

GRACE

NOTES

News from and about Grace Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

July, 2007

A NEW BEGINNING:

Grace Notes is about sharing news of Grace Christian Reformed Church. News from the Council, news about the various programs and news about the members. The Bulletin announcements have done this on a weekly basis, but time and space has been in short supply, and as a result communications have been very limited. We hope that the rebirth of Grace Notes will serve to improve communication. The idea behind it is that sharing is caring. Knowing is the first step, telling things about each other and what we do at church are only the beginning. After that we can support each other and the programs and be a more effective community of believers. I am inviting all of you to send us news, to write reports, and to participate in the work of the church. You may send it in the mail, or you may email us at over@calvin.edu, or call me at 956-7454. If you want to help in this effort let us know and we will appreciate your contributions.

Chris & Greta Overvoorde

NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL:

CHURCH ARCHIVIST

Council has appointed Doug Haverkamp as Archivist/Historian for Grace Church. As Archivist he will begin to collect all the visual materials, such as slides, photos, films, and video items and organize and record them. If you have any such items you wish to share contact Doug. Copies can be made and the original returned to you, or they can be given as a gift to the church.

NEW DEACONS:

Joshua Hagedorn and Henry Roukema have agreed to serve the congregations as Deacons for a period of three years. The Council gratefully acknowledges the work done by retiring Deacon Dave Kuilema, who served as Chair of the Deacons, Treasurer, member of the Administration Committee and as Bookkeeper and the work done by retiring Deacon Gretchen Bouwsma.

Joshua Hagedorn is married to Cassie and they have two sons, Isaac and Ezra. Cassie and Joshua joined our church in 2005

Henry Roukema joined Grace Church in 1993 after he married Marilee. Marilee's daughter Jana Rodriguez and their son Jacob complete the family. Henry served as a Deacon before and Marilee was an Elder. He has taught Sunday School for eight years and is the Abuse Prevention Coordinator for Grace Church.



NEW ELDERS:

Bob Crow, Helen Gray, Kathy Stapert and Mark Van Harn have agreed to serve the congregation as new elders. The Council is grateful to the retiring Elders Andy Kok, Chris Overvoorde, Mildred Pinder and Susan and Steve Van Kooten. Chris and Mildred both served on the Administration Committee and Mildred was the secretary of the Elders and Chris was the Clerk of Council and the Secretary for the Administration Committee.



Bob Crow is married to Amy and both of them have been involved in the work of the church since they came in 1999. Amy as leader of the GEMS program and Bob as a Cadet leader. Bob and Amy have three children: Olivia, Justin and Emily. Bob has also lead the children worship for a number of years.

Helen Gray came to Grace Church in the 1960's after she married her husband James. They have five children, Jane, Karen, James, Shauntae and Markeda. Helen has served Grace Church as a member of the Hospitality Committee, the education Committee and has participated in Daily Vacation Bible School, Priscilla Circle, and the Clothing Center.



Kathy Stapert joined Grace Church with her Husband Jim in 1969. They adopted seven children. Kathy taught Sunday School, was a Gem Leader, and was active with Daily Vacation Bible School for many years. She also served on many committees including Worship and Education. Their son Jodi died at age 24 in 2002

and her husband Jim, died at age 61 in 2005.

Mark Van Harn joined Grace Church with his parents, Gord and Mary Van Harn in 1978. After Calvin College Mark went to California to complete his studies and later worked there till 1986. He married Kim in 1992. They have three children, Matthew, Abby, and Nathan. Mark has served Grace Church as a Cadet Leader, taught Sunday School and served two terms as a Deacon.



Daily Vacation Bible School

Avalanche Ranch -
A wild ride through God's



Word was June 11-15.

We had exactly 100 kids registered ranging in age from 2 - 13. The average per evening was 65. The breakdown of that is: 64 community kids, 26 Grace church kids, and 10 kids from Evergreen Ministries. Our worship service following VBS on Sunday involved Evergreen Ministries praise team leading us in songs and motions and Paul Hart shared a fantastic video from the week. Evergreen led us every evening in music and a drama - about 10 volunteers nightly. And Grace really came through with plenty of volunteers at the last minute! About 45! We thanked them on VBS Sunday as well. The Bible story of the day, craft, game, drama and Chadder the Chipmunk video all focused on the theme of the day. God is real, God is awesome, God is strong, God is in charge and God is with us. It was a great time and a real Hoe-down. The kids were very enthusiastic in their singing and dancing and it really felt like a time of sharing in the great adventure of following Jesus.



The Buckley House Story

Marla Hoekwater

A couple of years ago, some members of Grace noticed that the house next to the church was vacant. They expressed the belief that the church should purchase the home, given its proximity to Grace. However, it was difficult to track down the owner and then we discovered that the owner had already sold the house without listing it. Soon after some

significant remodeling took place by the owner.

Bob and Cheri VanderWeide, after attending the funeral of Phil Van Harn, decided to support Grace Church in its neighborhood ministry efforts and engage in other work in our community. Through their family foundation, they informed Pastor Jack that they would like to buy the house for the church. After some serious negotiating between the owner, Andy Kok and Pastor Jack, they agreed on a sales price. Pastor Jack and Andy made a proposal to the Administrative Committee that the church accept the house as a gift. There were many options, ideas, and even disagreements about how we would use the house and the property; however, there was total agreement that we should gratefully accept the gift. There were no conditions placed on the gift by the donor. The Administration Committee decided not to make this information public until closing, for fear of the owner discovering the true purchaser, and increasing the cost of the house.

Title to the house is in the name of Grace Church. There are no restrictions placed on what we can, or cannot do, with the house. The Council decided to enter into a lease agreement with Living Water Ministry. It puts the house to use for a ministry purpose. Living Water is a ministry that the Church has chosen to support. This arrangement will be of great benefit to LivingWater and a minimal expense for the Church.

The Lease Agreement

A lease agreement between Grace Church and Living Water Ministry (LWM) was signed on June 1, 2007. This agreement is for a period of 5 years for a total cost of \$10. With the exception of roof, furnace, and yard maintenance all other cost will be the responsibility of LWM including taxes, insurance, and liability insurance. LWM will also be responsible to maintain the property and make needed repairs. Those who would like a copy of the complete agreement can request one from the Church office.

A Collaboration Agreement

A collaboration agreement has been signed between Grace Church and Living Water Ministry. This agreement recognizes that Grace Church and Living Water are two separate legal entities, each with its own board, constitutions, and by-laws and accountability systems. We share a vision however, and want our partnership to address both issues of justice and mercy in a Biblical holistic way. In order to do that we will: Pray for each other, encourage learning, develop relationships, work together to maintain recovery homes for women and children, share reports and evaluate our partnership annually. There are some specific commitments outlined in the document. Grace Church Council has worked with Karl Westerhof, who serves Grace Church as a Liaison with Living Water. Karl will meet monthly with LW staff members. These commitments further include an annual event, quarterly seminars, exchange program reports, an annual worship service and the participation of both parties to engage in each others activities. For those who want a complete copy of this new agreement please ask the Church office.

Chris Overvoorde, Clerk of Council