

May 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.*

June 2009 Messenger Deadline:

May 21st +

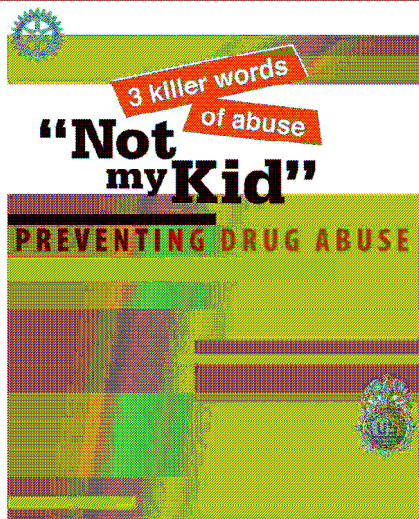
Bulletin Deadline:

Each week by Thursday Noon



Message from Pastor Todd

I don't need to tell you that drugs are a problem in our society. Here God has given us this amazing machine that we call a body, and young and old are tempted to destroy it with drugs. God promises to grant us inner joy and peace, but some look for it in pill form. How can the church join with the community to keep our young people healthy?



I invite you to a Rotary sponsored seminar at Raritan Valley Community College Gym on Tuesday, **May 5** from 7 to 9 PM that will address this issue. As you see below, it is called "Not My Kid." Flyers are available on the ledge in the sanctuary. A nationally

recognized expert in the field, Robert Stutman, will address the gathered group of adults on drug prevention. The cost is free for the seminar.

The speaker is a 25 year veteran in the field of drug prevention. Stutman is the former head of the DEA's largest office. Now Robert runs the Stutman Group that consults on drug and substance abuse prevention

programs for local corporations, schools and communities.

Light refreshments will be available. If you have any further question please call 908-581-1593.

Meanwhile, spread the word so that we can keep our community as healthy as God intends it to be.

Peace and joy,



Adult Education

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

- ◆ May 3rd - *Parables of Jesus* - Lani Diemicke
- ◆ May 10th - *Mother's Day* - NO CLASS
- ◆ May 17th - *Parables of Jesus* - Lani Diemicke
- ◆ May 24th - *Memorial Weekend* - NO CLASS
- ◆ May 31st - *Reformed Church History* - Ed Staats

MONTHLY NOON BIBLE STUDY: Meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, **May 12th** 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.



Building & Grounds

GO GREEN: The Buildings and Grounds Committee hopes to help all of us become more aware of taking care of God's earth by providing ecology tips each

month in the NBRC Messenger. The following applies to us at home as well as at church.

Source: Green Living for Dummies
LEVELING THE CELL PHONE MOUNTAIN

Because cell phones contain toxic materials such as mercury, it's important to keep them out of landfills and incinerators. Several organizations reprogram retired cell phones so that they can be used free of charge by people, particularly seniors or victims of domestic abuse, to call 911. Other organizations reprogram and sell the phones to raise funds for charity. The following organizations operate such programs:

Collective Good: www.collectivegood.com
Phones 4 Charity: www.phones4charity.org
Wirefly: www.wirefly.org

You can also check with your cell phone provider about a recycling program; many providers collect old phones to reuse parts and to donate to charities.

Center for Life Transitions

CALL FOR IDEAS: Your ideas, topics and suggestions - for education, resources, groups, workshops and retreats -- are welcome! The Center for Life Transitions is busy determining how to best respond to the needs of those in transition for its fall 2009 programming. Please contact Scott Pontier by telephone (908) 203-9444 or by email at sjpontier@comcast.net. Stay tuned for brochures and fall offerings!

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

NBRC CHILDREN'S CLOTHING CHALLENGE: SPRING CLEANING???

Do you have used children's clothing in good, clean condition, sizes infant to 18 that you would like to donate for a good cause? Please donate to the Clothing Challenger starting today, **April 19th** through Sunday, **May 17th**. All donations are sorted, packed and delivered to Somerville F.I.S.H who then distributes them to needy children in our local area. If you would like to donate, please leave your items in

the labeled clothes hamper in Fellowship Hall. Clothes for any season are requested! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Co- Coordinators Ellen Stires (908) 642-6468 or Sue Bateman (908) 369-6729.

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.

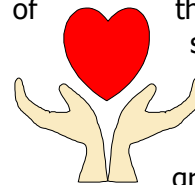


FOUR SEASONS OF GIVING: The Christian Action committee will be collecting toiletries (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, deodorant, etc.) during April to June. A box is available in Fellowship Hall for your donations.

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, **May 12th**. 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 Chore 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

SPRING CAMPING IS HERE: May 8th to May 10th - Please call Allaire State Park, Farmington, NJ at 732-938-2371 to register for a campsite, yurt or cabin or just come for the day! Enjoy an outdoor worship service and the company of great friends. Potluck supper Saturday night!!! If you have any questions, email Judy Schwarz at Judith.Schwarz@comcast.net.



 **FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS** are needed for April through June. You only need to prepare beverages (coffee, tea and juice), which are supplied by the Fellowship Committee. There is no need to supply baked goods. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Finance

2009 OFFERING UPDATE THROUGH MARCH: 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	118,365
Difference	\$ 5,195

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

Kirkside

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, **May 16th**, 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.



Prayer Needs

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

PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICEMEN: Tom Cantilina, Craig Casucci, Jim Crosley (husband of Jennifer (Munzenmaier) Crosley), Nichole Haas (niece of Ron & Lori Taylor), Matthew Hicks (nephew of Janet Kolb), Rob McCracken (husband of Meg (Yarnell) McCracken), Colin O'Rourke.

Preschool

PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND: Can YOU help us build our new playground? If so, please send your name, contact information, and experience (if any) to the Preschool Director, Jennifer Landrieu at preschool@nbc.com or call the Preschool Office at 908-725-2326.

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.nbc.com for classes and tuition rates.



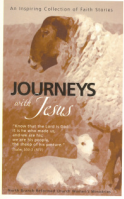
Sympathies

OUR SYMPATHY to **Chelsea and Courtney Johnson** and family on the death of their grandmother, **Violet Johnson**, who passed away on **April 15th**; to **Sherry Sackie**, on the passing of her father, **James Sutphen**, on **April 15th**; and to **James and Jennifer Norgalis** and family on the death of James' mother, **Pam Norgalis**, on **April 21st**.

Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING will be held on Tuesday, **May 12th** 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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009: *Kingdom of the Son,* **August 3rd to August 7th** from 9:00-11:45 AM. Children age 3 (4 by October 1st) through 5th grade (completed). Cost: \$25 for 1st child, \$20 for each additional child. Twenty-seven Teachers and Guides (6th grade through adult) are still needed!! Full time volunteers can register their kids now and for free!! Contact Sue McGeown (908-722-1873 or mcgplac@email.net).

VBS CRAFTS: The craft crew for Vacation Bible School is in need of the following donations: 12" X 12" unprinted cardboard, 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
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 assuring 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. Monitor and report to senior management the progress of defects and customer issues from receipt to release.	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 Housten
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 - Doug Bateman

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MAY

EVERY SUNDAY

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

SUNDAY, May 3, 2009

(Communion)

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.
Easter and the Future: Hell

SUNDAY, May 10, 2009

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.
Easter and Our Mission: Beauty

SUNDAY, May 17, 2009

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday

Pastor Mark Swart will preach.
John 15:12-17

SUNDAY, May 24, 2009

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Memorial Weekend

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.
Easter and Our Mission: Justice

SUNDAY, May 31, 2009

Pentecost

Michael Goetjen will preach.
Easter and Our Mission: Evangelism