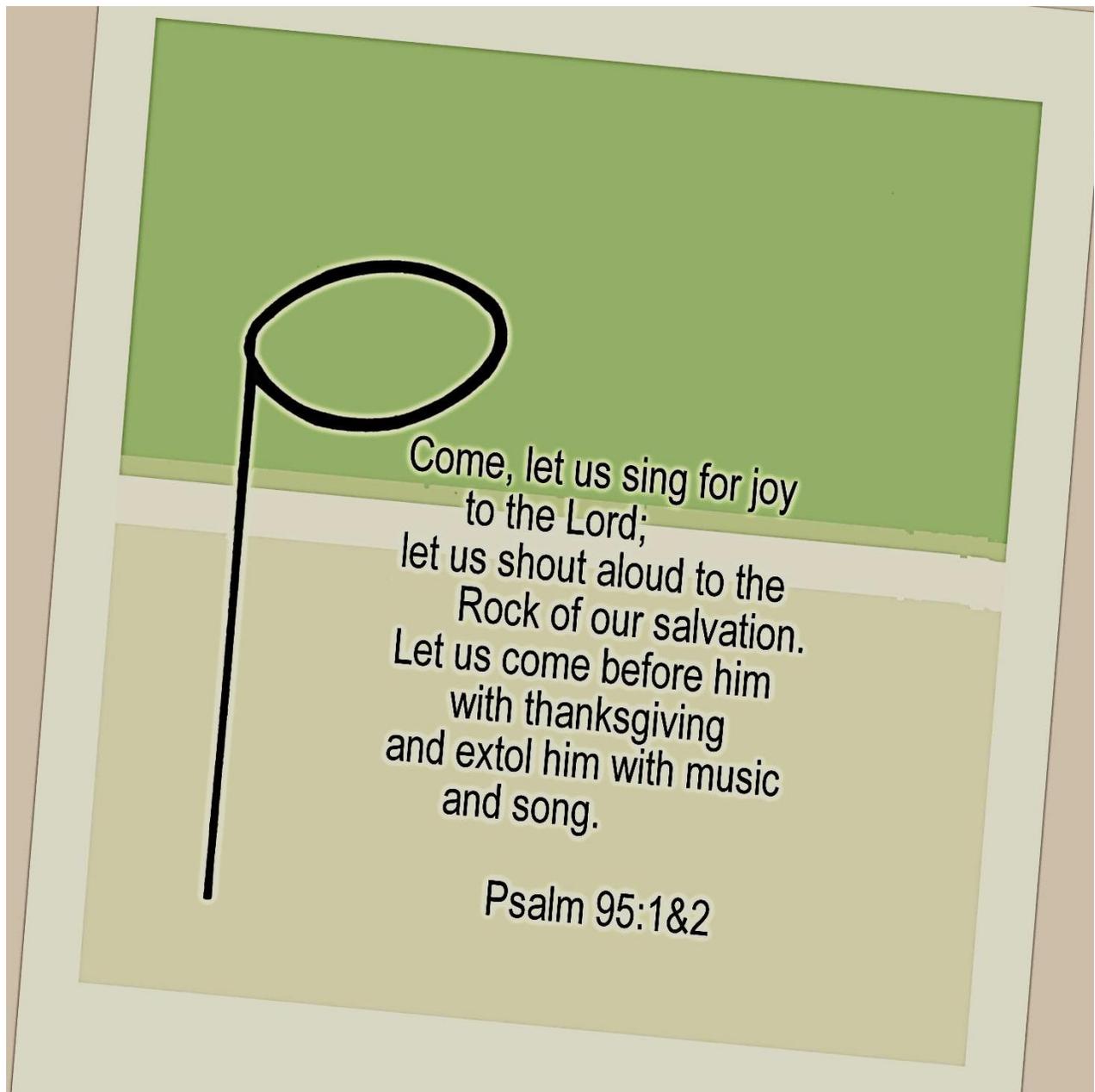


Fuller Life

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church
February 2015



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

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

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

January Council Report

By Barb Straatsma, Clerk

Council did not meet in January due to the weather but we did vote online to approve the housing allowance for Pastor Nate and Pastor Morris, \$30,000 for Pastor Nate and \$2,400 for Pastor Morris.

The Worship Committee met on December 10, 2014. There are new guidelines for the setup of communion. The bread will be cut into smaller pieces, cut just before the service, and extra bread will be bought and stored in the freezer for those times when Charlotte's Bakery is closed. Plans for lent are being worked on. The choir will sing a cantata on Good Friday. Matt Postma and a student will help with the soundboard while Dan Miller is gone. More Fuller people will be involved in our worship services.

The FAMAS Committee met on September 21, 2014. The fund balance as of August 31, 2014 is \$134,682.20. It is composed of Barnabas Foundation Investments and cash on hand. The August 31, 2014 Barnabas statement shows a balance of \$129,166.17 and the cash on hand balance is \$5,516.03. Two grant requests were approved; one for the purchase of rhythm instruments and a Cajon drum for use in worship and \$1,600 to partially offset the cost of "the book of the quarter". In November 2014, the committee approved a request to purchase two T.V./monitors for the Fellowship Room.

The Technology Committee met on January 5, 2015. As you will read in Jack's committee article, the church will no longer produce cassette tapes but instead will produce DVDs of our worship service. If you wish to receive a DVD of our worship services on a regular basis or a copy of a specific worship service, please contact the church office. These can be mailed to you. You can also pick one up at the ministry center. Thanks to Dave and Miki De Windt for making the copies. Another recent change is going from signup sheets to Ipad signup. All this new equipment requires instruction and plans. Our website will get an update to make it easy to manage, appealing, and easy to browse. It will include

sermon streaming, keep us better informed and look more attractive to church shoppers. Our thanks to the committee for all their work in getting us into the 21st century.

In the Ministry Report, here is a look at some of what was reported. Pastor Nate reported on visiting 4 people who expressed a desire to become members at Fuller, two will be baptized. He continues to follow up with our guests and checks in on others with a phone call. He attended various meeting inside and outside of church. He preached 6 times and led a lessons and carols pm service. He, along with Pastor Morris and 2 elders, led the Raybrook Christmas Celebration and Communion. He and the Advent planning team put together an Advent series, Coming Home, a series of services that he said "spoke of grace and hope into the Christmas season". He continues to meet regularly with Josh and completed the Kuyper College semester review for his internship at Fuller.

Pastor Morris continues to visit people of the church. He led the December 7 pm worship service and attended meetings, one in particular to outline the purpose of visits by elders, deacons, and the Visitation Teams, to decide who receives the reports and what a visit consist of.

Josh reports that the youth met twice in December, planned the youth service for December 21, and sold coupon books to raise funds. As he looked back on 2014, he could see the growth of each student and their excitement around Jesus and worship. He looks forward to a new year for our youth and their theme for the semester is Romans 8, focusing on verses 37-39.

Sue reported on the outreach of the church: Adams Park Birthday Party/Game Night, the January 23 start of our 4th Friday Dinners, all Kids Hope USA items were given to the teachers, and 75 fruit trays were given to Kids Hope USA students, Adams Park residents, and some members. In regard to community and world hunger, 51 food baskets were distributed to community members and \$1162 was raised in our World Hunger Campaign through World Renew. She also helped in the making of a new directory.

As we have sung many times in church from Psalm 47: "Clap your hands, all you people; shout unto god with a voice of triumph... with a voice of praise! Hosanna! Hosanna! Praise him! Praise him!" Our church has much to sing about!

Technology Committee Update

By Jack Posthumus

You may have noticed a few new items but may not have seen some not so noticeable new items around church. So where are we going with all this new stuff?

1. T.V.'s in basement.

We have heard many nice comments on how the many avenues of outreach of our church have become much more visual, but how can we make it better? One direction we would like to head in is to see more involvement from our many great committees. All committee chairs have been contacted to use the T.V.'s to show off what they are doing to impact our community. Whether it be Cadets, Bakers, Kid's Hope USA, community dinners, or summer Tuesday Family Night activities, it would be great for them to submit pictures and show the impact Fuller Ave. is having around us.

2. Ipads. They look nice but why are they really needed? With the many signup clipboards that we

have had, it gets to be very cumbersome to have them all sit out on the Ministry Center counter. Then the office staff must decipher whose signature that is on the sheet (good thing I am typing since mine is horrible-I should have been a doctor). Then get the signup, bring it to office, and transpose all these names to a final sheet. With Ipads, they are linked to the office computer so the second someone signs up, it is sent to the same form on Marci's computer. Marci simply opens the form on her computer, reads up-to-date signups, and can print it if necessary. This is a great time saving tool. Down the road, they could become more portable and used for taking pictures during special events (which again would go automatically to the office computer).

3. Camcorder in the balcony. For years we have taped the sermon on cassette tapes. Bill Gritter then picked up the tape, made copies and these were given to anyone wanting a copy. We would like to thank Bill for all his

work for so many years! Like all things, the time for cassette tapes have passed. Bill has mentioned it is getting harder and harder to find cassette tapes; fewer people want them since cassette players are also a thing of the past. He told our committee he is ready to put this media to bed. Many churches have already or are going to making DVD's of the service. For those that cannot attend a worship service, a visual, complete service is much more enriching to make you feel part of the Fuller Family. We will be contacting shut-in's and others that would like a copy of the a.m. service. Our thanks to Dave and Mikki DeWindt for doing the hard part; taking the recorder service, editing it, making copies, putting on labels, and giving to office staff. Once we have a list of those that have requested them, we will then mail them to them OR drop them off during visits. They may be played in any DVD player. Right now the sound is pretty good but will be much better once we link the sound board to the camcorder for direct

audio. The wiring is in place to make this happen; we just need to make some changes with the plugs in the back of the sound board. An eighteen year old sound board presents a challenge for moving forward with these types of endeavors.

4. Last but not least is our website. Again, the current program we use for the website needs to be replaced. We are currently looking at going to a new program and making sure we take our time choosing and implementing the correct one for our needs. Thanks here will go out to Pam Slotsema, our staff person we voted on to head up our social media area. She will be working a lot in the next few weeks to find the best fit for us.

What's next? You never know. I'm thinking robots ☺

The deadline for the March 2015 *Fuller Life* is Sunday, February 15, 2015



Where is the C. R. C.?

By Jay Van Bruggen

The Christian Reformed Church is not found everywhere in the United States. Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist churches are widely dispersed, but our denomination is not found everywhere. But we do have our church all around the world. We have missionaries in Asia, Africa, South and Central America. Our roots are in Europe. We have worked to follow Jesus final command to go into all the world.

One of the farthest places we send missionaries is probably Papua New Guinea. Our church helps support the work of Eric and Penny Schering in Papua New Guinea, a very primitive society. Customs are maintained that we would consider sheer superstition. Eric once wrote about a Christian man with two small children whose wife had died. He found a woman who would be willing to marry him, but had to wait three years because the people all "knew" that if he married before that time, he had cast a spell over his wife to kill her, so that he could marry the next woman. Most people are still

subsistence farmers. But it is also the home of minerals that the modern world wants and so mining has become an important part of the economy. Eric has been asked by the government to help train the officials who are responsible for administering local areas. Bringing Christian principles to government officials is a wonderful opportunity. Even though it may be far away, as the modern world moves in, government will be increasingly responsible for justice and harmony. Christianity may make the changes in society in that country far easier and with better outcomes that are otherwise likely. Papua New Guinea may seem far away to us, but the modern world is hoping to exploit it and if local officials do not allow bad changes even though they could get paid for allowing them, it will be a wonderful dividend for this county. We can rejoice with the Scherings, for they have arrived safely in Wewak, Papua New Guinea.

Remember, Papua New Guinea may seem far away, but it may be that it is the only place on earth that is more than twenty four hours from Grand Rapids.



Fuller Avenue Cadets – Cadets at its Roots

By Dennis VanderMeer

As near as I can figure I started Cadets in 1958 or 1959. I have a diploma for completion of Guide on June 7 of 1962 where I also finished 8th grade at Oakdale Christian School. At that period of time Russ Rykse was our Head Counselor and Al Spee was my Cadet Counselor. These two were the main guys who shaped my training to this point and the continuing years as Junior Counselor and Counselor until 1969 when I moved to Alaska to continue school. I was not aware of the many changes at Corp, Counsel, and Club level until I returned to Fuller Avenue CRC. Dale Rietberg, former Head Counselor for Fuller Cadets, helped me transition into the New Cadet program and explained some of the changes. Some of these changes were - the Crusader is now called Quest; it is recommended that counselors take a certification course now; our club number went from 659 to 3348; and somewhere down the line singing one verse of *Living for*

Jesus was dropped out of landmarks.

Except for the video game phenomena boys have not changed that much. Boys still seek out things that give them enthusiasm and excitement. This has to balance with a certain level of discipline to get a proper mix to maintain acceptable behaviors too. That is also the hard part. Our Cadet Club for the most part is becoming more of an outreach ministry much like when Tom Lotterman and I volunteered to help Rev. Glen Navis begin a Cadet Club at Madison Square Chapel at his request in 1968. It was a challenge to say the least to what we were used to at Fuller's Cadet Club. Some things had to be adapted slightly in this case. Fuller can also adapt its Cadet Club without dismissing most of the programs set up for cadets. After all, the goal of cadetting is to provide Christian men a structure, programs, and materials to help boys grow spiritually in all areas of life (devotional, mental, physical, and social).

Cadets began this year with a rocket blast off in the parking lot. These were rockets the cadets built the last couple years. Cadets always seemed to be a spring board for boys just like Boy Scouts in that sense. Rocketry was quite fitting for a start for this year. The cadets also went out on their fall campout which included having fun, chopping

down old dead trees with hatchets, night time hikes, and ending with a wild flatbed wood trailer ride on the two tracks with Gordy's vehicle. Somewhere I heard a saying you cannot take the boy out of the man. It is on a campout this becomes more prevalent, evident, and especially so roasting marshmallows around a campfire real late at night telling scary stories.

Much of the year progressed like last year. We are using *The Story* video again this year for Bible study. What is changing is we plan to enter our club into Cadet-a-Rama/ Counsel Derby Race at Brookside CRC and maybe some cadets will win some trophies. We have 2 cadets at 10th grade level who have their camping certification course completed now so they can attend the International Camporee if they so desire. We are also considering a plan of having all the cadets as a group earn some merit badges that could work out in an event setting (for instance - physical fitness and cycling). This was done in my earlier past with cadets and counselors. It is my desire that someday a Fuller cadet will consider becoming a Junior Counselor to continue future cadetting at Fuller Avenue Cadet Club.

Please continue to pray for the cadets and the counselors as they grow in faith and help them finish the race well.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Dorothy Naerebout & Maria Lara, Mitogo Opira & Fran Mavindi (1992)
- 3 Sherrie Brown
- 4 Connie Scheurwater
- 5 Brian Turnbull (M)
- 6 Ruth Romeyn & Julian Markiewicz
- 7 Jana Veldheer
- 8 Patt Van Vels
- 9 Gary & Patt Van Vels (1968)
- 11 Jack Posthumus
- 12 Marlene Natelborg
- 14 Jeff Bolthouse
- 15 Joan Stuursma & Casey Ter Haar
- 16 Marilyn Braman
- 17 Miki De Windt & Mary Ippel
- 19 Christian Posthumus
- 20 Laura Kooy
- 21 Eric Schering (M) & Capone Zertuche
- 23 Dan Holwerda
- 24 Jeri Hoek & Fran Mavindi, Sharon Segaar-King (M)
- 25 Maxine Jansz (M)
- 26 Daryl Van Dyken (M)
- 28 Charles Jansz (M)

PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD

An Update from the House!

A semester is complete, and we continue to have smiles on our faces! We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas celebration together as a house - sharing warm beverages, cookies, and new socks!



Christmas just wouldn't be the same if there aren't new socks. We also took some time to decorate the Christmas tree with lights and ornaments, all in front of a roaring fire in the fireplace. Although we didn't have a lot of snow on the ground at Christmas-time, the students thoroughly enjoyed Calvin's snow day that happened before Thanksgiving! It was a day filled with snowball fights, laughter, pancakes, and drying out in front of the fireplace. A good time was had by all - we are grateful anytime we get to run around outside for a while.

Christmas party fun!
We decorated our tree
and enjoyed some new socks!
L to R: Matt Sangwoo, Katy,
Julie, Rachael, and Jana

For January, the house was quiet. Matt, Jana, and Sangwoo were around the house, but Katy, Julie, and Rachael were all over the world, literally! Rachael was taking a class in Kenya and Uganda; Julie was taking a class in the Grand Canyon; and Katy was taking a class in Oregon! It reminds us that God's creation is vast and diverse - be sure to ask them about their travels.

We are grateful to you, the church, for your prayers, support, and wonderfully generous donations. We feel your love and care for us on a regular basis, and we thank God for you! We are happy to serve alongside you at 4th Friday events,



Sangwoo hangs a shining "star" upon the highest bough. Actually, it was a mitten atop our tree

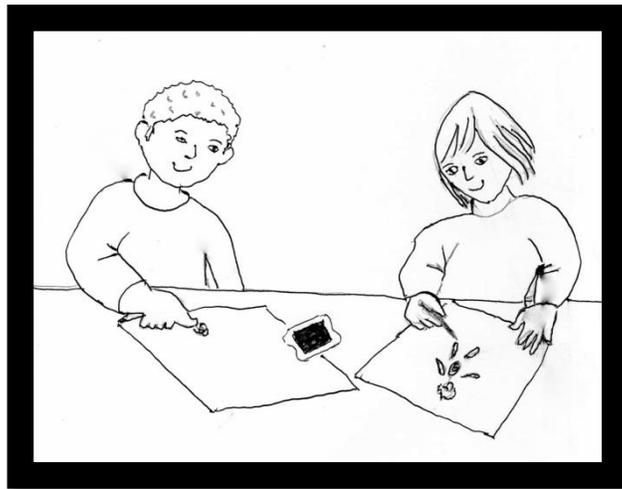
Kids Hope, Cadets, and weekly worship. Continue to pray for us as we anticipate another busy semester of tests, projects, and lengthy readings. Pray for health and strength as students come back to Calvin from break, eager to share their stories but also their illness. We are excited about our neighbors and the Fuller neighborhood, and we hope to continue to be people of good presence - that we might be good neighbors and people who continue to build into intentional community with the church. Again, we thank you, and we are looking forward to continuing to grow with you!
-Matt, Jana, Sangwoo, Rachael, Julie, and Katy

You are a Child of God – Craft Project

God has made each of us special; one of the special ways that he created us is that no two person's thumbprints are alike. Let's create a picture using our thumbprint.

THINGS YOU WILL NEED:

- Ink pad
- White paper
- Black pen or black fine tipped marker
- Wet paper towels
- Rubbing alcohol
- Cloth



Place your thumb on the ink pad and slowly roll it from side to side to complete your whole thumbprint. Then carefully place your inked thumb on the white paper and roll it from side to side. Repeat this process until you have several thumbprints on the paper.

Use your black pen or black marker to draw a picture of yourself using your thumbprint as the body. The picture can show you doing your favorite activities and other ways that make you unique.

Write a comment on the bottom of the paper about the special way God has created you.

To clean your hands, use wet paper towels and rubbing alcohol. Finish by washing with soap and water.

February 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 am: Food Offering for SECOM, Faith Promise Offering 11:15 am: Catechism 5:30 pm: Worship 6:30 pm: Super Bowl Party		7:30 pm: Choir	6:45 am: Men's Bible Study	7 pm: Council		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11:15 am: Catechism 5 pm: Kids Hope USA service @ Calvin CRC 6 pm: Youth Group	9 am: Staff Mtg. 7 pm: Cadets				7 pm: Youth Group Roller Skating	7 pm: Pinochle
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
11:15 am: Catechism 6 pm worship: GRCHS Chamber Chorale 6 pm: Youth	7 pm: Cadets		6:45 am: Men's Bible Study			7 pm: Pinochle
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10 am: Lord's Supper 11:15 am: Catechism 6 pm: Youth Service	7 pm: Cadets	2 pm: Staff Mtg.		6:30 pm: Admin 6:30 pm: Bakers	6 pm: 4 th Friday Food & Fun 7 pm: Youth Group Movie Night	

FROM

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TO