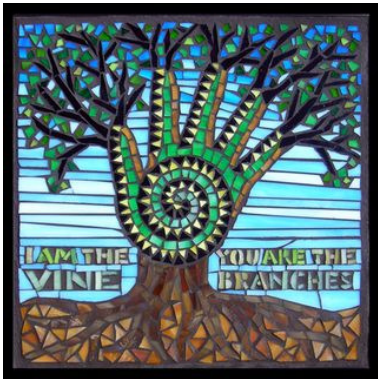


# Old Dutch Church Steeple Chimes

May 2018

## From Pastor Renee's Study....

It happens pretty much every Sunday. Several guys who live at Chiz's Heart Street—a boarding house near the Church for neighbors who have very little money—join us for food and fellowship following morning worship. Some come nearly every week and we know each other's names. This past Sunday, Dennis and Raphael came for the first time.



As it always is on Sundays after worship, Bethany Hall was alive with adults eating and talking, and children running around. There were lovely sandwiches and fresh fruits spread out on the serving tables. But this past Sunday was different. In the middle of worship, the whole congregation had moved from the Sanctuary into the Hall to sit at tables for conversation about Scripture and to share the Lord's Supper.

The text we talked about was from John 15 where Jesus says: "I am the true vine, and you all are the branches." The metaphor of vine and branches proclaims Jesus as the tap root of our lives. Through the Spirit he lives and abides in us, and through our "abiding back" in him, we are connected to the source of life, and to one another. Thus joined, we produce the fruits of divine love—unconditional, embracing, enduring, restoring love.

When Dennis and Raphael came into Bethany Hall, they didn't go to the table for egg salad sandwiches and pineapple. They came to the table where the Lord's Supper was set. Dennis came first and sat down beside me. He received the bread and took the cup making the sign of the cross on his body while he ate and drank. Then he said, "I hope that Jesus comes again soon because there is so much suffering in the world. So much fighting, so many people in trouble."



Raphael was more tentative. I invited him to sit and asked if he wanted to receive the Supper. Quietly he said "yes." So I began: "On the night that Jesus was betrayed by his friends, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to the ones who would betray him...." Raphael ate and drank. When he finished he said, "I feel sad now." Then he told the story of his own life, of being betrayed and rejected by family members and friends. We prayed for healing, for reconciliation and restoration of relationships. I blessed him and invited

him to come again and be with us.

Jesus says: "I am the true vine and you all are the branches." And this past Sunday, the metaphor became a living reality before our eyes as we talked at table, and shared the Supper, and ate little sandwiches, and welcomed two new neighbors into the fellowship of Jesus. Together we are branches on the vitalizing Vine who abides in us forever. We are a wide open vineyard where divine love gathers, nourishes, and grows the fruits of love. Thanks be to God.

## **Our Musician—Bethany Pietroniro**

Late last summer, Bethany became our Church musician, playing for weekly worship and other special services, accompanying the choir and musical ensembles, and performing



in our Concert Series. A member of the Music Department staff at Bard College and an exquisite pianist, Bethany has also learned to play organ over the past year. She has blessed us immensely with her musical gifts and her beautiful, gentle, humble spirit. With joy for her, and some sadness for us, we announce that Bethany will be leaving us this summer to pursue Ph.D. studies in collaborative music at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. On Sunday, July 29, we will express our thanks and say “farewell” to Bethany as she moves into this new adventure. Thankfully, Bethany will stay connected to the Old Dutch community and return as our

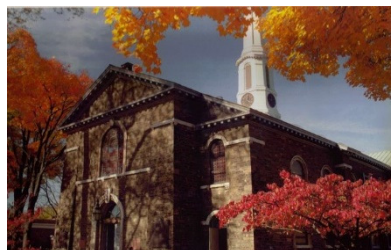
guest pianist as her studies allow. We give thanks to God for gifting and bringing Bethany into our life, and thanks to her for all she has given us. We wish Bethany joy and peace as she journeys on.

## **Meet Our New Organist—Russel Oliver**

“God moves in a mysterious way God’s wonders to perform.” This line from a William Cowper hymn describes our experience at the Old Dutch Church. Time and again in the past five years God’s Spirit has brought new musicians to us, in mysterious ways. And now it has happened again. Russel Oliver, a local pastry chef and cheese maker, is part of a team of folk who have been using our kitchen to make meat pastries to sell at the Farmer’s Market. Russel is also an organist with over 50 years of experience as a church musician and choir director in multiple church settings in New Jersey, New York City, and the Hudson Valley. He began playing piano at age 6 and organ at the age of 14. As a young adult, Russel studied organ and voice at Westminster Choir College and, in the years following, studied with several private teachers.

Sometime early this past Spring, while making pastries in the Church kitchen, Russel offered to play organ for us from time to time, and we accepted his offer for Palm Sunday and Easter. When Bethany announced she would be moving to Boston for Ph.D. study, he expressed interest in becoming our Organist, and Consistory said “yes.” Beginning in September, Russel will become our regular Organist, with some guest organ-playing between now and then!

## Roof Project & Steeple Clean-Up



For well over a year, you have been hearing about the Old Dutch Church “Roof Project.” This month the Project will finally begin! Scaffolding will go up in the next couple of weeks, then crews will arrive to replace our huge copper roof, install the slate roof on Bethany Hall, and make extensive repairs to cornices and the steeple tower. The work is scheduled to be concluded by October, 2018.

In recent weeks, staff sexton Geoff Parker and volunteer “sexton” Chester Van Wagenen undertook the task of cleaning out the steeple where tons (literally!) of pigeon droppings had accumulated over the years. Screens will be installed on the inside of the steeple tower so that pigeons and other birds will no longer have access to this open “restroom.” Our thanks to Geoff and Chester for cheerfully completing this dirty work.

Original cost projections for this extensive preservation Project were at \$550,000.00. As we have worked out the details with the contractor, we have determined that costs will likely be closer to \$650,000.00. We have received a \$400,000.00 historic preservation grant from the state of New York and have accumulated close to \$200,000.00 from existing Church funds, special grants, and individual donations. So, fund-raising continues. We are applying for additional grants from several sources and soliciting additional individual contributions. We will hold a fund-raising dinner this summer, and host a benefit concert in the fall. Plan to participate!

Special thanks to Rob Sweeney, Preaching Elder and Minister for Property Stewardship, whose shepherding of the Roof Project has brought us to this point, and whose labors will continue as the Project proceeds.

## Reconciliation with Our Native American Brothers and Sisters



On August 1, 2013, at an event commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Two Row Wampum Treaty—the first Treaty between 1<sup>st</sup> Nations People and European settlers—the Old Dutch Church was given a condolence pipe by representatives of the Five Nations of the Iroquois, also known as Haudenosaunee.

Representatives of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Dutch government were the creators and signers of this first Treaty. The Treaty was enacted as a covenant to live together in equality, friendship, mutual respect for each other’s values and ways of life, and in peace “for as long as the sun shines, as long as the waters flow downhill, and as long as the grass grows green.” The condolence pipe was given and received by the

Old Dutch Church in recognition that the early Dutch settlers, our ancestors, had not lived up to the vision and commitments of the Two Row Wampum Treaty, creating a legacy of brokenness and grief in our relationship with our Native American brothers and sisters

On that day in August, 2013, the leaders of the Old Dutch Church committed to a process of reconciliation with 1<sup>st</sup> Nations people living in the Hudson Valley. Over the next three years we met regularly with the Association of Native Americans in the Hudson Valley (ANA), sharing meals, telling the truth of our shared history, seeking reconciliation, and committing to serve the good of our communities and of this good earth together. In the course of these conversations, our Native American brothers and sisters offered their forgiveness. In November, 2016, at our shared Native American Thanksgiving Celebration, we awakened and smoked that condolence pipe together. Based on our journey of truth-telling and reconciliation the Consistory adopted this **“Statement of Apology and Reconciliation”** on March 18, 2018:

*On behalf of and with our Dutch ancestors, we the Consistory of the Old Dutch Church acknowledge that we failed to live up to the promises made to 1<sup>st</sup> Nation peoples in the Two Row Wampum Treaty. We acknowledge, confess, and lament that we took life; took land; failed to live in equality, friendship, and peace; and failed to honor and respect the values, spirituality and way of life of our Native American neighbors. We misunderstood, dehumanized, and exploited these brothers and sisters who welcomed us to their homeland. Over time we imposed our own values, religion, language, culture and way of life, making these the dominant and controlling forces in which we would live our common life.*

*We are truly sorry for these actions—both intentional and unintentional—and we apologize for the loss, suffering, and grief they brought upon our 1<sup>st</sup> Nation sisters and brothers. To those from the Association of Native Americans of the Hudson Valley who have shared this journey toward reconciliation and renewed commitment, we humbly express our deep gratitude for your willingness to eat, talk, teach, listen, sing, give thanks, and dance together, and, for your gracious forgiveness. We commit ourselves to labor with you to fulfill the vision of the 1613 Two Row Wampum Treaty—to live in a relationship of equality and respect that honors your wisdom, culture, spirituality, and way of life, and honors the Creator of all that is. We pledge ourselves to row with you down the river of life, seeking the welfare of all people, all creatures, and our precious Mother Earth “for as long as the sun shines, as long as the waters flow downhill, and as long as the grass grows green.”*

## **Reconciling with Mother Earth Event**

Our next step in partnership with the Association of Native Americans of the Hudson Valley and the Neetop—Keetop organization is to focus our energy on “Reconciling With Mother Earth.” For the sake of creation and the sake of our own lives, we must change some of the ways we live.

Our first event will be **Friday, May 18, 2018, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.** We will begin with Supper, followed by a presentation by Hank Dorochoovich of the “Climate Reality Project,” which was begun by former Vice President Al Gore. We will also begin to explore how Native American and Judeo-Christian spiritualities understand the relationship between human beings and the rest of creation. And of course, there will be drumming and dancing too. The event will be held at the Old Dutch Church. It is free and open to everyone! Please join us as we begin this important initiative.

## **Healing Ancestral Trauma**

Etaoqua, a M’hicinu grandmother of the Tunxis Nation, a healer, and a friend through the Church’s process of reconciliation with Native Americans, will offer four gatherings for the healing of ancestral trauma.

Dates: Wednesdays: May 16, 30; June 6, 20, 2018

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Place: Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St, Kingston, NY, 12401

Etaoqua writes: “Many of us carry ancestral trauma manifesting as behavioral patterns from one generation to another. This frequently shows up as depression but can be expressed as any not so good habits or behaviors, such as addictions, excesses, family black sheep, anger, anti-social behavioral patterns, avoidances, hereditary diseases, etc. We recognize it as ancestral when we can see it among various family members in multiple generations. The time to heal this is now.

To heal this grief requires recognition that it is there, acceptance that it is not unique to the individual but is shared by others (this is healing in itself), looking at the instances and commonalities of its expression in our life, accepting the situation(s), and then forgiving and letting it go. This can be done all at once but frequently is easier to do in smaller bites. Healing Ancestral Grief is a process which may take a short time for some and longer for others.”

The format for the gatherings will be: offering thanks; a 30 minute explanation of what we’re doing; a 15 minute relaxation; 30 minutes sharing in pairs; and, then releasing in a closing ceremony. The gatherings are free. All are welcome.

*Any questions and for more information: email [etaoqua@juno.com](mailto:etaoqua@juno.com)*

## **PRAYER CORNER**

**Hospitalized** - **Austen Hearn** (Kim Hearn's nephew), **Ah Tua Teo** (Deirdre Ourso), **Giada Pettengill**

(toddler with cancer), **Mirni Pangaribuan** (Dewi's sister-in-law, awaiting surgery for ovarian cancer; Penang, Malaysia), **Chuck Oliver** (Barbara Oliver's brother, recently diagnosed with pancreatic and lung cancers), **Janet Every** (Lois' daughter for rehab following surgery for a compound ankle fracture; in Idaho)

**Nursing Homes/Assisted Living** - **Mary Markle, Audrey Hornbeck, Edna Atkins, Dorothea Clearwater, Harry Anderson, Maida Blankschen, Donald Bell, Sally Every, Barry Mitchell** (rehab after hip surgery)

**At Home** – **Theron Haskins, Carol Werner, Galen Kelly, Joel Brink, Ed Ford, Howard Hopkins, Sylvia Van Etten, Milczarzyk Family-Dee, Annie, Mary Anne, Anthony; Tom Pape, Marion Ostrander, Liam Lezniak** (Matt Hall), **Hannah Little, Gregory David Little, Lynda Thaisz** (Pat Allen), **Ellen Fine** (Deirdre Ourso), **Jessica** (Deirdre Ourso's sister), **Solon De Usoz** (Deirdre Ourso's nephew), **Jennifer Potter** (Karen Van Kleeck's sister), **Michael Fisher** (Gene Hall), **Peter Rosier** (son of Henk & Barbara), **Paul Vinett** (Pat Hall), **Tory Lowe** (friend of Jane Hansell), **Scott DiMicco, Fred Hitchens** (Heather Hitchens' father), **Mark Halwick, Thelma Lucas** (Betty Williams), **Frankie Knowles** (age 6, with inoperable brain tumor; requested by Betsy Arlantino), **Michele** (Dewi Pangaribuan's niece, following surgery for a broken hand), **Pat Peck** (Anne Ingalsbe), **Elizabeth Gordineer & children, Donald Gordineer, Somer & Courtney Adams** (daughters of the recently deceased Geoffrey Adams), **Evan Warzala** (prayer card request), **Carol Campbell** (Jean Campbell's sister), **Liane Potter** (by Pat Hall; scheduled for surgery this week), **Danny Smith** (Dan's son, following brain surgery), **Julia Ramsay**  
*(Names will remain on our At Home Prayer List for one month, unless otherwise requested)*

**Missionaries** - **Rev. Aaro Rytkonen/Al Amana Center** (Oman), **Josh & Erica Bode** (preparing for Oman), **Jim & Beth Harrison** (Bahrain)

**Military Service** - **James Bonestell** (son of Ken & Rebecca Rosier)

**Incarcerated** - **Herbert (Junior) Hill, Jeremiah**

**Our prayers and sympathy** go to Ron Rifenburg and their family and friends on the death of Shirley Rifenburg in late March. A service was held at Keyser-Carr Funeral Home on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Our prayers and sympathy** go to the family and friends of Geoffrey Adams on his passing last month, especially his daughters, Somer & Courtney, and close friend, Natalie Hopson.

**Our prayers and sympathy** go to the family and friends of Ann Kirkpatrick on her passing earlier this year. The time of visitation and memorial service were held in our Sanctuary on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**We were saddened** to learn of the death of Regina Nichols, daughter of Edna Atkins, in mid-April. Reggi, who is also survived by her husband George, son Patrick, and brother Bob, was a patient at the Trauma Center at the time of her death. Our prayers & sympathy go to her family and friends.

**Congratulations** to Pastor Richard & Pastor Renee on the birth of a grandson, Leo Alexander, on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Proud parents are Pastor Richard's son & daughter-in-law, Jordan & Patty Ruch.

**Receiving Baptism** on April 15<sup>th</sup> was Peter Brody Ferraro, son of Aubree & Art Ferraro and younger brother of Everly.

**Church Life Committee of Classis** requests prayer this month for: RCA Retired Clergy, 5/6; Mid-Hudson seminary students, 5/13; Plattekill Reformed Church, 5/20; the Classis of Mid-Hudson, 5/27.

### **Upcoming Spring Fine Arts Recitals**

May 3           Andrea Shaut - Piano  
May 10          Peter & Pauline Mancuso - Piano & Flute  
May 17          Iouri Grichetchkine - Organ & Piano  
May 24          Garfield Moore - Cello  
May 31          Adelaide Roberts & Marie Duane - Piano & Narration - "The Nutcracker"

**Below** is the final course being offered by the School for Christian Living & Serving this Spring. Contact the church office for a registration form, if you're interested.

**The Spiritual Disciplines** (General Interest)           Tuition: \$30, includes \$10 course booklet  
Instructor: Skip Doyle  
Date: Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.    Location: FDR Visitor Center, Hyde Park

**Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> is our next collection** to gather food donations for local food pantries. Some items most requested are protein foods - canned meats, chicken, tuna, sardines, stews, Spam, peanut/almond butters, beans, Progresso soups; kids' lunch box items - granola bars, juice boxes; pasta, spaghetti sauce, mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, vegetable oil. Help us fill the basket in Bethany Hall!

**The Shepherd's Singers** will present a Gospel Concert at St. James Methodist Church, 29 Pearl Street, at 4 pm on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The free-will offering will benefit Caring Hands Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry. Contact Jeremy Mills, 331-7188, for information.

**Mendelssohn Club**, with guest artists the KHS Choir Ensemble, will present their Spring Concert in our Sanctuary on Saturday evening, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm. Tickets at the door are \$10.

**Christmas Wishes Ulster County** will hold a Penny Social in Bethany Hall on Saturday, May 5. Doors will open at 3 pm.

**A National Day of Prayer** observance will be held from 12 noon to 2 pm in Academy Green Park on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. You are invited to attend to pray for our city, our country, our world.

**New Progressive Baptist Church**, 8 Hone Street, will host a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 - 11 a.m. Call the church at 339-0773 to RSVP.

**Walk for Life**, sponsored by the Pregnancy Support Center of Ulster County, will take place at Dietz Stadium, Kingston, on Saturday, June 9, 9am to noon. Contact the center at 340-7355 for info.

**Dee Milczarzyk** will hold Derek's Journey Penny Social in Bethany Hall on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, to raise funds to help repay the burial expense of her nephew following his unexpected death in North Carolina recently. If you have anything you would like to donate, please speak to Dee.