

GRACE NOTES

News from and about Grace Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan Volume 3 # 10 December, 2011

SEND A CARD

This time of year many of us send out cards and letters to family and friends. It is a good custom, and Grace Church has a long tradition of inviting all of the member to send cards and letter to those, who are for various reasons, unable to attend our fellowship. Just because they do not worship with us they are still very much part of our congregation. So again this year we invite you to include the following individuals on your mailing list:

Dorothy Broyles

3371 Mistywood SE
Caladonia, MI 49316

Andrew Cross

1925 Lafayette SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Lillian Grissen

DeVos Center Rm 158
2121 Raybrook Circle SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

John Lang

12471 Ramsdell DR NE
Rockford, MI 49341

Joyce Ling

2000 32nd St - Apt,409
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Cathy Ling

2000 Saginaw Rd. #109
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Mary Mc Kinney

339 Morris SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Russ Rottman #213782

Parnall Correctional
Facility
1790 E Parnall
Jackson, MI 49201-7139

Peggy Mims

The Lodge, Maple Creek
Rm 306#1 - 1950 32ND ST
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Jenna & Brianna

Rodriguez
110 McAfee
Fort Benning, GA 31905

Ryan and Grace Spears

1828 Kendall Dr.
Ardmore, OK 73401

Peter & Karen Walker

2745 Birchcrest. SE
Grand rapids, 49506

Rev. Roger & Ellie Van Harn

1717 Morningside SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Alfred Nesbitt

1849 Blanchard Ct
Wyoming, MI 49509

David Kwiatkowski #395393

Bellamy Creek Correction
Facility
1727 Blue Water Highway
Ionia, MI 48846

Donovan Pinder #621497

St. Louis Correctional Facility
8585 N Grogswell Rd
St. Louis, MI 48880

NA MEETINGS EVERY DAY

Grace church has a big basement meeting room, and we virtually give it away every day of the week. Of course, church groups use it; on Sunday morning the adult Sunday School group gathers there, and every other Thursday the Cadets fill the space with projects or play, But every weekday—Monday through Friday from 11 to 12:30—Grace Church opens the space to Narcotics Anonymous group meetings for a nominal rent, (paid by participant' collections at the meetings). Those meetings are private to the NA group members and leaders, but they bring a lot of public activity to the church yard.



As a church-garden observer I think I have learned a little about how the group members support each other---with vocal friendship, lively interest in each other's lives, hugs, and laughter

whenever possible. NA forms a network of people who understand and who care. As the group starts to gather, the church parking lot echoes with the shouts of greetings, with jokes, with loud friendly conversation. Later the same sounds accompany the departure of participants.

NA has its own leaders and its own schedule. The Grace Facilities Committee and Kim Eggebeen dialogue with the NA leaders about the details of sharing the space. For example, NA does not normally use the church kitchen. When Kim Eggebeen and Melanie Karr are not here to monitor the building, the upstairs doors are locked. But the church meeting room is always open for NA. The NA leaders have a key. In the past year when NA held wakes for two of the members, the church kitchen was open for NA members to prepare and set out food for the gatherings. The meeting room has also been open for NA to hold a 'marathon' meeting on Christmas Eve when members are especially vulnerable.

As we rejoice with NA members who are surviving addiction, we can also rejoice that God has entrusted us with the facilities to host the NA group meetings.

Virginia LaGrand



If you have news items for Grace Notes, please pass it on to Chris and Greta Overvoorde. Call 616 956-7454 or email them at: over@calvin.edu.

For previous issues of Grace Notes go the Church's website: www.gracegr.org

NEW MEMBERS

Carl and Jean Kammeraad

Carl served 4 churches in 38 years of pastoral ministry. He and Jeanie started in a 'home missions' congregation of 14 families near Toledo, OH.

Next, they moved to Madison Ave CRC, in Paterson, NJ, where they served an interracial congregation and helped to open an urban Christian School, The Dawntreader, occupying an old silk mill.

Their 3rd congregation was Neland Ave CRC near King Park in GR, where Carl pastored for 20 years, and Jeanie directed the library at Oakdale Christian School, a block from the church.

His final 8 years of ministry led Carl to Seymour CRC as Pastor of Congregational Life and Outreach in the diverse neighborhood of Alger Heights.

Carl also served for 25 years as an Air Force Reserve



Chaplain, bringing Christian ministry to US airmen in Delaware, Ohio, Florida, South Carolina, and Illinois. In 2003, at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he was selected to serve as acting Wing Chaplain for Ramstein Air Base in southern Germany, with

12,000 military and 40,000 American civilians. One highlight was forming a nightly chaplain team to accompany 30-50 wounded soldiers as they were transported to the nearby Army medical center.

Carl and Jeanie were refreshed during sabbaticals in London with Dr. John Stott in 1989, and in 1997 and 2010 at Westminster College in Cambridge, UK.



The family picture is a partial family picture....daughter Julie, daughter Sarah and husband Matt and grandkids Grace and Sam. We don't have a picture with the other kids...Bryan and Julie and boys, Kristin and Aaron.

Their four children, Julie, Sarah, Bryan, and Kristin, and four grandchildren, Grace and Sam, Oliver and Stuart, live in Michigan.

During their retirement Carl is focused on coaching congregations to a renewed vision and mission, and Jeanie is a member of the West Michigan Flute Orchestra, and a beginning student of the cello. Golf and biking, travel and spending time with children and grandchildren are also a priority.

GRACE CHURCH TIMELINE

The Church is beginning the review process of the last 50 years as we are preparing to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Below are some of the highlights of the early years when Grace church was known as Buckley Chapel.

- 1947- Concept of a mission in Grand Rapids approved by First Christian Reformed Church
- 1948 – Partnership with Neland Christian Reformed Church agreed to.
Property with a gas station on the corner of Sheldon and Buckley was purchased for \$3000.
- 1949 Chapel was built at a cost of \$13,770. by Mr. Herman VanDyke
Mr. Albert Veen appointed as Missionary to the Chapel
- 1950 Sunday School attendance grew from 96-167
Mission Boundaries were extended to Lafayette and Ionia Avenues and Wealthy and Franklin Streets
First evening Gospel service was held in September
- 1954 Morning Service changed to 10 a.m. and Sunday School at 11:15
May 20, First Profession of Faith heard from 10 adults
September 26, first Communion Service
- 1955 –61 Many made Profession of Faith and were Baptized
- 1962 January 18, Classis approved the organization of Buckley Chapel into a Christian Reformed Church
March 25, First Church Service
First Church Council Appointed
Name Grace Church adopted based on "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is extended to all who will enter the doors of this church."
July 15, Call is extended to Rev. Martin Toonstra, installed in September
- 1964 Harold Eiten is appointed Choir Director
- 1965 June, Rev. Toonstra left for Eastmanville
August, Rev. Peter Huiner was called
- 1966 January, Rev. Huiner was installed
Church Service was moved to 11 a.m. and Sunday School to 9:30 a.m.
- 1967 Symbol of the church developed and adopted
Riots in the city and all around the church
Increased concern for social issues