

Ferry Log

Newsletter of Ferry Memorial Reformed Church ♦ July 2015

Search Update

As we move into July the Search Team would like to thank the church for all the prayers. As we work through this process we ask that you continue to pray! Transition is always a time of uncertainty and anxiety, so as you pray consider this- we often approach God, wanting Him to give us a clear picture of what will be, or what is next. There is nothing wrong with this expectation, except God tells us to, "Go to a land I will show you," (Genesis 12: 1) and not a land I have shown you. "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men," (Matthew 4:19), not follow me because I have made you fishers of men. Pray that Search Team will continue to "follow Christ first," by doing so we will see a clear picture of the next chapter for Ferry.

F.M.R.C Search Team



Serving in Canada! High school students Seth Cherry, Lauren McGahan, Cecelia McGahan, and leaders Mike McGahan and Pastor Amy went to Ontario, Canada June 27-July 4 on a week-long service trip. They ministered with SERVE, a Christian Reformed organization, and met 60 other high school students from the US and Canada. They spent the week doing light home rehab, cleaning up parks, working with kids, and serving in food pantries. Each evening they gathered for worship, and small group discussion about the day. This year's theme is "The Other 51" (weeks of the year).

SERVE's message to each participant:

"This one week is going to change you! Our purpose for this one week is to prepare you for the other 51. We are going to ask, "What would the world look like with a good God revealed in Jesus Christ in charge of it?" That's God's plan: to show his reign, his Kingdom, revealed in Jesus to all humanity, and God wants to use you to do it! We are going to hear about the size of God's plan, which is so much bigger than you can imagine. We are going to hear about the people involved in God's plan, being so many more than you probably thought. We'll receive some "tools" for working in the Kingdom, and we are going to experience a taste of God's Kingdom already alive on earth as it is in Heaven so that you may desire to taste that Kingdom again and again for the other 51 weeks."

Thanks for your prayers!

SUMMER TIME



Please note!



There will be no kids' outreach program this July — our volunteers need a little break. Ferry is looking forward to reaching out to our community this fall through Kid Connection and SOS!

“Sticky Faith” ideas for Grandparents

Looking for ways to help your grandchild grow in faith? Here’s a great article by Kara Powell I would like to pass along!-Pastor Amy

“We can’t out-teach what you teach at home. We’re not that good.”

This warning from student ministry pastor Dr. David Frazee to the parents of his congregation during a recent sermon captures the impact parents have on their children’s faith formation.

Frazee is highlighting for his congregation what research consistently indicates: teenagers’ faith tends to mirror the faith of their parents.

And their grandparents.

In the midst of our [Sticky Faith](#) research and resources, we at Fuller Youth Institute are becoming more and more interested in understanding and maximizing grandparents’ impact on teenagers.

More Involved than Ever

Some recent research highlights the enormous impact of grandparents on this generation of young people. Consider the following data from Dr. Vern Bengtson from the University of Southern California:

- Senior adults’ health is improving and their life expectancy is increasing.
- Grandparents have new ways to connect with their grandchildren through technology like Skype, Facebook, and texts. As more and more parents (including mothers) are working outside of the home, grandparents are providing more after-school care.

As a result of these and other cultural factors, Bengtson and his team conclude that “Gen Xers and Millennials will have greater involvement with their grandparents...than any previous generation of grandchildren in American history.”

Involvement = Influence

That involvement translates into religious influence. According to Bengtson, grandparents can take one of three paths in their

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(“Sticky Faith” continued from page 3)

religious influence:

1. Grandparents can reinforce the parents’ religious influence,
2. Grandparents can substitute for the parents’ influence, or finally

Grandparents can subvert the parents’ influence.

As the second and third paths indicate, sometimes the faith of grandparents actually “skips” a generation as grandchildren end up following in their faith footsteps despite parents’ choices to walk away from faith.

The Power of Your Story

Other recent research highlights the unique power of family stories.

If we could sit down over coffee, I might share with you about my grandfather’s garbage disposal that created a cascade of garbage in their backyard. Or the time my mom cheated my dad out of the last piece of See’s candy. These were some of my favorite stories growing up. I loved hearing them—again and again.

I’m not alone. Most kids love hearing stories of family members’ past experiences. **Recent research indicates that children who know more about their family’s narratives also tend to do better emotionally.** Here’s a description of some recent findings described in a [New York Times article](#):

The more children knew about their family’s history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned...

Researchers used a “Do You Know?” scale that asked children to answer 20 questions. Examples included: Do you know where your grandparents grew up? Do you know where your mom and dad went to high school? Do you know where your parents met? Do you know an illness or something really terrible that happened in your family? Do you know the story of your birth?

As it turns out, the “Do You Know?” scale was the best single predictor of children’s emotional health and happiness in their

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study. Knowing a family narrative is also linked to positive identity formation and kids’ ability to show resilience toward stress.

Given our Sticky Faith findings about the power of intergenerational relationships, our team was especially struck by this conclusion: “Dr. Duke said that children who have the most self-confidence have what he and Dr. Fivush call a strong ‘intergenerational self.’ They know they belong to something bigger than themselves.”

Let’s be honest. Who knows family stories better than grandparents?

Twenty Best Ideas

We hope these ideas are a catalyst to help you live out the wise words of one grandfather we interviewed: “The bottom line is TIME—our grandkids just want to spend time with us.”

(Pastor Amy adds—some of you grandparents already do these things! You don’t have to do all on the list, just pick one or 2 to do with your grandkids this summer!)

Ideas that can be done any day, any time

- Invite your grandchildren for individual “sleepovers” at your house. While they are over, do some of their favorite activities together.
- Pray with your grandkids. As you pray, thank God for the special qualities he has given them.
- Teach your grandchild a new skill or one of your favorite hobbies, e.g. fishing, skiing, bicycling, jewelry making.
- Let your grandchild teach *you* a new skill or share a hobby with you.
- Enter a race and run/swim/ride or walk it with your grandchild.
- Talk with your grandchild about a family tradition that you enjoyed with your own grandparents and/or parents, and have passed along to your children. Then continue that tradition

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with your grandchild. Examples could include seeing fireworks together or going to a parade, having campfires and roasting marshmallows on the beach, seeing the Nutcracker ballet or making tamales during the Christmas season, or riding bikes to a favorite ice cream place.

- Bring out photo albums and talk about when your grandchild was born, how you prayed for them even before they were born, how excited you were to first hold him or her, and how blessed you feel that they are now part of your family.

- Serve together at a local ministry.
- Cook with your grandchildren. Play loud music and sing and cook (maybe even dance) together.

- Build something with your grandchildren.

Share times when you have blown it, or disobeyed what you sensed God was telling you to do. Let them know how glad you are that Jesus is bigger than any mistakes.

Ideas for grandparents who live far away

- Choose a book series to read with your grandchildren. Read to them using Skype, or as they get older and the books get longer, read them individually and then discuss the highlights of the book by phone.

- Have breakfast together once a week using Skype or FaceTime.

- Start a collection of something with your grandchild, e.g. dolls from other countries, interesting stones, coins, colored glass, and continue adding to the collection when you travel or when you are together.

- Text them on an ordinary day and let them know you’re thinking about them.

Call or send a letter when kids have special events or milestones at school or church. For instance, while you may not be present for a baptism, calling your grandchild on that special

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July Volunteers!



NURSERY

- 05 Dawn & Isabelle Auch, Kaitlyn Hamann
- 12 Eric & Rachel Weesies family
- 19 Rich & Gina Houtteman family
- 26 Margaret Amstutz, Dolly Wantuch, Seth Cherry

SOUND BOARD

- 05 Jeff Auch
- 12 Roger Grasman
- 19 Mark Grotenhuis
- 26 Jeff Cherry



POWERPOINT

- 05 Casey Lownds
- 12 Ryan Springer
- 19 Ann Jeffries
- 26 Lizzy Cherry



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME -

coffee preparers/servers

- 05 Don & Barb Poel
- 12 Dan & Janice Proctor
- 19 Gary & Sharon Ransom
- 26 Carol Witzke



cookies/snacks providers

- 05 Lynn Ramthun & Ginny Sytsma
- 12 Gord & Chris Sikkenga
- 19 Brad & Susan Tate
- 26 Margaret Amstutz

GREETERS AT THE DOORS



North entrance: Jim & Ellen VanderMaas
 South entrance: Roger & Joan Grasman

Thank you for offering a welcoming hand and smile as we come to worship the Lord.

Happy July Birthday!

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Emma Weesies | 19 Alec Breit |
| 02 Grace Radel | 21 Margo Fredenburg |
| 05 Amanda Rudat | 22 Nikki Borgman |
| 06 Andrew Moulds | 22 Joyce Brownell |
| 11 Lisa McGahan | 22 Jodie Roesler |
| 12 Scott Schutter | 25 Dawn Auch |
| 13 Renée Cherry | 25 Carol Witzke |
| 14 Ted Loker | 27 Eric Weesies |
| 16 Bella Bultema | 30 Maya Hector |
| 17 Scott McGee | |



Celebrating Anniversaries!

- 01 Rick & Amanda Holman
- 09 Dennis & Shirley Dahl
- 11 Luke & Marie Hakken
- 14 Tom & Kathy Oakes
- 26 Eric & Rachel Weesies



It's time for Sundae School! We are proud of our young people who are learning Bible verses this summer. Thanks to Mandie Johnson



who organizes this for our kids. Find Mandie after the service to get your verse for the week. After memorizing 3 verses you'll get a coupon for an ice cream cone at Twisters and keep going

to earn a Specialty Sundae! Sundae School will run through August 2. **Sundae School** will run through August 2.

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day is still very memorable. The same can be true of soccer tournaments, school plays, or after a church retreat.

Ideas for vacations or extended time together

- If financially possible, at the age of 12 or 13, take your grandson/granddaughter on a weekend away with the other significant males/females (of the same gender as your grandchild) in your family, e.g. dad, mom, aunts, uncles, grandfather and grandmother. Have a planned activity that you'll do together (skiing, hiking, going to a Broadway show, camping, etc.). Include time to discuss what it means to be a Christian man/woman. Give them something lasting that will remind them of things learned over the weekend and commitments that are made.
- Have "Grand Camp" with your grandkids either at your house or another destination. Do things together that they'd do at camp—crafts, sports, singing, cooking, treasure hunts, etc. This could last one day or several days. Or find a camp that hosts weeks for grandparents and grandkids to come together, letting the camp plan the programming and details. Go on a mission trip with your grandchild, either locally or abroad. Consider making this a rite of passage experience at a certain age with each grandchild.

For more ideas or information on "sticky faith" (having a faith that lasts beyond high school), visit www.stickyfaith.org

Article adapted from author Kara Powell
(original article at http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/articles/twenty-ideas-for-grandparents?utm_source=FYI+E-Journal&utm_campaign=284146f144-FYI_E_Journal_May_25_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e88a54a953-284146f144-304170758#fn-1-a)

Food and More, what is it?



Food and More is an outreach program at Ferry Memorial. It has been in existence, in some form or name, for about 20 years. It began with offering meals and groceries for a few needy families in our community. Through the years it has progressed in area of reach and the number of individuals and families served. Last year we served nearly 270 families. They receive a supply of food that can feed a family of 6 a meal a day for up to a week.

Recipients are nominated by our church family, the Montague and Whitehall Schools, Head Start Program. We partner with Christ the Rock Church, New Hope Church-Shelby, Neuman Chapel-Ferry, Lebanon Lutheran Church, Lemonade Stand, Whispering Timbers Housing and St James Catholic Church. Last year we served approximately 270 families during the Thanksgiving Holiday. We donated 110 turkeys to the St James Catholic Church-Giving Tree during Christmas time.

Food and More is not a church budget item. It is primarily funded through church offerings-Mission of the Month, food donations and grants. This year Dave Pickard has secured a total of \$4,000 in grants from the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Foundation for Oceana Co. This year our budget is projected to be approximately \$17,500. Donated items are given a dollar value and added as received income.

Food is purchased at the lowest prices possible without compromising quality: Feeding America, Meijer, Montague Foods, Plumbs, Save-A-Lot, Aldi and local farmers.

We accomplish this huge task by the hands and hearts of literally hundreds of volunteers and supporters. It could not be done without your help and commitment.

Some of the other programs we participate in are: Lebanon Lutheran school back pack program where we donate 900 boxes of macaroni and cheese to place in the back packs given away. Dur-

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ing the year we support Kids' Kloset. At Christmas time we sponsor a Senior Luncheon for senior citizens of the community. We give a \$400 monthly donation to Feeding America to support Lebanon Lutheran and New Hope food pantries.

We are commanded to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and secondly we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Through this program we express our love for God in serving him by caring for others. It is our hope that the recipients of our food baskets will see the love of God providing for them and their needs.

Ferry Memorial Family thank-you for all your support, time, donations and prayers.

Food and More committee.

Block Party!

Ferry hosted a block party on June 26! In an effort to get to know our neighbors and the parents of Kid Connection kids, Ferry hosted a fun evening with a bounce house, free food, games for all, door prizes and music! And, it is just fun to hang out together! Thanks for all the fun Ferry folk who came!



Thanks for helping make it happen!

Gary Hedrick smoked pulled pork and chicken
Bonnie Gouine and Shirley Dahl organized food
Hamann girls-face painting
Dan Proctor-setup crew
Jeff Cherry, Abby and Anneke Vermeulen-sound stage
Rachel Weesies-door prizes
Diane Hedrick-registration
Anais Felt-fliers

Kids' Kloset is a Ferry ministry located in the basement of Friendship House. It is a place where anyone in the community may come to get children's clothing (sizes 0-10) and footwear at no cost. We do ask that anyone visiting the Kloset be accompanied. If they do not have an advocate from the school system, the family may contact Holly VanderPlaats directly (894-9819) to set up a time.

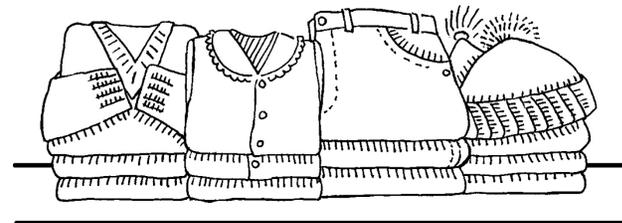
The Kloset provides winter clothing only. Summer garage sales are a great time to pick up bargains for donation. Mary Pyper and Gayle Strasser are the Kloset Keepers and they monitor and manage inventory. They put information in the bulletin if specific sizes or types of clothing/shoes are running low.



Mandie Johnson is the liaison with the area schools. She communicates with teachers and helps to identify boys and girls who are in need.

The families who come to the Kloset are often in tough situations and have very limited resources. Last winter a father had to carry his 3 year old daughter through the November snow because she only had summer sandals. When she left she had boots, a coat and several warm outfits.

Every family who comes through expresses deep appreciation. Your generosity makes a difference in people's lives. Thanks so much for all you past donations and, in advance, for the donations that you might make in the future.



Muskegon Classis News—June 2015

Better Communication!

Muskegon Classis is making an effort to better communicate with the people in our churches. We hope this will help inform our congregations on what is happening and how we exist to make a difference!

Improving Muskegon Classis Meetings

Sitting and listening to reports is not very inspiring. In the past, much of the work of Classis has been like that. Recently, Muskegon Classis has made a change. Representatives from our various churches are encouraged to share some aspect of their local situations. Pastors and lay persons alike share what the Lord is doing in their midst. We all learn from each other, and more, we are rejoicing in what God is doing in our churches to advance His Kingdom.

Church Revitalization

Although we have closed two churches recently, plans are being made to go forward with new opportunities. Since the Olivet Reformed Church property has been sold, it has been proposed to set aside \$100,000 for our churches to utilize for revitalization. On May 19, Muskegon Classis approved a plan calling for *“having an efficient application process and generous approval policy for our churches to use for revitalization in ways that seem fitting in their local situations.”* It will be wonderful to see how the Holy Spirit leads our churches to reach out in creative ways.

Muskegon Classis also examined our students of theology and approved Jonathon Austin as a Licensed Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. *(Jonathon Austin has preached at Ferry several times).*

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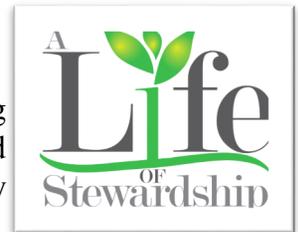
Shalom Fund

In recent months, Muskegon Classis has been able to assist two urban ministries in Muskegon—Community enCompass and youth programs for African American boys and girls held at Bethany Christian Reformed Church. Rev. Randy Vander Weit, a member of Classis, leads the boys group and was instrumental in applying for the grant. These grants originated from the former Central Community Church and are set up to show compassion and reflect the gospel to those who are marginalized in our society.

Stewardship update

The stewardship committee finished studying *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn, and shared the book with Consistory. Consistory will be studying the book over the summer.

Essentially, the book shares a biblical perspective on giving of time and money, and shares the joy of giving. It is a short book, and great for a discussion starter! The Stewardship committee will meet on July 6; they are working on a plan to share some ideas and information on the biblical discipline of stewardship with the congregation in the fall. If you have questions or ideas, talk to any of the committee members—Bonnie Gouine, Barb Poel, Larry VanderPlaats, Lois Brinks, Rich Houtteman,



Rev. Amy de Groot Bowling, family and youth pastor

Rev. Nick Bowling, family and youth pastor

Gloria Rademaker, editor / deadline for next issue - July 18