



Bacon Hill Reformed Church

560 Route 32 N, Schuylerville, New York 12871

Rev. Janet M. Vincent
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Office hours: Mondays: 10:30-1:00 PM

Worship: 10:00 AM
Sunday School: 10:00 AM
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Turning Point Ministries
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FALL 2018

From the pastor's desk

It's the week before Labor Day...where did the summer go? As I sit and reflect on that, I could not help but remember where the summer began. It began with a celebration of my 30th year of Ordination. **THANK YOU** to everyone who put on such a beautiful day. I loved the worship service with Pastor Jenn leading the time of celebration. I was moved by hearing my ordination vows and having the consistory lay hands on me. It was a very special day and I am humbled by all your words and gifts. It continues to be a privilege to be in ministry with you all. A special thank you to those who spoke and those who made goodies for the luncheon. It was wonderful to have a time to sit and reflect on our 18 years together. You all have been a huge part of my 30 years. Together, we are the body of Christ in Bacon Hill and beyond.

The middle of the summer the church was alive with lots of children as our Vacation Bible School dug through the Scriptures to find the treasure of God's promises. We had about 65 children and youth at the church all week. Thank you to all the adults that helped. The children sang, played, ate, made crafts and most importantly learned, through Bible stories, that God loves them, God knows them, God treasures them, God forgives them, and God is always with them. What a wonderful Christian witness to these children of our church and community. What a joy it is to watch them grow in their faith. Thank you all for supporting this special week. I am grateful to Hospice for allowing me to adjust my hours there, so I can be present 4 of the 5 mornings. God is in our midst, God is good!

As we finish summer, I am heading out on vacation for a week. I am looking forward to a time of relaxation and refreshment. Friends, did you know that we take God everywhere we go? I saw this the day of my anniversary...!

saw this as we worked with the children at Bible school. I will take God with me on vacation. I see this as I move through my daily life. We communicate the presence of God even if we do not mention him. Imagine intentionally living this truth of the faith. Imagine the lives that will be touched by our willingness to be what we have become. Imagine knowing that you bring God into our meetings, the supermarket, your athletic competitions, the classroom, etc. We are never alone, we have with us at all times all that we need, if only we believe!

Radiate the love of God to all!
In Christ's love,
Pastor Jan

*"Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."
-Ephesians 5:1*

Pastor Jan's vacation

Pastor Jan will be away September 19 through the 25th. Preaching on Sept. 23rd will be Pastor Jenn Legg. Pastor Jan will also be away October 18 through the 21st. Again, Pastor Jenn Legg will be preaching. During Pastor Jan's vacations please contact a Consistory member if you need assistance.

Worship

Over the summer we had three lovely worship services in our outdoor Chapel. Thank you to all who made these possible.

Caring and Sharing -

Over the summer the Caring and Sharing group sent out (24) twenty-four cards, there were 9, thinking of you; 10 get well; 1 baby; 1 wedding; and 3 sympathy; there were also visits, treats, and calls made.

Journeying through Grief

This is an extension of Caring and Sharing that starts with the sympathy card and is followed up in some cases with a set of four meaningful booklets about the emotions and reality that sets in around three weeks after losing a loved one and how to deal with them.

This summer I sent out 2 booklets and letters to one that lost a husband and another a father.

If anyone wishes a card to be sent or grief booklets to be sent, please contact myself, Nancy Spodnick or Becky Diggin, Jen Thomas, Sherry Goughler or Jen Peck, we would be happy to help. Caring starts with faith, hope and charity, it is the foundation of our church.

Youth Group

We will meet for the first time this Fall on Sunday, September 30th. We will meet at the church at 12:00 PM to go for a hike. Bring a sack lunch. If any parent can help out by going with us and driving....please let me know. We will not meet on Oct 7th as this is Columbus Day weekend.

Our youth group retreat is scheduled for February 8-10 at Pine Lodge, Camp Fowler. Please add this to your calendar's now. I will also need adults to attend this as well.

Vacation Bible School



This year we had 64 children participate in VBS, 19 of those being our Youth volunteers. We all were Treasure Seekers while we learned many wonderful Bible stories. We also enjoyed crafts, playtime outside and music thanks to Jodi Leight and her high school crew of volunteers. Together we raised \$1000 for Double H Ranch! Local volunteers at Double H, Jenn and Dave Hoffman gave a presentation to us so that we could see and hear about the kids we raised money for. As a thank you, Double H sent us t-shirts!

Thank you to everyone that helped from setting up, volunteering during the week, sending us food and treats and cleaning up. Our VBS is so popular that next year we are going to be in need of more adult volunteers so mark your calendars now for next year, July 29 through August 2, 2019! (Jessica Schwerd)

Sunday School begins - Rally Day

Sunday school will begin again on Sunday, September 16th. Please join us for this special day as we all return from summer vacations.

Adult Bible Study

We will begin Bible Study on Monday, September 17th from 2:30PM to 3:30PM. We will be studying the book of Acts. For the month of October, we will meet on the 1st and 15th. Beginning in November, we will go back to our regular days which are the 2nd and 4th Mondays. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jan.

Camp Fowler

This summer we had 10 young people attend Camp Fowler for a week. Because of our Pasta Dinner last November and donations to Camperships, we were able to give each child a \$200. scholarship from the church. Also, Camp Fowler challenged churches of our Synod to a competition to get the most kids sign up for camp during March. We won. With that win we were awarded a free weekend at camp (our youth group retreat) plus a \$1,000 scholarship. We divided that money amongst our 10 campers. What a blessing!

Two of our adult members, BETH WILLIAMS and ERIC BEAMES volunteered for a week as cabin counselors. Camp Fowler is certainly a blessing to our Synod.

Bacon Hill Reformed Church sponsored a hole again this year in the 8th Annual Golf Tournament which benefits Camp Fowler. Pastor Jan participated in the event. This year the event raised over \$100,000.

Uncle Ken Busman, Executive Director of the Camp writes, "It makes me think about how easy it really may be to change the world for good. You did that today chasing that elusive white ball; we did that this week at Camp Fowler caring for 100 or so elementary and middle school kids; our churches and schools did that this year showing them how wonderful this world truly is; and parents do it for their entire life never giving up encouraging their children. And it requires faith that the little we each do will be enough. Your showing up today means that campers will be able to show up at camp tomorrow and next year and beyond. Your gift humbles me. Thank you!"

Discussion Group

Pastor Jenn will be leading a discussion group on "What it means to be Reformed" which is open to members and friends of all three churches of the Turning Point Ministry (Bacon Hill, Ft. Miller and Old Saratoga).

When: Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm

Where: Loomis Hall at Old Saratoga Reformed Church

Focus: The history of the Reformed denomination, Reformed theology, the liturgical worship tradition and denominational structure.

Format: Presentation by Pastor Jenn with plenty of opportunities for discussion amongst the group.

All are welcome! (Even if you cannot attend every session, join us for one or a few sessions as able).

Community News

From the Schuylerville and Quaker Springs UMC

This summer we said goodbye to Pastor Ben and Alyssa Lalka as they have transitioned to a new position at the Victor United Methodist Church in Rochester, NY. They will be missed!

Pastor John Iseman, and his wife, Jackie and their two children Eliza and Josiah have begun ministry at the two churches. You will have an opportunity to meet Pastor John during Lent if not before.

News from the Worship Committee

During the summer months we celebrate the Holy Communion By intinction, which is the dipping of bread in the wine. This was done in July and August

Outdoor services were held in the summer as well. many thanks to Becky Diggins and Dave Gougler who cleaned up and cleared out the chapel area... it certainly looked great after all of their hard work.

Next year, I will be prepared to check the outdoor chapel before the first outdoor service to enlist the aid of volunteers if needed to get it back in shape.

It should look good for the first service!

There was no Saturday PM service in June as there was no Sundae on the Farm.

We prepare for our traditional worship services on 9/9. Rally day is 9/16. I cannot confirm as of today if there will be a pot luck after the service.

September communion will be on 9/9, as Pastor Jan was on vacation on 9/2
Sue Gaddor, Chair

It's Time for Choir!

Choir rehearsal will begin Sunday, September 9th at 9:00 a.m. and we are looking forward to another wonderful year of our music ministry. If anybody out there is interested in finding out more about choir, please join us! We meet just about every Sunday before worship and try to sing once a month. Please don't worry if you cannot read music – you don't need to! Please don't think you can't sing – everybody can sing! Please don't worry if you don't want to stand in the front row – we will put you in the second or third row! Please just come and join us!!

Any questions please contact Becky Diggin at 518-583-3369.

House Updates

This is the first time I have served as House chairperson on Consistory and I wanted to give you a 'behind the scenes' look at what goes on when taking care of a building that was built in the 1800's. Not only do we have a big, old church to maintain... we also have an old parsonage! All I can say is "wow"! There is a LOT of upkeep! Little things like changing the fire alarm batteries, mice, keeping a steady supply of snow melt available, getting a new kitchen phone that actually works, mice, the loose baptismal fount handle, the kitchen cupboard door that always falls off, mice, the dehumidifier, the mailbox door and oh did I mention mice? And then the BIG things – keeping the lift in working order, snow and ice removal, maintaining the outdoor chapel, furnace maintenance, parsonage maintenance, pumping the graywater before an event, and the never-ending battles with the grinder pump – just to name a few of the many things that need attention.

Like I said... "wow"! I would like to thank the many people who truly do the 'behind the scenes' work and have been invaluable to me this year – especially Dave Gougler and Jim McKnight who know everything there is to know about the church and parsonage, Burt Baker for taking care of our garbage and recyclables every week, Sue Talmadge who keeps the church spotless upstairs and down, Jason Whitbeck for offering to help and for repairing the parsonage, and everybody else who pitches in and keeps our church a warm and welcoming sight when people walk through the doors. A thousand thank yous!

Becky Diggin
House Chair

Message from Pastor Jenn

Around this time last year, I was preparing to resign as store manager of the Stonehenge Starbucks in Raleigh, NC. The decision to leave Starbucks after six years was not easy because I was leaving a successful career, people who became like family to me (my customers and co-workers/managers), and the place that essentially "saved my life" after divorce by supporting me in many ways in rebuilding my life and exploring who I was, my gifts and talents, etc. I believe God used this time at Starbucks to work in me, through me, and help me find my way. However, after a few months of prayer, conversations, and then video skype conversation and in person visit with folks from all three congregations, God clearly was guiding me and leading me on a new path towards living out my call and purpose to glorify Him.

This past year has been very rewarding yet challenging at times. I will start with the challenges and get those over with: moving to a new place, leaving family and friends, starting in a program that is new and essentially creating it as we go, understanding clearly my purpose and call here with the TPRC, adjusting to not having a set schedule each week with a place of business to go to, adjusting my leadership from manager to pastoral, learning many names in such a short time, remembering which church I am at and how each church does things and ultimately how am I able to learn from the congregations and pastors as well as share my gifts to help the churches come together as the body of Christ and live out the mission and vision of their call from God.

Now I am not saying challenges are negative things, but what I am saying is that challenges are opportunities to participate in growth, transformation, and adaptive leadership (meaning always being open to growing, learning and adapting as we vision and move forward).

The positive things: becoming ordained, meeting such amazing people and doing ministry with you all! This last year especially my time spent journeying in Faithwalking has been a beautiful time of inner transformation for me in deepening my connection with God, learning to live in the fullness and love of God, and dwelling in Him. Also, it has been an inner transformation of learning about myself, wounds that need healing, being reflective, working through anxiety, learning to listen well, learning to be vulnerable at times, how to sit and walk with others, and how to put into practice living missionally as Christ lived and loved.

The Fellowship Program, the pastors, the coaches and all of you have made it possible for me to experience ministry in a unique setting, created a space for me to authentically live into my call and use my gifts, and have supported me through times of beautiful transformation and ministry and through the hard-inner self work and challenging times. I look forward to another year of growth,

transformation, and challenges with you all. I do not look forward to Oct 31 next year; however, I do look forward to reflecting on and sharing in the joy of all that God has done in us and with us in the next year!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."
Proverbs 3:5-6

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jenn

Bacon Hill Travelers

The Travelers will be going to Pennsylvania on April 5th and 6th, 2019 to see "Jesus". As most of you know there was a technical problem with the show when we attended in May, so we are trying again. Even if you did not go with us then, you are welcome to join in the trip this time. Please contact Nancy Purinton (purinton73@gmail.com or 518-636-3856) for details.

2018 Bacon Hill Women's Retreat

On October 12th, 13th and 14th, 2018 women from Bacon Hill will make their way to Camp Fowler in Speculator, N.Y. for their annual Women's Retreat. Rita Simonetti will again lead the discussion. There will be thought provoking sessions, music, food, hikes, fun and lots of laughter. If you would like to join us the cost is \$130.00 for the week-end. Please contact Nancy Purinton (518-636-3856) or Becky Diggin (518-583-3369) for information or to sign up.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 15: Chicken BBQ Dinner – Chairperson Julie Pratt
Prep day September 14th; will need pies and some ingredients

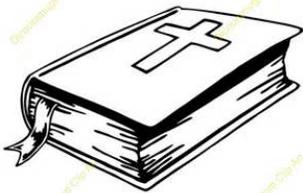
September 21: Ragnar Road Race – Contact Person: Jennifer Thomas

October 12-14: Women's Retreat at Camp Fowler
Contact people: Nancy Purinton or Becky Diggin

November 10: Lasagna Dinner – Chairperson: Julie Pratt
Prep day November 9th; this is a fundraiser for Fowler Campersips

December 2: Women's Guild Christmas Dinner – Chairperson: Jan Schwerd
Bring a dish to share; bring a friend, bring your Christmas spirit, relax and enjoy!

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I can do
ALL THINGS
through
CHRIST
Who
STRENGTHENS
ME Phil 4:13

