

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 156

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.

October 2014

## What's Inside:

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



**LRC - Church Service**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**

**following worship**

**SRC - Church Service**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Rev. Pacia Vamvas**

**And the  
peace of God,  
which surpasses  
all understanding,  
will guard your  
hearts and your  
minds in  
Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:7, NRSV

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### Special dates

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- World Communion Sunday, *October 5, 2014*
- Columbus Day Observance, *October 13, 2014*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 26, 2014*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2014*

### pastor pacia's ponderings:

With the priority of pieces on the Website and P.O.D., pastor pacia's ponderings will return with the November Reformer. Blessings

An update on the Website: first, you are encouraged to take a look at it ([www.lrcandsrc.org](http://www.lrcandsrc.org)). If you do not have direct Internet access, ask someone else to give you a peek. It is leaps and bounds above the former website. Many people view the Website only as a way for strangers/surfers to get acquainted with LRC and SRC. That is a vital aspect, but not the only benefit. The Website offers a great tool for our own Christian Nurture; it has a huge "in-house" benefit.

Website/Worship Integration: Worship is the center of our lives as Christ-followers. We are gathered in for Worship - Psalm 107.1-3 - "O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.").

We are then sent out from Worship - Matthew 28.18-20 - "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age'".

What we receive from Worship is greatly enhanced by what we bring to Worship. That preparation should not be only by the Pastor, but by all who desire to grow in discipleship. That preparation does not begin with the Prayer of Preparation for Worship in the bulletin Sunday morning, but with study of the Word, prayer and meditation during the preceding week.

We currently have the Lectionary, a listing of the texts for each Sunday. Those texts are listed in both the Reformer and the Bulletin. The website is a vital additional source to utilize. The lectionary texts will be listed on the calendar; if you have missed Worship, or lost your Reformer, you can still have the next Lord's Day texts. More opportunities from the Website - A weekly blog concerning the next Lord's Day Message is up on the website either Thursday or Friday. And, if you have not been in Worship, that Sunday's Message is on the website by Tuesday. A response to the website: "This is an awesome webpage and shows many hours of dedicated preparation and maintenance. It's wonderful that people who can't get out of their homes can still hear your sermons. Thank you for telling me about the site."

Another (for now) integration option. While the weather holds out, the sign in the LRC Park will reflect the coming Lord's Day Message.

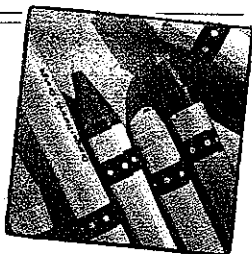
Please support the Website with positive input. The benefits are great for the health of the congregations. grace and peace, pacia

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### **A colorful lesson**

We could learn a lot from crayons:  
Some are sharp, some are pretty,  
some are dull, some have weird  
names, and all are different colors ...  
but they all exist very nicely  
together in the same box.

—Robert Fulghum



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### **The progression**

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

—Ned Erickson

## P.O.D. CELEBRATION

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." Proverbs 16.3

P.O.D. (People of Discernment) met a couple weeks ago for the final time. We did so in a spirit of celebration, to recall the work that has been done, and transformation that has come out of the ministry.

P.O.D. grew out of a conversation about the future of the congregations at a joint consistory meeting; a need to discern what God has in mind for the future. A blunt question formed our beginning – "If these churches were to close, would anyone notice?"

Several individuals from both congregations began meeting in August 2012. Those who comprised the group over the course of its ministry included: Lisa Boss, Karl & Rena Cooper, Adrienne Cullen, Jill Cullen, Laura Davenport, Dan Fiske, Rev. Wil Ivins, Kelly Sperbeck, Ted Shuart and Bonnie Tryon. Special thanks to Lisa and Dan, who served as Facilitators. Thanks also to Betty Cullen, Jeff and Janice van Aller, and Sam and Lori Riggins, who served as intercessors, praying for discernment, strength and blessing for the ministry.

It was noted as in chopping wood, that it is very desirable to see results. This group did not really have that experience in many tangible ways. It did, however, provide a spur, leading members to bring back ideas to their consistories for some improvements.

In the beginning, conversation was informed by SRC's work with NCD (Natural Church Development), which pointed out Inspiring Worship as the weakest component of the life of the church. It was confirmed that Worship was the place to start as Worship is the center of our lives as Christ-Followers.

Mutual support of congregations was identified as key.

Wil was affirmed for bringing his life and pastoral experience to the ministry.

The ministry fostered connection of the congregations.

LRC and SRC tri-fold welcome brochure came out of the ministry. Each congregation's information also has info about the sister congregation.

It is considered that P.O.D. laid down the foundation for future ministries. One mentioned, "When a door closes, a window is opened." Another observed, "We are in a different room." Conversation and ideas, and perhaps even a renewed sense of openness, seems to have emanated from POD members out to the congregations, where it then rebounded, generating more thoughts. For the members themselves, there seemed to develop and increased sense of onus, responsibility and servant hood.

As members of the Reformed Church in America we are called to self-examination in the attempt to be continually reforming ourselves and our corporate worship to the Word of God. It is hoped that the work of POD; the discussion and exploration and the desire to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for how best to serve God and his people may serve as both inspiration and platform for those who feel called to explore unmet needs in the life of these congregations.

We give thanks and praise that God has used our many gifts, given by the Holy Spirit, for the common good (1 Corinthians 12.7). Our time of celebration ended with this prayer.

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### **What a wonder!**

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If ever I reach heaven I expect to find three wonders there: first, to meet some I had not thought to see there; second, to miss some I had expected to see there; and third — the greatest wonder of all — to find myself there.

—John Newton

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### **True heroes**

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We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

—Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and "hero" of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*

## **Prayer of Celebration for the P.O.D. Ministry**

Dear Lord, thank you for drawing us into community  
in these congregations that have been a place called home for so many.

Inspire us with the lives of those before us,  
those ancient ones who have lived here in faith  
and opened up and given away  
your love to all those who needed it.

May you change us with a vision to continue here  
as a constant presence for those who travel through life,  
a community of welcome that cares for all our congregations  
believing into what is still yet to be.

Teach us to discern your voice  
as those before us have discerned your voice,  
guided by its call and feeding on its promise  
of life and hope and belonging.

May we hear your word:  
a comforting word in its familiar sound,  
yet a disturbing word in what it speaks anew  
and longs for us to become.

Hold us within the faith of our forebears,  
those who chose to meet you here in these houses of worship and prayer,  
who recognised these thin places as a trysting place  
where your miracle of grace abides.

May we be moved by that grace  
into all the places that make up our community,  
sharing what you have given abundantly  
like an ever flowing stream.

Call us from our past,  
through the voices of our ancestors,  
in the songs they have sung  
and the prayers they have spoken  
that have shaped peace within these faith communities,

And may we join our voice with their voice,  
in the one great song of love  
that will be lived and celebrated.

We pray this and all our prayers in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns  
with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~ written by Rev. Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Listening to the Stones.

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will  
be established." Proverbs 16.3

## LRC Rummage and Bake Sale

When: October 3rd & 4th

Time: Friday 9 A.M. till 3 P.M. Saturday 9 A.M. till 1 P.M.

Hall will be open on the 29th of September to bring items for sale.

We are in need of baked goods for the sale on Friday & Saturday.

Help is needed each day as well on Saturday @ 1 P.M. to pack up left over items to be taken to ARC Thift Shop. Thank you all for your support.

### October Worship

10.05.14 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Exodus 20.1-4,7-9,12-20

Philippians 3.4-14

Psalm 19

Matthew 21.33-46 +

Lay Leaders LRC Lola Fletcher SRC Adrienne Cullen

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10.12.14 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Rev. Abby Norton-Levering, preaching

Exodus 32.1-14

Philippians 4.1-9

Psalm 106.1-6,19-23

Matthew 22.1-14 +

Lay Leaders LRC Lola Fletcher SRC Adrienne Cullen

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10.19.14 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Exodus 33.12-23

Philippians 99

1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

Matthew 22.15-22 +

Lay Leaders LRC Kelly Sperbeck SRC Mary Speidell

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10.26.14 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Deuteronomy 34.1-12

1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

Psalm 90.1-6,13-17

Matthew 22.34-46 +

Lay Leaders LRC Kelly Sperbeck SRC Jill Cullen

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+ The text(s) pastor pacia plans to use for the next Lord's Day, for the proclamation of the Word.

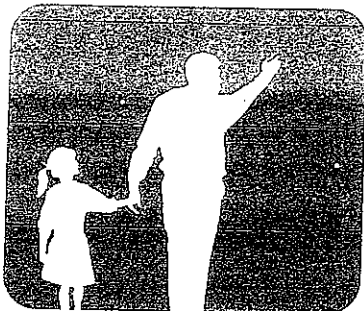


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### This side of heaven

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A little girl who'd grown up in the city spent some of her summer vacation out in the country. One starlit night, she and her dad stood gazing up into the sky without any harsh streetlights obstructing the view.



The girl, amazed by the sparkling view, exclaimed, "If heaven is so pretty on the wrong side, I wonder what it looks like on the right side!"

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### "Autumn Fires"

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In the other gardens and all up the vale  
From the autumn bonfires, see the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over and all the summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes, the grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of season! Something bright in all  
Flowers in the summer, fires in the fall.

—Robert Louis Stevenson



Church

Steve DiCicco/back pain  
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 Helen Brown/Palatine Nursing Home/  
 declining  
 Tom Slater/increased dialysis  
 Vivian Empie/Tarpon Springs Nursing  
 Home/on Hospice  
 Elli Schubert/cardiac  
 Veronica Clark/surgery recuperation

Family/Loved Ones

Warren Comins/fractured spine/home  
 Jared van Wagenen/healing  
 Peggy Wood//hospital/health & family is-  
 sues  
 Cindy Shuart/stroke/home  
 Dan and Chris Parsons/pregnancy  
 Joan and Mason Springstead/strokes  
 Ron Tryon/continued healing  
 Logan Hayes/diabetes/insulin pump  
 Heather Bivins/shoulder surgery  
 Donald Bennett/return of cancer  
 Jenna/breast cancer/new tumor  
 Paul Gordayer/cancer  
 Bob Speidell/retinopathy  
 Scott Speidell/leukemia/chemo  
 Dodi Chechniki/ALS  
 Chuck Ferrell/employment

**Updates on those on the prayer list are  
 needed, so that we know how best to  
 pray. Inactive requests will be taken  
 off the list.**

Community

All Teachers and students  
 College students and professors  
 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 those impacted by Irene, Lee and Sandy  
 Schoharie Area Long-Term Recovery (SALT)  
 Concerns about the economy, unemployment and  
 foreclosures  
 All soldiers (esp. those deployed) and their families

Nation and World

Extremists' intolerance and violence  
 Persecuted Christians  
 Hatred and violence in the hearts of God's children  
 The global economy  
 All unrest in God's world  
 Local, state national and world leaders  
 Peacemaker groups  
 Government dysfunction

\*There is a group of pray-ers who receive prayer  
 requests. If you would like to be added to either list  
 (phone or e-mail), simply contact pastor pacia  
 (234.9811 or [PASTORPACIA@LRCANDSRC.ORG](mailto:PASTORPACIA@LRCANDSRC.ORG)).



**OCTOBER**

- 5 Jean Wormuth
- 12 Danny Sperbeck
- 19 Jeff Cullen
- 20 George Fletcher
- 27 Laura Davenport
- 27 Andrew Tryon

**OCTOBER**

- 4 Jim & Jill Cullen
- 16 Jim & Margaret Bixby
- 18 Fred & Betsy Rehl
- 25 Kevin & Marcia Ray



**COURAGE  
IS BORN AT THE  
POINT WHERE  
GOD'S  
GRACE  
AND HUMAN  
EFFORT INTERSECT**

**"The Quiet Hour"**

Speak, Lord, in the stillness, while I wait on Thee;  
hushed my heart to listen, in expectancy.  
Speak, O blessed Master, in this quiet hour,  
let me see Thy face, Lord, feel Thy touch of power.

For the words Thou speakest, "They are life" indeed;  
living Bread from heaven, Now my spirit feed!  
All to Thee is yielded, I am not my own;  
blissful, glad surrender, I am Thine alone.

Fill me with the knowledge, of Thy glorious will;  
all Thine own good pleasure, in my life fulfill.  
Like a watered garden, full of fragrance rare,  
ling'ring in Thy presence, let my life appear.

—Emily M. Crawford

### 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.



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**Deadline: October 22nd**

## MEMO BOARD

### September

28 Hall open to drop off items for LRC Rummage Sale  
Need help on the 29<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> to set up  
09.30 - 10.03 pastor pacia on retreat

### October

1,8,15,22,29 Boy Scout Troop 56 7:00 P.M. @ LRC  
3-4 LRC Rummage and Bake Sale Friday 9-3; Saturday 9-1  
Need help on the 29<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> to set up; Need help to  
pack up items on Saturday @ 1 pm; All items leftover  
will go to New Beginnings, the ARC Thrift Shop in  
Schoharie. **BAKED GOODS NEEDED ON FRI 3RD.**  
5,12,19,26 LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.  
SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M.  
SRC Worship 11:00 A.M.  
5 World Communion Sunday  
**6-13 pastor pacia on vacation**  
14,28 Men's Fellowship 7:00 @ the Parsonage (large white  
house across the Park from LRC, next to JWS  
Automotive)  
15,22,29 Lectionary Bible Study 9:00 A.M.; Evening Study  
Group 7:00 P.M. @ the Parsonage (**No Morning  
Study 1 & 8 October; No Evening Study 8 October  
Special Offering (SRC)**)  
19 SRC Elders (Deacons) 5:00 P.M.; Consistory 5:30 P.M.  
21 **November Reformer Deadline**  
26 Reformation Sunday  
30 LRC Deacons & Elders 6:00 P.M.; Consistory 7:00 P.M.



## Website

We have launched the new website! It is administered by Angela Kogler, Upstate NY IT. She uploads all the info herself, which was an issue with the former company. Her fees are also much more reasonable than the other company; we get much more and pay much less! Angela is very accommodating to our needs; she posts information in a timely fashion. The address remains the same: [WWW.LRCANDSRC.ORG](http://WWW.LRCANDSRC.ORG) (it is not case sensitive). The opening screen is vibrant and inviting. There are pictures of each church, along with each congregation's contact info. The taskbar lists several options – listing of each congregation separately, a calendar, members of Consistories, a Pastor's page with a blog and most recent sermons, prayer requests, directions, announcements, and ministries. **The Reformer will be added (we will have the option of sending the Reformer out by e-mail as well as snail mail, which will cut costs, as well as save Lola hours of work. If you would like to receive the Reformer electronically, please contact Lola).**

The website will be as good as we make it to be. Pictures of events (ex. Picnic in the Park, the Free Produce cart, fund-raisers) are all needed to present the congregations as vibrant and inviting. Even if you do not use a computer, or are lukewarm about the website, any pertinent information you provide will be important. IT CAN NOT BE STATED STRONGLY ENOUGH THAT THE WEBSITE WILL BE ATTRACTIVE TO THOSE WHO VISIT, TO KNOW LRC AND SRC ARE "ALIVE AND WELL", ONLY IF THE WEBSITE ALSO IS "ALIVE AND WELL." There is also an "in house" benefit – shut-ins will have weekly access to the sermon; contact information for Consistory members and calendar are included for reference; announcements (including cancelling worship) can be added; out-of-town folks will be able to see photos from an event.

Please also visit the website regularly. There is a number at the bottom of the opening screen which counts the number of "hits" (how many times the website has been visited). The more "hits" the better, to show there is interest in the website.

Please support this ministry central to the health and well-being of the congregations. In order to have oversight of what goes on the website, please send info to Kelly Sperbeck ([ksperbeck@lamontengineers.dom](mailto:ksperbeck@lamontengineers.dom)), Michael Vamvas ([trouble21559@yahoo.com](mailto:trouble21559@yahoo.com)) or myself ([PASTORPACIA@LRCANDSRC.ORG](mailto:PASTORPACIA@LRCANDSRC.ORG), not case sensitive).

## **What's a Christian to do with Halloween?**

- "Whatever fear still assails us is either a temptation of Satan or a remnant of the old man, for in Christ there can be nothing but supreme assurance and joy."  
—Martin Luther
- "Faith goes up the stairs that love has made and looks out the window which hope has opened."  
—Charles Spurgeon
- "Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God."  
—attributed to Ronald Reagan
- "Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness."  
—Mother Teresa

These days, children associate Halloween with trick-or-treating and candy. But centuries ago, Christians named the night before All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) "All Hallows' Eve." As the faithful prepared to remember people who were entrusted to resurrection life, they adopted various traditions to poke fun at death.

Around the world, Christians observe Halloween differently: in Poland, kids pray aloud while walking through forests to comfort souls of the dead. In Spain, tolling church bells remind people to remember the saints. In Finland, so many people light candles in cemeteries that the observance is called "seas of light." Although some Christians steer clear of Halloween, others use it as an evangelism opportunity and provide entertainment alternative such as harvest parties.

No matter your views, you can remind children that, though it's fun to pretend, we can always be ourselves with God. Whatever our features and flaws, we need not and cannot hide from God behind masks. God made us in his holy image and loves us as his holy — *hallowed!* — children.

# Kid's Page



## Edible Cornucopias

If you're planning a harvest party, set up a snack station so people can fill their own edible cornucopias.

### What you need:

- Waffle cones
- Bowls
- Spoons
- Toppings (chocolate chips, nuts, pretzels, fish-shaped crackers, candy corn, dried cranberries, yogurt-covered raisins, etc.)

### What you do:


1. Set up the table, placing each topping in a bowl. Place a spoon in each bowl.
2. Invite friends to create their own cornucopia by spooning chosen goodies into their waffle cones.
3. Enjoy!








## A promise to the earth



After the flood in Genesis, God promised to "never again ... destroy all living creatures" (Genesis 8:21, NIV).


**Directions:** Using the picture clues below, write each small word in the blanks to complete God's promise in Genesis 8:22, NIV.



"As long as the  \_ \_ \_ th

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and har \_ \_ \_ , c \_ \_ \_ 

and h \_ \_ \_ , 1+2=  \_ \_ \_ mer

and  \_ \_ \_ ter, day and night

w \_ \_ \_  n \_ \_ \_ r  cease."

GENESIS 8:22, NIV

Answer: As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22, NIV

### Why God Made Moms

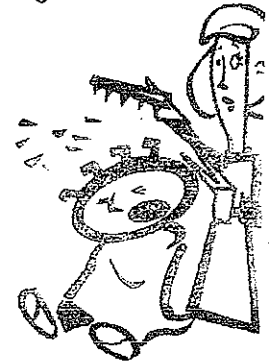
"Why God Made Moms" answers given by elementary school age children to the following questions:

#### Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born

#### How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my Mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.



#### What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

#### Why did God give you your mother and not some other Mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

#### What kind of little girl was your Mom?

1. My Mom has always been my Mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

#### What did Mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

#### Why did your Mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

#### Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

#### What's the difference between moms and dads?

1. Moms work at work & work at home, & dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller & stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

#### What does your Mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

#### What would it take to make your Mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

#### If you could change one thing about your Mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.