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Chris DeRose – Check in/out and snack, occasionally moon-lights during story time and is very good at it.

Joan Grasman – Teacher for grades 3-5.

Rachel James– Teacher for grades 3-5

Deb Schutter-Jellema – Fearless teacher for grades K-2, this group typically has close to 20 kids, so Deb often brings sisters and friends for backup.

Ruth and Amy Pecott – Help with the K-2 group.

Mandie Johnson –Lends extra support wherever needed.

Many others have volunteered to support during our monthly meals. Thank You!

The kids have learned so much about how God keeps his promises. For example, when learning about Zechariah they are able to draw familiar connections to past stories about Jacob, Saul, Jonah, Hannah, even Moses. Last week a wonderful thing happened! One of our regular attendees, who does not have a home church, told Renée he loved God, but wondered what he needed to do to get to heaven. She was blessed to be able to pray with him and show him what to do.

Kid Connection is winding down for the year. Our last session and end of year celebration will be on March 23rd. This year we chose to start a month earlier in the fall and end a month earlier in the spring, to avoid the many conflicts families have in spring with sports, school events, concerts, etc. Come join us for our “last meal” on March 2.

Rev. Walter Jones, Interim pastor

Rev. Amy de Groot Bowling, family and youth pastor

Rev. Nick Bowling, family and youth pastor

Gloria Rademaker, editor / deadline for next issue - March 21

Ferry Log

Newsletter of Ferry Memorial Reformed Church ♦ March 2016

Interim Pastor

Our interim pastor, Rev. Walter Jones begins his time with us in March.

What will he do?

1) Preach 3 times a month and plan worship services. The Bowlings will continue to preach once a month; Pastor Walt is not expected to attend FMRC on the Sundays he doesn't preach.

2) Guide our congregation through a time of transition, and prepare us for the next senior pastor and next step in Ferry's future.

3) Help with some administration in the office, and coordinate pastoral care with the elders. Pastor Walt may do some occasional pastoral care, but the majority will continue to be done by the elders and associate pastors.

How long will he be working with us?

Pastor Walt is working 30 hours a week; his contract is initially for 6 months, and can be renewed after that. If FMRC calls a senior pastor in the next 6 months, the contract can be dissolved by Pastor Walt or FMRC with a 30 day's notice.

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Is the search team considering Pastor Walt for the sr. pastor position?

No. For an interim pastor to do their best work in helping a church through a transition, he or she needs to be free to say or do things without concern for "candidating" for the senior pastor position. As written into the interim contract, Pastor Walt cannot be considered.

Will Pastor Walt be on consistory?

Pastor Walt is invited to be with consistory as an advisory voice; Ken Giddis and Pastor Amy will continue as V.P and President. Sitting in on meetings will help Pastor Walt get to know the church better, as well as a monthly opportunity to share and work with the elders and deacons in guiding the transition time at FMRC.

Will Pastor Walt be in the office so I can meet him?

Pastor Walt will be working from both his home office and the church office; he will be available a few days a week in the church office if you would like to meet with him. He looks forward to getting to know the great people of FMRC!



K - 5TH GRADES
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
FROM 6 - 7:30 PM

Kid Connection is a Wednesday night program at Ferry, intended for students in grades K-5. We greet with a whole group game of some kind, story and then music. Afterward, the kids split into groups of grades K-2 and 3-5 to further their learning more deeply. The stories over the last two years of the program have highlighted major biblical events from the beginning of the Old Testament to most recently, the birth of Christ. The focus is to make the bible relevant to kids and to show them our awesome, powerful and loving God.

The program regularly serves around 30 children every week. Many of these children are Ferry families, but not all. Some are neighborhood kids and others are family or friends of Ferry members who attend elsewhere or do not yet have a home church. All of these children now have a connection to Ferry! A four year old friend was reading the random collection of letters on her prayer box to her mom after KC one night and says "Mom, it spells I love church!"

It has been exciting to see the relationships being built with the kids and their families. Renée began doing meals the first Wednesday of the month to encourage these connections. The adults who volunteer every week at KC are the following:

Renée Cherry – Director, story and music leader and feeder of many.

Dawn Auch – Co-director and game leader, occasionally leads story when fed.

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Life is full of decisions—small decisions and large decisions.

As part of the sr. high Breakfast Club, some senior high students and Pastor Nick are talking about how to make decisions, and the ethics behind our decisions. And eating a great breakfast made by the Pecotts or Hedricks!

Guided by the 10 commandments, No Easy Answers curriculum presents different real life case studies, one for each of the 10 commandments. Talking about the 6th commandment, “do not kill”, the students explored a case of a prisoner who was to receive the death penalty. Having exhausted all his appeals, the prisoner asked then governor George Bush for a stay of execution. The students discussed what they would have done, and more importantly, WHY. What criteria did they use in making this decision? Did God’s commandments factor into their decision-and how? Did other Scripture passages or themes factor in?



How did this real life case study turn out? Gov. Bush did not grant a stay of execution. His criteria? “Did he commit the crime?” (yes) “Did he receive a fair trial?” (yes). The students would have different criteria than the governor behind their decision, though many would have ultimately made the same decision as Gov. Bush.

Life is full of complex decisions, and it is important to have a grounding in biblical ethics!



An Open Letter to the Ferry Memorial Congregation:

Today is March 1st. It’s the start of a new month. Spring is on the way, and the snow is starting to fall outside my study window at a pretty good clip. All that is wonderful, but frankly, it’s not what I wanted to write to you about this morning.

Today is a particularly exciting day for me, in that it marks the first day of our new relationship together. I cannot tell you how excited I am to be joining the staff and family that is Ferry Memorial Reformed Church. I’m excited about what God is continuing to do in my life and what I believe He is preparing to do in all of our lives over the coming months and years.

I believe that God has brought us together for a specific purpose. I believe there is work to be done in our community to help strengthen those who are already a part of the Ferry Church family, and I believe that God is going to use us all in the reaching out to those who live and work all around us in our community. There is so much hurt, and struggle, and loneliness and uncertainty in our world today on so many fronts. There are so many people who just long to know that they matter and count to somebody.

Along with Pastors Nick and Amy, I am asking you to come along side of us as we work together to be the “hands and feet of Christ” in our corner of God's creation. We already have a great church statement, “reaching up to God and reaching out to people.” But in order for that to be more than just a catchy line, we all need to make that sentiment a matter of personal practice and prayer.

For the next several months, as God continues to strengthen and encourage each of our lives, and until God brings Ferry Church the pastor of His choosing, I am asking each of you

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for your help, your support and most importantly your prayers, as together we work for the good of the kingdom that is His church. If you have a thought, voice it. If you have a concern, share it. If you see something that you can do to improve our church and our outreach to others, feel free to jump in. Your pastors have a desire to see Ferry Church be all it can be, but we can't do the work of ministry alone.

I look forward to walking with you all as together we strive to be the body of Christ to a lost and needy world. Some of you have seen this bio sketch already, but if you haven't, perhaps this little blip will serve to give you a little more background on me.

I'm originally from Southern California. I graduated from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California with majors in history and music. I have in addition to my M.Div from Fuller Theological Seminary, an MA in Theology. My wife, Marcia, is a retired special education teacher originally from Muskegon. Over the past forty some years we have served RCA congregations in Illinois, Michigan, Texas, Iowa, and New York. While in our last two churches, I also served as a paramedic/firefighter with two local fire departments.

We have two grown children, living in Chicago, and Washington, DC and four grandchildren. I retired at the end of 2010 and since retirement, have done pulpit supply and served as an interim pastor at two CRC churches in west Michigan. When not at church, we enjoy traveling, reading, gardening and our home in Norton Shores.

Blessings,

Pastor Jones



The search team continues to prayerfully look for FMRC's next senior pastor. So far, we have conducted 4 phone interviews and we are currently communicating with 3 potential candidates.

As we move into March the Ferry Search Team would like to ask for some specific prayers each week. Please read the Psalms and pray about these specific things—

(March 6-12) Psalm 145:17, 18. Pray that as we continue in the search process it will be a time we remember to seek God Himself more than just a new pastor and that we will each draw closer to Jesus and trust Him because He, the true head of the Church, calls us.

(March 13-19) Psalm 139:23-24. Pray for a spirit of renewal, that Ferry will allow God to search us, test us and lead us. We know things will change, pray we accept God's change.

(March 20-26) Psalm 32:8. Pray for the leaders of Ferry Church. So many have stepped up to help in this time of transition, pray we maintain our focus on the present ministry of the church. Pray for our interim pastor, that he will be wise counsel for us.

(March 27-April 2) Psalm 133:1. Pray for a Christ like sense of love and unity among our members. Pray that we surrender ourselves and focus on a deeper love of Christ, His Church, and each other.

(April 3-9) Psalm 27:8. Pray for the future pastor and pastor's family. That as they "seek God's face" they will find peace and excitement in their sense of calling to our church.

Dan Lownds and Search Team Members

Happy March Birthday!

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Evan Ritchie | 16 Karen Lohman |
| 06 Marion Flanders | 17 Ethan Balon |
| 07 Jeanne Peterson | 17 Bob Steensma |
| 09 Nick Bowling | 18 Mark Grotenhuis |
| 09 Elizabeth Grotenhuis | 20 Abbey Vermeulen |
| 11 Makenzie McGee | 21 Mary Pyper |
| 12 Ann Beishuizen | 23 Ron Grinwis |
| 13 Alan Weesies | 24 Jake Schutter |
| 14 Mike Barnhardt | 26 Isabelle Auch |
| 14 MaKayla Kozal | 29 Steve Markel |
| 15 Donna Doornbos | 30 Tristyn Balon |
| 15 Alexandria Mahan | 31 Bill Peavler |
| 15 Jeanne Rypma | |



NO MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please call Gloria in the church office (894-9415) or email: fmrchurch@charter.net and provide the missing information. We would like to “recognize” your special date!

March Volunteers!

NURSERY

- 06 Rich & Gina Houtteman family
- 13 Dolly Wantuch, Margaret Amstutz, Seth Cherry
- 20 Mike & Lisa McGahan family
- 27 Ike Nelson, Joyce Brownell, Kaitlyn Hamann



SOUND BOARD

- 06 Jeff Cherry
- 13 Jeff Auch
- 20 Roger Grasman
- 24 Maundy Thursday
- 27 Mark Grotenhuis



POWERPOINT

- 06 Lizzy Cherry
- 13 Ryan Springer
- 20 Ann Jeffries
- 27 Casey Lownds

Children's Church

- 06 Deb Markel & Amanda Holman (lesson 15)
- 13 Rachelle & Amanda Johnson (lesson 16)
- 20 Lindsay DeRose & Rachel Houtteman (lesson 17)
- 27 Nick & Katie Bultema family (Lesson 18)



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME -

coffee preparers/servers

- 06 Lois Brinks & Carol Brand-Twa
- 13 Jeff & Dawn Auch
- 20 Mark & Diane Levandowski
- 27 Tony & Sue Moulds



cookies/snacks providers

- 06 Katie Bultema & Donna Rypma
- 13 Renée Cherry & Chris DeRose
- 20 Bonnie Gouine & Phyllis Zatzke
- 27 Michelle Hamann & Lisa McGahan