

September 2006



SECOND THOUGHTS

100 COLLEGE AVENUE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
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The Web: www.secondreformednb.org

September Worship Time: 10:00 am

FROM THE DESK OF

REV. ANDY RIENSTRA

Creating a Vision



The writer of Proverbs says "where there is no vision the people perish." (Prv 29:18) As we return to the life of the church this fall at Second Reformed we face a big challenge. We need to develop a vision for the future. For the past eight months your Self Study Team has conducted a number of inquiries with various groups and persons. We have met with clergy from neighboring churches, administrators of New Brunswick Seminary, young people and leaders of the Protestant Campus ministry, elders and clergy from Classis New Brunswick, and representatives of "New Brunswick Tomorrow."

All of this had helped provide insight on what other churches in our area are doing, as well as some of the options for ministry in New Brunswick, but the big task is still ahead. We need to cast a vision for the ministry we can do in this place. We need to state clearly and concisely what we are willing and able to do in the ministry of Christ through the life of this church. Before we can call a pastor to lead us we need to let interested persons know what kind of ministry we want to support and how willing we are to be servants in that ministry. No pastor should be called to lead us before we are willing to let that person know where we want to go.

To create this vision the help of the entire congregation is needed. We need to find out what the people who call Second Church their church home want to see happen in ministry, and what they are willing to contribute in terms of skills, talents and resources to make that happen.

On Sundays **September 17** and **October 1** we will gather following our morning worship to do the work of vision making. A program is being designed to help you share your desires for future ministry and leadership. The self study team will share with you some options that have become apparent in our conversation with others, and you will have a chance to say what you believe the church should become. It will also be a time for fellowship and food will be provided. We will eat and talk together.

Additionally we will have opportunity to meet New Brunswick Seminarian Duane Brown whom the consistory has hired to help us more fully understand the changing demographics of the neighborhoods and communities which are immediately contiguous to the church. Duane has experience in this type of work and this will dovetail with his continuing education at the Seminary.

Hopefully a large number of you will join in these events. Your presence, participation and prayers are urgently needed. Recently I came across a piece in which a pastor addressed the congregation with these questions.

What would our church's mission be if all the members were like me?

What would happen in the church if everyone contributed as I do?

What would our worship be like if people participated in it as I do?

The point is quite obvious. No organization is stronger than its individual parts. As Paul wrote in 1st Corinthians the 12th chapter, the church is like a human body. It is made up of many different parts and all are important. Often the lesser parts prove to be more vital and valuable than those that seem so important. Little people in every pew are often more essential than the most articulate preachers. This is especially true as we work at casting a vision. All of us are needed, young and old.

Hope to see of you September 17 and October 1 and many more times during the next couple months. Remember - "where there is no vision the people (church) may perish."

Congregational Care Committee Wants to Know . . . If you or anyone in your home is in need of any help such as seasonal yard work or occasional repairs. The Deacons want to provide help to church members and neighbors with meals during times when one of our members may be ill.

Please let **Kathleen Williamson**, Chair of the Congregational Care Committee know if you have a need or think someone else may need some help. Kathleen's home phone is 732 605-9345 or email: semuncia@aol.com.

Christian Education News

There will be a very special program for children and teens on **September 10th**. There will also be an important message for everyone, there will be some music, and the teens will plan their year's activities. **EVERYONE SHOULD ATTEND, KIDS AND PARENTS**



Christian Education classes will begin on **Sunday, September 24th**. A calendar of dates for Sunday School will be posted in the hallway and included in the October newsletter. We will keep you posted for a special Sunday School kick-off!



Year to Date information: Month Ending August 2006

Income received: \$149,552.11
Expenses Incurred: \$120,946.08
Pledge commitments: \$26,337.36
Pledges received: \$39,506.00

Kitchen Task Force

Although the Kitchen Task Force has not had a single meeting, the church has obtained cabinets and a new stove. (Thanks Marilyn, Nate Koops, Curly, Steve, Hap and the Rienstra's Mover friends) Now we need to get to work.

For those of you who have already talked to me and anyone else who is interested in giving us a hand, I'm asking for a brief meeting after church on Sunday **September 10th** just to set up work dates. Bring your calendars. We need all kinds of helpers. We will need some muscle to do demolition of old cabinets, some shoppers to look for flooring and possibly countertops, some sorters to decide which stuff to keep and what to toss and lastly I am hoping for some "handy" gentlemen to help install the new stuff.

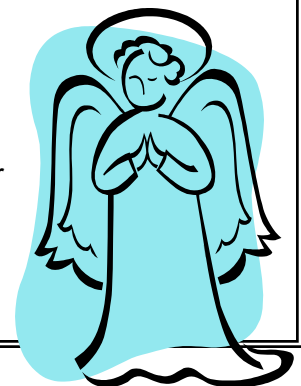
I know that you are out there and if you would donate your time we could save a bunch of money on revamping the kitchen!!!! Hope to see you on the 10th. If you can't make it but still want to be part Of the workforce, will let me know.

Thanks! *Annie Hays*

Our New Garden Angel

Have you seen our backyard lately? We have been given an angel statue from the Bea Higgins memorial fund from the Higgins-Orban Families. She has been placed in the garden overlooking our church building and property.

We also have new grass! Sod has been placed in the backyard making our grounds look very luxurious. If the weather cooperates, we will have coffee hour out back and enjoy our new beautiful angel addition and greenery.



SEPTEMBER 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10:00 am Communion 11:20 am Fellowship	4	5	6 12:00 am Worship Cmte Mtg	7	1 8	2 9
10 10:00 am Worship 11:20 am Fellowship Kitchen Task Force Mtg	11	12 12:00 noon Women's Lunch 7:00 pm Consistory Mtg	13	14	15	16
17 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am: Congregational Mtg.	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship Christian Education	25 7:00 pm Elders Mtg	26	27	28	29	30 October 1st~ Congregational Mtg

SEPTEMBER

Ushers

3—Helmut Horr & Rich Horr
 10—Hap Harris & Curly Boelhouwer
 17—John O'Shea & Dawn Harris
 24—Kathleen Williamson & Rich Horr

Coffee Hour

3—Coffee Only :)
 10—The Snyder Family
 17—Congregational Luncheon
 24—Lisa & Chris Pallay