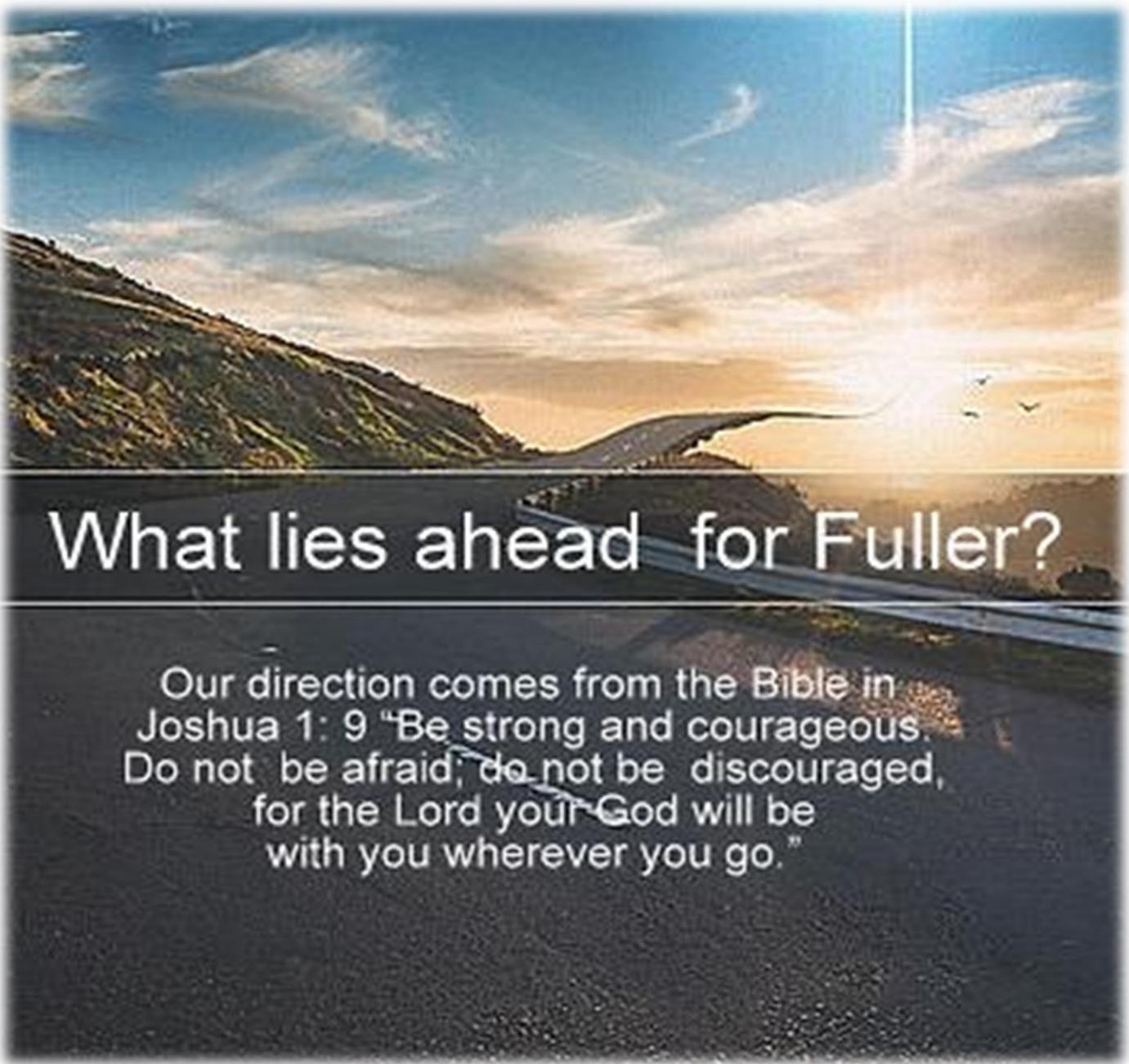


FULLER LIFE

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church

MARCH 2017



What lies ahead for Fuller?

Our direction comes from the Bible in
Joshua 1: 9 "Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God will be
with you wherever you go."

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

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

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Connie Scheurwater, member in focus articles
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February Council Report

By Bill Kooy, Clerk

Ruth Van Stee read from Acts 10 and reflected on how within 3 days God used Peter to reconcile 2000 years of tradition and show that Christ came to save Gentiles as well as Jews. She then opened the meeting with prayer

Nate introduced Steve and Rosanne Vandyk who have come to us from the Calgary area as Associate Members. They have been married about 1-1/2 years and have purchased a home in the area. Steve is a first year seminary student. Rosanne was working in Canada as a floral designer and while she is waiting for her work permit to be approved here, she has been remodeling their home. Steve and Rosanne were welcomed and Jack Vanden Berg offered a prayer.

The Administration Committee is requesting suggestions on how the recent

bequests from the Hendrickson estate could be used to further the ministry at Fuller. The bequests total about \$94,274. Please give your suggestions to any member of the Administration Committee.

The update from Finance indicated that the 2016 Audit is complete and that the Financial Report will be ready for the next meeting. The new EFT option for giving to Fuller now has 20 participants and the transactions are running smoothly.

From the Neighborhood Outreach Committee, there are many thanks to Dan and Kate Miller who have retired from their work on this committee after many years of service. Plans are being put in place for Tuesday Night Family Nights, Zumba, the Community Dinners, Dumpster Day, Buckets of Love, and the possibility of re-establishing a regular Prayer Walk in our neighborhood. Derek and Matt have been working on events for the Fuller Bunch, a group of 20's – 30's and their families. The committee is also discussing ideas for a discussion group or Bible Study for 20's – 30's, integrating neighborhood individuals. Neighborhood Outreach and Social Fellowship have agreed to integrate as one committee and they will be meeting on the first Monday of the month.

From Facilities we heard that a cleaner was found to remove the film from the washroom floor tile and this is now restored to the original color. We are also looking at costs to replace the 28 year old furnace at the Calvin House. If we move forward with this, Calvin may assist with the cost.

For the Technology Committee, Matt reported that the new soundboard is installed and this offers more inputs to be able to have more microphones and better control of the volume levels. We are now connected to the speakers in the basement and could expand into the nursery as well.

On Next Steps, the Strategic Ministry Planning Team (SMPT) has been formed and the members are Ken Bratt, Nate DeJong McCarron, Lindy Feyen, Jim Krosschell, Simeon Rowland, and Jan Van Veen. They will be working with Jack Lynn and will be meeting twice a month and will be submitting monthly updates to Council with regular updates to the congregation. We are reminded to hold them up in prayer and encouraged to continually pray as we seek God's will for His church and how we minister to each other and the neighborhood here at Fuller.

The Worship Committee had distributed an Internal Skill

Survey to the congregation. These were in your mailbox and everyone should have received one. If you did not receive one and would like to fill this out, please contact Marci. If you haven't done so already, you are encouraged to turn this in to any member of the Worship Committee.

The January Classis meeting was held at Fuller and Pastor Nate, Ken Bratt, and Wendy Veldheer represented Fuller. We have been awarded two grants for Faith Formation totaling \$5000 which will be used to cover part of the salary for the Director of Faith Formation. There was a report regarding Safe Church ministry in our Classis with many of the churches still needing to work on this. Fuller has a policy established but it needs to be fully implemented with a Safe Church representative. Ken was part of the presentation and discussion "*Gender Dynamics in Church Leadership*".

Pastor Nate is working through the sermon series entitled *You Belong*. Administratively he has been busy working on Next Steps and putting together the Strategic Ministry Planning Team. Pastor Morris is slowly gaining strength and continues to make phone calls and contacts by email. He has even attended a few meetings by Skype.

Barbara Bjelland has been away for part of the month. The Faith Formation team had sent out a survey requesting feedback on the current programming and would still like to hear more on the Intergenerational Grow Groups.

Derek Ellens and Matt Mulder have been active with the outreach efforts as noted earlier in the Outreach Committee Report. While Morris has been out, Derek has been making visits on his own. Matt worked with Lyle Phelps and Jack Posthumus on installing the new soundboard and the new microphone snake for the front of the sanctuary. With the start for the new semester, Matt and Derek will be transitioning roles; Matt will be working with Morris on Pastoral Care and Derek will be working with Barbara on Faith Formation.

Our current agreement for Missional Ministry Internships will end in May. Calvin Seminary has been very pleased with the program and would like to see this continue. Council approved extending both interns through the summer of 2017 and extending both interns through the 2017-2018 school year.

Care Group Elder and Deacon Teams met together to discuss their Care Groups.

The next meeting is March 16.



The following note was sent to Care Group #5 in response to a card the group sent to them (the VanDykens).

Dear friends at Fuller Avenue CRC,

Thank you so much for your recent card signed personally by you to our family. We appreciate your care, thoughtfulness, and love! It's very encouraging to know that believers like yourselves stand by us not only in financial support but also prayerfully.

Please do pray, as we leave for Bonaire on February 13 until mid-April. There will be extra staff and volunteers there helping install the A/C and electrical systems for the new transmitter. Pray that the Lord provides the remaining \$250,000 needed for the transmitter. It will take 6 months to ship and build. We are eager to cover the island of Cuba and the Amazon Basin with the gospel!

Thank the Lord that all of our children are married to spouses who love Him and are doing well.

We thank God for His grace and goodness to our family.

Thank you for standing with us!

Carol and Daryl VanDyken,
TWR

Psalm of Praise

*Written by Lucas Phelps,
age 11*

Praise Him at school with heart and glory.

Worship Him with celebration and grace at home.

He has saved us from sin!

He has rescued us from the devil!

Praise Him with songs of glory.

Worship Him with beautiful voice.

Let all humans and animals worship Him.

Everything that has a beating heart will praise Him!

The believers go to heaven.

The non-believers go to hell.

Travel to great heights to worship Him,

So you can meet eternal love.

Gather with harmonious voices,

And worship Him with glory.

All who love and all who praise,

Will live in heaven and have eternal peace.

Run to him with open arms,

And He will be waiting for you.

What's it like being a sailor?

By Gabe Mitogo

A typical day in a sailor's life varies; it all depends on their rate (job). My rate is Personnel Specialist (PS); personnel specialist's deal with everything from pay, scheduling flights, transferring and separating people out the navy, and other miscellaneous things. In the civilian world it would be considered the human resource division of the company. I deal mostly with the customer service aspect of it. I help sailors with any question they need answered. I work a twelve hour shift every day from 0730-1930. I usually get up at the last minute to get as much sleep as possible. Everyday has its own adventures but you start to settle into a routine. Days start to mix up and collide together.

The ship offers different opportunities and fun events to help sailors relax. On Sundays they have church services. In reality all any sailor looks forward to is the next port visit. So far we have visited Greece. Personally, it was a

great experience, it's something I can say I did and it's one of the main reasons I joined the Navy - to get the opportunity to visit these different countries. It makes up a little bit for the long days spent out at sea without seeing your family and loved ones.

I would tell you about all the other scheduled ports that we are supposed to visit but I really don't know until we get there because the schedule changes constantly because of security matters and the mission we are performing.

Being a sailor has its difficulties, from the long work days on deployments and the fact that I can't see land, but there are those few moments where I sit back and realize my life is kind of extraordinary right now. Everyday isn't always the best day but I still try to make the best out of this opportunity.

Welcome Audrey and Casey McIntosh

By Connie Scheurwater

On January 29 Audrey and Casey McIntosh were welcomed as new members at Fuller Avenue Church's morning worship service. This young couple has been attending worship services for several months, and in that time they have both become

involved in the life of the church in a number of ways.

Audrey and Casey spent their early years in places far apart from each other, Audrey in Vicksburg, Michigan and Casey in York, Pennsylvania. Both later moved with their families to Plymouth, Minnesota, where they met in middle school and began dating during their junior year in high school. Audrey grew up in a Christian home; Casey became a Christian while in high school and was baptized at that time along with his father. Audrey and Casey both became active in their church, Plymouth Covenant, as children's church leaders. During high school, they were both active in a particular extra-curricular activity, Audrey in synchronized swimming, which she participated in during her middle school and high school years, and Casey in rugby for three years with the State of Minnesota team. As participants in these sports they had opportunities to travel for competitions to a number of different states including Pennsylvania, Colorado, Washington, and Florida. They both held part time jobs while in high school, Audrey at Jimmy Johns and Casey at an upscale toy store.

Audrey and Casey both enrolled as freshmen at Calvin College in the fall of 2011. For a time Audrey seriously considered attending Hope

College, but in the end decided to join Casey at Calvin. During their first two years at Calvin they lived in the dormitories. As sophomores they spent the fall semester with a Calvin study group in Budapest, Hungary, where, along with their studies, they had opportunities to travel in Eastern Europe. Audrey's college major was Kinesiology, and her minors were Public Health and Dance. She was a member of the Dance Guild where she also did some choreography. Casey majored in English literature, an interest that he developed in high school, having a particular fascination with Chaucer's works. He was active in rock climbing, a hobby that he continued after college. They both received their Bachelor of Arts degrees in 2015.

On June 5, 2013 Audrey and Casey were engaged. Casey gave Audrey his grandmother's diamond ring, which is passed from one generation to another in his family. They were married on July 11, 2014 between their junior and senior college years. Their wedding took place in the community center in Plymouth, Minnesota, and they traveled to St Augustine, Florida for their honeymoon. Their first home in Grand Rapids was on Henry Street, and later they moved to their present home on Hall Street, across the street from the church. Audrey works as an

administrative assistant at Healthy Homes Coalition. One of her work projects is the Lead Safe Drinking Water Certification program. Casey is employed at Profile Industrial Packaging, a company that makes plastic bags for industrial food packaging. One product for which they make bags is Chobani Greek Yogurt.

Audrey and Casey began attending Fuller Avenue Church shortly after they moved into the neighborhood, more than a year ago. They immediately became active in the life of the church. They are both members of the Neighborhood Outreach Committee and both serve as Church School teachers. They attend the Tuesday Family Night activities during the summer and the quarterly birthday parties at Adams Park Apartments. Audrey serves as a song leader in worship services and as a Zumba leader. We appreciate the presence of this young couple in our church family, and pray that they will experience God's richest blessing as they fellowship with us.

Welcome Rosanne and Steve Vandyk

By Connie Scheurwater

Rosanne and Steve Vandyk were welcomed as associate members at the morning

worship service at Fuller Avenue Church on February 12. While their membership remains with their church in Alberta, Canada, they plan to be a part of our fellowship during the time that Steve completes his study program at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Rosanne grew up in Red Deer, Alberta in a family with two brothers and two sisters. She was proud to become an aunt for the first time at age 17 and four more times since. Her mother ran a day care center in their home and her dad worked as a carpenter and home inspector. She has always loved to be outside enjoying the sun and digging in the dirt. After high school she found work in a flower shop and eventually became a floral designer. In 2013 she moved to Calgary, Alberta.

Steve was born in Hamilton, Ontario and has lived in a number of places since then. His father, Rev. Michael (Mike) Vandyk, is a Christian Reformed pastor, and has served congregations in Ontario and Alberta. His mother worked as a nurse for several years but has mostly served as pastor's wife and mother to three boys. After high school Steve enrolled in a technical school where he learned airplane electronics, and worked on planes for three years. He attended a Bible school, worked in maintenance in a Christian

school, and worked with high school students, before he made the decision to follow in his father's footsteps and study to become a pastor.

In 2014, Rosanne and Steve met at church in Calgary, where Rosanne had recently become a member and Steve had just returned from an adventure in New Zealand and Australia. He sat beside her in the church service, they chatted afterwards, and the next week he invited her to join him and some friends on a hiking expedition. As it turned out all the friends dropped out, and just the two of them ended up taking a five-hour hike to Mount Yamnuska, which became their unofficial first date! They were engaged in February 2015 and married in August 2015.

In the fall of 2016, Rosanne and Steve moved to Grand Rapids. Steve enrolled as a first year student at Calvin Seminary, and they bought a house where they will live while he completes his program. We are happy that they have chosen to be a part of our fellowship at Fuller Avenue Church during this time, and we pray for continued blessings in their lives.

There will not be an April or May issue of the Fuller Life

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Nadine Stek
- 3 Laurel Bratt, Karen Clausing, Justin Jonker
- 4 Meridith Ter Horst
- 6 Nick Cornell, Almira Zertuche
- 8 Nicole De Windt, Zach De Windt
- 11 Ann Laninga
- 12 Jim Speyer
- 14 Lois Rykse
- Dave & Lois Hollemans (1958)
- 15 Tim Ter Haar, Scott Van Dyken (M)
- 17 Gil & Ruth Romeyn (1976)
- 20 Sue Hollemans, Paul Van Beek
- 22 Ann Kapteyn (M)
- 24 Gil Romeyn, Betty Stegink
- 25 Andrew Van Stee
- 26 Jim Fischer, Christopher La, Jonah Phelps
- 27 Bill Korfker, Jr.
- 28 Blessing Htoo,
Doug & Sally Stout (1992)
- 29 Thomas Jonker
- 30 Pierce Slotsema
- 31 Chris Jasperse

March 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | 1 7 pm: Admin 7:30 pm: Choir | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10 am: Faith Promise & Food Offering for Calvin Sem. | 6 | 7 7 pm: Zumba 7 pm: Vinyl Frontier | 8 8 am: Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm: Choir | 9 6:30 pm: Bakers & Boys Club | 10 | 11 7 pm: Pinochle |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 7:30 pm: Choir | 16 6:30 pm: Bakers & Boys Club 7 pm: Council | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 7 pm: Zumba 7 pm: Vinyl Frontier | 22 8 am: Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm: Choir | 23 6:30 pm: Bakers & Boys Club | 24 10:30 am: Paraklesis | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 7 pm: Admin | 30 6:30 pm: Bakers & Boys Club | 31 | |

FROM

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TO