



# UNITED INTOUCH

Volume No. 35, Issue No. 10

October, 2009

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## A GLORIOUS DAY FOR A CELEBRATION!



The sun was shining through clear blue skies. Flowers decorated the freshly painted sanctuary and welcomed worshippers as they entered the church to observe the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the successful consolidation of the First and Second Reformed Churches. Past and present members greeted each other warmly with hugs and shared memories, before the Rev. Douglas Fromm, United's first minister, led an inspirational worship service of remembrance and thanksgiving.

*Doug Fromm and Paul Walther*

## Bible Quiz

Christians consider themselves to be people with whom God has made a New Covenant. Which Old Testament prophet first spoke of the New Covenant? Choose the correct name below:

- Isaiah
- Joel
- Jeremiah
- Obadiah

(look for the answer somewhere in this issue.)

Following worship, approximately 100 guests greeted Doug and Diane Fromm in the lounge before entering Fellowship Hall for a delicious buffet luncheon served by members of the Parish Life Committee. A video of the *walk down Main Street* was shown. It is a short movie, filmed by the late Art North, of the two congregations meeting each other on Main Street then walking together into the United church. Guests lingered after the luncheon, savoring the

opportunity to spend time and good conversation with friends.



*Dot Grabach, Rev. Fromm, Thelma Stukes & Betty Anderson enjoyed their time together at the luncheon.*

What a glorious day and wonderful way to celebrate and rejoice in the United Reformed!!!

Happy Anniversary, United!!!

## FROM THE PASTOR

And didn't we celebrate on September 20<sup>th</sup>! We most certainly did – and it was wonderful! It was wonderful to greet a large congregation. Wonderful to greet members, former members and special friends who made it back for the service. Wonderful to share a meal together (God bless you, Parish Life!). I enjoy a unique visual perspective from the pulpit and it was wonderful to see joy on the faces of all those gathered for worship. In this edition of InTouch ,there is much to be found about our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 20<sup>th</sup> – enjoy every word and picture!

It was especially wonderful to welcome the Rev. Doug Fromm and listen to his sermon. As the 'first' pastor of United Reformed Church, Rev. Fromm brought two diverse congregations together and over the next ten years set the standard for ministry and mission in this place. In his sermon, Rev. Fromm asked us to 'remember our baptism' – no easy task since many of us were infants! His point, however, was to remember that at baptism God placed his sign upon us and set us apart for ministry in the church, community and wider world. Rev. Fromm illustrated his point with this quote from the first letter of Peter:

*But you are a chosen race (writes St. Peter), a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

That kind of says it all, doesn't it? As United Reformed Church returns thanks to God for thirty-five years of ministry, let us also look to the future with confident hope knowing that our reason for being remains as clear and vital as ever: **to proclaim the mighty acts of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.** And, to that calling, may all God's people say. AMEN!

Your pastor and friend,

## OUTREACH/MISSION COMMITTEE

Your Outreach Committee is gearing up after enjoying a relaxing summer. The first event for congregation participation is the annual CROP WALK which will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for walkers and sponsors. If you cannot walk, please consider sponsoring a walker. This is a way we can help feed the hungry here and abroad. Sylvia Anderson will have materials available on Sundays during Fellowship Hour. If you need more information, please contact Sylvia at 908-722-7988.

We need a few more individuals for the Outreach Committee. As of now, there are only three members. It does not require a lot of time and we can use your input and ideas. Please speak to Sylvia if you are willing to give some of your time and talent to this important mission. Thank you!

We will have more to share as we meet and make plans as to how United Reformed Church can fulfill its mission and reach out to those within and outside of the church. STAY TUNED!



The sympathy and prayers of the United Reformed Church are with the family of Cynthia Fowler. Cindy passed away on August 29 2009 in Flat Rock, SC.

Cindy's daughter is Elizabeth Fowler. Elizabeth, her brother and sister will miss their mom. Our prayers are with the family at this time.

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.

## 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.

## WARWICK DAYS OPEN HOUSE

Attention All Women! The Warwick Center Women's Auxiliary cordially invites you to Warwick Days held at Camp Warwick's Collegiate Lodge on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 (date assigned to Delaware-Raritan Classis). Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. This fall's Open House will mark the conclusion of their year-long 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration! Their guest speaker will be the Rev. Kathleen Edwards Chase, Senior Pastor of the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains in Northern New Jersey. Their music leader will be Ms. Lorraine Nelson Wolf, award-winning composer, singer and songwriter and Music Director at the Hopewell Reformed Church.

For more information, see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the hall or speak with Arlene Tenckinck at the Warwick Center (845-986-1164 or email: [programs@warwickcenter.com](mailto:programs@warwickcenter.com)). Registration is limited to 175 participants per day, so be sure to register by the deadline, October 6, 2009. The cost is \$15 and that includes program, morning refreshments and lunch. A registration form is available in the church office.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is back in session and it is good to be together once again! We were very pleased not only to see everyone return but also to see such a strong Sunday school presence in Church on September 20<sup>th</sup> for the URC 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service. In the "Whole People of God" curriculum, we have started the first unit, "Come Join the Circle". The greatest thing about a circle is that we can always make room for more. Spread the word that all children between kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome, no experience necessary. Please contact the church office for a registration form. We gather upstairs in Room 0 every Sunday from 9-9:45. If you have any questions, please contact either Amy Stires at 732-302-0516 or Beth Cassidy at 732-995-9192. We are saving a spot for you!



## Bible Readings for the Month Of October, 2009

Sunday, October 4 – World Communion Sunday  
Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 26, or Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16

Sunday, October 11  
Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, Psalm 22:1-5 or Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, October 18  
Job 38:1-7 (34-41), Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35 or Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Sunday, October 25  
Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22) or Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

## THANKS TO...

The mummies – those who contributed beautiful mums in a variety of colors or the money to purchase mums, asters, and pansies which are planted in the beds in front and on the sides of the church.

Sandy Dibble, Lois Mason, Toni Moore, and Charley Huck who arrived on Saturday afternoon with shovels in hand to dig the holes, plant and water the flowers.

Lois, Toni, and Charley who helped set up and decorate Fellowship Hall for the luncheon.

Parish Life Committee members Eileen Davall, Carol (and Charlie) Lane, Lois Mason, and Toni Moore who served the food for the buffet luncheon and cleaned up after the festivities. Thanks also to Ruth Reader for preparing the salad dressing for the spring mix salad – delicious recipe, Ruth.

*Answer to question on pg. 1: C  
See Jeremiah 31:31*

## UPDATE ON THE GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL

As I look forward to my first full meeting with the General Synod Council (GSC), I am learning more about what I have gotten myself into. Well, first of all, I have learned more about the organization of the RCA. Many of you know this from active involvement in the life of the RCA. The denomination looks something like this:

- Churches and Consistories – always the primary focus of the RCA.
- 46 Classes - ours is the Classis of Delaware Raritan
- 8 Regional Synods – ours is the Synod of the Mid Atlantics
- General Synod – Voting Delegates and Corresponding Delegates
- RCA Colleges and Institutions
  - Central
  - Hope
  - Northwestern
  - New Brunswick Theological Seminary
  - Western Theological Seminary
- Commissions, there are 11 of these
- Agencies, there are 4 of these

Book of Church Order, Chapter 1, Part IV:  
Article 7. Committees, Boards and Agencies of the General Synod:

The General Synod Council is established by and responsible to the General Synod. It shall act as the executive committee of the General Synod and it shall administer the affairs of the Reformed Church in America between the sessions of the General Synod. It shall implement decisions, policies, and programs of the General Synod through proper channels and agencies. It shall support, strengthen, and coordinate the work of the several commissions, boards, institutions, and agencies of the Reformed Church in America, thus seeking to increase the effectiveness of the mission and witness of the church.

I recently traveled to the RCA office in Grand Rapids, Michigan for a training session on how the GSC conducts business as the “RCA Board of Directors”. The system, labeled Policy

Governance, is a very interesting and challenging model of governance. The program has been in effect for three or four years and gets high marks for its effectiveness and penchant of accountability of the General Secretary, Wesley Granberg-Michaelson. I will report more when I return from the GSC meeting in mid-October. I have been warned there will be a large packet of material to read before the meeting.

*Tom Dibble*

## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CELEBRATIONS FOR October

### BIRTHDAYS

October 1	Brian Cassidy
October 8	Michael d’Anunciacao
October 10	Barbara Burke Meghan Cassidy Wayne McAfee
October 11	Heather Stires
October 12	Tom Dibble
October 18	James Hall
October 19	Gary Spratt Bethany Wagner Cynthia Wagner
October 20	Douglas Young
October 21	Dave Ruff
October 25	Jane Coleman
October 26	Barbara Ciamporcero

### ANNIVERSARIES

October 1	Jane and Chet Coleman
October 7	Carol and Charles Lane
October 8	Sandy and Tom Dibble Ernst and Inke Gurke
October 9	Brian and Beth Cassidy
October 18	George and Florence Carkhuff
October 19	Chris & Caryl Parenti
October 23	Carol and Jim Barry
October 24	Peter and Cathy Stires
October 29	Chris and Barbara Burke

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN

Thursday, October 1	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, October 4	WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship (Holy Communion) 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
Tuesday, October 6	7:30 p.m. Parish Life Committee
Wednesday, October 7	7:30 p.m. Worship Committee 7:30 p.m. Administrative/Finance Committee
Thursday, October 8	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, October 11	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
Thursday, October 15	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, October 18	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 11:30 a.m. Farm Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 20	7:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting 7:30 p.m. Habitat Board Meeting (Room 0)
Thursday, October 22	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Friday, October 23	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. SHIP's Galley (URC hosts)
Sunday, October 25	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship (Reformation Sunday) 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 1:00 p.m. CROP Walk Registration (Fellowship Hall) 1:30 p.m. CROP Walk begins
Monday, October 26	INTOUCH DEADLINE
Thursday, October 29	10:00 a.m. Collate Intouch 6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### UNITED INTOUCH DEADLINE

If you have information that you would like included in the November, 2009 issue of INTOUCH, please contact

Sharon Thompson at (908) 725-4545,  
e-mail her at [sharon.thom@yahoo.com](mailto:sharon.thom@yahoo.com),  
or put your article in the INTOUCH cubbie.

The “**must have**” deadline for articles is **October 26, 2009**.

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 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.

### OUR SUNDAY SERVERS\*\*\* for October, 2009

	<b>Ushers* ***</b>	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour**</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>
4	<b>Deacons serve communion</b>	Jane Coleman Toni Moore		Alice Gunzelman
11		Dee Davall Eileen Davall		Dee Davall
18	Barbara Schwarz Toni Moore	Tom Dibble Jocelyn Eckardt		Ruth Reader
25	Elizabeth Fowler	Pat McKiernan Sam Mendelson	Toni Moore Barbara Schwarz Alice Gunzelman	Toni Moore

\* If you can volunteer to usher,  
 please give our Coordinator Gary Spratt at call at 908-252-9392.

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE COME FORWARD AND GIVE GARY A CALL.**

\*\* If you can volunteer to serve coffee during Fellowship Hour, please call the church office or sign up following worship during our Fellowship Hour.

**\*\*\*Please consider giving of your time. We are in need of volunteers. You can call Gary Spratt to volunteer to usher or Sharon Thompson to volunteer to serve coffee.**

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