

Fuller Life⁹⁰

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church
December 2015



Fuller Life is the newsletter of the Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church

**1239 Fuller Avenue, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

Published monthly, except July

**Barb Straatsma, editor
Connie Scheurwater, member in focus articles
Freda Rufli, collating, circulation and mailing.**

November Council Report

By Barb Straatsma, Clerk

The hiring of a Director of Faith Formation has begun. Advertisements are in many publications and an interview team has been formed. No one has been chosen to staff the nursery.

Our September Offerings were lower than previous months but our fund balance is very adequate and we are in good shape relative to last year at this time. The Administration Committee and the Council reviewed our 2016 budget. A few changes were made. Look for a copy in your file folder on either November 15 or 22. Our thanks to Terry Idema for compiling the numbers. A Congregational Meeting will be held on December 6 with a potluck dinner to follow.

As you have seen in the bulletin, Lifetouch

Photography will be taking our photographs at church on December 3, 4, and 5. We would like a great turnout for this. Every household will receive a free 8" X 10" picture and a directory.

There are 14 Kids Hope USA mentors from Fuller but more are always welcome. A big thank you to the kickball league for donating \$300 to Campus Elementary School.

Susie is being trained by Sue and Marci. She has planned two events, one for December and one for January. December 16 is a cookie decorating activity and beginning January 13 and lasting for 6 weeks are women group meetings. See article on page .

Ellen Van Stee, Larry Segaar, and Jim Speyer will chair the Global Outreach Committee and Miki De Windt is the new chair for our FAMAS Committee. The September 30, 2015 FAMAS Barnabas Foundation Investment balance is \$124,274.22 and the cash on hand balance is \$1,134.25. They received requests for Tuesday Family Night, Christian Community Enrichment, Kick Ball, Implicit Bias Workshop, Book of the Quarter, Green Sprawl(from 2010), DVD Players, and Community Book Club. Some of the grants are closed (all the money given out) and some are open. Some of the money is used for new

start-ups and some of the money is used for continuing ministries. They plan to contact several people to join the committee and update their grant request form.

The Technology Committee gave us a report. Pam Slotsema has been busy designing a new website which will be more manageable and include more items. There will be audio and video recordings of sermons, Pastor Nate will have a blog, and there will be links to Facebook and Twitter. She hopes to have it up and running on December 1. Eight DVD players were purchased through a grant from FAMAS for our shut-ins. Our worship service DVDs are mailed to them every week. They appreciate being connected to Fuller in this way. New speakers were installed in the Fellowship Room. There is now a corded microphone for use in the Fellowship Room. A new television is being purchased to mount on the balcony for pastors and choir members. The speakers in the annex have been fixed.

This is a busy time of year for the deacons. They hosted a Senior Singles Dinner in October. 58 food boxes will be assembled and distributed to households in our congregation and neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Mountain of Mercy!

Pastor Nate had a lighter load of preaching in October but will be busy in November and December. He was glad to be part of our Global Outreach Week. Intergenerational worship is an important factor to our worship services with the aim of including all ages and abilities in our worship services. He attended a 11/2 day conference on outreach. He enjoyed a week of great vacation with family.

Pastor Morris celebrated the second anniversary of his transplant and good progress in his health. He enjoyed a 12-day trip out west to Alberta to visit relatives and celebrated the 40th anniversary of Lethbridge CRC where he served as interim pastor twice. He enjoyed the Senior Singles Dinner and was able to connect with many of our seniors.

Bert Wierenga will delight us with his music on November 22. The church school children will be singing on December 20. Bakers is going well and around 12 boys have come to Cadets. There is a need for drivers to pick up a few people for worship. Contact Sue.

Susie is getting to know our neighbors by attending Adams Park Apartments Game/Birthday Night and our community dinners. She has volunteered to be a mentor at Campus Elementary School and was able to tour the

school, meet the principal and her student. Over 100 people participated in our Trunk or Treat which was held in the Gathering Place due to rain.

81 people plan to attend Shrek the Musical on Friday, November 13. We look forward to seeing Jonah and Lucas as Shrek. In January there will be a Murder Mystery Night and in March the Grand Rapids High School Improv Team will be here to amuse us.



Neighborhood Outreach

By Jay Van Bruggen

When Jesus was confronted by a lawyer who was probably trying to make Jesus look foolish Jesus told a story about a robbery along a dangerous roadway. Jesus response made it clear that the neighbor in the law was a hated foreigner.

Fuller has been engaged in neighborhood outreach for many years and we have recently moved it to the top of

our tasks. But who is our neighbor? We often think of neighbors as the people next door or down the street a bit. There is no doubt that these people are important in our lives for they keep their grass cut and the neighborhood pleasant and living is easier with good people on the block. But times have changed very much in recent years. In 1950 there was a huge ocean between us and Asia, Europe, and Africa. A missionary to Japan once reminisced about the two weeks on a ship when returning to the United States. Today Narita, the main international airport in Japan, is twelve hours from Chicago or Detroit. Xfinity advertises that you can now speak to friends in China, India, and Mexico as easily as you can speak to people a few blocks away or across a state line. Our neighbors are increasingly in Asia, Africa, and South America.

Jesus told the lawyer that his neighbors were those nasty hated Samaritans across the international border. The Global Outreach we have established is a part of neighborhood outreach today. Remember, no place on earth is more than twenty four hours from us.



Comfy Baggage

By Susie Dixon

6-Week Series for Ladies
Tuesday Evenings
Beginning Jan 12 thru Feb 16
6:45-8:30 pm

All Ladies are Welcome!

Come on out for a night of fun, discussion, and activities.

Let us refresh, encourage, and strengthen each other.

And let's take a closer look at the "comfy" items we routinely carry around with us...and how some of these items get in the way of forming healthy relationships.

Feel free to invite friends!

How can you help with the event? So, glad you asked. We need greeters warmly welcoming ladies each evening...and we need small gifts to make door prizes (lotions, nail polish, devotional books, and other lady-like knick-knacks). Also, please help spread the word by inviting other ladies. Flyers are available at the Ministry Center.

Looking forward to our time together!

Questions???
Contact Susie Dixon at [616-241-1679](tel:616-241-1679) or susiedixon@fullercrc.org



In Memory of Cora Boelema

By Connie Scheurwater
(This article was written with the assistance of Tim Boelema, Cora's son.)

Cora Vander Kam was born in Byron Center, Michigan and grew up there. She held a number of jobs in her early adult years, such as kindergarten teacher and babysitter. She did not finish high school, but received her high school diploma when she was in her 70s.

While working at the checkout lane at Mersman's Grocery in Alger Heights (later Boorsma's), Cora met her future husband, Harold Boelema. He was so attracted to her that he came to the store every day to buy something in order to go through her lane.

After Harold and Cora were married, she became a member of Fuller Avenue Church, where Harold's parents and brothers were members. Fuller Avenue Church was very important to her. Through the years, she was involved in a number of church activities such as women's Bible study groups, Red Hat society, and pinochle.



Mountain of Mercy = 58 Food Boxes

By Ellen Van Stee

Jonah Phelps, Elisha & Myriam Opira and Lydia Phelps worked with mentors Ken Bratt, Steve Hollemans and Marilyn Braman to sort food donated to the Mountain of Mercy. Working together with the deacons and because of your donations we were able to provide food to 58 households from our congregation and the neighborhood! A very large THANK YOU to those who coordinated requests, Sue for using the donations to purchase needed items and to you for remembering others with your food and contributions to the Mountain of Mercy. Thank you for showing thanks with a grateful and giving heart.

Harold and Cora had four children, Kathy, Mark, Tim, and Joan. The family lived for a number of years on Paris Avenue SE, in a house they bought from the Boorsma family. They didn't have much money, but Cora was very resourceful. She bought damaged cans, which couldn't be sold, at Boorsma's for 10 cents. The labels had been removed from these cans, so the content was a mystery. For lunch, the children had to eat whatever can they opened, which might be spaghettios, peaches, or something that couldn't be identified! They also ate pop tarts which had to be cut into four pieces, one for each child. Cora was passionate about her family, and through the years insisted on their getting together for every birthday and holiday.

Cora, who was called Coodie by her family, loved to bake. She made breads, pies, cakes, and buns (which were called hamburger buns but never eaten with hamburgers!). Her family enjoyed her baked goods, but later in life, when her husband became diabetic, she cut the sugar in her recipes in half. After that the baked goods were not quite the same. Cora also liked to sew. She made clothes for her children and later made bibs for babies. Because of her passion for sewing, she worked for some time at Fenstemacher's Fabric Store. She finished her working career at Keebler

Bakery, feeding stacks of pop tarts into a packaging machine.

The most important thing in Cora's life and the thing she prayed about everyday was that her four children and eight grandchildren would walk with the Lord. One of her granddaughters, Katie Boelema Spohr, was an English teacher in The Peoples' Republic of China for a number of years, during which time she was supported through Fuller Avenue Church mission funds. Donald Boelema, Harold Boelema's older brother and a resident of Holland Home/Fulton Manor, continues to be a member of Fuller Avenue Church.

After the death of her husband, Cora eventually moved to Holland Home/Raybrook where she continued to use her creative abilities and her love of sewing. She greatly appreciated her friends at Fuller Avenue Church, and her church continued to be very important to her. As her health declined, she was confident in her relationship with God. She believed that God was good and that he had a special plan for her life, even while she was lying in a hospital bed with breathing tubes and feeding tubes down her throat and no ability to speak. During her last few months, her family felt that she was truly a gift, and that

they were rich to have had her in their lives.

On October 21, 2015 Cora Boelema was called to her heavenly home. Her funeral, held at Raybrook Chapel by her own request, was a celebration of her life by her family and friends. We thank God for her long life and for the fact that she touched the lives of so many of our members.

Introducing our Fuller Project Neighborhood Students



Morgan Quist

Hi, my name is Morgan, and I am from Holland, Michigan. I am the middle of three girls, and yes, I like being the middle child. I celebrate middle child day every year on August 4 with gusto. I currently am a second year student at Calvin College, studying Nursing and Studio Art. When I have time to spare, I love to adventure outdoors (particularly if it involves kayaking), paint late

into night, read a good book, or spend time with my parents and sisters. Right now, my family is undergoing some pretty big transitions, and prayer would definitely be appreciated. My older sister is getting married in December, my younger sister is applying to colleges, and my dad is in the process of finding a new job. It's a whirlwind of change in the Quist house. I also am immersed in my studies, preparing to apply for the Nursing program in December. I am hoping and praying for peace during this busy time.



Kayla VandenBosch

My name is Kayla and I was born and raised in Grand Rapids. I am currently a junior at Calvin studying International Development Studies and Spanish with a minor in Urban Studies. Through these concentrations (and further study of urban sociology and cross-cultural communications), I hope to use my skills to actively address the numerous inequalities and social injustices that exist in urban contexts all over the world. I enjoy rowing, downhill skiing, and sailing, and my hobbies include sewing, dancing,

reading, and watching documentaries. This year, I am volunteering as a tutor/mentor through Kids Hope USA and I ask you to pray for God's wisdom to be evident in His presence during our time of purposeful relationship-building. You can also pray for stillness and peace both in my life and the life of the Fuller House as we are all anticipating making significant decisions and transitions during these two semesters.



Ashley Meyers

Hello, I'm Ashley Meyers and here is a little background info about me. I was born in Ann Arbor and grew up there until my family moved to Lansing when I was a freshman in high school. I have two sisters, Hannah (who is 17) and Abigail (who is 8). Our family also has two lovable, fluffy cats named Daisy and Jasmine. At school, I am studying music education and French. Eventually, I hope to teach abroad or perhaps in an urban school district. Some of my other interests include reading, cooking, musicals, movies, and dancing (but not very well). I could use some

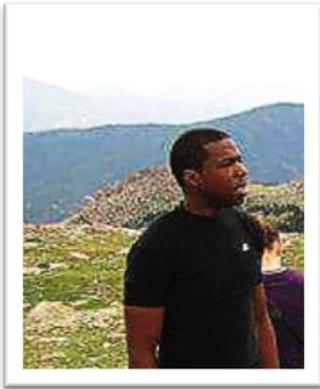
prayers for calm as the semester continues to accelerate towards end of the semester. Also, there has been a recent death and other issues within my family, so prayer for that would be much appreciated. I am excited to get involved in the Fuller community this year and feel so blessed by how welcoming you all have been already! All the best!



Sung Hun Choi

I am Sung Hun Choi, a senior student majoring in International Relations and Philosophy. I grew up under the Korean K-12 education system. My parents were missionaries in Turkey for 10 years and still work in a mission organization in Korea. I have an older sister, who is also committed to mission and served Turkey for four years sharing the gospel. I have an interest in the Middle Eastern international relations not only as a vocation but also as a calling of mission. I want to foster peace in the Middle East and help locals to thrive as God's children. At this moment, I am applying for grad school in International Affairs and also thinking of

going back to Korea to serve military duty.

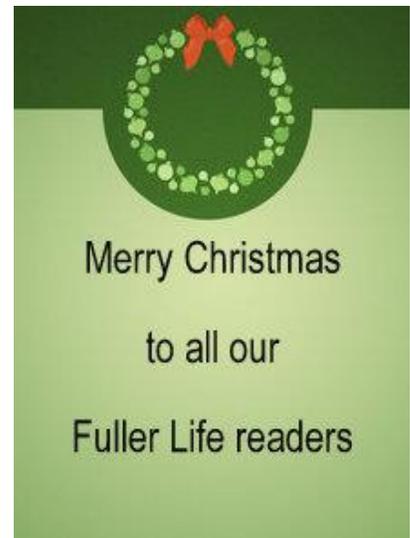


Rhyan Reynolds
 Hello, my name is Rhyan Reynolds and I am a in my last year at Calvin. I study Education and Psychology for my major. I am the middle of three children to my mother. I am also a twin, the other half is a girl. I was born in Chicago, Illinois but I grew up in Valparaiso, Indiana. I live currently in Crystal Springs, Mississippi though, so you could say that I have been around a little bit. Some of my hobbies include skateboarding, bicycle motocross, mountain biking, rock climbing, basketball, and football. I am looking forward to growing with the Fuller community this year as I am in the last few months of my undergraduate career.



- 1 Donna Meyer
- 2 Betsy Turnbull (M)
- 3 Marci Phelps
- 5 Kate Miller
- 7 Doug Hoek
- Jan Van Veen
- 8 Ruth Ter Haar
- 11 Jim & Lorna Krosschell (1970)
- 12 Jaheem Brown
- Mary Speyer
- 13 Lucas Phelps
- 15 Lydia Phelps
- Gary Van Vels
- Samuel Turnbull (M)
- 22 Karla Laninga
- 24 Jim Kreykes
- 26 John Knight
- Linda Van Wyk

- 29 Calvin & Sharon Greenwood (1970)
- Manuel & Maria Lara (1984)
- 30 James Karsten
- 31 Dorothy Schierbeek



The deadline for the January Fuller Life is December 27, 2015

Christmas is a time of giving. Volunteering is a great exercise for children to experience first-hand how good deeds can affect others whether it be Christmas caroling with a group of friends at a nearby senior citizen center, helping at a food bank, or helping a neighbor.

Pick a cause to support as a family. Label a jar with the name of the cause. Drop in your loose change. Send them the accumulated amount.

Kids of all ages can sort through their **toys** and select a few to donate.



Encourage your children to raise money to **give** to a non-profit organization that they have researched and wish to give to. Let them make a plan on how they will raise the money and how they will execute their plan.

Pick a day to turn your kitchen into a **cookie** bakery. Spread out decorating supplies and let the kids choose their cookie toppings, package them up and give them away.

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30 pm: Choir	2 	3 Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions 7 pm: Council	4 Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions	5 Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions 9 am: Sanctuary Decorating
6 10 am: Faith Promise Gifts, Food Offering: Adams Park 11:15 am: Cong Meeting & Potluck	7 Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions	8 7:30 pm: Choir	9 7:30 am: Men's Bible Study	10 2 pm: Seniors Christmas Celebration @ Raybrook	11	12
13	14	15 7:30 pm: Choir	16	17	18	19
20 6 pm: Lessons & Carols	21	22 7:30 pm: Choir	23 7:30 am: Men's Bible Study	24	25 10 am: Christmas Service	26
27 6 pm: Prayer Service	28	29 7:30 pm: Choir	30	31		

FROM

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church
1239 Fuller Avenue, S. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506-3248

TO