



SECOND THOUGHTS

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May 2006



FROM THE DESK OF

REV. ANDY RIENSTRA

Smell The Flowers

As I write this it is raining heavily. April showers are making possible May flowers. May is usually referred to as the flower month. The landscape comes alive with so many brilliant blossoms including my favorites, the dogwood, and azalea.

Going to the Bible to discover what it might have to say about flowers, I found two axioms - a flower has a very short life and possesses inspirational beauty.

Isaiah says:

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them." (Isa. 40:7)

James says, "The one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. (James 1:10)

The writer of the Song of Solomon mentions flowers in association with the renewal of life and coming of spring. He also associates them with love and lovers

"Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me." (Song 2:12-13)

Flowers are exquisite. With them we share love and joy, grief and sorrow. They often serve as notes to express the feelings words cannot disclose. My father-in-law photographed flowers. He made many of his pictures into slides, which enhanced their wondrous beauty and color, close up. It amazed me how intricate and complex the flower blossom appeared when viewed with magnification. For the believer flowers demonstrate the awesome creativity of our God.

Most striking about the flower, however, is the length of its existence. It is truly here today and gone tomorrow. Recently I gave Mae a dozen roses. They were a deep, rich, burgundy, and Mae proudly placed them where we could receive maximum enjoyment from their beauty. The sad thing was that their life span was short lived. It was only a few days and their gorgeous pedals were falling to the ground.

There is a message in this for all of us. Like the flower, our lives reflect the wonder and splendor of God's creation, and are quickly spent. Life passes like a meteor, before we know it we ask where it has gone.

We all need to enjoy the mystery, charm, and opportunities of life while the blossom is still in bloom. If there is something you have been "meaning to do," don't postpone it. If there is a friend you have been intending to visit, don't wait. If there is a trip you have wanted to take, don't delay. If you feel an urge to enrich your relationship with God don't put it off. Frequently I remember a couple in one of my former churches who planned to travel and "see the world" once they retired. Both worked for years had no children, and looked forward to the exotic places they planned to visit. Two months after the husband retired he suffered a massive stroke, and died a couple weeks later.

The Psalmist expressed it clearly, "As for man, (and woman) his/her days are like grass, he/she flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

May 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 pm VBS Mtg 8:00 pm Self Study Team Meeting	3	4	5	6
7 10:00 am Communion 11:00 am Coffee Hour Congregational Meeting 11:20 am Christian Ed.	8	9 Noon Women's Lunch 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	10	11	12	13
14 10:00 am Mother's Day Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour SS—Optional	15	16	17	18	19 NBTS Baccalaureate Service	20
21 Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Christian Ed 11:20 am	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 am Worship Coffee Hour 11:00 am No Christian Ed	29 June Newsletter Deadline	30	31	<p>Mother's Day....Sunday School (Optional) Memorial Day Weekend NO Sunday School Last Day of Classes June 4 Children's Sunday and Recognition....June 11</p>		

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on **Sunday, May 7th**, immediately following worship in Classroom #1 to elect Elders and Deacons. Please try to be in attendance.

What to Wear on Pentecost!

Make your fashion statement on Pentecost: to symbolize the color of the flames that appeared over the disciples' heads, we are asking everyone to wear something red! If you have nothing of that color, go out and get something new! It will be fun on Pentecost Day, and all through the summer if you choose well! Pentecost Day is Sunday, **June 4th**.

Camp Warwick Collection

Thank you for contributing to our Camp Warwick Scholarship Fund. So far we have raised, \$50.00. If you would like to contribute, please mail a check into the church office or place your donation into this Sunday's offering plate. Last day to contribute is May 7th.



Financial Figures—Month End April 2006

Total Income: \$13,017.34

Total Expenses: \$14,638.22

Contributions: \$ 5,004.84

Judy Chibbaro is continuing her grandmother's tradition of giving all Mother's a flower to plant on **Sunday, May 14th**, for Mother's Day.

Be sure to attend worship to receive your gift!

Thanks Judy for your continued generous offering!!

Trinity House News

The Trinity House lunch time gatherings will end this month when the RU students return home.

Second Church plans to continue providing soup, salad & bread to these students in the coming school year. Please consider being a contributor for the Fall 2006 semester. If you need information regarding the Trinity House and their mission, please contact Martha Palmer at 732 271-4641.

Antique/Charity Appraisal Event

The North Brunswick Women's Club is sponsoring an Antique Appraisal Event on Saturday, **May 20th** at Our Lady of Peace Church in North Brunswick. All proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick.

The event begins at 12:00 noon with a brief lecture by J. Bodnar on the antique and collectible markets. Each ticket holder is entitled to have one item appraised.

Ticket price is \$10.00 and should be purchased ASAP. For more information, look for the flyer on the bulletin board or contact Ellie Holz at 732 828-0785.

MAY



THIS MONTH'S USHERS. . . .

7—Communion—Helmut Horr, Steven Sandor, Hap Harris &
Curly Boelhouwer

14—The Beals Family

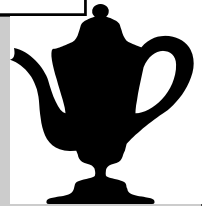
21— The Chibbaro Family 28—John O'Shea, Kathleen Williamson,
Helen Erdey & Sam Hays

7—The Howarth Family

14—Mary Belasco &
Martha Palmer

21—The Winant Family &
Helen Erdey

28—Steve & Helen Sandor



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**FIRST MEETING:
SRC MAY 2ND 7-8 PM**

VBS, a joint venture of the 4 RCA churches in the Greater New Brunswick area, will be held at The Highland Park Reformed Church from **August 21-25**. All children ages 4 and up are invited to attend. More information and details will be forthcoming.



CLOTHING DRIVE

SPRING CLEANING—LOOK THROUGH YOUR CLOSETS!

Hap Harris is collecting "gently used clothing" for people in need in the mountains of Pennsylvania. If you have any items to contribute, please bring them to church on Sunday and either give them to Hap or place them in front of Kathy's office.

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

Our Easter offering this year has been donated to The Reformed Church World Service General Hurricane Recovery Program. The monies collected will be used in the United States to be used as needed. Many areas are still affected by the devastating hurricanes that occurred last Fall.

Easter Collections totaled: \$ **640.00** WAY TO GO!