



SECOND THOUGHTS

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Summer 2005

What's Happening??

By the time you read this, Rev. Esther will have officially retired. We are now in that challenging, yet exciting time between ministers. The Classis provides us with guidance as we go through this process.

As of July 1st we have been appointed a Supervision Team of Rev. David Risseeuw from Six Mile Run Reformed Church and Elder Jennifer Mullen Sommer from Spotswood Reformed Church. At least one member of the team will be present at all formal consistory meetings and they are both available for assistance and guidance as we begin the search for a new minister.

The immediate concern for the consistory during this time of transition is to find an interim pastor for the church. The interim pastor will lead worship, make pastoral calls, perform weddings, funerals, baptism, etc.

In short, he/she will take over the tasks of the minister with two important distinctions. First—the interim pastor will be specially trained to deal with congregations who are between ministers. They are familiar with and can help us with the next steps of the process. Secondly—(and this is important to remember) the interim **cannot** be called to become our permanent minister. The Elders have already interviewed two candidates and will be setting up more interviews in the near future.

For summer worship services we will be having a series of guest preachers. In July, Rev. Fred Mold and Rev. Nancy Beardslee will lead our worship. For August, we'll be looking for some other faces at our pulpit. During the summer months any other concerns can be called in to the church where Kathy will forward them to the proper people or you can contact the Elder of the month. The Elder for July is **Ann Hays** 732 828-8345 and for August the Elder

Is **Helmut Horr** 732 545-0588.

The consistory is planning an informal meeting during coffee hour on **July 10** to answer any questions about this interim process and keep the congregation informed of the issues we are facing. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to ask any of the Elders and they will be happy to let you know "What's Happening"!

Annie Hays



Thank you to the people who have already signed up to help with Bible School, but I am still in need of a few more "bodies".

For those who have never been to Bible School, we have three different age groups who cycle through different areas (crafts, music & memory work, bible stores, games, snacks). We have people to handle the different areas and one team leader for each group to guide the children from place to place.

What we are in need of are a few more people to assist the team leaders. We'd like at least two adults for each group. The job basically requires you to bring the children from room to room and supervise what they are doing and where they are. No training or preparation is involved.

We are also looking for some teenagers who can help with games, crafts and with the smaller children (nursery). There will be a meeting on **August 1** at 7:30 pm at Second Reformed for all helpers. At that time we'll make all the final arrangements and go over what is expected of each worker.

Annie Hays

Neighbor's Breakfast July 24th

On **July 24**, between 7:30a - 9:00am, there will be a "neighbors" breakfast and birthday party. It will be held in David Demarest Hall. Food will be prepared by Chef Curly Boelhouwer and his staff. Kevin Chibbaro will be in charge of the birthday party. Kevin is the newest member of the Outreach Committee.

Would you like to give a gift? Please, no soaps or perfumes. For adults, home made cookies, McDonald gift certificates, etc. For children: toys, Christian reading or coloring books. Any gift not given out that day will be taken to Elijah's promise.

Please come and have breakfast and enjoy the Christian fellowship with our neighbors. The birthday party is for all who may have missed having a birthday party or did not get a gift.

God has blessed us. Let us share our blessings with others. If you are coming, or can give a gift, please call someone on the Outreach Committee, as we need a headcount. You are welcome to bring your neighbor.

Outreach Committee: Hap Harris, Glenn Urban, Nelson Chou, Steve Sandor, Judy Chibbaro, Kristy Peterson, Kevin Chibbaro
Love in Christ,
Hap Harris

September Outreach

This September we will be out in front of the church, welcoming new students and those returning. We need help! In August, dates, times and a sign up list will be posted.

Does anyone have any ideas how we can better reach out to students? We're open to suggestions.

Love in Christ,
Hap Harris

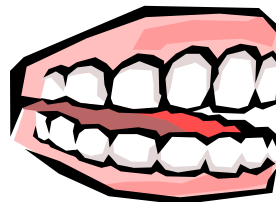
Elijah's Promise

Bring in paper goods donations for Elijah's Promise any Sunday. There are boxes near each door for your contributions. Elijah's Promise serves hundreds of meals each day to hungry people in our community; while they prepare all food on the premises, paper goods like napkins, paper towels, cups, toilet issue, etc...are always needed. Your gifts are most appreciated!

Church Bulletin Bloopers....

☺ Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

☺ Evening massage - 6 p.m.



☺ The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

☺ The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.

☺ Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.

☺ Ushers will eat latecomers.

☺ For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

☺ The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

☺ The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."

☺ Next Sunday, Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

Sunday August 21st

Members of the Collegium of Reformed Churches will gather at the Van Wickle House at the Meadows in Somerset for an all church Worship Service and Picnic on **August 21st** at 10:30 am.

We will follow our usual routine: bring a dish to share with others, bring your own chair to use at the service and for eating, and plan to enjoy a splendid day in God's Beautiful World! More information will be provided regarding the 21st as August arrives.



Summer Worship

In July and August, worship will begin one half-hour earlier, to take advantage of (possibly) cooler temperatures earlier in the morning.

This summer, again, we will hold ALL SERVICES here at Second Reform's Church building. Beginning at 9:30 am. The exception will be on the third Sunday of August (the 21st), when we expect to join with other Collegiate Reformed Congregations for outdoor worship and a picnic.

**Worship in July & August – 9:30 am
At Second Reformed**

Words of Appreciation

We wish to thank the congregational for the lovely farewell reception following worship on Sunday, June 5. Thank you to Helen and Lisa Pally who made the occasion festive with flowers that traveled home with us and a beautiful yummy-tasting cake. Thank you everyone for making this day an especially memorable occasion.

Norm and Mary Kansfield.

Why Some People Don't Attend Church



According to an article in the March 2005 issue of *The Church Herald* (p.38), "most people who are asked why they do not go to church answer that they never have been asked or invited". This sounds easy enough to remedy. Let's start by *inviting* our friends, relatives and neighbors to attend a worship service with us. Maybe we need to arrange other kinds of activities-like dinners, presentations, concerts, etc...that might be less intimidating for initial invitational purposes.

But there are other reasons why people don't attend church. In the same issue of *The Church Herald* is an article entitled "On the Outside Looking In" which offers an "Unchurched Christian's" view of the church.. Much of what this one person says about the church experience may not apply to SRC or even have any merit at all, but the article does warrant our attention and reflection. Let's all look it over and let's start thinking about how all of us, working together, can encourage people-whether Unchurched Christians, former members of SRC, or non-believers-to join us at SRC in worshipping and serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PS. If you have already recycled or perhaps misplaced your March issue of *The Church Herald*, please contact Kathy Fisher at the church office 732 545-0581 for a copy of the articles referenced above.

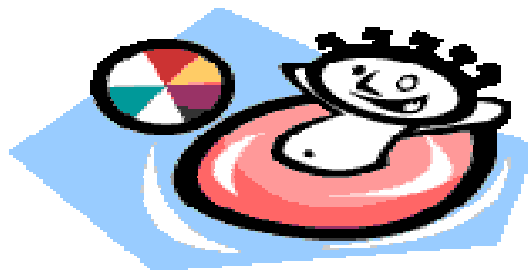
Helmut Horr

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

July

1—Emma Goodwin
2—Nelson Chou
12—Kathy Fisher, Jim Harris & Kathy Williamson
14—Phyllis Rogers
17—Mary Kansfield & Lindsey Winant
21—Joan Boelhouwer

23—Gail Orban
24—Randy McKinnon
28—Mike Beals, Catherine Howarth,
Glenn Orban & Jenn Snyder
30—Theresa Chou & Jesse VanGlahn



August

2—Lillian Phillips
4—Mark Harris
5—Doug Miller
6—Phyllis Beals
8—Arlene Nora & George Wade

16—Connor O'Shea
26—Mark Horr & Jenny Orban
27—Donald Sweeney
28—Ellen VanGlahn
29—Deanna Horr
30—Helmut Horr & Alice Woodward

Coffee Hour Hosts

July

3 - Curly Boelhouwer & Hap Harris
10 - Tom & Kathy Williamson
17 - Ellie & Walt Holz
24 - Leftovers from Neighbor's Breakfast
31—The Howarth Family

August

7 - Marilyn Koops & Ann Hays
14—The Snyder Family
21—Church Picnic
28— Deanna & Helmut Horr

Ushers

July

3 - **Communion** - Curly & Hap Harris
10—John O'Shea & Dawn Harris
17—Helen Pallay & Kathy Williamson
24—Helmut Horr & Curly Boelhouwer
31—Steve Sandor & Glenn Orban

August

7 - **Communion** - Helmut & Glenn
14—Curly Boelhouwer & Helen Pallay
21—Church Picnic
28—Kathleen Williamson & Hap Harris

Summer Calendar of Events Guest Preachers



Thursday June 31—Special Elder's Meeting
Sunday July 3—Rev. Mold Preaching
Sunday July 10—Rev. Mold Preaching
Informal Consistory mtg to answers your questions
Sunday July 17—Rev. Mold Preaching
Sunday July 24—Rev. Beardslee Preaching
Neighbor's "Birthday" Breakfast
Sunday July 31- Rev. Beardslee Preaching
Monday August 1- VBS Meeting 7:30 pm
Sunday August 7—Guest Preacher TBA
Sunday August 14—Guest Preacher TBA
Monday August 15—19—Vacation Bible School
Sunday August 21—Collegiums Picnic
Sunday August 28—Rev. Renee House Preaching

**Alex. Ashley. Brian. Catherine.
Conner. Jenny. Jamie. Kevin.
Kim. Mike. Phil. Rachel. Sam.
Stephanie. Tyler & William....**

In last month's Second Thoughts, I asked for some help with a worship service in August. Due to a scheduling error I need to move that service to September. 11.

I really need your help. It will be a different type of service but will only work if I have your help. Please let me know if you are available (or I'll be coming to you!!) **Annie Hays**

Your Pastoral Elder

Each month one of the Elders is designated the "Pastoral Elder" for the SRC congregation.

This Elder is responsible for the spiritual needs of members, calling on members and visiting members when they are ill or hospitalized. If you have a special situation, please do not hesitate to call the Pastoral Elder of the month (doesn't it sound like a ice cream flavor of the month!?)

Kidding aside, they are there for **you** to serve **your** needs! Call them or you need them!

July's Pastoral Elder: Ann Hays
732 828-8345

August's Pastoral Elder: Helmut Horr
732 545-0588

Rev. Esther's Retirement Dinner

On Friday, June 10th, 118 SRC members and friends met to honor our retired minister, Rev. James R. Esther. Many members from the past were in attendance to share in Jim's dinner celebration. It seemed that everyone enjoyed themselves and it was certainly a night to remember!!

There were brief comments and reflections made by Classics, Representatives from the New Brunswick Collegiums of Churches as well as individuals from the congregational itself. The food was tasty, the surroundings were lovely, the songs sang by the children were joyful and a good time was had by all.

We wish the Esther's well in their retirement and we know we will never forget them!!

PS. We are collecting photos taken by members at the dinner or any photos that you would like to contribute to Rev. Esther' farewell photo album. Please give them to Kathy Fisher ASAP!

Our VBS theme this year is a Safari to study the Lord's Prayer. We're calling all kids ages 3 and up to come and join us for a week of crafts, music and bible stories. From **Aug 15—19** we will join with the Collegiate Reformed Churches, as we have done for several years now, for a fun filled week of learning and fellowship. What is different this year is that we are trying evening sessions (6:30—9:00 pm) instead of mornings. We hope this will allow more children (who go to day care or camp during the day) to participate in VBS. Look for registration forms in the narthex and on the way to the parlor. Please return them to Kathy Fisher or Ann Hays. Registration are due by July 31.