

The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church – July/August 2016

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



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*Summer Worship Time of 9:30am
July 3 - August 28*

September Deadline -August 22

The Treasure of the Heart

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

– Matthew 6:19-21.

We are busily gearing up for what we faithfully believe will be another fantastic summer of Day Camp! This year we are focusing on the theme of “The Treasure of the Heart.” The pirates who invade Day Camp this summer will learn and will help teach the truth of Jesus’ words, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”



There is a lot for us to “treasure” in these words from Jesus. One thing is that all of the “stuff” in this world is finite and vulnerable. Now Jesus is not against us having possessions, or making a living, or enjoying the “stuff” of life. But Jesus does warn us that they do not hold long-term fulfillment for us. They are not meant to be a measure of our security, or our strength, our well-being, or our longevity in life, because they do not last. We do not last either! Which reminds me of the classic saying, “You never see a hearse with a luggage rack.” But beyond the limits of our stuff, Jesus makes another point that wherever or whatever we treasure, is also where we store our identity and our own sense of “self-worth.” In other words, we need to be careful to recognize that what we treasure is often what defines us.

In one of his sermons, Henri Nouwen talks about the reality that all too often in our world we measure our worth in three ways - the things I have, the things I can do, and the things other people say about me. Then he goes on to say that these are false measurements, and the only measurement we should consider is that we are "The beloved children of God."

Have you ever found yourself investing your self-worth in something other than God? Maybe it was in the things you acquired, maybe it was in your ability to do certain things, or to excel at work, or in how you are perceived by others, and maybe it was in the words of affirmation from your spouse, the approval of your kids, or the compliments of friends. We are all tempted at different times and in different ways to invest our self-identity in the "treasures on earth."

What do you treasure most? How does your faith inform your answer?

This summer the kids at Day Camp will be learning that they are treasured by God, that God treasures all of us to the point of dying on the cross for us, that we are blessed to be able to treasure God with our hearts and lives through our discipleship and our worship, and that we are invited to bless others with the treasure of God's love through our words and our actions in the world.

As we continue to grow into a new identity of "Growing in God. Living in Love," let us find the courage to make a total withdrawal from the banks in our lives that create a false sense of identity for us. Then, let us invest ourselves fully in the love of God so that we can recognize the treasure we are in God, the treasure of God's very self, given to us in Christ, and the treasure that exists in others and in the world because of God's goodness and grace.

Seeking The Treasure of the Heart!

*Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri
Meyer-Veen*



Schoharie Valley Community Camp *Prayers for July*

Week of July 3: Pray that God will prepare the hearts of campers to receive God's messages for them while attending the Schoharie Valley Community Camp.

Week of July 10: Pray for the health and safety of the children, teenagers and adults who will be taking part in the Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp.

Week of July 17: Pray for a week of good weather, inspired learning, good health, safety, and LOTS OF FUN for everyone taking part in the Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp.

Week of July 24: Pray that all who participated in the Schoharie Valley Community Day Camp will be blessed by the messages received, lessons learned, and friendships built during their week of camp. To God be the glory!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Laura and Dan Stevens and big brothers Luke and Jack on the birth of Owen Henry born 6/16/16!



Graduations!

Congratulations to Katie Jaqueway on graduating from Murray State University in Kentucky and on her acceptance to Lincoln Memorial University School of Veterinary Medicine in Tennessee.

Congratulations to Seana Cleveland on her graduation from Schoharie High School.

Seana will be attending King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She will be studying Athletic Training and hopes to do summer internships locally.



Pastor Mike, Seana & Pastor Sherri at Baccalaureate

Seana writes to the Schoharie Reformed Church: Thank you very much for the gift of money and the card. The money will definitely go to my college expenses. God Bless!

Thank You!



Pastor Sherri would like to thank everyone for all of the cards, well wishes, and surprise cake and décor following graduation! Your support and kind words are felt and greatly appreciated.

Announcements

Aluminum Tabs for the Shriners - Please continue to bring can tabs to the church; John Nixon and Ron Filmer will deliver them to help Shriners' Hospital. Thank you!

Digital items recycling continues – please bring toner cartridges, cell phones, digital cameras, GPS, laptops, etc. to the secretary's office in the Heritage House.

Please don't bring electric appliances - Funding Factory **does not** accept large items, batteries, regular phones, etc. If in doubt, please ask Jennie.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 3: Summer 9:30 a.m. worship time begins! Come celebrate communion. Come, for all things have been prepared. See you earlier when it is a little bit cooler.

Saturday, July 9: Auction for raise funds for Building the Kingdom. Preview 10am, auction starts 1pm, at the DAR. Details on pg. 5.

Tuesday, July 12th at 6 PM: Christian Ed mtg, Heritage House

Sunday, July 17: "Move-in" – planned date to start worshipping in the sanctuary again!

Building Volunteer Opportunities

**July 8
(Friday) 3:00** Folding Chairs - Pull chairs from the basement; wash thoroughly; dry; set up for fund raising auction.

**July 9
(Saturday)
post auction** Folding Chairs – Clean feet; stack 75 in Sanctuary.

**July 14
(Thursday)
3:00** Clean Sanctuary – need vacuum cleaners with soft brush type nozzles and heads to vacuum floors, walls, windows, light fixtures, **everything**.

**July 16
(Saturday)
9:00** Finish leftover cleaning; move equipment from Heritage House to Sanctuary. Set up chairs and equipment.

Calendar of Summer Youth Programming Events

(subject to change – more events to come!)

Young Adults (entering 8th grade through age 21)

Saturday, July 9th, 8:00am-6:00pm:

Volunteering at SRC's Auction and then having a Pool Party!

Tuesday, July 26th (time TBD): Teen Volunteer Day at the Ronald McDonald House

Saturday, July 30th (time TBD): Great Escape Trip

TBD: Dog Walking at the Animal Shelter of Schoharie Valley

Young Families (families with children, newborns through high school)

Thursday, July 7th, 6:30-7:30pm: Playground Night at Schoharie Elementary

Sunday, July 10th, 1:00pm: Mini-Golfing at Gobbler's Knob

Tuesday, August 2nd, departing at 9:45am: Tri-City Valley Cats Camp Days!

Saturday, August 20th (time TBD): Hiking and Picnicking at Thacher State Park

Special Event – Save the Date!

November 12: The Synod Mediation Team will be offering a HEALTHY COMMUNICATIONS workshop. The workshop will present Biblical examples of communication during conflict, a self-assessment exercise on understanding how you communicate in both low-stakes and high-stakes situations, interpersonal peacemaking skills, effective listening skills, and understanding communication & conflict in groups. This would make a wonderful consistory enrichment day but is not limited to consistories. Some of the details are still being worked out but we tentatively plan to meet from 9am to 4pm at the Niskayuna Reformed Church. We look forward to seeing you there!

Blessings,

Rebecca Town
Schoharie Classis Clerk



Capital Campaign Update

We've had another banner month in the Building the Kingdom Capital Campaign! We've just learned that we will be receiving \$15k from Kaboom for our playground! We have also heard that we will receive an additional \$10,000 from the O'Connor Foundation toward some specifics for our building project. Our grant writing efforts have been extremely fruitful; praise God! Thank you to Pastor Sherri, Dave Toborg, and Judy McLaughlin (previous director of Schoharie County Child Development and volunteer in the recovery efforts who wrote the playground grant with Pastor Sherri)!

We were also honored by the Monsees Family (Fred and his siblings in Minnesota) to be chosen to receive a couple thousand dollars from the estate of Elizabeth F. and Ralph H. Monsees. We thank them for their generosity and remembering us!

Mike and Wanda Derry made a gift in honor and appreciation of Mike and Marion Jaqueway. We also received gifts from the Helderberg Lutheran Church, Tyre Reformed Church in Seneca Falls, Woodhaven Reformed Church, and New Hope Reformed Church.

In addition to other gifts received this month, this brings our new totals to having received \$448,098 with the promise of an additional \$107,389 in pledges! We are over \$550,000!! We are in the home stretch! WE CAN DO THIS!! Let's get it done! Get your pledges in and have those conversations with neighbors, relatives and friends to tell them the exciting things happening here and invite them to help us finish it!

We are excited about the upcoming auction, Saturday, July 9 beginning at 1 p.m. Please invite friends, family, neighbors, and please be present yourself if at all possible. It is sure to be a spectacular day. Food & drink will also be available for purchase. Thank you to all of you who have donated. We have a full line up of items, now we just need a great crowd! Helpers are still needed to haul items, for set up the day before and morning of, during the auction, and to assist with clean up. **Please let Cindy Parks know how you can assist 295-7419.**

Schoharie Reformed Church Benefit Auction

Saturday, July 9

258 Main Street, Schoharie, NY

Preview 11:00 Auction 1:00

Volunteers needed: 3:00 Fri 7/8 and all day 7/9 starting 8:00 ending 3:30

Listings: Sterling signed Gorham silver tea set – must see, other sterling tea sets, Tiffany, Neiman Marcus, Jewelry to include Trifari, Monet, Napier, gold boutonniere pin, cameo marked BON, custom jewelry, Shaker Cradle made of pine, oak dressers, vintage oak desk, etique, tole painted tray, maple rocker, leather & brass magazine rack, wooden spools, antique hat mold.

Needlepoint to include clock & pillows, antique quilt rack, vintage yoyo doll dated 1941, yoyo bed shade, 2 full length fur coats one is seal, short fur jacket & 2 mink fur hats, ladies chair, nice game table w/4 chairs, 6 board box, great trunks, assorted chairs, Victorian love seat, Victorian chairs, mirrors, paperweight, snowshoes, canes, rugs, wicker porch set with cushions, 3 pc glider no cushions, enamel top farm table, cordovan bedroom set, stained glass hanging lamp, wooden flower boxes.

Antique clock, cherry table w/4 chairs, 2 signed 1st ed. Books by Daniel Silva, spoon rack, signed picture by Gus LaMonica, tools, table saw, bench vice, antique screwdriver, dining room table w/6 chairs, gate-leg table, long library table, stands, lots of collectibles, assorted dishes, material, arts & crafts, exercise equipment, flat-screen tv, washing machine, live inside & outside plants, garden box, gift certificates, plus other items arriving daily.

July 8 (Friday) 3:00 Folding Chairs - Pull chairs from the basement; wash thoroughly; dry; set up for fund raising auction.

July 9 (Sat.) post auction Folding Chairs – Clean feet; stack 75 in Sanctuary.

July 14 (Thurs.) 3:00 Clean Sanctuary – need vacuum cleaners with soft brush type nozzles and heads to vacuum floors, walls, windows, light fixtures, **everything**.

July 16 (Sat.) 9:00 Finish leftover cleaning; move equipment from Heritage House to Sanctuary. Set up chairs and equipment.

Terms of Sale: Cash or checks. No Buyer's Premium.
Auctioneer: Doug Cater, Michael's Auction Service



Building & Grounds

The work on the building is continuing. The final trim and painting work are being completed. Additionally, a contractor is beginning work on the pews. The lift is unfortunately on back order with the manufacturer and we are continually told it will be here "next week." We continue to stay on top of it and are doing all we can to encourage its speedy installation.

When will the Sanctuary be ready?

Sunday, July 17 worship is the target. This will be a "soft" return – the Sanctuary won't be completely finished, but it will be done enough.

Much help is needed to finish cleaning then move in. Following are the highlights and schedule:

Dave Toborg is coordinating the work. Please contact him (295-8554, dtoborg@midtel.net) with your availability and to learn more details and necessary tools/supplies.

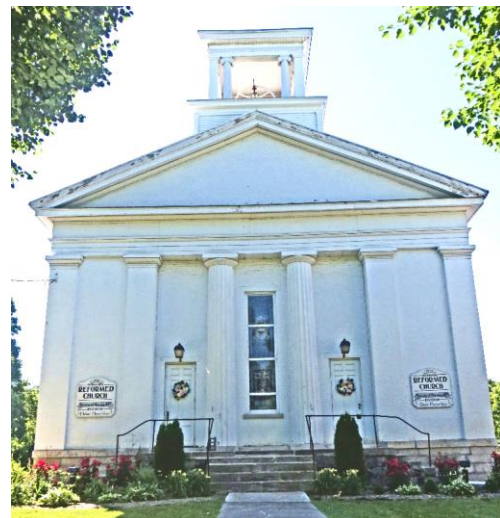
Once back in, we'll sit on folding chairs while the pews are refinished, arranged and reassembled. In addition, other work will continue after we move back in. The significant tasks include:

- Finish the cut off ends of the balcony and refit the affected balcony pews. (The contractor expects to be here the end of July.)
- Install balcony rail. (Fabricator is waiting for balcony completion.)
- Install handrail on the new rear exterior stairs. (Fabricator identified.)
- Carpet the narthex and the west (organ) end of the balcony.
- Agree upon & then build an edifice on the wall behind the pulpit area.



Outside Opportunity

Last year's plantings in front of the Church are growing well and are calling for someone (perhaps multiple someones) to tend them and pull weeds on an ongoing basis. Please let Dave Toborg know if you can take on that responsibility.



Youth Ministries Summer Intern Update

Happy summer! As you may know, I'm Michaela Johnson, the Summer Youth Ministry Intern working

Food Pantry Report May 31, 2016

The Food Pantry is buzzing with a lot of activity. There have been two major food drives, which have helped immensely. The Schoharie Masons have started manning the pantry every Saturday. It has been a slow start for them, but it is early days, as the saying goes. We have fed 86 families for a total of 285 people this month. From the Hannaford Food Drive we have collected 2160 lbs. of food and from the Dollar Tree Food Drive in Cobleskill we have collected 464 lbs. in May. The Dollar Tree Food Drive goes until June 17th.

We are looking to getting some fresh vegetables from people's gardens soon. That is always good and we are so glad that they share.

Have a Good and Safe summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Sparks

with the three churches in Schoharie. I am so excited to be back home working with local young adults and young families for a few months. So far, it has been a pleasure to worship with you, catch up with old friends, and meet new faces along the way. If we haven't had a chance to chat yet, I look forward to doing that soon!

If you would like to contact me, in addition to attending Sunday worship, I'm typically in Pastor Mike's office Monday through Thursday from 8:30am until 4:30pm and on Friday from 8:30am until 2:30pm. My e-mail address is srcsummerintern@gmail.com. I'm willing to answer any questions you may have and I'm always open to suggestions for events!

Day Camp planning is in full swing, and while I could eat, breathe, and sleep Day Camp if I let myself, I have been busy planning other activities for young adults and young families as well. If you're interested in attending any of these events, I invite you to check out my page, "Summer Youth Programs," on the website. It's located under the "Learn & Grow" tab as part of the "Sunday School & Youth" section. That's where I'll be posting

details about my upcoming events, so be sure to check back regularly to see what we're up to! There is also a calendar of my events in this newsletter, but please remember that this is subject to change.

This summer is also a time for me to grow in my faith and explore the world of ministry, and I'm glad that you will all be a part of that. I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I work and learn. I know that God has called me here this summer to do amazing things, and I am excited to find out what He has in store for all of us!

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Schoharie Valley Community Camp

The countdown has begun! Schoharie Valley Community Camp will begin on Monday, July 18 and run through Friday, July 22. Morning Camp (8:30am-12:00pm) is for children ages 4 through entering 2nd grade and Day Camp (8:30am-4:00pm) is for children entering 3rd through 8th grades. There are still openings for children entering grades 3-8. We will also offer free aftercare that will be available on a first come, first served basis, at no extra charge. If you would like to help with aftercare, please contact Pastor Colleen Quirion at 295-8102.

A fun and exciting week is planned, and we do have room for more volunteers! (Anyone over the age of 14 is invited to apply for a volunteer opportunity). The volunteer positions include: Counselors, Junior Counselors, Maintenance Volunteers, Snack Volunteers, and Sign-In Volunteers, in addition to many others. Volunteer applications are due as soon as possible. If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the "I Can Help" form in the back of the newsletter, or download the application materials from our website.

Sunday School

It's been quite a while since I sat down to write a Sunday School update for the newsletter, so there's lots to catch everyone up on! Let's go back to April.

On April 10, the Sunday School students put on "The Ragman" during our worship service. This was an adaptation of the parable by Walter Wangrin Jr. The music, "New Rags for Old", was written by Dwight Beal. The skit was created and adapted by Pastor Mike Meyer-Veen for our SS students. The story tells of a Ragman who finds different groups of people struggling with loneliness, shame, greed, judgment, and hurts of various types. As the Ragman comes upon each group of people, he offers them clean white armbands to replace their old soiled and torn rags. But as the Ragman takes on their rags he began to weaken and stumble. Ultimately, the pain he takes from each group leads to his death.

The two narrators, who have been telling this story, become aware of their own loneliness, shame, judgment, greed, and hurt and wish that the Ragman had taken their old rags and given them new ones. They struggle with these thoughts all Friday and Saturday before going to honor the Ragman at his grave on Sunday. They arrive to find that the Ragman is NOT

dead!! He is alive and wearing white robes and offering new rags for old for everyone.

Many of our Sunday School children took part in this play. Justin Lawyer played the part of the Ragman. Autumn Parks and Vanessa Lawyer were the two narrators. The Lonely were portrayed by Sam Meyer-Veen and Jack LaLonde, the Shameful by Luke and Jack Stevens along with RaeAnna Ward, the Greedy by Kaycee and Jase DeJong, the Judgmental by Sophia Meyer-Veen and Isabelle LaLonde, and the Hurting by Julianna and Isabella Slater along with Addy Hughes-Charboneau. The children did an amazing job!

On May 22, our SS students led the worship service along with Mike Saccocio from the Schenectady City Mission. This was done so that Pastors Mike and Sherri could enjoy Pastor Sherri's doctoral graduation and spend time with family coming in from out of state. The children wrote a special alphabetical Responsive Reading for the congregation. The children greeted congregation members and passed out bulletins. Two of our youngsters took the offering. Vanessa Lawyer gave the prayer for illumination and read the scripture passage. Justin Lawyer read the Call to Worship. This was a very special worship service!

The annual SS picnic held on June 5 was at Heritage House due to rainy weather. We celebrated Pastor Sherri's graduation with her doctorate. We are so proud of all the hard work that she put in to make this a reality! Hot dogs and hamburgers were devoured by young and old alike, along with numerous delicious side dishes provided by the congregation.

Normally SS ends at the end of May, but this year SS was extended through June 19 to allow parents to attend the New Members' Class with Pastors Mike and Sherri. Now, it's time to begin thinking toward the fall and where we are going from here.

If you have read all the way to the end of this article, I would like to invite you to attend a SS planning meeting. If you have any interest at all in Sunday School, adult Christian education, the Nursery, the church library, etc., I would like to invite you to attend a SS planning meeting. We will meet on **Tuesday, July 12 at 6 PM** in the Heritage House. I look forward to planning together with all of you to make the upcoming year and exciting one for all of us!!

Liza

A Postcard from the Past



The Old Saratoga Reformed Church in Schuylerville sent this antique postcard (1937) with the following message:

Schuylerville, N.Y.!

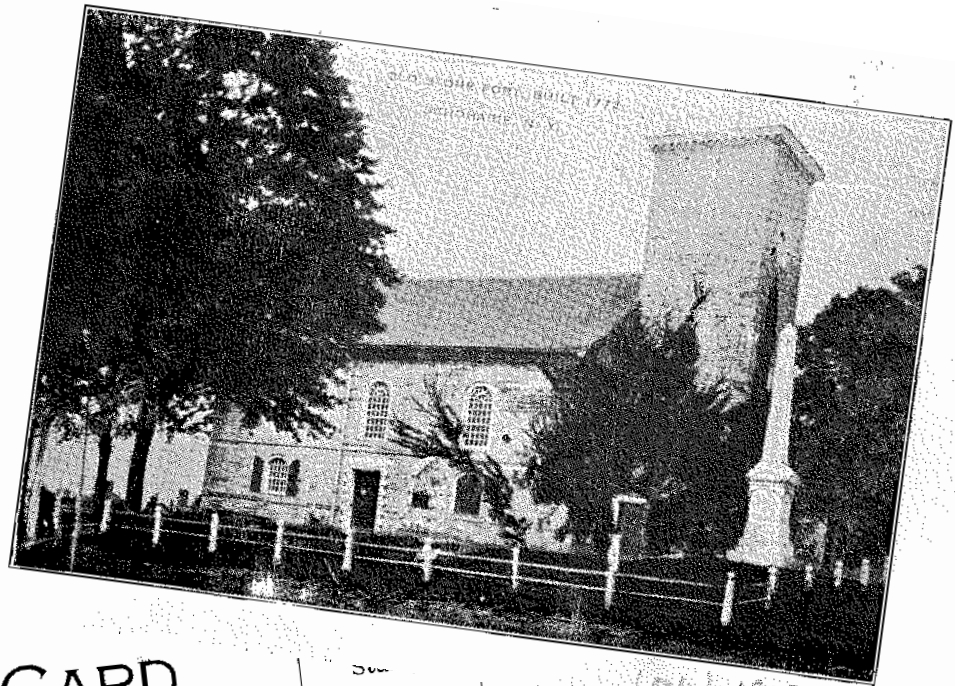
you would like it for

an named Jean Myers, who
es in our weekly Ecumenical
nd the postcard at an antiques

ch historian, and are passing

Yours in God's grace and peace,

the Rev. Joyce B. de Velder, Pastor



POST CARD

See Here

NAME AND ADDRESS HERE



CORRESPONDENCE HERE

Built in 1772 as a house of worship by the Dutch Reform Church of Schoharie. In 1777 it was enclosed by a stockade of logs and used as a post for the protection of the Valley and a place of safety for the inhabitants during the British and Indian raids. The most important raid was in October, 1780, under Sir John Johnson and the Chiefs Brant and Cornplanter, who, with a force about 800 strong, consisting of British Regulars, Tories and Indians, made an unsuccessful attack on the fort. A hole made by a cannon, shot at that time, is still shown in the cornice. It is one of the few remaining frontier forts of the Revolution. It is now the property of Schoharie County, and is preserved as an historical building by the Board of Supervisors.

July 1937
 Snow, Mrs. & Mr.

