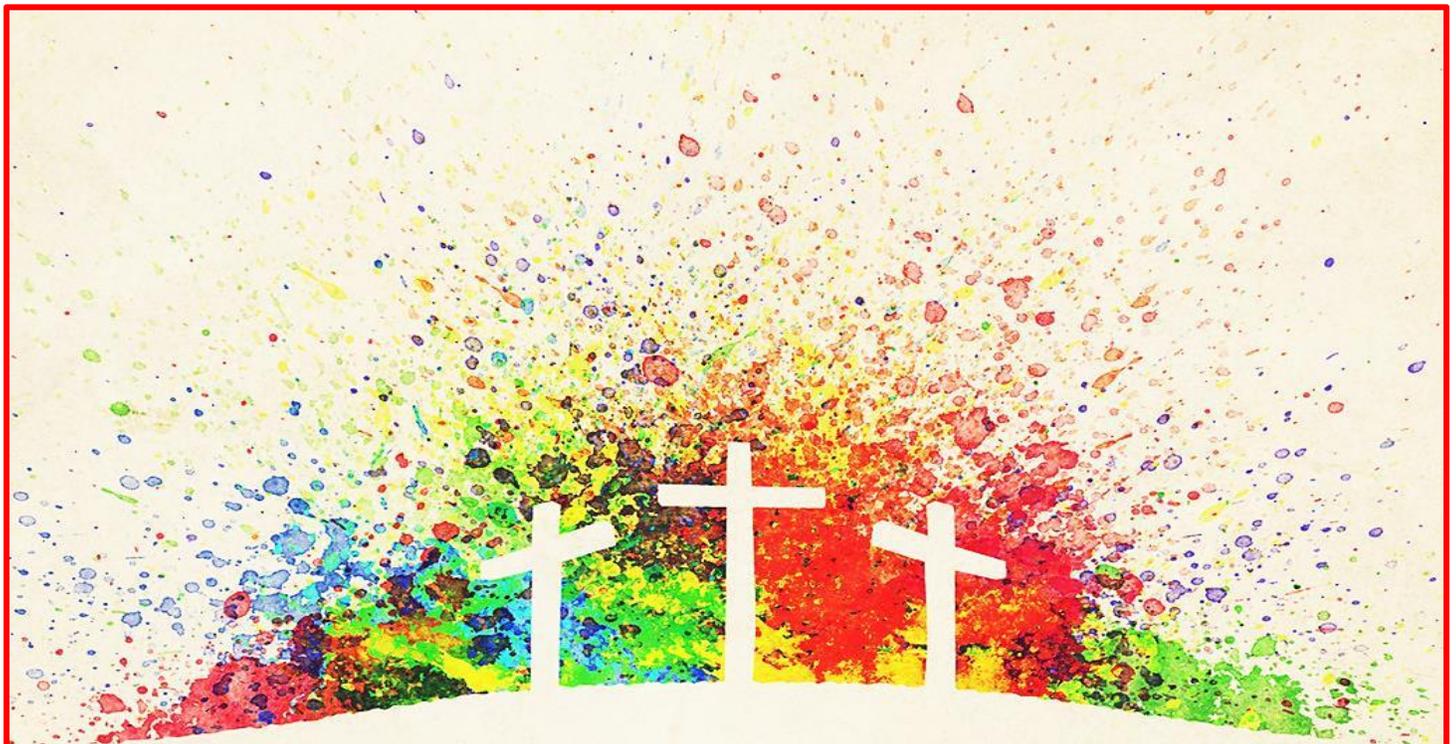


Fuller Life⁹⁰

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church
March 2016



easter CELEBRATION

**“ I have come into the world as a light, so that
no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”
John 12:46**

**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 Ruffli, collating, circulation
and mailing.**

February Council Report

By Barb Straatsma, Clerk

Larry opened the meeting by reading a portion of Psalm 118 and praying.

A person was interviewed twice for the position of Faith Formation Director.

Our evening service on February 21 will be an informal service with Calvin CRC and Fuller to celebrate our Kids Hope USA partnership with Campus Elementary. It will be held in the Fellowship Room with a light dinner at 5 pm.

There were about 65 people in attendance at the Christmas Ornament Decorating Night. Something similar is being planned for March to celebrate Easter.

The Technology Committee has been busy. A new laptop (donation) was given to the

projection staff along with a new docking station. A donated computer was given for sound board use. The old computer was given to Marci (an upgrade for her) along with a widescreen monitor. All the computers were updated to Windows 10. A new mic was purchased for Pastor Nate because his old one was broken. Another computer was donated and given to Pastor Morris. New speakers were installed in the Fellowship Room. A bid was received and accepted to finish the basement audio.

Our evening worship services continue to have 30-40 worshipers. The evening worship services will not be held after May 29 through September 4 as was approved by the Elders. Our Maundy Thursday worship service will include the Bakers girls and their families. Cathy received many favorable comments regarding guest instrumentalist included in our worship service. These members felt these guests are a positive contribution to our worship services.

Three of our long-time members died. You can read two life stories on pages 5, 6 & 7.

Pastor Nate was busy attending meetings in January. He preached 5 of the 6 preaching services and led a pm service. He ends his 5-week series on Ephesians on

February 7. For Lent we will focus on several of the Kingdom of God passages from the book of Mark. He launched a new book of the quarter, *Daring Greatly*. There will be 3 congregational education sessions on this book in March.

Pastor Morris began 2016 by leading the January 2 am worship service. He continues to attend the Visiting Team's monthly meeting. He reports his visits to the elders, deacons, Nate and the office. He attended the usual monthly meetings and in addition to those he and Nate met to revise the nomination process and wrote an article for the February *Fuller Life* on the changes to the process, he and Ed Stuursma met with candidate, Mark Vander Werf, and he attended the January 21 Classis Grand Rapids East meeting.

Susie led a 6-week Comfy Baggage outreach meeting for women. There was a mixed group of church and community women of various ages in attendance. They are building relationships and growing community. Some of the women are staying after the meeting to pray about personal issues. She is reaching out to these women by talking to them, giving invitations, passing out flyers/brochures, keeping up with Facebook and incoming messages and questions. She attended a GRPD coffee.

They are trying to build relationships with churches. She attended a luncheon at the CRC denominational building with other church representatives to discuss outreach.

We received the Highlights from the Classis Grand Rapids East January 21, 2016 meeting. Pastor Morris reviewed them at our meeting. See the February 14 bulletin.

Pastor Nate led us through the last two chapters of the book, *Taking Your Church to the Next Level, What got You Here, Won't get You There*. A church's DNA controls the growth and development of their church. A church's size affects its DNA. The larger the church becomes the more it must break down into smaller units to maintain communication and pastoral care. As a church becomes larger it must expand its leadership and sub groups that become more specialized and diverse. As a church grows, better communication is needed. There is more potential for disharmony. The larger the church the more there is a need for innovation. This book is geared to assist in helping to understand what are the road blocks to growing your church and reaching a new level of impact. It suggests predictable patterns and cycles. To keep a spiritual focus we must take time to pray, look at the big picture, and focus on God,

who ultimately builds the church.



Kids Hope USA

By Jerry Van Veen

Once again our Kids Hope program is having an excellent year in our association with Campus Elementary School. Our program has built strong credibility over the five years that we have been in this relationship. Bernard Colton, the principal, for the last three years has put together a strong staff and we have seen marked improvement at the school. At one point there was discussion of the school closing, but due in no small part to the improvements, Campus stayed open and added another 150 students, bringing enrollment in the five grades to over 400. There is obvious care and respect there, for the students. The vast majority of them are from underprivileged and struggling homes.

Most of you know that Calvin CRC also has their Kids Hope program at Campus School. On Sunday, February 21, we had a combined evening dinner and service at Fuller, highlighting Kids

Hope. It was led by Susie Dixon, Rebecca Jordan Heys, from Calvin CRC and Chris Reinsma from the national KH office. We had over 100 people in attendance. It was exciting to see the support. The offering collection will be used to purchase water for the "Fill the Bus Initiative". Water bottle and filters are being collected at Campus School, among other sites, to be sent to Flint. Our collection for Campus School "fill the bus campaign" was over \$500.

A great big thank you to all who attended and all who donated.

Sometimes you may wonder, really, what impact I am having with this child, in just an hour a week. But when that child pops out of their chair and hustles over to your side, you know that the time spent is very important. The importance of having someone come in to just see them, and spend time talking, listening, and tutoring, makes them feel special. Who doesn't need that!

Thank you Fuller members, for supporting our program with your finances, with your efforts, and with your prayers.



Comfy Baggage

By Susie Dixon

Comfy Baggage was a six week series designed as an evening for ladies to gather together, build community, and encourage and strengthen each other on our journeys. Each week we took a closer look at some of the "comfy" items we routinely carry around with us in our hearts and how some of these items can get in the way of forming healthier relationships. The group ended with the hopes of another series starting soon. Praying for wisdom as we decide which direction to take.

Here is feedback from 3 of the women who attended the series:

By Caryl Vande Voort

What is comfy baggage anyway? For the past six weeks a group of about fifteen women, young and old, from the church and the neighborhood, gathered together with Susie Dixon to explore what baggage we carry in life. Is it all necessary? Could we lighten our load? Or have we just gotten so comfortable with our load that we are almost afraid to let it go.

The first night Suzie shared things in her past that had hurt her or made her angry or sad. Each time she thought of something she crumpled a sheet of paper and put it in a bag until the bag was full and weighing her down. She challenged us to look at our own lives and recognize the things that weigh us down and she prayed that Jesus would lift these weights from us. One night we looked at masks we wear to protect us from being vulnerable. Another night we talked about fear. Our speaker, Laura Nagy-Grabow, told of her battle against fear and anxiety when she, as a newly-wed, was diagnosed with cardio myopathy and later Crone's disease. We also looked at expectations of others.

Our speaker, Laurie Krieg, from Hole in My Heart Ministries, shared her struggles as she realized she had a same sex attraction and how God has walked with her through the pain of rejection by both family and friends and has led her into new choices for her life and a closer walk with him.

At the last meeting we talked about negativeness, how the casual things that pop out of our mouth affect people, that negativeness is infectious. It's catching. But the good news is that a positive spirit is also infectious and catching. We left the last meeting having grown closer and actually

having bonded to some of the people we met. We left the meeting encouraging one another and promising, by God's help, to be positive spirits of hope. And why wouldn't we be. He himself said, "Take my yoke upon you-----for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:29

Thanks, Susie. It was a very interesting and instructive six weeks.

By Loretta Crawford

The Comfy Baggage series was very interesting. The different discussions opened my eyes to a lot and I could look at my inner self in a new perspective. Susie put her heart into this group. I hope and pray that I can look forward to other group sessions with Susie through Fuller Church.

By Kayla Lodewyk

I have known Susie Dixon for many years now. She has always been my mentor, my role model, and she is the one who lead me back to Christ. Since graduating from high school in 2011, I haven't attended many groups or even church. When Susie mentioned Comfy Baggage through her Facebook invite I was thrilled. I was very nervous showing up because I hadn't seen Susie in years and I didn't recognize anyone: it was completely new for me. I remember having a vision of

what I thought we were going to be doing. I was so use to the youth group activities and being surrounded by people my age that when I walked in I was so nervous! Now, as the series is coming to a close, I am so bummed. Comfy Baggage has become my “Tuesday Night, Girls Night” and I always look forward to seeing all the faces I’ve grown to know and care about.

This series has been so raw and so eye-opening. Meeting Laurie last week took my breath away. I have never been so moved by hearing someone talk about their sins and their unconditional love for God. In regard to Susie, she always gives me chills when she speaks. She is so real, so inspiring. I’m so glad I chose to attend Comfy Baggage and to not only reconnect with Susie but to meet new friends, open up my heart, and to love God like I should again. Thank you, Susie!



In Memory of Donald Jack Boelema, 1926-2016

By Connie Scheurwater

Donald Boelema, long-time member of Fuller Avenue Church, passed away on February 2, 2016, less than three months short of his 90th birthday. He was a faithful member of Fuller Avenue Church, and regularly attended worship services until his physical and mental limitations prevented him from fully participating in the life of the church.

Donald grew up in Grand Rapids. His family lived in the neighborhood of Fuller Avenue, but originally attended Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church. In 1936 the family joined Fuller Avenue Church because they were impressed with the compassionate nature of Rev. George Goris, who was the pastor at that time. Don was the third of four boys in the Boelema family. A tragic memory that stood out for him from his childhood was the death of the second of his three brothers in an automobile accident in the neighborhood of their home.

As World War II was escalating during Don’s teen years, he dropped out of high school to join the U.S. Navy. He served until the end of the war on a ship in the Pacific Ocean near Iwo Jima. His time of serving in the navy was a defining era of his life. He often recounted stories of his time at Navy pier in the big city of Chicago and long rides on troop trains. He was especially impressed with the scenery during his trip through the Panama Canal on the way to the south Pacific. Another story that he was fond of telling was about the day he hooked and landed a very large fish (possibly a tuna) that he was able to share with his crewmates for dinner that evening!

Don would often reminisce proudly that while he served in the navy, his two brothers also served their country. His older brother John served with the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II and his younger brother Harold served with the U.S. Airforce during the Korean War.

Following his navy service, Don settled in Grand Rapids near his boyhood home. He worked for over 40 years in his uncle’s shop, making grillwork for furniture. He continued to be a member of Fuller Avenue Church, and served for a time as deacon. He married his first wife Jennie, who passed away in 1957, leaving him with a

three-month old son to care for. Later that year he married his second wife Dena, who with her daughter had immigrated earlier from The Netherlands and was also a member of Fuller Avenue Church.

Through the years, Don pursued a number of interests. In the 1970s he completed his high school education which had been interrupted by his navy service during World War II. He was an avid reader, and especially enjoyed stories about the American Civil War and World War II. He spent time gardening, and was very proud of his backyard farms. He enjoyed doing jigsaw puzzles. He had a special interest in the Cadet program at Fuller Avenue Church. In his later years, at Fulton Manor, he took up painting, and was proud to display a painting he did of the navy ship on which he served during World War II.

After his retirement from working in his uncle's furniture shop, Don worked for a number of years at Rogers Department Store in the housekeeping department. In 2002 Dena Boelema passed away. Eventually, Don found it difficult to live independently and moved to Holland Home/Fulton Manor, where he lived for ten years before he passed away. Don was comfortable during his time at Fulton Manor, and was grateful for the care he

received there. Even though his short term memory gradually diminished, he always appreciated visits from his friends at Fuller.

Don is survived by his two children and their spouses: Helene and Gary Kleymeer of Petoskey, Michigan and Bernie and Donna Boelema of Alto, Michigan. He also leaves six grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. At his funeral service on February 6, conducted by Pastors Morris and Nate, his life was celebrated with a meditation from John 3:13-17 and organ music by Bert Wierenga. John Straatsma shared some of the memories of his visits with Don. Particularly impressive was the singing of the *Navy Hymn* and the presentation by the Kent County Veteran's Honor Guard. We thank God for Don's long life of service to his country, family, church, and community.

The deadline for the April
Fuller Life is Sunday, March
20, 2016



In Memory of Marian Van Duinen, 1927 – 2016

*By Connie Scheurwater with
the assistance of Sharon
Greenwood, Marian's
daughter*

Marian (Vander Weide) Van Duinen, long-time member of Fuller Avenue Church, was born on a farm in Grant, Michigan. She attended school in Grant and, with her family, attended the Christian Reformed Church. After completing 8th grade, she was unable to continue her education because she was needed to work on the farm. The family later moved from Grant to Byron Center, Michigan, and continued to farm in that area.

Marian married Ralph Van Duinen in 1947. Ralph's parents were originally members of Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church and became charter members of Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church when the church was organized in 1925. Ralph Van Duinen was the youngest charter member of the church. After they were married Marian joined the church. Ralph and Marian lived on Eastern Avenue near

Hall Street, in a house that Ralph's father built, and raised five children, Linda, Sharon, Gary, Ronald, and Carol.

Ralph and Marian were active at Fuller Avenue Church. Ralph served terms as deacon and elder, and Marian was a member of Ladies' Fellowship Society. Marian was a stay-at-home-mom. She loved to cook and bake, and prepared good meals for her family. She followed recipes but often substituted her own ingredients, when the ingredients called for were not available! She prepared exactly enough, and rarely had leftovers. Marian also loved to do embroidery work. She made a baby quilt for each of her grandchildren, and made them each a full quilt when they graduated from high school.

On July 17, 1984 the Van Duinen family experienced a very tragic event. Their 26-year old daughter, Carol Alderton, was murdered by two teen-age intruders in their Eastern Avenue home. The assailants supposedly were looking for money for drugs, and assumed that no one was home. Carol was in bed that morning after having worked all night, and evidently shocked the intruders. As she pleaded for her life they shot her for fear that she might identify them. She died

immediately and was found later by her mother. It is difficult to imagine the shock, grief, bitterness, and anger that such an experience caused in the lives of the family. Ralph and Marian, with God's help, were able to cope with the indescribable grief brought about by this tragedy by claiming a number of promises from Scripture, many from the Psalms and Paul's epistles. Their journey, one step at a time, was a victorious testimony of their faith, and they shared this with their friends at Fuller Avenue Church.

Following this tragic event, Ralph and Marian moved from their home on Eastern Avenue to Cutlerville. They enjoyed traveling, and visited 49 of the United States. Most of their traveling was done by car, but a memorable trip was a tour that they made to Alaska. Marian eventually returned to high school to finish her education, and she received her diploma in 1987. In 1989 she began working for Wendy's Restaurants, where her employment continued until she was no longer able to drive. She worked at Wendy's in Cutlerville as well as the 44th Street SE and Patterson Avenue location. At Wendy's she did every task but cooking!

Ralph and Marian moved to Holland Home/Fulton Manor in 2008. Ralph passed away the following year. In 2008, their oldest daughter, Linda Van Volkinburg, died from lung cancer.

Marian continued to live at Fulton Manor and to participate in many activities at the home. She played bingo regularly, as well as Mexican Train and Rummikub. Her volunteer activities consisted of delivering mail, serving as deacon for worship services, and helping to set up for communion services. Eventually her diabetes and dementia prevented her from continuing with these activities.

Marian passed away on February 4, 2016. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Calvin Greenwood, also members of Fuller Avenue Church, two sons, Gary and Ronald, seven grandchildren, and a number of great-grandchildren. Her funeral service at Fulton Manor on February 8 was a celebration of a life well-lived. Morris Greidanus gave a comforting meditation on John 14:1-4, and also read from Psalm 103 and Psalm 23. Bert Wierenga provided organ music. We thank God for Marian's long life of commitment to her church, family, and community.

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 pm – Guys Night @ Dave & Busters	2 9:30 am – Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm - Choir	3 6:30 pm – Bakers 7:00 pm - council	4	5
6 10 am: Calvin Sem & Faith Promise Offerings 5 pm: Combined Worshp @ Calvin CRC	7 7 pm: Cadets	8 Election Day 1:30 pm – Staff Meeting	9 9:30 am – Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm - Choir	10 6:30 pm – Bakers	11	12 7 pm: Pinochle
13	14 7 pm: Cadets	15 TBD-Craft Night	16 9:30 am – Women's Bible Study No Choir	17 6:30 pm – Bakers	18	19 Cadet City- Wide Pinewood Derby
20 6 pm: Prayer Service	21 7 pm: Cadets	22 1:30 pm – Staff Meeting TBD-Dance Devo	23 9:30 am – Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm - Choir	24 6:30 pm – Bakers 7 pm – Maundy Thursday Service	25	26
27 10 am: Easter Sunday Communion Service	28 7 pm: Cadets	29 TBD-Dance Devo	30 9:30 am – Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm - Choir	31 3:00 pm – Admin Committee		

Take out a penny and answer the following questions. All the answers can be found on the coin.

1. sense of sight _____
2. use it to speak _____
3. forehead _____
4. part of a nail _____
5. attached to hands _____
6. holds up your head _____
7. to keep doors closed _____
8. found on a cornstalk _____
9. what Patrick Henry wanted _____
10. country where *Pack-O-Fun* is published _____
11. wear it in winter _____
12. *fruit of a palm tree* _____
13. *slang for policeman* _____
14. *another name for smell* _____
15. *the Lord* _____
16. *to believe in* _____
17. *you and I* _____
18. *together* _____
19. *1,2,3, etc.* _____
20. *one out of man* _____

ANSWERS: 1. eye 2. mouth 3. brow
4. head 5. arms 6. neck 7. locks of hair
8. ears 9. liberty 10. America 11. coat
12. date 13. copper 14. scent 15. God
16. trust 17. we 18. united 19. numbers
20. E. pluribus unum

FROM

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TO