

# Reflections

## A Monthly Newsletter of the Spotswood Reformed Church

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Serving the community since 1821

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## October 2016

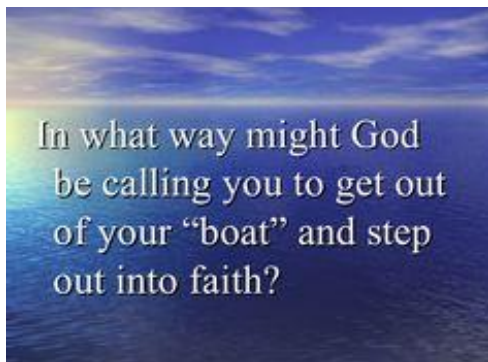
### From the Pastor's Desk

One of the books our adult education class studied several years ago had a very powerful impact on many of us. That book was titled, "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat" by John Ortberg. It's impossible to itemize all the significant points made in Ortberg's book onto one page, but there are some highlights I would like to share with you in this newsletter.

The Bible is, among other things, a list of unforgettable walks. The first one was taken by God himself, who, we are told, used to walk in the cool of the day. But as a general rule, God asked people to walk with Him.

There was the hard walk that Abraham took with his son Isaac on the road to Moriah. There was the liberating walk Moses and the Israelites took through the Red Sea. There was Joshua's triumphant walk around Jericho, the disciples' illuminating walk to Emmaus, and Paul's interrupted walk to Damascus. There was the walk so sad and holy that it received its own name: the walk from the Praetorium to Golgotha called the *Via Dolorosa* – the way of great sorrow.

Perhaps the most unforgettable walk of all was taken by Peter the day he got out of the boat and walked on the water. It is unforgettable not so much because of where he was walking as what he was walking *on* and who he was walking *with*. I think that when Peter went treading on the waves he was experiencing walking at its finest.



The author wants us to let Peter's walk stand as an invitation to everyone who, like him, wants to step out in

faith, who wants to experience something more of the power and presence of God. Let water-walking be a picture of doing, with God's help, what we could never do on our own.

How does such a thing come about?

- *There is always a call.* God asks ordinary people to engage in an act of extraordinary trust – that of getting out of the boat.
- *There is always fear.* God has an inextinguishable habit of asking people to do things that are scary to them.
- *There is always reassurance.* God promises his presence.
- *There is always a decision.* Sometimes, as with Moses and Gideon, people say yes to God's call. Sometimes, as with the ten frightened spies or the rich young ruler who spoke with Jesus, they say no. But always people must decide.
- *There is always a changed life.* Those who say yes to God's call don't walk the walk perfectly – not by a long shot. But because they say yes to God, they learn and grow even from their failures. And they become part of his actions to redeem the world. Those who say no are changed, too. They become a little harder, a little more resistant to his calling, a little more likely to say no the next time. Whatever the decision, it always changes a life – and the world that that life touches.

The author points out for all of us the importance of: discerning God's call, transcending fear, risking faith, managing failure, and trusting God.

With all of this in mind...let's take a walk this program year...on water!

Just remember one thing: If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat!

Shalom,  
JER

## Worship Team

September saw our church community commissioning our Sunday School teachers and celebrating our kids, restarting our Praise Services, and listening to the choir as they have added their beautiful voices to worship. THEY'RE BACK!



The choir is in the midst of rehearsing our Christmas music and our weekly musical worship offerings. We are asking anyone who loves to sing to come out to help with the singing of our Christmas music and/or our weekly music this year! We are doing

some great music by well-known contemporary Christian musicians! Rehearsals for the Christmas music will be each Wednesday evening in the church sanctuary from 7:15 to 8:30 with the Chancel Choir rehearsing afterwards. We are blessed again to have Lisa Romero leading us in the preparation of our Christmas music!

The Worship Team is hosting a joint team meeting for all teams of our church and anyone who is interested in coming together to plan a special worship service for this year's Thanksgiving Sunday. The joint team meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 27th at 7:30 PM**. Keep a watch over your emails and the bulletin in the next several weeks for more details.

Looking forward to November we will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 20th during our Praise Service, and the last Sunday of the month, November 27th, is the first Sunday in Advent.

Volunteering is  
a work of heart



We would also like to ask for volunteers to serve as Infant Caregivers for times when we have families with infants 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!! There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex — please consider adding your name.

## ***Our Gathered Community Comes Together***

### ***Sunday, October 2***

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
World Communion Sunday  
Please remember your CUP Offering  
Chancel Choir sings

### ***Wednesday, October 5***

Christmas Music Rehearsal – 7:15 to 8:30 PM  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 PM

### ***Sunday, October 9***

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
Soloist  
Coffee Hour following Worship

### ***Wednesday, October 12***

Christmas Music Rehearsal – 7:15 to 8:30 PM  
Praise Team Rehearsal – 8:30 PM

### ***Sunday, October 16***

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost  
Praise Team Leads Worship  
Communion Service  
Please remember your CUP Offering

### ***Wednesday, October 19***

Christmas Music Rehearsal – 7:15 to 8:30 PM  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 PM

### ***Sunday, October 23***

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Psalter Sunday – Psalm 84  
Chancel Choir sings

### ***Wednesday, October 26***

Christmas Music Rehearsal – 7:15 to 8:30 PM  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 PM

### ***Sunday, October 30***

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Chancel Choir sings

For where two or  
three come together  
in my name, there  
am I with them.

Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

### ***Wednesday, November 2***

Christmas Music Rehearsal – 7:15 to 8:30 PM  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 PM

### ***Sunday, November 6***

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Communion Sunday  
Please remember your CUP Offering  
Chancel Choir sings

### ***Wednesday, November 9***

Christmas Music Rehearsal – 7:15 to 8:30 PM  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 PM

### ***Sunday, November 13***

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Choral Duet

### ***Wednesday, November 16***

Christmas Music Rehearsal – 7:15 to 8:30 PM  
Praise Team Rehearsal – 8:30 PM

**Sunday, November 20**

Thanksgiving Sunday  
Praise Team Leads Worship  
Communion Service  
Please remember your CUP Offering

**Sunday, November 27**

First Sunday of Advent  
Chancel Choir sings

**LITURGISTS**

**10/2** George Sliker  
**10/23** Chuck Hager  
**11/6** Mark Ruckdeschel  
**11/27** Margaret Tierney  
**12/4** Dave Sliker

**CHILDREN'S SERMONS**

**10/9** Carole George  
**10/23** Mark Ruckdeschel  
**11/13** Rev. Ribbans  
**11/27** Pat Hampson  
**12/11** Mark Ruckdeschel  
**12/18** Carole George

**GREETERS**

**10/2** Junetta Bunce & Linda Soley  
**10/9** Kevin Styles  
**10/16** Artie & Linda Radozycki  
**10/23** Barb Sliker  
**10/30** Larry Tennill  
**11/6** Judie Nicol & Peggy White  
**11/13** Gary Wallace  
**11/20** **Volunteer Needed**  
**11/27** **Volunteer Needed**  
**12/4** Diane Wells  
**12/11** Kevin Styles  
**12/18** Larry Tennill  
**12/25** Sherry Ruckdeschel

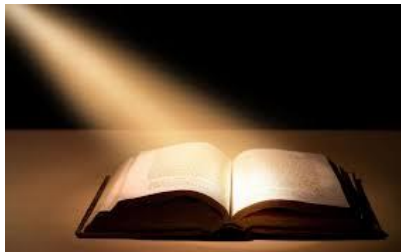
If you are unable to serve on the date listed, please find someone to cover for you and let Sherry Ruckdeschel know of any changes to this schedule. Thank you!

**"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 October**

Your word is a lamp  
to guide my feet and a  
light for my path.  
Psalm 119:105



**October 2** –  
Twentieth Sunday  
after Pentecost

**Lamentations** 1:1-6;  
**Lamentations** 3:19-26 or **Psalm** 137;  
**Habakkuk** 1:1-4; 2:1-4; **Psalm** 37:1-9;  
**2 Timothy** 1:1-14; **Luke** 17:5-10

**October 9** – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
**Jeremiah** 29:1, 4-7; **Psalm** 66:1-12;  
**2 Kings** 5:1-3, 7-15c; **Psalm** 111; **2 Timothy** 2:8-15;  
**Luke** 17:11-19

**October 16** – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost  
**Jeremiah** 31:27-34; **Psalm** 119:97-104;  
**Genesis** 32:22-31; **Psalm** 121; **2 Timothy** 3:14 - 4:5;  
**Luke** 18:1-8

**October 23** – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
**Joel** 2:23-32; **Psalm** 65; **Jeremiah** 14:7-10, 19-22;  
**Psalm** 84:1-7; **2 Timothy** 4:6-8, 16-18; **Luke** 18:9-14

**October 30** – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Habakkuk** 1:1-4; 2:1-4; **Psalm** 119:137-144;  
**Isaiah** 1:10-18; **Psalm** 32:1-7;  
**2 Thessalonians** 1:1-4, 11-12; **Luke** 19:1-10

**Christian Education**

**SAVE THE DATE...**



**Saturday, October 29th**

Our Team will provide more details in the coming weeks.  
Hope to see you all there!

Mark Ruckdeschel for  
The Christian Education Team

**Book Recommendation**

**"Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery  
and Art of Living"** by Krista Tippett

Krista Tippett hosts a podcast entitled "On Being" in which she interviews people—who most of us never heard about—that speak about hope, peace, truth and beauty.

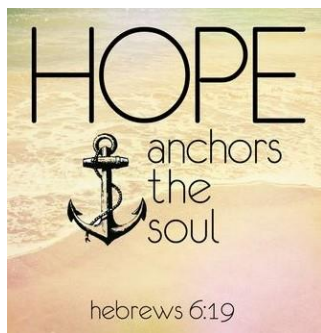
In her own words she says, "I'm a person who listens for a living. I listen for wisdom, and beauty, and for voices not shouting to be heard. This book chronicles some of what I've learned in what has become a conversation across time and generations, across disciplines and denominations." Her background includes being a correspondent overseas and an Mdiv. from Yale School of Divinity.

*By wisdom  
a house is built  
through knowledge  
its rooms are filled  
with rare and  
beautiful treasures*

Proverbs 24:3-4

Her book hits the following themes:

- Introduction:* The Age of Us
- Words:* The Poetry of Creatures
- Flesh:* The Body's Grace
- Love:* A Few Things I've Learned
- Faith:* The Evolution
- Hope:* Reimagined



For anyone who feels overwhelmed by the “bad news” we are bombarded with every day, this book offers a refreshing view of the world—where we are and where we are headed—which is full of hope and light—through the eyes and words of individuals who live that hope every day.

### Elizabeth Circle

#### **Annual Bazaar**

The **Annual Bazaar** is planned for Friday, November 11th from 10 AM to 8 PM. Saturday, November 12th is reserved for clean-up day. Help is needed in the **following areas: Bake Shop, Gift items** (home crafted articles are most sought after), **Trash and Treasure** (good items that are no longer needed) and the **Quilt Raffle**. Your participation in any of these projects is very much appreciated. If you can contribute in any of these areas, please bring the items to the church on Thursday, November 10th as we are planning to set-up on that day. **We ask that you do not bring clothing or large furniture.** Please save those items for the Rummage Sale.



We will post a signup sheet in the Narthex for you to let us know if you can assist in any way.

### **Raffle Ticket Sales**

The Quilters have been working all summer preparing the quilt. It is called, “Mae’s Heavenly Stars,” in memory of Mae Vaughn who passed away recently. Mae was a great quilter and a member of the Elizabeth Circle.

Raffle tickets are available now and may be purchased from any member of the Elizabeth Circle. A flyer will be posted soon with a picture of the quilt.

All are welcome to visit us. Come, join the fun!

*Junetta Bunce for  
The Elizabeth Circle*

### **Crafter’s Show**

The Elizabeth Circle is sponsoring a Crafter’s Show on Saturday, December 3rd. Crafters are need. Only hand-made crafts, please. If you would like to participate in the show, tables are available at \$25 each. Please see me or leave a message with the church office.



*Judie Nicol for  
The Elizabeth Circle*

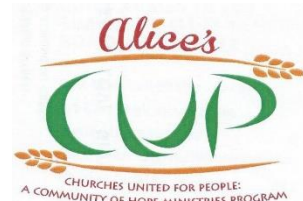
### Men’s Group

#### **Ham Dinner**

The Annual Ham Dinner will be held on Friday, November 11th. The Men’s Group is looking for volunteers for prep, service and clean up. If you are available to help, please contact a member of the Men’s Group or the church office.

### Mission & Outreach Team

The Mission & Outreach team collects food for Alice’s CUP Food Pantry (housed in our Church Annex) on the days that Communion is served. Communion is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. As we celebrate Communion, we hope to show gratitude to our Heavenly Father by bringing gifts of food to our neighbors in need. There are baskets both in the back of the Sanctuary and in the front near the Chancel. If you would like to share in this act of gratitude, we ask that you bring any food or toiletries donation and place it in one of the baskets.



The following is a list of food and supplies that are always needed (in short supply) at the Pantry: cereal, canned potatoes, beets, sauerkraut, dish soap, soap for clothes, and toothpaste. Any food you choose to donate will be received and used gratefully by those that need it.



If you cannot donate food, please consider purchasing a ShopRite Gift Card to donate to the pantry. The gift cards are sold by the Deacons each Sunday in the Narthex and are available in increments of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. If you elect to purchase a gift card and donate it to the pantry, you are helping both the Deacons (who sell the cards as a fundraiser) and the clients of the Pantry (our Team uses the cards to purchase milk and cereal for the Pantry).

Thank you for your help and commitment to this important ministry.



Beginning in October, our Team will have donation boxes located in the Narthex for our Veterans in Menlo Park. Needed items include toiletries (deo-dorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shaving supplies), sweatpants, t-shirts, and socks – all sizes and for both men and women.

Again, thank you for your kind support.

Carrie Lawrence for  
The Mission & Outreach Team

## HOPE Team

### **Election Day – Tuesday, November 8th**

Most of us would agree that this year's presidential campaign is more confusing than any we have experienced. But, we must vote!



In anticipation of this event, the HOPE Team has prepared a guide that you might like to use and spend a few moments in prayer and meditation asking God to lead you to vote for the candidate who would best serve the needs of this country and the world.

The Guide will be sent to those who have email on Friday, October 28th, and copies will be in the Narthex on Sunday, October 30th, and Sunday, November 6th.

Junetta Bunce for  
The HOPE Team

## Pixie Preschool

The 2016-2017 school year is off to a successful start. Most of the children have adjusted quickly to their classrooms and teachers. I believe having so many of the students participating in our summer program helped to make them feel comfortable.



## Preschool News

October is an exciting and fun-filled month. The teachers will be taking the children to area farms for their first field trip. They will be picking apples and pumpkins. This experience will reinforce what they are learning about the fall season.

Preparation for our Halloween parties and parades are underway. If you want to bring a smile to your face, just come to see our little goblins dressed in their costumes and hear them sing their songs in the parking lot on Thursday, October 27th and Monday, October 31st.

Fundraisers this month include KidStuff coupon books for \$25 each and Fun Pasta. If anyone is interested in purchasing either item, please come in to the Pixie office.

Thanks for your support!

Have a safe and fun-filled Halloween,  
Gail Parizman, Director

## First Reformed Church of New Brunswick



The First Reformed Church of New Brunswick's Downtown Lunchtime Recital Series has begun. The recitals begin at 12:15 PM. There is no charge for these events and a free lunch follows each recital. There is a

barrier-free entrance to the church at 9 Bayard Street. The events in October and November are:

### **October 5 Moment's Notice, jazz ensemble**

Jill Crawford, flute, Peter Plomchok, guitar, and Peter Lauffer, piano, will be playing Bossa Novas of Antonio Carlos Jobim, and American jazz standards.

### **October 19 Ezgi Yargici, Baroque cello, and Benjamin T. Berman, harpsichord**

Featuring the Baroque cello and First Reformed Church's own Willard Martin Mersenne harpsichord, Ezgi and Ben will perform music of the seventeenth century by Geminiani and other composers that excelled at cello writing.

### **November 2 Carolyn Enger, piano**

*"Scaling the Heights of Beauty: Late Schubert and Late Beethoven"*

Listening to these late works can give us a glimpse into the profound suffering and transcendence of these great composers.



# Just for Kids

## Can you help Noah?

Noah needs to finish building his ark before the flood waters come. Can you help him by connecting the dots together and completing his ark?





**Prayer Requests**

Janet Applegate – at home in Old Bridge; Ann Bailey – at home in Spotswood; Chris Broschious (Sharon Farmer’s son) – at home in Kentucky; Esmee Chica (Pat Hampson’s great-granddaughter) – at home in Colonia; Kyle Davidson (Barbara Brain’s great nephew) – at home in Oregon; Pat DeFazio – at home in Monroe Twp.; Teresa Dunlop (Margaret Tierney’s sister) – at home in East Stroudsburg, PA; Megan Farmer – at home in Monroe Twp.; Annmarie George (Carole George’s daughter-in-law) – at home in Monroe Twp.; Dave Holzman (Kelly Ortt’s friend) – at JFK Hospital in Edison; Anthony Martinez (Nancy Goretskie’s grandson) – at home in Morganville; Linda Rodriguez (Shirley Leary’s and Barbara Jagemann’s niece) – at home in Florida; Nicole Rosenthal (Carole George’s granddaughter) – at home in Tinton Falls; Tracy Suchcicki – at RWJ Hospital in New Brunswick; Cindy Ziloo (Eunice Harrigfeld’s daughter) – at home in South Amboy; Robert Gresh, Beverly Jawidzik and Marie Riddle – at the Reformed Church Home.

Perhaps  
this is the  
moment for  
which you  
have been  
Created.  
*Ezra 4:14*



**Birthdays**

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>October 3</b>  | Mara Gahrmann          |
| <b>October 7</b>  | Kristin Horsch         |
| <b>October 11</b> | Bill Chillscyzn        |
| <b>October 11</b> | Samantha Swiderski     |
| <b>October 13</b> | Susan Michalowski      |
| <b>October 20</b> | Michele Nalesnik       |
| <b>October 21</b> | Charlie Romero         |
| <b>October 24</b> | Peter Urbanowicz       |
| <b>October 27</b> | Michael Arthur Redline |

**Reformed Church Home Friends’ Birthdays**

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>October 4</b>  | Dolores Robertello |
| <b>October 10</b> | Chris Hambas       |
| <b>October 13</b> | Violet Ludvick     |
| <b>October 19</b> | Peg Smith          |
| <b>October 21</b> | Maria DaSilva      |
| <b>October 28</b> | Helen Miller       |
| <b>October 30</b> | Dorothy LaCava     |



**Anniversaries**

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>October 9</b>  | Kelly & Jan Ortt         |
| <b>October 17</b> | Michael & Cheryl Redline |
| <b>October 20</b> | Al & Nancy Goretskie     |

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

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

James E. Ribbans, Pastor  
 Joseph W. Woods, Pastor Emeritus  
 Kathryn Romero, Minister of Music, Elder  
 Linda Soley, Church Treasurer  
 Charles Uhl, Financial Secretary  
 Sherry Ruckdeschel, Administrative Assistant, Clerk of Consistory, Newsletter Editor  
 Junetta Bunce – Elder, Interfaith Network of Care  
 Sharon Farmer – Deacon  
 Carole George – New Circle Chair  
 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 – Vice President of Consistory, Elder  
 Alice Ryan – Elizabeth Circle Chair, Alice's CUP Food Pantry Coordinator for SRC  
 Kevin Styles – Deacon  
 Michelle Tennill – Deacon  
 Ken VanWageninge – Cemetery Chair  
 Peggy White – Elder

**TEAM MEMBERS**

**Building & Grounds Team**

Nancy Cano  
 Kelly Ortt  
 David Sliker  
 Kevin Styles

**Christian Education Team**

Mark Ruckdeschel – Team Chair  
 Elizabeth Goretskie  
 Marcia Halbert  
 Victoria Halbert  
 Rita Hussey  
 Cassidy Ortt  
 Janice Ortt  
 Nikki Ortt  
 Michelle Tennill

**Finance Team**

Kevin Styles – Team Chair  
 George Berry  
 Chuck Hager  
 Linda Soley  
 Charlie Uhl  
 Ken VanWageninge

**HOPE Team**

Junetta Bunce  
 Joanne Dombroski  
 Carole George  
 Rita Hussey  
 Judie Nicol  
 Kathy Romero  
 Mark Ruckdeschel  
 Sherry Ruckdeschel  
 George Sliker  
 Tracy Suchcicki  
 Peggy White

**Mission & Outreach Team**

Carrie Lawrence – Team Co-Chair  
 Laura Swiderski – Team Co-Chair  
 Pat DeFazio  
 Joanne Dombroski  
 Sharon Farmer  
 Eunice Harrigfeld  
 Pat Hilman  
 Judie Nicol  
 Alice Ryan  
 Barbara Sliker  
 Peggy White

**Worship Team**

Carole George – Team Co-Chair  
 Kathy Romero – Team Co-Chair  
 Sherry Ruckdeschel  
 Margaret Tierney

*Please contact the church office with any change to Team memberships.*