORSHIP ON JUNE 10TH

The children of the Church School will be leading the **9:15 a.m. worship service on June 10th** as they conclude their church school year. The worship service will follow the regular order of worship with a few added features. The children will incorporate their memory work into the worship service, will usher, will take the offering, and write other parts of the service. It is always a joyous time when our youngest Christians lead our worship service. Please plan to join us for this special celebration! **Traditional worship will be held at 11:00 a.m.**



MISSION CORNER HAPPENINGS~

It has been a busy couple of months for church mission. In February we sent a team of nine volunteers to Citrus County, FL for a week to work with hurricane recovery. Then in early March, nine volunteers from our church spent their Saturday working at Asbury Park's Trinity Episcopal Saturday Soup program, serving more than 150 hot lunches to a community in need. March 15th-17th saw five church members participating in Hope Force Disaster Response training at Three Bridges Reformed Church in Flemington, NJ.

Upcoming Mission Activities include:

- April 1—7** Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia
April 12 Family Promise at First Presbyterian Church
May 11 St Peter's Community Outreach Supper
June 2 Pedals for Progress bicycle collection
June 23 Saturday Soup (9:30-2:30) Asbury Park Trinity Episcopal Church
June 24—30 Youth Mission Trip to Virginia Beach
Sept 30—October 6 *Mission Trip 1 to St Thomas, VI
October 6—13 *Mission Trip 2 to St Thomas, VI

*The cost per participant for each of the St Thomas mission trips will be \$300

Mark your calendars and watch the Mission Bulletin Board (located on the rolling bulletin board) for a posting of mission sign-up sheets and event pictures.



PEDALS FOR PROGRESS SET FOR JUNE 2ND Collecting Used Bikes and Sewing Machines

Do you have an old bike or two gathering dust in the garage? Rather than sending it to the landfill you can donate it and make a dramatic difference in someone's life. Pedals for Progress, a New Jersey 501 (c)(3) nonprofit [www.p4p.org], gathers used bikes in the United States and sends them to developing countries where they are sorely needed and highly valued. The bikes are put to work as cheap, non-polluting, basic transport enabling access to jobs, markets, customers, schools and education.

P4P also saw the need for sewing machines in these countries to improve the lives of women and their families. A sewing machine can give them a source of income as they work at home and care for their children. So if you have a sewing machine that you don't use and is taking up space in a closet, consider donating it.

On **Saturday, June 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**, bring your bicycles and sewing machines to the church parking lot for the collection — you will make an amazing difference in someone's life. A \$10.00 cash donation per item to help with transportations costs is requested.

Please contact LuAnne Petrie at [lupetrie@gmail.com] with any questions.

SERVE AT ST. PETER'S OUTREACH SUPPER~

by Beth Burke

As these bitter, winter days turn slowly but surely into springtime and sunshine, the need for nutritious, hot meals continues. To meet this ongoing need in the community, **please join in helping to support the next outreach supper on Friday, May 11th**. There are many ways you can contribute. Italian favorites (*sausage and peppers and vegetarian lasagna*) are set as the main courses, and side dishes, desserts, non-perishable supplies along with 15 volunteers round out what's needed to make the evening a success.

Many, many thanks go out to all those who contributed food, supplies or volunteered their time for our last Community Outreach Supper at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Freehold. Our "*comfort food*" menu was very much appreciated by a packed house on a cold February night. We served a total of 113 meals to almost 70 guests, the largest attendance in several years.

Please check the Mission (rolling) Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall for sign-up sheets to donate food, supplies or your time to help set up, serve or clean up after the supper. Items may be dropped off in our Ministry Center main office or directly at St. Peter's during designated times throughout the week of the supper, so be sure to take a sheet of directions located by the sign-up sheets.

If this support date doesn't work for your schedule but you'd still like to help, the dedicated folks at St. Peter's run this important food ministry every two weeks throughout the year. If you'd like more information or have any questions, please contact Beth Burke at 732-462-9827 or 732-921-3069. "*Grazie mile!*"

OUR FAMILY PROMISE CONNECTION~

by Barb Serafin

Family Promise is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers of all ages. Each year, Family Promise of Monmouth County provides roughly 10,220 meals and 5,110 bed-nights for families in need. They partner with community agencies, faith-based services, churches and synagogues to provide shelter, food, transportation and supportive services to the homeless population in our county.

Freehold Presbyterian Church serves as a host congregation; they have pledged the use of their facility and the support of volunteer members, and support congregations, including CNRC. Volunteers are asked (depending on their task) to be at the Freehold Presbyterian Church from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to share a meal and interact with families in crisis; if you are an overnight volunteer you are asked to be there from 8:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. **Thursday, April 12th, is the first of three opportunities to volunteer** with this remarkable organization. If you are interested in volunteering, see the sign up on the Mission (rolling) Bulletin Board; for more information contact Barb Serafin at 732-895-1813.

SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE

by Vera Santucci

It's time to do some spring cleaning and clear out your closets as you add your spring/summer clothes back into your wardrobe; and as you're doing so, think about donating your old clothes that don't fit anymore or that you don't wear. **Only clothes and shoes are accepted.** Drop off your bagged or boxed items at the church office during the week **OR** in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour **beginning Sunday, April 8th. through Sunday, May 6th.** Please call Vera Santucci at 732-972-3151 with questions. Your donations will benefit Family Resource Association in Shrewsbury.

REFLECTIONS ON A MISSION TRIP

by Victa McKenzie

Recently a small group of church members were given the opportunity to take their faith on the road to Citrus County, FL as ambassadors for our church. We call ourselves ambassadors, as we represent our church, our church family, and our personal faith in this outreach mission. Trip Leaders were *LuAnne Petrie* and *Greg Robinson*; Ambassadors included *Deanna Martin*, *Carol Lang*, *Doug McCoy*, *Victa McKenzie*, *Vera Santucci*, *Bernadette Riehle*, and *Jillian Jablonski*.

LuAnne and Greg were an amazing leadership team as together they inspired us to bond and form a mini CNRC community, modeling empathy, patience, and joy, especially during some challenges. They embodied what our church preaches. We were blessed to work with them as their leadership was inspirational. We thank the congregation for entrusting them with this mission.

Our challenge was to rehabilitate a family's home that had been damaged during multiple hurricanes. We had to remove the damaged ceiling of the living room and kitchen, and gut and replace the current sinking bathroom with a stable walk-in shower for the blind teenager who is part of the family. We worked long hours to transform a house, developing construction skills we once thought impossible.

We are thankful to have assisted this family and we are thankful for the privilege to "take our faith on the road" and represent CNRC. We went from nine perfect strangers, to a cohesive group who laughed, worked, and served together. We became a group of people who used their personal gifts to serve God joyfully, including the wonderful cooking skills provided by Vera and Bernadette, who made planning and feeding nine people look effortless.

As a group we want to thank each of you for your generosity, as mission trips are sponsored by your contributions to our Benevolence Fund. It is only through your generosity that we and other church members can be gifted with this wonderful experience.

ORGAN TRANSPLANTS – THE GIFT OF LIFE

by Debi Jensen

On Sunday, April 15th, Cindi and Russ Westendorf along with Marjorie Smith will give us information about organ donations and transplants. Cindi, Russ, and Marjorie will be **in the Church Library during Coffee Hour** with brochures and a time for conversation about this program. Marjorie will also be **in the Narthex after the 11:00 a.m. service.**

In New Jersey alone, there are approximately 600 people waiting for organ transplants – some of those people are members of our congregation. Learn how you can give the gift of life.

HAVE YOU READ?

by Connie Paul

Circling the Sun by Paula McLain is the story of aviator Beryl Markham, set in Kenya in the 1920's. The first woman to fly across the Atlantic, Markham is a fascinating heroine and this blend of fact and fiction is an absorbing story. McLain is the author of *The Paris Wife*, a bestseller about Hemingway, and this book lights up another piece of history. You will also want to read Markham's own *West with the Night* if you haven't already.



WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

by Marian Bauman

The CNRC Women's Book Discussion group meets monthly during the church program year, September through June. The meetings are hosted by different members on the **second Tuesday of the month from Noon to 2:00 p.m.** and include food, fellowship, and fun! Please contact Marian Bauman at [marianbauman1@gmail.com] if you would like to be put on the email list or have any questions about the group. We welcome new members, so give us a try!

- **On Tuesday, April 10th**, Connie Paul is the hostess. We will discuss *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.
- **On Tuesday, May 8th** Jan Anania is the hostess. The book is *The Marriage Bureau* by Penrose Halson.

If you'd like to get ahead with your reading, June's book is *The Harbinger* by Jonathan Cahn.



TRIP TO BLUECLAWS GAME SET: Please join the Fellowship Committee and *Raising Hope for Others* for a day at the ballpark on **Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.** Enjoy the day with family and friends while watching the Blue Claws minor league team play. Tickets are on sale now for \$10 per person and children (12 years and younger) receive a voucher for a hot dog, chips and soda.

If this date does not work for you but you would still like to help, *Raising Hope for Others* is partnering again this year with Ocean County Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Please consider donating tickets that will be used to allow children to attend a game with their Big Brother or Big Sister.

A portion of the proceeds will go directly to *Raising Hope for Others* (a local 501(c)(3) charity) whose mission is to assist fellow human beings during life's most difficult times. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. You can also email or call Laura Burke with the number of adult and children tickets at [burke0762@verizon.net] or 732-890-3657. And...."meet us out at the ball game"!

~A WRINKLE IN TIME~

read the book, see the movie, join in the discussion

by Brian Allain and Debi Jensen

A movie based on the book, *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeline L'Engle, was released in March.

We are planning an all-church movie/book discussion on **Tuesday, May 22nd, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Ministry Center Conference Room**. Our discussion will include the Christian themes of the book that the movie may have omitted. Then, at 8:00 p.m., we will have author Sarah Arthur (who has recently written a book *A Light So Lovely: The Spiritual Legacy of Madeleine L'Engle*) join our discussion through Skype.

This Newberry Medal winning book is appropriate for grades 3 through adult and we are hoping all ages will join in this discussion time. Read the book and/or see the movie and join us for this discussion!

WOMEN OF D'VINE – A FELLOWSHIP GROUP

by Marian Bauman

The **Women of D'Vine** is a fellowship group that normally meets on the first Tuesday of the month, with rotating hostesses. The April gathering will be on **Tuesday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Beth Burke** – 40 Yellowbrook Drive, Colts Neck [732-921-3069]. We will gather on **Tuesday, May 1st, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Nancy Kibler** – 80 Cypress Point Lane, Jackson [nkibler927@gmail.com] or leave a message at 732-928-4281.

Please refer to announcements in our weekly bulletin for any updates. To be put on the email list, contact Marian Bauman at [marianbauman1@gmail.com]. For more information or questions about the group, contact Sandy Anderson at [sandy1959@optonline.net].



BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND~

Spaces are still available on the bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA to see *Jesus* on **April 24, 2018**.

The bus will leave from the Colts Neck Police Station. Boarding will begin at 6:30 a.m. with the bus promptly leaving at 7:00 a.m. There will be a 9:00 a.m. stop for breakfast and then on to the show which begins at 11:00 a.m. Following the show there will be lunch at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord and then the bus will be back on the road by 3:30 p.m. heading home. They will make a short stop at 5:00 p.m. and will be back at the police station parking lot by 7:00 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$105.00 which includes the show, the lunch, and the bus.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and drop off a check in the church office made out to CNRC with Sight and Sound in the memo. **Contact Gerry Romano with any questions** at [jacq200@aol.com] or 732-975-9675.

CALLING ALL SINGLE ACTIVE SENIORS~

The Single Active Seniors Group (SAS) meets on **Sundays at 12:30 p.m.** in the Conference Room of the Ministry Center. This is a weekly discussion and activity group for unmarried older adults in the church and the community. They engage in lively conversation, plan social activities, and encourage group participation. The group, facilitated by Gerry Romano (*a member of our congregation*) features guest speakers to discuss topics of interest while offering fellowship, friendship and support. There are no fees to join these meetings and no sign-up required—just show up! For more information, email Dianne O'Hara at [cnrc.care@gmail.com].

KNIT ONE, PRAY TOO!

Knit One, Pray Too! is a knitting group started by Lynne Garner and Donna Mulligan to knit baby blankets which are donated to local hospitals' Neonatal Intensive Care Units for preemies. This group is for all knitting abilities! Lynne and Donna are happy to teach anyone who wants to learn. This group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in Lynne Garner's home. Join us for some fun, fellowship and knitting for a good cause. For more information please email Donna Mulligan at [mulligand@optonline.net].



CANNING CREW CANNING EVENT~

Our Canning Crew loves to create jarred goodies to be sold at the Election Day Bazaar. We are always sure to make enough goods—most to raise money for the Benevolence Fund, a bit to sample as we create in the kitchen, and a few to bring home. Carol Lang leads us through fun, fellowship, and food prep with her patient guidance and creative recipes. It really is a wonderful time! Bring your own knife and cutting board, or borrow from us.



Join us in Fellowship Hall **at noon on Sunday, April 22nd** as we make Lemon Ginger Marmalade and Pear Ginger Jam and on **Sunday, May 20th, at noon** to make Carrot, Orange and Raisin Jam and Blueberry Ginger Jam; plus the Green Team will be there to demonstrate creating fermented foods.

Please sign-up on the board in Fellowship Hall, or email Dianne O'Hara at [cnrc.care@gmail.com].

Who Am I?

from page 3

Frank Niemann

Married to:
Grace Leibel Neimann



YOUR DAILY PRAYERS ARE NEEDED~

Please include the following members of our church family in your prayers this month. In addition to your prayers, they may really appreciate an occasional card, call or (if local) visit. If you are available to visit members of our church family and would like to be added to our rotating list of visitors, please contact Dianne O'Hara in the church office at [cnrc.care@gmail.com] or 732-462-4555. This requires a commitment of one visit every 2 – 3 months.

- ❖ **Emma Sklair**, *health concerns*
- ❖ **Kristin Howlett**, daughter of Ken and Lonnie Howlett, *ongoing health concerns*
- ❖ **Daniel Kibler**, son of Nancy and Robert Kibler, *autoimmune diseases*
- ❖ All residents of the Reformed Church Home including, **Ruth Carmeli** (*mother of Margaret Carmeli-Peslak*), and **Irene Kiefer**.

PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO~

- ❖ *Ellen Karl and Claire Morris* on the death of their friend, *Nancy*, on January 7, 2018.
- ❖ *Nancy Faustman* on the death of her husband, *Christopher*, on January 23, 2018.
- ❖ *Chris Heider and family* on the death of his father, *George*, on February 11, 2018.
- ❖ *Pete Sokol and family* on the death of his aunt, *Elsie Sokol*, on February 14, 2018.
- ❖ The family of *John Pyron, Sr.* (former member) who died on February 15, 2018.
- ❖ The family of *Betty Reilly*, who died on February 22, 2018.
- ❖ *Joe Mayrose and family* on the death of his mother, *Regina*, on March 8, 2018.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO~

- ❖ *Ed and Betsy Aras* on the birth of their grandson, *Finnegan Dale Reber*, on January 29, 2018. Proud parents are *Kate Aras and Chris Reber*.
- ❖ *Lisa Buck* on the birth of her grandson, *Kyson Jackson* born February 13, 2018. Proud step great grandmother is *Dolly Buck*.

CHURCH BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES~

If you or someone you know is in need of low cost mental health services, please contact April Humes at 732-867-8647 or [humeslpc@gmail.com] and ask for an initial telephone screening. April is a licensed professional counselor who provides services on our church campus. She is available to see clients (*church members and non-church members alike*) on our church campus. The fee for the services is a sliding scale suggested donation. Services will not be denied to anyone due to financial circumstances.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP MEETS MONTHLY~

Is your elderly parent still living on his/her own, or with you, or in a senior residence/assisted living facility? Do you care for a family member who is sick, elderly, disabled or going through a rough patch? If so, who cares for you? Our licensed mental health counselor, April Humes, leads this confidential support group with advice and encouragement. Our members find this group to be very helpful. Please attend our monthly meetings and allow them to be a source of comfort for you. **This group meets monthly on a Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.** Check the bulletin announcements for the April and May dates. (*There is no sign-up required.*)

For more information, please contact Dianne O'Hara at [cnrc.care@gmail.com] or April Humes, MA, LPC at [humeslpc@gmail.com].

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and cards after my husband, Fred, passed away. I miss him very much. Your caring and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated.

With love and blessings, Betty Kluge

THE CHRONIC ILLNESS/PAIN SUPPORT GROUP

meets once a month at 11:00 a.m. at Perkins restaurant in Colts Neck (*usually on the first Monday of the month*); however, for April and May we will gather on the second **Monday: April 9th and May 14th.**

For more information, please contact Lonnie Howlett at 732-833-8394 or [lonniespms@hotmail.com].

(Worship Schedule, continued from page 12)

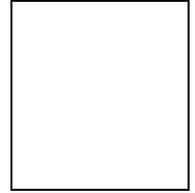
SUNDAY, MAY 6TH *Sixth Sunday of Easter.* This morning we continue our sermon series on "Accelerating our Spiritual Growth" through service. Music is offered by Exultation Ringers and the Sanctuary Choir. Communion will be shared. If you cannot be in worship (9:15 or 11:00 a.m.) and would like the sacrament brought to your home or hospital room, please contact the church office.

SUNDAY, MAY 13TH *Seventh Sunday of Easter.* On this Mother's Day, we will recognize the place and presence of mothers in our lives, and appropriately the sermon will focus on caring for one another. The Alleluia, Angel, and Sanctuary Choirs will sing at both 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 20TH *Pentecost / Youth Sunday.* Our youth are preaching and leading worship on this festival Sunday. Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, is a time to celebrate the expanding and enlivening gift of the Holy Spirit. The banners, pulpit cloth and paraments are red, signifying that the Spirit descended upon the earliest disciples as with tongues of fire. Join your church family for worship this morning at 9:15 or 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 27TH *Trinity Sunday.* On this Memorial Day weekend, the Sanctuary Choir will sing and, congregationally, we will sing the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Worship with us at 9:15 or 11:00 a.m. In lieu of individual classes, the church school will meet for a special group activity this morning during the 9:15 a.m. service.

COLTS NECK REFORMED CHURCH
P. O. BOX 57
COLTS NECK, N. J. 07722



Return Service Requested



APRIL/MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1ST Easter festival services of worship resounding with sounds of “Alleluia” and the beauty of lilies and tulips. Worship times are: 7:00 a.m. (*Easter dawn service*), 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The dawn service will be held outside, weather permitting, in the cemetery adjacent to the church (*use the regular parking lot*). Dress comfortably; we stand through this 30-35 minute service. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held inside the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary Choir and Exultation Ringers will offer music at the two later, identical services. Nursery care and a message for the children will also occur during both the 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. services. Church school and youth choir rehearsals are suspended on this day.

An **Easter Breakfast opportunity** for fellowship and food with a sit-down continental breakfast with lots of delicious treats will be available from 7:30 – 8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Additionally, those same delicious treats plus hot breakfast food will be served from 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Reservations are necessary! Please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or call the church office by March 28th. A basket for free-will donations (suggested: \$10/person) will be available that morning to help defray costs.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH *Second Sunday of Easter.* As we worship at both 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. a new sermon series commences! Looking at “*Accelerating your Spiritual Growth*”, we will consider how we can better reflect the grace of the resurrected Lord. Special music will be offered by Brad Gates on the Euphonium. The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated at the 9:15 a.m. service. The sacrament of communion will be shared at both services.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH *Third Sunday of Easter.* We continue to seek to grow in faith and faithfulness by being in groups of care. Jesus had his small group, how about you? Frankie Guadagno will be our confirmation class liturgist. Service music will be provided by the Sanctuary Choir and Joyful Ringers.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND *Fourth Sunday of Easter.* We have been given much – how are we to respond with our resources? Come and learn. Adult baptism will be celebrated at the 9:15 service. Come and worship! Celebration Ringers, the Sanctuary Choir, and Jubilation! lead our musical worship.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29TH *Fifth Sunday of Easter.* At both the 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. worship opportunities service music will be provided by Echo Ringers and Alleluia Jazz.

(Continued on page 11, see *Worship Schedule*)