

SECOND THOUGHTS

MARCH/APRIL
2009

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From the Pastor's Pen...

THE PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...

Remember the Natural Church Development survey you took during the search for a pastor? Well, that survey revealed that as a congregation we need to work on need-based evangelism. In an attempt to address the issue with spiritual integrity, our Consistory and Church Health Team is committed to begin the work of equipping us for effective evangelism as a congregation, using the Real Life Evangelism Series.

Evangelism books presume everyone wants to do evangelism, so they tell you how to do it. Four years of Lilly Endowment-funded research has demonstrated conclusively that most people would rather go get a root canal than think about evangelism! The Real Life Evangelism Series, based on this research, doesn't leap to the hows of faith-sharing. This course will help our church grapple with fundamental questions before it moves to the hows: Why share our faith? Why do evangelism?

Author, pastor, researcher and lawyer Martha Grace Reese discovered that most mainline Christians don't share our faith because we aren't clear why we should. (She calls evangelism the "E-word," because it's not a good out-loud word in most churches!) The Series will help our church get past the E-word stigma, answer the fundamental "why" questions, connect with the power of a deep faith in Christ, begin to pray for real and start to share our faith with enthusiasm and theological authenticity.

The Series is an integrated set of resources, endorsed by seven heads of denominations, evangelism experts and pastors. It is grounded in a four year, Lilly Endowment study of superb evangelism that included 1200+ interviews, 50 site visits and a major survey of congregations doing the best job reaching unchurched people. The Series has sparked a transformation in understanding, thinking, habits and practices of prayer and evangelism in churches of all sizes, cultural and geographic settings and theological understandings.

The Series works. It is accessible, joy-filled, research-based, spiritually mature and beautifully written. It is not a quick fix. Please don't believe otherwise. We cannot skimp on time, planning or intensity. God can change our church into a vibrant, enthusiastic, articulate community of faith if we'll change our habits.

Our Consistory and Church Health Team will begin the first step of this process during Lent. For eight weeks the leadership will meet to study the text, Unbinding the Gospel, which will help to deepen our faith and to start sharing our own faith, understand our cultural context, and begin to plan for authentic congregational faith-sharing.

The Real Life Evangelism Series works! Congregations and people flourish when we are inspired, informed and given the chance to practice new ideas and skills together. Let us pray that the Spirit sweeps into our church. Ready? God is at work in our midst, so expect only what God can do!

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Second Thoughts
has a new look!!

Check it out, tell the Editor in Chief what you think! We will be trying out new formats until we get it right. Give us your opinion. Articles and suggestions are always welcome!!!



Even though bags will be provided, you may want to bring your own Easter basket to gather up all the goodies from the hunt!

Easter Sunday Children's Egg Hunt - Sunday, April 12th

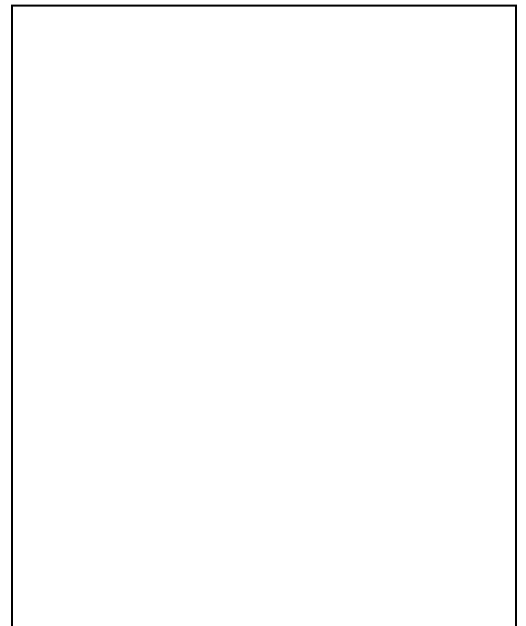
Walt & Ellie Holz will be hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt being held on Easter Sunday, April 12th, immediately following worship. All children 12 & under are invited to participate. Children are encouraged to invite their friends to the egg hunt to share in the fun. There will be candies & prizes for all!

Adults~ Grab your coffee and come watch the fun!

"As of 2007, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, England, Canada and Wales, killing one person every 34 seconds in the United States."

YOU ARE INVITED to TRINITY HOUSE EVENING WORSHIP

In honor of the 225th Anniversary of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, the Second Reformed Church of New Brunswick will host the Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministry presentation of "Deutsche Messe" by Franz Schubert, conducted by Benjamin Berman, Peer Music Minister, at 7:00 p.m. on March 1, 2009. A special presentation to Dr. Gregg Mast will be made and a reception will follow in Demarest Hall. Come and join with our Rutgers students as they worship in song and word and Spirit.



MARCH

- 1 - Stephanie Hays & Julie Hays
- 2 - Emily Howard
- 7 - Patrick Paik
- 8 - Angela Miller
- 9 - William Christiansen
- 10 - Patrick Howard & Georgie Wade
- 11 - Michael VanGlahn, Jr.
- 13 - Sharon Boelhouwer
- 14 - Ruth Paik
- 26 - Larry Wehr
- 27 - Hap Harris
- 31 - Pat & Tom Williamson



APRIL

- 4 - Toni Patton
- 5 - Christian Orban
- 7 - Jamie Mount
- 15 - Kelly McWilliams
- 18 - Rachel Lauren Fisher
- 18 - Burton Salisbury
- 19 - Thomas Phillips
- 21 - Barbara McWilliams

*Special
Coffee hours:*

*4/12 - Easter Sunday
bring your coffee into
the Sanctuary and
watch our annual
Easter Egg hunt*

Readers

Coffee Hour Hosts

MARCH

- 1 - Elaine Foley
- 8 - Phyllis Beals
- 15 - George Wade
- 22 - Kathleen Williamson
- 29 - Martha Palmer

MARCH

- 1 - Judy Chibbaro - *Monthly Volunteer*
- 8 - Deanna & Helmut Horr
- 15 - Annie Hays & Marilyn Koops
- 22 - Curly & Joan Boelhouwer
- 29 - Martha Palmer & Mary Belasco

APRIL

- 5 - Judy Chibbaro - *Monthly Volunteer*
- 12 - *Easter Sunday* - Coffee Only
- 19 - Helmut & Deanna Horr
- 26 - Tom & Fliss O'Shea

FEBRUARY

Coming Soon: UPCOMING EVENTS - Look for details in your bulletin insert & emails

- ◆ Ash Wednesday - February 25th - Services to be announced
- ◆ Cookie Sale - February 15th Missions Annual "Happy Birthday SRC" to benefit Church World Service
Volunteers Needed to bake, see sign-up sheet on the bulletin board
- ◆ Mardi Gras - Maybe a party at SRC????

- March 1 - Ashley Chibbaro
- March 8 - Will Beals
- March 15 - Sam Hays
- March 22 - Jenny Orban
- March 29 - Sam Hays

We're on the Web!
Web site address

www.Secondreformednb.org

he Education & Spiritual Development Team met Feb. 16. We are in need of additional church members to join our team currently comprised of Ann Hays, Marilyn Koops, Nancy Beardslee, and Phyllis Beals. Pastor Doug is an ex officio member of all our Teams.

Here are highlights of our meeting:

First under discussion was a recommendation to change the time for youth Sunday School. We are going to recommend having our young people attend the worship service through the Youth message and following that, around 10:20, they will leave the service to have their Sunday School class until the worship service concludes and then through till 11:10 a.m. This plan will only work if we receive the commitment and support of some adults who will teach on a rotating basis, thereby allowing all teachers to have Sundays when they are able to remain in the worship service. We decided to bring this recommendation to consistory in March. We will be recruiting both individuals and couples to take this challenge, so please begin to prayerfully consider volunteering!

The advantage of this schedule is that of the small number of children currently attending Sunday school, some will be able to attend Sunday School before going on to their SUNDAY sports or dance activity. It may actually make it possible for more children to participate in Sunday School who have found it difficult to do so in the past. If Consistory supports this as a pilot project through June 2009, we will begin in April. Then the hope is to implement it for the 2009-10 school year.

A second item of discussion was Adult Christian Formation. This is also going to shift to meeting after coffee time - from 11:30 to 12:15. Various topics for study are to be included such as: "Christianity 101" and "Reformed Christian living...What does it mean to be Reformed?" Pastor Doug and Rev. Nancy Beardslee will share teaching opportunities. We have some members who grew up in the the Roman Catholic faith tradition and some other denominations, who have not had a chance to explore the meaning of the Reformed tradition. And, we have long-time members, who did grow up in the Reformed Church of America, wonder what it means to be "Reformed" in today's world.

Our last item of discussion was Vacation Bible School, which will be held at Second Reformed Church on August 24 through 28, 2009. Ann Hays and Phyllis Beals have agreed to be co-coordinators for our Collegiate VBS program this year. We are considering ways to help some of our own church's children participate in the morning, half-day program, which may mean we need to help transport the children to their afternoon program (i.e. Daycare or home care). As in previous years, Highland Park Reformed, First Reformed and Suydam Street Reformed Churches will work together and include children from all these churches for VBS. We plan to open the VBS to the public, but expect minimal participation from the larger community from past experience.

On Sunday, August 30, the Collegiate worship service and picnic lunch will take place at the Van Wickle house. Second Reformed Church will also hos this service as well. Mark your calendar now!

Submitted by Phyllis Beals

Mission Cookie Sale A Success

A very heartfelt "thank you" to all who baked cookies and contributed so generously in purchasing them at the SRC Valentine/Birthday Cookie Sale. We had a fantastic selection of homemade cookies!