

March 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.*

April 2010 Messenger Deadline:

March 23<sup>rd</sup> +

Bulletin Deadline:

Each week by Thursday Noon



## Message from Pastor Todd

As I write this article, though the snow is receding, the snow banks are still plenty high. Then tonight rain and sleet are forecasted, to be followed in a few days by more snow. Anyone ready for Spring?



I have to admit that as a Michigander, I enjoy snow more than most of you. I think I'd be absolutely

bored without four seasons. But at the end of one season, I often find myself ready for the next.

I think four seasons is what I love about the church. God made the body of Christ diverse with all four seasons. There are those in the spring of life, those in the summer of life, those in their fall, and those in their winter. And there is something special about each season of life.

In our culture we live such generationally separate lives. There seems to be increasingly less cross-generational pollination. The young folks stick together. The working folk stick together. And we gather the wintry folk into Nursing Homes where they can stick, or be stuck, together. I doubt that's what God intends.

There is great benefit in allowing young and old to worship and just spend time together. While I might categorize myself in the early Fall of life, I enjoy the wisdom that greyer heads (than even

mine) give to my parenting or pastoral dilemmas. Sometimes the more wintry folk merely smile when I stress over a family situation. Or they tell me a story of how they handled something which warms my heart and lightens my way.

From my autumnal perspective, I enjoy younger folk in the very spring of life. Energetic, more energy than wisdom, full of potential, though not very proven. It is fun for me to enjoy their promise, and to try to mature their greenery a bit.

Then those in the summer time of life are working hot and heavy to produce their life's fruit. That drive and commitment inspire and challenge me. Am I as dedicated to bear fruit?

## Adult Education

### ADULT EDUCATION:

- On **March 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**, Scott Pontier will focus on understanding the developmental stage of adolescence, exploring "normal" behavior and also warning signs worthy of concern in *Surviving Adolescence*.
- Sue McGeown will lead a casual Bible study and a planning session for next year on **March 21<sup>st</sup>**.
- Beginning **March 28<sup>th</sup>**, Wendy Kroon will begin a nine week study on the book, *Christian Character* by Andrea Sterk and Peter Scazzero.

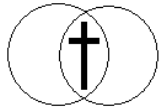
**DISCOVERY CLASS:** Are you interested in discovering God's call for you to participate more fully in this church and Christ's mission? Come to this class (formerly called the New Member Class) lead by Pastor Todd to discover: God's call in the Bible; God's call to the community of class participants; God's call to participate in our church's mission. On **March 7<sup>th</sup>**, the class will meet from Noon to 1:00 PM and determine whether to meet for seven sessions at



same time or in three two-hour time blocks. Childcare will be available if requested. You may explore this experience without becoming a member of our church. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

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



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### Births

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**CONGRATULATIONS:** On **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, **Michael and Emily Raphael** had a baby boy **Gabriel Kuhn**, who is also the grandson of **Michael and Judy Raphael**.

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### Center for Life Transitions

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**WORKSHOPS IN MARCH THROUGH JUNE:** CLT is offering a variety of exciting workshops beginning in March. March workshops include "The Healing Power of Words," A Guide to Connecting to Your Spirit Within" and "Surviving Adolescence: A Parent's Guide." Take a few minutes to visit our website, [www.centerforlifetransitions.net](http://www.centerforlifetransitions.net), for more information and registration details or view our poster outside the church office. Many interesting workshops are coming...

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### Christian Action

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**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. In March, the Moment for Mission will focus on the Deacon's Fund.



**FOUR SEASONS OF GIVING:** The Christian Action committee will be collecting ethnic foods, beans, canned meats and fruits 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.

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### Christian Care

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**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, **March 9<sup>th</sup>**, and will feature a presentation on *The Spiritual Aspects of Grief* by Rev. Margaret Tuttle, Director of Somerset Medical Center's Pastoral Care Department. 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.

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### Congregational Meeting

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**185<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING:** At the Annual Congregational meeting on **February 7<sup>th</sup>**, the congregation affirmed the nominations of *Jeff Minchin* and *Susan McGeown* for Elder and *Craig Casucci* and *Judy Staats* for Deacon. The congregation also approved the 2010 budget.

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### Consistory Highlights

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**THE CONSISTORY DECIDED TO** approve Judy Wilkinson to be the new part-time Eldercare person in the light of the Center for Life Transitions' \$5,000 donation in memory of Ethel Kienz.

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## Fellowship

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### **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.

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## Finance

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**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).

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## Men's Ministries

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The next **MEN'S BREAKFAST** is Saturday, **March 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

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**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>**.

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## Music

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**SPRING MUSICAL:** On **March 21<sup>st</sup>** at both worship services, NBRC will be presenting the children's version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway show, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

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## Prayer Needs

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**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, in Afghanistan), Michael B. Morella (friend of Helen Van Doren, in Afghanistan), Colin O'Rourke, Marc Reinecker (cousin of Rick Smith).

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## Preschool

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**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. For ticket, please call the Preschool Director, Jenn Landrieu, at 908-725-2326 with any questions.

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## Women's Ministry

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**NBRC'S WOMEN RETREAT:** Join us on **March 13<sup>th</sup>** (in Fellowship Hall) for a Women's Retreat. The day promises to be a time of *faith, fellowship, fun, sharing, and love*. Sue McGeown will be leading the discussion on the Apostle Paul. We will share a potluck lunch. Please sign-up in Fellowship Hall.



**EASTER FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY:** Flowers provide seasonal beauty to the decoration of the Sanctuary during the Easter services. If you would like to contribute to this year's decoration, please fill out an order form found on the front railing or the table behind the last pew in the Sanctuary. You can place your request in the box on the counter in the church office no later than **March 28<sup>th</sup>**. Plants will be available for pick up after the second service on **April 4<sup>th</sup>**.

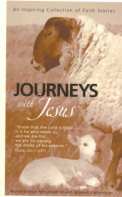


**WOMEN'S MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, **March 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 PM at NBRC in the Upper Lounge. We warmly welcome all women of the church interested in sharing their ideas to help with our mission.

**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.




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## Worship

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**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!!!

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## Youth

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010:** August 16<sup>th</sup> to August 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:45 AM. Teachers and Guides (6<sup>th</sup> through adult needed!!) Full week volunteers can register their kids now for free! Contact Amie Wengryn at wengryn@msn.com if you are interested.

**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.

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**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
Controller/Management Position of Company's Finance Dept.	Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis, North America Operations	Responsible for budget's, forecasts, company's analytics. Last 10 years in Health Care Industry	20+
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 <b>assuring</b> 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. <b>Monitor and report to senior management the progress of defects and customer issues from receipt to release.</b>	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](mailto:Office@NBRC.com)

**Web Page:** [www.NBRC.com](http://www.NBRC.com)

**Pastor Todd Buurstra**

Pastor of Worship and Witness

908-642-2889

**E-mail:** [Buurstra@NBRC.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:briankatona@gmail.com) or

[Music@NBRC.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Preschool@NBRC.com)

**Barbara O'Rourke**  
Kirkside Administrator  
**E-mail:** [Kirkside@NBRC.com](mailto: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

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**WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MARCH**

**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

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**SUNDAY, March 7, 2010**

(Communion Sunday)

**Third Sunday in Lent**

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.

**Thought Conditioners**

Colossians 3:16

**SUNDAY, March 14, 2010**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.

**Spiritual Food for the Family**

John 4:32

**SUNDAY, March 21, 2010**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Carol Choir Musical

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**

**SUNDAY, March 28, 2010**

**Palm Sunday**

Pastor Todd Buurstra will preach.

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23, 56