

# FULLER LIFE

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church

May 2019

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

**1239 Fuller Avenue, SE  
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focus articles  
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circulation**

## **April Council Report**

*By Simeon Rowland, Clerk*

These past few months at Fuller we saw the remodel of the sanctuary come to completion and we are near the end stages of the office area renovations. Just this past week volunteers moved office furniture back into the offices. The Personnel committee did a great job in hiring our new Ministry Coordinator, Sheryl Luth. The Council and the church were able to welcome Sheryl and she has hit the ground running in helping out with our programs. Fuller has had the pleasure of making Kent Sanders a commissioned pastor to The Oaks at Cascade. Kent has been a wonderful intern at Fuller over the past few years and we are excited to walk alongside Kent as he serves those at The Oaks at Cascade. While the endorsement of a “commissioned pastor” does not make Kent a part of the Fuller staff, it allows Kent to perform cFuommunion and others services in an official

capacity. A sub-group committee from Council has been working on recommendations for new Council members as a few of our Council members terms are coming to completion.

## **The Mark Bros.**

*By John Knight*

This is not about a trio of vaudeville entertainers named Chico, Harpo and Groucho Marx, but about a group of guys from Fuller church. A couple of seasons ago, they met weekly for an inductive study of the gospel of Mark. Thanks to the leadership of John Natelborg, our group got hooked on its fast-moving narrative.

We were told to ignore commentaries and not cross-reference other gospels. Reading Mark verse-by-verse and sharing our findings would give us unexpected insights. Each week we shared our ‘eureka’ moments. After our group could no longer meet, most of us wound up with a special appreciation for the almost staccato pace of Mark’s narration.

Reading or listening to Mark passages now, new aha! moments sometimes surface that cause me to chuckle: only Mark can write about Jesus’ life in this unique way. Natelborg, who had led similar studies during his

quarter century at Wayne State, cajoled us to read between the lines and focus on the affect Jesus had on those whose lives he touched.

One place I never expected to find a quote from Mark’s gospel was an article on Paul McCartney in the November 2018 issue of *Atlantic*. McCartney was the prime lyricist of the Beatles and a gifted poet. Describing his “*Maybe I’m Amazed*” as possibly “the least macho love song ever,” James Parker recognized, “a biblical echo . . . from somewhere deep in McCartney’s Liverpool-Catholic writing. Mark 10:32: *And Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid.*”

I don’t know if the final verse of McCartney’s lyric can be applied to our relationship with Jesus instead of a human object of our love, but I have found it comforting. I invite you to try it.

Maybe I’m amazed at  
the way you’re with me all the  
time,

Maybe I’m afraid of the  
way I need you,

Maybe I’m amazed at  
the way you help me sing my  
song

You right me when I’m  
wrong

And maybe I’m amazed  
at the way I really need you.\*

“Fear Not,” has been Pastor Nate’s comforting theme during Lent. And still, when we read the original conclusion of Mark’s gospel, fear reigns supreme. We read that on Easter morning the women “*fled from the tomb, seized with trembling and bewilderment. They said nothing to anyone, and they were afraid. (NAB)*” End of story!

Mark implies that astonishment and fear were fixed realities for those who personally witnessed Jesus Christ, the Son of God as he walked among them. It certainly seems true today in the lives of those who are first confronted with the awesome reality of a living Lord. I expect that among my fellow Mark brothers at Fuller, this gospel still speaks more clearly than the other three. We all owe a debt of gratitude to John Natelborg’s coaching.

*\*From Blackbird Singing, Poems and Lyrics 1965-1999, New York, W.W.Norton & Company, 2001*

## **Mid-Week Ministry Nights**

*By Matt Mulder and Marci Phelps*

This past winter saw another session of Midweek Ministries here at Fuller. We experimented with using the Dwell curriculum from Faith

Alive Resources - the same that is used for Children’s Worship. The curriculum was easy to use and easily adaptable for our purposes. We had a few new volunteers during this session, which was greatly appreciated as finding volunteers was proving difficult. Special thanks to all who came on board.

As was the case with last year’s winter/spring session, we found ourselves with less kids in attendance than we had in the fall. This was understandably discouraging, but the kids that did come were warmly greeted and participated in interactive storytelling, crafts, games, and snacks. The younger kids (Kindergarten-2nd grade) learned about the Old Testament Patriarchs, and the older kids (3rd-5th grade) learned about some parables of Jesus. The middle schoolers learned about the Joseph story, led by David Bouma.

The past couple of winter/spring sessions of Midweek Ministries have been a bit scant, but we are excited to have Sheryl Luth on staff now to help take this ministry toward more fruit and success.

*The deadline for the June issue of the Fuller Life is May 19, 2019*

## **An Introduction to Sheryl Luth, our Newest Staff Member by Sheryl Luth**

I’m happy to be back at Fuller CRC worshipping with you and especially to be on staff. I am humbled, excited, and grateful to engage in your/our mission of helping people take their next steps into a life-changing relationship with Jesus. Reading your mission statement was why I knew that the opportunity at Fuller for the Ministry Coordinator position is what God is calling me to. That is my passion, that those that don’t know Jesus will come to know Him and that those who do, will grow ever deeper in love with Him.

A few historical facts: I have attended Fuller Ave. twice before in my life. First, I grew up on Fuller Ave near Alexander, and attended Fuller CRC for some of those years, and second my husband Randy and I moved to Boston St. after we were married, purchasing my grandparents’ house (which our daughter now lives in). During that time we attended Fuller for about 15 years with our growing family: Justin, Jenny, Joshua and Jordan. We have also been members at Keystone Community church, and are currently members at Sunshine Community Church.

In 2008 our lives took a different turn when we visited our daughter Jenny in Ecuador

as she was serving there. We found a new burning desire placed in both of our hearts simultaneously to live and serve overseas. We had never dreamt of being in cross cultural ministry, but clearly God was moving in our hearts and we could not deny it. As many of you may know Randy owned his own business (Just Floors), and I was a manager at UBU Home Furnishings, not quite typical of those called to cross-cultural ministry. *No one was more surprised than us!* Clearly, God can use **anyone** that has a willing heart. Over the next several years we trained and were sent by an organization called International Teams out of Elgin, Ill.

I am **learning** to appreciate the surprises that God has for me, they turn out to be blessings in disguise. Being called to live in India was a big one for me. I found myself saying out loud, “it’s only by God’s grace I can do it: the noise, the traffic, so many people!” Of course, He already knew that was the only way I could do it!

I grew to love the people, customs and culture, and He blessed us with wonderful brothers and sisters in the New Life Assembly of God Church where we worshipped. They became our family for seven years!

We worked alongside a local organization located in India

to assist in starting Grace Christian School, a school for over 400 in a rural village. We also developed an organization with a governing board of Indian nationals. With this organization we started a vocational school called Selah Center, for trafficked and at-risk women (we are still heavily involved in this ministry). We saw God equip us in ways that we didn’t think were possible, all His grace!

Just as clearly as God placed on our hearts the desire to go, He released us last July from living in India. We will still visit and continue the Selah Center ministry there, but we are also happy to be back and to be involved in our growing family which includes six grandchildren!

To my surprise and delight He has reunited us with you our Fuller family. I am thankful and blessed to be here and look forward to serving alongside of you and “helping people take their next steps into a life-changing relationship with Jesus.”

### **Three-year Retrospective**

*By Matt Mulder*

When I first came to Calvin Theological Seminary in the fall of 2016, I did not want to have a job. After a very busy

undergraduate career, I was ready to ‘focus on my studies.’ Clearly, God had other plans. During the first week of school that semester, I was driving with my roommate at the time and noticed the sign out front coyly said “We are Prayer-Conditioned.” Upon my chuckling, my roommate said “O yeah, Fuller. You’d probably like them. You should check them out.” And so I did, and on my first time here as a worshipper I distinctly remember Nate asking the congregation to be in prayer for the council as they were looking to take on a couple of seminary interns. I don’t think I’ve felt a distinct calling more clearly in a while.

As I look back over the past three years, I am truly blessed to see the ways in which I have grown in my abilities to plan and lead worship, plan and lead Outreach and Faith Formation events and classes, and care for our congregation. That is very much in thanks to everyone here at Fuller: Pastors Nate, Morris, and Phil, Jan Van Veen, Marci Phelps, my fellow interns, presidents of council, and many, many more. Thank you to each and every one of you for investing in my education and life as I have grown alongside of you over these past three years.

I am also blessed to see the ways in which Fuller has grown and changed in my short time here. Saints now in

glory remembered well, new members and families coming to Fuller and growing together, babies baptized, professions of faith, changes in staffing and volunteers, and a host of other ways in which we have all grown together.

Leaving Fuller will not be easy. I know I am loved here, and I truly love this congregation. Thank you all for loving and supporting me over the past three years. Thank you for equipping me to take my next step in my relationship with Jesus and his bride, the church.

### **Pledges of Generosity from the sermon on 1-27-'19 "Vices and Virtues: Greed"**

*Recorded by Joel Veldheer*

**I am greedy about time for myself; I could use the time to be of help to someone else**

**Gratitude is what God has given me; that is enough**

**Control**

**Elimination of hoarded things**

**Give God the credit**

**Devotions**

**Time with God; quiet time; talk throughout the day etc. (repeated in different ways)**

**Worries about weight**

**Give away things I don't need; look closer at other's needs**

**Let God control my life; just be in my life**

**Surrender uninitiated dreams; gladly embrace real blessings**

**Regular giving of time and money; joyful giving**

**Help me be more generous with my gifts and talents**

**Give more to help others**

**Renew/repair relationships; let go of frustrations**

**Fears and money**

**A scarcity of love**

**Give back to the community**

**Be upset with how much someone is working**

**Be more gracious with my time and be friendlier to all people**

**Work on general greediness**

**Lord, as we sing "I surrender all," may I do just that in time to you. I selfishly take time for me and judge those who do the same**

**Lustful thoughts**

**Wanting to be first in line**

**My time and priorities (repeating in my different ways)**

**My mind**

**I would like to give back time to God that are idle; e.g. studying the word, help in his service, give to those in need.**

**I will let go of grudges**

**More money to charities is a goal (repeated in many different ways)**

**I need more healing in my body**

**Trust that God will provide**

**Working towards 10% giving**

**Be not stingy in time with my close relative**

**My need to be liked prevents engaging in relationships**

**Treat people with respect**

**I offer my body to God**

**Work**

**Bible reflection**

**More tithing (repeated often in different ways)**

**Give everything I have to God; I offer my time to God**

**I take my good life for granted**

**Pushiness**

**Give more of my time to His work**

**Encouragement to family members**

**I want to live more simply and thankfully; I want to be more vocal for Jesus**

**Share hospitality more freely**

**Joy/contentment**

**Trust more; worry less**

**Often I give out of a sense of duty, but need to give out of a sense of gratefulness**

**Time I spend playing computer games**

**Help the homelessness**

**Give up on coveting things that God has blessed others with**

**My feeling that I do enough when I can always do more**

**Purge what I don't need; give of my time to help not only others but myself when things need to be attended and not over looked**

**Be more generous with time and money**

**I need to live up to my pledge to live as a servant**

**Better time management**

**Jewelry**

**Less talking and more listening**

**Selfishness; just thinking of myself**

**I surrender my pride and greed for recognition**

**Give more to missions**

**More loving to those around me**

**Anxiety/worry**

**I need to be less afraid to try new activities and face unknown challenges**

**Love and share with others**

**Give without worrying about not having enough**

**Spend more time with the Bible**

**Doubt**

**My future**

**My relationship with my friend**

**Have an attitude of prayer and thankfulness**



### **May Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 1 Bekki Landman, Preston Slotsema, Jayne Vander Male
- 3 Clara VanderWeide
- 6 Phyllis De Jong, Emma Gabites
- 9 Ron Ensing  
Dale & Sharon Rietberg (1980)
- 13 Greg Van Stee  
Daryl & Carol Van Dyken (M)
- 15 John Chapin
- 17 Mu Thu
- 19 Bill Gritter
- 20 Zach & Sharon Segaar-King (2000)
- 21 Steve Hollemans, Zach King
- 22 Lah Hae, Evelyn Witteveen  
Dan & Lisa Kooy (2004)  
Don & Ruth Van Stee (1970)
- 24 Eva Lehnen
- 25 Gordy & Joyce Van Haitsma (1973)
- 27 Brian & Betsy Turnbull (1995) (M)
- 28 Rose Hollemans
- 30 Greg & Ellen Van Stee (1980)
- 31 Matt VanDyken  
Gerry & Liz Rozeboom (1972)

# May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7 pm: Council	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Baxter Food Offering  Faith Formation	<b>6</b> 6:45 am: Men's Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7 pm: Pinochle
<b>12</b> Faith Formation	<b>13</b> 6:45 am: Men's Bible Study	<b>14</b> 1:30 pm: Staff Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Faith Formation Communion 11:30 am: Cong Meeting & Potluck 2 pm: Whitecaps Game	<b>20</b> 6:45 am: Men's Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Faith Formation	<b>27</b> Memorial Day	<b>28</b> 1:30 pm: Staff Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**FROM**

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church  
1239 Fuller Avenue, S. E.  
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**TO**