

September 2007



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

Time to Make a Fresh Start



When I awoke this morning it seemed unusually dark. It struck me instantly. Summer is almost over. Fall is just around the corner. Teachers and students will be back at school when you read this. As a child autumn was not my favorite season. I wanted vacation all year round. Undoubtedly there are kids who still feel the same way. And not only kids!

Today I am grateful that there was a time to return to school. Vacations serve best when they are followed by opportunities to be productive. They refresh and enable us to develop new energy for being more competent, care takers of God's world. Healthy living demands rhythm that includes a time for relaxation, and a time for work and service.

In the church there is also a need for that kind of rhythm. We have enjoyed a summer when many of us had time to travel. A couple of our young people, William Beals and Kevin Chibbaro had a chance to leave the country and discover new places and opportunities for service. Others of us spent time with family and friends and enjoyed the pleasures of nature's lakes and mountains. Now a new energy year begins in the church and all of us need to consider how the delights of summer's relaxation can make us more fit for new service to God and others through the church

Did you know that in most churches 10% of the people are responsible for 90% of the work? That is a startling figure. In many churches it is also true of the financial needs. 10% of the people give 90% of the money. This is not all together true for Second Reformed but just think what the church could do and be if more people got involved, and everyone increased their contributions.

As our fall season begins I would like to challenge everyone to face a few questions about your commitment as members

- 1. What would the church's mission be if all the members were like me?**
- 2. What would happen in the church if everyone contributed as I do?**
- 3. What would worship be like if people participated in it as regularly as I do?**

Get the point? No organization is stronger than its individual parts. Weak parts need the stronger parts to do more and give more, and sometimes the stronger parts simply give out from fatigue. We all need to do our part which usually means we all need to do just a bit more. Will **YOU** make that commitment?

This is an important next few months in the life of this congregation. Hopefully you will have a new pastor in the very near future. The church needs to be ready for that person's leadership and that means new commitment on the part of everyone. Summer is past. It is time to get back to worship and work in the church of Jesus Christ. Paul told the early Christians "the times are evil." The same can be said of this time in history. God is increasingly being placed on the margins of life. . The ministry of God's people is critically needed. God needs you and me to shape a new and better world, and that can begin right here in New Brunswick, at the Second Reformed Church. Make the commitment to be a vital part of God's ministry among us this fall. You will be blessed! God will be praised!

SECOND THOUGHTS

The newsletter of the Second Reformed Church, published eleven times annually for members and friends of Second Reformed Church,

100 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, office 732 545-0581, fax 732 545-4773 email: SRCNB@verizon.net and on the web: www.secondreformednb.org.

Deadline for entries is on the 20th of each month. Please fax or email your articles, photographs or other information you would like to share with your congregation. We look forward to hearing from you.

Women's Lunch will return next Tuesday, September 11th

Please join our dedicated group of ladies at 12:00 noon with a bagged lunch next Tuesday....dessert will be served!! The group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month for good conversation, great desserts and spiritual bible study. For more information, contact Helen Sandor at 732 545-4209.



Monday, September 24-26, **Free Prostate Screening** at the Cancer Institute of NJ, 1st Floor Clinic area. 195 Little Albany Street, NB, 5-8pm. All men 50 years and older. Call 732-247-2050 for an appointment.

The North Brunswick Women's Club will be sponsoring a **Flea Market, September 15th** at the North Brunswick Municipal Building, 710 Hermann Road. 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, set up at 7:00 am. The cost is \$15 per space, \$25 for 2 spaces. Bring your own tables.

Rain date: September 22.
For more information call Sheral at 732 940-2089.

Where Was Jesus Born?

Submitted by Marie Harris

A lifelong unchurched man suddenly develops a vague religious urge and decides to join a church--any church. So he sets out to find one.

His first stop is a Roman Catholic church where he asks what he has to do to join. The priest mentions diligent study and the affirmation of the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds, then--just to see how much the man knows--asks him where Jesus was born. "Pittsburgh," he answers. "Get out!" cries the shocked priest. Next stop is a Southern Baptist church where the seeker is told he would have to learn Bible verses, swear belief in the Nicene and Apostles' creeds, swear off booze, and be baptized ("By immersion, not just some sissy sprinklin").

The Baptist preacher then, to see how much this man knows, asks him where Jesus was born. "Philadelphia?" he asks tentatively (once bitten, twice shy).

"Get out, you heathen!" yells the preacher.

Our perplexed protagonist finally walks into a Unitarian church where he is told all he has to do is sign a membership card.

"You mean I don't have to renounce anything, swear to anything, or be dunked in anything?" "That's right. We have no special tests for membership, no dogma. We support total individual freedom of belief." "Then I'll join! But tell me--where was Jesus born?" "Why, Bethlehem, of course." The man's face lights up. "I knew it was some place in Pennsylvania!"

Trinity & Area Churches "Block Party" . . . Members of SRC, Trinity House and area churches will be out front of SRC on **Wednesday, September 12**, to handout free hotdogs, brownies, church literature and mission project information to RU students. There will be great music, an opportunity to "Get your picture taken with Jesus" and find out about other church's mission projects. If you would like to help distribute SRC literature, or new 2008 calendars or help handout food, please contact Kathleen Williamson at 732 605-9345.



**Year to Date information:
Month Ending August 2007**

Income received:	\$148,191	Last Year: \$150,483
Expenses Incurred:	\$141,275	Last Year: \$123,683
Pledges received:	\$34,684	Last Year: \$38,664

Sunday School program at Second Reformed Church
Sundaes to be served at Coffee Hour!

Super "Sundae" Kickoff for Sunday School will be **Sunday, September 16** right after church. This year, the sundaes will be served during Coffee Hour and will be made available to everyone! Be sure to join us on that date for our traditional ice cream sundae party and children's Bible lesson!

Children, ages 4 and up can join our classes at any time during the year. Our first regular lesson will take place on **Sunday, Sept. 23**.

At present we have a program that is based upon the "One Room Sunday School" curriculum which allows for older children to mentor and guide younger children for part of our time together, always under the supervision of adult Sunday School teachers. Children learn songs and play rhythm instruments with Music Director Marilyn Koops at 11:30. After music time the children learn some important lessons based on Bible scripture, and we try to have a craft or game activity each week to complement the lesson. If you would like more information please contact Phyllis Beals @ awpbeals@patmedia.net or call 732-545-0581 and leave a message on the answering machine.

Phyllis Beals



Bible Study:

9:00 am
Every 1st & 3rd
Sunday

Choir Practice:

9:00 am
Every 2nd & 3rd
Sunday

Pastoral Search Committee

Your Search Committee is diligently reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates. We've have great interest in our Church and Mission. We've already held some interviews and will be meeting with more candidates during the month. We want to be sure that our next minister is the right person to lead us forward. We are anxious to get this process completed and move on to a bright future!

Tom O'Shea

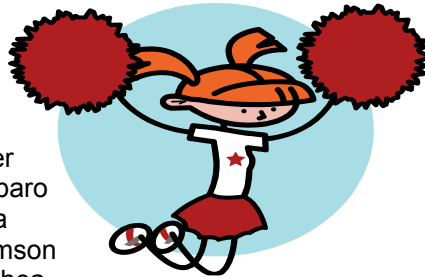
SEPTEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Communion 11:20 am Fellowship	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:00 am Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:20 am Fellowship	10	11 12:00 noon Women's Lunch 7:00 pm Consistory Mtg	12 RU Block Party	13	14	15
16 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:20 am: Fellowship "Sundae" School Kickoff Coffee Hour	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:20 am Fellowship 11:30 Christian Ed	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship 11:20 am Fellowship 11:30 Christian Ed						

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ushers

- 2—Helmut Horr & Curly Boelhouser
- 9—Kathleen Williamson & Judy Chibbaro
- 16—Richard Low & Tom O'Shea
- 23—Ruth Pulda & Kathleen Williamson
- 30—Richard Low & Tom O'Shea



Coffee Hour

- 2—Coffee Only :)
- 9—RU Students Cookie leftovers
- 16—Christian Education Kickoff "Sundaes"
- 23—Helen Pallay
- 30—The Howarth Family