

April 27, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Well, here we are...at the end of April...wondering if those two warm days we had a couple of weeks ago were the only Spring we will have this year. I am filled with longing to feel the hot warmth of the sun on my face – I am eagerly devouring any sign of spring! For me, this sign recently was the presence of mud! Glorious mud! A clear and indisputable sign of spring. Several weeks from now I will no longer be praising this springtime phenomenon but right now, today, I praise God for muddy loveliness!

That's the reality of living in the in-between...somewhere in the holy muck between the beauty of winter and the hopefulness of spring, somewhere between not knowing and knowing, between mud and miracle. And yet, I believe there is a blessing here as well, right now in the midst of this holy, mucky time which we coincidentally call Eastertide, for it can be the perfect occasion for God to provide a little springtime for our souls – a rebirth for our hearts and granting each of us new life.

As the weather is promising to stay above freezing over the next several days, I invite you to become intentional about signs of renewal springing forth in your lives. In the morning as you rise, reflect on the love of God that has brought you to this new day. Seek to reboot your attitude in a spirit of joy so that those you meet over the course of this new day may see the light of God in you. Consciously refresh your outlook by seeking to see others through the eyes of Christ. Reclaim a time of quiet reflection – if only a few minutes – in order enjoy the peace of Christ. And at the end of your day maybe even reward yourself with a tiny treat in recognition of a day lived well!

Today is a perfect day to: remember, redevelop, refine, rekindle, rebirth, reward, revive, restart, reform, reunite, refresh, reopen, redraw, renew, reinvent, reclaim, recreate... Isn't it wonderful that God is constantly calling us to something better ... never satisfied to leave us in in darkness but uses all of our muddy mucky lives to create something exquisite?

"Jesus called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) Find some mud and delight in it!

*Pastor Peggy*

Consistory Meeting Minutes  
Of April 19, 2015

Present: Rev. Peggy Funderburke, Kathy Casey, Wendy Delehanty, Jessica Faustel, Jack Haefeli, Kathy Heider, Phyllis McClarty  
Absent: Bill Murray, Melody VanAlstyne

The meeting was opened by Deacon Jessica Faustel with Scripture and a thoughtful reading.

Reports

Approval of Minutes from last meeting  
Pastor's Report

Since our last meeting I took two days off to travel to Tampa for my mother's funeral. I have made seven visits to our shut-ins or those in care facilities. I was disappointed that no one from our congregation chose to take an Easter flower to any of our shut-ins. I have participated in six Classis meetings. I, with God's grace and mercy, developed and lead eight worship services at Bethany (and the Beverwyck Terrace) during Holy Week. I continue to mentor Christine Allen and supervise the Consistory of Westerlo. I continue to participate in Bethany's weekly Adult Bible Study. I attended the training for volunteers of Family Promise and the ribbon cutting ceremony on opening day. I am also planning on helping at the Roast Beef Dinner this coming Saturday.

Communications and Correspondences

- .Request for donations for the American Red Cross of Northeastern New York
- .Pledge request and brochure from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary
- .Request for donations for the Unity House, especially their Bethany Community Meals program
- .Request for donations from the Audio Scripture ministries-audio scripture of the Bible for different languages

Treasurer's Report

As of 2.28.15

SUMMARY - General Fund	This Month	Year to Date
Total Receipts	\$ 8,756.86	\$ 17,421.70
Total Disbursements	<u>10,199.22</u>	<u>\$ 25,217.12</u>
Net Cash	\$ -1,442.36	\$ -7,795.42

## On-Going Business

### Concerns from the Congregation

- . Envelopes for special offerings should have a spot on the envelope for the member to write their envelope number or name. At the Consistory meeting, the Deacons decided that for the next special offering they will update the labels to include a space for a member's name and envelope number.
- . Special Offerings used to be 10% would go to the choice of the Deacons, and 90% of special offering would go to Bethany. With the current financial situation of the Church, this member is suggesting we return to that practice. At the Consistory meeting, a motion was made that 100% of special donations go to the organization that the Deacons choose, seconded, all approved. Consistory decided that special offerings, which are over and above our regular offerings, should go to missional organizations outside the Church.

### **Committee Reports**

Elders

Phyllis McClarty

Board of Elders met on March 15th. We asked some of the Constitutional Inquiry Questions as required by the BCO. Also discussed was the future training workshop for Elders and Deacons. We are aware of our need to make an extra effort to greet and welcome visitors.

Elder Delegate to Classis

Wendy Delehanty

Next Classis Meeting is May 26th @ Westerlo Reformed Church

Deacons

Jessica Faustel

April-7 bags of food were delivered to the First Church.

Deacons met on 4/19/15 before Consistory and decided that the Thanksgiving offering should go to the Food Pantry at 1<sup>st</sup> Church and the Christmas offering go to the CACC Homeless Ministry.

Youth Ministry and Education

Wendy Delehanty

No Report

Stewardship

Phyllis McClarty

Nothing to Report

Congregational Life

Bill Murray (Nancy Murray)

On Easter the Coffee hour was hosted by the Congregational Life Committee. There were many breads and cookies and cakes for all to enjoy. In fact there was so much that there is enough in the freezer for future Coffee hours. Thank you to all the good cooks.

### *Be Our Guest Supper*

The Be Our Guest Suppers continues to be a success. The St. Patrick's Day dinner with corned beef and cabbage was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who purchased, and cooked, and served, and cleaned up, and those who set up and took down tables. Their tireless efforts make it a success.



5. Sexton
  - a. Ernie has wheels and a little tougher to keep tabs on
- Scheduling is key, and we are adapting
6. Church Tractor is in fine working order

Web Site Wendy Delehanty

Helping Hands Wendy Delehanty

Kitchen Stuff Wendy Delehanty

The kitchen committee has been consulting with various companies to get ballpark costs for various approaches to our kitchen updates. We have more people to consult, then the hard part of determining the best approach.

#### New Business

1. May 17th Consistory meeting coincides with Children's Day Picnic. A motion was made thy Casey motioned that Consistory will not meet on 5/17, seconded, all approved.
2. Phyllis McClarty brought in a flyer that The Regional Synod of Albany is having a workshop at First Reformed Church of Scotia Saturday May 30, 2015. It appears the schedule is 8:30am until 3pm or so. It is \$10 per person or \$30 for the Church.

Next regular meeting: June 21, 2015 at 11:30am

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 1:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Faustel

## 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FLOWER & PLANT SALE

Bethany's "28<sup>th</sup> Annual Flower & Plant Sale" is just around the corner. It will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> – Fri. and Sat. of Mother's Day Weekend. Come to purchase a wonderful variety of flowers, vegetables, and herb plants for your summer gardens! Remember that "special Mother" with a beautiful hanging basket or patio pot. There will be a Hanging Garden Raffle. The drawing will be Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. and the winner will be called at that time.

There is **still time to "sign up" to volunteer** to help set-up or take down the equipment or help sell the plants. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or speak to Kathy Heider. If you have any perennial plants to donate to the sale (such as hostas, lilies, etc.) it would be greatly appreciated as people are looking for these also.

The hours on **Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> will be from 8 AM to 6 PM and on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 3 PM.** The best selections are on Friday and Saturday mornings. Even though we will have a large inventory of plants, come early so that you find your favorite plants. The sale will be held rain or shine at Bethany Reformed Church parking lot.

Thank you,  
Kathy Heider

## COMING EVENTS

### Bethany Family and Friends

Join Bethany Family and Friends on Mother's Day for a visit to the Tulip Festival after worship. Besides looking at the beautiful Tulips there are fun things for children to do.  
Bill Murray

### Congregational Life

It is close to the end of another Sunday School year for the children, so on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Bethany will be hosting a picnic after worship. There will be hamburgers, hotdogs, rolls and drinks provided by the church. As head of the Congregational Life Committee, I am asking the members and friends of Bethany to bring salads, chips and Desserts. We will cook outside, but eat inside. I hope everyone stays for good food and fellowship.  
Nancy Murray

## Be Our Guest Dinner

Come and enjoy a Chinese meal prepared by Yueming on May 19th, from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. I know I am looking forward to this and I know others are also.

Nancy Murray

### Birthdays for May

Elsie Faustel	5/02
Nancy Murray	5/02
Nadia Pfleiderer	5/04
Donna Trama	5/08
Ron Phillips	5/10
Ben Hollner	5/13
Gunnel Lunden	5/14
Claire Hanley	5/15
Don Gray	5/19
Raymond Bender	5/24
Janet Richardson	5/26

### Marriages for May

Bob and Joan Hollner	5/23
David and Christine van Alstyne	5/25

## CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Ending Hunger One Step At A Time!

## Strawberry Festival

Bethany's Strawberry Festival will be held on Friday, June 5, 2015. This is a fun event – a time to eat and socialize – enjoy some fresh air and maybe a game of croquet if the weather is nice. Proceeds from the good will donation will help send our young people to Camp Fowler. Be sure to come, and bring a friend!

## **Empire State Youth Orchestra**

Sunday, May 3, 2015 – 3:00pm at the Zankel Music Center @ Skidmore College (Saratoga)

Sunday, May 17, 2015 – 3:00pm at Proctors Theatre, in Schenectady.

Come see Abby Neyerlin play the Tuba. These are the last two performances for this year.

## **Newsletter via E-mail?**

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please contact the Church Office via email at [Bethany.info@verizon.net](mailto:Bethany.info@verizon.net), or by telephone at 518-482-7998 or by regular mail to Bethany Reformed Church, 760 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208, and provide your email address.

## Calendar - May, 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	2 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Regional Food Bank 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
3 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	4 09:00 AM - Chair Caners 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	5 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Bell Choir 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM - African Violets 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir	6 10:00 AM - Helping Hands 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	7 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	8 08:00 AM - 06:00 PM - Flower and Plant Sale 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	9 08:00 AM - 06:00 PM - Flower and Plant Sale 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
10 10:00 AM - Worship 12:00 PM - Bethany Family and Friends 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	11 09:00 AM - Chair Caners 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	12 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir 07:00 PM - Fort Orange Stamp Club	13 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	14 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	15 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	16 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
17 10:00 AM - Worship 11:30 AM - Church Picnic 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	18 09:00 AM - Chair Caners 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	19 04:45 PM - Be Our Guest Supper 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Bell Choir 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir	20 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	21 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	22 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	23 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
24 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	25 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	26 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Bell Choir 07:00 PM - Fort Orange Stamp Club 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir	27 10:00 AM - Helping Hands 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	28 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	29 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	30 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
31 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean						

**SPRING CLEANUP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

**The Property Committee would like to hear from you. What jobs, beautification, or clean ups would you like to see happen in and around our church building and property. The Committee would furnish any supplies if necessary, if you supply the help. Remember many hands make light work. Please list any ideas or thoughts below and place in the collection plate. We will be sure they get to the Property Committee. Thank you for helping to keep God's house clean and beautiful!**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_