



# CONTACT



Newsletter of the South Branch Reformed Church

January, 2012

## South Branch Reformed Church

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### Inside this issue:

From the Treasurer...	2
Ham Dinner & Bake Sale	2
Lectionary Readings for January	3
Evening Bible Study Group	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
2012 Church Dinner List	4
Monthly Calendar	5

## From the Pastor...

2011 is over and I must say that I am thankful to see it go! What a tremendously busy year at SBRC. We all know the reasons why it was such a busy year and we are all just as thankful to have moved past those events to focus on 2012.

As I do every January edition of the *Contact*, I would like to extend my thanks to the various groups that make SBRC what it is!!

First, thank you to the Elders and Deacons on the Consistory. Your talents and gifts to the ministry at SBRC was greatly appreciated. You remained steadfast in our ministry this past year and your support was/is greatly appreciated!

Many thanks to those who planned, participated and helped with the Live Nativity! Our wonderful tradition continued at SBRC.



Approximately 260 people attended the two showings.

Again, I watched as a very proud Pastor while the children walked us through the birth of

Jesus Christ and led us in song.

While it was a cold night, I was certainly warmed by spirit present that night. Again, many thanks to each of you!

Deepest thanks to the members of our choirs. Your voices truly help lift our spirits during the Christmas Season and I look forward to hearing your voices in in the New Year.

To each of our members and friends, I thank you for your continued dedication and support of SBRC and our continued ministry. It is often said that the church is more than just a building and SBRC is the perfect example of that statement.

Without each of you and each of your talents, energy and gifts, SBRC would not be what it is

and continues to be!

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their continued participation in supporting the Hillsborough Food Bank. I am amazed every time I bring in the church's donation to see the shelves bare. It is a joy to know that SBRC is making a difference in the lives of so many in our community by providing food.

Don't forget that the New Year begins on Sunday, January 1st! I can't think of a better way to start off 2012 than gathering together as the SBRC Family and worshipping God for all that He has done and continues to do! I pray that each of you have a safe and happy New Year celebration.

May God's blessings be with you and SBRC as 2012 begins.

Sola Deo Gloria

In Christ,



## From the Treasurer...

### November 2011

The regular pledge receipts for November were \$6,996 (weekly average: \$1,749). We started the month with \$191 in the Current Expenses and ended the month at \$1,612. This is really good news. In the last 14 years, whenever we have ended November in the black, we have ended the year in the black. Assuming December is "as usual", we should end the year in the black. Two reasons for this are higher than expected non-pledge income and lower than expected expenses in a couple of the budget line expenses. I will be able to give better details after we close the year out.

Jan.-Nov 2011 Pledge Receipts: \$82,852 (weekly avg.: \$1,726)

Jan.-Nov 2010 Pledge Receipts: \$81,237 (weekly avg.: \$1,692)

As of November 30, we have received \$30,619 in flood donations. Bills as of November 30 have totaled \$33,859. This is really good news that the gap is so small. While we still have some more expenses to expect in the next several months in order to get everything back to where it was before the flood, this really is great that we have received so much financial support to date!

- Lowell Kreeger

## Thank You!!

I thank you for the wonderful cards and gifts that I received over the Christmas Season. I pray that you had a blessed Christmas and a safe New Year.

In Christ's Service,



## Ordination & Installation of Consistory

On Sunday, January 8th, those elected to serve on the Consistory will be installed during our regular worship service. Those elected to the Office of Elder: Charles Huck, Tyson Stramaglia and Emily Windus. Those elected to the Office of Deacon: Robert McDonnell, Ed Rebenack and Cindy Sheridan. Please keep these individuals as well as the whole Consistory in your prayers as they continue to serve the Church of Jesus Christ.

## Ham Dinner & Bake Sale

SBRC will be holding a Ham Dinner & Bake Sale on Saturday, Jan. 28th from 4:30 to 7:00 PM with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen.

A sign-up sheet has been posted for donations & helpers!

Tickets & Take-Outs are available. Call (908) 369-4956 for tickets!

### Menu

*Baked Ham*                      *Au Gratin Potatoes*

*Corn*    *Cole Slaw*    *Applesauce*

*Tomato & Cucumber Salad*    *Assorted Desserts*

*Coffee, Hot & Iced Tea, Lemonade*

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Adults - \$12.00                      Children (ages 6-10) - \$5.00

Children (age 5 and under) - FREE

## Women's Group

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas Mission. Again, we provided coats for people and gifts for needy children.



The generosity of the SBRC people is awesome and overwhelming! ***Women's Group will meet on Jan. 10th at 8:00 PM.***

## Lectionary Readings for January

Jan. 1st - Isaiah 31:10-62:3;  
Psalm 148;  
Galatians 4:4-7;  
Luke 2:22-40

Jan. 6th - Isaiah 60:1-6;  
Psalm 72:1-7,10-14;  
Ephesians 3:1-12;  
Matthew 2:1-12;

Jan. 8th - Genesis 1:1-5;  
Psalm 29;  
Acts 19:1-7;  
Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 15th - 1 Samuel 3:1-10;  
Psalm 139:1-6,13-18;  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20;  
John 1:43-51

Jan. 22nd - Jonah 3:1-5,10;  
Psalm 62:5-12;  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31;  
Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 29th - Deuteronomy 18:15-20;  
Psalm 111;  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13;  
Mark 1:21-28

## Evening Bible Study

Pastor Steve is pleased to announce a new Evening Bible Study group which will be meeting twice a month on Monday nights. The first gathering of this new group will be on ***Monday, January 9th at 7:00 PM*** in the Parlor. As always, there is no need to hold any advanced education on the Bible to attend, just a willingness to learn God's Word. Coffee will be provided!



## Church Keys??

Do you have keys to the Church that you are not using any more? If so, please return to them to Pastor Steve so that they can be given to members on the



Consistory. The key style for the Church is getting harder to find and cost more when the style is found.

## *Flowers*

Just a reminder that if you have signed up for flowers in the Sanctuary on a particular Sunday, the cost is \$40.00. Make checks out to "SBRC" with "Flowers" in the memo section.



## *Greeters & Coffee Hour*

Opportunities to Greet on Sunday and/or host Coffee Hour are still available!



Please sign-up and help keep this important fellowship activity going strong!

## *Adult Bible Study*

*Reflections On Scripture* will begin meeting again on Wed., Jan. 11th at 9:30 AM in the Parlor. We will continue our study on *Luke*.

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

A very Happy Birthday and a blessed year ahead to those who are celebrating a birthday in January:

3 - Wyatt Bowden & Dana DePace	21 - Pam Warner
4 - John Sheridan	22 - Alyssa Bernard
5 - Brent Kowalenko	23 - Dan Lenzo
7 - Carson DeRoner	24 - Lowell Kreeger & Gillian Green
15 - Becky Wendover & Rich Sarles	25 - Jean Evers & Ruth Cilo
17 - Marcia Houghton	26 - John Barker
18 - Beverly Cafferty	29 - Brooke Marlatt & John Miller
19 - John Evans	31 - Heather Shephard
20 - Kyle Leopard	Also, congratulations and Happy Anniversary to:
	28 - Richard & Sally Seibert

## **2012 Church Dinners**

Jan. 28th - Ham

March 10th - Corned Beef

April 28th - Roast Beef

June 2nd - Chicken BBQ

Sept. 22nd - Ham

Nov. 10th - Roast Beef

Dec. 8th - Breakfast with Santa

## **2011 Benevolences**

The Benevolence funds received in 2011 have been designated for the following:

New Brunswick Seminary - \$200

Hope College - \$200

Central College - \$150

Northwestern College - \$150

RCA Pensions - \$150

Community Care Hospice - \$100

Habitat for Humanity - \$100

Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children - \$100

Chaplaincy to the Elderly - \$50

Reformed Church Home - \$100

Good News Home - \$100

eMi - Jason Reinhardt - \$1000

Total Disbursed: \$2,400.00

In addition to the above, the members of our church family supported other special mission projects during the year: CROP Walk, Hurricane Irene Relief and Blanket Sunday.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

# January 2012

Information for February's Newsletter is due on **Jan. 16th!** Leave your info. in the Church Office or e-mail to the Church at [newsletter@sbrchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@sbrchurch.org) with "Newsletter" in the subject line.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2	3	4 No Bible Study	5 Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM in Parlor	6 Family Fun Night at 7:00 PM in the Dining Room	7
8 Installation of Consistory Confirmation	9 Evening Bible Study at 7:00 PM in Parlor	10 Women's Group at 8:00 PM in Parlor	11 Bible Study at 9:30 AM in Parlor Elder's Mtg at 7:30 PM in Church Office	12 Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM in Parlor	13	14
15	16 Newsletter Items Due!!	17	18 Bible Study at 9:30 AM in Parlor Consistory Meeting at 7:30 PM in Parlor	19	20	21
22	23 Evening Bible Study at 7:00 PM in Parlor	24	25 Bible Study at 9:30 AM in Parlor	26 Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM in Parlor	27	28 Ham Dinner from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM
29 Confirmation	30	31				

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The South Branch Reformed Church  
870 River Road  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844



***To Know God and to  
Make Him Known!!***

Rev. Stephen Eckert ~ Pastor

Mr. John Colaiacovo ~ Music Director

Mrs. Erica Lenzo ~ Church Secretary

Mrs. Maureen DeMarco ~ Preschool Director

Mr. Mark Messineo ~ Sexton

## ***2011 Live Nativity***

