

**Church School honors
Janet Keshishian!**

The Consistory and Education Committee accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Janet Keshishian as Church School Superintendent. On Children's Day she was honored with gifts and the presentation of a bouquet of cut flowers by the children. It was most impressive to see each child process down the aisle with a flower and present it to her to make a beautiful bouquet. Mrs. Keshishian has served for 10 years. Her sister, Amanda Pascale also has resigned as the piano accompanist each Sunday. We will miss her and her talent also.



The Sunday School students presented outgoing superintendent, Jan Keshishian with a bouquet of flowers on Children's Day.

A Big Thank You!

Children's Day, Confirmation Day, Father's Day, all blended together for a great celebration of membership and family.

The students participated in all parts of the service.

Daytime Bible Study

In case you would like to attend an Ecumenical Bible Study during the week, you are invited to attend the Teaneck Ecumenical Bible Study beginning Wednesday mornings October 3, 10, 17, 31 and November 7 at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The overall theme is "the Word in the World," Elizabeth Jordain is the coordinator and lives in Teaneck. Representatives from 19 churches unite for the study.

**The Pilgrimage School
presents.....
God At The Movies**

*7:00 pm, Friday, August 10, 2007
Wyckoff Reformed Church
led by E.J. Emerson*

E.J. Emerson, pastor of the Community Church of Keyport, has taught college English, is a published poet, a theatre actor & director, a professional technical writer, and a French translator/interpreter. She is a great fan of all the arts, including film.

**Our film for the evening:
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
(1962, Robert Mulligan)**



Celebration of Children's Day complete with choral presentation by Michael Malanga

**BRING A FRIEND
TO CHURCH**

One of the greatest gifts we can give a friend is the opportunity to meet Jesus Christ and the community of faith that bears his name.

Invite a friend of relative to join us any Sunday morning. The difference you can make in your friend's life may be the greatest gift of all.

*"Love your neighbor as yourself"
Luke 10:-27*



Paul Cornwell playing the organ along with the Handbell Choir on Children's Day.



THE TOWER NEWS
THE SECOND REFORMED CHURCH



The Rev. Dennis B. Wilcox, Pastor
Church Telephone: 201-343-7550 ♦ Fax: 343-0590
Anderson, Union & Ward Streets, Hackensack, NJ 07601

Volume 51

July, 2007

**Save The Date
September 8th
All church Open House
Please plan on attending.**

**Labor Day BBQ
For the Homeless,
Come and Help!!!**

The Missions Committee will host our annual Labor Day BBQ for the Homeless on Monday September 3, 2007 beginning at 12—12:30 PM, rain or shine in the church parking lot. In case of rain—the event will be held in the Pine Room.

**We Honor Our Confirmands
for 2007!!!**

Peter Wesley Cornwell, Erika Marie Fackelman, Erin Louise Geerlof, Elissa Roya Hickey and Margaret Elizabeth Mulder. These young people are our newest members. They have been studying with Pastor Wilcox during Lent and were presented to the Board of Elders for examination and received by them to become officially our newest and youngest members at this time.

**An Invitation To All
Women Of The Church**

The Fellowship Committee is having a baby shower for Amy Evangelista on Wednesday, August 15th, at 7:00 PM.

We would like to invite all the women in the congregation to come out and join in this evening of fun and fellowship. Amy is registered at "Babies R Us". Dessert and beverage will be served.



Our 2007 Confirmation Class with Pastor Wilcox. They made their vows in front of the congregation on June 17th, Confirmation Sunday and Children's Day. Congratulations to all of our confirmands.

Summertime Stewardship

As the pop song goes, "It's summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime..." Many of our members will be on vacation, visiting the shore, going to the country, visiting overseas, and taking life easy.

This message comes as a reminder and a request to please remember to send in or bring in your stewardship commitment before going away on vacation. We wish everyone a pleasant vacation and look forward to seeing you back in church telling us about what a great time you had.

**Greeters at the
Parking Lot Entrance**

- July 8—Leslie, Michael, Alana & Gillen Malanga
- July 15—Shirine, Gary, Michelle, Elissa & Kathryn Hickey
- July 22—Helen & Art Hirtler
- July 29—Rhea, Paul & James Talbert
- August 5—Padma, Monish & Wilson Dhalwani
- August 12—Lewis Willey
- August 19—Art DeBlasio
- August 26—Evelyn Huber

PASTOR'S PEN

Today is the first day of summer. It is pleasant and promises more pleasant days. Pleasant days need pleasant thoughts. I have pleasant thoughts following my experience as a delegate to our 2007 General Synod meeting in Pella, Iowa. Most folks do not use "Pleasant" and "large ecclesiastical meetings" in the same sentence. But for this synod I can for several reasons. First, it was delegate driven. The representatives of the church spoke loudly and clearly about the direction and methods of mission we understand as proper for the Reformed Church in America. It was a Biblical understanding interpreted by the historic creeds of the Church. It was not some current buzzword management theory that will be replaced as soon as another comes along. There is nothing wrong with new theories of management...for what they are and can do. But they cannot replace the very identity and time tested understandings of who and what it means to be Reformed.

Secondly, we did something new and historic at the same time. We adopted the Belhar Confession for provisional use. That means we are going to test drive a confession to see if it can stand along side our other confessions of faith. We have been looking toward this for 20 years. Ed Mulder was its shepherd within our denomination, and I was sitting with him at the table when it passed. What an honor to watch his joy. What a service he performed for us...to help us be leaders for the whole Church of Christ in looking at what we can confess before the world.

It was a satisfying synod. I am thankful it was my turn to be a delegate. If you ever get an opportunity to be a General Synod delegate, don't miss it.

Yours for a pleasant summer,



Dennis B. Wilcox
Pastor

Gardening God's Way

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Water freely with patience and cultivate love. There is much fruit for your garden. Because you reap what you sow.

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

To conclude our garden
We must have thyme:
Thyme for God
Thyme for Study
Thyme for Prayer
Thyme for each other
Thyme for friends.

Author Unknown

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce really love one another

Deacon's Request

The Deacons are looking to create a list they hope to never have to use. In case of emergency, they would like to know which members of the congregation have medical and/or EMS skills. Please contact John Gottschall, Chair of Deacons at 551-265-5911 or JERSEYBLUES7@AOL.COM.

No garden without turnips:
Turnip for meetings:
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

RUMMAGE SALE NEWS

We're back!!!! In the spring of 2008 we will again be having a rummage sale. You may start bringing your articles for sale from Monday through Friday: 9:30 AM — 2 PM.

Please make sure your articles of clothing are in clean condition and not ripped. Also we will take books but NO ENCYCLOPEDIAS, or school text books!

WE HONOR OUR GRADUATES

Lee Crusius graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in Groton, Connecticut with the rank of Ensign. Lee has been assigned to serve on the Coast Guard Ship Munro based in Kodiak Alaska.

Melanie Dickinson graduated from Rider University where she majored in elementary education.

Megan Dickinson graduated from Paramus High School. Melanie will be attending Wilkes University to pursue a nursing career.

Steven Ostroth graduated from Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. Steve will continue to live in Providence and has been employed for Whole Foods where he is a Front-of-House Supervisor for the Prepared Foods Department.

Paul Cornwell graduated from Ridgewood High School and will be attending Villanova University majoring in math.

News and Notes

Have You Noticed The Baskets For Toiletries?

The Missions Committee has placed a basket in the lounge asking for travel size tooth brushes, tooth paste and men's deodorant for their Outreach Program. You may leave your articles at any time.

*I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
I cannot bear my burdens alone;
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.*

The Belhar Confession

The General Synod has provisionally approved for use, the Belhar Confession. We are printing in this edition the Prologue to the Belhar Confession which will provide some history of the confession. The entire confession, because of its length, will be printed in installments.

Prologue

The Belhar Confession has its roots in the struggle against apartheid in Southern Africa. This "outcry of faith" and "call for faithfulness and repentance" was first drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church (DRMC) under the leadership of Allan Boesak. The DRMC took the lead in declaring that apartheid constituted a status confession is in which the truth of the gospel was at stake.

The Dutch Reformed Mission Church formally adopted the Belhar Confession in 1986. It is now one of the "standards of unity" of the new Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa (URCSA). Belhar's theological confrontation of the sin of racism has made possible reconciliation among Reformed churches in Southern Africa and has aided the process of reconciliation within the nation of South Africa.

Belhar's relevance is not confined to Southern Africa. It addresses three key issues of concern to all churches: unity of the church and unity among all people, reconciliation within church and society, and God's justice. As one member of the URCSA has said, "We carry this confession on behalf of all the Reformed churches. We do not think of it as ours alone." The Belhar Confession was provisionally adopted for two years of testing by the RCA's 2007 General Synod.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We extend sincere sympathy to the Anzalone family on the passing of Lorraine Rose (Anzalone) Taylor on July 2, 2007. Lorraine united with our church on February 1, 1948 and served our church in many capacities including hosting the Live Alone Luncheon.

Rudolph Anzalone, brother of Lorraine, lived in MD and passed on July 5, 2007. A memorial service was held here on July 11th.



Members of the Youth Mission group who recently volunteered at the Englewood Habitat for Humanity project. Those who were old enough were able to work on the building. Others not quite old enough were able to work on the grounds and in the hospitality tent. Children too young to work on site built bird houses that were sold to raise money for supplies. Congratulations to all who participated!

News From The Fellowship Committee

All the seats on the bus that will take us to Bethlehem, PA on Saturday, December 8th have been reserved. However, there is a waiting list in the lounge and should be there cancellations, we will accept people on a first come first served basis—cost is \$30.00.

The cost of the bus rental will be paid by the Fellowship Committee from the proceeds of the auction held in April.

Also, there will again be a rummage sale in the Spring of 2008, so if you have rummage please bring it to the church Monday to Friday between 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM. More information will be available in the Sunday bulletin and the Tower News.

The Fellowship Committee is pleased to announce that beginning this year, each student in our Church School that is graduating from high school will receive \$100 to start them on the way to the next step on the road to future endeavors.

Paul Cornwell and Megan Dickinson are our first recipients. Paul is off to Villanova and Megan will be attending Wilkes University. We wish them well.

The next meeting of the Fellowship Committee will be Thursday, August 2nd at 7:30 PM. Happy Summer to all but don't forget to come to church.

Helen Hirtler, Chair

THE TOWER NEWS

Audrey F. Michel
Editor

Phyllis Hall
Layout & Design

Marie Grumbrecht
Circulation

Sunday School 10:00 A.M.
Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
Adult Education 11:15 A.M.

Web Address:
www.secondreformed.org

E-mail:
secondreformedchurch@hotmail.net

Mailing Address:
436 Union St., Hackensack, NJ 07601

Submissions for the Tower News should be in to the Tower News box no later than the 12th of every month.