Retired Pastors Stage Unique Fashion Show

When the saints came marching in to Raybrook Chapel at Holland Home in Grand Rapids, Mich., they were dressed for the occasion. More than 240 people packed the chapel of the retirement home to see pastors and others, most of whom are Raybrook residents and retired CRC leaders, dressed in period clothing to represent men of faith through the ages.

The fashion show, which included brief presentations, was the idea of Raybrook resident Rev. John Meppelink. “The styles change with the times in which we live, but the Word of God does not change,” Meppelink said.


“He said that taxation in the U.S. is ‘stealing trillions of dollars from future generations.’ He also feels that people are looking to the government to solve their problems ‘when they should look to the church, to God, and to family.’”

Rev. Tyler Wagenmaker, pastor of Beaverdam Christian Reformed Church in Hudsonville, Mich., helped coordinate an anti-tax Tea Party that took place in his neighborhood April 15, the deadline for filing income taxes in the United States.

Wagenmaker said he did it “as a concerned citizen and as a concerned pastor.”

He said that expecting government to solve problems “prevents people from re-connecting with families and church to go the extra mile.”

Tea parties were held in cities across the U.S. in protest of tax policies under President Obama. They were fashioned after the Boston Tea Party of 1773 when American colonists dumped three shiploads of tea into the Boston Harbor in a protest against British taxation.

In Memoriam

Rev. William Versluys
1946 - 2009

Rev. William Versluys II, 62, sympathetic friend to many, companion to society’s injured, a man who was passionate for the spread of the gospel, and a man of prayer and song, passed away on January 22 as the result of a spinal cord infection.

Versluys entered ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church after working in the business world for ten years. He graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary in 1981. He began ministry as a missionary to the Philippines. Subsequently he served one church in Michigan and four churches in Minnesota. He also served as a chaplain in The Good Samaritan Center in Grand Forks.

Versluys had a passion for serving the parishioners of his churches, as well as the communities around them. His winsome friendliness afforded him a ready entrance into people’s lives.

Versluys is survived by his wife, Connie, six children, and eleven grandchildren.

—Louis M. Tamminga

For more on the life and ministry of Rev. Versluys, please visit www.thebanner.org. In addition to being posted online, further information on recently deceased ministers is available each year in the front pages of the Christian Reformed Church’s annual Yearbook.