



April 2008

Second Thoughts

100 COLLEGE AVENUE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
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FROM THE DESK OF ...

Pastor Doug Shepler

What is Faith?

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11.1

Faith is only a noun in English. It is something we have. In Greek it is expressed in verb form as well. We speak of having faith, having enough faith or too little faith. However, faith is indeed an action that we take - and thus is a verb and not a noun.

The author of Hebrews tells us under inspiration of the Spirit that faith is basically twofold in nature: assurance and conviction. Both these words are perception words - actions that involve a way of seeing or perceiving. If I see what I hope for I am assured that it is true and real. If I see what is not obviously visible, then my conviction is trustworthy and thus true and real - at least for me. This is a key to faith. Faith is an individual act - unique to each perceiver. It is like your fingerprint or better yet, your eyesight - unique to you, yet common to others as well. Try wearing another person's glasses sometime and see what I mean. You see faith can be nurtured in community, but it must be done and possessed by the individual.

Hebrews 11 is a catalog of men and women who saw what others could not, and did God's will anyway. What would kingdom history be without Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Miriam, Noah, Rahab and Isaac, not to mention Samson, Barak, David and Samuel? And many more are added to this catalog every day, every moment. Because as we begin to see the way of Christ, the way of God in this world, we become part of that company of people who enter into the kingdom of God and not only observe, but participate in the work and wonder of kingdom reality in our broken world. As we read in verses 13 - 15:

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they *saw* and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

As I am new to Second Reformed Church, you and I are both strangers in this world, and we make our way in the world as we see God's leading. Our shared perception on that way is crucial to harmonious and productive ministry. As we begin our life together, let us each heed the words of Hebrews 12.1:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

May God empower our sight and grace our action so that God's kingdom may come. Amen.

True Love is neither physical, or romantic.

True Love is an acceptance of all that is,
has been, will be, and will not be.




Special Coffee Hour

On **Sunday, April 13th**, Coffee Hour will be held in Demarest Hall in celebration of Walt & Ellie Holz ~ 50th Wedding Anniversary~.

News From Trinity House

“Leonard Sweet to Speak a positive and uplifting message”

Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministries cordially invites you to join their students as they host Leonard Sweet at Second Church on **April 8th** at 8 p.m. Sweet is known as a historian of American culture; as a futurist/semiotician who "sees things the rest of us do not see, and dreams possibilities that are beyond most of our imagining;" and as a preacher and writer who communicates the gospel powerfully to a post modern age by bridging the worlds of academia and popular culture.



“Friend Raising Dinner” at Second Church

On Sunday, **April 20th** at 6-9 pm, there will be an evening of Live music, **the F Word Exhibit: Images of Forgiveness*, and Worship led by Rutgers students in Second Church’s Demarest Hall. All supporters of campus ministry, high school students interested in RU, together with the pastors, parents and youth leaders of Trinity House are invited.

The suggested Donation is \$20. The F WORD EXHIBIT is a project which tells the stories of people whose lives have been shattered by violence, tragedy and injustice and who are learning to forgive, reconcile or move on. Please RSVP at 732 745-9985 or RPCMfriendrasing@gmail.com.

Seminary Spring Convocation

The New Brunswick Theological Seminary invites you to join them on **April 19th** for their Spring Convocation. The program runs from 9:00 am—3:30 pm. The convocation welcomes a distinguished panel of presenters including, Michael Rhodes, a five time Emmy Award winner, directory/producer/writer for TV and film and keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. J. Lewis.

Dr. Lewis is Senior Minister for Vision, Worship and the Arts at Middle Collegiate Church in NYC and an author.

There are several workshops to choose from. For more information see the brochure on the bulletin board or email: pbakker@nbts.edu. The cost is \$60, which includes lunch.



OUR SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING TO ELIJAH'S PROMISE TOTALED:
\$532.00
~Thank you to everyone who contributed~

Spring 2008 Preaching Series

- April 6 “Faith and Prayer” Hebrews 4.16
- April 13 “Faith and Spiritual Growth” Hebrews 6.1
- April 20 “Faith and Perseverance” Hebrews 12.1
- April 27 “Faith and Thankfulness” Hebrews 12.28
- May 4 “Faith and Worship” Hebrews 13.15

APRIL 2008



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

BIBLE STUDY: EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:00 AM
CHOIR REHEARSAL: EVERY 2ND & 4TH SUNDAY AT 9:00

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6

7

8 **12:00**

**Women's
Lunch**



10

11

12

10:00 am Worship
Welcome
Rev. Shepler!!
11:10 Coffee Hour
11:20 Christian Ed

7:00 pm
Consistory

8:00 pm
Speaker
Thomas
Sweet

13 10:00 Worship
11:10 Special
Anniversary
Coffee Hour
11:20 Christian Ed

14

15

16

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20 10:00 AM
Worship
11:10 Coffee Hour
11:20 Christian Ed
6:00 pm Friend
Raising Dinner

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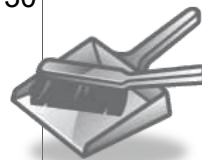
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27 10:00 AM
WORSHIP
11:10 Coffee Hour
11:20 Christian Ed

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29

30



HELP WANTED! **SPRING CLEAN-UP** **DAY** **SATURDAY, MAY 3RD**

The Housekeeping Committee team is heading up a Spring Clean-up Day, on **Saturday, May 3rd**, 9—12:00 No real physical work is required. We just need some man (or lady power or teenage power) to clean out drawers, light painting & cleaning windows.

You don't need to stay the whole morning. Even 1 hour of your time would be appreciated. Please contact one of the Housekeeping Committee members if you able to attend: Kathy Fisher, Ellie Holz or Helen Pallay as soon as possible or Email the church office at SRCNB@verizon.net.

Year to Date: March 2008

Income received as of March 31, 2008:

This Year \$73,279

Last Year: \$73,603

Expenses Incurred as of March 31, 2008:

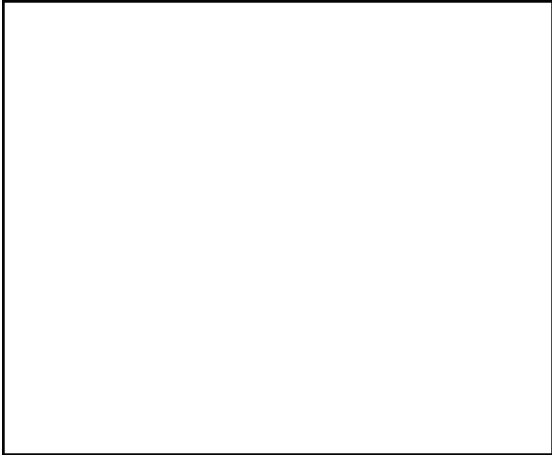
This Year : \$64,888

Last Year: \$45,981

Pledges received as of March 31, 2008:

This Year \$ 15,596

Last Year: \$ 12,190

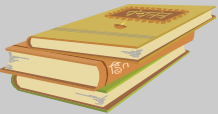


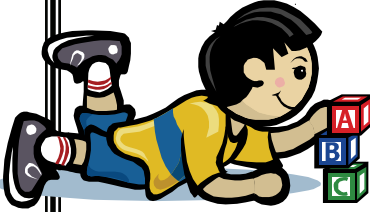
6—Helmut Horr & Curly Boelhouwer
 13—Rich Low & Tom O’Shea
 20—Kathleen & Tom Williamson
 27—The Chibbaro Family

USHERS

6—Judy Chibbaro—Monthly Volunteer...thanks Judy!!
 13—Ellie & Walt Holz ~Special Coffee hour ~
 20—Steve & Helen Sandor
 27—Linda Snyder


Coffee Hosts


READERS
 6—Kathleen Williamson
 13 - Tom O’Shea
 20—George Wade
 27—Alice Beals



April 6 Jenny Orban
 April 13 William Beals
 April 20 Sam Hays
 April 27 Sam Hays

NURSERY HELPERS



Nursery news. teens who are covering Nursery during the
 Due to a couple of 'incidents' in the church service cannot and should not have
 nursery, there will now be an age limit for to be responsible for older children. For
 nursery. Children over the age of 8 will not the safety of the younger kids who 'need'
 be allowed in the nursery area during the nursery, we will have to enforce the age
 Church Service unless they are needed to limit. If you have questions or concerns,
 be a companion for a younger sibling. The please contact Annie Hays.