

# Fuller Life

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CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church  
APRIL 2016

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**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 Rufli, collating, circulation  
and mailing.**

## **March Council**

### **Report**

*By Barb Straatsma, Clerk*

Dave De Windt opened our meeting by reading the introduction to the book, *Bright Sadness*, and prayed.

The Administration Committee approved a motion from our Neighborhood Outreach Committee and sent it on to Council for approval. The Council approved the motion to hire a food safety person to oversee food preparation for Tuesday Family Nights and other events where food is prepared in the church kitchen and served to the community. NOC will apply to FAMAS for money to pay this person during the first year and add that amount to their budget for the following years.

As you have read in the bulletin, the church is in the process of evaluating and encouraging our paid staff. You can assist in this process by providing Jim Krosschell,

our Personnel Consultant, with your comments about our staff's job performance. The forms are available at the Ministry Center or the church office. All forms must be turned in by April 1. This year marks an evaluation of Pastor Nate's first 2 years leading our ministry at Fuller. He will be evaluated in 5 areas: worship/preaching, outreach and church growth, congregational care, spiritual formation of youth and adults, and administration. All staff members fill out a self-evaluation form. Jim will meet with all the staff.

We are in the process of reconstituting Council. There was higher participation by members this year in nominating members for elder and deacon, 40 participants this year compared to 8-10 last year. The Nomination Review Committee met, went through the names, and picked 3 nominees per vacancy based on congregation recommendations, discussion, and gifts. The vacancies are President of the Deacons, Assistant Benevolence Deacon, 2 Care Group Deacons, and 3 Care Group Elders. The position of Outreach Elder was eliminated. The Elders and Deacons will personally hand out the nomination letters. The recipient has 2 weeks to respond. All responses should be turned in by March 27. The congregation will vote on all standing nominees on

Sunday morning, May 1. Those names receiving a majority vote will be placed in a bag and names for vacancy positions will be drawn on May 8. We hope to install the newly elected office bearers on Sunday, May 15. A lot of thought, discernment, and prayer have gone into this process. Please join us in prayer for these nominees.

A number of activities have sprouted from NOC – a craft night on March 15, exercise classes on March 22 and 29, "Buckets of Love" on March 20 and more are in the works. They discussed ways to enfold newcomers between weeks 3 and 10 and the key elements that bring people back - fun events, service opportunities, and small groups. They will deliver flyers 3 times a year and are looking into other avenues to inform people about our activities.

The Technology Committee reported that the sound system in the Fellowship Room is complete. They plan to contact 3 companies to place bids on a new projection system. They are in the process of replacing Pastor Morris' laptop which died and getting him a new desktop computer for home. They have the computer but need to transfer his information. Our Computer Use Policy has been updated. Jim Krosschell will ask the staff to read it and sign it and use safe computer practices. The computers are

to be used for church business only and will be updated regularly with the latest security updates and virus signatures.

Pastor Nate reported that our congregational care is strong due to his efforts and the efforts of Pastor Morris, the elders, the deacons and the visiting teams working together. He spent two of his study days in intentional prayer, reflection, and planning to help him discern our next steps after our study of the book, *Taking Your Church to the Next Level*. He led us in conversation at our Council meeting. Our mission (which is included at the top of every bulletin) is to honor God by engaging in worship, growing in faith, living in fellowship, and serving others in his name. This statement includes 4 tenets and defines our boundaries. What is our vision? What do we hope to obtain? The Council approved his suggestion to form a team of 4 or 5 church members to examine helpful processes that other churches have used to discover God's vision for their church and to recommend a process for Fuller. As we talk about next steps as a Council, Pastor Nate will also involve the congregation in his new series starting April 10, entitled, "Re:Vision", which looks at how God called Samuel. His hope is that this series will help prepare us for a time of reflection and vision casting toward the future. He

continues to meet with people interested in joining Fuller and anticipates holding a 6-week basic beliefs class in April/May for those interested in membership and for recent new members.

Pastor Morris experienced an intense month of pastoral care. He spent a wonderful week in Florida. He attended and served on a panel at the Project Neighborhood workshop, "Community as Vocation" and was pleased to see how well the houses are doing in relating to the church and the community, as well as building community within a house. Pastor Morris wrote a letter of petition to Classis Grand Rapids East stressing that Samantha's position as Ministry Assessment Coordinator of the Christian Reformed Church in North America is consistent with the calling of the minister of the Word under Article 12. C of the *Church Order*. The Council approved submitting the letter to Classis GRE. If approved, the church will have supervision of Samantha.

From Susie – Comfy Baggage ended on February 16. The next ladies night series, Relationship Daggers, will start on Tuesday, April 12 and conclude on May 10. You can join her and other ladies from the church and our community from 6:45 – 8:30 pm. She is planning Tuesday Family Nights. She organized and hosted a community dinner.



## In Memory of Clarice Louise Hendrickson, 1917 – 2016

By Connie Scheurwater

Clarice (Kramer) Hendrickson, one of the oldest members of Fuller Avenue Church, passed away on January 31, 2016, at the age of 98. Clarice grew up in Grand Rapids, and attended Baxter Christian School. She worked for a time as a dental assistant. On August 29, 1941, she married Lawrence (Bud) Hendrickson. She and Bud had two children, John Lawrence and Sally Jo.

Clarice and Bud became members of Fuller Avenue Church in 1943, when they transferred from Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church. They lived on Cooper Street in the Fuller Avenue neighborhood, and were able to walk to worship services and church activities. Clarice was a member of Ladies' Fellowship Bible Study. She also participated in an exercise class at Fuller and helped serve refreshments at funerals.

In 1982, while on a trip to England, Bud was severely injured. After stepping off a tour bus in London, he was looking in the opposite direction when he was struck on the head by the mirror of a passing vehicle. He received very serious injuries, which resulted in both Bud and Clarice having to stay in London for several months before he was able to travel home. Because of this accident he had mobility issues for the rest of his life, and Clarice became his caregiver. She talked about this incident on one occasion at an Adult Education session at Fuller.

Bud and Clarice moved to Holland Home/Raybrook several years ago, where they enjoyed their last years together. After Bud's death,

Clarice continued to live at Raybrook, more recently in the nursing unit. Her short term memory gradually diminished.

Bud passed away on his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, April 9, 2008. Their son John passed away in 1984. Their daughter, Sally, passed away ten days after her father. Clarice is survived by her grandchildren, Kimberly, Rebecca, Jeffrey, and Justin, her great grandchildren, Joshua, Andrew, and Ada, and a number of nieces and nephews. They treasure their memories of her and remember her as a woman of strong faith, who showed courage, strength, and compassion throughout her life.

Clarice's funeral service was held at Raybrook Chapel on

February 6, 2016. Bert Wierenga provided organ music, and a great grandnephew played *Amazing Grace* on the guitar. One of her nieces shared family memories, stressing that Clarice was a person who continually demonstrated optimism and humor in her life. At family birthday parties her favorite question was "How old am I?!" Reverend George Aupperlee gave a meditation on her favorite scripture passage, II Timothy 4:6-8, emphasizing that the character of Christ was revealed in her, that she had fought the good fight, kept the faith, and now has received the "crown of righteousness." We thank God for his faithfulness in Clarice's life.

## Women's Bible Study – Please Join Us!

(Missing: Connie Scheurwater, Barb Straatsma, and Geri Prins)



This year the Women's Bible Study is using the booklet, *New Testament Characters*, by Carolyn Nystrom. Each chapter focuses on one or two

minor characters in the New Testament. The New Testament is filled with ordinary people considered of little importance by the world

– Anna, Simeon, a prostitute, the blind beggar, Mary Magdalene and others. As we read their stories we see examples of faith, obedience,

pain, grace, love, worship, and redemption in their lives. We see how Jesus valued these people and empathized with them. For us, there is often an affinity of feeling. We can often relate to their experience. And we see how this scripture applies to our life.

Our hour and ½ together is full of good eats, share and prayer, fellowship, meaningful discussion, sharing answers, and reflection. We are also learning a Bible verse – Isaiah 64:8 which says, “But now, O Lord, you are our father. We are the clay and you are our potter. And all of us are the work of your hand” and singing “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” each week. This song correlates to our study.

We invite you to join us at 9:30 am every Wednesday from now until May 4. The study guides are at the Ministry Center. It's okay to start in the middle. The lessons are not connected to each other. See you on Wednesday!

The deadline for the June issue of the *Fuller Life* is Sunday, May 22, 2016



## Now Showing in the Gathering Place...Matthew Anderson, Photographer

The Worship and Arts Committee is pleased to host the first public exhibit of the work of Grand Rapids' photographer Matthew Anderson. We invite you to spend some time in the Gathering Place to enjoy a selection of large striking images and to explore his creative vision.

Here is what Matthew says about himself and his work:

“By day, I’m a consultant and entrepreneur. When I’m not working, I love to travel, hike, sail, cook, and read, among other things.

“While I have photographed five to eight weddings each of the past eight years, photography is before anything else something I do for myself. Having a camera in my hands forces me to stop, notice, and really see what’s happening. It’s both a way to experience the world more deeply and to share what I’ve experienced with others.

“I’m entirely self-taught as a photographer, and this is the first time I’ve shown my work publicly. What you see on display are some of the images that I’ve printed to have in my home. Many of the images are black and white. In black and white, your eye is drawn first to shape and form to experience details you might not feel otherwise. For other images, color is integral to the feeling of the scene.

“Although these images span two genres (landscapes and street photography), to me, they’re united by a shared vision. I’m haunted by how quickly time passes and awed by life. Nothing can stop time. What a photograph can do, however, is freeze a moment so we can ponder it. I try to capture those moments when something—whether a shaft of light, a passing cloud, the momentary alignment of subject and landscape, or a fleeting expression—appears that can help us feel how miraculous it is to be alive.”



## Spreading the Gospel

By Jay Van Bruggen

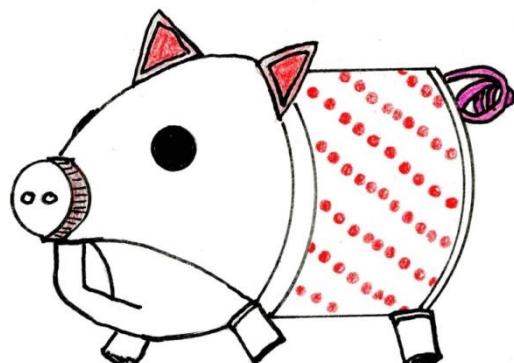
When you receive this *Fuller Life*, every church in the world that uses a modern church calendar will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a glorious gift for all Christians. As citizens of the United States, we know we can celebrate openly, because our basic law, the Constitution, provides that

Congress can make no law prohibiting the free exercise of your Christian faith.

We live in a world of nation states. Some nations permit Christian churches, but watch them and refuse to let them engage in certain religious activities. Other states may have a state supported church. In China, churches are watched very carefully and refused some activities that we would consider church activity. In Islam dominated nations, that may be the only religion permitted. Missionaries can go freely to most European nations, but not to nations in some parts of the world. Thank God for people

who are Christians and who promote the church, but are in different occupations. Jim and Josephine Zylstra work with farmers. Susan Lucasse worked as a teacher. When Christians can no longer work in a nation, Transworld Radio will be able to penetrate areas that missionaries cannot personally enter.

Spreading the gospel all over the world was Jesus last command. Because the world today is highly interdependent, trade and travel connects many nations. So, if you want to know how far China is, look in your kitchen or garage and you will probably find something from China.



## Instant Frosting

Take your cupcakes out of the oven two minutes before they are done. Set a marshmallow on top of each cupcake, return to the oven to finish baking. Take out of the oven and tap each marshmallow with your hand to deflate.



## Bleach Bottle Bank

This piggy bank started off its life as a bleach container. To make this project, rinse an empty bleach container with hot soapy water; let dry. Cut the pig's features from construction paper (the ears should have tabs) and attach with double sided tape. Tape the patterned paper around the body. Hot-glue thread spools for legs. Cut a slot for coins and a hole in the back for a pipe cleaner tail.

# April 2016

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
					<b>1</b>	2
3 10 am: Adams Park Food Pantry & Faith Promise Offerings	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study  7:30 pm: Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	9 7 pm: Pinochle
10	<b>11</b> 7 pm: Cadets	<b>12</b> 6:45 pm: Relationship Daggers	<b>13</b> 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study  7:30 pm: Choir	<b>14</b> 7 pm: Council	<b>15</b>	16 2 pm: Master Arts Theatre Event
17	<b>18</b> 7 pm: Cadets – Pinewood Derby Race	<b>19</b> 6:45 pm: Relationship Daggers	<b>20</b> 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study 7 pm: Adams Park Game Night–Group 2 7:30 pm: Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6 pm: Community Dinner	23
24 5:00 pm: Combined Worship @ Calvin CRC	<b>25</b> 7 pm: Cadets	<b>26</b> 6:45 pm: Relationship Daggers	<b>27</b> 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study  7:30 pm: Choir	<b>28</b> 3:00 pm: Admin Committee	<b>29</b>	30 Cadet CampORee

**FROM**

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**TO**