

The Messenger

Upper Ridgewood Community Church

Fairmount & Hillcrest Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201 445-4082 / Fax: 201 445-9352 / Web: www.ccur.org

Email: ccur2@verizon.net

JULY and AUGUST, 2011

*Worship Services are at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday
Nursery care will be provided during the month of July only.*

Worship Schedule follows:

July 3rd

Holy Communion Service
The Reverend Ken Bradsell
Greeter/Usher: Christy Dittrick/Mark Ellis
Soloist: Mike Roth
Organist: Esther Chang
Communion Server: Denise Ellis

July 10th

The Reverend Judy Broeker
Greeter/Usher: Mary Ann & Dick Copp
Soloist: Shawn Dey
Organist: Stacie Yao

July 17th

The Reverend Nolan Palsma
Greeter/Head Usher: OPEN
Soloist: Ellen Sheetz
Organist: Stacie Yao

July 24th

The Reverend Nolan Palsma
Greeter/Usher: OPEN
Soloist: Shawn Dey
Organist: Stacie Yao

July 31st

The Reverend Nolan Palsma
Greeter/Usher: OPEN
Soloist: Ellen Sheetz
Organist: Stacie Yao

August 7th

Holy Communion Service
The Reverend Nolan Palsma
Greeter/Ushers: OPEN
Soloist: Jobi Schwartz
Organist: Stacie Yao
Communion Server: Sally Syphen

August 14th

The Reverend Nolan Palsma
Greeters/Ushers: OPEN
Soloist: Mike Roth
Organist: Peter Godart

August 21st

The Reverend Nolan Palsma
Greeter/Usher: OPEN
Soloist: Mike Roth
Organist: Janet O'Brien

August 28th

The Reverend Nolan Palsma
Greeter/Usher: OPEN
Soloist: Eli Maurer
Organist: Stacie Yao

September 4th

The Reverend Nolan Palsma
Greeter/Ushers: OPEN
Soloist: OPEN
Organist: Stacie Yao

Worship Schedule with Choir and Church School resumes

September 11th

HOLY COMMUNION

Minister: Reverend Nolan Palsma
Greeter/Usher: OPEN
Music: Quartet
Organist: Stacie Yao
Communion Servers: OPEN
Church School Classes Resume

THE MINISTER'S COLUMN

Dear Friends:

The month of June ushered in the liturgical season of Pentecost. Pentecost celebrates, in part, the winds of change which came upon the apostles. It was a forward movement to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world with special gifts and abilities endowed by the Holy Spirit. That legacy has been passed on throughout the centuries and has been given to us at Upper Ridgewood Community Church in this day and age. One of the "forward movements" at URCC is the hiring of a part-time Christian Education Director with primary responsibilities with the church school. Her name is Dawn Heerema and she comes to us with high recommendations. A certified educator (K-12), she has held positions at Ridgewood High School, Hawthorne Christian Academy, and most recently, the Director of Children's Ministries

at Westside Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood for the past four years. She will begin her position sometime in July to prepare for the fall program. Dawn and her husband, Jeff, have three children: Carter, Kendra and Brielle. Join me in welcoming her to the staff of URCC.

Another "forward movement" is the re-establishing of the Finance Committee to oversee the resources of the church. Steve Literati, Rich Barclay, John Paulsen, Michael Autera, Kevin Schloerb and I have agreed to accept that responsibility. As we have reviewed, the resources in the past couple of months, the expenses are down but they still are not in line with the church giving. From a financial point of view, the church is on an unsustainable path which will drain the endowment in only a few years unless there is a change. Certainly this is something we don't want to happen but feel that the energy and creativity of many people are needed to fix this problem. Therefore we communicate this to you, and ask that you be as generous as possible in your pledges. We, with the consistory, also feel that the hiring of a new education director may be one step toward enhancing the membership and ministry of URCC. While it will have a \$10,000 impact for the 2011-12 program year, it will be an investment in the future.

Another forward movement is to engage the congregation in community mission. Two deacons and I visited Eva's Village this past month. Their whole ministry is one of welcoming and hospitality. It is my prayer that this congregation immerse itself in this ministry with our gifts and abilities and in our time and place in the coming year.

There are other "forward movements" being discussed but are too premature to report at this time. We, the leadership of URCC, covet your prayers and financial support in the upcoming years. May God continue to bless us!

Have a great summer! When you are in town, I hope to see you in worship.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nolan

MUSIC: The chancel choir ended the 2010-2011 Church Year with a year-end picnic on June 19th after the Sunday worship. There was great camaraderie among choir members, families and friends. Special thanks to Ellen Sheetz and Bev Miller for hosting the event, and also to all choir members for offering their time and talents throughout the year.

After four years of singing with the choir, our soprano section leader, Jobi Schwartz, will resign her post this summer (2011) due to her relocation out of state. We thank her for her commitment and wish her all the best. The search for a new soprano section leader is currently underway.

HIGHLIGHTS of General Synod 2011: People from throughout the RCA gathered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for General Synod from June 16 to 21. Together, they prayed, worshiped, and made decisions regarding the life of the church. Among the highlights from the week:

The RCA participated in a historic joint session with the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The denominations have been divided since the CRC split from the RCA in 1857. The joint session came at the end of the CRC's synod, also held at Calvin College. Delegates from both synods shared lunch, followed by a plenary session and worship. "I have been waiting for this moment all my life, without realizing it," said CRC interim executive director Joel Boot. "This is like a family reunion, at long last." RCA general secretary Wes Granberg-Michaelson said that cultural differences between the denominations "are

diminishing every day as we grow closer together."

Before the joint session, both synods had approved new common translations of the three doctrinal standards they share--the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, and Canons of Dort.

Synod confirmed Tom De Vries as the new general secretary of the RCA. De Vries, pastor of Fair Haven Ministries in Hudsonville, Michigan, will begin his new role on August 1. He addressed synod, saying, "There is thanksgiving as we move into the future, recognizing that it's going to be grounded in faith, that it's going to be lived out in love, and that it will be fueled by hope. This is the foundation with which we begin our journey together." De Vries was installed during a special worship service on Monday night.

General Synod approved a common agreement on baptism with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the United Church of Christ. Approval of the agreement is one step toward official recognition of each others' baptisms.

Synod elected Lisa Vander Wal as its next president. Vander Wal is pastor of Lisha's Kill Reformed Church in Schenectady, New York. "I've tried over the past year to hear your stories of ministry," she said. "My email and phone are open opportunities to hear from you."

Synod president Donald Poest, in his report to General Synod, emphasized unity and trust in the body of Christ. "The goal is not uniformity, but unity. We may disagree on many theological points, and many church practices, and even on some scriptural interpretations while still valuing each other as different parts of one body, the body of Christ," he said.

Tom Smith is the new vice president of the General Synod. He read Ephesians 3:20-21 to the synod and said, "This is my prayer for the RCA as we move forward into God's exciting future." Smith is copastor of Faith Reformed Church in Rock Valley, Iowa.

Wes Granberg-Michaelson delivered his seventeenth and final annual report to synod as general secretary. He reviewed progress related to the Reformed Church's 10-year goal to start new churches, revitalize existing congregations, and become more multicultural and freed from racism, joyfully reporting progress in church multiplication and initiatives to support pastors for personal revitalization. He also challenged the church with a question: How do we develop a creative and transforming witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in ways that can be seen and heard by those outside the doors of our congregations? "Answering that question will keep the RCA on a journey of deep change," he said. "That's where we need to be."

Delegates approved sending a theological paper on deacons to all RCA churches for study and feedback. The paper explores having deacons participate in the higher assemblies of the denomination, including General Synod and classis meetings.

Synod approved a 2012 per-member assessment of \$45.24. This is a 3 percent increase over the 2011 per-member assessment.

Delegates learned about "Conversations," a church-wide process of discovery and discernment that is expected to provide a clear sense of direction for the RCA's life together following the conclusion of its 10-year goal, Our Call, in 2013

The Rev. Doug Fromm who is retiring as the Associate for Ecumenical Relations of the Reformed Church in America was honored for his 22 years of service. A special

recognition was made by the two former general secretaries, the Rev. Ed Mulder and the Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, under whom Mr. Fromm served.

SENIOR HIGH YARD SALE: We raised \$3031 during the church yard sale for Work Camp 2012. A Big thank you to each and every one who contributed by working, donating, selling, buying and prayers. Next sale is June 2013. If you have clothing to donate remember the Midland Park Thrift Shop accepts donations on Mondays. Our church number is 7. Thanks,

Jean Underwood

CONSISTORY ANNUAL DINNER: On Monday, June 13, the Annual Consistory Dinner Meeting was held at the home of Jan Larsson. After a brief consistory meeting at 7:00 p.m., the consistory members and their spouses were treated to a night of fun, food and fellowship. Special thanks to Jan for providing a venue to celebrate the program year.

The consistory will meet on Tuesday evening, August 16 at 7:00 pm in the Easton Great Room.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the context of worship on Sunday, June 5. The purpose of the meeting was to elect elders and deacons to the consistory. The following candidates were presented to be elected to the following offices:

For a three year term on the Board of Elders, Class of 2014:
Susan Wei (first term)
Jamie DePeau (first term)

For a three year term on the Board of Deacons, Class of 2013:
Mary Ann Copp (second term)
Karen Fox (first term)

For a one year unexpired term on the Board of Elders, Class of 2012:
Dotty Dey

Susan Wei, Jamie DePeau, Dotty Dey and Karen Fox were ordained and installed in worship on Sunday, June 26.

2010 Annual Reports also were made available to the congregation after worship. Additional copies may be found on the table in the narthex.

CONSISTORY COMPOSITION FOR 2011-12

ELDERS

2012 Jan Larsson (second term)
2012 Dotty Dey (unexpired term)
2013 Tom Sherrell (second term)
2013 Nancy Honsinger (first term)
2014 Susan Wei (first term)
2014 Jamie DePeau (first term)

DEACONS

2012 Ann-Britt Paulsen (second term)
2012 Charlie Seifert (unexpired term)
2013 Lindsey Barclay (second term)
2013 Denise Ellis (first term)
2014 Mary Ann Copp (second term)
2014 Karen Fox (first term)

AFTER HOURS this fall will kick off with a book discussion on “Walking All Over God’s Heaven” by Dr. Richard Roukema. The author himself will lead these discussions on the Sundays of Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. To prepare for the sessions, please read the book over the summer. Copies may be purchased from the church office at a cost of \$16.00 which includes tax.

THRIFT SHOP Volunteer Lists are posted in the narthex and foyer. We need two volunteers per shift for the Thrift Shop located in Midland Park (the Kings Shopping Plaza). The dates and shifts are as follows: Tuesday, Sept. 20th 10-12 noon and 1-3 pm; Wednesday, Sept. 21 10-12 noon and 1-3 pm; Thursday Sept. 22 10-12 noon and 1-3 pm; Friday, Sept. 23 10-12 noon and 1-3 pm. Your help is needed and appreciated.

TREASURER’S REMINDER: It is that time of year again....summertime! This is our annual plea for everyone to remain current in their pledges so that the church can meet its obligations during the summer months. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 am beginning Thursday, June 30th. During off hours messages may be left on the answering machine will be monitored daily.

JUST A REMINDER that the AA Group meets here Monday through Friday at 10:00 am in Room #5 all through the summer months.

NEXT FOOD SUNDAYS: Sundays, July 17th and August 21st are the dates of the next food collections for the Food Pantry at St. Paul’s Parish in Paterson. This food pantry provides emergency food supplies and household products to individuals and families in need. Persons are referred to this food program by ten different social service agencies, government offices and churches in the area. The next time you shop, put a few extra items in the shopping cart for someone else.

MESSENGER DEADLINE: All notices and information to be included in the September issue of *The Messenger* should be received in the church office before noon on Tuesday, August 25th.

THE MESSENGER

The Upper Ridgewood Community Church
35 Fairmount Road
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Upper Ridgewood Community Church
35 Fairmount Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

The Reverend Nolan D. Palsma
Minister
Stacie Yao
Organist/Choir Director
Liz Macksoud
Church Secretary

The Messenger is
published monthly

PERIODICAL
Postage prepaid at:
Ridgewood, NJ