

# Beacon on the Hill



*"A city on a hill cannot be hid ... Let your light so shine that others will give glory to your Father in Heaven"*

**March 2010**

From the Interim Pastor

On Christmas we celebrated the birth of Christ, the light that came into the world. Few people at the time noticed the light; just a few shepherds and some Wise men in the East. It may have gone largely unnoticed at the time, but it was a light that would change the world. The light that first shone at the birth of Christ grew stronger and brighter as Jesus' ministry grew and his identity was revealed.

We are not made to live in darkness. Human beings need light. We feel better and function better when we have adequate amounts of light in our lives. Each year we experience anew what it's like to move from darkness into the light. Now, even as we move through the cold of winter's storms, the daylight is lengthening. At the same time, we begin the season of Lent – the season of light. It's more than just a change of season, it's also a spiritual coming out of the darkness into the light. The lengthening daylight and the shortening nights remind us of the light of Christ that shines into our world, and our need to be thankful for the gift of light.

On February 17, we began our journey into Lent with a simple, beautiful Ash Wednesday service. We will continue our journey with a Lenten series on Thursday's at 7:00PM led by Father Michael and myself. Each night will have a different theme and offer scripture, prayer and silence, as we prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Please plan to attend as together, we journey through Lent.

Joyfully serving Christ,  
**Mark**

## News from Consistory

The Consistory met on February 24<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following:

- Linda Acevedo is the new head of the Flower Committee
- Rev. Heringa said Classis has passed the Belhar Confession
- Weekly Lenten Services will be held every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- The Consistory is forming a Worship Committee
- The landscaping around the new steps will be finished as soon as the weather cooperates

## Roundtable of Thanks:

- Linda Acevedo for flower committee chairwomen
- Lonie Moraitis for her many years as Sunday School Superintendent.
- Tony Cortes for keeping our grounds and cemetery looking terrific.
- Tom Cole for the wonderful work you do in the cemetery.
- Alice Avouris for the magnificent City Called Heaven concert.
- Dan Keefe and Rick Mayer for parking all the cars.
- Afternoon Guild for the scrumptious luncheon served to the choir during the Saturday rehearsal.
- Sally Kingston for refreshments at the 1<sup>st</sup> congregational chat.
- Cathy Smith for all the help she gave Lynn with the installation of the new carpet in the office.
- Joe Guevarez for delivering the desk to the office and Nancy & Bill Schunk for the donation of the desk.

## Music at the Reformed Church of Cortlandtown

On Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> our church hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> *City Called Heaven* choir festival with participants (mostly singers) from 15 to 20 churches and organizations. The *Afternoon Guild for Christian Service* cooked up a delicious lunch for our rehearsal on Saturday and also organized a reception after the program on Sunday. Thanks are due to Dan Keefe and Rick Mayer for help in parking the Sunday crowd, Jill Davis and Linda Mateo for advertising, Linda Acevedo and Carol Ann Scarnati for greeting, and production manager Elaine Sinacore for all the details of registration and so much more. In the choir of 37 singers, 10 were new people who were encouraged to join by returning singers. Attendance was good, but disappointing in that we still are not attracting an ethnically diverse audience. It might be a good idea to take this program to Peekskill next year, to make it more convenient for our neighbors.

Our Reformed Church Choir has again been invited to sing in the annual *Harriet Tubman Celebration*, which will take place Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Peekskill Methodist Church. This has always been a fun event for the Choir. We have the opportunity to hear other choirs singing gospel music, and the church offers a delicious pot luck dinner afterwards. Please try to come!

Michelle Keefe is teaching some of the Sunday School children an anthem for Palm Sunday. This is great news; we haven't heard the voices of children singing in a long while! If you are the parent of a Sunday School aged child, this is a reminder that these years go by so fast, and the memory of singing in church will stay with your child for a lifetime. So please, bring your children, and let's hear the joyous sound of young voices!

If you are inspired to lend your voice to our worship service in a solo or as a member of the Choir, please come and see me after the service. Or if you or someone you know would like to play an instrument during the Offertory, this time of Lent is perfect for such a gift. Any suggestions are very welcome! And I appreciate all the feedback I can get. I would like to reflect the musical wishes of as many in the congregation as possible, so don't hesitate to tell me what you would like.

Alice Avouris

## THE SEARCH IS ON!

On February 21, we held our first Community Conversation. Twenty five members and friends participated, shared and helped us in the process. There will be two more conversations – one on March 7, followed by another on March 21. Both will be held right after worship. Each will have a different focus. Please plan to attend as together, we work to call the Reformed Church of Cortlandtown's next full time pastor.

## Soup Kitchen Fellowship

I would like to thank the Sinacore Family for taking charge of the cooking in February while I was away, Alice for doing the shopping and Rick for delivery the food. Our February cooks were Paul, Elaine, Carole, Nicholas, Tracey, Rick and Alice.

For March's Soup Kitchen the Feller family will be preparing the meal at their home. For any who would like to serve at the Salvation Army in Peekskill the date is Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

## Afternoon Guild

The Guild met Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall. There were seven members and one guest present.

Old Business – Alice thanked the members and presented them with a gift for making sandwiches and soup for the performers in *City Called Heaven*.

New Business – We talked about the birthday luncheon to be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the fellowship hall. All women of the congregation are welcome to come.

World Day of Prayer will be March 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's Church in Verplanck. Time is 11:00 a.m. Marcia and Sally will represent our church in the service.

The Guild will purchase Lilies and Marcia will distribute them to the shut ins at Easter.

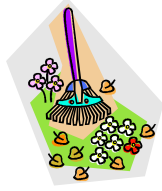
Our next meeting will be April 12<sup>th</sup>. Alice Avouris will be the host.

Helen Schlurensauer

**SAVE THE DATE**

**CEMETERY CLEAN UP DAY**

Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



**March Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 1 Larry & Linda Acevedo  
Kristina Rosselli
- 2 Phillip Dinkler
- 3 Zachary Shapiro
- 11 Susan Rescigno
- 16 Jacob Shapiro
- 17 Larry Acevedo
- 18 Nancy Schunk
- 19 Joe Mayer  
Lonie Moraitis
- 20 Brett Beigert  
Joe Guevarez  
Cathy Smith
- 25 George Pritchard
- 26 Frank Bauer  
Anthony Rosselli



**Dates to Remember in March:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Finance Committee Meeting 3:30 p.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Community Conversation #2 11:15 a.m.
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon Guild Birthday Luncheon 12:00 p.m.
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.
- 12<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Youth Group at RCC 4:30 p.m.
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Community Conversation #3 11:15 a.m.
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Consistory Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.

**April Dates**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday Service 8:00 p.m.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Good Friday Service, TBUMC 8:00 p.m.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 p.m. – 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00 a.m. Easter Prayer Vigil
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Service 10:00 a.m.

**Easter Flowers**

**Decorate the sanctuary with Tulips and Lilies. After worship on Easter you may take them home or they can be brought to a shut in.**

	# of Plants	Amount (\$)
<b>TULIPS: \$8.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>LILIES: \$10.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>	_____	_____



Name; \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return order to either Linda Acevedo or they may be put in the collection plate with a check made payable to Reformed Church of Cortlandtown. Orders must be in no later than Palm Sunday, March 28th.**