

MAY 1, 2022

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD
DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING LOVE

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Interview with . . . Ann Serafin

Recently, I had the pleasure of sitting down with our most senior member, Ann Serafin. I asked her some questions about her amazing life in Freehold and the Reformed Church.

What year and where were you born? I was born on September 9, 1926 at Long Branch Hospital (now Monmouth Medical Center) in Long Branch, NJ.

Have you attended the Freehold Reformed Church your whole life? Sadly, my mother died when I was 5 years old; my sister, Helen was 3 years old and my sister, Betty Ray, was 1 week old. My mother's parents took us in and we came to this Church where they were members. We then lived with our grandparents on South Street in Freehold and our father, Ray Schanck, who had a good job working at the Sunshine Baking Company, would come and visit us often. The house that we lived in on South Street was my grandfather's grocery store, too. I've also sung Alto in the Church choir for many years.

And, you went through the Freehold Borough School system, correct? Yes, and I graduated from Freehold Borough High School when I was 18 years old. My Grandfather wanted us to have additional schooling and was willing to pay for it. I went to Rider College (now Rider University) in Lawrenceville, NJ for a 1 year Secretarial program. After that, I called my cousin who had a good job working in New York City at Chase National Bank and I was able to get a job there through him where I worked for a couple of years living in Jackson Heights, Queens, NY with an aunt.

When did you come back to Freehold? After several years working in NYC and living in Queens, I moved back to Freehold and met my husband, Stephen Serafin, a Freehold Borough Policeman, through a mutual friend. We were married at this Church on June 19, 1949 by Reverend Dr. Hook, whose picture is on the back wall in the Sanctuary. We lived in a home on Murray Street in Freehold that we rented paying \$60 per month until we bought the house I still reside in on Kiawah Avenue in 1950. Sadly, my husband, Steve, passed away in 1973; we were married 24 years.



Interview with . . . Ann Serafin continued

How many children and grandchildren do you have? I have 2 sons. Raymond Schanck born May 22, 1952 and Robert Schanck born April 1, 1954. My husband Steve wanted both boys to have my maiden name, Schanck, as their middle name. I have 7 grandchildren: Raymond and his wife have 3 children and Robert and his wife have 4 children.

What was your career? I worked at the Freehold Intermediate School in the main office until 1989, for 28 years. It was a good job because, at that time, when the children had vacation days and the summers off from School, I did, too.

One last question: What are your interests? Like most of the folks who grew up in Freehold, I loved going to Manasquan Beach in the summers, sitting in my beach chair and reading a book! I always have loved to decorate for all the holidays, and enjoy having my yearly tree decorating party with ladies from Church. I also love to shop and travel, having been to Costa Rica with my son Bob and his family to their new home this past February.

~Submitted by Amy Craven

Community Arts Center of Freehold

From April 18-21, the Community Arts Center of Freehold hosted an arts camp for Freehold students. Joined by three new faculty artists, Ms. Kutner-Dance/Movement, Ms. Field-Art, and Ms. Schwartz- Music, the students were treated to a fantastic week of art immersion. From the sounds of What a Wonderful World, keyboards, and drumming to dance and earth day art projects, the Reformed Church of Freehold was buzzing with music and laughter. Students ages 4-12 gave a small demonstration to parents and community members/donors, followed by a pizza party. Stay tuned as plans are underway for the next exciting week of art camp and our new instrument lesson program.



Reformed Church of Freehold

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Pastor–David Groeneveld
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Secretary–Lauren Redmond
office@freeholdreformed.org
Treasurer–Jill Moore

CONSISTORY 2022

Lorraine Yoncak– V.P., alt. Classis Delegate
Bill Barth–Classis Delegate

Barb Lyon– Hospitality & Congregational Care
Helen McKenzie–Buildings & Grounds
Lee Ann Newland–Worship & Music
Wilfred Ojo– Human & Financial Resources

Bill Barth– Missions & Benevolences
Gabrielle Uchno–Fellowship
Sharon Sanicola–Education
Michael Polifka– Worship & Music

Odds and Ends

Communion Offering

On the first Sunday of the month we collect items for **Open Door**.

These items can be left in the church Narthex. Monetary gifts are accepted at any time and can be placed in the offering plate.

Please mark “Open Door” on your check or envelope.

Flowers

If you would like to have flowers given in honor or memory of a loved one or event, please sign up on the Flower Chart in the lobby.

The cost is \$20. Please make checks payable to: “Reformed Church of Freehold” and write “flowers” in the memo.

Secretary’s Hours

Our secretary is in the office from 8:15 AM –11:45 AM on Thursdays. Hours are subject to change as needed. As always, please feel free to contact Lauren at the office ahead of time to arrange to come in. Her cell number is 732-766-5147.

RCW Yard Sale



The Reformed Church Women Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 14, from 8 AM—1 PM. Any donations made between now and the event may be placed in the Narthex of the church. If you can help on this day or any day of the week prior to help move items, please contact Lorraine Yoncak, all help is appreciated. If anyone would like to donate any baked goods and help to sell those items that would also be fantastic (please remember to individually wrap those items for sale).

Birthdays and Anniversaries

MAY

1 Paul Yoncak
6 Casey Moore
7 John Carrig
7 Connie Carrig
16 Eric Tiedemann
17 Candi Weinberg
21 Tom Moore
24 The Polifka’s
23 Sharon Sanicola
24 Aidan Seifert
27 Hunter Tiedemann
28 The Bateman’s

JUNE

10 Donna Jacobus
13 Glenn Jacobus
14 Lori Starsinic
16 Addison Seifert
26 Joshua Weinberg



Sabbath rest is essential. It is built into the story of creation, with God resting on the seventh day. The ten commandments require sabbath rest. Leviticus even requires sabbath rest for the land. After six years of planting, “the land is to have a year of rest.”

There are many advantages to observing sabbath. Sabbath offers one day on which the community stands on equal ground regardless of social position everyone was free of labor on the sabbath, including slaves. Sabbath provides a break from routine, expectations, productivity, competition, consumerism, and being in control. When we order our lives around our relationship with God, God's presence permeates our week. Parker Palmer, noted preacher, writes that Sabbath “is never a selfish act—it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I was put on earth to offer others, [self].”

Recognizing the value of sabbath and observing the challenges faced by everyone over the past two years, The Reformed Church in America, sought and found a way to provide a time of Sabbath renewal for pastors. Through the Lilly Endowment grants have been secured that “will allow pastors to take paid leave ... and to follow through with a revitalization plan of their choice.”

With consistory support I applied for and received one of these grants. I am grateful to consistory for approving my application. I will be away May 9-25, staying on Cape Cod and participating in two online revitalization courses along with a routine for reading, reflection, and renewal. Thank you for your support. I look forward to returning with renewed energy. Pastor Hartmut Kramer-Mills will be on call for pastoral needs. Commissioned Pastor Debi Jensen will preach on May 15 and May 22nd worship will be led by church members.

Peace,
Pastor David

Education Building Rental

In the last newsletter I mentioned a possible new tenant for the rooms previously occupied by Sunshine Schoolhouse. Since listing the rooms with an agency we have had three inquiries about their rental. We are currently in discussion with CALM Ministry, a private education association that will be working with parents, providing home school education to their children.

The intention is for CALM Ministry to prepare the classrooms during the month of May and to begin their program in June.

PAGE 4 The CALM Ministry directors are Teresa Marcello and Carmela Brosnan. Please welcome them. We look forward to this new partnership.

May Mission of the Month- Freehold EMS

The mission of the month for May, 2022 is Freehold EMS (Emergency Medical Services), formerly known as The Freehold First Aid & Emergency Squad. Now comprised of over 140 active volunteer members, it is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization headquartered, since 1947, at 18 Spring Street, Freehold, NJ 07728. Founded in 1941, they have been providing pre-hospital care to the residents of Freehold Boro and Freehold Township since 1971. The squad was formed on Labor Day, 1941 by a group of employees at the A&M Karagheusian rug mill on Jackson Street that the company had designated in 1939 to handle emergencies involving plant employees. It remains an all volunteer group that depends on donations to fund its operations. The squad began its service with a 1933 Cadillac LaSalle ambulance which it purchased for \$450, supplemented a few months later by a 1928 ambulance donated by the Van Sant Funeral Home. The squad now has a substation, located near the Freehold Township municipal building, off Stillwells Corner Road.

Donations can be made to our May Mission project by using your "mission" envelope, TITHE.LY online account, or sending it to the church office. Thank you for your support!

Fellowship

On Easter, we were grateful for the beautiful sunny day and being able to continue the joyous celebration after worship with outdoor fellowship, although the gusty winds made it a little challenging at times. Thank you to all who helped with the clean up and chased down napkins, paper plates, cotton balls and chairs!

Outdoor fellowship with light refreshments is also planned on Mother's Day, May 8th and on Sunday, June 5th after worship on the church lawn. Light refreshments will be provided. However, if anyone misses baking for our coffee hour, we would be happy to serve anything you would like to share as well. If you are interested, please email the office or use our sign up sheet in the lobby.

It was great to see those who made it out for our Turkey Swamp outing on Saturday, April 30. We enjoyed a group walk around the lake. The children also had fun investigating one dock and three playgrounds along the trail. We hope to do more outdoor activities in the future. Other ideas include canoeing and biking. Please let Gabrielle Uchno know if you have any other suggestions at guchno@verizon.net.

Lastly, a raised bed vegetable garden is being planned for the church property. We hope it will be ready for planting after worship on Sunday, May 29, Memorial Day Weekend. We will keep you updated on its progress. We hope this garden can be enjoyed by all church members. In addition, we also hope that we will be able to donate a portion of what we grow to Freehold Area Open Door this summer.

**THE REFORMED
CHURCH
OF FREEHOLD**

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Website:

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DEMONSTRATING GOD'S
RECONCILING LOVE

Dates to Remember

MAY

- 1 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
- 8 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
Mother's Day, Fellowship Hour
- 10 Tuesday Consistory Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 15 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
- 22 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
- 29 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
Raised Bed Planting

JUNE

- 5 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
Fellowship Hour
- 12 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
- 14 Tuesday Consistory Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 19 Sunday Easter Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
- 26 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School