



Summer 2007

# SECOND THOUGHTS

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## FROM THE DESK OF ....

**REV. ANDY RIENSTRA**

### *One Day to Live*



Recently I read of a questionnaire given to 625 students in 12 different German vocational schools. One of the questions was this: "What would you do if you knew that you had only one day to live?"

There were a wide variety of responses including the following: "Get drunk, get a fix, have sex." Some however, said that they would spend the time with family, others wanted to climb a mountain, or sail a boat, or go on a picnic with friends. One person said he would spend the time reviewing his photo albums and savoring the memories. A young lady of 18 said; "I would like to spend my last evening in church alone with God and thank him for my full and happy life." (from a book by Donald J. Shelby, "Living Tomorrow Today, as quoted in "Homiletics")

Many years ago some one asked Francis of Assisi this same question while he was hoeing his garden. He answered, "I would finish hoeing my garden." John Wesley, one of the founding pastors of the Methodist church, was asked what he would do if he knew that the "second coming" of Jesus was to happen the next day. His response was, "I would keep my plans, call on a friend, and preach at the service tonight."

Have you ever considered having just one day to live? I have. I would want to spend quality time with my family, and some close friends to let them know how much I love them, and thank them for all the joy they have given.

Reading about the question prompted some thoughts on how each day is much more important and valuable the older we get. In my younger years I tended to take most days for granted. I would go about my business and before I knew it another day had passed, Like riding a treadmill, we often go through one day after another without sensing the wonder of the moment and the ecstasy of being alive.

Have you ever noticed how often we try to do more than one thing at a time. Its called "multi-tasking" today and especially popular with younger people. We get so busy being busy we don't take the time to simply enjoy being alive. Summer in New Jersey is a season for appreciating some free time. It calls for a few days at the ocean, or in the mountains, or traveling to see family and friends. It's the ideal time to treasure life and thank God for each new day.

Consider the words of the poet in Psalm 90 "The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. . . So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart."

Today may not be the last we have, but it truly a day to be cherished with a grateful heart. Living one day at a time, and being thankful for it, is the secret of happy living.

Many thanks to our "retiring" consistory members,  
Elders, **Hap Harris & Ann Hays** and Deacons, **John O'Shea** and **Tom Williamson**.  
Thank you for your service to SRC.....  
your dedication, time and commitment to our church is very much appreciated!

## Annual Picnic: Sunday, August 26th

Members of the Collegiums of Reformed Churches will gather together for an all church Worship Service and Picnic on **August 26** at 10:00 am.

It is our closing service of the Vacation Bible School event and the children will sing a few songs from the week. The Van Wickel House, located off Easton Avenue (just next to Rutgers Prep School), with its shade and nice stoned porch, has offered us a wonderful place for worship and fellowship. Usually we have about 70 people, which is a great way to see and meet other members of our Local Reformed Churches. Thankfully, chairs are available, so you don't need to schlep any from home. We are asked to bring a salad or a dessert. Please bring them in disposal containers.



## Summer Worship

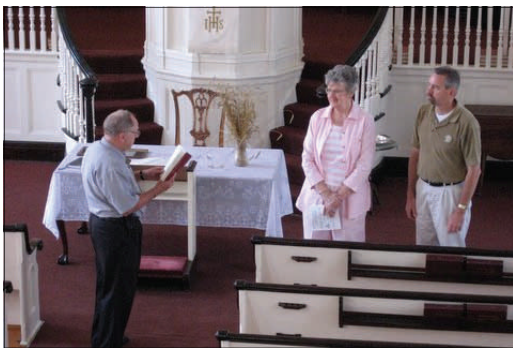
In July and August, worship will begin one half-hour earlier, to take advantage of (possibly) cooler temperatures earlier in the morning. This summer, again, we will hold ALL SERVICES here at Second Reformed's Church building. Beginning at 9:30 am. The exception will be on the fourth Sunday of August when we expect to join with other Collegiate Reformed Congregations for outdoor worship and a picnic.

**Worship in July & August – 9:30 am  
At Second Reformed**

## June 2007 Financial Figures:



	June	Year To Date	Last Year
Income :	\$ 11,285	116,448	116,358
Expenses :	20,594	100,724	100,486
Contributions :	3,820	26,430	26,151



*Rev. Andy Rienstra “welcoming”  
our new Elder, Thomas O’Shea and  
Deacon, Ruth Pulda to SRC  
Consistory, on Sunday, July 8th.*

*Second Church members join together in pray during the Installation of new Deacons and Elders on July 8th during worship service. Note: Not pictured is Judy Chibbaro. Judy was installed as a new Deacon, on July 15th.*



*PICTURES SUBMITTED BY MAE RIENSTA ....Thank you Mae!*



## Three Cheers for our High School Graduates!!! Congratulations to SRC recent Grads:

- **Phillip Beals—Graduated from Franklin High School**

Phil will be attending Rutgers School of Arts & Sciences, New Brunswick, He will be taking a range of courses before deciding on a definite course of study or career plan

- **Stephanie Hays—Graduated from Spotswood High School**

Steph will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.  
She will be studying Engineering.

- **Tyler Van Glahn—Graduated from Mt. Oliver High School**

Tyler will be attending The County College of Morris in Randolph, NJ.  
He will be studying Mechanical Technology

## Let's Play....Do you know this Member?

How much do you REALLY know about your fellow church members?

Each month we will be providing 3 facts.

Can you guess who this month's member is? *Answer on page 4*

- **Enjoys crocheting, needlework and crafts**
- **Would rather be nature walking than in the kitchen**
- **Was chosen to wear a boa constrictor in Orlando, FL**



**LAUGHING WITH  
THE LORD!**

### A Priest's Job Promotion

A Catholic priest and a rabbi were chatting one day when the conversation turned to a discussion of job descriptions and promotions.

"What do you have to look forward to in terms of being promoted?" asked the rabbi.

"Well, I'm next in line for the Monsignor's job," replied the priest.

"Yes, and then what?" asked the rabbi. "Well, next I can become a bishop."

"Yes, and then?" "If I work real hard and do a good job as bishop, it's possible for me to become an archbishop." "OK, then what?" Exasperated, the priest replied, "With some luck and real hard work, maybe I can become a cardinal." "And then?"

Growing angry, the priest responded, "Well, with lots and lots of luck and some real difficult work, if I'm in the right places at the right times and play my political games just right, maybe, just maybe, I can get elected Pope." "Yes, and then what?"

"Good grief!" shouted the priest. "What do you expect me to become, GOD?"

"Well," responded the rabbi, "One of our boys made it!"

*Submitted by Marie Harris*

### The Bible

A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear."

*Submitted by Helen Pallay*

## Coffee Hour Hosts

### *July*

1 - Ann Hays & Marilyn Koops  
8 - The Harris Family  
15 - Kathleen & Tom Williamson  
22 - The Chibbaro Family  
29—The Beals Family

### *August*

5— Helen & Steve Sandor  
12— Deanna & Helmut Horr  
19— John & Judi O'Shea  
26— Combined Worship Service  
at Van Wickel House

### **2nd Quarter Mission Disbursements**

Our Consistory approved the Mission Team's 2nd quarter mission disbursements:

- RCA "EERN Scholarships" - \$1,000
- RCA "Scudder 1/4 partner in share—\$1,425
- RCA US Spring Disaster Storms— \$1,000

*Member: Ellie Holz*