

June 2009

THE MISSION OF NORTH BRANCH REFORMED CHURCH
is to invite all people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
that results in a continuing worship of God and
daily service in the Holy Spirit's presence.

July-August 2009 Messenger Deadline: June 22nd + Bulletin Deadline: Each week by Thursday Noon



Message from Pastor Todd



Greetings to Saint Bernard of Clairveaux Roman Catholic Church,

This is the tenth Pentecost letter exchange between Father Joe and myself, between your church and North Branch Reformed. This exchange itself is a sign of the Holy Spirit

uniting us in prayer.

And there have been other signs of the Spirit's unifying work over this last decade: pastor-priest forums, the Good Friday cross processions, Thanksgiving Eve services, speakers on the Holocaust, Darfur, Isalm, etc.

And I am most excited about a new flame that the Spirit seems to be fanning. We are beginning discussions with Imam Shahid of the Somerset Muslim Center in order to promote peaceful, interfaith dialogue. In an age of religion-inspired terrorism the Holy Spirit calls us to mutual understanding. Certainly we cannot gloss over our differences in faith and practice, nor can we dismiss an entire faith as our enemies. So pray with me that the Holy Spirit will teach Abraham's children, who have a long history of fighting, to live in peace in our day.

Peace and joy,



Todd Buurstra,
Pastor of Worship and Witness at North Branch
Reformed Church

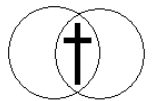
Adult Education

ADULT EDUCATION: Join us on Sunday morning at 10:15 AM in the Upper Room for discussion/study of:

- ◆ May 31st - *Reformed Church History* - Ed Staats
- ◆ June 7th - *Reformed Church History* - Ed Staats
- ◆ June 14th - *Reformed Church History* - Ed Staats

MONTHLY NOON BIBLE STUDY: Meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, **June 9th** and will focus on the books of Moses.

SMALL GROUPS: Interested in being part of a circle of care with Christ in the center? Join a small group. Most of our groups meet monthly and function as either a Bible Study, task group, or support group. For more information contact Pastor Todd in the church office.



Births

CONGRATULATIONS to grandparents, **Walt and Gail Burgess**, on the birth of granddaughter, **Sophia Page**, on **May 11th** to daughter and son-in-law, **Erin and Steve Rasnake**.

Center for Life Transitions

JOB SEARCH COURAGE: This two-hour workshop on **June 6th**, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at Hope House will bring together some creative ideas on resume, networking, personal branding and job seeking along with opportunities to find new momentum in your transition. Worship Leader, Tom Bachhuber, is Director of the Career Development Center at the University of Wisconsin. Cost is \$50 and deadline for registration is **June 1st**. Checks should be made payable to The Center for Life Transitions, Inc. Contact: Tom Bachhuber at tbachhuber@centerforlifetransitions.net.

CHALLENGED BY A CHILD WITH ADHD (ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER)?

Preliminary interest has been identified at NBRC for an education/support group to assist parents with better understanding and managing challenging children. If enough interest exists, the group will meet 1-2 times per month with professional facilitation and spin off as a peer support group, if so desired. Meetings will be held through and at the Center for Life Transitions for a minimal fee. Please contact the church office or Scott Pontier (908) 203-9444.

Christian Action

MISSION OFFERING: We collect a mission offering on the first Sunday of each month. Mission Offering envelopes are at the beginning of each month in the offering envelope packages. Additional envelopes will be placed in the pew racks.

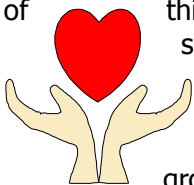


FOUR SEASONS OF GIVING: The Christian Action committee will be collecting toiletries (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, deodorant, etc.) during April to June. A box is available in Fellowship Hall for your donations.

FROZEN FOOD TRAYS: Christian Action reminds everyone to use the frozen food trays found in fellowship hall for leftovers. These meals are distributed to those in need in the area. The trays are easy to use and you can leave them in the freezers in the kitchen at your convenience. Please help with this valuable mission of the church.

Christian Care

JANUS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: The purpose of this group is to offer education and support in an attempt to build friendship and understanding among people suffering from loss and aid them in coping with their losses. This group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at The Centre at Raritan, 1124 Highway 202S-A2, Raritan, NJ 08869. The next meeting will be Tuesday, **June 9th**. For more information please contact Barbara Ronca. M.S.W., L.C.S.W., Counseling and Therapy Services at 908-218-9062.



CHRISTIAN CARE SERVICES: **Blood Pressure Check:** 2nd Sunday of every month in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM. **Medical Equipment:** Judy Wilkinson, 908-218-1575. **Prayer Concerns:** Kathy Herrman, 908-231-1917. **Small Chöre Services for the Elderly:**

Louise Manning, 908-722-3834 or call any of the deacons listed in the bulletin. **Transportation Needs:** Alice Swan, 908-722-5308. **DVDs and Audio Cassettes of worship services for shut-ins:** Fred Swan, 908-722-5308. For further information regarding Christian Care and its services, please call Louise Manning 908-722-3834 or Nancy Vollers 908-725-7656.

PLEASE NOTIFY us when you or a member of your family is admitted to a hospital. This knowledge will be useful for visitation and prayers. You may contact the church office, 908-725-2313, Pastor Todd, 908-725-2313, or Louise Manning, 908-722-3834.

Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS: *Lemonade on the Lawn*

begins on **June 28th** through **September 6th**. You only need to prepare beverages (lemonade), which are supplied by the Fellowship Committee. Baked goods or other refreshments are optional. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.



Finance

2009 OFFERING UPDATE THROUGH APRIL: The 2009 budget for the North Branch Reformed Church totals \$542,857. To fund this budget we need to receive \$506,307 in pledges and offerings. The balance of \$36,550 is projected to be covered by other income such as the special offerings, interest, and donations for facilities use. Based on historical giving patterns, the percentage of \$506,307 which is needed each month to meet that goal has been calculated.



Needed offering year-to-date	\$123,560
Actual offering year-to-date	<u>118,365</u>
Difference	\$ 994

Please note that we are running behind. If you have any questions about these numbers, please ask any member of the Finance Committee.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?: Get a brochure from church on our new endowment fund.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

IHN HOSTING: NBRC will be hosting IHN guests again this year from Sunday evening, **June 21st** through Sunday morning, **July 5th**. If you are willing to volunteer as an evening host, or to prepare meals, or be a sleepover host, please sign up in Fellowship

Hall or by contacting Laurel Ennis (908-722-1018) or Ruthann Pauli (908-575-1601).

Kirkside

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! A *Special Preview Sale*



of exceptional garage sale items will be held on Sunday, May 31st, in Fellowship Hall before and after both worship services.

Kirkside's semi-annual Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, June 6th, 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We need your help in setting up first thing in the morning, and then for the clean up at 2:00 PM, anything in between is greatly appreciated too. Contact: Nancy Keeler (908-534-4740) or Diane Laich (908-526-6286).

VACANCY: Do you know anyone interested in living in a shared house for seniors? There is a vacancy for one resident, male or female, age 62 or older, for a second-floor room at Kirkside. Please contact Barbara O'Rourke at 908-526-8115 for further information.



Men's Ministries

The next **MEN'S BREAKFAST** is Saturday, June 20th, from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited for good food, good friends, and a better faith.



Music

HEARTLANDS HAYRIDE (Traditional Country Western & Bluegrass Show) presents a live radio broadcast (rural radio 89.7 FM) from NBRC on Saturday, June 6th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM (doors open at 5:00 PM). Tickets will be on sale during Coffee Fellowship or you may call Pat Harmer at 908-526-0191. The NBRC Music Committee will be selling hotdogs and drinks from 4:30 to 5:30 PM and provide light refreshments after the concert. You are asked to bring a sealed food item for Somerset County Food Bank's "Curb Hunger Month"!

EVENING WITH POTTER'S CLAY AND STRAWBERRY



SHORTCAKE: On Saturday, June 27th at 6:30 PM, you are cordially invited to a musical evening with POTTER'S CLAY on the NBRC Gazebo lawn. Bring your own chair or blanket and supper.

Women's Ministries will be serving a sumptuous strawberry dessert of pound cake, strawberries and vanilla ice cream topped with whipped cream. The cost of the dessert is \$4.00 per person and tickets can

be purchased between services in Fellowship Hall. All proceeds will go to community outreach, which NBRC supports.

Prayer Needs

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Bob Karnell, Henry Larsen, Jim McKelvey, Cathy Pfauth, Harold Polhemus.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICEMEN: Tom Cantilina, Craig Casucci, Adam Clark (in Iraq), Jim Crosley (husband of Jennifer (Munzenmaier) Crosley), Nichole Haas (niece of Ron & Lori Taylor), Michael Campbell (nephew of Janet Kolb), Rob McCracken (husband of Meg (Yarnell) McCracken), Colin O'Rourke, Marc Reinecker (cousin of Rick Smith, in Iraq).

Preschool

2009-2010 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION: Did you know the Preschool offers a 5% discount to church members, and we give you priority in the registration process? Registration is currently open. Check the Preschool website at www.nbrc.com for classes and tuition rates.



Sympathies

OUR SYMPATHY to **Mary Williamson**, on the passing of her mother on **May 5th**; to the **Polhemus and McGrath** families on the death of Harold Polhemus' grandson, **Beau McGrath** on **May 9th**; to **Kathy Leaper** and family on the passing of her brother, **Val**; and to **Barry and Janet Kolb** and family on the death of Janet's aunt, **Elizabeth Weber**, on **May 20th**.

Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING will be held on Tuesday, June 9th at 7:30 PM at NBRC in the Upper Lounge. We warmly welcome all women of the church interested in sharing their ideas to help with our mission.

CHANCEL FLOWERS: If you would like to provide the Sunday flower arrangement in memory of someone or just would like to provide an arrangement, there is a sign-up sheet for this purpose in Fellowship Hall. See Fred Yarnell, 908-722-4759, for details.

JOURNEY WITH JESUS: Read almost 100 personal stories of faith from North Branch Church members. The book is only \$12.00. North Branch Women's Ministries will donate all proceeds from the sale of "Journeys with Jesus" to local missions. To obtain a copy, contact Pam Frueh at 908-526-1829.



BLOW-OUT SHIRT SALE: ALL SHIRTS \$10!!! *Pink T-Shirt, Blue Golf Shirt and Denim Shirt are available.* Two logos--"Let Us Encourage One Another" and "Be Still." All proceeds go to our local missions. For further information, please call the office at 908-725-2313.

Worship

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP meets in the Upper Room on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM before the worship services to pray for the ongoing ministry of NBRC. Anyone wishing to join is welcome!!!



Youth

GRADUATION SUNDAY: On Sunday, **June 14th**, we will be celebrating Graduation Sunday and honoring all those graduating this year. Refreshments will be served between worship services. Fill out the information on the handout to have your graduate recognized or call the office (908-725-2313).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009:

August 3rd to- August 7th, 9:00-11:45 a.m. For children ages 3 (4 by October 1, 2009) through 5th grade (completed). \$25 for 1st child, \$20 for each additional child. **REGISTRATION BY MAIL NOW!** In-person registration after both services on June 7th. Download a registration form from the church website or pick one up in the church office today! Contact Sue McGeown (mcgplace@email.com or 908-722-1873) with questions.

VBS CRAFTS: The craft crew for Vacation Bible School is in need of the following donations: yarn - especially thicker plies and empty 2-liter soda bottles. There will be a box in Fellowship Hall for all donations. Thank you for your support.

NURSERY CARE: Childcare is available for children ages 0 to 3 years during both worship services on Sunday. Our nursery is a cheerful, warm and inviting space staffed by loving volunteers. For information or questions, please contact Natsuko Buurstra, 908-252-3727.

HOW DOES JESUS WANT HIS CHURCH TO BE HIS HANDS AND FEET TO THOSE LOOKING FOR WORK? During this time of high unemployment, we will publicize information for those seeking jobs in the Messenger, bulletin and, if requested, our website. Jobseekers should email the office (office@NBRC.com) the information listed below (with your name which, of course, will not be publicized), and we are asking job holders to be reading, praying and sending helpful information to the same office email.

Type of Job Sought	Title of Last Job Held	Short Description of the Industry	Years Experience in that Industry
Supervisor (warehouse, inventory control, dispensing, manufacturing.)	Warehouse Manager GMP compliant warehouse	Pharma/Biotech	10
Program/Project/Product Manager	Coordinator of Product Management - Marketing	Wireless Telecommunications	8+
Customer Service/ Administrative/ Clerical		Wireless Telecommunications	20+
Executive/Administrative Assistant	Executive Assistant	Exec. Assistant to President of a division marketing company. Made travel arrangements, presentation materials, managed calendar, planned meetings, client dinners, and client visits. Also did some expense tracking	22 years at company, 13 as Exec. Assistant
Software Quality Assurance Analyst or Manager	Software Quality Assurance Analyst	Responsible for testing product and <i>assuring</i> that a quality product is delivered within a promised timeframe.	Over 22 years in Information Technology
Software Configuration Management, Software Release Management, and Defect Tracking Management	Software Quality Assurance Analyst	Manage the software configuration management process of versioning objects, code, and documentation. Manage Defect Tracking process and promotion of change requests from developer to tester to client. <i>Monitor and report to senior management the progress of defects and customer issues from receipt to release.</i>	Over 22 years in Information Technology
Procedural / Systems Analyst /Technical Writer	Software Quality Assurance Analyst	Soup to nuts "full project lifecycle" analysis, requirements planning, design and implementation of software systems.	Over 22 years in Information Technology
Corporate Trainer	Software Quality Assurance Analyst	Train client or in-house staff pertaining to procedures, methods, or the "how to" of using a software product.	Over 22 years in Information Technology

Staff Contact Information and Office Hours

Telephone: 908-725-2313
Fax: 908-725-5682
Email: Office@NBRC.com
Web Page: www.NBRC.com

Pastor Todd Buurstra

Pastor of Worship and Witness
E-mail: Buurstra@NBRC.com
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM - Monday thru Thursday
Evening hours & meetings by appointment

Brian Katona Music Director

E-mail: briankatona@gmail.com or
Music@NBRC.com

Jennifer Landrieu

Preschool Director - 908-725-2326
E-mail: Preschool@NBRC.com

Doris Munzenmaier Office Administrator

E-mail: Office@NBRC.com
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM - Monday thru Friday
Office periodically closed at lunchtime.

Barbara O'Rourke

Kirkside Administrator
E-mail: Kirkside@NBRC.com

Pastor Mark E. Swart Pastor of Discipleship

E-mail: Swart@NBRC.com
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM - Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday
Evening hours & meetings by appointment

CONSISTORY

- Officers:** President Pastor Todd Buurstra, Co-Vice President Pastor Mark E. Swart, Clerk Jane Yarnell, Treasurer Doris Munzenmaier
- Elders:** Sue Betz, Tim Chamberlin, Wes Frueh, Janet Kolb, Diane Laich, Carlos Lugo, Carmen Lugo, Co-Vice President Tim Sandford
- Deacons:** Doug Bateman, Violet Coy, Larry Fox, Linda Mayerik, Ruthann Pauli, Chair Keith Strege

Committees and Chairperson(s):

Adult Education (sub of Christian Ed) - Sue McGeown
Audio Visual (sub of Worship) - Bruce Taggart
Building & Grounds - Dennis McGale, Keith Strege
Cemetery - Jim Houston
Chancel (sub of Women's Ministry) - Fred Yarnell)
Christian Action - Lynn Ritter Cargill
Christian Care - Louise Manning, Nancy Vollers
Christian Education - Donna Taggart
Church Planting - Mary Beth Iodice
Ecumenical Relations - Bruce McConnell
Fellowship - Nancy Fiedler
Finance - Wendy Kroon
Hope House Maintenance (sub of B&G) - Marty Herrman

Kirkside (sub of Christian Action) - Kathy Rue
Memorial Gifts - Janet Kolb
Men's Ministry - Wes Frueh
Music - Patti Harmer
Pastor/Staff Relations - Paul Soskey
Preschool Board - Larry Fox
Women's Ministry - Laurel Ennis
Worship - Carrie Dilgard

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR JUNE

JUNE 7TH AND JUNE 14TH

9:00 AM - Worship Service
10:00 AM - Fellowship Time
10:15 AM - Worship Service
10:15 AM - Adult Education
10:30 AM - Church School

(The single 9:30 AM Summer Worship Service starts June 21st.)

JUNE 21ST AND JUNE 28TH

9:30 AM - Worship Service
9:45 AM - Sunday Ministry (Children 3 years old to 6th Grade)
10:30 AM Fellowship Time

SUNDAY, June 7, 2009

(Communion & Healing Prayers)

Trinity Sunday

Elder Tom Bachhuber will preach.
Center for Life Transitions Mission

SUNDAY, June 14, 2009

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.
Affirmation and Correction
Ephesians 6:1-4

SUNDAY, June 21, 2009

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.
Raising Counter-Cultural Kids
I John 5:1-5

SUNDAY, June 28, 2009

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.
Raising Members of Christ's Body
I Corinthians 12:12-27