

Fuller Life

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church
September 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 Ruffli, collating, circulation
and mailing.**

August Council Report

By Barb Straatsma, Clerk

The council was very happy to welcome Andrew Rienstra to our meeting. He wishes to make profession of faith and join Fuller. No date has been set as yet for his public profession of faith.

A new shower has been installed in the basement of the Fuller Project Neighborhood House. This will allow us to have more Calvin College students living there.

We have changed the title of our Education Committee to Faith Formation Committee, a more appropriate title. A new committee, an ad hoc Faith Formation Committee, has been formed. This small team has been assembled to address the immediate needs of our 2015 fall programs. Not much change here. The majority of their focus will be on detailing

a list of recommendations that spell out in more detail the items in the Faith Formation Report that was approved in conceptual form by Council. Their areas of focus are nursery, Children in Worship, high school, mid-week ministries night and implications for Sunday worship. Their recommendations will be presented at our next meeting.

Our thank you to Tom Jonker for filling in for Crys Van Beek.

On October 10 you have the opportunity to attend a diversity training event at Fuller. It will be held in the morning, ½ day, at no cost to you. It is put on by Inclusive Performance Strategies-Faith Division. Our church is committed to multi-cultural ministry and this workshop will give us the tools to flourish.

The church received 9 applications for Director of Outreach. Four of the applicants were interviewed and one person was unanimously chosen. Marci and Sue have met with this individual and Council will meet with this person on August 25.

GO Week dates are October 4 & 11. You are encouraged to attend their dinner on Sunday, October 11. Mark your calendar.

The Worship Committee evaluated our evening services. The Care Group get-togethers had the best attendance and coming in second was the youth-led services. The committee is willing to be more involved in leading worship. Our new choir director will be introduced on September 13, the start of choir participation.

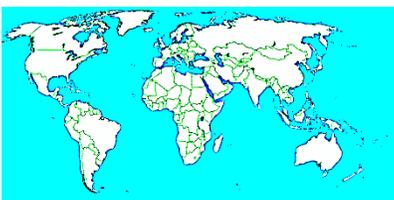
The month of July was a busy month for Pastor Nate in regards to congregational care as our members were admitted to the hospital and/or struggled with their health. He had the privilege of officiating the wedding of James and Megan Karsten. July was a heavy month of meetings but Nate is encouraged by the direction our church is moving. He had a great couple of weeks away; the second week was a study week that included a very good leadership event. July was also a strong month of outreach. He was encouraged to see the level of participation by members and neighbors at our Tuesday Family Nights.

Pastor Morris met repeatedly with certain members of our congregation who have health issues. He attended various meetings, Tuesday Family Night twice, joined Care Group 5 for the Adams Park Game Night and Birthday Party, and watched a kickball game. The Fuller Flying Aces won!

Sue reports that church school continues through the summer. On October 14, Care Group #6 has the good fortune of playing games and celebrating October birthdays at the Adams Park Game Night and Birthday Party. She shopped and made the produce donation to Adam Park Apartments. The next 4th Friday Food and Fun is on August 28. Six dumpsters were filled on Dumpster Day.

Ben and Kristen Bylsma have transferred their membership to Creston Christian Reformed Church.

Classis Grand Rapids East encouraged all of the Council members to attend the VIS Leadership Training Event to be held on Monday, September 14. This year it will be held at Calvin College.



Who are missionaries?

By Jay Van Bruggen

The dictionary has fifteen different variations of the meaning of mission. All involve someone or a group with a task, assigned by someone else or oneself. The next word is missionary and

this is only associated with religious faith. All of the members of our church are committed to faith in God and his son Jesus. When Jesus said go into all the world teaching and baptizing, he was talking of extending the kingdom of God on earth.

Who are missionaries? They are people who work to extend the kingdom of God in this world. Global Outreach simply refers to the place where we do this; a place not in our neighborhood. Qualifications for this task are not always the same. Susan Lucasse was a teacher. Jim Zylstra is a product of Iowa farm country. Not too long ago a group of Christian business men from California went to China to explain the importance of Christian virtues in a successful business. One of the earliest pioneers for our denomination, Lee Huizinga, was a physician. Fuller Avenue has supported teachers and preachers in Asia and Africa. The requirements for this task are no different than the task of Fuller members who are missionaries in this neighborhood. When God called Gideon, he was hiding to avoid trouble and assured God that he was not a leader. But God called him and used him.

When someone suggests to you that perhaps you should share your Christian faith with others in Europe, Asia, Africa,

or South America, remember that we all have a task to spread the gospel and that no place on earth is more than twenty four hours from Grand Rapids. You may be the missionary God needs for someone, somewhere.

A Letter from Jim Zylstra

To our Fuller ministry partners,

It's always good to hear from you; thank you so much for remembering us. Our lives here in Tanzania continue to bring both challenges and blessings. What follows is a summary of some of those:

Josephine has been suffering from a severe case of what the doctor said was tennis elbow in her left arm (and she doesn't even play tennis!). This has made it very difficult for her to go about her day to day activities, as it has been extremely painful since Sunday. I took her to the clinic one Monday morning last month and the doctor sent us to an x-ray clinic to get it x-rayed. On the way to the x-ray clinic we were stopped and I was fined by the economically/strategically stationed traffic police when I ran a green light as I was making a right hand turn (we drive on the left, so the same thing as a left hand turn in

Michigan). Coming out of the x-ray clinic we found the roads jammed because of some political events related to the upcoming presidential elections. So we took another way back to the doctor's office, got lost, and then at a familiar intersection after getting our bearings, were sideswiped by a motorcycle who ignored my turn signal and tried to overtake us in the intersection as I was turning right (I stopped the turn when I saw him in my mirror but it was too late). He went skidding across the road but was not badly hurt, and thankfully was wearing a helmet. Unfortunately the crowd of onlookers began running angrily towards our car so we decided to keep going to find the nearest police station to report the incident (which is the conventional advice to drivers here in Africa to avoid serious injury from angry bystanders). On the way to the police station we found the narrow road blocked by heavy traffic, and some bystanders caught up to us on motorcycles, shouting that we had fled the scene (which we had). A Tanzanian driver in another car caught in the jam got out and helped to defuse the situation. At the police station we were grateful to be assigned a police officer who turned out to be very fair (that is to say, he did not take sides against us for being outsiders which so often happens here). At the scene of the accident he

informed the motorcyclist that he was in the wrong and informed the bystanders who insisted that they'd been looking for my turn signal and hadn't seen it as the accident happened that they were lying, and also reminded them that we'd left the scene for a valid reason. Of course this ate up most of the rest of the day, and Josephine ended up taking a taxi back to the clinic to get there before the doctor left at 6:00 p.m. We were grateful to have made it through a day that could have been worse, but admittedly it was one of some exasperation.

Paul and Elizabeth Kaufman and their four young sons arrived safely in Tanzania in mid August after the long journey from Michigan. Paul will replace Chris Enns in Mwanza, but he is coming at a very busy time, and so the work demands will be heavy even as they go through this significant transition in their lives.

We will recently hosted World Renew's new co-director, Carol Bremer-Bennett, and her husband along with Ida Mutoigo, our Canada director, as they spent a couple of days in Dar es Salaam enroute to our annual East Africa Ministry Team meeting, held this year in Moshi, Tanzania. While with us they visited the work of our partner organization ACHAMA, and also flew up to Mwanza to visit our partner organizations in that area.

Tanzania will be holding national elections in October. The current ruling party's recent presidential candidate choice was not the man (a former prime minister) who many thought would be chosen, but rather a government minister known for hard work and integrity. The former prime minister, who had been sure he was the anointed one, has now left CCM, joined the opposition, and has been chosen as their presidential candidate. It could be a more interesting election this time.

Warm regards,

Jim

Becky Dunne Joins the Church

By Caryl Vande Voort

Becky Dunne was born February 24, 1986. When Becky was 6 months old she suffered a brain injury resulting in a diagnosis of cerebral palsy. Her birth mother was not able to care for her following this trauma so the Dunne family took her in as a foster child. When she was 18 months old the Dunes decided to give Becky a permanent home through adoption. And what a blessing it has been for Becky to be

raised in such a loving, caring family.

When Becky was 15 years old I started working for the Dunnes caring for Ricky, Becky's adopted brother. Becky and I soon became friends. I would take her on outings which sometimes included church at Fuller. Becky *loved* going to church. She especially enjoyed the singing. At her home she and I often sang hymns, read Bible stories, and listened to Christian music on CD's.

One day I came to work and Becky's mother announced that Becky wanted to join the church and wondered if that would be possible. I assured her it would be possible and that she would be received gladly, but I just wasn't sure of the procedure since it wouldn't be by the usual means of infant baptism or adult instruction.

I talked to Pastor Morris but the process got derailed when Morris became ill. Later when Pastor Nate arrived I talked to him about Becky's desire. He talked to Becky and set up a date for her baptism but then Becky got sick. All of this planning went on in fits and starts over several years, but in all of this time Becky never wavered in her desire to become part of the church.

Finally this June Becky was able to meet with Pastor Nate and Elders Ken Bratt and Ruth

Van Stee who proclaimed her a candidate for baptism.

On Sunday August 12, 2015 in the presence of her mother, Silvia, her father, Pat, her brother, Dan, his wife R'shelle, their daughter, Emmelynne, and the whole congregation of believers at Fuller Avenue, Pastor Nate asked Becky if she loved Jesus and she responded with a resounding YES! She was baptized with water in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Seldom has "Jesus Loves Me" been sung with such joy! Welcome Becky, welcome into God's family.



More Graduates

Peter Kapteyn graduated from the Rainforest International School. He did construction work this summer and will join his sister, Anneke, at Calvin College this fall, studying engineering.

New Sanctuary Banners: Gospel Writers

By John Knight

On August 2, guest pastor Sue Rozeboom staged her sermon about the healing of a blind man as a court case complete with accusers and witnesses. Twice she mentioned, "This is what John wants you to know."

Working on our new set of banners, I discovered how differently each gospel writer scripted the life of Jesus. Not only did they provide eye witness testimonies, each writer had a specific audience in mind. It is only when we look at all four together that we get the full story of our savior, Jesus Christ, and his ministry.

The gospel of **Matthew**, written to Jews, mentions that through Israel the promised Messiah will/shall bless all nations. "Blessed are you when . . .". **Mark**, written to Romans, reveals that the kingdom of God has come near and frequently asks: "Do you not see?" **Luke**, the only gentile author, wrote to Greeks. His "Peace be with you" characterizes a joyful gospel culminating in the resurrection; **John**, written to believers, mentions no parables. Instead it teaches Christ's divinity and stresses

“the way, the truth, and the life.”

So why these creatures?

Since the second century AD, the church assigned the images of four winged creatures, first mentioned in Ezekiel 1:10 to the four evangelists. Repeated in Rev.4:7 we read, “The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle.”

From the 4th through the 10th century, carvings on coffins, painted murals, tapestries and some of the most beautiful gospel manuscripts were produced in northern Europe, each featuring the four creatures. One of the best known is *The Book of Kells*, of which a full-sized facsimile was recently purchased by the Hackley Library in Muskegon at a cost of \$14,700, and available to the public for supervised gloves-on viewing.

Some of the early medieval images I studied showed frightening, almost Grimm-like creatures, others quiet devotional likenesses. All, however, featured these elements: wings, a halo, and a serpentine ribbon with a latin text. Out of vogue for many centuries, there has been a resurrection in liturgical use in Germany and the British Isles, especially after WWII. The most stunning is a 60 foot high

tapestry of Christ in Glory at the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral, designed by Graham Sutherland. The original church was destroyed by bombing.

Below are the images that match the four gospel writers:

Matthew (the PROMISED Savior): the human, starts with Jesus’ genealogy.

Mark (the POWERFUL Savior): the lion, a voice crying in the wilderness.

Luke (the PERFECT Savior): the ox, the atoning sacrifice.

John (the PERSONAL Savior): the eagle, risen to the loftiest heights.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Carole Korfker
- 4 Rose Prins
- 3 AJ & Jenny Heyboer (2010)
- 5 Jenny Heyboer
- Norah Heyboer
- Becky Van Wyk
- Vern & Ann Laninga (1959)
- Daryl & Jan Vriesenga (1970)
- 6 Malachi Brown
- Gerry Rozeboom

- 7 John Straatsma
- 8 Don Kreykes
- 9 Tom Ippel
- 10 Cora Boelema
- Cody Powers
- 13 Becca Markiewicz
- 15 Roselynn Van Dam
- 19 Bertha Johnson
- 20 Betty Jonker
- Anette Steenwyk
- 22 Gayle Knight
- 24 Isaiah Segaar-King
- Vivian Segaar-King
- 25 Ken Bratt
- Pam Slotsema
- 26 Lois Hollemans
- Bill Kooy
- 27 Nehemiah Brown
- Dan Kooy
- 28 Jerry Hamilton
- Kimmi Vu Lagerwey
- 30 Kaitlyn De Windt
- Steve & Sue Hollemans (1977)

There will not be an October issue of *Fuller Life*

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:30 pm: Staff Meeting	2	3 Calvin College StreetFest	4	5
6 10 am: Food Offering for Adams Park & Faith Promise Mission Offering 5:30 pm: Combined worship at Plymouth Hts	7 Labor Day	8 7:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal	9	10 7 pm: Council	11	12 7 pm: Pinochle
13 6 pm: Prayer Service	14	15 7:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal 1:30 pm: Staff Meeting	16 Men's Bible Study	17	18	19 7 pm: Pinochle
20 5 pm: Mentor Meeting @ DeWindt's 6 pm: Care Group Meetings	21	22 7:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal	23	24 6:30 pm: Admin Committee	25	26 3:00-6:00 pm: 90 th Anniv. Celebration – County Fair
27	28 7 pm: Cadets	29 7:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal 1:30 pm: Staff Meeting	30 Men's Bible Study			

FROM

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

TO