



UNITED INTOUCH

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March, 2010

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COLT'S NECK REFORMED CHURCH YOUTH RINGERS AND SINGERS AT URC ON SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH

Colts Neck Reformed Church's high school handbell choir, the Celebration Ringers, consists of 16 ringers in grades 9 through 12. Jubilation! is their youth choir consisting of 30+ singers in grades 7 through 12. They will be coming to URC on Sunday, March 7th, for a concert at 4:00 p.m. The ringers will be using five-octave sets of Malmark bells and chimes, featuring a variety of music including the use of percussion and other instruments. Following the bell portion of the program, Jubilation! will present *LIFE*, a musical drama that deals with things that touch us in our daily spiritual walk – how we interact with God; prayer; the kind of legacy we leave behind; our identity in Christ; and many other timely messages. This musical will be accompanied by drums, guitar and piano/keyboard. The youth ring and sing in gratitude to God and always to His glory!

The Colts Neck Reformed Church is a vibrant 500-member congregation located in central New Jersey led by Senior Minister, Reverend Scott Brown and Associate Minister, Reverend Chris Vande Bunte. The Celebration Ringers and Jubilation! choir are part of a dynamic music and worship arts program, under the direction of Maggie and Dave Tripold, that includes five handbell choirs ranging in age from 3rd grade through adults, four vocal choirs for children and adults, and two instrumental ensembles for youth and adults, as well as drama and arts-related programs.



REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE RETIRING FOR THE NIGHT ON MARCH 13, 2010

ATTENTION SEWERS!

It is time to begin a little sewing for Twelfth Night so it does not all happen in the Fall. We will gather on March 24th and 25th, in Fellowship Hall from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. All are welcome to participate - we can use machine sewers, hand sewers, pressers and "encouragers". Please bring your sewing machines, thread, pins, scissors etc. and join us for this project.

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



Somerville is holding its annual St Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th beginning at 1:30 p.m. Plan to stay following worship to enjoy this very lively and colorful parade on Main Street of Somerville.

Remember to park in the public parking lot behind the church that morning.

PIPES AND DRUMS PARTY

Come join us at the Somerset County Police Pipes and Drums Third Annual ST. Patrick's Day Party following the parade on Sunday, March 14th. There will be a DJ as well as performances by the band. The party will be from 2:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Bridgewater Elks Club on Route 28. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. This includes a choice of fish and chips or a corn beef dinner, with open bar of beer, wine or soda. Last year it was sold out. See Charlie Lane for tickets or call 908-872-5353.

CROSSROADS XXVI REFORMED CHURCH WOMEN

The annual Retreat for Women is scheduled for April 16 and 17, 2010 at Harvey Cedars Conference Center in Long Beach Island, NJ. The keynote speakers are Vicky Menning, Coordinator of Church Health and Coaching, RCA Revitalization and Leadership and Jessica Bratt, Executive Coordinator, RCA Office the General Secretary. They will be speaking on the weekend theme: "Challenges in our Spiritual Life". There are 10 interest/discussion groups offered during the day on Saturday. You can choose one discussion group in the morning and one in the afternoon. There is also an option to be part of the Crossroads Choir under the direction of Ellen Morris. Ellen is an active member of the Ramapo Reformed Church in Mahwah, NJ. The weekend begins with check in on Friday, April 16th from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The deadline for registering is April 1st. For complete information, and a registration form, please give the church office a call or stop by.

THE SUNSHINE BOYS REMINDER

Horizons trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, Saturday, May 1st, at 6 p.m. to see "The Sunshine Boys". This Neil Simon comedy takes us back to the heyday of vaudeville. The Sunshine Boys are characters of Mr. Simon's imagination, an imagination that seduces you into believing they are real people who are funnier than anyone you have ever met. The obstacles they put in each other's path during a television special rehearsal gives us classic vaudevillian comedy at its very best. It even has a surprise ending. **Contact Carol Lane for reservations at 908-872-0234. Price \$57.00 for dinner and the play. Money due before March 20th.**

EASTER MEMORIAL/CELEBRATION FLOWERS



Easter Flowers this year will be Easter lilies and pink hydrangeas. If you wish to provide a plant as a memorial or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the envelope included in this issue of Intouch. You may take a plant following Easter morning service or deliver one to our shut-ins. The deadline for returning requests is March 31st. **PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION!**

DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN?

If you have a concern, please let the Church Administrator, Sharon Thompson know. We want to remember them in our prayers and mention their name in the "In Your Prayers" reminders for the week in our Sunday bulletin.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ:

The season of Lent, which officially began on Ash Wednesday, is commonly known as a time of penitence and spiritual renewal during the 40 days leading up to Easter. In keeping with those themes United is pleased to offer the following in conjunction with our normal church activities:

Book study: Over the next five Sundays you are invited to explore Sabbath Keeping by the Rev. Donna Schaper. Schaper is the Senior Minister of the Judson Memorial Church, Washington Square South, NYC and is a popular retreat leader (Pastor Paul attended one of her retreats at Warwick Center). This slim volume is divided up into ten chapters and participants will be asked to read two each week; discussion and reflection will take place in the lounge following worship at 11:30 beginning February 28th.

Special Lenten and Holy Week Services: Palm Sunday (March 28th) marks the beginning of Holy Week, for on this day Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last week of his earthly life. At the beginning of our 10 a.m. worship palm branches will be distributed in remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into the Holy City.

Maundy Thursday (April 1st) takes its name from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning mandate, and refers to Christ's new commandment '*that you love one another*' as found in John 13:34. On this holy night the faithful will gather in Fellowship Hall for a pot luck supper at 6 p.m. followed by a Celebration of the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m.

Good Friday (April 2nd) ushers in an Ecumenical Service to be held at the St. Thomas A.M.E. Church of Somerville from 12 - 2 p.m. Participants will offer meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ from the cross and Rev. Walther's message will be on the second word: "Today you will be with me in Paradise."
(Luke 23:43)

Each of these activities promises to enhance our celebration of Easter so please do your best to take advantage of these Lenten offerings!

Your pastor and friend, *Paul*



The sympathy and prayers of the United Reformed Church are with the families Abram P. Holcombe, Roger Glenfield, Virginia Beckler, and Chet Coleman. Abram passed away on January 29, 2010 and he was Doug Holcombe's uncle. Roger passed on February 6, 2010 and was the son of John Glenfield. Virginia Beckler passed away on February 11, 2010 and was Caryl Parenti's mother, and also Chet Coleman. Chet was Jane's loving husband and father to Bets. Chet passed away on February 16, 2010. Chet was a member since his baptism. Roger was a member as well.

Remember all of life, from its beginning to its end, is in God's hands and through the power of Christ's resurrection, the end becomes a new beginning in God's full promise.

OUR NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS

At the congregational meeting of January 31st, Bill Everett and Cathy Stires was elected to terms as Elders and Cliff Nagle and Chris Parenti were elected to terms as Deacons. Ordination of Bill Everett and Cathy Stires took during worship on Sunday, February 21st. We welcome our newest consistory members and thank those who have completed their current terms of service: Elders, John Lane and Kathy Phillips.

NEW SOUND SYSTEM

As many already know our old sound system started to fail dramatically and was replaced with a state-of-the-art demonstration system a few weeks ago. A few kinks were worked out and the reviews have been enthusiastic! Accordingly, consistory voted on February 23rd to purchase the new system, with several enhancements, for \$9,500. Donations toward the cost of this system are certainly welcome – if you would like to make a gift please be sure to write 'sound system' on your check. Thank you!



Bible
Readings *for the* Month
March, 2010



Birthdays & Anniversaries
in March

BIRTHDAYS

March 2	Patrick Hayes Lynda Van Gorder
March 5	George Carkhuff LeRoy Gunzelman
March 9	Eileen Davall
March 11	Dee Davall
March 12	Caroline Kelly
March 13	Ernst Gurke Bruce Radcliffe
March 18	Joe Schwarz
March 19	Rosanna Wallace
March 25	John Kennette
March 27	Jaclyn Barry
March 28	John Aliberto
March 30	Hillary Stires

ANNIVERSARIES

March 2	William and Josephine Anderson
March 18	John and Nancy Aliberto

[Note: If your birthday and/or anniversary has not been listed, you may not have filled out the information form distributed last spring. If you or a family member would like to be on the list, please notify the church office.]

Third Sunday in Lent: March 7

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8, I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 14

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32: II Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Fifth Sunday in Lent: March 21

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 28

Palm: Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or
Luke 23:1-49

Monday of Holy Week: March 29

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday of Holy Week: March 30

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; I Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wednesday of Holy Week: March 31

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday: April 1

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday: April 2

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday: April 3

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16, I Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Easter: The Resurrection of the Lord: April 4

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12



DATES TO REMEMBER IN

Tuesday, March 2	7:30 p.m. Parish Life Committee
Thursday, March 4	6:30 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, March 7	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship (Holy Communion) 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 11:30 a.m. Book Study (Lounge – see pg. 3) 11:30 a.m. Farm Committee (Room 0) 4:00 p.m. Colt's Neck Reformed Church Concert (see pg. 1)
Tuesday, March 9	7:30 p.m. Administration and Finance Committee
Wednesday, March 10	7:30 p.m. Worship Committee
Thursday, March 11	6:30 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, March 14	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 11:30 a.m. Book Study 1:30 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Parade (see pg. 2)
Tuesday, March 16	7:30 p.m. Habitat Board Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday, March 18	6:30 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, March 21	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 11:30 a.m. Book Study
Tuesday, March 23	7:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting (new monthly meeting date)
Wednesday, March 24	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sewers Gather (Fellowship Hall – see pg. 1)
Thursday, March 25	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sewers Gather (Fellowship Hall – see pg. 1) 6:30 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Friday, March 26	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. SHIP's Galley (URC Hosts)
Sunday, March 28	Palm/Passion Sunday (see pg. 3) 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 11:30 a.m. Book Study
Wednesday, March 31	Deadline for Memorial/Celebration Flowers for Easter Sunday
Maundy Thursday, April 1	6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Supper then the Lord's Supper (see pg. 3)
Good Friday, April 2	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Community Good Friday Service (see pg. 3)
Sunday, April 4	Easter Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship
Monday, April 5	Intouch Deadline (note change - see pg. 6)

United Reformed Church
100 West Main Street
Somerville, NJ 08876

Phone: (908) 725-4545
Fax: (908) 725-1950
E-mail:
sharon.thom@yahoo.com
www.urcsomervillenj.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Lunch Hour:
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

UNITED INTOUCH DEADLINE

If you would like to include an article or information in the April issue of INTOUCH, please contact Sharon Thompson at:

908) 725-4545, by e-mail at sharon.thom@yahoo.com.,

or put your article/information in the INTOUCH cubbie outside the office.

The “must have” deadline is April 5, 2010. (note later date allowing us to celebrate Easter.)

SUNDAY SERVERS for March, 2010

	Ushers*	Counters	Fellowship Hour**	Altar Guild
7	Elders serve communion	Michelle Lane Rosanna Wallace	Sharon Thompson Jim Thompson	Alice Gunzelman
14		James Phillips Kathy Phillips		Ruth Reader
21	Barbara Schwarz Toni Moore	Marge Rowell Ruth Reader		Lois Mason
28		Cathy Stires Lois Mason	Alice Gunzelman Barbara Schwarz Toni Moore	Toni Moore

***If you would be willing to serve as an usher, please call Usher Coordinator Gary Spratt at 908-252-9392.**

**** If you can volunteer to serve coffee during Fellowship Hour, please call the church office.**

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