

Reflections

A Monthly Newsletter of the
Spotswood Reformed Church

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Serving the community since 1821

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July/August 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

This message originally appeared in the September 2013 issue of the Reflections.

We have a wonderful invitation: an invitation for every member of the church to discover and celebrate the deep and profound gifts that God has placed uniquely within each one of us.

The biblical witness is clear: God has given every Christian at least two vitally important gifts for daily living. The first is the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, his work of redemption, and thus forgiveness of sin. It is not a gift we have asked for nor earned – it is solely of God, out of God's unending love and care for us. So also is the second gift – of one or more special abilities – to be used for the purpose of ministry and the growth of Christ's kingdom. These special abilities are called spiritual gifts.

As the church of the New Testament was being formed and nurtured, it was also exploring a new and remarkable understanding: that God has blessed not simply priests or other leaders of the church, but every believer, with unique abilities intended for the building up of the community of faith and for the enabling of Christ's message to be most effectively conveyed.



It was a new and radical concept of which Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, "Each of us has received a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given...(God) did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ." (TEV). Become mature in your faith and spiritual growth, Paul continued.

Special gifts, or spiritual gifts, are not simply our natural abilities or talents (there is that aspect to us as well, but it's a different part of us). They are special, unique gifts given to believers by God through the Holy Spirit to empower them for the ministries of the church and the call of God in their lives. We do not choose these gifts – God does.

God has, in fact, bound us all together as many parts of Christ's body; every part is vital to the health of the whole body. The Bible states unequivocally that every believer has at least one spiritual gift; many have been given several. It is not a matter of wondering *if* you are gifted – it is a matter of **accepting the fact that you are gifted**. There are no greater or lesser gifts; the complete ministry that God intended is only fully accomplished when each believer contributes the unique part God has designed in him or her.

Coming to faith in Jesus Christ was for most of us a life-changing experience; as also can be the discovery of our spiritual gifts. Once that discovery has been made, it is crucially important that they be used. Spiritual gifts don't mean much until you know what they are and until they are used. That's the challenge and the reward of discovering spiritual gifts.

Remember, these are spiritual gifts for the building up of Christ's kingdom. God is calling us to use our gifts to make a difference in the mission and ministry of our church.

The upcoming program year is full of a variety of amazing opportunities for ministry and mission. I pray that together we will discover the exciting possibilities that lie ahead. And in so doing, together we grow in faith...in commitment...and in fellowship.

Shalom, my friends,
JER

Thank You

The following note was received from COHM at the end of May:

We, at the CUP Pantry, want to make sure your congregants know how much their donations are appreciated. Our monies, very often, supply the staples of everyday consumption, but it's the extras that come from you that sometimes just makes a "shopper's" day!

I wish I could convey to you how gratifying it is to be able to fill a shopping basket and hear a "thank you" or a "bless you!" and know that someone else's day was just made a little easier.

Last month we served 225 individual households equaling 737 people including 280 kids.

So Thank You and Bless You as we move forward together.

Robin Hayes

Did you know that through the AmazonSmile program, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to The Ministers Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Church of Spotswood?

Bookmark the link below and support our church every time you shop.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1912669>

Worship Team

Summer is upon us - and we are in the season of Ordinary Time in the church year. This is a very important time to focus on the ministry and words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Worship Team hopes everyone has a restorative summer including family time, vacations, and continued participation in worship when you are in town! Please remember to drop off your envelopes when you are not!

The Worship Team also wants to remind you to join in the ministry of greeting on Sunday mornings. The bright smiles and welcomes are the first thing people who come to worship see and set the tone of our loving Christian community! So, one and all – please sign up to greet some Sunday!

We are continuing to ask for volunteers to serve in the Children's Room when we have younger than Church School ages kids attending. The more volunteers the better - and remember the quote from Field of Dreams - "If you build it, they will come." And don't we WANT more kids to be a part of our church community!!!! If you are willing to volunteer, please contact the church office.

Our Gathered Community Comes Together

Sunday, July 2

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Paul Walther to Preach
Communion Service
Please remember your CUP Offering

Sunday, July 9

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Claudette Reid to Preach

Sunday, July 16

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Praise Team leads Worship
Paul Walther to Preach
Walk-Up Communion Service
Please remember your CUP Offering

Sunday, July 23

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Margaret Tierney to Lead Us in Lectionary Readings,
Hymns and Prayers

Sunday, July 30

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Mark Ruckdeschel to Preach

Sunday, August 6

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
WELCOME Rev. Hartmut Kramer-Mills
Communion Service
Please remember your CUP Offering

Sunday, August 13

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 20

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Praise Team leads Worship
Communion Service
Please remember your CUP Offering

Sunday, August 27

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

LITURGISTS

7/9 Dave Sliker
7/16 Praise Team
7/23 Jan Ortt
8/13 Pat Hampson
8/20 Praise Team
8/27 George Sliker

CHILDREN'S SERMONS

7/9 Mark Ruckdeschel
7/23 Pat Hampson
8/13 Carole George
8/27 Kathy Romero

GREETERS

7/2 Gary Wallace
7/9 Janice & Gary Malanowski
7/16 Chuck Hager
7/23 **Volunteer Needed**
7/30 **Volunteer Needed**

GREETERS (continued)

8/6 Volunteer Needed
8/13 Volunteer Needed
8/20 Tom & Diane Lucas
8/27 Volunteer Needed

If you are unable to serve on any of the dates listed above, please find someone to cover for you. Please let Sherry Ruckdeschel know of any changes to this schedule. Thank you!

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness!” (Psalm 100)

Kathy Romero for
The Worship Team

The Lectionary for July

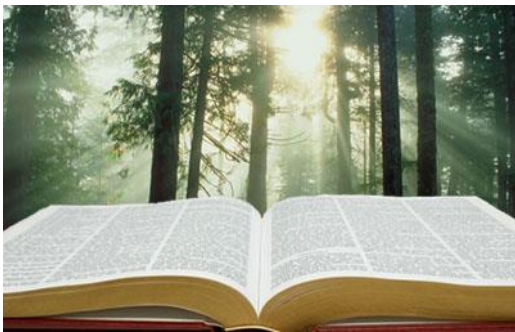
July 2 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Jeremiah 28:5-9;
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23;
Matthew 10:40-42

July 9 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or
Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Zechariah 9:9-12;
Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25;
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112;
Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65 (1-8), 9-13;
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 28:10-19; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;
Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25;
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45 or
Psalm 128; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136;
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**The Lectionary for August**

August 6 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 55:1-5;
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5;
Matthew 14:13-21

August 13 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22; 45
1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15;
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Isaiah 56:1, 6-8;
Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2, 29-32;
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 27 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Isaiah 51:1-6;
Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Search Team

It is with great joy that we are able to share with the entire congregation that the Consistory and Classis have both approved a contract with Rev. Hartmut Kramer-Mills.

Pastor Hartmut is currently the Pastor at First Reformed Church in New Brunswick. He informed his Consistory of his intentions on June 20th, and we are now free to share this joyous information with you all. We would ask that you keep his current congregation in prayer as they will now have to face a time of self-study and pastoral search themselves. We know the time, energy, and prayer that process takes.

Pastor Hartmut has served as Pastor at First Reformed Church in New Brunswick since 2000. Prior to that he was our Interim Pastor, after the retirement of Rev. Joe Woods, from 1999 to 2000. He had various positions in Germany prior to 1999. He has also been an active member in our Classis, serving as Vice President and President, and he has been involved denominationally on the Commission for History.

As many of you know, this is a part-time contract position consisting of 35 hours per week. Pastor Hartmut, the Search Team, our Consistory, and the Classis have all approved a listing of specific items for which Pastor Hartmut will be responsible. The contract will run from August 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Then a new contract will run from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. This two-tiered format was adopted so that we could get the contract on the same basis as our church's fiscal year.

Below is the listing of responsibilities as they appear in the contract:

WORSHIP**Responsible for:**

- Sermons
- Preparation of liturgy and selection of hymns
- Interface with the Worship Team in planning seasonal worship services
- Baptisms (one parent must be a member of the church)
- Weddings for church members (non-church members at the option of the Minister)
- Funerals for current or past church members (non-church members at the option of the Minister)

- Officiating Communion
- Leading of all Sunday and special worship services in the church

Not responsible for (but not excluded at the option of the Minister):

- Children's sermons
- Leading of devotional meetings (i.e., Holy Week AM meetings, Lenten Soup Suppers)
- Attendance at church social gatherings
- Attendance at ecumenical worship services

PASTORAL CARE

Responsible for:

- Critical Care – Hospital Visits
- Non-Critical Care – Home Visits – in conjunction with Elders
- Homebound – Communion – in conjunction with Elders
- Church Member Counseling

EDUCATION

Responsible for:

- Confirmation Class 2017-2018 – In the past, the class has met on Sundays before Worship (9:00 to 9:45 a.m.) from September through April/May (excluding holidays or other Sundays as necessary), but Minister may deviate from this and choose another day/time to hold the class, etc.
- Adult Education Class – In the past, the class has been held on Sunday after Worship (11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.) from September/October through May/June (excluding holidays or other Sundays as necessary)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Responsible for:

- Newsletter article (currently bi-monthly: Jan/Feb; Mar/Apr; May/June; July/Aug; Sept/Oct; Nov/Dec)
- Physical Presence in Office – consistent hours to be negotiated and posted
- Email – Minister will have a separate church email address
- Telephone calls – Minister to answer phone when in office, unless Administrative Assistant is present. Minister will be given information on retrieving voicemail.

- Attendance at Consistory meeting on the second Monday of each month and will provide a monthly report. The Consistory does not schedule meetings in July and August.

- Provide guidance for diaconal requests.

Not responsible for:

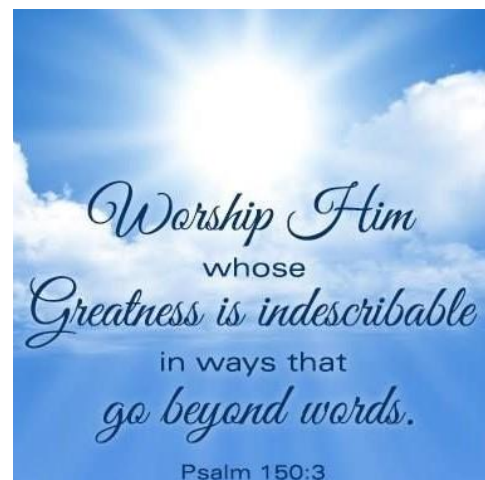
- Checking the main church email account
- Attendance at Team meetings, other than the Worship Team (but not excluded at the option of the Minister)
- Buildings and Grounds issues
- Pixie Preschool issues or Pixie Advisory Board interface
- Cemetery issues
- Ecumenical Group meetings (but not excluded at the option of the Minister)

During the interview process Pastor Hartmut shared with us that the RCA had asked him to be a part of an interfaith dialog group for the denomination. As part of this group, he would need to travel to Oman and Egypt from October 28th through November 12th. During the interview, he asked the Search Team if he should accept this position given the dates he would need to be away, and the Search Team unanimously encouraged him to go ahead with this beautiful ministry. It is our intention that these Sundays will be paid leave, and not vacation time, as he is doing work for the denomination.

Pastor Hartmut is married to Rev. Susan Kramer-Mills, who has led us in worship in recent months. Pastor Hartmut and Pastor Susan are proud parents of two daughters, Lily and Allison, and a granddaughter, Annabella (born in 2015).

The Search Team and Consistory are excited to have you all welcome Pastor Hartmut into our pulpit on Sunday, August 6th.

*Kathy Romero for
The Pastoral Search Team*



JUST FOR KIDS...

Noah's Ark Word Search

A	D	D	B	J	H	E	S	Y	S	P	T	D	L	T
N	O	L	V	H	V	Z	E	U	R	A	O	G	N	O
I	V	I	L	I	P	I	C	O	P	O	V	A	I	W
M	E	U	L	C	J	C	M	C	L	P	N	E	Q	T
A	R	B	K	V	N	I	B	F	I	E	L	R	D	K
L	D	E	F	P	S	T	X	Y	V	K	W	I	V	Z
S	X	N	T	E	V	I	U	O	V	R	A	V	E	N
N	S	L	A	L	L	R	C	D	O	O	G	G	W	S
W	Q	N	X	L	A	C	W	O	B	N	I	A	R	Q
O	B	E	D	I	E	N	T	T	C	U	H	I	Z	G

animals	land
build	obedient
covenant	promise
criticize	rainbow
dove	raven
evil	saved
flood	supplies
good	two





Prayer Requests

Donald Allen (Melanie Miller’s grandfather) – at Stonebridge at Montgomery near Princeton; *Janet Applegate* – at home in Old Bridge; *Rena Baker* (Fay Knox’s sister) – at home with Fay and Luke in Spotswood; *Deanna Bobash* (Kelly Ortt’s mother) – at home in Sayreville; *Shirley Bonnell* (Kelly Ortt’s cousin) – at a hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida; *Chris Broscious* (Sharon Farmer’s son) – at home in Kentucky; *Kyle Davidson* (Barbara Brain’s great nephew) – at home in Oregon; *Pat DeFazio* – at home in Monroe Twp.; *Wendy DeGroot* (Carole George’s daughter) – in Wyoming; *Teresa Dunlop* (Margaret Tierney’s sister) – at home in East Stroudsburg, PA; *Megan Farmer* – at home in Monroe Twp.; *Carole George* – at home in Helmetta; *Dave Holzman* (Kelly Ortt’s friend) – at home in South River; *Beverly Jawidzik* – a resident at the Reformed Church Home in Old Bridge; *Anthony Martinez* (Nancy Goretskie’s grandson) – at home in Morganville; *Susan Osieja* (Kelly Ortt’s stepsister) – at RWJ Hospital in New Brunswick; *Francis Ortt* (Kelly Ortt’s father) – at home in Rockford, Illinois; *Linda Rodriguez* (Shirley Leary’s and Barbara Jagemann’s niece) – at home in Florida; *Jan Stubbs* – at home in Manchester; *Gloria Uhl* – at home in Spotswood; *Louise Woods* – at home in Old Bridge; *Cindy Ziloa* (Eunice Harrigfeld's daughter) – at home in South Amboy.



Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| July 10 | Kevin Sucheicki |
| July 15 | Brooke Scheid |
| July 17 | Tom Tierney |
| July 20 | Michael Corace |
| July 22 | Sharon Farmer |
| July 22 | Chris Hager |
| July 22 | Patricia Hampson |
| July 23 | Shelley Morgan |
| July 26 | Victoria Siano |
| August 2 | Adele Rose Urbanowicz |
| August 10 | Marcia Halbert |
| August 15 | Gloria Uhl |
| August 18 | Eunice Harrigfeld |
| August 21 | Rena Baker |
| August 21 | Rose Urbanowicz |
| August 26 | Robert John Hilman |
| August 27 | Linda George |
| August 28 | Peter Siano, III |
| August 29 | Teddy Soley |

Reformed Church Home Friends’ Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| July 1 | Carol Teusch |
| July 2 | Manuel Casais |
| July 2 | Joan Zyskowski |
| July 9 | Josephine Sibilio |
| July 11 | Rosemary Toron |
| July 15 | Pearl Markowski |
| July 15 | Carmen Zaccaria |
| July 17 | Helen Drews |
| July 17 | Mary Meyer |
| July 20 | Harriet Reis |
| July 21 | Leonard Karlin |
| July 24 | Judith Buskey |
| July 24 | Michael Walczyk |
| July 29 | Elizabeth Hundley |
| July 30 | Abdon Rodriguez |

August 2	Joan Krenzel
August 3	Jim Hackshaw
August 7	Natalie Dalleo
August 8	Mary Barclay
August 14	Mary Ann Misyak
August 22	Julius Kamichoff
August 22	Mary Puskar
August 22	Bea Reynolds
August 22	Jane Sujew
August 30	Stamatis Smirlis

Maggie Miller	Maggie graduated from Spotswood High School.
Nikki Ortt	Nikki graduated from East Brunswick High School and will be attending Monmouth University in the Fall.
Mora Ruckdeschel	Mora graduated from Kindergarten.

Tim Ruckdeschel	Tim graduated from Monroe High School and will be attending Middlesex County College in the Fall.
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Katlin Sullivan	Katlin graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Masters in Social Work.
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Max Swiderski	Max graduated 8th grade from Memorial School and will be attending Spotswood High School in the Fall.
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Samantha Swiderski	Sam graduated from Spotswood High School and will be attending Stockton University with a dual degree program in Biology and Medical Lab Science in the Fall.
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Alexandra Tennill	Alexandra graduated from Spotswood High School and will be attending Monmouth University to study Clinical Psychology.
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Kayla Van Wageninge	Kayla graduated cum laude from Stockton University with a BA in Criminal Justice and is continuing her post-graduate studies for her Masters.
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Thomas Wells	Thomas graduated from Spotswood High School.
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If we missed congratulating any graduates, please contact the church office.



Anniversaries

July 14	Kevin & Mia Styles
August 27	Jim & Marcia Halbert
August 31	Pedro & Ida Gonzalez

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office.



Graduates

Luke Genthe	Luke graduated from Lehigh University.
Shane Genthe	Shane graduated from Gettysburg College.
Isabella Goretskie	Isabella graduated 8th grade from Salk Middle School, with a high honor roll designation, and will be attending Old Bridge High School Grade Nine Center in the Fall.
Victoria Halbert	Victoria graduated from Spotswood High School.

For further information, and how to become involved in our church life, please call on one or more of the following people:

Hartmut Kramer-Mills, Pastor (*effective August 1, 2017*)

Joseph W. Woods, Pastor Emeritus

Kathryn Romero, Minister of Music, Alternate Elder Delegate to Classis

Linda Soley, Church Treasurer

Charles Uhl, Financial Secretary

Sherry Ruckdeschel, Administrative Assistant, Clerk of Consistory, Newsletter Editor

George Berry – Elder

Junetta Bunce – Elder, Interfaith Network of Care

Nancy Goretskie – Deacon

Rita Hussey – Sunday School Superintendent

Carrie Lawrence – Deacon, COHM Board Member

James Lockwood – Interfaith Network of Care

Jennifer Mullen-Sommer – Elder Delegate to Classis

Janice Ortt – Elder

Mark Ruckdeschel – Elder, Vice President of Consistory, Second Elder Delegate to Classis

Alice Ryan – Alice's CUP Food Pantry Coordinator for SRC

Kim Miller - Deacon

Kevin Styles – Deacon

Michelle Tennill – Deacon

Margaret Tierney – Cemetery Chair

Peggy White – Elder, Elizabeth Circle President

TEAM MEMBERS

Building & Grounds Team

Kevin Styles – Team Chair

Nancy Cano

Kim Miller

Kelly Ortt

Charlie Romero

Christian Education Team

Mark Ruckdeschel – Team Chair

Nancy Goretskie

Marcia Halbert

Victoria Halbert

Rita Hussey

Cassidy Ortt

Janice Ortt

Nikki Ortt

Finance Team

George Berry – Team Chair

Chuck Hager

Linda Soley

Michelle Tennill

Charlie Uhl

Ken VanWageninge

HOPE Team

Junetta Bunce

Carole George

Rita Hussey

Judie Nicol

Kathy Romero

Mark Ruckdeschel

Sherry Ruckdeschel

George Sliker

Peggy White

Mission & Outreach Team

Carrie Lawrence – Team Co-Chair

Laura Woods – Team Co-Chair

Pat DeFazio

Sharon Farmer

Eunice Harrigfeld

Pat Hilman

Judie Nicol

Alice Ryan

Barbara Sliker

Peggy White

Parsonage Task Force

Sherry Ruckdeschel – Team Chair

Nancy Cano

Carole George

Judie Nicol

Ellen Popielarczyk

Linda Soley

Kevin Styles

Pastoral Search Team

Kathy Romero – Team Chair

Carrie Lawrence

Kelly Ortt

Nikki Ortt

Mark Ruckdeschel

Sherry Ruckdeschel

Linda Soley

Margaret Tierney

Ken VanWageninge

Self-Study Team

Kathy Romero – Team Chair

Junetta Bunce

Nancy Cano

Rita Hussey

Carrie Lawrence

Jim Lockwood

Mark Ruckdeschel

Mia Styles

Worship Team

Kathy Romero – Team Co-Chair

Carole George – Team Co-Chair

Mandi Miller

Carol Maluchnik

Sherry Ruckdeschel

Margaret Tierney

***If you are interested in joining a Team, please contact that Team's Chair.
Team Chairs, please contact the church office with any changes to Team memberships.
Thank you!***