

August 2005



# SECOND THOUGHTS

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CHURCH PICNIC THIS SUNDAY

DETAILS & DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 2

## What's Happening??

*Great News!!* Second Reformed Church will soon have a specialized interim minister to help guide us towards the future!!

At its monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2005, the Consistory received and approved the Board of Elders' recommendation that the *Rev. Dr. Andrew R. Rienstra* be employed as Interim Minister for an initial term of nine months beginning **September 11, 2005**. As indicated previously in the Summer edition of "Second Thoughts", an interim minister cannot be called to become our permanent minister.

Rev. Rienstra previously served as Senior Pastor of the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains, New Jersey and earlier served the Richfield Church in Clifton, NJ and the Christian Reformed Church in Miami, Florida. While serving in these pastorates, Rev. Rienstra also served as Reserve Chaplain in the US Air Force on active and reserve duty for 32 years including service in the Chief of Chaplain's office in Washington, DC where he was responsible for the training of Air Force Reserve Chaplains. Rev. Rienstra was called to active duty during Desert Storm and retired in 1992 with the rank of Colonel.

Rev. Rienstra was selected by the elders following a diligent and thorough search process and comes to Second Reformed Church highly recommended for his broad ministerial experience, his superb preaching abilities, his analytical skills and his ability to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds. He and his wife, Mae, reside in East Stroudsburg, PA but will be staying in the New Brunswick area during the four days a week that he is working with us at Second Reformed Church. The Rienstras are the parents of three grown children, Candice, Richelle and Karen.

Rev. Rienstra is a graduate of Calvin College and Calvin Seminary and received his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Princeton Seminary in 1983. Over the years he has attended numerous institutes, seminars and conferences and completed Interim Ministry Training at Princeton Seminary in 1996.

What will Rev. Rienstra do while he is here at Second Reformed Church? He will lead us in worship, preach, provide pastoral care and very importantly he will help our congregation to learn about its strengths and weaknesses so it can appropriately plan for calling a new pastor. According to Rev. Rienstra, "Interim is a time for considerable self-study and goal setting, taking into consideration the many needs of the entire congregation and community in which it has been placed by God to do ministry."

The Consistory urges all members and friends of Second Reformed Church to make a special effort to attend worship service on Sunday, **September 11, 2005**. The young people of our church will take a major role in conducting the worship service that Sunday and we will all have the opportunity to welcome Rev. and Mrs. Rienstra at a special Coffee Fellowship following the service. Please come!!

*Helmut Horv*

## **VBS at Second Reformed Church**

By the time you read this article Vacation Bible School will be over, or nearly over. Second Reformed Church teamed up with its collegiate church neighbors again to put on VBS, but for the first time an evening format was chosen to enable more children of working parents to participate.

Many thanks to **Annie Hays**, Elder of SRC and seasoned VBS veteran for leading the VBS team of volunteers from SRC, First Reformed, Highland Park Reformed and Suydam Street churches.

The theme this year was the Kingdom of the Son Safari, and it focused on Jesus teachings including the Lord's Prayer. Thank you to all who helped or made donations to make Vacation Bible School the meaningful and fun time it was!

*Phyllis Beals*

## **Mission Giving by SRC- Responding to Niger's Crisis and to our local needs...**

"The cameras are rolling on another African disaster: Niger and its desperate starving children have thrust the continent back into the global spotlight...Niger is not an isolated island of desperation; it lies within a sea of problems across Africa..."

"How can you absorb even the "everyday" bulletins from Africa that epitomize a continent of bottomless need: the 40 million children kept out of school by poverty; the chronic malnutrition that stunts up to half of all children; the regions, such as southern Africa, where in five years one in five children will be an AIDS orphan?" (Excerpts from Bishop Tutu's recent column)

These are not pretty pictures painted by Bishop Tutu...A feeling of uneasiness must rest within each of us if we really allow ourselves to grasp the pain and suffering of people in such tremendous need for basic survival. Do we dare to picture it? Do we dare to feel it? Without our members continued financial support, giving to these programs by SRC might not be possible.

SRC's consistory voted at its August 9th consistory meeting to send \$1000 of its annual mission giving to Reformed Church World Service specifically to aid Niger during this time of terrible starvation. Closer to home, SRC will give \$500 to St. John's Clinic, New Brunswick and \$500 to the Salvation Army, New Brunswick.

Thank you to the Mission Committee for their careful research, prayerful consideration of and recommendations for Mission giving to the consistory. The Mission Committee members are **Martha Palmer, John O'Shea, David Howarth, and John DeVelder.**

*Phyllis Beals*

## **Welcome Back Rutgers College Students *Can you help??***

**Wed. August 31 from 2-5 p.m.**

**Thursday. Sept. 1 from 12-5 p.m.**

Let's renew our commitment to this vital aspect of SRC's ministry!

Please see the LARGE & VERY VISIBLE sign up sheet in the hallway leading to the lounge. Sign up to help! There was some thought that we couldn't hold our Welcome RU students because we were short on help last year. A decision was made to concentrate our welcome to RU students the first day of classes and the day before. Outreach Committee must have help to do this! We will be passing out free refreshments.

Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministries, which has its base also on College Avenue, will join SRC at its table to welcome students.

If we don't get help for the table we may not be able to carry this project forward. Now, wouldn't that be a terrible shame? If you have questions, call Hap Harris at 732-9243. Thank you for coming through...See you on August 31 and Sept. 1!

*On behalf of the Outreach  
Committee-headed by Hap Harris*

## **Collegium of Reformed Churches Picnic This Sunday, August 21st!**

Members of the Collegiums of Reformed Churches will gather at Worship Service and Picnic on Sunday, **August 21** at the Van Wickle House at the Meadows in Somerset for an all church worship service and picnic. Worship time for the picnic is **10:30 am**. Bring a **MAIN DISH** or **SALAD** to share with others, bring your own chair to use at the service and for eating, and plan to enjoy a splendid day in God's Beautiful World!

Directions from SRC: Exit SRC parking lot and make a right onto Mine Street. Follow Mine Street to Easton Avenue. Make a right on Easton Avenue towards Franklin Township and follow this for approximately 4 miles. You will pass the Somerset Diner, Dunkin Donuts (Kathy's favorite!) and McDonalds. Van Wickle House is at the junction of Easton Avenue and DeMott Lane.

*IN CASE OF RAIN...THE PICNIC WILL BE HELD INSIDE THE VAN WICKLE HOUSE*

### **KIDS, PARENTS, TEENS & TEACHERS... ATTENTION PLEASE....LOOKING AHEAD!**

Before you know it we will be gathering for the first day of Sunday School. That date will be **Sept. 18**. Please mark your calendars now. We will be hoping for a good return of our Sunday School teachers and students to continue with our One Room Sunday School curriculum. If you were a teacher last year please let Phyllis know if you will teach again. If she doesn't hear from you, know that you will be hearing from her very soon.

A youth group program for our younger teens and older teens will take place. Christian Ed. Committee is considering how to make this meaningful and fun. If you have a recently confirmed teen or an older teen, and you have some ideas or suggestions please speak to Phyllis Beals or Annie Hays.

*Phyllis Beals*

### **SPOTLIGHT ON OUR TREASURER...**

The SRC Consistory received word that long-time SRC member Ed Winant has graciously agreed to become SRC's treasurer. This is great news, as had a volunteer not stepped forward, SRC might have had to hire a part-time treasurer, and as you may know, we are not in financial shape to be able to handle that!

Ed has a lot of experience in the field. He is currently Treasurer for Milltown Library. Ed has agreed to learn, in time, Power Church, the software program that we are currently using. We will work out consistency meeting schedules so he may attend some. Thank you Ed!

*Phyllis Beals*

### **Year to Date information: Month Ending July 2005**

Income received: \$103,091.04  
Expenses Incurred: \$97,075.43  
Pledge commitments: \$27,899.00  
Pledges received: \$29,163.01

### **Advance Notice: Mark Your Calendars~**

**Saturday, September 17th**—New Brunswick Theological Seminary Homecoming  
**October 9—14**, —Older Adult Fellowship Autumn Adventure at The Warwick Center

*More information on the above events is posted on the bulletin board*