



SECOND THOUGHTS

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Fall 2006

FROM THE DESK OF

REV. ANDY RIENSTRA

Press On



This summer Mae and I went back to Michigan to celebrate the 50th anniversary of my college graduation. I had not seen many of my classmates for years, some of them not since graduation. It was good to renew acquaintances. It was a most pleasant experience and brought back many fond memories.

Some of us who were close friends (and still are) got together for a special dinner. We shared stories, laughed a lot and took pictures. We found out about classmates who had left us for God's better home. We also grieved together about disappointments and loses some had suffered. It was truly worth the trip and the time spent.

Once the weekend was over, and it went quickly, I had a very empty feeling. It suddenly hit me that we can never go back. Life knows only one direction - forward. The reverse gear doesn't engage. As much as we would like to return to a previous time and place, all we can do is enjoy the memory.

This makes the present moment very precious. What we fail to do in this moment and at this place we can never come back to do again with the same kind of influence and impact. We can only deal with the now, and make plans for the future. With each tick of the clock a moment of life races by never to be retrieved, never to be used again.

It all reminds me of something the Apostle Paul wrote to the people at Phillipi. **"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things"** (Philippians 3:13-15)

Do you have that "view of things?"

What view?

It is to simply experience each moment of life as an opportunity to be God's servant in this world promoting greater joy for all. If we read on in this letter of the Apostle Paul we see that he defines his "view of things" with this challenge: **"Rejoice^a in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."** (Phil 4:4-6)

When we do that then we can say something else also written by Paul to the Philippians: **"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."** (Phil 4:13) As a church we are living through a period of tough transition, and it is also a special time. It is a time to look back and see some of the wonderful blessings of the past and remember how when people trusted they were blessed. It is a time to look ahead and realize God has some new plans for us. People can never go back and recapture, or even repair the past, but we can always live in the present with greater joy and hope. We don't know what the future holds, but we can be confident that God is already there awaiting us. Most importantly he is even now with us to enable us to do all things in his strength. **PRESS ON!**

DID YOU RETURN YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION SHEET? If not.....your information will not be published in the 2007 Second Reformed Directory.

Information can still be included by emailing Kathy Fisher at SRCNB@aol.com by November 1st.

MISSIONS~Food Containers & OGHS

Starting this Sunday, **October 22nd**, there will be food containers in the Narthex and Mine Street foyers. The missions committee is asking for donations to be given to the M.C.F.O.O.D.S. Foundation of New Brunswick. **M.C.F.O.O.D.S.** stores food donations at its New Brunswick warehouse throughout the year and distributes canned goods, pastas, cereal, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, all non-perishable foods and shampoo, soap and other items to local food pantries and soup kitchens. A week or so before Thanksgiving these containers will be brought to the M.C.F.O.O.D.S. Foundation to be distributed to low income families.

During the month of November, we will be asking for donations towards One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS will be this year's special Thanksgiving offering. If you would like to contribute to OGHS, there will be specially marked envelopes in your bulletin on **November 19th**, "World Hunger Day" and insert distributed throughout the month. You may use the designated envelope OR you may place your donation in your thanksgiving envelope which can be found in your contribution box set. Fish banks will also be distributed in Sunday School. Look for more details in Second Edition in the weeks ahead.



Hayride at Suydam Farms

October 29th...6:30 pm

On Sunday, **October 29th**, at 6:30 pm we will gather for a good old fashioned HAY RIDE (real wagon, real hay, real farm, real atmosphere) at the Suydam Farm. The tradition of riding on hay wagons began as an acceptable way for farm couples to be together, hugging in the hay, perhaps on their way to a barn dance, where square, circle, and line dancing might happen. We'll just do the ride and the cuddle with your own boy/girlfriend or spouse, and then adjourn to the campfire for "hayride goodies", apple cider, doughnuts, and cookies. The drinks will be provided, but we could use gifts of doughnuts or cookies. Sign-up sheets are hanging on the bulletin board. If you can help, indicate what you'll bring next to your sign up name. Please also include the number of people in your party that will be attending.

DIRECTIONS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK:

Follow Rt. 27 South towards North Brunswick; approximately 4 miles. You will pass Tara Greens Golf Course and Fama's Nursery. Remain on Rt. 27 and you will see a Large sign that says *Suydam Farm*. Make a right before the sign onto Skillman's Lane.

The farm house is immediately on your left. If you pass the WAWA.....you have gone too far!

Self Study Team update

Now that we have held two congregational events at which we asked for input on your present feelings about the church, and your future dreams, we want to keep you informed as to our progress. The team is most appreciative of the congregation's participation and we hope all of you enjoyed the fellowship and lunch which was graciously provided through the efforts of two of our team members, **Joan Boelhouwer**, and **Judy Chibbaro**.

Right now the team is sorting through all the ideas and will deliberate on what this may say for the future. The team will work diligently, but patiently because we want to make sure that the direction proposed to the consistory and congregation takes into consideration all the changing dynamics within the church, the community and the culture. Setting a mission vision for a new future is no easy task and before we can think of attracting a permanent pastor we need to let that person know where we are going and how much commitment people are willing to give to this vision. Please be in prayer about our work, and the continuing ministry of our church. We promise to update you regularly and are ever open to any questions you might have.

Rev. Andy Rienstra

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



<Removed>



NOVMEBER



Coffee Hosts

October

22 —Orban Family
29— Tom & Fliss O'Shea

November

5—The Wade Family
12—Ellie & Walt Holz
19—Helen & Steve Sandor
26—Deanna & Helmut Horr

Ushers

October

22—Hap & Helmut
29—The Beals Family

November

5—Hap & Curly
12—The Hays Family
19— John O'Shea & Richard Low
26—Kathleen W. & Curly B.

My first Classis Meeting

by Phyllis Beals

I attended my first Classis meeting on September 27 at Grace Reformed Church in Edison. Marilyn Koops is Second Church's First Elder Delegate. I was asked to serve by our Consistory as an alternate, Second Elder delegate last spring. This is necessary when a church does not have an installed minister.

Primarily, clergy serving in congregations as well as those serving in special ministries, and elders gather together. Many of the churches in the New Brunswick Classis come from shore areas such as Toms River, Keyport, and north to Linden. First, there was a lovely buffet dinner prepared by some of the women of Grace Reformed Church. A service of prayer, scriptures and hymns took place in the sanctuary. Following the church service members of Classis gathered in a community room for the first of three one hour discussions. This was voted by Classis in May 2006 to "break for one hour of ongoing dialogue on the pastoral, scriptural, theological and real life lived experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people." The discussion went very well with a well organized plan with questions for participants to ponder, and opportunities to listen to other people's questions.

We were encouraged at this first meeting to pose questions but not to attempt to answer them. That may occur at the next Classis meeting in January 2007. The responses were written down and will be reviewed by a team from Classis, to formulate the next round of discussions.

Congregational Care and Pastoral Care are a significant part of the work of Classis. Rev. Susan Kramer-Mills is the Classis Minister, and she spends time visiting churches and consistory meetings. Rev. Kramer-Mills expressed her grave concerns about churches that are struggling, and she recommended that Classis needs to seriously look at new types of ministries in our struggling churches. Pastor Samir of the Reformed Church Home would like pastors and church members to come on Sunday afternoons to help with worship at the RCA Home in Old Bridge.

Did you know there is a Classis Commission on Justice and Mercy? Responding to natural disasters, local housing needs, world hunger, helping the poor and homeless, are subjects that have been examined by the Commission, to see how churches within our Classis respond to these needs. Also, "Taking guidance from the Albany Synod, the Commission will begin to prayerfully consider issues in our world about which our denomination as whole ought to take a stand, in the name of Jesus. Issues such as Darfur, Article 3 of the Geneva Convention and Global Warming are issues about which Classis may make overtures to General Synod." This came from the newsletter of the Commission on Justice and Mercy, by Rev. Seth Kaper-Dale. The Commission asks: What creative justice and mercy programming are you (churches) coming up with? What global issues of justice and mercy do you talk about, pray about, preach about? (Thank you Rev. Rienstra for raising awareness in our worship services.) How else do you engage in efforts to bring justice and mercy to these issues? If you are interested in Justice and Mercy, join the commission. Contact Seth Kaper-Dale at Seth.kaper-dale@juno.com.

Did you know that Rev. David Risseeuw retired from Six Mile Run Reformed Church on October 1? Rev. Risseeuw served as our Consistory's supervising minister since Rev. Esther retired. Rev. Risseeuw announced that he will be moving to Delaware quite soon. If you wish to send a card to him I am sure the church office will forward it to him. Six Mile Run Reformed Church, 3037 Route 27, P.O. Box 649, Franklin Park, N J 08823. Our new supervising minister is **Rev. Peter Berry** from the Community Reformed Church in Whiting, NJ. The Next Classis meeting will be held in Jan. 2007.



Christian Education News

by Phyllis Beals

Invite a friend to Sunday School! The kids are learning the Lord's Prayer in song, and they will be studying the meaning of the Lord's Prayer over the coming weeks. The needs of the kids, however, may have to come second to the availability of Sunday School teachers. We should have 2 classes for the kids who are ages 9 - 12, and a second class for the Pre K- grade 2 children. The teachers are Phyllis Beals, Ellen Van Glahn & Lisa Pally. Mei yun Park is also helping. Since one teacher is available every other Sunday we need more individuals to help, even on a now and then basis. Alice Beals and Jesse

Van Glahn last spring specifically asked for a time to break off from the younger kids and think about & question one another about the lessons. They have been trying to lead Troy Chibbaro and James Esther while the other teacher is with the younger kids, but they really need an adult to be with them.

Please let Phyllis Beals know if you are willing to help out. Please pray for our children, teachers and pray that someone will respond to this call to guide and teach our young people. Youth Group is also under way with Annie Hays, and they have met to discuss some fun activities to participate in as well as their conversations about their faith and life.

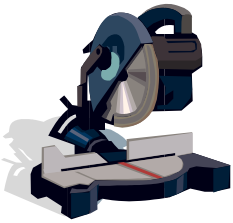
Youth Group Stuff

Trips & Bits

On **Sunday, November 19**, the youth group will be going either to the movies or ice skating. If interested, let Annie know and as the date gets closer she will fill you in on the details. Anybody High School or College age is welcome to join us. If you have questions, or to let her know that you want to come, call or e-mail. Ann Hays 732-828-8345 JAALH@msn.com.

We are looking for volunteers for nursery duty on Sunday mornings. Any interested party should contact Annie Hays. We need a nursery volunteer on October 22nd and on Sundays in November. **Will Beals** is on to look over our nursery on **October 29th**.

*Thanks goes to Annie Hays for bringing the Youth Group bowling last Sunday!
A great time was had by all!*



Kitchen Task Force

The kitchen task force is up and running. The group is divided into 6 subgroups. The first two are already hard at work. The sorting crew, Ellie Holz, Deanna Horr & Helen Pallay, went through all the "stuff" in the kitchen and sorted out what could be used and what should be tossed. Thanks ladies!!!!

The second group (Steve Sandor) is working on the removal of the old monster of a stove. The planning and design group will be meeting in October to plan out the new layout and make some decisions about the materials, etc. It is not too late to join the fun! In addition to the three groups mentioned, there is also a group for destruction. There's a group to shop for countertops and flooring. And then the reconstruction group. If you have talents in any of those areas, please join us. Just tell Annie Hays that you are interested and she will let you know when the groups are meeting.

Guest Preachers at SRC

Rev. Rienstra is on vacation, this Sunday, October 22 and October 29. Our guest ministers are: Sunday, October 22nd: New Brunswick Theologically Seminary President, **Rev. Dr. Gregg Mast** and October 29th: NBTs Student, **Duane Brown**. **Rev. Thomas Larkin** will also be guest preaching on Sunday, November 12th.



Locked Doors on Sundays?

A decision was made at the September consistory meeting to lock all church building doors after 10:00 am on Sundays. The only door that will remain open is the front door leading into the Sanctuary. Signs have been posted on the Mine Street and Stone Street doors, inviting people to worship with us through the front door.

This decision was made for the safety of our members and children who walk around the church building during worship.

Stone Street Property Renovations

As most of you already know, our Stone Street tenant of 20 years, Seth Gopin, has retired from Rutgers University. He has moved to New York City. Our house will not be vacant for long! As of November 1st, (or close to that date) RU Protestant Trinity House, will be vacating the space. Trinity House currently rents space from the NBTs. The Seminary is doing some renovating themselves and need the space that Trinity House is currently residing.

Our Property Committee is currently working to paint, carpet and refinish hardwood floors in order to lease space to our Protestant neighbors.

Congregational Care Request

If you or anyone member you know needs some special care, please contact Kathleen Williamson at 732 605-9345.

November 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday, October 29th— Suydam Farms Hayride 6:30 pm			1	2	3	4
5 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hr 11:20 SS	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hr 11:20 SS	13	14 12:00 pm Women's Lunch 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	15	16	17	18
19 10:00 Worship World Hunger Day 11:00 Coffee Hr 11:20 SS	20 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	21	22	23 	24	25
26 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hr 11:20 SS	27	28	29	30	Heads Up: Phyllis Beals is currently working on a brief survey regarding Bible Study. The Who, What & Where Bible Study survey will be finished soon. Keep your eyes opened for it :)	

Around the Church Tidbits (From the Administrator's Desk)

- Kathy Fisher would LOVE if someone (possibly the youth) would take pictures with a digital camera of people, our church, events, etc....to put into the newsletter. Email Kathy at SRCNB@aol.com with your pictures, ideas or thoughts.
- The December Newsletter Deadline Date is November 20th, NO EXCEPTIONS. Kathy's goal is to get the December issue in your hands no later than December 1st if not before. December is a newsworthy and busy month. In order to inform you about the happenings in December, she needs to receive the information on a timely fashion. New writers, new ideas, new pictures ARE ALL WELCOME!!!! Don't be afraid to submit something or suggest a new thought or idea.