



SECOND THOUGHTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND REFORMED CHURCH OF NEW BRUNSWICK
100 COLLEGE AVENUE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY 08901

November 2007

FROM THE DESK OF

REV. ANDY RIENSTRA

Giving Leads to Living



A very wealthy man gave a testimony about his faith to a church group. "I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I remember the turning point in my life. I had earned my first dollar and went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. After the speech an offering was received and I had only that dollar bill. I knew I had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. At that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. It is my belief God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today."

When he finished he proudly went to his seat. As he sat down, a little old lady sitting in his pew moved near him and whispered in his ear, "I dare you to do it again." Giving is a daring adventure and most of us are scared of it, especially when we begin to gradually possess more stuff. In a strange way our sense of security gets tied up with what we have and hold.

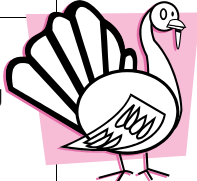
Helping us learn how to dare to give is a responsibility God entrusted to the church. It has been said that what the church needs to do is teach less about beliefs and more about believing. We need fewer creeds and more opportunities to demonstrate our faith at work.

Living the Christian life is a growth process, not unlike the human cycle from infancy to adult maturity. A young baby readily clutches and grasps at various things and does not let go because the psychomotor skills have not developed to the point of allowing them to release. Little children live receiving, holding on, and ever reminding us how many things belong to "me" and are "mine." In the early stages of Christian development we are also interested in what we can get out of our relationship with God. We are needy and want God's blessing, but becoming a vital believer demands that we learn how to release, how to give. Carl Sagan, the renowned author, poses this question: "Do you dare to believe that your personal significance in creation is in what you **contribute** to meaning, to the hope of the future?"

Our significance is not in how much we gather, or accumulate, not in getting to the top, not in the size of the estate we will leave, not in our name. Rather it is measured in what we give. For that reason it is necessary that the church calls on us to give – to give of our time, of our talents and of our treasures. Our spiritual growth is inextricably related to giving. This is the time of the year every church makes plans for its mission and ministry in the coming year. It determines what it will cost to engage in that ministry. In doing so it needs to challenge members and friends to help. Planning this year will be unique for Second Reformed. Next year will undoubtedly be the first with a new permanent pastor in place. There will be new challenges, opportunities, and expenses that will place out of the ordinary demands on all our resources. We will need to grow in our giving.

There are people who do not enjoy the Christian journey because they have never grown beyond being children interested in what they can get out of the faith adventure. There are others who are alive with the Spirit because they have discovered that giving is the secret to exhilarating living. It was in giving of his life that Jesus made new life a reality. It is in giving that we discover what believing in Jesus is all about. May God give each of us more of the kind of faith that dares us to give! There will be a new joy in living and we will know what real Thanksgiving is all about.

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Clean Up Day
4 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Communion 11:10 Coffee Hour 11:30 Christian Ed.	5	6	7 8:00 pm Nicaragua Speaker @SRC	8	9	10
11 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:10 Coffee Hour 11:30 Christian Ed.	12 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting	13 12:00 pm Women's Lunch 7:00 pm Consistory Mtg	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:10 Coffee Hour	19	20	21	22 Happy Thanksgiving		24
25 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:10 Coffee Hour 11:30 Christian Ed.	26	27	28	29	30	
				SRC Website: www.secondreformednb.org SRC Email: SRCNB@verizon.net SRC Fax: 732 545-4773 SRC Phone: 732 545-0581		

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



USHERS

4—Helmut Horr & Richard Low
 11—Judy Chibbaro & Richard Low
 18—Alice Beals & Curly Boelhouwer
 25—Sam Hays & Kathleen Williamson

4—Church Coffee Hour—
 Volunteer *Judy Chibbaro*

11—Marilyn Koops & Annie Hays

Coffee Hosts

18—The Park/Kang Family
 25—Curly & Joan Boelhouwer

Year to Date: October 2007

Income received as of October 30, 2007:

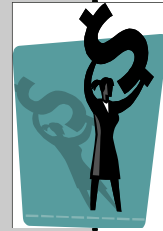
This Year \$ 176,921 Last Year: \$190,833

Expenses Incurred as of October 30, 2007:

This Year \$ 154,132 Last Year: \$155,528

Pledges received as of October 30, 2007:

This Year \$ 43,584 Last Year: \$ 43,009



~A Message Received from Beth Kirkbright~ San Diego Firestorms

Hi -

Sorry not to get an "All's well here" note out sooner. I have not been on my e-mail since last weekend. The air was smoke filled since Sunday early-PM. We were ordered to evacuate on Monday morning via the TV news. We evacuated Monday mid-morning to Bob's co-workers' house in El Cajon (south east). Mom Wyckoff, now 96, slept quite comfortably on their sofa that evening and they had a half-bath nearby that she could use.

Our friend's hobby is gourmet cooking. We ate well while in evacuation and were glued to the TV coverage. The air was very clear at their house. Mom Wyckoff was a bit confused by it all, didn't understand why we were not going home Monday night. Our hosts gained 3 more evacuated friends on Tues. afternoon due to the fire near Mexico.

The fire came within about 5 miles of our house. The winds were in our favor, and we had no damage. There is a mountain preserve with extensive open space that could burn about 0.5 miles from our house. Well-known roads were used to denote evacuation borders. We are just north of the road. My mother-in-law's care facility is just south of the road, and they did not have to evacuate. After monitoring the fire progression, we decided to "sneak" back home just before bed time on Tues, but kept the cars packed. We learned several neighbors already returned without incident. We had a sleep-deprived night monitoring the TV for fire locations. The evacuation was lifted Wed mid-PM. We then proceeded to vacuum ¼" of debris from the bottom of the swimming pool. We know a family who lived in a remote part of Poway (north east) who no longer have their house. The firefighters did (and are doing) a wonderful job considering the overwhelming nature of the fire. They probably could have used military and out of state assistance sooner than it was made available. All the best, Beth

Church Member Directories for 2007—2008 have been published. Please pick up a copy on one of the foyer tables.

Advent Breakfast—Mark your Calendars

The Women's Guild of the First Reformed Church of New Brunswick invites all women to attend their annual Advent Breakfast on Saturday, **December 1st**, 9—11 am. This annual event will be held at the First Reformed Church on 9 Bayard Street in New Brunswick. Babysitting will be provided. Pls. RSVP by November 16th to 732 545-1005 or Secretary@firstreformedchurch.net

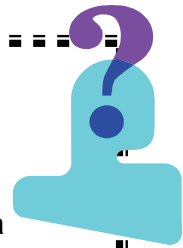
Helmut Horv

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

- Paid way through college by working weekends, holidays and summers as a welder and ornamental iron fabricator.
- One of first activities at SRC was teaching the Senior and Junior High Sunday School study group.
 - Hobbies include reading, sea kayaking and gardening.



November's Special Offering— November 18th One Great Hour of Sharing— "Who is my Neighbor?"

Our Special Thanksgiving offering this year will once again go to The Reformed Church World Service. Your gifts will help our neighbors around the world to support programs that help rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters.

Your contributions will secure sustainable sources of water and food for people who are malnourished. And assist refugees with job training and trades to help them relocate and be self-sustaining. This special offering will offer children a chance to survive past the age of five to go to school and create a better life for the next generation.

A pamphlet provided by RCWS will be included in your November 11th bulletin. An offering envelope will also be provided in the November 18th bulletin. If you choose to not use the envelope, kindly earmarked your check, "OGHS" and place it in the offering plate any Sunday in November.

Your Missions Team

Worship Team Meeting

There will be a Worship Team meeting on **November 12th** at 7pm. We will be planning for the Christmas programs/services and anyone is welcome to join us.

Your Worship Team



Punch Lines: *Taken From The Christian Banner*

- My wife asked me the other day if I would love her when her hair turns gray. I said, "I don't see why not. I've loved you through three different colors."
- A seminarian thought he could better understand the fears and temptations of a future congregation if he had some varied experience, so he decided to become a cop for while. He passed the physical exam and was taking the oral exam. One of the questions was, "How would you disperse a frenzied crowd quickly and wisely in an emergency?" His answer: "Take a collection."

Submitted by Marilyn Koops

