



SECOND THOUGHTS

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June 2006

FROM THE DESK OF

REV. ANDY RIENSTRA

Soul Strength



What role should the church play in our lives? Have you ever asked that question? People answer that question in various ways. Some rather recent responses I heard are: "The church should help make my life as comfortable and stress-free as possible." "The church should be a place where I can feel happy and have fun." "The church should be exciting."

People give such answers because they live busy, complex lives in a fast paced culture. Individuals and families are stretched in all directions, ever on the move between work, school, recreation, social responsibilities, and more. Church is just one more demand on time and commitment and some are not so sure it is all that necessary. They can live very well without too much church especially if it doesn't allow them to feel comfortable, happy and excited. That is too bad. If any thing is necessary in this high stress culture it is inner strength. Call it "soul strength." It is the fiber of will that helps people act prudently in difficult situations and remain strong-minded when confronted with unexpected calamity. It provides moral integrity that enables us to choose good over evil, and establish relationships that build self esteem and hope. It gives the vision to realize that we have been created in God's image to care for God's world.

"Soul strength" is the gift of disciplined living which church is all about. Church comes from a Greek word which means "called out." The church is people called out by God to be the ever living presence of Christ in a broken and hurting world. That requires dedication and commitment. Recently I talked with a preacher who has worked diligently at helping his church serve as the presence of Christ and a moral guide in their community. He said this. "I urge our people to show commitment. I don't want them asking what they can get out of the church. I want them thinking about what they are willing to give." Every great athlete, artist, or performer is some one willing to make the extra effort. The well-known football coach Tom Landry looked at it this way. "My task is to renew the minds of our players so that I can get them to do what they do not want to do in order for them to achieve what they want to achieve." Leaders in the church have a similar task. They need to help people do the things they may not want to do so they can achieve what God wants and what will provide the ultimate sense of satisfaction. The great movers in this world are people who have discovered the inner strength of mind and spirit, "soul strength," through extra effort and enormous sacrifice. Many of them have discovered it through dedicated involvement in the worship and work of the church.

As most you well know Second Reformed Church is now actively searching for fresh vision for the future and each member needs to make some new and bigger commitments for that to happen. Doing so will pay double dividends. The church will capture a new vision and everyone involved will be serving others and growing in "soul strength." All of us will be more ready to live in this tension packed and troubled world.

THIS SUNDAY IS PENTECOST: PLEASE WEAR RED!!

ALSO THIS SUNDAY: ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW ELDERS & DEACONS

WHAT'S HAPPENING??



Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held this summer at Highland Park Reformed Church **August 21 - 25** from 9-noon on the first day and 9:30 to noon for the rest of the week. We are using a new curriculum this year focusing on *God's Family in Action*. There will be crafts, story telling, music, games and snacks as well as a special program for 7th and 8th grade children to provide dramatic messages for the younger children each day.

VBS is open to children who are four years old and up through sixth grade. Any seventh or eighth grade students are welcome to help with the drama portion or as general helper/volunteers.

If you are in need of transportation for your child(ren) just let us know and we will take care of it for you. Registration is strongly suggested so that we can be certain to have enough supplies. We are asking for all registrations to be in by **July 30**. Look for the registration forms on the table heading towards the parlor for coffee hour. You can return them to Ann Hays or Kathy Fisher in the Church Office. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ann 732-828-8345. **ANNIE HAYS**

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED

WANTED: Any teens or adults who would be available to help with VBS this year (Mornings August 21-25). We need people to assist with games, shepherd groups of children, etc. No training is necessary!! Even if you can only commit to one or two days, we could still use your help. If you can lend a hand this year, please contact Ann Hays @ 732-828-8345. It is an awesome experience that you will never forget.



WANTED: Juice and cookies for VBS. We will be collecting snacks for the VBS kids. If you can donate any items, please drop them off at the church during July and let Ann Hays know so she can deliver them to Highland Park for VBS week. **ANNIE HAYS**

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

Children's Day

We will be honoring our Christian Education teachers and children next Sunday, **June 11th**. Our teachers, who put in many hours of their time familiarizing themselves with the Sunday school materials and spent teaching our kids will receive a special treat. In addition to our teachers, our kids will be recognized for their excellent participation and attendance.

Please make sure you are able to attend this very important and festive service.

Children's Coffee Hour



Next Sunday is Children's Day, **June 11th**. As you know this is a traditional Sunday whereas the kids rule the roost! They will be hosting coffee hours, ushering, and giving/receiving Christian Education awards. So **PLEASE** have the kids bring something to share for fellowship. Stop on your way to church next week and pick something up (but don't be late for worship). WAWA, 7-11, Quick Chek....they all make good cookies!!

KATHY FISHER

Summer Worship

Summer Worship times will remain at 10:00 am throughout June, but in July and August, 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 Reformer's Church building. **Beginning at 9:30 am.** The exception will be the 27th of August, when we expect to join with other Collegiate Reformed Congregations for outdoor worship and a picnic. More on that later.

**Worship in July & August – 9:30 am
At Second Reformed
100 College Ave New Brunswick**



New Consistory Members

Helmut Horr – Vice President

1 Year Term Remaining – April 2007

Hap Harris—Elder

Ann Hays—Elder

Dawn Harris—Deacon

John O'Shea—Deacon

2 Year Term Remaining— April 2008

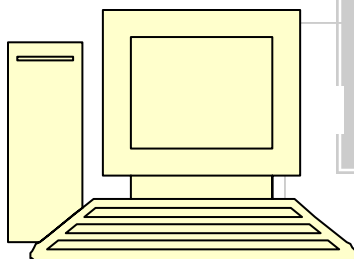
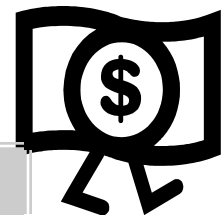
Curly Boelhouwer—Elder

Helmut Horr—Elder

Richard Horr— Deacon

3 Year Term Remaining - April 2009

Marilyn Koops – Elder



	MAY	Year To Date
Income received:	\$20,399	\$105,853
Expenses Incurred:	15,500	83,301
Pledges Received :	4,515	22,184

Ushers

4—Communion—
Curly, Helmut, Steve
and Hap

11—Children's Day—
Sam Hays,
Alex Howarth,
Ashley Chibbaro &
William Beals

18— Rich Horr,
John O'Shea, Kathy
Williamson & Curly

25—The Beals Family



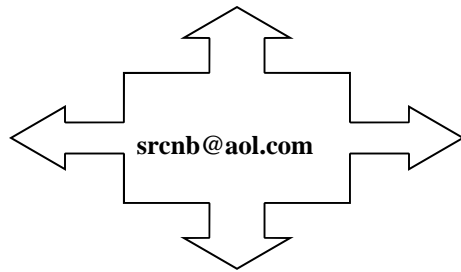
Coffee Hour Hosts

4— The VanGlahn Family

11— Children's Day
All Christian Ed Families

18— Winant Family & Helen Erdey

25— Ellie & Walt Holz



JUNE 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00pm Self-Study Team Mtg	2	3
4 10:00 Pentecost 11:20 Consistory Ordination 11:20 Last Day SS	5 7:00pm Finance Cmte Mtg	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00 Worship Children's Day	12	13 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 7:00 pm Consistory Mtg	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:00 Worship	26	27	28	JULY & AUGUST WORSHIP TIME: 9:30 AM		