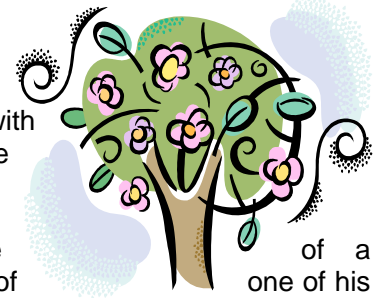


Synod 2006

One Visitor's Perspective



There is a tree lined gem on the outskirts of Pella, Iowa-Central College. It was the six day "home" of the Synod of 2006. The days began at 7:00 am with breakfast and continued with meetings that ended at 9 or 10:00 pm in the evening. With all the people belonging to the RCA it was not surprising that faces and names were familiar from all parts of the country. We became a group isolated from the world until one of the delegates returned home because of a family emergency, a minister left on Saturday because of an accidental death of one of his parishioners and one of the delegates fell backwards three feet from choir risers so one of his was brought to the emergency room in the Pella Hospital. The choir members reacted to the fall by laying hands on him and praying for him before he agreed to go to the hospital. At the hospital, the emergency room doctor prayed for him. I thought that this could only happen in Pella where everyone was aware of the RCA Synod. But then I recalled how a chaplain at Robert Wood Hospital prayed with us as we waited in the emergency room after Stephanie was hit by a car. We were not asked if we were Christians, but the Chaplain simply stated that she would like to pray with us. I remember how important that was to me, knowing others were praying for Steph. There was a great deal of praying for others at Synod.

This is the first time I attended Synod and was impressed by the outstanding planning and organization that enabled at least 250 people to arrive, attend meetings and leave as scheduled. Sunday morning was free time so I went to a very contemporary worship service in one of the RCA churches. This I did not expect in Pella, Iowa. It reminded me that here are as many levels of contemporary worship as there are of traditional worship. It was a privilege to represent the New Brunswick Classis and indirectly the Second Reformed Church. I pray for guidance and patience as I continue to be involved with the Synod as a member of the General Synod Council which has its first meeting in Minnesota in October. **Marilyn Koops**

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 at 10:00 am at the Van Wickle House**. The address is 1289 Easton Avenue, Somerset, NJ. 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!

Directions: Exit SRC parking lot and make a right onto Mine Street. Follow Mine Street to right turn on Easton Avenue towards Franklin Township and follow this for approximately 4 miles. You will pass the Somerset Diner, Dunkin Donuts and McDonalds on the right. Van Wickle House is at the junction of Easton Avenue and DeMott Lane. If you pass the Rutgers Preparatory School, you have passed the Meadows Foundation driveway.

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