

Consistory Updates

The deacons made final recommendations on two projects to the full consistory. After discussing the projects consistory voted to approve both projects, as laid out below.

The first project is for the Carillons. Consistory has approved \$5700 for the purchase of the new carillon unit that we had been testing, along with a new amp. Any additional funds that have been raised will be used for continued maintenance and any related updates in the future. Further, a dedication service will be planned for some time later this year.

The second project is the replacement of the boiler in Heritage Hall. Consistory has approved the bid of \$9148. The bid includes replacing valves and some lines as well as the boiler. The last thing we want is a new boiler and an old valve that keeps it from working properly. The timing of the replacement will be scheduled shortly.

Additional items that we are working on are: continued development of an emergency response team; expansion of mission of the month to seek for additional ways to serve or meet needs of those missions (there is a bulletin insert for this month with further details); tentative schedule for block party and Montague's 150th celebration in June were discussed, more details to come; and mission trip/service opportunities will be explored.

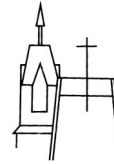
Consistory also extends its thanks for all of your prayers for the consistory retreat. It was a great time of fellowship, team building, and learning. From this experience, we look forward to pursuing continued ways to share and serve.

Rev. Leighton Seys, senior 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 20



Ferry Log

Newsletter of Ferry Memorial Reformed Church ♦ March 2017

What is Lent?

verb 1. simple past tense and past participle of lend.

Well not that meaning. But rather the season of lent. The English word Lent is a shortened form of the Old English word *lenten*, meaning "spring season". A dated term in German, *lenz(o)*, is also related. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, 'the shorter form seems to be a derivative of *lango* (long) ... and may possibly have reference to the lengthening of the days as characterizing the season of spring'.

Lent is a season of repentance, prayer and fasting. The season lasts for 40 days, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter. The season reflects the 40 days Jesus spent in prayer and fasting in the desert before starting his public ministry. Sunday's are not counted in the 40 days as they are Holy days and therefore still days of celebration.

Resistance to temptation is an important spiritual exercise, practiced during Lent. Many will make a Lenten sacrifice, giving up something dear for the 40 day period, and spend time focusing on spending time in prayer instead. In addition to giving something up, others may take on additional responsibilities or spend time serving others. Part of the process is to draw close to the suffering of Jesus as we recall and relive what he has done for us.

Traditionally fasting was a common practice of lent. People would fast by abstaining from meat, while others would abstain from food during daylight hours. Fish is permitted as a substitute and not counted as meat. Today few people actually skip meals, instead they substitute fish on Fridays for meat dishes. Regardless of how a person chooses to keep their Lenten fast,

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

the practice is regarded as highly personal.

The colors of Lent are purple, which is the traditional color of penance and mourning, as well as the color of royalty, which symbolizes Christ's status as our king. The last week of Lent is known as "Holy Week" and it begins with Palm Sunday, one week before Easter. On Palm Sunday, the faithful recreate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, by welcoming him with blessed palms. On Maundy Thursday, the Last Supper is celebrated. On Good Friday, the trial, suffering, and crucifixion of Christ is commemorated. Easter Sunday with the celebration of the resurrection marks the end of Lent.

Maybe you have never done anything for lent. Or maybe you're still unsure what value could be found in it. Well if we waited until we knew how things would turn out or only did things we had already tried, we'd have very dull lives, wouldn't we? So, go ahead and just try something. Perhaps something that you might do during all of lent or maybe you'd rather try something new each week and see how it goes. Either way, I hope you will try it.

Another idea is to practice a new spiritual discipline during lent. There are many more than just prayer and fasting. There are different lists of them, but they are all meant to bring life to our faith. Two questions we can ask will help guide us as we do so. What am I currently not doing, that if I was doing, would open myself up more to God's work of grace in my life? What am I currently doing, that if eliminated, would open myself up more to God's work of grace in my life?

So how are you going to remember and respond this lent to all that Jesus has done for you?

Pastor Leighton



Since January, the **SOS group** has been studying Ezekiel (every other week), boyfriends/girlfriends, consumerism and being part of God's family. Ezekiel has been a great study-the kids are following the storyline of Ezekiel, and connecting to our own experiences. Ezekiel was a "watchman" on the city wall. His responsibility was to be on watch and say when he saw danger coming. How are we watchmen? When do we speak out, and when do we stay silent? God told Ezekiel to lay on his side for 40 days (as a way to demonstrate Israel's disobedience), so the kids tried laying on their side for 40 seconds (which was really hard!).



The **Sr. High group** has been studying Revelation (every other week), and talking about things that worry them-grades, friends, the future. Revelation has been great to study together, to draw and talk about the imagery found in this beautiful and mysterious vision of the apostle John. The kids are interested in finding out more about the strange, and seemingly frightening things we read in Revelation. And we look for the connection to our own lives (in the warnings to the 7 churches, and in later chapters, seeing what draws us away from God just as some creatures in Revelation draw people away from God). And what happens in the end? God wins!

One highlight for both SOS and the Sr. High was the **Marriage Panel** in February. Dick Smies, Gary and Diane Hedrick, and Pastor Leighton and Brandi shared stories of dating, what they initially thought of the other partner (women panelists were not very impressed the first time they met their spouse), how they knew they wanted to marry the other person.

The panelists shared the joy of marrying your best friend, and how struggles can draw you closer to each other and to God. They also shared about starting out poor (one panelist brought some wedding gifts back in order to pay the rent), and how they worked hard to figure out how to make ends meet. They also shared what difference having God as a part of your marriage makes. We are so grateful to our panelists for sharing stories of real life marriage with our kids!

Thank you for your support of the Sr. High sub sandwich fundraiser. The kids raised \$770 for the summer mission trip. Thank you!

Happy March Birthday!

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Evan Ritchie | 16 Karen Lohman |
| 06 Marion Flanders | 17 Ethan Balon |
| 07 Jeanne Peterson | 17 Bob Steensma |
| 09 Pastor 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 | 23 Wyatt Reid |
| 14 Mike Barnhardt | 24 Jake Schutter |
| 15 Donna Doornbos | 26 Isabelle Auch |
| 15 Alexandria Mahan | 29 Steve Markel |
| 15 Jeanne Rypma | 30 Tristyn Balon |
| | 31 Bill Peavler |



No March Wedding Anniversaries

Spiritual Disciplines Class

After referring to fasting and other spiritual disciplines a number of times and having conversations about them with several people, I thought perhaps I should spend some time sharing more about them. So, if you'd like to learn more about them I will be teaching a class on them during Lent. It will be a 4 week class, Wednesdays, March 8 - 29.

Pastor Leighton

March Volunteers!

NURSERY

- 05 Ike Nelson, Joyce Brownell
- 12 Scott and Angie Schutter, Amanda Johnson
- 19 Brian and Sarah Balon
- 26 Ann Beishuizen, Janice Proctor



SOUND BOARD

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



POWERPOINT

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

Children's Church

- 05 Amanda Holman (lesson 12)
- 12 Rachelle & Amanda Johnson (lesson 13)
- 19 Lindsay DeRose and Rachel Houtteman (lesson 14)
- 26 Nick & Katie Bultema family (lesson 15)



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME -

coffee preparers/servers

- 05 Dan & Janice Proctor
- 12 Lois Brinks & Carol Brand-Twa
- 19 Gary & Sharon Ransom
- 26 Carol Witzke

cookies/snacks providers

- 05 Michelle Hamann
- 12 Lynn Ramthun & Rachel Weesies
- 19 Gord & Chris Sikkenga
- 26 Brad & Susan Tate





Mission of the Month (MoM)
 Love INC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 all events meet 6-7:30 pm: S.O.S., Sr. High ASH WEDNESDAY	2 Hand Bells 6 pm Men at Peace 7 pm	3	4
5 worship 9:30 am Communion Sunday School 10:45 am	6 Financial Peace University 6:30 pm	7 Bible Study 10 am Prayer Shawls 1 pm	8 all events meet 6-7:30 pm: Kid Connection S.O.S. Sr. High Spiritual Disciplines	9 Hand Bells 6 pm	10	11 SPRING AHEAD tonight 
12 worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Daylight Saving Time	13 Financial Peace University 6:30 pm	14 Bible Study 10 am Prayer Shawls 1 pm Stephen Ministry 6:30 pm	15 all events meet 6-7:30 pm: Kid Connection S.O.S. Sr. High Spiritual Disciplines	16 Hand Bells 6 pm Men at Peace 7 pm 	17	18
19 worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am	20  Ferry Log deadline	21 Bible Study 10 am Prayer Shawls 1 pm Consistory	22 Lenten Luncheon at Ferry 12 noon. all events meet 6-7:30 pm: Kid Connection S.O.S., Sr. High Spiritual Disciplines	23 Hand Bells 6 pm	24	25 
26 worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am	27	28 Bible Study 10 am Prayer Shawls 1 pm Stephen Ministry 6:30 pm	29 all events meet 6-7:30 pm: Kid Connection S.O.S. Sr. High Spiritual Disciplines	30	31	