The Domine is In

Yes, the Domine is still in, although for the next few months that Domine is Rev. Dr. Bob Gram. Rev. Gram has many years of ministry experience (45!). He holds four degrees in theology and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He has written a book, plays, and many articles. He is active climbing, biking, and leading cycling and spin classes at IXL and MAC Fitness Centers. He has three daughters and four grandchildren. St. John’s is truly blessed that Rev. Gram was available for us at the time of my recovery. Rev. Gram will be filling the pulpit most Sundays, will serve as the President of our Consistory, and will also take care of the day to day business of St. John’s Reformed.

Additionally, James Walrath has been appointed as Associate for Pastoral Calling and Spiritual Care. James is a Commissioned Pastor with the Classis of Mid-Hudson and is of course one of our own. James will be taking care of the lion’s share of pastoral visitation, so if you know of someone in need of a visit please don’t hesitate to contact James.

If my projected recovery time is accurate I should be back with you by early March. I want to thank you again for your care, support, and Christian love throughout this entire process. You are a wonderful congregation and I am grateful to be your pastor. My entire family is also grateful for the ministry that you have extended to us. We do ask that you remember us all in your prayers. Please also remember Jackie Fenaroli and her family as she recovers from her surgery.

Please give your support to Rev. Gram, James Walrath, and the Consistory of St. John’s and always work toward the things that lead to unity, purity, and peace. Keep the words of the Apostle Paul before you as a meditation in this time: Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

I wish you all a blessed holiday season full of the presence of the Holy Spirit, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God our Creator.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,
Pastor Eric
CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Thank you to all who have made donations to the Sunday School program. Your support is much appreciated. It allows us to purchase curriculum -teachers' guides and children's resources.

There will be a **Sunday School Bake Sale on** **Sunday, November 10** after the worship service. Donations of cookies, brownies, cakes, quick breads and muffins will be appreciated. We encourage the children to assist with the baking as this activity is their giving project. **Proceeds will go the Bode family in Oman.** Thank you!

Our annual **Used Toy Sale** will take place **Saturday, November 23** at the Christmas Bazaar. (See more info elsewhere) When you are cleaning out closets, bookshelves and toy boxes this fall, please remember the sale. We accept "outgrown" toys and books that are clean and in good condition. Please dust them off or wipe away any dirt. It makes laying them out for sale go so much faster. Toys may be dropped off Sunday, November 17 through Thursday, November 21 in the assembly hall/downstairs of the education wing. Money earned allows us to purchase Christmas gifts for the children and teachers.

Due to many requests for them, **we will be selling 2020 God’s Creation calendars once again.** The Sunday School will **receive the proceeds from sales. They are $7 each.** Each month has a beautiful photo and a short scripture verse. They make excellent gifts so keep them in mind when you begin your Christmas shopping.

Your child's friends and neighbors are always welcome to join in Sunday School. Who might you invite?

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BOOK LOVERS CLUB

The Book Club will meet Monday, November 18 at 11:15 a.m. in room 3 to discuss *A Month in the Country* by J. L. Carr. Everyone is invited to join in these discussions. December’s book is *The Clockmaker's Daughter* by Kate Morton, date TBA.

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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND LUNCH WITH SANTA

**Saturday, November 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The Christmas Bazaar is back again with “Lunch with Santa” on **Saturday, November 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The Sunday School will be holding its **Used Toy Sale** in the downstairs assembly hall. Toys will be accepted from **Sunday, November 17 to Thursday, November 21.**

Help will be needed to lay out and price toys on **Thursday evening at 7p.m. and maybe Friday morning, November 16.** We will also need help during the sale on Saturday in one to two hour shifts. Please let Desiree Albizu know if you can assist in either way.

In the fellowship hall, we will be providing **food for sale**, starting at 9 a.m. with a special time **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for “Lunch with Santa”**. There will be kid-friendly food as well as the usual fare as soups, sandwiches, pies and cakes.

Scudder Circle will host its **Jewelry Sale** and Arts & Crafts will have Christmas items for sale. Elizabeth Kenny will have paper goods - stars, wreaths, cards and bookmarks to sell once again. Linda Frankle will be back with her scarves and hats, too.

We hope to have other vendors join us as they did in the past.
There will be sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall, so take a look and see how you might be able to help in some small way. Thank you for your efforts to make this a fun day for all.

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**SCUDDER NEWS**

**Successful Aging**

“God’s will for the Aging” will be presented by Karen Roberts at the Thursday, November 1, 1 p.m. meeting of Scudder Circle.

All St. John’s women and friends are invited.

We will also plan the Christmas Bazaar Jewelry Sale and help with the Christmas luncheon.

-Beth Mead

845-756-2621
(new number!)

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**CONSISTORY NOTES**

The meeting was opened with scripture from the book of Ephesians by Rev. Dr. Bob Gram. He chose this scripture because of what it has to say about leadership. Dr. Gram also spoke about his profound experience here on Sunday the 13th; with the baptism, James’s and his own commissioning.

The agenda, minutes from the September meeting and the special meeting of October 6 were presented.

**Financial Review:**
The monthly review, Balance sheet and Profit and Loss statements were presented.

**Committee Reports:**
Reports from Faith and Education, Finance and Property were presented.

CR. 1 A motion regarding Pastor Eric’s medical leave. That Pastor Eric’s pay and benefit package remain intact during his recovery (projected at four months). Pastor Eric’s short term disability payments would go directly to the church (at a rate of $170 per week). This money would be used to differ the compensation of Rev. Gram.

CR.2 A motion that Rev. Gram be compensated for services rendered at the rate of $1650 per month.

CR.3 A motion to hold a congregational meeting October 20th, for the purpose of setting aside our nomination by-laws. We would forward the following slate for immediate re-election: Kate Peterson (deacon), Susan Vitolo (deacon), Colleen Groover (elder). Each of these would stand for a full-term. Mary Hennessy (VP, elder), would also be help for a one year extension of her term. The regular election process would resume November 2020.

CR. 4 A motion that we use the endowment fund to pay for the $1,000 organ repair (part of property). This would leave $200 in this year’s allotment.

CR.5 A motion to approve raising the cost of Cemetery sites to $900 for full and $550 for half sites to take effect January 1, 2020.

CR.6 A Budget 2020 motion to raise the sexton salary line to $7800 to reflect paying $15 an hour for 10 hours a week.

-Shari Juranic,
Clerk of Consistory
Mission & Outreach  
November 2019

The Deacon’s Fund is the area of the church that allows us to assist our members and neighbors with emergency help in time of extreme need. Some of these funds are allocated to the Food Pantry, which is intended to provide individuals and families with enough food for three days. The importance and impact of this ministry cannot be overstated, especially given the number of community members we serve.

Our Food Pantry is open to our community throughout the week and is available to community members once each month. We collect and depend upon primarily nonperishable foods with the occasional donation of perishable items. Additionally, we distribute one $15 Hannaford gift card as well as personal care items such as toothpaste, toilet paper, and laundry detergent to each individual or family. With little exception, one is allowed to take one of everything found in our storage closet so long as their reusable bag - provided through our ministry should they need one - can contain all of the items.

This ministry is a necessity. Our community is an extension of our congregational family, and it is our responsibility to support our neighbors in their times of need. Our Food Pantry depends, in turn, on the grace and generosity of our congregation and all those who feel called to this service. Every donation, whether food, supplies, a check, or otherwise provides incredible aid to our neighbors. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to either Nancy Titus or Shari Juranic.

- Submitted by Liam Peterson

To Kerry Peterson, daughter of Paul and Kate Peterson, and Roger Staples who were married on October 13th.

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Cemetery Price Increase

In 2005, the Consistory approved a policy of reviewing and adjusting the price for the sale of grave sites for the St. John’s Reformed Church Cemetery every five years.

The current prices are $750 for a full grave site and $450 for a half (cremation) site. At the request of the cemetery committee, after reviewing current prices for area cemeteries, the Consistory has approved a price increase to $900 for a full site and $550 for a half site to take effect January 1, 2020. This increase reflects an average of current area prices.

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Jackie Fenaroli for printing and folding the bulletin, stocking and keeping track of the Food Pantry while Shari was on vacation;
Liam Peterson for volunteering in the Food Pantry on Thursdays and taking extra Wednesday duty!
The ladies of the reception committee for all their work on the reception for Charlotte Bathrick’s funeral.
Alexia Doyle for the beautiful handmade mittens for the Food Pantry clients, they went fast!
Glenn Countryman for putting together the vacuum cleaner and stacking and moving tables, putting away the supplies, and for always being so willing to do whatever is asked of him!
Mary Bayer for being the Vanna White of St. John’s and taking care of the road sign.

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Please sign up in the fellowship hall if you can greet on a particular Sunday in September. No extraordinary skills needed. The work entails a warm greeting and handing out the bulletins. No age limits!

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THANK YOU

My husband Ben and I would like to thank you for your continued prayers and cards during his fight with pancreatic cancer. His last two CT scans have been clean and clear and his last chemotherapy was August 15. We are so grateful to have such good news. Praise God for Ben’s healing and for your faithfulness.

Desiree Albizu

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Dear St. John’s members, Pastor Eric and Nancy Titus,

I want to thank everyone who came to see me at Northern Dutchess Hospital and at rehab. Also for all the cards, prayers and gifts you gave me. I went home from rehab September 24. I’m doing good so far.

Thanks again,

Love,
Nancy Castillo

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Dear Friends of St. John’s,

Our family deeply appreciates the many visits, cards, and expressions of sympathy extended to us upon the passing of Nancy Jozefowicz. We especially are grateful to Pastor Eric for his uplifting visits and comforting
prayers during the days in hospice and through the funeral service and burial. His caring encouragement strengthened us.

We also are thankful to the dedication and support shown to Nancy by the Shepherds Ministry and other church friends during the 3 1/2 years that she resided at Thompson House. Nancy cherished the relationships and memories from St. John’s and your kindness blessed her. Through the frequent visits and cards, you served as the hands and feet of our Lord.

Thank you and God bless you.

The Jozefowicz Family

St. John’s Reformed Church

Financial Report
September 2019

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Year To Date
January - September 2019

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MISSION OF THE MONTH

Thank you for your generous contributions to our Mission of the Month programs.

Mission of the Month for September was the CROP Walk; $135 was donated directly to St. John’s and then sent on to the organization.

“Did You Know?”

November is the Pinnacle of Our Financial Planning for 2020

Committees and staff have been preparing the 2020 budget through September and October. Finance and Consistory will make the final tweaks during the first week of November before the tentative budget is distributed Monday 11/11/19.

Here is what to look for, and here are the important dates to highlight on your calendar:

Monday 11/11
Your copy of the budget will be mailed (Postal Service) in an envelope containing 3 items:

- Copy of the 2020 Budget
- Informational letter
- 2020 Pledge Card

Look for it to arrive sometime during the week of 11/11 to 11/16.

**Sunday 11/17**
There will be an all-important “Congregational Question & Answer Meeting” following the worship service. This is when you show up with your budget copy (by then it should be wrinkled, highlighted, and have calculations & questions written all over it). Staff, consistory, and committee members will be present to represent all portions of the proposed budget; so the hope is that all questions can be addressed.

**Sunday 11/24**
There will be another (even-more-important) “Congregational Meeting” following the worship service. Two necessary tasks will be addressed:
- Affirmation vote on the budget
- Presentation of your completed 2020 Pledge Card

Please be sure to bring your pledge card to this meeting so we can present them as a congregation.

“Some days we get to slay dragons, but other days we need to sharpen swords”. This saying seems appropriate for our November budget and pledging events. It’s the time we sharpen our financial swords in preparation of the next year of ministry. Please make every effort to attend these meetings and be part of the planning for our ministries in 2020.

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Cooper Theodor Kane, son of Elizabeth and Bryan Kane, was baptized during worship on October 13.

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Deadline for the December Kerk is November 10.

Personal ads of no more than 3 lines will be accepted for $1 per issue. Business ads in the form of a business card to be photocopied will cost $5 per issue.

If you would like to receive the Kerk by e-mail (a little more reliably on time than the paper version being mailed to your home) e-mail the church and let us know; office@stjohnsreformed.org.

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Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Craft group would like to thank all of you who helped on our Fall Rummage Sale. It could not have been possible without all of those who volunteered setting up the tables, helping during the week sorting and stacking the donations as well as all those who came Saturday for cleanup. We also thank you for all your donations. We were able to raise $1300 from this Rummage Sale to go towards the General Fund. Our Rummage Sale not only helps our Church and its members, but also helps our community and the leftovers went to the Salvation Army Adult Rehab Association, the SPCA and the books were also donated; so the giving keeps going beyond St. John’s. It’s amazing what we can do, when we all work together to accomplish it.

However, there is a strong possibility that this may be our last Rummage Sale. Most of the Arts and Crafts Group are getting older and physically struggling to do this type of work two times a year. We need to get a strong commitment from younger, stronger people who will be able to help (not just the setting up or cleanup, but for the whole week) or we may be forced to end these events. So please think and do help! Please let us know what help we can count on and we can determine now what/or if to enter time for 2020’s calendar.

The Christmas Bazaar is coming up soon, Saturday, November 23, and we are asking for donated gently used or new Christmas decorations, ornaments, or seasonal items that we can sell. We are also thinking of selling gift baskets with several different themes: like a coffee/tea, pet, family TV night, family game night, health and beauty, etc. Any thoughts on this project will be very helpful. We will make a list in the fellowship hall of some items, so if you could help with an item or two it would be helpful.

Lastly, we are thinking of doing a “wrap” night in December in which you bring your items. If you have extra boxes, paper, ribbon, etc bring it and we'll have some as well. You wrap yourself or we can help you, too. Get a babysitter so you can wrap without little or big eyes watching. Some of us even like to wrap if you don't. We could have some light refreshments, some music playing and have some fun. We could do this like on a donation type basis. We’d like your feedback on this, if you folks would be interested to see about pursuing this more. So please reach out to us.

Thanks.
Respectfully submitted JoAnn Fisher, Arts and Crafts Group.

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To the family and friends of long time member Charlotte Bathrick who died October 9.

With Sympathy
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & LUNCH WITH SANTA

November 23
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Santa comes for lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St John’s Reformed Church
126 Old Post Road North, Upper Red Hook

Featuring Sunday School Used Toy Sale, Scudder Circle Jewelry Sale, Arts & Crafts Christmas items for sale, Paper Stars, Wreaths, & Note cards by Elizabeth Kenny, Scarves and Hats by Linda Frankle and more! Food available to purchase from 9 a.m. on. Kid-friendly foods, too.
Surviving Good-Byes

Most of us have lived with many good-byes in our lives. I remember when I was eighteen years old and was living at home with my parents. I started a job and the company decided to move to Dallas, Texas. I decided to leave my home, family, and friends to pursue this new adventure. It wasn’t easy to say good-bye to everyone but I knew I would be able to come home for vacation. I stayed in Texas for about a year and a half. I would come home on my vacation to see my family and friends. My mom and grandmother came to visit me too. My husband Ronald who I married and have been married to for over forty years drove to Texas back in 1978 to bring me back home to live. I wanted to come back but I wasn’t sure about the job situation. I made new friends while in Texas but I had to then say good-bye to them. I did get a job after a month and was employed at this particular job for about twenty five years.

On another note those we love leave us and it is not easy. My parents have been gone for over twenty years. Through all of this, we must learn to hold on very loosely to the things of this life. We entrust them to the One who loves them even more. We can trust Him to restore joy and redeem pain. Good-byes are rarely happy and often are painful. If God calls us to a good-bye, He can bring good from it. If it’s painful, we can trust that He will use it for His glory. We will hurt and we will grieve but at the end of the day, He will heal.

We are still continuing to pray for the many committees of the church each month and for those who need our prayers.

Eileen Zeliph- Shepherd Coordinator
Shepherds Ministry serving St. Johns Reformed Church
Church Calendar
Shari Juranic, Administrator
Mon, Wed, Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thurs. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Michele Zagorski, Financial Consultant
Thurs. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Worship
Sundays at 10 a.m.

Children’s Ministry Program
Sundays at 10 a.m.

Coffee Hour
Sundays at 11 a.m.

Counters
Mondays at 9 a.m. in the office

Food Pantry
Mon. Wed. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Thurs. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Living Resources
Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m and 3:30 to 4 p.m. in room 4
Cooking class: Mondays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the assembly hall

Senior Exercise
Tues. and Thurs. 9 to 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall

Bible Study
Every Tues. 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall

EVENTS

Men’s Breakfast
Sat. Nov. 2, 8 a.m.

Daylight Savings time ends
Sun. Nov. 3

St. John’s Concerts: Liam Peterson, trumpet
Sun. Nov. 3, 4 p.m.

Finance Committee meeting
Mon. Nov. 4, 7 p.m. in room 3

Election Day
Tues. Nov. 5, 6 a.m. - 9 p.m in the fellowship hall

Scudder Circle meeting
Thurs. Nov. 7, 1 p.m.
Special Consistory meeting - budget
Sun. Nov. 10, 11:15 a.m.

Sunday School Bake Sale
Sun. Nov. 10, 11:15 a.m.

Property Committee meeting
Tues. Nov. 12, 7 p.m. in room 4

Old Dutch Village Garden Club meeting
Thurs. Nov. 14, 12:30 p.m.

Budget Questions and Answers
Sun. Nov. 17, 11:15 a.m.

Book Lovers’ Club
Mon. Nov. 18, 11:15 a.m. in room 3
* A Month in the Country * by J. L. Carr

Elders’ meeting
Thurs. Nov 21, 7 p.m. in room 3

Consistory meeting
Thurs. Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Red Hook Area Council of Churches Thanksgiving Service
Tues. Nov. 26, 7 p.m. at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Red Hook