

JACOB'S WELL

OLD SARATOGA REFORMED CHURCH

Feb. 2021



Feb. 7 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. James Swanson

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Those at home, please have your bread and juice ready to participate in the Communion Liturgy.

Lectionary Readings: *Isaiah 40: 21-31; Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c;
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23; Mark 1: 29-39*

Feb. 14 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Worship Leader: Marcial Reyes

Lectionary Readings: *2 Kings 2: 1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6;
Mark 9: 2-9*

Feb. 21 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. James Swanson

Lectionary Readings: *Genesis 9: 8-17; Psalm 25: 1-10; 1 Peter 3: 18-22;
Mark 1: 9-15*

Feb. 28 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Chris Garney

Lectionary Readings: *Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22: 23-31;
Romans 4: 13-25; Mark 8: 31-38*

Facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch

Our worship services begin at 10:00am.

Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.

"Pastoral" Notes

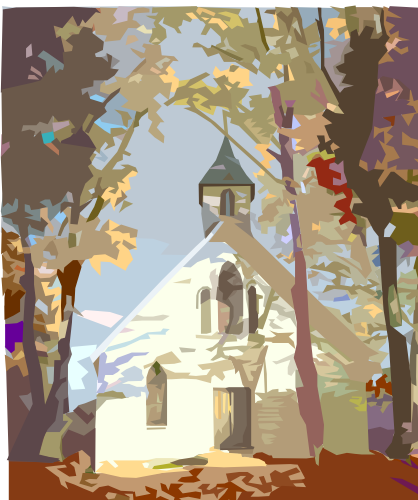
Our interim (transitional) pastor will be coming to be with OSRC beginning on April 5th, the day after Easter. He has provided the following biographical notes to introduce himself to us. In next month's (March) JW he will have a "Pastor's Page" which will further give an idea of his ministry time in Schuylerville, from his perspective.

The Rev. Everett Zabriskie III

Rett Zabriskie is a graduate of Earlham College (Indiana) and New Brunswick Seminary. The schools mirror his family history, as his mother is a New England Wheelock, and his father a Jersey Dutch Zabriskie. He was married to Astrid, from Boddum in Denmark, from 1973 until her death in 2007. He has children and grandchildren in Denmark, Arizona and Baltimore.

Rett has served the larger Church as staff for Metro New York Project Equality, and the American Bible Society. He has served the Reformed Church in America over the years as pastor, denominational executive, and Classis Stated Clerk. He has been the Interim Minister in 28 congregations.

He says, "As the word "retirement" does not appear in the scripture, he hasn't.



CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS

3: Jean Wells
4: Robin Woomer
5: Kobie Dyke
6: Kevin Casey
8: Sherrie Mickel
9: Brenda Buchanan
10: Jim Mellen
12: Brian Perkins
14: Margaret Jacobson
20: David deVelder
22: Randy Kerr
23: Joseph Barton
24: Maureen Kerr Roberts
28: Eshia Cummins



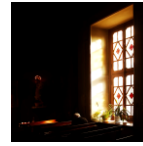
ANNIVERSARIES

10: Henrietta and Nugent Edgar
14: David and Bonnie Garrand



(Please help keep our birthday, anniversary, and hospital lists current by giving us dates and updates! (695-3479 Thanks!)

IN OUR PRAYERS



“Pray at all times in the Spirit....making supplication for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

Ruth Hayes	Bette Tucker
Dwight Colvin	David Garrand
Rod Borgman	Naomi Thayer
Alicia Lewie	Florence Brown
Jim Miers	Charles Thayer
Alyson Fitzgerald	Anna Bierma
Sheryl Norton	Alicia Lewie
Peggy MacMillan	Gerry Barber
Danny MacMillan	Clyde Wells
Suzanne Guerineau	Cheryl Jones
Sherrie Mickel	Florence Sherman
Roger and Joan Sheely	Susan Seward
Claire Houston	Charlotte Morrill

OUR FRIENDS IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES/HOMEBOUND

(We've listed the names and addresses of our church members/friends for the purpose of remembering them in prayer or with a card.)

Shirley Mabb, Saratoga Center, A110, 149 Ballston Ave, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Chauncey Mabb, Crescent Manor, 312 Crescent Blvd. , Bennington, VT 05201
Bette Tucker, Wesley Community, Victoria 212, 133 Lawrence St. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Pat Burke, Wesley Community, Victoria, 133 Lawrence St. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Anna Bierma, Arbrook Plaza, 401 West Arbrook Blvd., Arlington TX 76010 Phone # 518-321-4498 (c)
Florence Brown, The Sentinel, 10 Market Street, Room 10, Amsterdam, NY 12010
Florence Sherman, Wesley Community, Springs 322, 133 Lawrence Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, Phone # 518- 415-3012 (c)

NEW BABY



*A new baby is like
the beginning of all things:
wonder, hope,
a dream of possibilities.*
—Edo J. Shon

Bonnie Bosch is excited to welcome a new grandchild (no. 5!) born to her daughter **Emily and her husband, Saoud Arikat**. The baby was born on Jan. 24 at 8:36am, weighed 8 lbs 11 oz and was 22 inches long. He is named **Yusef Saoud Arikat** and has a big brother named **Sam**, and a big sister named **Alya**. Blessings and congratulations to the family!

NEWS FROM ANNA BIERMA

The following is a compilation of two recent notes from our friend **Anna**:

*Anna recently was taken by her daughter, **Jikke**, to a doctor who has determined that she is in need of a total shoulder replacement. This will happen as soon as she has found a family physician, so that she can be cleared for surgery. She is hoping to be well enough to come to NY this summer.*

Anna thanks everyone for all the Christmas cards she received and says it felt good to be remembered and thought of. She wishes everyone blessings for the New Year.



(Anna's address and phone # may be found on the preceding page if you'd like to send her a card, a letter or call her on her cell phone.)

SYMPATHY

The church family offers sympathy in Christ to the following families who lost loved ones in December:



..to the family and friends of **Marion Barton (68)** who died on Dec. 21. Marion grew up in Schuylerville and was an active member of the Junior Choir of OSRC as a child. She worked for many years at Maplewood Manor in Ballston Spa where she was loved by the residents. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, **Wayne Barton**, and her children, **Daniel, Jennifer** and **Joseph**, along with several grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to her sister, **Patti Booth, PO Box 58, Victory Mills NY 12884**

..to the family and friends of **John Bodnar (97)** who died on Dec. 30. John was a self-employed carpenter and built many houses in the Schuylerville area. John was a well-known fiddler and was one-half of the **Two Tones** with his late wife, **Lillian**. They entertained at many local nursing homes. John was a member of Notre Dame-Visitation, but was a frequent visitor at the Tuesday morning coffee hour at OSRC. John was also predeceased by all four of his children; sons **Tom** and **Jim**, and daughters **Laura Lee** and **Sally**. He is survived by 4 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and many others of his extended family. Condolences may be sent to his grandson: **Tom Thomas, 269 Derby Road, Greenwich NY 12834**

CHURCH LIFE

OSRC MISSION STATEMENT

*In answer to God's call
to share Christ's love,
we welcome people
of all abilities and life situations,
and encourage everyone
to fully participate in worship and service.*

ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

The Ecumenical Bible Study members are not meeting due to pandemic concerns. When the time is right to reconvene, they will be starting to study a new book of the Bible. This would be an ideal time to join! All interested people from any denomination are welcome to come.

LENTEN SERVICES

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, with a service sponsored by the Greater Schuylerville Clergy Association, to be held at Schuylerville United Methodist Church. The service will be live streamed from their page at 7pm. **Pastor John Iseman** will preach and **Pastor Jan Vincent** will serve communion.

Each week the service will be aired from SUMC. There will be limited seating in accordance with social distancing rules. If you would like to attend in person, please call Pat Poirier at **518-577-4164** or contact her by email – ppoirier@skidmore.edu. You may only reserve one service at a time so that others may have a chance to attend.

The theme of the series will be **Being/Belonging**. Each preacher will pick a Biblical or contemporary hero of the faith and look at how their belonging to Christ and to Christian community helped them be faithful to live as a disciple.

PROPERTY MEETING

The Property Committee met on Jan. 14 and began the discussions about preparing the parsonage for our interim minister. Several items on the list have already been completed: we have a new electric stove coming from Parisi's; **Doug Sheely** has replaced the locks on the front and back doors, replaced the dangerous stairs to the basement, and removed the old clothesline pole in the back yard. He will soon begin to work on the walls in the parsonage study to ready it for **Pastor Rett**, and will be installing a post at the top of the stairs near the bathroom. The overgrown shrub/tree between the church and the parsonage has been removed and taken away.

The committee has had two licensed electricians come to give us bids on the electrical upgrades which need to be done to make the building safe.

The Property Committee extends its thanks to **Becca Sheely**, who, being a Structural Engineer, was generous with her professional time and expertise. She provided a list of recommendations for repairs to prevent further deterioration, to make the space livable, as well as some additional recommendations that could be done in the future.

The next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 1st at 7pm in the parsonage, to better assess what needs to be done next.



LETTER FROM A FRIEND OF OSRC

“Thank you for your weekly recording of worship services! I am a member of Fort Miller Reformed Church, who moved out of the area a couple of years ago. Finding your worship services on line has made a huge impact on my mother’s and my life. Thank you – God Bless OSRC.”

Sandy Rourke

(Sandy was a much loved member of the Ecumenical Bible Study and had to move away to care for her mother. In appreciation of the online services, Sandy made a generous donation to OSRC, for which we are grateful.)

CHRISTMAS APPEAL LETTER

The response to the annual Christmas letter of appeal has been wonderful! To date we have received **\$4330!**

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will not be meeting, in the interest of health safety. Please continue to check JW when it comes for news of when meetings will begin again.

MISSIONS FOR FEBRUARY

The Deacons' Fund for February is Caring and Sharing

The Quarterly Mission (Jan.-Mar) is Drilling For Hope

You may support these missions by mailing your donation to OSRC, earmarked for Deacons' Fund or Quarterly Mission. Our treasurer will send out all the donations received to each of these charities.

CONSISTORY CONNECTION

At the consistory meeting held on Jan. 14, the following elders and deacons were elected to office:

Vice President: **Paula Sheely**
Clerk of Consistory: **Amber Deyoe**
Classis Representative: **Mark Booth**
Financial Secretary: **Cindy Brockman**

We are grateful to these people for being willing to serve in these ways.

Additional decisions which were made are as follows:

- **Mark Booth** agreed to serve as OSRC delegate to the Clergy Association
- Since Easter falls on the first Sunday of April, communion will be celebrated on Palm Sunday instead
- The Mission of the Quarter and the Deacons Fund will continue to be announced once a month, even though offering boxes are not available
- **Christopher Tucker** was given the OK to purchase the equipment he needs to continue doing the online services, so that he will not have to use his own and bring them each week
- The Consistory approved a contract version for **Pastor Rett**, which now must go to the Classis to be approved

The next consistory meeting will be Feb. 18 at 6:30 via Zoom.



HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

"Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name." (Psalm 30:4)

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

***"Jesus, the very thought of thee, with sweetness fills my breast.
But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest."***

In a recent daily devotional reading, the story portrayed concerned a grandmother-to-be. The woman's daughter would soon give birth to a baby girl. The delightfully expectant grandmother described a feeling just shy of giddiness over the idea of holding the little one to her heart and softly singing to her. A visit to the baby section of a department store engendered images of caring for the child, and she thought, "I love you, little girl." And I haven't even seen you yet."

Upon reading this, I was reminded of the hymn "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee." It also called into memory a verse of Scripture from 1 Peter 1:8: "Though you have not seen him (Jesus) you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy."

The hymn comes from an ancient Latin poem of 42 verses, written in the 12th century. Its focus is entirely on Christ, and his saving love, a love which gives hope, joy, and rest to Christ believers, and a love which excels any human love."¹ Consider the third verse:

***"O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
To those who ask, how kind thou art, how good to those who seek."***

Jesus, the Word, the second person of the Trinity, is the central figure in the life and thoughts of believers. As the gospel writer John tell us, "All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being." (John 1: 3) Jesus, although unseen by us, is the one we meet throughout the pages of Scripture. Jesus is the one we will see, our thoughts and hope realized, on that day when he returns for his saints.

***"Jesus our only joy be thou, as thou our prize will be;
In thee be all our glory now, and through eternity."***

1. The Worshiping Church: A Hymnal, Worship Leaders Edition, Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL, 1991, p.112

Dick Behrens



2020 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who supported the ministry of Old Saratoga during 2020. God blesses our church with each gift. In a year that included the retirement of our pastor and a pandemic, you came through for our ministry. Donations exceeded what we had expected and our expenses were lower than budgeted.

Although we had to take out more investment income than budgeted to get through the first half of the year, we ended the year with money in our account and all of our bills and mission donations paid. We were grateful to receive a PPP loan from the federal government which allowed us to continue paying our employees during the first few months of the pandemic shut-down. Although we are still waiting for information about applying to have our loan forgiven, and are optimistic that we will not have to repay it, we have funds available should it need to be repaid.

We saved money this year by using less energy during the shut-down and contracting with Nexamp to provide us with solar power in an effort to not only save money, but also to help the environment. We also saved money on pulpit supply by having 9 church members who were willing to lead worship.

As we begin a new year, we are beginning to plan for the renovation of the parsonage and the first steps in searching for a new pastor. The pulpit supply schedule is completed through Easter and we look forward to welcoming our new interim, Pastor Rett Zabriskie,

We continue to support both local and global missions with the money that is given specifically for that purpose and the money from bottle and can recycling. We do not use general donations or fund raisers for mission work. We hope to continue collecting bottles and cans, but are in need of additional volunteers to recycle them. Please let Duffy know if you can help in this way.

We pray that God will continue to bless our ministry both locally and through our mission donations. Once again, thank you for the support you offer through your prayers, gifts, time, and talents.

Respectfully Submitted ,

Christine Garney, Treasurer

THANK YOU

Old Saratoga extends its deepest thanks to **Chris Garney** for all the work she has done for what will amount to a year's worth of arranging pulpit supply. It was quite a task, and involved some rearranging when the originally scheduled preachers had to cancel for family illness, or felt uncomfortable when we had reopened. Many, many people remarked that they liked the variety of hearing different preachers' messages each week, and of course we are grateful to the 9 members of OSRC who preached for us.

**SAFER (Schuylerville Area Food and Emergency Relief)
can help during the pandemic**



**SAFER FOOD PANTRY -518-507-6043- Hours M, F, 9am-noon
For emergency food assistance when pantry is closed call 518-932-2219.**

Curbside Pick up During Pandemic- we ask that pantry visitors call before coming, if possible. When you arrive, please remain in your car, honk your horn, and we will come out to assist you. Walkers can knock on the door.

IF you cannot come to the pantry, call 518-507-6043 to leave a message, including your name and phone number. We will contact you as soon as possible.

OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE- through coordination with Catholic Charities, SAFER is able to offer some financial assistance to families in need from the Schuylerville School District. Please contact Maggie Norton of Catholic Charities at 518-587-5000, extension #15. If you are asked to leave a message, please be sure to leave your name and complete phone number, and she will return your call.

SECOND HAND ROSE THRIFT SHOP



**116 Broad Street Schuylerville NY
Hours – Tues.-Sat- 11am-4pm
Donations accepted during store hours by appointment only!
Call Charlotte at 518-695-4640**

“JACOB’S WELL”

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871

Church Office: 518-695-3479

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www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org

OFFICE MANAGER: Duffy Whitehouse

Consistory Members: Amberlyn Deyoe, Paula Sheely,
Mark Booth, Cindy Brockman, Bruce Guerineau,
Anne Mitchell

Published ten times yearly in Schuylerville, NY 12871

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am on Facebook.com/oldsaratogareformed

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, Feb. 7 10 am

***Please have your bread and juice ready at home if you wish to
participate in the Communion Liturgy***

***Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service
(Live Streamed)***

***Wed. Feb. 17 7pm at Schuylerville Methodist Church
(see inside for details of the Lenten Services)***

OUR COMMUNITY

**SECOND HAND ROSE
THRIFT SHOP
116 BROADWAY**



Tues.- Sat. 11 am-4 pm
Donations gladly accepted during
store hours
Volunteers are always needed
Call Charlotte at 695-4640

