



SECOND THOUGHTS

100 COLLEGE AVENUE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
732 545-0581 Fax: 732 545-4773 Email: SRCNB@aol.com
The Web: www.secondreformednb.org

February 2005

Ash Wednesday Services

Second Reformed Church will observe Ash Wednesday at noon, on **February 9th**, in a brief service of Scripture and Prayer.

The Collegium of Reformed Churches will join together on Ash Wednesday, February 9th at The Highland Park Reformed Church for a Service of Worship, beginning at 7:30 pm. Reformed Church of Highland Park at 19-21 South 2nd Avenue in the Boro. Ashes will be imposed during the service, which will include Prayers, Scripture Lessons, Hymns and Times for Reflection. Those interested in being part of the choir for the evening will meet an hour early, at 6:30 p.m. For directions and more information, please call the Reformed Church of Highland Park at (732) 249-7349.

Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent, the 40 days (excluding Sundays) which lead up to Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Tradition was that these days were reminders of Jesus' fasting during his temptation in the wilderness. Few people keep a fast anymore, although some still "give something up for Lent." and that ins unfortunate. Fasting can be good for the soul, not to mention the waistline! Here are some possible ways of observing a fast in today's world:

1. *Eat as you would normally*, but give whatever your meals cost to the Church for use in helping to feed the hungry. If you didn't pay for your meals with cash, estimate their worth (generously!) and give that.
2. *If you're in good health*, refrain from eating food between sun-up and sun-down. This is a typical "day-fast", water is permitted. After sun-down, you may eat one moderate-sized meal. Consider giving this meal's value to the church as per #1, above. Read the bible or pray during the day when you would be eating.
3. *If you want a deeper fast*, consider not eating solid food at all during your fast. Do this only if you chick in with your physician before beginning. Fruit juice, V-8, consommé, are all permitted, as are vitamins, if your Doctor says yes. Use the time you would have spent eating in prayer or reading your Bible.
4. *Eat light meals on The Sundays in Lent*, Sundays are always feast days.

Congregational Meeting February 27th

We will be having a congregational meeting on **February 27th**. There will be an extended coffee hour in the gym. Please mark your calendars for this very important meeting. It is imperative that all members attend. We will be discussing the 2005 budget and making decisions that could affect the future of SRC. Our treasurer and members of the Finance Committee will be providing budget and investments presentations.

The Christian Education committee will be showing a movie and providing the children with pizza . The children will be occupied during the duration of the meeting. Hope to see everyone there!!

Christian Education News

There will be no Sunday School on President's Weekend Sunday, **February 20th**.

Pizza Par-ta!!!

Calling all kids.....there will be a Sunday School mid-year pizza party on Sunday, **February 27th**. Ditch your parents and meet in classroom #1 for a movie, pizza and lots of caffeine filled soda!! No need to RSVP just show up!!



A Goat????

Check out the Sunday School's poster in the hallway announcing "We are Going For the Goat!"

The kids want to raise \$125.00 from their weekly Sunday School offerings to purchase a goat for a family in Africa by June. They may need some help from the congregation....look for updated posters showing their progress!

REV. WALTER deVelder 1907—2005

Missionary of the Reformed Church in America

Walter deVelder, 97 died on Saturday January 22, 2005 in Saratoga Springs, New York. He was a life-long missionary to China, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Walter was born on May 17, 1907, in Boyden, Iowa to Franklin Dirck and Aartje deVelder. He outlived his four siblings, including the Rev. Marion deVelder, former General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America. He received his BA from Hope College, Holland, Michigan in 1929. While there, he was a stand-out athlete winning nine letters and holding the javelin record for 34 years. Influenced by RCA missionary, Samuel Zwemer, Walter responded to his own call to mission in 1929 with a short term to South China. He returned to New Brunswick Theological Seminary, graduating in 1935. Before assignment to Xiamen, China, deVelder won a fellowship to study at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands. He was ordained and commissioned at First Reformed Church, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

In 1936 Walter's assignment was with the Church of Christ in China where he worked as an evangelist in churches and mission stations that required walking over mountains to reach them. He walked an average of 1800 miles a year. After the Japanese blockaded the Chinese coast, many refugees were aided by deVelder and other missionaries. In 1940, Walter's first wife, Margaret Otte, daughter of RCA missionary parents, died giving birth to their son Philip. Later, Walter married Harriet Boot, missionary nurse, also a daughter of China missionary parents. Together they had four children.

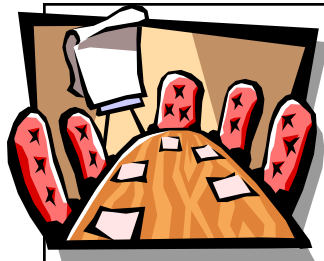
Rev. deVelder's life was often filled with danger, for in 1944, Walter himself and his family became refugees and were flown over the Himalayas ("the Hump") into India by the 14th Air Force of Chennault's Flying Tigers. At the end of World War II in 1945 Walter was asked to reopen the English Reformed Church in Amsterdam, Netherlands (where he had served in 1935-36 as an intern) which had been closed for four years and used by the German navy. Not daunted by danger, Walter and family returned to China in 1946, and he stayed on after the People's Republic of China was established in 1949. After release from house arrest in China, Walter's next missionary assignment was with Chinese speaking churches in the Philippines. He "island-hopped" by plane and ship, visiting (and preaching) in many churches. In 1955 he was transferred to Hong Kong to work with the Church of Christ in China, Hong Kong Council.

One of his greatest satisfactions was working with Church World Service to aid refugees from the China mainland flooding into the British colony. Among many activities, Walter taught at Chung Chi Christ College and was financial secretary to many mission boards. He also served as chaplain to US Navy men on "R&R" and preached on navy ships in Hong Kong harbor. Walter was a popular speaker during furloughs and much in demand to tell his missionary experiences to the American churches. Walter and Harriet retired in 1972 after ten years in China, four in the Philippines, and seventeen years in Hong Kong. Between 1977-1987 they took many post retirement assignments to Taiwan (Hua-lien). They made four trips to Xiamen after 1981 and were the first RCA missionary personnel to visit China since mission work was closed in 1951. These were emotional reunions with Christian friends not seen for thirty years.

Since 1986, Walter lived in Embury Apartments, Saratoga Springs. He was treasurer of Golden Kiwanis for several years and volunteered at the Wesley Health Care Center. He was a member of the Old Saratoga Reformed Church (Schuylerville, N.Y.) and the RCA Classis of Schenectady. Before 1999 when he moved to Wesley Health Care Facility, Walter traveled extensively including twelve trips around the world. One trip included a 6000 mile train ride across Siberia from Vladivostok to Moscow. In the Fall of 2000, at age 92, he flew to Chicago to attend a reunion of the RCA Amoy missionaries and their children. All his life he loved music. He sang in the Hong Kong Oratorio Chorus for seventeen years. He used his voice for the glory of God and the joy of others. He loved to sing Dutch psalms. Recently in December, at a family fathering in Wesley, he sang many Christmas carols from memory since he had become blind over five years ago. Walter's greatest love was for people, counting friends all around the world. He could pick up conversations with friends after forty year absences. He was a loving missionary and friend to all in Christ's name. He loved his family and friends.

Walter's wife of 59 years, Harriet, and his son Philip, preceded him in death. Survivors include one daughter and three sons and their families: Margaret and Edward Hougén of Boston, Mass. (children Sarah and Edward); Dirck and Marielle deVelder of Paris, France (children Marc, Sabrina and Alan); John deVelder of New Brunswick, N.J. (children Rebecca and David); and David and Joyce deVelder of Schuylerville, N.Y. (children Nathaniel and Mikael). Great grandchildren include: Vladimir, Maximillian, Fiona, Thomas, Tabitha, Theodore, and Tristan.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm Saturday, March 19, 2005 at the Old Saratoga Reformed Church in Schuylerville. Burial will be in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Schuylerville, N.Y. Memorial contributions may be designated for missions in China through the Old Saratoga Reformed Church, 48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville, N.Y. 12871.



News from The Deacons Desk

The Board of Deacons met in January. Included in our discussion were the following items.

One, the Board of Deacons would like to see the re-emergence of a Congregational Care committee. In recent months when the Esther's, for example, needed some assistance with meal preparation, Marilyn Koops got to work right away and organized a schedule for volunteers to deliver meals to the Esther's. This was great that she stepped in and made sure that our church Community was supportive and helpful in a time of need. It is also the type of Christian service that Deacons are called to do. Among us in our congregation are long time members who may appreciate or need some help with minor home repairs, or if ill, might need some meal preparation.

The Board of Deacons would like to hear from church members about any needs that have to do with home, food, clothing or heating. Our Board of Elders is responsible for looking out for our members' spiritual needs. Deacons of course may make calls or visits also to see how people are.

Another item that was discussed has to do with our church's need for securing a new Treasurer. Suzanne Wade took on a big challenge after our church's audit and recommendations to help put our accounts in order, and to use a software program called Power church. We would like a volunteer from our church to come forward and agree to act as Treasurer. It would involve attending consistory meetings, keeping the consistory informed regarding our financial status, assisting the Finance Advisory Committee as it considers issues such as how our endowment (shrinking) should best be invested, and staying on top of our fiscal health.

If you would be interested in serving as Treasurer, Suzanne is more than willing to explain what will be involved in more detail. If we do not come up with a Treasurer volunteer from our church the Consistory may have to consider hiring someone to do this on a part-time basis. The Deacons are looking into this possibility so the Congregation may be informed at the Feb. 27th meeting on this impor-

tant, but currently unfilled, need in our church. By the way, much of the Deacons time in 2004 was taken up with carrying out recommendations of the church audit of 2003 and our Stewardship Campaign in the fall 2004.

According to Kathy Fisher, of the members in our church that made a pledge to support our church's 2005 ministry after the fall Stewardship Campaign, 82% increased their pledge from '04.

The Deacons are going to spruce up our nursery with a "clean up and toss out day" on the morning of **February 16th**. This will be followed by a painting day at a later date.

The Deacons will support the Community Breakfast program spearheaded by Hap Harris by trying to involve church members, publicizing the program, and assisting personally as we are able.

The Deacons will be meeting with our Housekeepers Gail and Christian Orban in March to review how things are going in that department. Gail and Christian have been our housekeepers since Dec. 2004. Now that HIC is no longer using our facilities except maybe once a week it may reduce the load on housekeeping.

The Board of Deacons is chaired by John O'Shea. If you have any needs or wishes that you believe the Deacons should be considering please contact him directly.

Phyllis Beals

Announcements.....

Our Prayer Chain is in need of volunteers. Please contact Phyllis Beals if you are willing To help.

Women's Lunch

Women's lunch will be Tuesday, **February 8th**. Come celebrate the birthday of The Second Reformed Church and the season of hearts and love by joining with others at 12:00 noon for lunch. Helen Erdey will serve dessert and Deanna Horr will lead us with devotions. Come prepared while we join in with Jacqueline Stagg in our study of "The Sweet Life", Chapter 5 by Louis Lotz. All are welcome.





Missions Cookie Sale Sunday, February 13th

Help celebrate our congregation's birthday with a gift from the heart for the Church World Service program. The missions committee is hosting its annual cookie sale in honor of the church's birthday immediately following worship. All proceeds will be given to the Tools of Hope blanket program and other CWS programs. CWS is a wonderful service that provides people with everything from blankets to keep them warm to wire for chicken coops to feed the many staying people internationally.

For more details see the display set up in the foyer, or contact Martha Palmer, Deanna Horr or Judy Chibbaro. *If you are able to bake a batch of cookies or two (or purchase a batch to sell), please signup on the signup sheet on your way to coffee hour. Brownies and other sugary finger foods are also welcome!*

Easter Health Kits—Give a Gift from your heart!

The Church World Service "Gift of the Heart" Kit Program helps meet the needs of people in crisis. They are sending health kits around the world to countries whose people are need. Each Kit—School, Health, Baby, Kids— starts out in the hands of one person here in the US., and is made not with the expectation of changing the world, but with the help of changing one person's life. The Mission Committee is also planning on compiling these wonderful health kits during the Easter season. If you would like to help.....these are the items that we need from you: (please try to give us enough items to make a full kit)

Health Kit

- One hand towel
- One washcloth
- One comb
- One metal nail file or nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size)

- One toothbrush
- One tube of toothpaste (4-7 ounces)

- Six band-aids
-

School Kit

- One pair of blunt scissors
- One 30 centimeter ruler (12")
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One large eraser

- One box of 24 crayons
- Pads/notebks of ruled paper (approx. 8 1/2 X 11, 150-200 sheets)
- 12 sheets colored construction paper
- 1 cloth bag, approx. 12X14 with cloth: (handles and a closure Velcro, snap, or button)

Baby Kit

- Six cloth diapers
- Two shirts
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets (one can be knitted)

We will be posting information as to when we will be collecting these items and assembling them. It will be over the next month or so. Just for now: We thought we would give you the "heads" up incase you wanted to purchase any of the above items and get them on sale!!


Oil Paintings on Display

There will be oil paintings on display in our narthex for all to see. Bennie, the artist, is excited to show off her work. Bennie is the same artist who designed the coffee cup sleeves our Outreach committee used this past December to pass out to the Rutgers students. Her work will be on display the last 3 Sundays of February.



▶ FEBRUARY 2004



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 Communion 11:20 Christian Ed. Welcome Back Rev. Esther!!	7	8 12:00 pm Women's Lunch Meeting	9 12:00 Ash Wed Service @SRC 7:30 pm Collegiate Service at Highland Park	10	11	12
13 10:00 Worship 11:20 Christian Ed. Missions Cookie Sale	14 Happy Birthday SRC!! 	15 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	16	17	18	19
20 10:00 Worship 11:20 Christian Ed. NO CHRISTIAN EDUCATIOIN	21	22	23	24	25	26

27
8:30 am
Neighbor's
Breakfast
10:00 Worship
11:10 am
Congregational
Meeting
Mid-year SS
Pizza Party

28 **We will be having our first (of many....we hope) Neighbor's Breakfast of the year on Sunday, February 27th in Demarest Hall (the gym) at 8:30 am. Hap Harris will be in charge of the goodies and the production. This will be opened to the men & women of nearby shelters and their friends & families.**

