



The 4th Focus

“What’s Happening?”

Below and on page 4 gives a synopsis of some of the ministry work that is being done at 4th written by the team leader. Please read and perhaps find an area where you feel the Lord is calling you to serve!

Prayer Team

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42

In an effort to follow the example of the early church, the elders have set up a prayer team to look at ways we can integrate prayer more fully into the daily life of our church family. This team now consists of three members: Nick Dobkowski, Laura Montalvo, and **Bob Scherpenisse**. We have already challenged the congregation to commit to prayer for our children and young people for one year. The result of that challenge is we have 58 of our children being prayed for daily by 48 members. We praise God for those results but we still have many young people beyond high school age that have not been assigned to a specific prayer partner. If you have not committed to this and you would like to, please let us know.

In addition to this, we are continuing the practice started last year of inviting members who would like to be prayed with to come forward after the service for that purpose. We have a team of 6 members who are willing to pray with you during this time. We will have two members of this team up front each Sunday. These members are: Tom Boehm, Betsy Coutchie, Alaina and Nick Dobkowski, Beth Rossiter and Steve Wammack.

We are currently looking at several more ways to achieve our goal and if you have thoughts and ideas you would like us to consider, please contact a member of the team.

Missionary of the Month

“(Jesus) said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Mark 16:15

The mission team, Noreen Reitsma, Ruth Meendering and **Tom Boehm**, is grateful to the congregation for your support of our missionaries both at home and throughout the world. When you give one dollar to the missionary of the month, you may be helping to feed a missionary or a person that a missionary is helping in the neighborhood. OR one dollar may be providing lesson materials for a Bible Club in a small town in India. OR one dollar may be allowing a radio broadcast in a remote place in Uganda. You get the point. Every dollar you give makes a difference in spreading the gospel of Christ.

The mission team hopes that you experience the vision of the work being done through your giving. It is our goal to: 1) show you the work through short videos at our worship services, 2) have you hear first hand from our missionaries as often as possible, and 3) provide you opportunities to participate in spreading the gospel by giving on a monthly basis.

The six missionaries supported through our monthly offerings are: Words of Hope, Mission India, New City Neighbors, the VanDyke family in Guatemala, the de Leons in Guatemala, and the Boehms in Bangkok, Thailand. This year, Lord willing, we will hear directly from the Boehms in June and the VanDykes this fall.

Please pray regularly that God will give our missionaries great courage in their work to recognize the needs of the people with whom they work, promote the gospel of Christ, fill them with the Spirit, and provide for their own needs and the needs of those they serve as we partner with them through generous giving and prayers.

New Member



Being the eldest of five comes with joy but also responsibility. **Eliana Parler** helps a lot around the house but has fun watching Ruby, Christian, Marigold and Ephraim grow up, learn to walk and talk, and loves to snuggle with them.

Eliana has an awesome 3rd grade teacher - her mom. She's kind and doesn't get mad! Eliana likes being homeschooled because it's a Christian education and she gets to

read a lot. Bible is her favorite subject, especially now as she is learning interesting information from the Old Testament. She especially enjoys the stories where Jesus heals people.

Eliana thoroughly loves reading and writing books. She has enjoyed the Mandie books from the church library, the Boxcar Children, and the Laura Ingalls Wilder series. Playing with Barbies, jumping on the trampoline, climbing trees are a few of her pleasurable activities. She enjoys playing with other kids in her neighborhood, but it's also hard being with those who aren't Christians and standing up for her faith. This is perhaps one way her church family can pray for her!

Eliana enjoys the ladies and friends at GEMS - especially small group time. She attends Awana at Trinity Baptist Church and loves memorizing Bible verses. John 3:16 is her favorite verse! Mr. Don is her C.E. teacher and she likes to learn hard stuff where you have to think. She appreciates Mr. Don and likes her C.E. friends at 4th. Eliana also looks forward to being involved with NCN this summer.

Even though she considers herself a shy person, she likes it when her dad, Branson, preaches and talks about his family in the sermons. She also enjoys her visits to Kuyper College where he works.

Eliana is very aware of the fact that her parents and church family teach her about Jesus and who he is, but that she also needs to personally embrace him and what he's done for her. Through discussions with her parents and through hearing from other young people at church about their profession of faith, God led her to the place where she wanted to take that step of publicly confessing faith in Jesus.

She was very excited about the prospect of being mentored by a woman from the church, so on February 17 Phyllis Berrevoets started mentoring Eliana. Here are some thoughts from Phyllis: "We met on Friday afternoons for five sessions. The material was from the GEMS program which was perfect for Eliana's age. Topics were, "Becoming a New Creation", "What is Sin?", "Who is God?", "Who is Jesus?", and "Who is the Holy Spirit?". There was memory work and practical application for each session. It was a joy for me to mentor Eliana. Her level of spiritual understanding was a blessing and a hope for the future generation. I would encourage others to join in the mentoring process!"

Birthdays

May

2 - Amy Baragar
7 - Tyler Berthiaume
7 - Kara Berrevoets
7 - Jaidyn Ann Bolt
9 - Tim Randall
14 - Sam Wammack
16 - Liam Baragar
19 - Jean Stadt
21 - Grace Wammack
22 - Jeff Boehm
23 - Jeremiah Parks
24 - Bill Pyper
24 - Beka McDowell
26 - Norma Boehm
27 - Greg Hawkins
28 - Mike Berrevoets
29 - Aaron Wetzel
30 - Ralph Simone
30 - Levi Dobkowski

June

2 - Julie Schalk
3 - Caren Bills
5 - Lorraine Smith
8 - Dawn Faasse
13 - Laura O'Brock
14 - Eric O'Brock
14 - Sam Tubergen
16 - Violet Meendering
16 - Ephraim Parler
20 - Justin Leasure
23 - Betsy Coutchie
24 - Marty Pyper
24 - Leslie Hawkins
28 - Becky Berrevoets
28 - Linda Randall



Check These Out!

Cherish by Gary Thomas

Thomas believes that discovering how to better cherish your spouse has the power to infuse your relationship with new hope and promise.

My Very Own Aliens by Amanda Barton

A great book for any children - adopted, step, or foster - who have lost what is familiar to them as they join a new family.

The New Dad's Playbook by Ben Watson

This tell-it-like-it-is book will take new dads from just winging it to winning it.

Women Who Move Mountains by S. Detweiler

Become a woman whose powerful prayers transform not only your own life, but the world around you.

Beyond Heaven & the Real World by Steven Curtis Chapman

Steven shares the experiences that have shaped him, his faith, family, and his music in a life that has included incredible highs and lows.

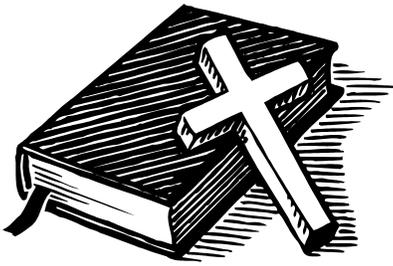
Grace is Greater by Kyle Idleman

See grace and your loving God in a new light - celebrate it, live it, share it!

Play The Man by Mark Batterson

Be a part of this movement of men who will settle for nothing less than fulfilling their highest calling to be the man and the father God has called you to be.

Reformed Church Media



We have seen how the gospel was personally presented through overseas and domestic missionaries. For nearly 200 years, the RCA has also used printed and later broadcast media to reach those both inside and outside the church.

The first Reformed publication, the *Magazine of the Reformed Dutch Church*, began in 1826. In an era of great missionary zeal, the first article was titled *The Duty and Necessity of Missionary Exertion*. This monthly publication was replaced by the weekly *Christian Intelligencer* in 1830.

Besides the *Christian Intelligencer*, there were a number of other RCA affiliated publications. *The Leader*, published in Holland, MI beginning in 1905, provided news about Hope College and Western Seminary and also offered Sunday School materials. Closely associated with *The Leader* in West Michigan was the Dutch language *De Hope*, having about 1900 subscribers by around 1930. Missionary magazines included *The Gleaner* (Board of Foreign Missions) which was absorbed by the *Mission Field* (Board of Domestic Missions) around 1920. The *Day Star*, begun in 1896, was a missionary magazine for children.

The denomination sought tighter control over its affiliated publications. The *Christian Intelligencer* was produced by an independent company while *The Leader* was administered by Hope College. Having different owners and audiences, both remained separate for many years. Around 1920, the RCA took over the *Christian Intelligencer*. The *Christian Intelligencer* and *Mission Field* merged in 1922 becoming the *Christian Intelligencer and Mission Field*. By around 1934, *The Leader* was added and it became the *Intelligencer Leader*.

There was widespread denominational support to drop the archaic word *intelligencer*. By 1944, the *Intelligencer Leader* became the *Church Herald*. The Every Family Plan was begun in the early 1950s where individual churches paid a subscription subsidy. Circulation soon reached 50,000 for the first time in its history. General Synod reported in 1952 that 325 churches were participating.

In 1992 a subsidy was provided where the magazine would come to every RCA household. This was dropped in 2008 to save costs. The removal of the subsidy, together with digital winning over printed communication, brought an end to the *Church Herald*. Circulation soon dropped below 20,000, bringing the monthly publication close to bankruptcy. By a vote of 171-56 the 2009 General Synod voted to cease publication. Today, *RCA Today*, published three times a year, presents denominational news.

The Reformed Church has sponsored religious broadcasting for over 70 years. Regional broadcasts included the *Send the Light* program sponsored by the Consistorial Union of the Reformed Churches of Northwest Iowa. In 1943, the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) requested that the RCA provide four speakers for its *Church of the Air* Broadcast. With the advent of television, it was hoped that the Christian church would *besiege the farthest outposts of paganism with a barrage of sight and sound*.

One Sunday morning in 1944, Reformed pastor Howard Teusink of Kalamazoo, MI was ill and remained at home. He searched unsuccessfully for a Bible-based, evangelical radio program. His consistory made an appeal for the church to begin a new radio ministry. The result was Temple Time. Its articles of incorporation stated its intended purpose *to preach through broadcasting Jesus Christ as the only Saviour*. The first broadcast was "live" from Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI on July 22, 1945.

Over the years, Temple Time has been ably served by radio pastors. Rev. Harland Steele was the first full-time radio minister serving from 1950-52. He was followed by Dr. Henry Bast who served from 1952-72. Foreign-language broadcasts began in Japanese (1953), Chinese (1955), Russian (1958) and Spanish (1959). Rev. William Brownson served from 1972-94. In 1974, the program was renamed Words of Hope, to both reflect its central message and distance itself from the word *Temple* which often implied non-Christian religions in regions now reached by the broadcast. Dr. Brownson was followed by Rev. David Bast who retired in January 2017.

Words of Hope has joined forces with other major broadcasting services and saw the launching of 25 new foreign language programs since 1982. Through broadcasts in over 35 languages, along with the internet and printed devotional materials, Words of Hope today fulfills the Great Commission to areas isolated or hostile to the Christian faith.

- Eric O'Brock
Next - Central College and Northwestern College

Happenings from page 1

Men's Ministry

The Fourth men had their annual men's retreat in April. It was a great weekend at the Hawkins' cabin with nearly perfect spring weather. Pastor Eric led the teaching, and Ken Coeling and Gideon Eising made sure that there was enough meat available to keep us all from getting hungry.

It was a good time of fellowship and teaching. The focus of the weekend was based on the book by Rick Lawrence called *Jesus Centered Life*. There were three parts to the teaching. First, we talked about who Jesus is. We learned that Jesus is much more than just a "nice" guy that died on the cross for our sins. We also talked about who we are because of who Jesus is. When we came to faith in Christ, we were changed. The old in us died, and we were given a new life and a new purpose. We ended the retreat focusing on our relationship with Jesus and how to remain in him so that we can continue to be transformed into his likeness and produce fruit.

Thank you to the Hawkins family for letting us use their cabin, Pastor Eric for leading the teaching and everyone else that pitched in to make the weekend a success. Men, please see Pastor Eric's email and give him some feedback on the weekend.

On another note. Men, if you would like to lead a men's small group, or if you have an idea for an activity for the men at Fourth that you would like to lead, or would like to be a part of the men's ministry committee, please talk to **Beau McDowell**. We would love your help!

Inclusion Team

You may remember late last year that an Inclusion Team began here at Fourth. This team is a group of 5 (Becky Tubergen, Lynn Simone, Don Coutchie, Mary Kay Townley, and **Julie Schalk**) that is working towards making sure every person here of every ability is able to both be a partaker in the worship and life of Fourth as well as being able to use their gifts. So what does that look like?

To able bodied/minded people, we may think we're doing a pretty good job at this. But there's more we don't always think about. For example, there's a drinking fountain in the middle of the wall in the long hallway. You know it, and I know it, but if you had limited or no sight, your cane wouldn't hit it before you ran into it. Also, how many of you would go and hang out someplace without a bathroom for the morning? Our bathrooms are not handicapped accessible, so a person in a wheelchair is unable to use the facilities here at this point. The very narrow wheelchairs fit, but everything else does not.

As a team we've been working with the deacons to develop a list of things we can do to be more inclusive. You may have already noticed the new handicapped parking signs in the parking lot along with the painted spaces, one including van accessibility. This will be even more accessible after the construction for NCN ends.

Inclusion goes beyond physical needs as well. How do we come along side families who have some extra needs? How do we come along side the kids from the neighborhood? We plan to keep meeting to figure out how to be the full body of Christ where each part has it's job and each part is needed and important. We also hope to do some teaching to all of you in the next few months. We look forward to learning and growing with each of you!

Faith Formation Update

We are grateful to God for four mentors and four young people who have been going through the profession of faith process in the past few months. Bob Berthiaume has mentored Josh Schalk, Mike Berrevoets has mentored Caleb Coeling, Sam Dennis has mentored Zach Coeling, and Phyllis Berrevoets has mentored Eliana Parler. Our small groups are continuing in our study in Joshua, which has been a great reminder of the importance of reading and engaging all of Scripture to see Jesus there. - Branson

Fellowship

Last year we launched a new Fellowship Team at Fourth. That team is made up of Bob & Kathy Burggraaf, Julie Gleason, Erin Meendering, Beth Rossiter, Wendy Wetzel and **Pastor Eric**. Our current goal is to plan events and activities that bring the people of Fourth together to connect beyond what we normally do on Sunday. So far we've done things like a Whitecaps game, the Meet & Greet, Date Night, and Game Night. We have some more activities planned in the coming months so stay tuned. If you have a great idea for a fellowship opportunity, please let one of us know.
