

## Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry at Ferry Memorial is very valuable. One doesn't have to be suffering major life trauma to request a Stephen Minister. Just having someone outside of family and friends to talk to is huge. So often folks don't feel they need a Stephen minister. They have excellent family support and attentive friends. There are times when having someone objective to talk to is very helpful. A Stephen minister is trained to listen and help process what is happening in the care receiver's life. That said, the Stephen minister learns a lot as well, not only through the excellent Stephen Ministry training, but by coming alongside their care receiver during a difficult period in his or her life. It's a rewarding experience to be a Stephen minister as well as having a Stephen minister.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen minister or would benefit from having a Stephen minister, please contact Phil Brower. You may also speak with any of our currently active Stephen ministers with any questions or concerns about the ministry. They are: Dave Roodvoets, Dan Proctor, Joyce Brownell, Bonnie Gouine, Sharon Ransom, Cathy Aulerich, Joan Grasman, and Mary Brower.

Please keep this valuable ministry in your prayers.

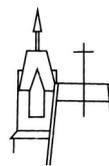


*Rev. Leighton Seys, senior pastor*

*Rev. Amy deGroot Bowling, family and youth pastor*

*Rev. Nick Bowling, family and youth pastor*

*Gloria Rademaker, editor / deadline for next issue - October 21*



# FERRY LOG

October 2019

Ferry Memorial Reformed Church, Reformed Church in America



## Something More



One thing that happens to people is that we get a narrow focus over time at what is possible as we repeatedly see the same thing over and over again. One place to show how this happens is to think about the car you drive and how old it is. Do you notice your make and model everywhere, or has your familiarity with it worn off so that it no longer stands out. Then think back to when you first got it. Didn't it seem like when you first got your car that you saw one just like it everywhere you went.

This has nothing to do with newer or better, but simply moving from novelty to familiarity. The thing is that can happen in the church too. If you have attended the same church for years and never visited another church, then everything you see is the same as it has been for some time. But if you visit a different church it can be wonderful to see things slightly different, and sometimes even something new that you never saw or thought of before.

Of course new ideas aren't always better, nor would they exactly work everywhere. But every once in a while something you've been contemplating how to incorporate shows up in a wonderful way when you step into a new experience. I had that happen last Thursday as I attended a funeral in Holland.

I have previously visited many churches that do a gift for visitors to attempt to say, we expect and value new people. But most gifts I have seen in the past all seem like they

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are simply trying to put the church logo on something that people really don't need and may never use. So, rather than do that I've just tried to emphasize that making a personal connection to visitors is how we can do this best.

What I saw Thursday was different. It was simple. It sent the message to me that someone had spent personal time to create the gift. It was something I would use. And it felt genuinely welcoming. It was a decorated jar with dry ingredients for "Love" soup. Perhaps you've seen these before, or maybe you've seen the ones with dry ingredients for cookies. I think they may just do one thing, but I think you could have a few possible that could be with seasonal themes.

So there are two sides to this. One is having small groups get together and make jars of soup, cookies, bread, or other food ingredients, and decorate them. (S.O.S. will be doing this in October.) I say small groups, as I think we would likely start with 6-12 jars and then do 6-12 more as they are given out. So these could be existing groups in the church who decide what they want to put in the jars, then gather to assemble them. It could also just be a group that gathers once just to pack jars and doesn't meet for any other reason.

I think pint jars will work well for this rather than quart jars, as making a gallon of soup if you are a single or a couple would be a lot. (That was how much the one I saw made.) Pint jars would also allow us to do a meal and dessert, or meal and a bread. So, I think it just gives us the most options to make it personal and welcoming. If you wish to donate jars that would be fine, but as for ingredients, I think each group that makes them should select, gather and fund what they choose to create. Just be sure to include instructions, and do a test run to make sure it turns out. (If you find your ingredients won't fit in a pint jar, of course quarts would be fine.)

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## Deacons' Report

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
offerings - General fund	<u>\$213,155.47</u>	<u>\$247,016.26</u>
spending - General fund	<u>\$230,418.53</u>	<u>\$247,749.59</u>
offerings - Missions	<u>\$ 12,269.00</u>	<u>\$ 10,545.86</u>

Month by month comparison of general offerings to budget:

	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
January	\$ 23178.45	\$ 30876.88	\$ -7698.43
February	30714.86	30876.88	- 162.02
March	28145.75	30876.88	-2731.13
April	25428.01	30876.88	-5448.87
May	25881.54	30876.88	-4995.34
June	32470.31	30876.87	+1593.44
July	24761.86	30876.87	-6115.01
August	22504.50	30876.87	-8372.37

As Budget preparation time is fast approaching we are examining our current status. There are some good size repairs in need of attention. We are getting quotes on the ceiling where leaks and stress have made themselves known.

We have also been approached by several people about how the carpet is really showing wear and age. This a large ticket item, we are looking at different ways to put together a plan on how to approach replacing upstairs and down in the church and Sunday School area. Both are becoming very shabby in appearance.

We have been very conservative with spending awaiting the steeple installation to get an accurate figure, but to keep from having major issues these things must be addressed soon. The ceiling can be done through the budget item of Maintenance and Repair, but the carpeting will exceed what has been set for the expense for the year.

As deacons we do not like to go into our surplus, this is not fiscally sound practice because the cushion will only last so long. Meeting our expenses through offerings is our goal, but there are expenses that are out of our control. Budgeting income is difficult, other than communicating our deficit to the budget, we do not have another tool to use at this point.

Thank you from the deacons and please feel free to ask any of us if you have questions about our processes.

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How might they think differently? How might their faith in God be lived out differently than mine? What might I learn from them?

How can you participate in your church community, to build relationships? Start small! Come to a church dinner (Sliders and Pumpkin carving Oct. 2, 6-7 pm!), attend a Sunday School class and participate in the conversation! Start a small group, learn how to knit from the Prayer Shawl Group, be brave and join Men at Peace, pack Thanksgiving Baskets Nov. 23, volunteer to make coffee on Sunday morning! Jump in and join us!

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## Mental Health Update

We met on Sept 24 to discuss some options for Ferry to start a Mental Health Support Group. After much discussion we feel more confident in our readiness to begin something and do it well. We still have some additional steps we plan to take before we will be ready to introduce the program to the congregation and community.

The format will be one that brings both those that struggle with a mental health issue and those that have family & friends that struggle with mental health issues. Both groups begin together 30-45 min, followed by moving into small group time 30-45 min, and closing where all gather back together.

We will be working to train facilitators to help us get started. We have a few men who are willing to do so, but would love to have some women as well. We are leaning towards Monday nights twice a month, but nothing is set yet. We will gather more input prior to making those decisions. If you have questions, concerns or would like more information see Pastor Leighton, Dan Proctor or Leigh Johnson.



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Two is a church wide process for all to greet visitors and share the gifts with them. We will place the welcome gift jars in the welcome station in the narthex. A few jars can be placed on top each week. Then, before or after the service, whenever you encounter a visitor to Ferry, you can share that we have a welcome gift for them from the church and either bring them to get one or more, depending on family size, or go get it and bring it to the visitor. In fact, if you bring a visitor with you, you could bring them to get a welcome gift jar when you arrive.

A few things for this to become who we are will be important. This is not a process that should be delegated to greeters, consistory or staff. They all are already filling a role on Sunday Mornings and may not always have an opportunity to go to and from the welcome center. Additionally, if this is a way to reach out to people to show the love of our church, then it needs to be a personal action that anyone can and will feel empowered to do.

The second new thing I saw actually happened here at Ferry a few weeks ago. And it wasn't only me that saw it. I have a background in doing drama ministry in church prior to seminary. So my experience has been one that looks for a drama to connect with the sermon or sermon series theme. And that's pretty much it. While I have thought about several times when it might be great to do a drama, the work to do just one here and there is much harder to do than doing them regularly. So, I just pushed off the thought saying someday when we have a drama ministry.

But a few weeks ago we had a skit for our new Wednesday family meals. It wasn't about the sermon or the sermon theme. It was to help people to see and understand what we were starting and why. And people connected

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with it, understood it, and enjoyed it. What's more, some Stephen Ministers have felt for a few years that standing up in front and sharing about what they do, or putting an announcement in the bulletin just doesn't really help people to know what it is, had an aha moment when they saw the skits. They could do a skit to show what they do. So, they met and discussed it and came up with a few ideas that they will be working to share with us all this fall.

Then they shared their idea with me. I had heard great feedback about the skits, saw the wonderful attendance at the Mexican Fiesta, and now was being prompted to think past having dramas only to connect with the sermon. Instead, use drama to help connect with anything that the church is doing to help people understand it and see it more clearly.

So, we are going to continue to incorporate short skits in worship. Some may be in the announcements and some we may place elsewhere. It is going to be an evolving piece in worship. To start with we might not do a lot of recruiting to act, as we know we have plenty of people who can do skits, since they do Journey of Joy each year, and some who want to help show more about their ministry may choose to do the skit themselves. But down the road we envision having a drama coordinator to help plan: when skits happen, select scripts, select cast, and arrange any practice schedule as needed.

I am very supportive of these two new things for Ferry. I had not seen them as possibilities until even a month ago, but they can so seamlessly become part of who we are and how we seek to *Reach up to God and Reach out to People* that I can't wait to see God at work in and through them.

Pastor Leighton



## YOUTH SCOOP

### Beyond Sunday Morning

According to a study in the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, it takes about 50 hours of time together to make a casual friend, 90 for you to call someone a friend, and about 200 hours together to become a close friend. Other factors are involved, of course, but one thing is clear-It takes time. And you have to keep showing up. Among other things, being part of God's family is about relationships. God often uses his people to teach and encourage each other.

God intentionally places us in faith communities, or gatherings of his people-the church.

In communities, we have an opportunity to know others, and to be known. To love others and to be loved. We have an opportunity to belong (this takes time and effort!). We learn from others' experiences of life, of challenges, and also of faith and hope. We find hope in another's story of how God was present for them, trusting that God will be present for us, as well.

In communities, we have an opportunity to serve others using the gifts God has given us; we can feel good about serving, or helping someone else. We can bake or bring cookies for Sunday morning to create a warm and welcoming space-hospitality! Or we can care for our youngest in nursery, or volunteer for the soundboard to help others hear well. We serve God and God's people, inside and outside the church walls. And in serving, we grow deeper.

In communities, we encounter people of a different generation, and have the opportunity to learn from each other.

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## October Volunteers!

AUDIO VISUAL TEAMS

### SOUND BOARD

- 06 Jeff Cherry
- 13 Josh Fredenburg
- 20 Brian Normandin
- 27 Mark Grotenhuis



### POWERPOINT

- 06 Owen Weesies
- 13 Ryan Springer
- 20 Ann Jeffries
- 27 Casey Lownds



### VIDEO

- 06 Emma Weesies
- 13 Isabelle Auch
- 20 Tony Moulds
- 27 Griffin Lownds



### NURSERY

- 06 Angie & Scott Schutter, Abriana Ramthun
- 13 Matt & Lindsay DeRose
- 20 Lyndsey Near, Ann Beishuizen, Myla Ramthun
- 27 Stephy Grotenhuis, Dawn Auch, Amanda Johnson



## OCTOBER FELLOWSHIP TIME VOLUNTEERS

### coffee preparers/servers

- 06 Lynn & Ike Nelson
- 13 Lois Brinks & Carol Brand-Twa
- 20 Gary & Sharon Ransom
- 27 Linda Starring & Doris Hartman



### cookies/snacks providers

- 06 Barb Paton
- 13 Dave & Beth Pickard
- 20 Lynn Ramthun & Rachel Weesies
- 27 Gord & Chris Sikkenga



- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 03 Phil Brower      | 19 Sue Moulds       |
| 06 Hannah Moulds    | 20 Doris Hartman    |
| 08 Carissa McGahan  | 20 Mike Joyce       |
| 08 Dave Rypma       | 22 Brayden Berson   |
| 13 Donna Rypma      | 28 Ben Bowling      |
| 16 Cheryl Lohman    | 28 Joanne Heck      |
| 19 Jacob Fredenburg | 28 Gloria Rademaker |
| 19 Briemann Hamann  | 28 Morgan Weesies   |
| 19 Dean Lohman      | 30 Amy Weesies      |



- 06 John & Sandy Pickett
- 11 Dave & Chris DeRose
- 14 Phil & Mary Brower
- 15 Gary & Diane Hedrick
- 19 Mike & Sharon Barnhardt
- 23 Ryan & Lindsey Weesies
- 31 Gary & Sharon Ransom



# OCTOBER

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>Mission of the Month</p> <p>♥</p> <p>Food &amp; More</p>		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10 am Bible Study</p> <p>1 pm Prayer Shawls</p>	<p><b>2</b> 6-7 pm dinner &amp; family project</p> <p>6-7:30 pm: SOS</p> <p>Sr. High</p> <p>7:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:15 pm Hand Bells practice</p> <p>7 pm Men at Peace</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>6</b> 9:30 am worship</p> <p>10:30 am fellowship</p> <p>10:45 am classes</p> <p><b>World Communion Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 10 am Bible Study</p> <p>1 pm Prayer Shawls</p> <p>6:30 pm Stephen Ministry</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6-7:30 pm: SOS</p> <p>Sr. High</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>6:15 pm Hand Bells practice</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> 9:30 am worship</p> <p>10:30 am fellowship</p> <p>10:45 am classes</p> <p><b>Disability Awareness Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 10 am Bible Study</p> <p>1 pm Prayer Shawls</p> <p>7 pm Deacons</p> <p>7 pm Elders</p> <p>8 pm Consistory</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6-7:30 pm: SOS</p> <p>Sr. High</p> <p>7:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6:15 pm Hand Bells practice</p> <p>7 pm Men at Peace</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9:30 am worship</p> <p>10:30 am fellowship</p> <p>10:45 am classes</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> 	<p><b>22</b> 10 am Bible Study</p> <p>1 pm Prayer Shawls</p> <p>6:30 pm Stephen Ministry</p> <p><b>Pray Muskegon</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6-7:30 pm: SOS</p> <p>Sr. High</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:15 pm Hand Bells practice</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Fellowship Hall reserved</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Fellowship Hall reserved</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:30 am worship</p> <p>10:30 am fellowship</p> <p>10:45 am classes</p> <p><b>Reformation Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 10 am Bible Study</p> <p>1 pm Prayer Shawls</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>6-7:30 pm: SOS</p> <p>Sr. High</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>6:15 pm Hand Bells practice</p>	 <p>“Pray Muskegon” the 22nd of each month. Covering the County with prayer!</p>	