



SECOND THOUGHTS

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FROM THE DESK OF

REV. ANDY RIENSTRA

Love Costs



Standing in the express lane at the super market I was attracted to the cover of a magazine. A beautiful young lady pictured caught my eye, and then there were the titles of the various featured articles. This was one of them. "**How women can make love like men (and not get involved).**" I was tempted to glance at the article, but it was the express line, and didn't want to hold anyone up, and I didn't want to buy the magazine.

In a few days, thousands, maybe millions of valentine wishes will be circulating. Most of the cute little cards will clearly articulate the phrase; "I love you." Terrific! It is grand that so many people send this message. We need to tell one another we love them. More often than we do!

How many of those wishes will just be words? How many will be genuine pledges of involvement to help people who are sick, destitute, lonely, hungry, or in trouble? There is a lot of talk about love out there. Much of it calls for no involvement. It is love with no cost. Such love is an oxymoron. The very nature of love demands involvement.

Valentine's Day gets its name from two persons whose lives and deaths defined the meaning of love.. Long ago the church declared them saints because they were martyrs for the faith. The first person declared St. Valentine was a priest who was executed in 269 AD for helping persecuted Christians. He was beheaded. Three years later a second cleric, also sainted as Valentine lost his head because he attempted to lead a Roman family to become Christian in that pagan world. They gave themselves for others.

These two pastors in the early Christian church modeled a dimension of love very different from modern Valentine's Day phenomena. It was the kind of love that grew out of their faith in God and the gospel. In a broken world, where people were destroying one another in a multitude of ways, God got involved. In the person of Jesus Christ he paid a visit. With active interest for the needs of hurting people Jesus lived and was willing to die to demonstrate the love that makes the world work.

If the message of God's love is going to make a difference we must to do more than talk and write about love. We need to reach out and be God's love in action. There is no cheap love. Real love costs. True love calls for us to give the best.

Mark these words from Paul's matchless hymn of love.

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." (Corinthians 13:4-8) God's love for us is like that. Because of that love we can also show such love to others.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Baptism 101... Sunday School kids learned about the sacrament of baptism in Sunday School. They discussed the different ways that churches baptize people. They reviewed the baptismal vows their parents made when they were baptized. It is hoped that parents talk to their children about their baptisms, what that even meant to the child and to the parent. Also, please take time to discuss the sacrament of Holy Communion with your children. This is reviewed occasionally in Sunday School, but your conversations about the significance of this sacrament are so valuable.

Thank you, Sunday School Teachers...Phyllis and Ellen

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING BUDGET 2006

We will be having a congregational meeting on **February 19th** immediately following worship. There will be an extended coffee hour in the gym. We will be discussing the 2006 budget and making decisions that will affect the future of SRC. Our Treasurer and members of the Finance Committee will be present to answer any questions you may have regarding SRC's 2006 finances.

Please mark your calendars for this very important meeting and kindly make an effort to be there!

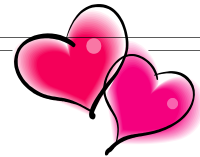
Missions Cookie Sale Sunday, February 12th



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. 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 goodies are also welcome!*

Words from a Grandmother's Heart



With all the family gathered here at Christmas, we were reminiscing about our children's grandparents. My mother, Bertha Harris, wrote poetry. This is one she wrote (52 years ago) to her 16 year old granddaughter. As a concerned Grandparent and Elder, I thought I would share her thoughts with you.

The advice still applies today.

Hap Harris

Dear child be not in a hurry to give your heart away.

Don't give into your feelings, they can soon lead you astray.

When you are in your teens my dear, your heart is brave and you have no fear.

Be extra careful when you make a choice, and listen to your inner voice.

So take your time when you plan your life, a small mistake can cause much strife.

When you are young, be happy and gay.

Don't be too anxious to give your youth away.

For once it's gone, there's no returning, with all your hopes and all your yearning.

It's just like it was yesterday, for once it's gone, it's gone to stay..

Do unto others as you would them do unto you, and your sorrows will be small and your troubles few.

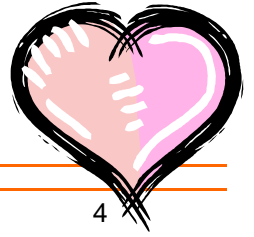
Grandma Harris

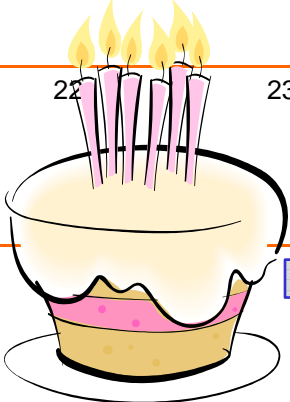
Women's Lunch

For our Women's Lunch on **February 14th**, our discussion will be from the January '06 issue of the Church Herald, "Praying Without Apology" on pages 22-24. You are cordially invited to join us for fellowship and lively discussion. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided by Jacqueline Stagg.

Deanna Horr

FEBRUARY 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	2	4
5 10:00 Communion 11:10 Coffee Hour 11:20 Christian Ed.	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Guest Preacher: Rev. Barbara Heck 10:00 Worship 11:10 Coffee Hour 11:20 Christian Ed. Missions Cookie Sale	13	14 12:00 pm Women's Lunch 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	15	16	17	18
19 10:00 Worship 11:10 Coffee Hour in the gym Congregational Mtg	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:00 Worship 11:10 Coffee Hour 11:20 Christian Ed.	27	28				

Happy B-Day SRC!!
2/14

Finance News: Deacons Helen Pallay met with Treasurer Ed Winant, Tom O'Shea, Kathy Fisher, Steven Sandor to review our church's finances. Ed Winant has been serving as our Treasurer for several months. On recommendation of our consistory the Deacons and Finance Committee made decisions to move our monies to an interest bearing checking account, move some of our investments into funds which will promote some growth while still limiting risk.

The Committee also reviewed the proposed budget for 2006. Still of concern to the Deacons and somewhat perplexing is why so many of our members who agreed to make a pledge offering for 2006 have chosen not to do so. The Deacons had hoped that the recent mailing to members would have resulted in more pledges returned. While our current financials may suggest that our monthly income is outpacing our expenses, this would all change drastically if and when SRC should be blessed and a minister receives the call to serve as SRC's next pastor.

It is still hoped that members will send in their pledges. If anyone has any questions that he/she feel need to be answered by a Consistory member or Deacon regarding to our church finances, please feel free to call the Church Office, leave a message and a return call will be made as soon as possible. Feedback from church members would be helpful.

Thank you. Phyllis Beals, Bd of Deacons Chair

Soup, Salad and Bread for Trinity House

SRC's Mission Committee and the Bd of Deacons together are going to try to provide some homemade soup, bread, salad for the students and leaders of Trinity House across the street from SRC. At present we have committed to doing this once a month. This may be increased if there is support and interest. If you can help in any way please contact Martha Palmer or Phyllis Beals.



SRC Joins In Welcoming New NBTS President

On Friday, January 27th, a reception to mark the beginning of Inaugural events was held at the home of New Brunswick Theological Seminary's new president, Dr. Gregg Alan Mast. Members of our church including **Ellie Holz, Deanna Horr, Marilyn Koops** and **Helen Sandor** joined with members of other area churches to help set up and serve food and refreshments to the many guests.

In the morning of the following day, Saturday, January 28th, over 225 people from throughout the RCA denomination gathered in our sanctuary to listen to the president of Rutgers University, Dr. Richard McCormick, deliver the opening Inaugural Keynote Presentation. Dr. McCormick graciously greeted his new presidential colleague and spoke knowledgeably of the long and distinguished relationship that has existed between Rutgers and the Seminary. He expressed his hope that the two institutions may find ways to work together in the community of which they-as well as SRC-are an integral part. The Greenway Project was cited as one example of where shared planning and cooperation may be of benefit to the community.

Following Dr. McCormick's address a significant number of the attendees stayed at SRC to listen to a panel discussion regarding "The Emerging Shape of Theological Education." Panelists included distinguished theological educators from several of America's leading seminaries as well as a recent NBTS graduate and a current faculty member.

Dr. Mast was formally installed as NBTS's fourteenth President in the afternoon during a special worship service held at First Reformed Church. We welcome the return of Dr. Mast and his wife, Vicki, to NBTS and extend to them our best wishes and prayers for a long and successful leadership ministry at the Seminary. It is our hope that SRC and NBTS will not only be good neighbors but also partners in ministry.

Special thanks are extended to the members of SRC who helped in preparing and conducting the numerous arrangements needed to make Saturday's events a success. Cleaning, heating, flower arranging, seating, sign making, greeting, directing, answering questions and countless phone calls-all these things had to be done on rather short notice, and done well!

It was a great day for SRC to "shine" thanks to **Mike Beals, Curly Boelhouwer, Kathy Fisher, Deanna Horr, Chris Orban, Gail Orban, Steve Sandor** and **George Wade**.

Helmut Horr

Advance Notice: The Collegium of Reformed Churches will join together on **Ash Wednesday, March 1st** at Second Reformed at 7:30 pm. Ashes will be imposed during the service, which will include Prayers, Scripture Lessons, Hymns and Time for Reflection.

Afterwards, we will join the other churches for a sausage dinner. More details to follow

Ashes will also be imposed at 12:00 noon during a brief service

A man, his wife, and mother-in-law went on vacation to Jerusalem. While they were there the mother-in-law passed away. The undertaker told them, "you can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150.

The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home. The undertaker asked, "why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when it would be wonderful to be buried here and you would spend only \$150"?

The man replied, "long ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance". Submitted by George A. Wade

