

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 189

**Mission Statement:** As disciples of Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to join together to worship God, to study his Word, and use our gifts to extend God's grace and love to others.

December 2017

## What's Inside:

Interim Pastor's Page  
Church Review  
Calendar of Events  
Children's Fun Page  
Birthdays-Anniversaries



**LRC - Church Service**  
**9:00 A.M.**

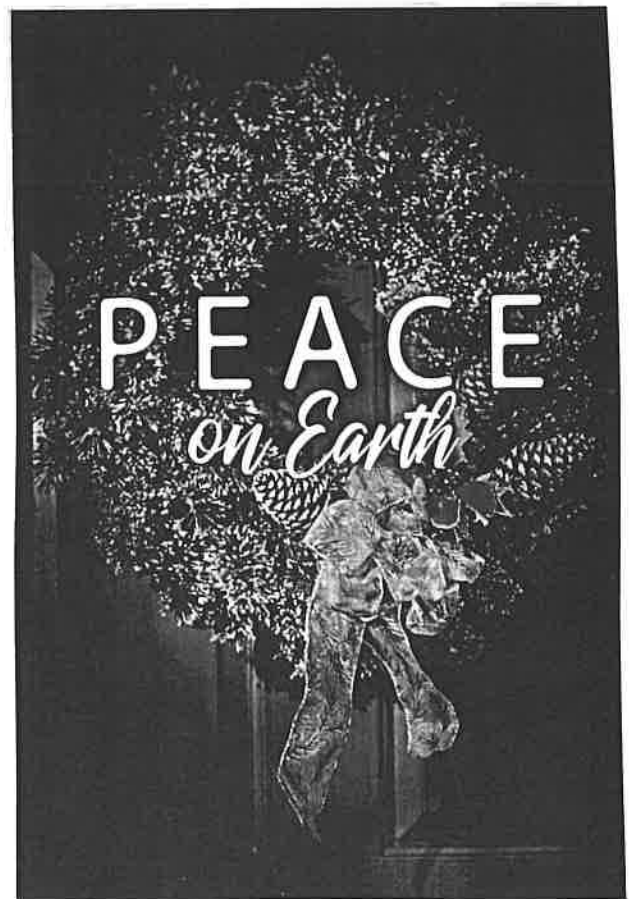
**SRC - Church Service**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**Sunday School**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**Rev. Paul Ferenczy**

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**DECEMBER 2017**



## Special dates

- First Sunday of Advent, *December 3, 2017*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 10, 2017*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 17, 2017*
- First Day of Winter, *December 21, 2017*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 24, 2017*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2017*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2017*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2017*

## **And So We Wait Again**

by the Interim Pastor

Have you ever had to wait for something? For example you make a phone call to a place where you purchased something and it hasn't arrived yet. So, you call them on the phone. "Would you please hold," says the voice on the other end. Now you are not only waiting for your merchandise to arrive, you are also waiting for someone to get on the phone and tell you why. It's all getting a little frustrating, to say the least. Or have you ever had to wait in line for something such as tickets, or boarding a airplane, or waiting for a store to open, or getting served at the local Deli? How about waiting for the nurse to call you in to the Doctor's office? There's an experience loaded with emotions of all kinds. Or what about that call you were promised by a loved one who said: "Ill call you just as soon as I get there and you'll know I made it safely?" And you wait and wait for the promise to be fulfilled.

Waiting can be quite an ordeal of mixed emotions for a wide variety of reasons and even more so when you know that at the end of the waiting time, something wonderful, healing, comforting, or spectacular will happen. Imaging what it must have been like for God's people to be waiting for the "long-expected Messiah" as one old hymn puts it. Of course we know that when it did finally come to be, he was not what was expected at all. Most people were waiting for a conquering King who would right the wrongs and bring justice to the land. He would be the one to vindicate us.

Well in his usual way, God fulfilled all the expectations that were had for the Messiah, except he did it in His own way. The new Messiah would rescue us from the worst possible affliction that faces all people, that is, the consequences of sin, which is death of the soul. Jesus would bring us life abundant and eternal. He would establish a new kingdom in which righteousness and justice would have a way to enter the hearts of all, if they so desired. But now we are waiting again. That's why the church makes such a big "to do" out of Advent. We are waiting for the return of the Messiah who will fulfill God's promises even beyond our wildest expectations. And so we wait remaining vigilant and prepared for His coming again.

If you want to know what we are supposed to be doing during this season of Advent, here it is! Prepare! Prepare your mind and heart to receive him. Get your affairs in order. Start living as if you are a citizen of His kingdom led by the values that Jesus taught us. Wait for Him. Watch for Him. Let others see in your way of life that you are not being led by the ways of the world, but that you are a follower of "The Way" that Jesus showed us. Advent is important. Don't let it become what it tends to become for many - nothing more than the final shopping days before Christmas. Advent is an adventure to which God is calling you.



Prayer Requests

Church

George Watts/new med Treatment  
 Kathy Venette/health issues  
 Tina Ward/foot surgery/recovery  
 Jean Wormuth/home bond  
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 Jan Liberti/new chemo treatments  
 Joe King/nursing home

Family/Loved Ones

Carol Coltran/set back/improving  
 Marcy Holmes/hernia surgery  
 Margaret Springstead/health issues  
 Linda Slater/cancer surgery  
 Nadine/acute care unit  
 Charlotte/cancer (Meta's friend)  
 Joe Garufi/4th surgery recovery  
 Hal Buddle/long term health issues  
 Nancy Wolfarth/health issues

Those homebound/in nursing homes:

Helen Holmes (LRC)  
 153 Hansen Rd.  
 Cherry Valley, NY 13320

Muriel Holmes (LRC)  
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 7 Timmerman Ave.  
 St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Josephine King (SRC)  
 c/o Edward Wilkinson Facility  
 4988 St. Hwy. 30  
 Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010

Richard Nirschl (SRC)  
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 7 Timmerman Ave.  
 St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Community

All Teachers and students  
 Family situations impacting students' performances in school  
**Children and parents relocate and adjust to new surroundings**  
 Grand-parents serving as guardians for their grandchildren  
 All families impacted by alcoholism and/or substance abuse  
 Increased heroin addiction in our county  
 All families and marriages in crisis  
 All children suffering from physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse  
 All God's children impacted by hunger and food insecurity  
 All soldiers (esp. those deployed) and their families  
 Farmers struggling with weather issues

Nation and World

**All those affected by all the hurricanes**  
 Crisis of refugees and migrants  
 Extremists' intolerance and violence  
 Persecuted Christians  
 The global economy  
 All unrest in God's world  
**Local, state national and world leaders**  
 Peacemaker groups

**Please let me know of any updates or additions so we can direct our prayers to them.**



**DECEMBER**

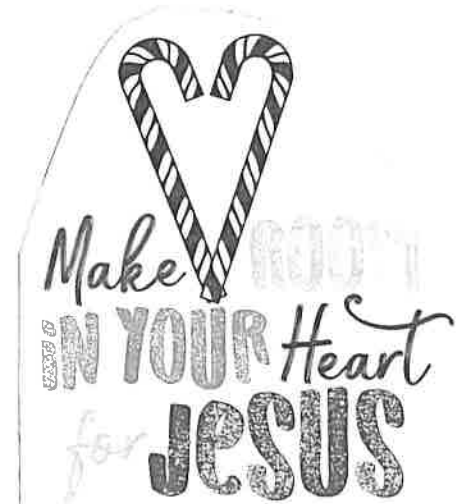
- 1 Jeffery Sperbeck**
- 4 Fran Putman**
- 9 Cheryl Mickel**
- 10 Kelly Sperbeck**
- 19 Jeremy Parsons**
- 19 John Stanton**

**DECEMBER**

**18 Jeremy & Kathy Parsons**



"At least they saved themselves a co-pay."



### **Food donations**

Thank you to all who contribute donations of Food for the Food Pantry, held at the Baptist Church. We know, due to the economy, that there is an increase in requests. Some who have donated in the past find themselves in need of help. Please continue to give as you are able. Thank you for participating in this ministry of care. First Sunday of each month.



Office Phone #: 234-2387  
Web Site: lrcandsrc.org



**Editor: Lola Fletcher, 756 Loonenbergh TPK., Sharon Springs, NY 13459.**  
Phone: 518-234-2283  
E-mail [lola756@wildblue.net](mailto:lola756@wildblue.net)  
**Deadline: December 27th** Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

## **MEMO BOARD**

### **December**

**2**

**LRC Christmas Bazaar – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Luncheon @ 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. - Homemade soups, sandwich, chips and drink - \$5.00**

**Help needed to set up on wed. @ thurs. and help at bazaar – Homemade cookies needed**

**3,10,17,24,31**

**LRC Worship Service @ 9:00 A.M.**

**SRC Sunday School @ 9:30 A.M.**

**SRC Worship Service @ 11:00 A.M.**

**24**

**Christmas Eve Service @ LRC @ 7:00 P.M.**

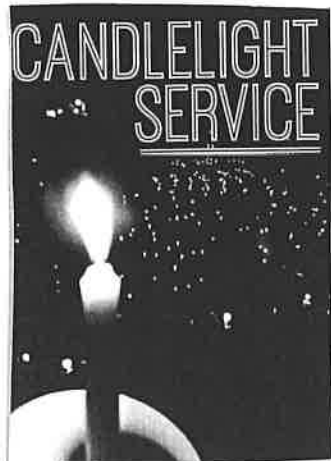
**All welcome to attend**

**Reminder: LRC—Anyone who wants offering envelopes for 2018 please speak to Chris or Lola. Thank You**

**Mondays – Fridays 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. morning exercise group. SRC Hall.**

**All welcome – easily modified movements to meet your specific needs.**

**Contact Laura with any questions – 518-705-0860**



7:00 P.M. @ LRC

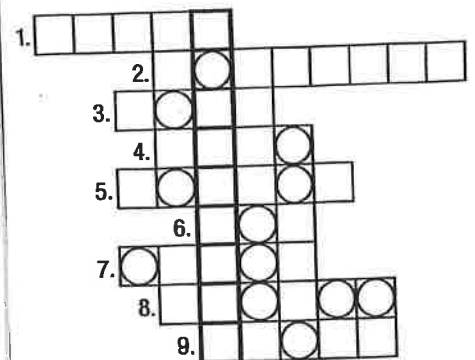
December 24<sup>th</sup>

No A.M. Service



# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

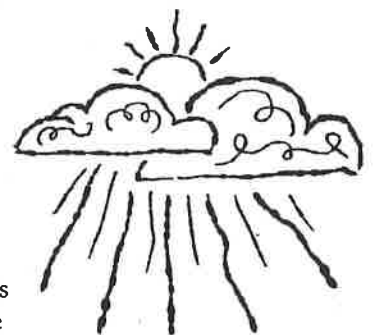
Bold word: \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

- "The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart."  
—Helen Keller
- "Jesus took his place in a manger so that we might have a home in heaven."  
—Greg Laurie
- "The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen."  
—G.K. Chesterton, by way of Father Brown
- "One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly."  
—Andy Rooney
- "Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us."  
—Hal Borland

## A holiness invasion

"Advent" means "coming," of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so — a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.



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## Everlasting joy

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In a *Chicken Soup for the Soul* sampler, Karen Asire tells of a particularly difficult Christmas after her husband left and began divorce proceedings. As Karen and her three young children set up their tree, she fought tears and secretly tucked aside certain ornaments, such as one announcing "Our First Christmas Together."

Several days later, a neighbor stopped by with a gold decoration proclaiming JOY. "We've hung this ornament on our tree for several years," she explained, "but this year we wanted you to have it." When Asire hung it on the tree and stepped back, "all the other ornaments seemed to fade into the background, and all [she] saw was the shimmering gold of the JOY ornament." She allowed herself to cry then, grateful for the reminder that amid grief and heartache, God's love shines.

Pain fades in time, while God's Christmas gift — Jesus — brings joy that lasts forever.

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## God with us

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God comes to us across this brief and wondering season, tracing the ways of pain and song. Sharing beyond all rhyme or reason, this long year's darkest days. 'Til we can face his radiant bearing in the stable place of peace.

—J. Barrie Shepherd

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## The giver

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Many Christian families struggle with what role — if any — Santa Claus should play in their Christmas celebrations. No matter what you decide, it's fascinating to know the history of the real-life St. Nicholas.

Born about 270 A.D., Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, or modern-day Turkey. In the year 325, he was part of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed.

Nicholas, known for his generosity, often gave away his money anonymously. According to tradition, he secretly provided dowries for the three daughters of a bankrupt merchant. Nicholas threw two bags of gold through open windows and placed the third in a stocking hanging by the fireplace to dry. Thus began the Christmas tradition of placing gifts in stockings.

St. Nicholas is quoted as saying, "The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."

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## Greatest worth

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He came a babe of lowly birth.  
He was God's Son of greatest worth.  
We, like the angels, sing with mirth  
because God sent his Son to earth  
to ransom us and claim our worth.  
Praise God this babe of lowly birth!

—MaryAnn Sundby

[image above: E SUS\_16580, E SUS\_16580C]

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## Christmas wonder

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I want to see into the heart of a thing ... I want the God-given way of seeing life, not to possess and to control, but to stand back in wonder and gratitude.

—Esther de Waal

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## The perfect gift

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Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday — or ours. Christmas is about the perfect *presence* of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends — the people who seem to have everything — and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you — your time, your talent and your treasure — used in service to others."

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## Our greatest need

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If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness and acceptance,  
so God sent us a Savior.

—Author unknown

**Lawyersville Reformed Church Directory**

1-Dec-17

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 421  
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Office: 518-234-2387  
web site: [www.lrcandsrc.org](http://www.lrcandsrc.org)

Physical address:  
139 Phillip Schuyler Rd.  
Cobleskill, NY 12043

NAME	NAME 2	PHONE #	ADDRESS 1	ADDRESS 2	CITY	STATE	ZIP	EMAIL	OTHER
Bagdovitz, John	Alexander	518-231-0800	204 Markley Rd.		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:john@finerimagephotography.com">john@finerimagephotography.com</a>	
Bates, Dan & Mary		518-234-7975	240 Crommie Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:danmarybates@gmail.com">danmarybates@gmail.com</a>	
Becker, Margaret		518-234-7230	5555 State Rt 10		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Bixby, Margaret		518-827-5821	190 Bixby Rd		Schoharie	NY	12157		
Boss, Lisa		518-361-7797	524 Hubb Shutts Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:lbsccdc@yahoo.com">lbsccdc@yahoo.com</a>	
Brown, Helen		518-823-4355	183 Barnerville Rd	Apt 211	Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Buddle, Bev		518-823-4465	183 Donates Bow		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:bebbes6ys19@gmail.com">bebbes6ys19@gmail.com</a>	
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Clegg, Antoinette		518-234-5866	112 Parkway Drive		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Cooper, Karl & Rena		518-234-1676	111 Woodland Dr	Apt 5	Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:kcooper14@nycap.rr.com">kcooper14@nycap.rr.com</a>	
Cosgrove, Gretchen		518-478-3585	4969 St, Hwy 145		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Empie, Lee		518-234-4508	183 Barnerville Rd	Apt 219	Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Empie III, Lee	Zachary	518-234-2529	PO Box 912		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Erikson, Mildred		518-234-7250	103 Fairview Dr	Apt 2	Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Fletcher, George & Lola		518-234-2283	756 Looneburgh Tpk.		Sharon Springs	NY	13459	<a href="mailto:lola756@worldblue.net">lola756@worldblue.net</a>	518-231-4429
Ferenczy, Paul & Jeanne		518-827-7884	120 Maple Ave		Middleburgh	NY	12122	<a href="mailto:therev@midtel.net">therev@midtel.net</a>	518-231-0950
Frisch, John & Cathy		518-294-6718	953 Beards Hollow Rd		Richmondville	NY	12149		
Graulich, Art & Ruth		518-284-2710	428 Schoolhouse Rd		Sharon Springs	NY	13459		
Hayes, Shane	Logan & Camden		107 Quarry St		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Hibbard, Christine		518-339-0695	637 Clove Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:readytoretire637@yahoo.com">readytoretire637@yahoo.com</a>	
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Holmes, Muriel	St. Johnsville NH	518-568-5037	7 Timmerman Ave		St Johnsville	NY	13452		
Holmes, Russell & Marcy		518-234-2498	377 Lawyersville Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Ivins, Martha		518-234-7564	4969 St, Hwy 145		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Keaney, James & Michelle	Meghan & Samantha	518-231-3274	763 Looneburgh Tpk		Sharon Springs	NY	13459		
Kemmer, Lois		518-234-2048	301 Hubb Shutts Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:kemmerloise55@gmail.com">kemmerloise55@gmail.com</a>	
Kloss, Sandra		518-623-3501	25 Oak Street		Warrensburg	NY	12885	<a href="mailto:sisk2@aol.com">sisk2@aol.com</a>	
Liberti, Jan	Margaret & Amanda	518-622-3511	1199 Hervey Sunside Rd		Cornwallville	NY	12418		
Makarowski, Melissa & William	Ryan & Ava Lynn	518-823-4411	153 Dow Street		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Mickel, Cheryl		518-234-2858	PO Box 114		Cobleskill	NY	12043		



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Palmer, Richard & Joan		518-817-6871	497 Fleetwood Lane		Franklin	IN	46131	<a href="mailto:palmer@aol.com">palmer@aol.com</a>	
Pitcher, Barbara		518-234-3423	5617 St Hwy 145		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Post, Bonnie		518-294-7241	273 West Richmondville Rd		Richmondville	NY	12149		
Prall, Mike & Julie		518-231-1612	1092 Thousand Acres Rd		Delanson	NY	12053		
Prezorski, Leonard & Lauren	Allison	518-234-4268	4953 State Rte 145		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:prezorski@nycap.rr.com">prezorski@nycap.rr.com</a>	919-745-9300
Putnam, Frances		518-234-3897	343 Grovenors Corners Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Ray, Claude & Vena		518-823-4251	PO Box 404		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:CRA9001@nycap.rr.com">CRA9001@nycap.rr.com</a>	
Rehl, Fred & Betsy		518-234-2631	108 Gale Drive		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:brehl@verizon.net">brehl@verizon.net</a>	
Russell, Carol		518-339-5204	1413 Ste Hwy 30		Esperance	NY	12066		
Seresky, John & Connie	Jim, Christopher, Emily	518-234-4108	453 Patrick Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Slater, June	C/O Sandra Kloss		25 Oak Street		Warrensburg	NY	12885	<a href="mailto:jslater616@nycap.rr.com">jslater616@nycap.rr.com</a>	
Smith, Rex & Kathy		518-234-3834	159 Elm Street		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Sperbeck, Kelly		518-294-7198	PO Box 29		Richmondville	NY	12149	<a href="mailto:ksperbeck@lamontengineers.com">ksperbeck@lamontengineers.com</a>	518-231-6853
Stanton, Barb & George		518-577-6758 (B)	139 Phillip Schuyler Road		Cobleskill	NY	12043		518-496-4346
Stanton, John & Debbie		518-234-3238	103 Lake Road		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:debrastanton@howardhanna.com">debrastanton@howardhanna.com</a>	518-573-2693
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Sutphen, Barbara			50 Byrsonima Loop West		Homosassa	FL	34446		
Tierney, Kathy		518-234-7305	746 Lawyersville Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Tryon, John & Bonnie		518-234-9130	682 Patrick Road		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Van Wagenen, Marilyn		518-234-4122	212 Phillip Schuyler Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
VanDeusen, Warren & Pat		518-234-7933	653 Lawyersville Rd		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Venette, Verne & Kathy		518-284-2864	5952 Ste Hwy 145		Sharon Springs	NY	13459	<a href="mailto:kvenette@yahoo.com">kvenette@yahoo.com</a>	
Ward, Tina	Nathaniel		4994 St Hwy 145		Cobleskill	NY	12043	<a href="mailto:tshuart@nycap.rr.com">tshuart@nycap.rr.com</a>	
Watts, George & Meta		518-254-0915	5458 St Hwy 145		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Wilder, Charlene		518-284-2444	160 Washington Street		Sharon Springs	NY	13459	<a href="mailto:somebody547@yahoo.com">somebody547@yahoo.com</a>	
Wormuth, Jean		518-234-2103	113 Lincoln Ave		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Wright, Lois		518-491-5006	5562 State Hwy 145		Cobleskill	NY	12043		
Wright, Lois			1735 Old Elm Street		Sarasota	FL	35234	winter Address	
Yournou, Joseph & Chrstine		518-827-5036	137 Warrior Way		Middleburgh	NY	12122		