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Seasons of the Spirit™

ThirdGeneration

THIRD REFORMED CHURCH | 111 W. 13TH STREET | HOLLAND, MI 49423

Pastor's Column: Some Thoughts in the Season of Easter
By Pastor Kent Fry

Since mid-February I have been relating quite a bit to people in the New Members process and many of the new worship visitors in our midst. Part of this process is the ministry of listening. I have also tried to be present for the Spanish worship through a ministry of presence since I do not speak the Spanish language. I have had plenty of practice worshiping in another language because Joyce and I worshipped in a small congregation in Japan for two and a half years and we could not follow much of the worship service.

But here is what I am hearing from a number of people who are relating to our congregation. We do take very seriously being intentional in making disciples with children and youth. They appreciate this emphasis whether it is children and worship, Wednesday night, youth groups, or the communicant education process.

The recent initiative in Spanish language worship has actually led to worship participants among English speakers. Why? They express appreciation for an intentional welcome to people cross-culturally that they believe should be a major part of the church's witness. There is much bigotry and racism in our land, and reaching across cultural and language barriers should be an important theme of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Spanish language worshipers have felt welcome in the congregation. Some express it is the first time in their life that a white person has shaken their hand! Maybe hospitality on one level does not take much, particularly if the dominant and majority culture does not treat you as a person created in the image of God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young Hearts

What can keep you warm and cuddly but might also be called crazy? Your pet? Your spouse? Think about it…

Who would enjoy a free 45 mile tour through the countryside surrounding Vicksburg, MI, not Mississippi? What might you see besides barns, farms, fields, and flowers? Wow! You might be surprised by what is just around that next curve! You can visualize this vicariously in less than an hour or in your vehicle plus a visit to Apple Knocker's Ice Cream Parlor. How is this possible? Very simply! Just join your friends at Young Hearts, Thursday, May 23 at 12:00 noon at Third Reformed Church. Your $5.00 luncheon will immediately follow and you will have lots about which to chat! Whom to bring? Your best gal or guy? A hot date? Plan now for reservations are due on Monday, May 20.

Welcome Desk Volunteers

This past year, many helpful people volunteered their time at the Welcome Center to answer questions from visitors to Third Reformed Church. We wish to thank all of those volunteers at a brunch on June 9 following worship. If you are one of those volunteers, please put June 9 on your calendar.

Upcoming Events at Third

Thursday, May 23 Young Hearts Luncheon 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 26 Summer services begin one service at 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, July 25 Backyard Bash 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Monday-Thursday, July 29-August 1
Vacation Bible School 6:00-8:15 p.m.

Easter Series: Surprise! "The Unexpected Surprises of God"

The series follows the scripture passages chosen by Seasons of the Spirit which integrates worship and Sunday morning education. The earliest Christians after the resurrection whose stories are told in the Book of Acts have no shortage of surprises. If our spiritual lives seem routine, these stories will awaken in us a new desire for God's work in the lives of unsuspecting, ordinary people like ourselves. As we explore the journey of surprises in these texts, we will learn the spiritual habit of welcoming an unpredictable God and coming to expect the unexpected.

Sunday, May 5 **Third Sunday of Easter**
"An Unlikely Friendship"
Acts 9:1-20
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Reception of New Members

Sunday, May 12 **Fourth Sunday of Easter (also Mother's Day)**
"An Astonishing Imitation"
Acts 9:36-43

Sunday, May 19 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
"An Unexpected Change of Menu"
Acts 11:1-18
Teacher Appreciation
8:30 a.m. Communion

Sunday, May 26 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**
"An Amazing Detour"
Acts 16:9-15
Elder/Deacon Ordination and Installation

Adult Education

Adult Education classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

Adult Spiritual Formation Class will meet each Sunday morning in the Centennial Room on the lower level. This class is participatory, experiential and rooted in scripture as we talk about ways we practically live out our faith in Christ.

Chapel Class

May 5
"The Star of Utrecht"
Anne Larson
Anne is the author of "Anna Maria van Schurman, "The Star of Utrecht." van Schurman (1607-1678) was considered the most learned woman of her age. Anne Larson, of the Hope College French department, will talk about the challenges facing scholarly women in the early modern period.

May 12
"Reclaiming Jesus: Justice in America"
Daniel Rooks and Steve Orlow
Dan and Steve will look at the current state of Justice in America, how we became the country with the most incarcerated citizens, and the hope for the future.

May 19
"Reclaiming Jesus: Compassionate (Non-violent) Communication
Daniel Rooks and Steve Orlow
Steve and Dan will discuss dealing with discord in prison and the applications to dealing with discord in church and in life. These strategies include differentiating observations from evaluations, experiencing and expressing feelings, identifying and connecting needs, and making requests rather than demands. By learning the basic skills of compassionate communication, we can be empowered to transform conflict.

(continued from page 1)

The congregation continues to engage in the joys and sorrows of the global church. Recently the deacons transferred funds to Angel's brother, Samuel, who serves the Presbyterian Church just over the border in Mexico. They have been inundated with Cuban immigrants and refugees from other Central American countries. Third's connection to Angel's brother has facilitated the Reformed Church and the Christian Reformed Church to support this important work. New worship participants appreciate our entrance into the joys and sorrows of the world church.

Our congregation is maintaining our liturgical and hymn singing niche as a congregation. But the inclusion of youth, dramatic readings, use of liturgical visuals helps us to warm up liturgical worship. And the expansion of songs in our hymnbook singing with various instruments expands our "band width" helping us to be inclusive to congregational members that are already a part of our congregation.

At Home with the Word

Following our small group Lenten gatherings that were well-received, we would like to encourage the congregation to use a similar resource for the Season of Easter and beyond called, "At Home with the Word." We might experience the surprising presence of God in our daily lives by coming away from the rush and hurry to find God's peace through a daily reading of scripture. Scripture passages will then be used during our Sunday morning worship.

You can find "At Home with the Word" by typing the following in your browser:

https://www.rca.org/resources/home-word

This is also posted on the Third Reformed Church web site on the discipleship page and then click on devotions.

Finance Report

By Jeff Beird, Treasurer

March 31 marked the end of the first quarter of our fiscal year. 2019 is off to a strong start compared to the first quarter of 2018. Thank you for continuing the giving levels that made 2018 a successful year.

Your giving over the last six months has put us in a very favorable position as measured by our operating reserve balance which totaled $278,000 at the end of March. This compares to $167,000 on 3/31/18. Reserve account balances are also ahead of last year by about $14,000.

Giving for the month of March was $47,000 more than last year. Expenses were about $3,000 less. This resulted in Net Income of about $28,000. Last year, we ran a deficit of $22,000 during the month of March. 1st Quarter Net Income stood at $12,000 compared to a deficit of more than $70,000 during 2018.

We have continued to fund our reserves as budgeted during each month of the 1st Quarter.

All in all, I think we should feel pleased and fortunate with our financial performance through the first three months of the 2019. We will be available for a more thorough review at the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 5, 2019.

I've included some high-level numbers below that I think are good indicators of our current financial position. If you would like additional information or have any questions, please let me know.

Item	As of 3/31/2018	As of 3/31/2019
Giving & Program Support	219,544	291,383
Operating Expenses	289,837	279,180
Operating Account Balance	166,763	278,536
Reserve Account Balance	194,265	208,747
Debt	0	0

Graduates

Graduation time will soon be here. If you have a graduate (high school or college) in your family, please notify the church office by May 15. We would like to recognize them in the June/July newsletter. We will need the graduate's name, the institute from which he/she is graduating, and future plans (if known). Thank you for your help.

Summer Service Schedule

Summer services begin on Sunday, May 26. Beginning that day there will be one service, at 10:00 a.m.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the church is using a new membership software, ShelbyNext? Did you know that you can have access to it through your web browser or an app on your phone? You can either go to thirdreformed.shelbynextchms.com or download the ShelbyNext membership app from your app store. Each member of the church has their own specific username. It is first name.last name. The first initial of both names is capitalized. When using the app it will ask for a domain name. That is thirdreformed.shelbynextchms.com We recommend you do a forgot password and you will be sent a temporary password that you can change later. Once on the website or the app we encourage you to upload a picture for each member of your family. If you need help, see one of the members of the communication team, or send it to Jeanette Beagley via email or the church office.

Have you noticed that we have been exploring new hymns found in our *Lift Up Your Hearts* hymnal as part of our worship service a few Sundays in a row? A heartfelt conversation emerged at the TRC Winter Retreat about how different kinds of music in worship feed different worshipers. While holding onto an abiding love for our traditions, as folks listened to one another describe what helped them engage in worship, church members representing a variety of generations wondered if TRC could begin to include even one new hymnal selection in our worship service. Several Governing Elders participating in that conversation, passed along the request to Consistory, who passed a resolution instructing the Worship Committee to widen our hymn selection and musical presentation.

The Worship Committee, in collaboration with TRC clergy and staff, is in the process of experimenting with these songs, actively inviting your feedback on this topic, and will have more to report in the next TRC newsletter.

David Krieger, Chairperson of Worship Committee
Dale Dykema, VP of Consistory

Looking Ahead

We are going to do a combined June/July newsletter. If you have items for this newsletter please give them to Kristen by May 15.

Congregational Meeting:
Sunday, May 5 at 5:30 p.m.
Election of Elders and Deacons
Presentations on Generation Spark, 3DM, and Spanish Worship

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

LIFT "Let's Go Fly A Kite" Celebration Night

Our Wednesday evening LIFT Elementary Program ended a wonderful year on April 10 with a special event, decorating kites which we planned to fly at Kollen Park. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate, so in addition to decorating kites, we had a paper airplane flying contest. As part of the evening, we were able to celebrate all the fun and faith-filled activities of the year and say "congratulations" to our 5th graders who will be moving into the Middle School Youth Group this summer. It was an enjoyable evening for all who attended.






Our 2018-2019 Children's Educational Ministries Staff

A BIG THANK YOU to the following individuals who have served our children so faithfully this year.

Nursery: Kara Green, Andy & Jane Zoerman.

Sunday School:
Pre & K: Sarah Southard, Sandy Stielstra, Jennifer Walvoord, Maddy Dykhouse.
1st & 2nd: Kim DeJongh, Laurie Orlow.
3rd : Cathy & Dale Dykema, Shelly & Scott Millen.
5th: Barb Folkert, Linda Jacobs, Sheryl Lunn.

Children's Music: Mary VanVoorst.



Children and Worship:
Leaders: Krystal Bulthuis, Nancy Gebben; Nyla Hensley, Kim Mendels, Gretchen Monroe.

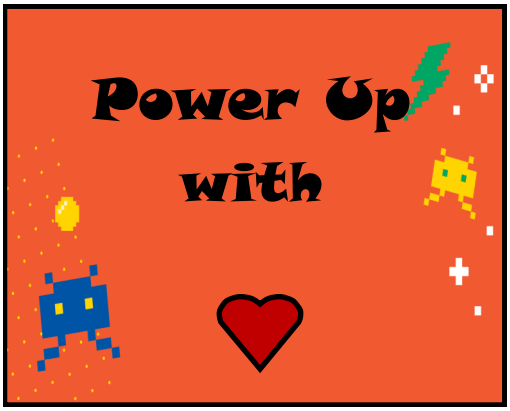
LIFT Elementary Program:
Leaders: Kelley Pasatta, Nancy Gebben, Marj Hoekstra, Katherine Hunsberger, Joyce Mott, Mike Rannow, Judy Schutter, Pastor Kent & Joyce Fry.
Music: Kate Bolt.

Vacation Bible School 2019

Join Us This Summer

Children aged 4 through the 5th grade are invited on a "technological" adventure to get "powered up" and raise their game for life! We will discover that God's love fills us with the Holy Spirit which gives us the power to live for Him. Don't miss the fun. Join us as we "Power up with God's Love!"

Plan now to join us!



We Need You

We will need many adults and teens to serve at "Power Up with God's Love" VBS this summer. There will be opportunities to serve during VBS week and before. Prayerfully consider how you might like to serve and then look for more information on how to sign up starting in May, for this fun, technological adventure.

Plan now to serve!

July 29– August 1; 6:00– 8:15 P.M.

Youth News

By Hunter Brumels

TRC Youth Programming is getting busy! As we near the end of the school year, many things are happening at Third Church! Youth hosted their annual Easter Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser! Thank you to all who came out and supported the youth! It was amazing to see all the support, and great to share a meal together. We were able to raise over $400 for the Youth Program! Thank you so much!

Tulip Time is just around the corner! On May 4, the youth will be in charge of the parking lot for our Tulip Time Parking Fundraiser! The Tulip Time Artisan Festival will be held in Centennial Park on May 4, and students will be opening up the church parking lot to raise money for the Youth Program! If you are planning on enjoying the Artisan Festival, or the Tulip Time Festivities, park in the church parking lot and donate to a worthy cause!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the youth at Third! It has been a wonderful year, and we aren't done yet!



Third Reformed Church Women's Ministries

By Betty Voskuil

Gretchen Munroe and I have been privileged to serve as the co-presidents of Women's Ministries for the past two years. We thank you for the opportunity of joining a distinguished lineage of women of Third who have served in that capacity. Of course, most of you are aware that holding this office at Third coincided with an unexpected move to the President's Home on the Hope College campus for me. Dennis and I have been so grateful for the phenomenal cake ministry offered to Hope students by Third Reformed Women's Ministries.

However, what comes to mind after serving these two years at Hope and Third is the wonderful covenant promise God made to Abraham as expressed in Hebrews 6 and specifically in verse 19. "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul." This is the Bible verse which founder, Albertus Van Raalte used in choosing the anchor as a symbol for the college. We have it displayed in different places at the house and even serve anchor-shaped cookies with orange frosting to guests.

It also seems a particularly appropriate symbol for those of us in our midst who have experienced death and illness in our families and community as well as disappointment and unexpected challenges in our lives. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. This hope has gotten us through difficult days filled with challenges as well as joyful days filled with promise in the past two years. Gretchen and I hope that you find encouragement from this wonderful covenant promise from God in the months and years ahead. Hang on to that anchor!

Living Green

By Mark Faga

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!

I pray that Easter for you and your family (whomever that may include) was as amazing for you as it was for me. I lost my brother 16 years ago on Easter morning so for me, Easter is more important and glorious than ever as I and my family hang on to the promise of Easter. The promise of life in Heaven with our Savior and the promise of seeing our loved ones again.

But what's next? The next celebration.....Tulip Time! What's the old saying? April showers bring May flowers, right? What better way to celebrate spring than with our annual Tulip festival which brings in the carnival, wooden shoes, parades and of course the.....VENDORS. Yay! But with vendors brings garbage. So what does this mean for keeping our planet, our town green? It means, enjoy. It also means enjoy smartly. There's not much you can do other than say no to straws and buy the refillable drink cups just making sure that you recycle them at the end of the week. And make sure your trash gets to the trash can instead of the ground where it will blow who knows were. But yes, enjoy.

Moving right along, we have even more to discuss, so let's get right to it.

The final month for living sustainably along the lakeshore brings us the Green Commute Week. Hosted at the Holland Energy Park on Tuesday, May 14 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. you will find a green car show and booths hosted by area bike shops and MAX Bus along with other groups offering tips on how to green commute safely. And if you bring your bikes and helmets you can even join Velo City cycling on their 3rd annual bike Holland ride from the energy park to Windmill Island.

That brings us to our 7th month of How Long do Things Last from HGTV.

M - mattresses....up to 10 years if you rotate it twice a year and flip it if there is no defined top or bottom. Lexie Sachs, a senior textiles product analyst, says that sagging, lumps and regularly waking up with body aches are signs it's time for a new mattress.

N - nutter butter.....up to 6 months if you store it in the fridge once it's been opened. Apparently you'll know it's going bad it will begin to smell like an oil paint.

And #2 of 15 things you should never buy again from Green America.....

#2 - farm raised salmon. According to several studies, PCB's and other environmental toxins are present at higher levels in farm raised salmon. And if you'd like more info they have even provided a Safe Seafood Tip Sheet for you at greenamerica.org/safeseafood.

And finally I'd like to share 5 dryer sheet "hacks" also provided by HGTV's online newsletter.

1 - remove dried paint from paint brushes....simply stick a dryer sheet in a bucket of warm water, add your dirty brush, soak for 30 minutes and rinse with warm water. I have not tried this one yet so if you do please share the results.

2 - polish stainless steel. Wear gloves so you don't continue to add fingerprints but wiping stainless steel with a dryer sheet does remove oily fingerprints quite well.

3 - remove pet hair. If a lint roller isn't handy, gently rub a dryer sheet over your pillow or car seat.

4 - use as a dust cloth. Works really well in a pinch. It even prevents dust from settling again too quickly.

5 - freshen up your shoes. At night, simply put a dryer sheet in each shoe.

And as a bonus.....the scented dryer sheets will leave everything they touch smelling clean and fresh.

God's blessings as you enjoy Tulip Time and all that spring has to offer. And remember to continue to make the commitment to a lifestyle choice of Living Green.

Thank You

My sincere thanks for the many cards, calls, prayers and acts of kindness shown to us during John's courageous battle and passing from this life to the next. The prayer shawl was a constant source of warmth and comfort, and the many Third Reformed Church members who attended his service were a reminder of how blessed we are to be a part of this community of faith.

Linda Dykstra

Many thanks to the members and friends of Third Reformed Church for your kindnesses shown our family during Ray's illness and passing. Your heartfelt messages, through the beautiful cards we received, or through the spoken word, buoyed our spirits and soothed our aching hearts. Thanks, too, for those who brought food that helped sustain us when the thought of preparing meals was almost too much to even think about at the time. To Pastors Kent and Kama... your visits to us during his illness and following his passing were so appreciated and his memorial service was a perfect example of celebrating the long life of this man who went to the Lord on the first day of spring. Your words captured his spirit and made him come alive again for those minutes we shared. May God continue to bless Third Reformed Church and its ministry. Thank you and I covet your continued prayers and support.

Jane Snyder and Family

To our Third family,

We are grateful for the many sympathy cards and condolences we received upon the death of our husband and father, Frank Pettinga. We were comforted by your love. And thank you to all who were able to attend our celebratory service for his life.

Sue Pettinga & Cindy and Mark Hiskes

Third church members:

During my time on consistory, I have been asked by members if our church would consider offering a final resting place option if their wishes are for cremation. Specifically, could we offer a memorial area for the placement of ashes as a way for a church that is nurturing through life to also be meaningful at death.

With this in mind, I found the following information:

The choice of cremation rather than traditional burials is increasing.

There are no legal limitations for burying ashes on private property.

Local churches offer a memorial area to their members.

Often, urns or other containers are not used when burying ashes.

If our church chooses to offer a memorial area, the proposed area would be the courtyard. An area of concrete could be removed outside of the north library windows which would allow the area to be viewed from the library. Costs could be minimal for this process but would be increased if items such as a memorial book(s) and/or a bronze name plaque are included. There would be modest internment costs for members who choose this area as a final resting place.

I have spoken to some of you informally about this to gather input. I've found that this is not for everyone (some prefer traditional burial, some have a family plot or another area already determined, and some feel that cemeteries provide adequate services) but most of you were highly in favor of offering a memorial area at the church even if you would not utilize it yourself.

I'd like to gather more input. If you have questions and/or comments please contact me or another deacon.

Thank you,

Jim VanderMeer

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Birthdays/Anniversaries

(birthdays 80 years plus/anniversaries 50 years plus)

Walter & Ruby Thome	May 15	64 years
Bob & Jan Benningfield	May 16	66 years

Address/Phone Changes

Karin Ashcroft, 4 S. Zeeland Pkwy, Zeeland, MI 49464
Anna Ritsema 510-0782

New Members

Kirk and Stephanie Brumels
295 E. 13th St., Holland, MI 49423
Kirk-836-4342/Stephanie-566-4610

Eunice DeWitt
1035 Graystone Rd., Holland, MI 4923

Kent and Maggie Franken
1222 Heather Rd., Holland, MI 49423
Kent-403-1179/Maggie-566-3325

Steve and Laura McMullen: and their children Eleanor, Kimia, and Jonathan
238 W. 15th St., Holland, MI 49423
Steve-401-0946/Laura-401-0895

John and Remi Schloff: and their children Nathan, Matthew, Timothy, Daniel, Sarah, Joey, and Chauncey
91 Bay Circle Dr., Holland, MI 49424
John-566-6111/Remi-614-1188

Scott and Mary Remenschneider: and their children Maddie, Will
2965 Brookwind Dr., Holland, MI 49424
283-7725

Pray for

Walter Thome
Jill Slenk
Ruby Thome
Gen Bos
MaryAlice Ritsema
Al Gibson

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Morning Education Schedule **9:25-TRC Singers** **9:45-Sunday Morning Live** **9:45-Children's Choir** **9:45-Education for Adults** **10:00-Children's & Youth Education**			*1* 6:15-Men's Bible Study 6:30-Sunrise Saints 8:00-Wednesday Morning Prayers 6:00-Personnel Team 6:20-Sanctuary Choir 6:30-Bilingual Bible Study	*2*	*3* 10:00-Women's Prayer Group	*4*
5 8:00-Matins Choir 8:30-Worship Service ***Sunday Morning Education Schedule*** 11:00-Worship Service 1:00-Spanish Worship Gathering 5:30-Congregational Meeting	*6*	*7* 9:30-Staff Meeting	*8* 6:15-Men's Bible Study 6:30-Sunrise Saints 8:00-Wednesday Morning Prayers 6:20-Sanctuary Choir 6:30-Bilingual Bible Study	*9*	*10*	*11*
12 8:00-Matins Choir 8:30-Worship Service ***Sunday Morning Education Schedule*** 11:00-Worship Service 1:00-Spanish Worship Gathering 4:45-Carillon Choir	*13* 12:00-Blood Drive 1:30-Miriam Bible Study	*14* 8:30-Ruth Bible Study 9:30-Staff Meeting 10:00-Hannah/ Elizabeth Bible Study 12:00-Lydia Bible Study 7:30-Outreach Committee	*15* 6:15-Men's Bible Study 6:30-Sunrise Saints 8:00-Wednesday Morning Prayers 1:30-Rachel Bible Study 6:20-Sanctuary Choir 6:30-Bilingual Bible Study	*16* 7:00-Worship Committee	*17* 10:00-Women's Prayer Group	*18*
19 8:00-Matins Choir 8:30-Worship Service ***Sunday Morning Education Schedule*** 11:00-Worship Service 12:15-Third Sunday Pizza Lunch 1:00-Spanish Worship Gathering	*20* 7:00-Martha Bible Study	*21* 9:30-Staff Meeting 6:30-Deacons' Meeting 6:30-Care Elders' Meeting 6:30-Governing Elders' Meeting 7:15-Consistory	*22* 6:15-Men's Bible Study 6:30-Sunrise Saints 8:00-Wednesday Morning Prayers 6:20-Sanctuary Choir 6:30-Bilingual Bible Study	*23* 12:00-Young Hearts Luncheon	*24*	*25*
26 10:00-Worship Service 11:15-Family Lunch	*27* Church Office Closed	*28* 5:15-Christian Education Committee	*29* 6:15-Men's Bible Study 8:00-Wednesday Morning Prayers 6:20-Sanctuary Choir 6:30-Bilingual Bible Study	*30*	*31* 9:00-Newsletter Assembly	

THIRD REFORMED CHURCH
111 West 13th Street
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-1459
CareLine: 393-5574
www.trcholland.org

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