



# Platte Christian Reformed Church

April 2018



## “The Beauty of Here”

Dear Platte CRC Family,

You probably know the phrase, “beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” There is a fundamental difference between this fallen world and God’s redeemed people regarding what is truly beautiful. There is, however, always the danger of letting Hollywood and the ‘eyes’ of culture shape our own eyes and our own tastes as to what is truly beautiful.

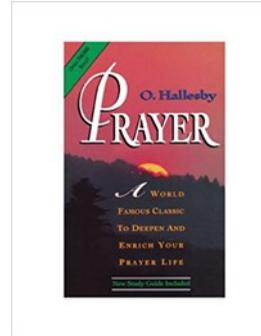
A perfect example of this was pointed out by writer and church historian Carl Trueman last month in light of the Academy Awards (the Oscars). Out there, “beauty” is a couple walking down the red carpet, physically impeccable and sexually involved yet unmarried, with multiple divorces in the rearview mirror due to ‘irreconcilable differences’ (those people just didn’t meet my needs) and with children they barely know. But true beauty, the beauty ‘here,’ is different. Here, beauty was Henry DeLange sitting with a cup of coffee at the nursing home, holding the hand of and talking with gentle love to his wife Jeanette despite the fact that she wasn’t really ‘there.’ Here, beauty is strange: parents who change the dirty diapers and wash the dirty dishes and clothes and do the dirty work of discipline in order to help their kids become...beautiful.

We cannot allow the eyes of culture to define beauty for our eyes. Peter says as much when addressing wives in 1 Peter 3. We ought always to be asking, “what does God call beautiful?” Here’s another way to think about this: out there, beauty is always somewhere else. It is a vacation – a cruise, a resort or an adventure. It is someone else’s job, someone else’s spouse, someone else’s home or car or kids. But what about here? God calls “beautiful” wherever he has placed you. You can take 2 or 3 seconds right now, and look around, and find at least 5 things around you that are beautiful. You need not go anywhere to find the beauty that is here.

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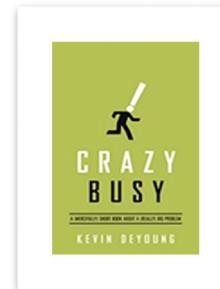
Now, for something different...I have three book recommendations that are being shelved in our library:

### Ole Hallesby, Prayer



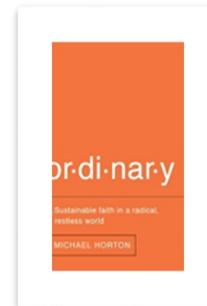
A healthy, faithful church is a praying church. But as I mentioned at our community prayer service in March, prayer is hard work. It doesn’t just happen on its own. Because of that, I’ve needed to read a few different books on prayer, and so far, I think this is the best one. The subtitle calls it, “A world famous classic to deepen and enrich your prayer life.” It’s worth checking out anything that might possibly ‘deepen and enrich your praying life.’

### Kevin DeYoung, Crazy Busy



The subtitle calls this “a (mercifully) short book about a (really) big problem. When people ask how things are going, “busy” is usually one of three or four words that come out without even thinking. In 2018, families can be so busy that there isn’t even time for family dinner, much less family devotions or worship. DeYoung, a Presbyterian pastor in North Carolina, doesn’t provide all the answers to cure “busyness as usual,” but asks the right questions and thinks through the issue Biblically.

### Michael Horton, Ordinary: Sustainable faith in a radical, restless world



From the cover: The greatest fear most Christians have today is boredom – that sense that they are missing out on the radical, world-changing life Jesus promises. The problem is that most of us end up feeling disillusioned and disappointed, burnt out by restless anxieties and unrealistic expectations. We need a renewed appreciation for the commonplace ways in which God works. By learning to embrace the ordinary, you will find contentment and a sustainable faith in the hidden and humble places.

Enjoy these books, and enjoy “the beauty of here.”

In Christ, *Pastor Drew*

## FAMILY PRAYER NOTES

### GENERAL PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ⇒ Council: Ask God to give wisdom and courage to members of our council and their wives. Pray for them to be obedient to Jesus as Lord of the church.
- ⇒ Education: Pray for our students to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, and ask God for faithful teachers who speak His truth in love.
- ⇒ Church Growth: Ask that God would be growing each member of our church to a deeper faith, and bringing new people into His kingdom.
- ⇒ Worship: Ask for God to work in you a heart that desires to meet with Him and praise Him, and for our church to help facilitate and create beautiful worship.
- ⇒ Mission: Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the bountiful harvest. Pray for the work of our Classis Home Missions Committee and for God's light to go to dark places near us.
- ⇒ Building and Grounds: Thank God for the facilities that we have and the many sacrifices made over the years to purchase, build and maintain them.

### Nursing Home Residents, Shut-ins and their Caretakers:

- ⇒ Tony & Rozella Baan Hofman, Ted Bultsma, Kevin Burma, Gertie DeJong, Clair & Pearl Dyk, Marie Kok, Clarence Hunsucker, JoAnn Kuipers, Juna Meyerink, Helen Pheifer, Ruth Pranger, Cheryl Reed, Don & Evelyn Severson, Harriet Sprik, Leona Van Dusseldorp, Muriel Van Vuren, Betty Van Zee

### Those Mourning the Loss of:

- ⇒ Esther Hoekman, Cornie & Eleanor Lieuwen, Jennie Bultsma, Darrell Kuipers, Janet DeJong, Ann Vander Pol, Viola Vander Tuin, and Harriett Meyerink.

### Missionaries:

- ⇒ Ben & Amy Meyer (CRWM– Mexico)
- ⇒ Victor & Lori Selemani (YWAM– Africa)
- ⇒ LaVeryl & Max Voss (Wycliffe– Papua New Guinea)
- ⇒ Calvin & Jessica Wunderink (TeachBeyond-Czech Republic )

### Monthly Birthdays and Anniversaries

*(to see church activities, please refer to our weekly bulletin, or to the online calendar at [plattecrc.org](http://plattecrc.org) for the most up-to-date information)*

#### April Birthdays:

- 1: Vernon Van Vuren
- 7: Sam Sybesma
- 9: Eric Van Zee
- 10: Abraham Meyer (missionary)
- 10: Amber Dykshorn
- 10: Devan (Hansum) Haack
- 10: Rheanna Pheifer
- 11: Muriel Van Vuren
- 16: Tyler Weg
- 17: Brent Veurink
- 21: Corinne Middendorp
- 22: Dennis Kok
- 22: Doug Kaemingk
- 23: Dale Severson
- 25: Barb Buitenbos
- 26: Ken Van Zee
- 27: Nancy Van Zee
- 29: Amy Meyer (missionary)

#### April Anniversaries:

- 9: Keith & Harriett Sybesma
- 19: Curt & Kristi Pheifer
- 21: Joel & Su Sybesma
- 24: Henry & Barb Buitenbos
- 24: Ken & Kim Lieuwen
- 25: Darrell & Gretchen Kuipers
- 26: Wilmer & Joan Niewenhuis
- 30: Brian & Shelly DeGroot

*Please let the church office know if there are any birthdays or anniversaries that we've missed! Call 337-3572, or email: [plattecrc@gmail.com](mailto:plattecrc@gmail.com)*