

Farewell to our Pastor

Rev. Steve Sayer



Sunday, June 23, 2024

11:30 A.M.

Program

Welcome *Les Cox, Vice President*

*Blessing on the Food and Fellowship

The Rev. Steve Sayer, Pastor

Buffet Luncheon and Dessert

Special Memories *Past Vice Presidents*
Others

Farewell *Steve Sayer*

*Closing Prayer and Benediction

*Choral Benediction *Chancel Choir*
"Closing Prayer" *Besig*

**Please stand.*

Menu

Sandwiches

Salads

Cake and Cookies

Cold Drinks, Coffee, and Tea

Rev. Steve and Jeri Sayer

The Rev. Steve Sayer had an experience of deepening faith through his youth group at the Ponds Reformed Church in Oakland, NJ, when he was 16. He initially saw that as a time when he made a decision to become a Christian. However, over time, he came to realize that God had been working in his life, and he had been following God, from the time of his baptism as a baby; he also came to understand that he had very little agency in the deepening of his faith. Rather, God had been working in and on him for many years.

He originally went to seminary as an experiment. A number of folks, knowing of his increasing faith, his love for people, and the enjoyment he took from studying about the faith, suggested he should think about becoming a pastor. As he went through seminary, he felt a deepening sense of call to serve Jesus as a pastor.

Initially, he wanted very little to do with leading a church or preaching. Rather, he just wanted to serve folks, and be with them as they went through life, helping them to continually deepen their faith. Accordingly, a staff position at the Wyckoff Reformed Church seemed like a perfect fit. However, it didn't take long to see that, even in 1984, the Christian church was moving out of a time of great flourishing (at least in terms of numbers of people), and into a time of greater uncertainty. Helping the church navigate that uncertainty became Steve's life's calling.

He made it a point to learn all he could about how churches become revitalized. Steve gradually realized that preaching and leading churches toward establishing different internal cultures were exactly the things he needed to pursue and could no longer be shunted aside. He began to work at acquiring skills in these two important areas. Steve accepted a call to the Pottersville Reformed Church in 1988 and began to work with them and live into his calling. Though he was there for just eight-and-a-half years, he became the longest-serving installed pastor in the history of the church.

From there he moved to the Reformed Church of Bushkill. This was a congregation that had begun the journey of revitalization and deeply desired that it continue. The congregation grew in its missional engagement, biblical literacy, multi-culturalism, creative worship and numbers. The church designed, built and paid for a new location, which was a great benefit to reaching and serving their community. He was there for 17½ years.

Steve then had the privilege and pleasure of serving the Community Church in Harrington Park. It is a group of people with rich relationships, generous in spirit and full of joy. Steve and CCHP especially worked together in the area of passionate spirituality. They went through *The Story* (a program designed to help a congregation increase its knowledge of the Bible); they designed two different discipleship programs, one using the stories of Dr. Seuss and the other using the music of the Beatles. They crafted an evangelism program especially geared toward northeastern Reformed churches, which was centered on bringing people to worship. The congregation was always willing to experiment, a trait Steve was unendingly thankful for.

Steve and Jeri have been married for 42 years. They have eight kids from all sorts of different backgrounds. Being a pastor requires a number of sacrifices. Some of that sacrifice, mostly in terms of a father's and husband's time away, has fallen on them. As Steve heads into retirement, he looks forward to spending a good deal more time with them than he has been able to so far.



The Community Church
in Harrington Park
One Spring Street
P.O. Box 185
Harrington Park, NJ 07640
201-768-2457
cchp@verizon.net