

The Visitor

Schoharie Reformed Church – June 2016

Pastor Mike & Pastor Sherri



What's Inside

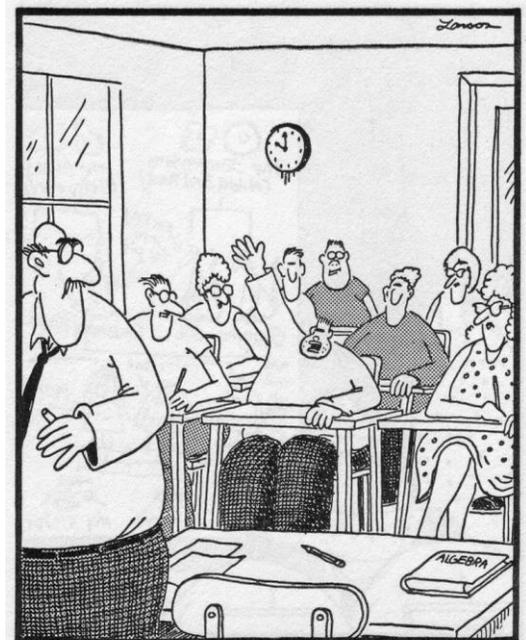
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July/August Deadline – June 27

The July and August newsletters will be combined, so please include August news and events in your July submissions.

Thank You!

From the Pastors



"Mr. Osborne, may I be excused? My brain is full!"

Filled and Overflowing:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in God, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

-Romans 15:13

Hopefully this cartoon flashback from "The Far Side" by Gary Larson, will provide a smile for your day. But beyond that, we also hope it will provide us all with some reflection, and perhaps even some new or different ways of being for our life with God.

It can be tempting for us sometimes to compartmentalize our faith in God and to relegate our spirituality to our brains. We can find ourselves in the habit of coming to church, listening for that bit of knowledge or nugget of wisdom to fill us up before we

return to life as usual. Sometimes I (Pastor Mike) do the very same thing. I can focus so hard on getting the words, or the thoughts “right” for a sermon on Sunday but then never try to live it out to on Monday. It’s just on to the next item of the “to do” list.

In the forward to his book, “Finding Our Way Again,” author Brian McLaren recalls a time when he interviewed Peter Senge, a professor at MIT, and author of “The Fifth Discipline” in front of a large gathering of Christian ministers. At the beginning of the interview Senge told a story about being in a large book store and asking the clerk which books were the most popular. The clerk said that the most popular books were about getting rich on the internet. The second most popular books were on spirituality and particularly popular were books on Buddhism.

When asked why he thought books on Buddhism were so popular Senge replied, “I think it’s because Buddhism presents itself as a way of life, and Christianity presents as a system of belief. So I would want to get Christian Ministers thinking about how to rediscover their own faith as a way of life, because that’s what people are searching for today. That’s what they need most.”

God desires us to be more than people with “full brains”, although knowledge is important and we should be continually growing in what we know “about” God. God also desires us to be continually filled and overflowing with joy, peace, and hope in all areas of life. This comes from developing a living and dynamic life “with” God.

Our series this spring continues to be focused around our new church motto, “Growing in God. Living in Love.” The language is intentional about being active and on-going because that is what life with God is like. It is not to be a limited faith around a system of beliefs that we settle upon, but rather about a living and active God in the world who unsettles us with joy, peace, and hope!

What would it look like for me to grow in God and to live in love by making my faith more of a way of life than I currently am? What things would I need to do more intentionally? What things would I need to do less of intentionally? Maybe I need to try and step into that relationship with my neighbor. Maybe I need to find ways to become more aware of God during my day. Maybe I need to take a walk in the woods. Maybe I need to call that person I haven’t seen in a while. Maybe I need to go to church.

The good news in all of this is that God desires us to be filled and overflowing with the hope, peace, and joy of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us be careful not to excuse ourselves with only full brains! Let us seek to make our faith a way of life and then courageously step out to experience all that God has for us.

Growing in God. Living in Love together,

Pastors Mike and Sherri

Upcoming Events and Announcements

June 5: The Sunday School Picnic will be held at the home of Dave and Liza Toborg, 511 Terrace Mountain Road, immediately following worship service. Please bring a chair & a dish to pass if you’re able. The whole congregation is invited!

Sundays, June 5, 12 & 19, 9:15-10:15: A New Members’ class will be held in the Heritage House.

Mondays, June 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 7pm: A Monday evening Bible Study on the Book of Genesis meets weekly at 7pm in the Library of the Heritage House. All are welcome.

Gas Up, June 11-12, 18-19: Sign-up sheets for help, food preparation and PIE are on the wall in the dining room – please join in! (See article on page 3 for details.)

June 9-14: Pastor Sherri will be away at General Synod.

Consistory will meet June 15 at 6:30pm.

June 12: Paper Product Donation Day! Please bring toilet paper and paper towels for Day Camp!

June 23, 7pm: Baccalaureate will be held at the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church.

July 9: Auction to benefit Building the Kingdom! Save your gently used stuff to donate (good condition only, no electronics or clothes). See page 4 for details. Contact Cindy 295-7419 to arrange for pick-up if needed.

July 18-22: Schoharie Valley Community Camp! We still have openings for volunteers and campers, so channel your inner pirate and join the fun! More on page 5.

Peter & Dianne Enders have moved– new address (note correction): 902 Grier St., Apt. 106, Woodstock, GA 30189, e-mail denders56@gmail.com. Their cell phone numbers are the same. Please keep in touch, and keep them in your prayers. We wish them well in their new home!

The Website

We are thrilled to announce the new church website is up and running! Visit it at the same address, www.schohariereformedchurch.org. The new website adds some great new features, like the ability to make a donation online (for anything including the Capital Campaign), and the ability to register online for Day Camp. Please be sure we have an updated email address for you, which will also allow you to receive weekly calendar updates.



The Gas Up

The Gas-Up is 6/11 & 12, and 6/18 & 19. The Schoharie Reformed Church will be running our popular food booth once again. Shifts this year are 8:30-11:30, 10:30-1:30, and 1:30- 4:30. If you can pick a shift (or part of one) please do so. Feel free to invite any community members to volunteer also if they wish. If you cannot work at the booth we also need any donations of macaroni salad, potato salad, or pies. YUM!!

Our primary goal is to ENJOY working with each other while serving the community and making money for the church. You can sign up in the Heritage House or call Buck(827-7247) or Dottie Vojnar (424-1737).



Summer Youth Ministries Intern

We are pleased to announce Michaela Johnson has accepted the new position as Summer Youth Ministry Intern for 2016. This is a new position for this summer and we are excited to realize a longtime dream, going back to our Church on The Grow priority projects of “following up on Day Camp” to expand our youth ministries.

Michaela will be acting as Day Camp Director, as well as working with the pastors and churches to expand the Youth Ministry possibilities. In interviewing her, many different ideas came out and we are excited to see what the summer will bring. This is also an opportunities for Michaela to learn and grow in her leadership as she steps into a new “ministry” position.

This position is made possible by an excess in the Day Camp fund. Michaela will start on June 6 and will be with us through August. Be sure to congratulate her, and also volunteer so you can have a chance to work with one of our own “home grown” fabulous young adults!



Capital Campaign:

Capital Campaign: We are thrilled to announce we have had another banner month with the church Capital Campaign. We have received word from one of our major grant applications that it has been accepted and we are eligible to receive \$50,000 for the completion of the back entryway and downstairs. We may not receive the funds until the Community Room/Old Fellowship hall is complete later this year, but we celebrate the news that brings us one large step closer to our \$750k goal!

We also received a commitment of \$1500 for 2016 and \$1500 for 2017 from Schoharie Classis. We need your help to keep it going! With the launching of the church website and the ability to receive funds electronically through it, it makes it even easier for you to invite your neighbors, family, and friends to make a gift to the Capital Campaign!

To date, we have received: \$439,719 and have \$85,342 in remaining pledges.

In the past month, gifts were given:

By Peter and April Koska in memory of John & Bobby Poorman.

By Bethany Reformed Church, New Hope Reformed Church, and the Carlisle Fire Department.

We appreciate all those who have pledged and/or donated – thank you for your generosity!

Auction July 9th

The auction is fast approaching! If you have something to donate for the auction, please let me know what it is and if you want me to pick it up. In order to make this auction a success we need items to sell. I only have a small amount so far.

If you'd be interested in going to restaurants and businesses to solicit gift certificates or services let me know. I have a letter that you will need to take with you so these businesses know why you are asking and that this is the real deal.

God Bless,
Cindy

Schoharie Reformed Church “Building the Kingdom” Fundraising Auction



When: July 9, 2016

Preview 10:00 Auction starts 1:00

Items wanted:

Collectibles, furniture, crafts, tools, jewelry, new items and baked goods. Will accept any items that are gently used. Not accepting broken items or electronics, please.

Call Cindy at 295-7419 to drop off or pick up.

Schoharie Valley Community Camp

Summer is right around the corner, and so is Schoharie Valley Community Camp! Schoharie Valley Community Camp 2016 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. We will also offer free aftercare that will be available on a first come, first served basis, at no extra charge. For more information about aftercare, please contact Pastor Colleen Quirion at 295-8102.

We took our pirate ship and crew to the streets of Schoharie in the **Memorial Day Parade on Thursday, May 26**. Thank you to all who helped decorate the float, walked in the parade, and handed out "Save the Date" flyers! Special thanks to Edie & Paul Schultz for lending their pirate ship and towing it along Schoharie's high seas!



Volunteer Opportunities at Camp

Anyone over the age of 14 is invited to apply for a volunteer opportunity (additional age requirements relate to some positions as specified on the job descriptions). The volunteer positions include: Counselors, Junior Counselors, Maintenance Volunteers, Snack Volunteers, and Sign-In Volunteers, in addition to many others. Volunteer applications are due on or before Friday, July 1st. 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.

There are also paid positions, open to those 16 and over, which include: Assistant to the Directors, Assistant Chaplain, Pre-K/Morning Camp Arts & Crafts Leader, Pre-K/Morning Camp Nature Leader, Pre-K/Morning Camp Recreation Leader, Day Camp Nature Leader, and Day Camp Recreation Leader. Paid position applications and references are due as soon as possible. If you are interested in applying, or if you have any additional questions, please contact the Schoharie Reformed Church Office by calling (518)295-8177 or e-mailing schohariereformedchurch@yahoo.com. Job descriptions and application forms are available on our website.

The Planning Committee looks forward to seeing you at camp as they join a group of characters on their nautical journey seeking the "Treasure of the Heart!"



Food Pantry

All is well with the Food Pantry. Starting the first Saturday in May the Food Pantry has been open on Saturdays from 12 to 2 pm. The Masons of Schoharie will be in partnership with the Pantry and will covering the Saturday hours. This will be on a three month trial and we are delighted to be working with them.

The month of April the Food Pantry received 82 families and served 311 people.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Sparks

Please remember that once school is out, families often need extra lunch foods! Donations of lunch items are especially appreciated. Paper products, personal care items and cleaning products are always appreciated, in addition to food and monetary donations.



Benevolence

Last month your Benevolences were given to three families that were in need. We also gave Mike Saccio money for the City Mission when he was here on May 22nd. If you have any requests where you would like to see your benevolence used please let anyone on consistory know.

Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee wants to hear from you! Do you have any special events you would like to see happen in our church? Contact Cindy 295-7419 to discuss. God Bless!

CROP Hunger Walk

Here are the results of our May 1 Schoharie County Aggie Scott Memorial CROP Hunger Walk:

Total amount turned in today : \$7993.52 (with more coming in)

Number of Walkers : 65

Church raising the most money: Fusion Community Church: \$1902

Church raising the second-largest amount: Helderberg Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church raising the third-largest amount: Cobleskill United Methodist

Individual turning in the largest amount of money: Lee Empie with \$2010

Individual turning in the second-largest amount of money: John Jarvis

Individual turning in the third-largest amount of money: Nathalia Mazoff

Most successful recruiter: Donna Jo Cody of Fusion

Church with the largest number of Walkers: Fusion with 19

Church with the second-largest number of Walkers: Helderberg Evangelical with 12

Church with the third-largest number of Walkers: Cobleskill UMC with 11

Walker who came the farthest: Charley Dibble of Stone Ridge, NY (walking with her grandmother from Helderberg Evangelical)

This year we had eight more Walkers than last year; today we turned in \$1062 more than we did last year.

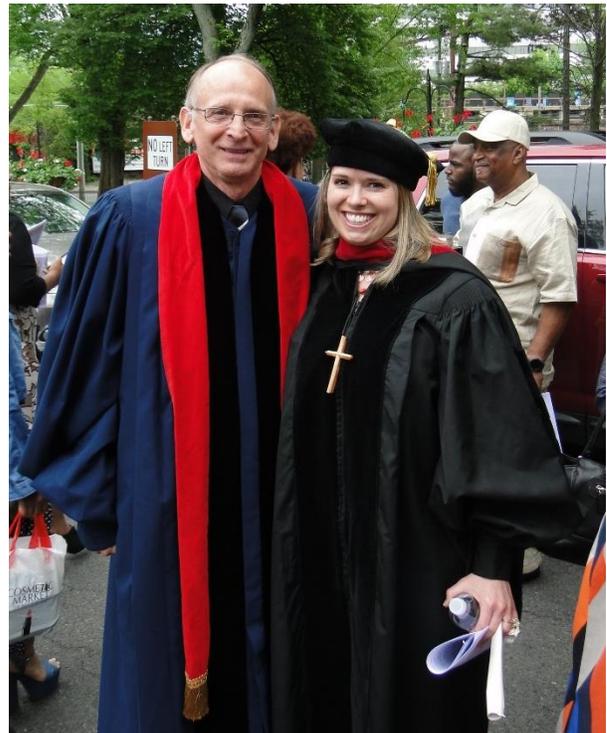
Please contact me with any questions.

John Jarvis

D.Min. Update

My public presentation for my project “Navigating the Overwhelming: Increasing Congregational Resiliency” went very well at the beginning of May. And, as many of you know, I graduated May 21!

Thank you to everyone for your support, encouragement, prayers and involvement. Whether helping proof read papers (Lisa Ovitt and Jennie Mosher), or listening in on my presentation (Karen Olewnick, Wildfeather Segreto), or insisting we take more time to celebrate with family (the consistory), it was a very meaningful way to end the doctorate work and I thank you! Copies of my final paper are still available and I welcome any feedback. Thanks again for your support.



“The Good Failure”

A Ridder Reflection from Pastor Mike

At the Ridder retreat this past spring I became aware in myself of how I view “failure” and how that has had a negative impact on my life. I have grown to have an almost crippling fear of failure. While the familiar phrase for shooting an arrow or firing a gun declares, “Ready...Aim...Fire.” All too often I declare “Ready...Aim...Aim...Aim...Aim” and so on, until I feel “safe” or “confident” enough that it won’t fail. Why? Because for me a lot of times: Failure = Shame, meaning that if something I have done has failed, or something I was in charge of failed, then obviously I “am” a failure.

In so many ways this has continually kept me stuck in my own learning, stunted my growth as a disciple, and prevented me from getting into action with things God has had for me. I am happy and content to take all of the time in the world to talk about strategy, to plan, to get clarity, and to really think it through. None of which is bad, but then I (here comes that word again) fail to actually step into action and I allow my fears of failure to stop me. Where others may over-function out of a fear of failure, I under-function out of that same fear. I take on the anxiety of others and worry about whether or not it will be a “success” or a “failure,” however that has been defined. I even see how our church evaluative processes seek to define failure. All too often we review something by asking the question “How do it go?” To which, people respond either “Good.” Or “Bad.” Why are those the only two options?

Currently I am working to grow in my courage to embrace what I am calling “The Good Failure.” I am working to see failure not as “Bad” but as “Opportunity.” I will live a life that is aware of cost and impact, but at the same time does not take on the anxiety of “Failure” for myself or for others. I will live a life that courageously steps into all that God has for me. I will face failure with courage and curiosity and ask, “What do I need to learn from this?” “What can I celebrate from this experience?” “What is triggering my anxiety?” Along with any other questions relevant for my growth and transformation.

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For me this means growing my tolerance to sit in my own pain, to wrestle with that familiar voice of shame, and to separate outcomes from identity. This is work that is incredibly hard for me because I have spent a lifetime of fusing performance and person into one. The hardest part is that there is no easy path for courage. How do we become courageous? By having courage! It is in that courage that I hope to discover the Good Failure!



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