

August 2006



SECOND THOUGHTS

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CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH

DETAILS & DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 2

FROM THE DESK OF

REV. ANDY RIENSTRA

It Takes a Church



A family was on vacation and stopped at a restaurant. The mother of the family was very health conscious and made sure her children ate only the best foods. As the waitress went around the table taking orders she came to the youngest, a boy named Jimmy. "And what will you have young man?" she asked. Before he could answer mother spoke up and said, "He will take the special with mixed vegetables."

Acting as if she heard nothing, the waitress said to Jimmy - "how about a hot dog?" The boy smiled and nodded his head, "yes." The mother interrupted - "he will have the special with mixed vegetables." The waitress paid no attention and went on - "How about a coke and French fries with the hot dog?" Again Jimmy smiled and nodded yes, and mother said once more - "he will have the special with mixed vegetables."

The waitress left and mother was in a rage. "How can that waitress be so oblivious to what I said," she scolded, but Jimmy was ecstatic. He said to mom - "she thinks I'm real."

That is the world we live in. As we try our best to raise children to be healthy and wise there are all kinds of voices and people out there coaxing them to do the opposite, and they think these people are treating them authentically. I still remember the first person who tempted me to smoke a cigarette. He gave the impression that would be real cool, and more than that, he told me I would enjoy, as I coughed like crazy inhaling that first puff. Like a fool I listened to him and spent a part of my life taking damaging smoke into my lungs and dealing with a cough that my mother told me would go away once I stopped smoking. Thank God I got smart enough to finally realize she was right.

Think about your life. How many things did you pick up on as a youngster, forbidden by your parents because they were destructive to either your physical or spiritual health? Every time I look at my growing grandchildren I think of this. It seems to me it is so much harder for their parents to get all the right messages communicated and understood, than it was for our parents. Life is so much faster. All kinds of temptations will be bombarding them from every angle, and they will have access to money we never dreamed about.

In such a world it takes a church to raise a child, a body of young and old who trust in God and love each other. As parents we can't do it alone. We need the community, and especially we need the community of faith, the church. We need to all stand together and work together to show our children patterns for life that are going to produce young men and women who live with purpose.

At this time people responsible for developing a learning program for our young are again making plans for this fall. In past years they have put forth much effort to help our children and young people grow in faith. I want to challenge all parents and grand-parents to help them this year. Do so by making the church a high priority in your family life. Kids may not always like going to church, but did you ever expect they would? It's like hot dogs and mixed vegetables. Given a choice it's no contest... Be smart enough to insist on the most important experiences for their living. Set priorities!!

More than that - be their example. They don't need parents and grand parents telling them that church and religious learning would be good for them and then not be involved themselves. Kids need role models who eat mixed vegetables as well as order them for kids. They need to see parents and grand parents who ever acknowledge that the faith journey is a life long learning process in which church plays an important role. Perhaps some of you could even get involved in helping teach some of the events and classes we have to train our young. Think and pray about it!

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he/she is old they will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Collegium of Reformed Churches Picnic Sunday, August 27th

Members of the Collegiums of Reformed Churches will gather at Worship Service and Picnic on Sunday, **August 21** at the Van Wickle House at the Meadows in Somerset for an all church worship service and picnic. Worship time for the picnic is **10:30 am**. Bring a **MAIN DISH** or **SALAD** 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!

Directions from SRC: Exit SRC parking lot and make a right onto Mine Street. Follow Mine Street to Easton Avenue. Make a right on Easton Avenue towards Franklin Township and follow this for approximately 4 miles. You will pass the Somerset Diner, Dunkin Donuts (Kathy's favorite!) and McDonalds. Van Wickle House is at the junction of Easton Avenue and DeMott Lane.

IN CASE OF RAIN...THE PICNIC WILL BE HELD INSIDE THE VAN WICKLE HOUSE

Annual Picnic: Sunday, August 27th

Members of the Collegiums of Reformed Churches will gather together for an all church Worship Service and Picnic on **August 27th**.

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 on place and time will be provided as soon as you receive more details.

I have listed in our newsletter that there will be a 10am service located at the VanWickle House, 1289 Easton Avenue, Somerset, NJ This is a collegiate worship and picnic, so they do ask that a dish be brought to share. Below you will find the directions. The Pastors are away until Saturday, so if you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Pastors next week. Have a blessed day.

Lilliam Costa, secretary

Travel on Easton Avenue, passing the McDonalds & Dunkin' Donuts (Shopping plaza). At this point travel in the right lane. At the DeMott Lane turnoff, make a RIGHT TURN under the traffic light, directly opposite DeMott Lane into the Meadows Foundation/VanWickle House driveway. If you pass the Rutgers Preparatory School, you have passed the Meadows Foundation driveway.

Congregational Care Committee Wants to Know . . . If you or anyone in your home is in need of any help such as seasonal yard work or occasional repairs. The Deacons want to provide help to church members and neighbors with meals during times when one of our members may be ill.

Please let **Kathleen Williamson**, Chair of the Congregational Care Committee know if you have a need or think someone else may need some help. Kathleen's home phone is 732 605-9345 or email: semuncia@aol.com.

**Mark Your
Calendars:
Congregational**



Meetings

September 17th & October 1st

Plans are being made for two congregational meetings in Demarest Hall (our gym), after worship on **Sundays, September 17th & October 1st**. It is imperative that members attend both meetings. The October meeting is a follow-up to September's mtg.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide us with an opportunity to reflect on what members want to see in their church and in their pastor for our future.

More details to follow!

August 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 am Communion 10:30 am Fellowship	7	8 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	14	15 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	21 VBS 9- noon	22 VBS 9:30-noon	23 VBS 9:30-noon	24 VBS 9:30-noon	25 VBS 9:30-noon	26
27 10:00 am Church Worship/Picnic Meadows	28	29	30	31		

Ushers

6—Hap Harris & Curly Boelhouwer
 13—Hap Harris & Annie Hays
 20—John O'Shea & Dawn Harris
 27—Picnic

Coffee Hour

6—Judi & John O'Shea
 13—Any Volunteers??
 20—The Chibbaro Family
 27—Picnic