



# THE MESSENGER

monthly newsletter of the:

**COMMUNITY CHURCH AT UPPER RIDGEWOOD**

FAIRMOUNT & HILLCREST ROADS, RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07450

office tel 201.445.4082 fax 201.445.9352 web: www.ccur.org

## FEBRUARY 2011

*Worship Services are at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday*

*Nursery care is provided for infants to children three years of age*

*Parents are encouraged to make use of the Nursery*

*Church School meets from approximately 10:20 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.*

*with children participating in the early part of worship*

### COMMUNITY CHURCH AT WORSHIP

The Reverend Nolan D. Palsma, Liturgist and Preacher

**February 6**

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Scriptures: Psalm 112; Matthew 5:13-20**

**February 20**

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Scriptures: Psalm 119; Matthew 5:38-48**

**Guest Minister: Rev. Lynn Van Ek**

**February 13**

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Scriptures: Psalm 119; Matthew 5:21-37**

**February 27**

**Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Scriptures: Psalm 131; Matthew 6:24-34**

### MINISTER'S COLUMN:

Dear Friends,

I got a new cell phone last month. It's unbelievable what a cell phone can do nowadays. Not only can you call someone with your phone, but your phone can text-message, play music

and games, store photos, surf the Web, serve as a GPS and many other things. Cell phones have become handheld computers. When used appropriately, cell phones are helpful items. They connect us not only to information and places but to one another. They provide community. When used inappropriately, they can take your life like the train engineer in California a few years ago who, while he was text-messaging, plowed his train into another train, killing himself and a lot of other people.

Barbara Brown Taylor, professor of Religion and Philosophy at Piedmont College was teaching her class one day when she noticed that her students were text-messaging. She stopped the class and asked the students to tell her about their cell phone use. One girl said, "I don't have to walk five miles to talk to someone I care about. When one of us needs emotional support, we are there for each other. A freshman said, "My parents text me. If I don't text them right back, they panic. They want to know where I am, if I am OK. My cell phone is their safety net." Another said, "Without a cell phone, you would never know what was going on except in your own little world."

After hearing those responses, Barbara equated the cell phone to a contemporary sacrament where we share communion with one other. But she also points out that in our present sacraments of baptism and communion, "water sustains but you can also drown in it. A little wine makes merry, but too much intoxicates."

As with many things, there needs to be a degree of moderation. Henri Nouwen, one of my favorite spiritual journey writers, talks about the need for absence and presence to be at play with one other for our own emotional and spiritual growth. Too much absence can break apart a relationship and too much presence can smother it. We are called to be in community but we were also called to become who God created us to be. When it comes to cell phones and the possible addiction to them, allow me to quote the serenity prayer which is a prayer for those who are caught in addictive behaviors: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Nolan

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DATES**

### *Tuesday-February 1*

7:00 pm The Consistory meets in the Easton Great Room

### *Wednesday-February 2*

1:00 pm Adult Bible Group meets in the Easton Great Room

### *Thursday-February 3*

7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #7 meets in Hess Hall

8:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal in the music room

### *Sunday-February 6*

Senior High SUPER BOWL HOAGIE Sale Pick-up in  
Fromm Foyer after worship

### *Monday-February 7*

7:00 pm The Board of Deacons meets in the Easton Great Room

### *Thursday-February 10*

7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #7 meets in Hess Hall

8:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal in the music room

*Sunday-February 13*

5:30 pm Senior High Fellowship meets in the Easton Great Room

7:00 pm Confirmation Class meets in the Easton Great Room

*Thursday-February 24*

7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #7 meets in Hess Hall

8:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal in the music room

*Saturday-February 26*

8:00 am URCC Work Day

*Sunday-February 27*

7:00 pm Confirmation Class meets in the Easton Great Room

**ON THE WEB:** Upper Ridgewood Community Church is on the WEB. Just go on the internet and type [www.ccur.org](http://www.ccur.org) and you will be connected. The site shows the life and ministry of the congregation with text and pictures. We are linked to the Ridgewood Village website under religious institutions. So...check the WEB for URCC...the more “hits” we receive the faster the system works.

**EMAILS REQUESTED:** If you would like to receive the *Messenger* electronically, and haven’t done so already, kindly contact the church office at 201 445 4082 or email Liz directly at [ccur2@verizon.net](mailto:ccur2@verizon.net) For those of you who live out of state, an updated address/phone number and email address would be greatly appreciated here in the church office.

**CHURCH SCHOOL:**

The following is the Church School Schedule for the month of February:

*Children & Worship* Feb 6: Lindsey Barclay-“The Mustard Seed”; Matthew 13:31-32

13: Lindsey Barclay-“The Sower”; Matthew 13:3-8,

Mark 4:3-8, Luke 8:5-8

20: No Class

27: No Class

*Grades 4-7:* Feb 6: Laurie Goodman

13: Laurie Goodman

20: No Class

27: No Class

**MISSION PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Community Church has been notified that Church World Service is in great demand for School Kits and Emergency Clean-Up Buckets. The confirmation class has taken on the responsibility to respond to this mission opportunity and invite the congregation to join them. Listed below is a list of what is needed for each kit. The School Kit items can be purchased at a local chain stationary store and the Emergency Clean – Up Bucket items from a local home center chain store. It is a project that you may do individually, with a friend or as a family. Please assemble the kits in total. **Kits need to be brought to the church no later than Sunday, April 17.**

**School Kits**

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)

- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (**no loose-leaf or filler paper**)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- Pack all items in a plain canvas tote bag (12" x 14" or 14" x 17"). Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.

**Emergency Clean-up Bucket:**

- One five-gallon bucket with re-sealable lid
- Five scouring pads
- Seven sponges, assorted sizes
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®)
- One 24-28 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- One pair work gloves
- 24-28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon)
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol)

Please provide all liquids in new, unopened plastic bottles. Be sure to send only new materials. Place all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

During the month of January, the Confirmation Class had a session on the Sacrament of

Baptism, the Lord's Prayer (with their mentors), attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and walked the prayer labyrinth at Old Paramus Reformed Church.

Their upcoming schedule is as follows:

- Feb. 6 No Session due to the Super Bowl. Try to make morning worship a priority that day.
- Feb 13 Session (Sacrament of Communion) at 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 20 NO CLASS SESSION (School Break – Feb. 21-25)
- Feb 27 Class Session at 7:00 p.m.
- March 6 Class Session – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mentor Meeting (The Apostles' Creed)
- March 13 "Friends to Friends" at First Reformed Church
- March 20 Class Session
- March 27 Class Session

Should anyone have any questions about the confirmation process, speak with Pastor Nolan or one of the elders.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:** The Senior Highs had an active month of January. On Sunday, January 9, they started the session by playing a game which helped them do some problem solving and work on communication. After the game, they had a discussion on Christian-Muslim Relations in the Easton Great Room. Mahmoud Hamza, leader of the Muslim Society of Ridgewood, was the guest speaker. While his topic addressed how Muslims can live, deal and work with their fellow Christians from an Islamic perspective, the kids also had time to ask some pertinent questions. On Sunday, January 30, after worship, the kids put on a Baked Potato Lunch for the congregation to raise funds for their 2012 mission trip.

Two activities are scheduled for the month of February. On Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>: "Super Bowl Subs" will be sold by the senior highs again this year. Coordinating the sale is Lindsey Barclay. Orders can be placed by completing the order form below or by calling the church office. Subs will be ready to be picked up on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>...Super Bowl Sunday.

On Sunday, February 13, at 5:30 p.m., the kids will gather with their parents to discuss the impending 2012 mission trip and to address the remaining activities and fundraisers for the year.

Should anyone have any questions about the Senior High Youth, please direct your questions to Christy Dittrick, Pastor Nolan, Kevin Schloerb or Rawn Seifert.

**MUSIC:** The Music ministry would like to welcome Mike Roth as our new bass section leader. Michael Roth has a varied musical background as a trombonist, vocalist, and conductor. Mike received both his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the Crane School of Music, where he studied conducting under Anthony Maiello. While an undergraduate, Roth served as director of the Disney All-American College Band in Orlando. The Disney Company also employed him as a singer as well as a voice-over artist for promotional productions at the Florida site.

Roth served as a freelance artist for many years, performing with numerous jazz and popular artists in the metropolitan N.Y./N.J. area. As a vocalist, he was for many years the director and/ or soloist for a variety of local and regional choruses associated with communities and houses of worship.

Roth taught band, chorus and drama for 24 years in the North Rockland School District in New York. His bands consistently were awarded high honors in competitions, and were featured in several regional promotional media campaigns. As creative director of theatrical activities for North Rockland throughout his tenure there, Roth produced nearly 50 stage productions. With a strong interest in technology, Roth developed and taught courses in acoustics and sound engineering for North Rockland, and also served as a consultant to school districts in auditorium and music suite development and construction. Presently, Roth is principal of the Willow Grove Middle School in Thiells, N.Y. As a conductor, Roth continues to lead a variety of performing ensembles including the North Jersey Concert Band and the Rockland Men’s Singers. He continues to accept invitations to direct regional school honors bands, jazz ensembles, and choruses. An avid horticulturist and model railroader, when not involved in music, Roth can be found either in his greenhouse or working at his model train table.

**URCC WORK DAY: Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.** If you are available on February 26<sup>th</sup> please come to the church that morning to help with some cleaning and repairs. We will be gathering at 8:00 am and finish up before noon. Coffee and bagels will be there when you arrive. Come when you can...leave when you must. Below is a list of jobs that we would like to get done along with necessary supplies. More will be added as we approach that date. Please email or call Kevin beforehand so that the morning work can be organized. [kevin@countyglass.com](mailto:kevin@countyglass.com) 201 376 4315.

General Cleaning:		
Dust/Wood Polish Pews	Pledge, Rags	
Window Cleaning, inside	Windex, Rags	
Mopping		
Clean Upstairs and Downstairs Kitchens	Soft n’ Scrub	
Replace door knob to the kitchen	New piece of hardware	Kevin to purchase
Change Light Bulbs in General	Replacement bulbs	In storage
Change Light Bulbs in Exit Signs	Take inventory	Purchase at Home Hardware
Clean Out Education Office		
Repair Light at the entrance to Stacie’s office		
Inventory church items for Sr. High Garage Sale in June		

**CONSISTORY RETREAT:** The annual consistory retreat was held on January 7-8, 2011. The retreat began on Friday night with dinner at the home of Doug Chu and Margaret Co. It was an opportunity to fellowship and to dine with one another without an agenda.

On Saturday morning, the consistory gathered in church's Easton Great Room for an abbreviated consistory agenda and for a time of discernment about the future ministry of Community Church. The following is a compilation of questions and answers which were shared.

**What brought you to URCC?** Close friends, the choir, immediate family are members, size of congregation, are known, the preaching, youth activities, fellowship, proximity to church, respecter of persons, its music, its worship, nature of congregation and what it values, my kids and need for a church home.

**What has kept you at URCC?** Involvement in the leadership of the church, intellectual and stimulating congregation and pastor, involvement which translated into fun and fellowship, outreach ministries, children's Christian Education, the preaching, youth friendly, mission trips for Sr. Highs

**From your knowledge of the history of URCC, what would you name as the "vital times" in the life of the church?** Election Night Fish Dinners, Valentine Bridge, Mission Trips for youth, Music on the Hill, Haiti Fundraiser, Hanging of the Greens followed by Dinner, Progressive dinners, Church School Picnics

**What are some of the reasons for vitality?** Signs of the Time, Only one spouse working, common values, there were social coordinators in place, less school and community activities for children, more time or so it seemed.

**What do you see as the mission of URCC?** Mission Opportunities that give back and reflect our Christian Calling, Christian Education that nurtures faith, to provide worship of God and provide opportunities to fellowship with other Christians.

These questions were just a beginning step to an ongoing process which will be helpful in shaping the future while respecting tradition. The consistory will continue this discussion during subsequent meetings and start working on some action plans.

Submitted by Pastor Nolan

### **LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Please mark down on your calendar the upcoming worship services for the Lenten/Holy Week Services.

Ash Wednesday, March 9, at 8:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 17, at 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 22, at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 24, at 10:00 a.m.

**SAVE THE DATES: LENTEN BIBLE STUDY:** A Lenten Bible study will take place in the hour after worship on the four Sundays in March. Led by the Rev Lynn Van Ek, the theme "From Creation to Re-creation" will consider selected scripture passages from Genesis, Exodus, the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation.

The season of Lent is a time for reflection on the suffering of Jesus as he followed his journey to and through the cross. This year's study offers an opportunity to search the scriptures with others in order to grow into a deeper understanding of and relationship with Christ.

Beginning at the beginning, the meaning of God as Creator and humans as creatures made in the divine image will be explored. Comparing and contrasting the creation narratives in Genesis 1, 2 & 3 will show how concepts around the beginning of life lead to understanding Christ as the second Adam as well as the *alpha* and *omega*, the beginning and the end. This study will begin our engagement with the relationship between creation and re-creation.

Exodus tells the story of freedom and promise that only God can fulfill. Were it not for the work of Christ, his ministry, suffering, death and resurrection, we could not inherit this most precious gift. Lent is set aside as an especially meaningful time to open our hearts to an understanding of Christ's prophetic office as the new Moses as well as the office of the priesthood, mediating the divine.

Standing alongside the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the gospel of John offers a unique look at Jesus of Nazareth as the Light of the World, the Resurrection and the Life, the True Vine, the Good Shepherd, the Way, the Truth and the Life, The Gate, and the Bread of Life. Beginning his gospel with the beginning of the cosmos, John's writings will be considered alongside themes in both Exodus and Revelation.

The word *revelation* translated from Greek is *apocalypse* and means *unveiling*. Many interpretations of its symbols have arisen throughout the history of the church. Our purpose on the final Sunday of the series will be to demystify some of its contents as well as to discern its meaning for us today. Looking back to Genesis, Exodus and John, the book will be placed in the context of John's insights about the new creation.

Each session of this series is self-contained. Come and share your thoughts with the class!

**HAITI TRIP – Kevin Schloerb:** A few weeks before Christmas I ran into my neighbor while out buying a Christmas tree. He asked me if I was interested in doing volunteer work in Haiti for a week. Well, one thing led to another and about a week ago my daughter Carrie and I booked flights along with 14 other volunteers. We are off to Haiti on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Ridgewood YMCA and Wells Mountain Foundation coordinated a relief effort to provide clothing and supplies to this devastated country. Awaiting us in Haiti are 12 forty foot long shipping containers filled with clothing and supplies which need to be off-loaded and distributed. Once emptied, two of the shipping containers will be retrofitted into a building. The full story on this relief effort can be found at this link.

[http://www.wellsmountainfoundation.org/Haiti\\_newsletter.pdf](http://www.wellsmountainfoundation.org/Haiti_newsletter.pdf)

So here is where URCC fits in: Each of volunteers is allowed to bring one carry on and

two stow-away pieces of luggage. Everyone is planning to save their last piece of luggage for additional supplies. There is an orphanage in Haiti that is in need of basic supplies. A list of their needs is stated below. I am placing two boxes at the church; one in the narthex and another outside the church office. Carrie and I are inviting all of you to participate by filling the boxes. In this way, you become united with us and share in this necessary cause. The cut off is Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please do not worry about over supplying; Wells Mountain Foundation will store locally and ship on their next trip.

Hygiene supplies – like soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, combs, and barrettes  
School supplies – pencils, crayons  
First Aid supplies – antibiotic ointment, bandages, ace bandages  
Children’s footwear - shoes, sneakers, and sandals.

List for the kits are available in the narthex. Thanks for your support....Carrie and Kevin Schloerb

**SAVE THE DATE:** Senior High Garage Sale on Saturday, June 11th. Start saving your “Goodies”. More information at a later date.

**LOOKING AHEAD: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS IN MARCH**

Don’t forget to turn your clocks ahead one-hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 12. Daylight Savings Time begins earlier this year on Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 A.M.

**A.M. ADULT BIBLE STUDY - INTEREST GROUP:**

The Bible Study Group will be meeting this year on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 pm in the Easton Great Room. Our meeting this month will be on February 2 only. Newcomers are encouraged to join the group and drop-in visitors are always welcome.

Christy Ditttrick is the facilitator for this group. If you would like more information about the group or are interested in joining, please contact Christy directly at [dittchan@optonline.net](mailto:dittchan@optonline.net) or 201.444.7436.

**SOCIAL HOUR HOSTS AND USHERS:** The volunteer sign up lists for Social Hour hosts are posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer. Just a reminder that hosts only prepare for Coffee Hour and only bring a small jug of milk (no snack) and no longer serve as greeters in the narthex. This change was made to make the job a bit easier for everyone. Each Sunday a member of the consistory serves as Head Usher at worship. Should you wish to assist on any Sunday, just sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. **This social time after worship is a vital part of our church.** Please make an effort to sign up because everyone’s help is needed.

**NEXT FOOD SUNDAY:** February 20 is the next date for the food collection 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, please put a few extra items in your shopping cart for someone else.

URCC Senior High Youth Group

# SUPERBOWL SUB SALE

Proceeds to support  
Senior High Workcamp 2012

February 6<sup>th</sup>  
Cost is \$8 a Sandwich

Two Choices

## **Traditional Italian Sub**

(Ham, Salami, Provolone, Lettuce and Tomato)

OR

## **Vegetarian Sub**

Submarine Sandwiches are prepared by Parkwood Deli

**Pick-up at URCC on February 6<sup>th</sup>  
Between 11am and Noon**

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YES!!! I/We would like to support The Senior High Workcamp 2012!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Traditional Sub Sandwich # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetarian Sub Sandwich # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total # \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Pay by Check Payable to: URCC  
Drop Off or mail this order form and payment to URCC  
35 Fairmount Road Ridgewood NJ 07450

Deadline: Wednesday February 2,2011