

February 2010

**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.*

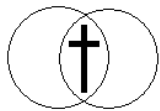
March 2010 Messenger Deadline: February 18<sup>th</sup> + Bulletin Deadline: Each week by Thursday Noon

## Adult Education

**ADULT EDUCATION:** For three weeks beginning **February 14<sup>th</sup>**, Jim Gessner will lead a bible study based on Charles Stanley's book, *Finding Peace: God's Promise of a Life Free from Regret, Anxiety and Fear*. The class meets in the Upper Room on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM.

**MONTHLY NOON BIBLE STUDY:** Meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, **February 9<sup>th</sup>**, and will focus on the Book of John.

**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.

## Christian Action

**MISSION OFFERING:** We collect a mission offering on the first Sunday of each month. February Mission Offering will go to the Earthquake Victims in Haiti. 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 ethnic foods, beans, canned meats and fruits during January through March. A box is available in Fellowship Hall for your donations.

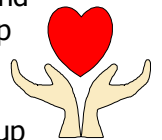


**FROZEN FOOD TRAYS:** Christian Action reminds everyone to use the frozen food trays found in fellowship hall for leftovers. These meals are

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, **February 9<sup>th</sup>**. 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

---

---

## Congregational Meeting

---

---

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will take place on Sunday, **February 7<sup>th</sup>** beginning with a pancake brunch immediately following the 10:45 AM worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2010 budget and the Elder and Deacon nominees. All are welcome to the brunch. Childcare will be available during the meeting.



---

---

## Consistory Highlights

---

---

**THE CONSISTORY DECIDED TO** implement the Discipleship Vision as recommended by Christian Education.

---

---

## Fellowship

---

---

**CALLING ALL COFFEE HOSTS** from the past 5 years! Fellowship Committee Chair Nancy Fiedler is compiling a list of the names of people who have hosted coffee. (See list hanging in Fellowship Hall) Please put a checkmark in the "Yes" or "No" column by your name if you would like to be a part of this rotating list. If you are not presently on the list, and would like to serve in the future, please add your name to the list and a checkmark in the "Yes" column. Thank you for your continued assistance with this very special Sunday morning ministry.

**PAPER GOODS WANTED:** Do you have any paper goods from a past party or event just lying around your home, not being used? If so, we'd love to have them. We're collecting unopened packages of napkins, cups, and plates in their original plastic wrapping. They will be used at future fellowship coffee times. What a great way to recycle! Please place them in the box in the kitchen marked "paper goods".

**SPRING CAMPING IS HERE: May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup> -**



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 908-722-7564.

---

---

## Finance

---

---

**ESTATE PLANNING 101: Benefiting Yourself and Your Heirs While Supporting the Work of God's Kingdom through NBRC** – Join us for an Estate Planning Dessert, Tuesday, **March 16<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00-8:30 PM. Jay A. Soled, Esq., Professor, Rutgers University,

and Rick Fontana, Certified Financial Planner, will discuss Federal and NJ Estate Tax Issues and Probate and Administration. To register, contact the office (908-725-2313 or office@NBRC.com).

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Your 2010 offering envelopes are now available in the Narthex. Please pick up your box after today's Worship Service. Please remember that numbers associated with envelopes are reassigned each year. Do not use 2009 envelopes in 2010 as your donation may be credited to another member.

---

---

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

---

---

**HAVE A HEART FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES:** Tickets for IHN's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 50/50 Raffle are now on sale! Tickets are \$100.00 each and are tax deductible. Half the proceeds will benefit the homeless families of Somerset County and half will go to the lucky winner. Ticket sales are limited to only 300 and will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment along with your tax ID form. The drawing will be held on Tuesday, **February 16, 2010** at the Flynn Day Center at 4:00 PM--winner need not be present. For further information, please contact Administrative Coordinator Karen Donahue at 908-704-1920 or karenihn@verizon.net. Any donations may be mailed directly to: Interfaith Hospital Network of Somerset County, 908 West End Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876.

---

---

## 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, **February 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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.



---

---

## Miscellaneous

---

---

**CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE:** Katie Romanyshyn is sponsoring a new and used book drive for children up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade that will benefit DYFS, Catholic Charities,

etc. Drop off books anytime in labeled box located in Fellowship Hall. Deadline is Friday, **March 5<sup>th</sup>**.

---

---

### Music

---

---

**SPRING MUSICAL:** On **March 21<sup>st</sup>**, NBRC will be presenting the children's version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway show, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Rehearsals have begun on Thursdays from 5:00 to 6:15 PM. It requires a rather large cast and is open to early middle school students as well as those who are eligible for Carol Choir so please come out and join us. If you are interested, email Brian Katona at [briankatona@gmail.com](mailto:briankatona@gmail.com).

---

---

### Prayer Needs

---

---

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Evelyn Fisher, Bruce Hartzog, Marie Hunter (daughter-in-law of Marilyn Hunter), Marilyn Hunter, Mary Knapp, Henry Larsen, Jim McKelvey, Cathy Pfauth, Harold Polhemus.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICEMEN:** Michael Campbell (nephew of Janet Kolb), Tom Cantilina, Adam Clark (in Iraq), Jim Crosley (husband of Jennifer (Munzenmaier) Crosley), Nichole Haas (niece of Ron & Lori Taylor), Greg Hall (nephew of Pat Cahill, in Iraq), Rob McCracken (husband of Meg (Yarnell) McCracken), Michael B. Morella (friend of Helen Van Doren, in Afghanistan), Colin O'Rourke, Marc Reinecker (cousin of Rick Smith).

---

---

### Preschool

---

---

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2010-2011:** The Preschool offers priority to church members who would like to register their child for our Preschool classes next year. Please call the Preschool Director, Jennifer Landrieu at 908-725-2326 for more information on classes and tuition rates.



**MR. RAY CONCERT:** The Preschool PTO presents children's singer/songwriter/musician, mr. RAY, who will perform in concert on Saturday, **April 10<sup>th</sup>** from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Milltown Elementary School. Church members are offered priority in ticket sales for the concert! On Sunday, **February 7<sup>th</sup>** between services in Fellowship Hall (10:15 to 10:45AM) you can purchase your mr. RAY CONCERT tickets. Ticket sales open to the public on Friday, **February 19<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00-10:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please call the Preschool Director, Jenn Landrieu, at 908-725-2326 with any questions.

---

---

### Sympathies

---

---

**OUR SYMPATHY** to **Milton Mosko** and family on the death of his wife **Eva Jane Mosko**, NBRC's church secretary for 25 years and Preschool teach for 30 years, who passed away in **January 9<sup>th</sup>**.

---

---

### Women's Ministry

---

---

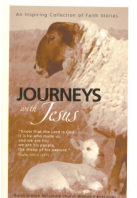
**WOMEN'S MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, **February 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 PM at NBRC in the Upper Lounge. We warmly welcome all women of the church interested in sharing their ideas to help with our mission.

**BODY AND SOUL** is a 75 min. cardiovascular fitness class. It's fun, it's for every fitness level, and it's held right here in Fellowship Hall. The class meets on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:15 to 10:30am. Classes are also available in the evening and on Saturdays -- just ask for details. Come try out a free class and start the New Year strengthening your body, soul and mind. Childcare is provided. For additional information, please contact the ACE/CPR certified instructor, Eileen Gilmartin, at 908-725-2694, or by e-mail at [egil9@comcast.net](mailto:egil9@comcast.net).

**BLOW-OUT SHIRT SALE:** **ALL SHIRTS \$5!!!** *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.

**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 \$10.00. 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.



---

---

### Worship

---

---

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** A brief prayer service with ashes will be held on Wednesday, **February 17<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00 PM in the NBRC Sanctuary.

**SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP** meets in the Upper Room on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM before the worship services to pray for the ongoing ministry of NBRC. Anyone wishing to join is welcome!!!

## Youth

**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	<b>Manage the software configuration management process</b> of versioning objects, code, and documentation. <b>Manage Defect Tracking process</b> 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

**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

**Brian Katona**  
Music Director  
E-mail: briankatona@gmail.com or  
Music@NBRC.com  
Monday -11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM  
Wednesday & Friday -2:00 to 5:00 PM

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

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

**Barbara O'Rourke**  
Kirkside Administrator  
**E-mail:** Kirkside@NBRC.com

**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** (sub of B&G) - Jim Hosten  
**Chancel** (sub of Women's Ministry) - Fred Yarnell  
**Christian Action** - Lynn Ritter Cargill  
**Christian Care** - Louise Manning, Nancy Vollers  
**Christian Education** - Donna Taggart  
**Ecumenical Relations** - Bruce McConnell  
**Fellowship** - Nancy Fiedler  
**Finance** - John Harmer  
**Kirkside** (sub of Christian Action) - Kathy Rue  
**Memorial Gifts** (sub of Finance) - Janet Kolb  
**Men's Ministry** - Wes Frueh  
**Music** (sub of Worship) - Patti Harmer  
**Pastor/Staff Relations** - Paul Soskey  
**Preschool Board** - Larry Fox  
**Women's Ministry** - Laurel Ennis  
**Worship** - Carrie Dilgard

**WORSHIP SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY**

**EVERY SUNDAY**

9:15 AM - Contemporary Worship Service  
9:15 AM - Adult Education  
9:30 AM - Church School  
10:15 AM - Fellowship Time  
10:45 AM - Traditional Blended Worship Service

**SUNDAY, February 7, 2010**

(Communion Sunday)

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Pastor Mark Swart will preach.

**Epic: The Story God is Telling**

**Act Four: The Kingdom Restored**

**SUNDAY, February 14, 2010**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.

**Epic: The Story God is Telling**

**Epiologue: The Road Before Us**

**WEDNESDAY, February 17, 2010**

**Ash Wednesday**

Prayer Service with Ashes

7:00 PM

**SUNDAY, February 21, 2010**

**First Sunday in Lent**

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.

**Prayer as You Go**

I Thessalonians 5:17

Drama: *The Warrior*

**SUNDAY, February 28, 2010**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.

**Prayer to Wake You Up**

Psalm 46:10