

FAQs

Church

Q The Church Order (Art. 28a) says that assemblies (synod, classis, council) “shall transact ecclesiastical matters only.” Does that mean they are prevented from addressing climate change or capital punishment or systemic racism?

A It’s not that simple. Synod 1937 decided that “political, social, and economic questions are ecclesiastical matters only when doctrinal and ethical issues of sufficient moment and magnitude are involved according to the Word of God and our [confessional] standards.” It recognized that there are limits to the church’s competence. But it also insisted that the assemblies may touch on such issues when that is warranted.

Take, for example, the system of apartheid in South Africa. The assemblies of the Dutch Reformed Church there were eloquently silent. Those who wanted the assemblies to speak prophetically and correct the wrongs of society were initially told that this was none of the church’s business. But they argued that apartheid was out of tune with the church’s creedal foundation that all human beings are created in the image of God. And so, eventually, the tide shifted, and the assemblies declared that any theological justification of apartheid is heresy. Note that they didn’t embrace any particular political avenue. They just spoke prophetically and within the realm of their competence.

It is important also in our society today to have the church’s voice heard in the marketplace. Our Lord has a claim on every square inch of it. So we address political and societal issues but never bind our people to vote in a certain way when the next election comes around. We must be careful not to politicize the gospel. Yet our assemblies and congregations must be bold in proclaiming it.

Henry De Moor is professor of church polity emeritus, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Mich. He’s the author of Christian Reformed Church Order Commentary.

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Relationships

Q Are we denying Christ by going on a family reunion cruise with my siblings over Christmas? My wife and I feel uncomfortable celebrating the birth of Christ in this way, but since we are the only Christians in the group, our wishes have been ignored.

A It depends. If you and your wife go on this trip feeling guilty and wishing you were home, than yes, not going might have been the better choice. However, remember that it is The Accuser who specializes in creating guilt where none is called for.

Instead, I encourage you to think of this reunion trip as an opportunity given by God for you to get to know your siblings better, understand your family history better, experience personal renewal and growth, and have fun.

To get there, be intentional about how you want your love for God and neighbor to impact your experience of the trip. For instance, you and your wife could agree to begin each day together with devotions, including reading Scripture and prayer. With your siblings, resolve to spend some time exploring your common history. Bring up significant family events and ask about how your siblings’ experiences and memories might be different from yours. If there are spouses whose culture, religious upbringing, or family experiences are different from yours, be curious about those differences.

Above all, realize that you are called to pray for each of your siblings and their spouses. Follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit and be ready to “give an account of the hope that is within you.” Think of Christmas not as a birthday party but as a season of celebration, full of joy and grace—a new beginning of God with us.

Judy Cook is a family therapist and a member of Meadowlands Fellowship CRC in Ancaster, Ont.

Ethics

Q How should we live in a culture that no longer values truth? From politicians to parents, everyone lies routinely these days. My friends think “little white lies” are no big deal. But didn’t the Ten Commandments forbid lying?

A The Bible takes lying seriously. God is not only true in his ways (Rev. 15:3) but also true by nature (John 15:26). In contrast, Satan is called the “father of lies” (John 8:44). God detests falsehood (Prov. 12:22). And liars are specifically mentioned in Revelation 21:8 as among those thrown into the “fiery lake.”

However, in this sinful world, Jesus told us to “be wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matt. 10:16). We need to be both prudent and loving in our truth-keeping. For example, in order to protect his life, God instructed the prophet Samuel to disguise his true intentions of anointing a new king (1 Sam. 16:1-5).

The ninth commandment you referenced prohibits lying against your neighbor (Ex. 20:16)—connecting truth-keeping with love for neighbor. This is why neither Rahab’s lying to protect the spies (see Josh. 2:4-6; Heb. 11:31) nor the Hebrew midwives’ lying to protect the baby boys from Pharaoh (Ex. 1:15-20) were condemned. They acted out of fear of God and love for neighbor.

It was not wrong, for example, for the many Dutch families to lie to the Nazis about harboring Jews in their homes during World War II. “Speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) is not simply an injunction to tell the truth politely in every case. More important, our truth-telling always aims at the good of our neighbor.

Shiao Chong is editor in chief of The Banner. He attends Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Toronto, Ont. ■

ADS

Deadlines: Jan. 2017 issue is 12/6/2016; Feb. issue is 1/3/2017. Details online.

Prices: Beginning January 2017, new rates will go into effect. Most ads are \$0.39^{US} per character (min. 150 characters including punctuation and spaces). A discounted rate of \$0.32^{US} per character and \$50 per photo applies to Anniversaries, Birthdays, Obituaries, Denominational and Classical Announcements, and Congregational Announcements.

To Advertise: Place your classified ad online at www.thebanner.org/classifieds or email it to classifieds@thebanner.org or fax it to 616-224-0834. Questions? Call 616-224-0725.

Denominational and Classical

Meetings of Classis

CLASSIS ZEELAND will meet on Thursday, January 19, 2017, 4PM, in the Rusk CRC. Deadline for the agenda is December 7

Available for Call

REV. GARY LUURTSEMA East Saugatuck CRC heartily recommends Rev. Gary Luurtsema for consideration for a call as Minister of the Word and Sacraments. Rev. Luurtsema faithfully served at East Saugatuck CRC for many years as our lead pastor. He can be reached at (616) 886-8151 or at luurtsema@usa.com.

Calls Accepted

REV. DR. JAMES C. BUSSCHER has accepted a call to become the next lead pastor at Roselawn Community CRC in Roselawn, Indiana.

Financial Aid

Students preparing for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church from **CLASSIS HEARTLAND** may apply for aid to assist them in their study for the 2017-2018 academic year by contacting Rev. Loren Kotman; 1111 5th Street, Hull, IA 51239; (712) 439-1123; pastor@hull1stcrc.com. The deadline is February 1, 2017.

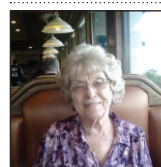
Miscellaneous

AZ SNOWBIRDS Come worship with us at Maranatha Community CRC from Dec. thru mid-Apr. at 10:00 AM at Farnsworth Hall, 6159 University, Mesa, AZ. Pastor: Rev. Harry Weidenaar ??? Call John DeJager 920-344-1675

Birthdays

100th Birthday

KATHERINE (STAR) BOK will celebrate her 100th birthday on December 28. She is the wife of Mathtys (deceased) mother of William (Lucille) Bok, Kay (Dick) Van Houten, Ruth (Doug) Van Dyke, Lucille (Albert) Maloley, grandmother of 9, great grandmother of 15, and great great grandmother of 1. Send greetings to Katherine at 1028 Allen Springs Ln. Apt 602, Jenison, MI 49428. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.



EVELYN WETTOUR (BLAUW)-(DECKER) - December 20th. Praise the Lord for his faithfulness to her and her family: Ken Blauw (Helen), Marilyn Cook (Ray), Karen Slinkman (George) - deceased, John Blauw - deceased. Step children Ken Wettour (Capri) Jeanne Pinner (John). 45 Grandchildren, 61 Great Grandchildren, 12 Great Great Grandchildren. Evelyn and her husband Elmer currently reside in Saratoga Grove in Downers Grove, IL. 3460 Saratoga Ave. unit 110, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Open house December 17, 1-4pm at Faith Church in Elmhurst.

95th Birthday

RUTH (HUISENGA) TEUNE celebrates her 95th birthday on Dec. 13. She has been blessed by her loving husband John (now deceased) for nearly 70 years, 6 children, 18 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. She is formerly from Evergreen Park, IL, and now resides at Raybrook Manor in Grand Rapids, MI.

90th Birthday

ANDREW BANDSTRA Some readers may know him as Dr., Rev., or Prof. Andrew Bandstra, but we have had the privilege of knowing him as our loving, wise, and compassionate husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Happy 90th Birthday Andrew John Bandstra. We praise God for you!

MARIE TERPSTRA 4715 Trillium Springs Blvd, Apt 107, Fremont MI 49412, celebrated her 90th birthday on November 16, 2016. Her husband of 69 years, Hank; five children and their spouses; 15 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren praise God for Mom's long life filled with love and service to others. She's the best blanket baker in the world. We love you, Mom!

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Application reviews will begin immediately. Qualified persons committed to a Reformed, Biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to follow the faculty application procedure at the link below.

Dr. Eric Forseth, Provost
Dordt College
498 4th Ave NE

Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697
provost@dordt.edu

www.dordt.edu/prospective_employees/faculty/

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Westminster Seminary California (WSC) is a graduate theological school that exists in service of Christ, His Gospel, and His Church.

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To nominate someone who you believe would be ideal for this position, email PRESIDENTSEARCH@WSCAL.EDU.

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To apply, please send a Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae to PRESIDENTSEARCH@WSCAL.EDU.

For more information, including the Opportunity Profile, visit WWW.WSCAL.EDU.

Church Position Announcements

WORSHIP/MUSIC COORDINATOR Graafschap Christian Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan is seeking to fill a position for Worship and Music Coordinator. This position requires a servant of Christ who understands the biblical concepts of worship and appreciates the emphases of Reformed theology in worship. The individual will be a vital part of Graafschap's life and ministry and should be able to love and empathize with her. Interested candidates can submit a resume with references or other inquires to: Graafschap CRC, 5973 Church Street, Holland MI. attn: Worship/Music Search Committee or graafschapworship@gmail.com.

PASTOR: Grace CRC in Welland, Ontario Canada, in the heart of Niagara, is seeking a full time Pastor of Preaching and Congregational Care. To faithfully preach the Word, nourish the spiritual growth of the congregation and reach out into the community to facilitate growth. To request a copy of our profile send an email request to profiles@ccrca.org. Supplemental information available by contacting George Sportel at sport57geo@gmail.com, 905-714-1100.

PASTOR Unity Reformed Church in Norton Shores, MI seeks to call an ordained Senior Pastor. E-mail Minister Profile to Search Chairman davidritsemaump@gmail.com

PASTOR Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out! Christ Community Church in Victoria, BC is inviting qualified candidates to lead and feed our congregation. Our congregation is firmly rooted in God's love and is committed to practicing love, promoting dignity and discipleship, and living our faith. We are seeking someone to nourish the spiritual growth of the congregation, provide pastoral care and promote the intergenerational, multi-cultural and accessible vision held by the church. To learn more about this position, go to www.cccvictoria.ca

PASTOR Trinity CRC in Anchorage, Alaska has a unique opportunity for an experienced pastor who has a passion for God's Word and is blessed with a shepherd's heart. Position available beginning July, 2017. See the pastor search page at www.trinitycralaska.com for more information.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & EDUCATION Pease CRC, a large, rural church in central Minnesota, is hiring a full-time director of youth & education to oversee our growing youth programs and facilitate the educational programming for K-12. Preferred applicants should have training and/or experience in youth ministry or education. Call or email Trudy Ash for more information. peasecc@frontiernet.net. 320-369-4228

WORSHIP COORDINATOR - Living Hope CRC in Sarnia, Ontario is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Worship Coordinator. This is a paid part-time position requiring 20 hours per week. The qualified candidate will have an educational background in music or equivalent experience. This individual will be required to plan and coordinate the worship service, as well as all participants, and lead the congregation in music. The applicant must be willing to become a member of Living Hope CRC. If you are interested in more information please contact Jo Smit by email: smjt.johanna83@gmail.com or by phone at 519-491-8248.

LEAD PASTOR: Cornerstone Christian Reformed Church of Chilliwack, in southern British Columbia, Canada, seeks the services of a full time lead pastor commencing in the summer of 2017. This pastor will help us grow into the next chapter of our ministry by dynamically proclaiming God's Word, by actively leading in the implementation of our ministry plan and by caring for the congregation and community. Please indicate your interest in this position to: searchteam@cornerstonecra.ca

PASTOR, BETHLEHEM CRC: We are situated in beautiful Thunder Bay, Canada in the heart of Northwestern Ontario at the head of Lake Superior. God has presented us with unique opportunities and we're looking for a full-time pastor to take on the unique challenges at Bethlehem CRC as we strive to grow in grace and in numbers. As a

small, tight-knit congregation passionate for worship, we are seeking a pastor gifted in worship, preaching and forming genuine connections with the congregation and community. Our church is located near a low income area that we feel called to minister to and support; we would love to have a pastor to help guide us in this calling. For more information or a church profile, please contact the Search Committee at kelseyhoogsteen@gmail.com.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COORDINATOR Covenant Christian Reformed Church in Cutlerville, Michigan, is seeking candidates for a part-time Worship and Music Coordinator. Applicants should have a passion for creative uses of music in worship and an ability to manage the people and processes of a thriving music ministry. Applicants should have a degree in this area of study and/or at least three years experience. Send resume to info@covenant-crc.org. Application deadline: November 30, 2016.

PASTOR Rochester CRC: Our mid-sized western New York state congregation seeks a senior pastor for preaching, spiritual leadership and pastoral care. We value strong preaching of the Word and seek someone who will challenge us to implement it in the culture around us. We have a strong desire for church growth and seek leadership to realize that vision in our community. Can you lead us as we face these challenges? To explore this opportunity with us, contact our Pastor Search Team at Office@RochesterCRC.org

FULL TIME PASTOR POSITION: Are you interested in ministerial leadership in a vibrant, energetic community? Evergreen Community Christian Reformed Church of Fort Murray, Alberta (www.eccrc.ca) is seeking a full-time Pastor. After 7 years of wonderful service to our community, our previous pastor retired from full-time ministry. Our goal now is to seek for the right candidate who can provide guidance, leadership and pastoral care. With this in mind, we reach out to the broader church to consider this position with Evergreen Community CRC in pastoring our congregation and serving our energetic community. Please submit your cover letter and resume to dennisroom1@gmail.com.

SEYMOUR CRC is searching for a **Senior Pastor** to replace our retiring pastor. Primary responsibilities include supporting and encouraging the purpose, vision, and mission of Seymour Church by providing preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and visionary and executive administrative leadership. Applicants should possess the ability to generate enthusiasm for ministry and to equip and encourage others. Ordination is required. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact info@seymourchurch.org.

SEYMOUR CRC is seeking a part-time **Youth Pastor** to oversee its youth programs (7th grade - college age). Primary responsibilities include providing pastoral care to youth and administrative leadership over programs. Applicants with a passion for and training or experience in youth ministry are preferred. For those with the appropriate skills, additional ministry responsibilities could be added to create a full-time position. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact info@seymourchurch.org.

DO YOU THINK THE NEIGHBORHOOD church is called to be a vibrant light in its community? Does it need to be relevant to this generation of Christ followers? Are you hungry to co-labor with a team to create a transformative culture? Park Church in Holland, MI, strives to glorify God as we gather to grow in our faith and go and make disciples. We are praying that God will bring us a lead pastor who is gifted to inspire and lead our staff and our congregation from the inside out. If you are gifted and are passionate about the local church, we invite you to learn more about us by visiting our website at www.parkchurchholland.org to access the job description, our church profile, and to learn more about our church and the Holland community. Submit a resume, pastor profile and letter of inquiry to parkcra_pastorsearch@gmail.com.

Intergenerational Faith Formation Worship Resources

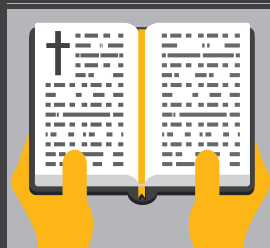


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Anniversaries

70th Anniversary

POEL Harvey & Jeanne celebrated their 70th anniversary on November 15. Their 5 children and spouses along with 48 grand and great-grandchildren are grateful for their love, encouragement and witness of Christ's love in marriage and in life. To God be the Glory!

VAN ZEE Harold and Jeanette (Hansum) 725 N James Ave, Apt C, Tea, SD 57064 celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary November 25, 2016. They, with their children and grandchildren, praise God for His faithfulness and blessing.

65th Anniversary

DOKTER Bernie & Lydia and their 5 children, 9 grands & 8 greats give thanks for 65 years of marriage on Dec. 20. Gracias a Dios.

GABRIELSE Richard S. & Idelle M (Ruiter) Gabrielse 2327 Aurora Pond Dr. Wyoming, MI 49519, celebrate 65 years of marriage Nov 2, 2016. They and their family give thanks for God's faithful and abundant provision. Ps 23."

ZIGTERMAN Ronald and Christine of 8643 Kelly Drive., St John, IN, 46373 celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary on January 18, 2017. Celebrating with them will be their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. To God be the Glory!

60th Anniversary

GULKER Mert & Sally (Walhof), 2412 Upton Street, The Villages, FL 32163 celebrate 60 years of marriage on December 27. Their 5 children and spouses, and 9 grandchildren join them in praising God for His love and faithfulness.

50th Anniversary

VLAARDINGERBROEK Rev. Hank & Chris (Eichhorn) will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on December 30. They, with their children Cori & Jeff Vandenberg (Taylor/Lucas) Marcia & Adam Jansma (Jade/Julie) Sandra & Chadd Goodyke (Madison/Charlie), Praise God for His faithfulness.

Obituaries

ANEMA Teena (Van Dellen), age 95, passed away on July 1, 2016, in Minneapolis, MN. Born in Alberta, Canada, she is preceded in death by her 10 siblings. Her husband of 49 years, George J. Anema, also pre-deceased her in 2009. She is survived by sons Mark and David and 4 grandchildren.

BOEREMA Mary Tolsma, age 83, passed peacefully on Thursday, October 6, 2016. Surviving are her husband of over 60 years, Roger Boerema; four children; Elizabeth (Todd) Kingma, Janet (Scott) Spoelhof, Richard (Wende) Boerema, Mary Jill (Dr. Robert) Morren; and 17 grandchildren.

BOSCH Evelyn J., age 94, went to be with her Lord on October 13, 2016. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Meindert, sister Gretta Otte, and children, Bob (Linda) Bosch, Ron (Carol) Bosch, Luci (Tom) Draayer, and Bonnie Bosch De Nooy, 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, nephews, and nieces. Praise God for her devotion to family.

BRUINIUS Ella (Pleiter) 81 of Evergreen Park, IL Called home 8/20/16. Beloved husband Bill of 60 years; children Sandy & Jack Mudde, Marcia & Tim Kuiper, Bill & Carrie; 11 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

COOK James A., 82, went to be with his Lord on October 3, 2016. He is survived by his loving wife Joyce Vander Molen. He was preceded in death by his late wife Sandra (Rop). He is the father of Cathy Lusiana (Paul Kasicki), James, Jr., and Dr. Robert C. (Kim VanderSloot); grandfather of Cy, Erin, Kelly, Eli, Jennifer, Caitlin, Molly, and Benjamin; great-grandfather of seven; brother of Thelma Bergman and the late Edward, Herman, and Thomas Cook and Barbara (Spoelman). Jim was born in Muskegon, MI. He attended Calvin College and earned his M. D. at Wayne State University. He served on the founding board of Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, IL. He was a Family Practice physician at Wheaton Medical Clinic in Illinois for 35 years. He was a long time active member of Wheaton Christian Reformed Church.

GRAVES, WILMYNA Mrs. Wilmyna B. Graves, age 87 of Liburn, died Sunday, November 6, 2016. She was preceded in death by her parents, Cornelius and Kate Bonnes. She is survived by her husband, Fred Graves; children, Lois and Dennis Ostermann, Marybeth and Roy Dockum, Calvin and Maria Graves, Jeff Graves, Delores and Jeff Gold, David Graves; 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and sister, Inez Hoftzyer. Funeral Services were held Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 11 a.m. at Scot Ward's Green Meadow Chapel with Micah Smith officiating; interment followed at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens. Family received friends Friday, November 11, 2016 from 4 until 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 until 11 a.m. prior to the service at the funeral home. Condolences may be submitted on-line at www.scotward.com. Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Rd., Conyers, GA, 770-483-7216.

KOK Herman, age 90, went to be with his Lord and Savior on October 19, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 68 years Jean Kok (nee Griffieon). Loving father of John (Sanneke), Jim (Deborah), Wayne (Mary), and the

late Philip (Lorraine). Cherished grandfather of 21 and great-grandfather of 28. Fond brother of Grace Kuiper, Harry Kok, and the late Bill, Shirley Jonker, Henry, George, Jim, and Bernice Rinzema. He devoted 41 years of his life to Christian education in the south Chicago area, serving first as teacher and principal at Englewood Christian School, and later as superintendent of Southwest Chicago Christian Schools. After retirement, he spent 18 years tutoring math at Roseland Christian School.



KLAP Henry J. 3/13/37 to 10/21/16. 8780 Ea. Yale, Unit A, Denver, CO 80231. Henry went to be with the Lord after a long illness. A memorial to celebrate his life was held on 10-29-16. He is survived by his wife Betty, sons Kelly (Susan) and Terry (LaNae), 4 grandchildren, a brother Herman, and sisters Jean, Sarah and Marian. We thank God that Henry has a place in Heaven where there is no pain and suffering.

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PAUL GEORGE SCHUTT, MD, of Grand Rapids, Michigan went to be with his Lord and Savior on October 8, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife Thelma Catherine (La Fleur). He is survived by his daughters Debra (Jeff) Youngsma and Cindi (Jim) Hoekstra; son David (Heather) Schutt; six grandchildren Zack (Megan) Youngsma, Samie (Nate) Otter, Alex (Amber) and Andrew Hoekstra, and Justin and Mackenzie Schutt; great grandson Grayson Otter; sisters Marge (Dr. Mel) Mulder and Gen (Jim) Tuinstra; and sister-in-law Norma (Rev. Jim) Osterhouse.

SLOMP Clarence, age 77, of Grand Rapids, MI, entered heaven on Monday, July 18, 2016 following a lengthy illness. Lovingly remembered by Elsa, his wife of 45 yrs; his children Brandon (Jacki), Devon (Janessa), Ryan (Carol), Hilaree (Chris); and 11 grandchildren; his Slomp relatives in Alberta, Canada, and his in-law Baker relatives of Michigan.

TAZELAAR Jeanette, nee Boersema, age 88, went to be with Our LORD on November 2nd. 18W 271 Kirkland Lane, Villa Park, IL 60181. Beloved wife of the late Gerald "Jeff"; loving mother of Grace Tazelaar and the

late Terry Zeilstra and mother-in-law of John (Jan) Zeilstra; devoted grandmother of 3; step grandmother of 4; great-grandmother of 8; fond sister of Anjean and preceded by 1 brother and 1 sister. Memorials to Faith Christian Reformed Church, 1070 S. Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, IL, 60126 or Nurses Christian Fellowship, PO Box 7895, Madison, WI, 53707-7895 are appreciated.

TRIEMSTRA, Evelyn (Kimm) 93, of Bozeman, MT met her Savior on September 19, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry, in 1981, survived by her children, Helen (David) Hoeff, Joel (Danielle) Triemsttra, Howard Triemsttra, Calvin Triemsttra, Kara (Greg) Leep; 8 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren.

VANDEBERG Marian (Zylstra) 95, of Grand Rapids, MI was called to her heavenly home on October 20, 2016. See obituary at www.zaagman.com.

VANDEN HEUVEL Rev. Henry, age 79; passed away on September 25th. Wife: Nancy, Children; Greg and Lauren Vanden Heuvel, Amy Vander Ploeg, Brad and Kim Vanden Heuvel; 5 granddaughters; 5 great grandchildren;

siblings: Rev. Tom and Laurie Vanden Heuvel, Mary and Jim Zuidema, Bill and Marilyn Vanden Heuvel; brothers and sisters in law: Donna and John Asma, John and Margaret Vander Ploeg, Betty and Dale Slobe.

VANDER SLIK Julius H., 101 years old, passed away October 8, 2016. A lifelong member of the CRC, his career was in tool, die and stamping work, supervision and sales. He and Cornelia (Koopse) were members of Milwood CRC and married 74 years. From a Kalamazoo career, they retired to Florida. Children are Jack (Gertrude Bonnema), Judith (Bruce) Thompson and Rev. James (Marge Westra), with many grandchildren, nieces and nephews who mourn his passing but rejoice about his heavenly home.

Employment

AMERICAN HOUSE SENIOR LIVING of Jenison Michigan is hiring Resident Assistants and Lead Resident Assistants. We strive to create a loving and caring setting for seniors. It is our commitment to honor and respect the lives of our elders. Your primary responsibilities are, but not limited to, providing residents with personal care and other assistance with activities of daily living as outlined by resident care plans and doctor's orders. Once you have passed your physical, drug screen and fingerprinting, we will get you trained right at our campus. Please call 616-457-9815

CAREGIVERS NEEDED Are you interested in working for the best living assistance services company in West Michigan? Visiting Angels is looking for people who can be excellent, not average; make a connection with our clients; be perfectly dependable; practice compassion and work with integrity. Contact Heather at 616-243-7080 or heather@vangels.com. www.vangels.com

DIRECTOR OF NURSING Artesia Christian Home, located in sunny southern California, is seeking applications for an experienced Director of Nursing for its 66 bed 5 star skilled nursing facility. It is affiliated with the Reformed and Christian Reformed Churches of Southern California. In order to find more information about the facility you can visit their website at www.achome.org. if interested please send a cover letter and resume to Kevin Thon at www.Agaperecruiting.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for GEMS Girls' Clubs, a thriving, international, faith-based ministry for young girls, headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree, or equivalent learning experience, and a minimum of five years in a senior leadership position. Resumes will be accepted until November 30, 2016. To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to search@gemsgc.org. GEMS is an EEO employer.

PRESIDENT Calvin Christian School seeks candidates for president to lead our three campuses, serving 425 K-12 students from throughout the greater Twin Cities of Minnesota. Beginning summer 2017, the next president of CCS will be an engaging and inspiring leader, able to build on current strengths and provide vision for the future, champion and nurture an exceptional and passionate staff, and collaboratively guide Calvin Christian's growth in impact, reputation, and resources. Additional information is available at bit.ly/CCSPresident.

Teachers Wanted

PRINCIPAL Rochester Christian School is seeking a proven educational leader with a passion for Christian Education for the position of Principal, beginning July 2017. The Principal will be responsible for leading the school, articulating its vision, and maintaining a high-quality, distinctly Christian education. Some classroom teaching is required. Rochester Christian School, based in the Reformed tradition, is located in Rochester, NY and is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary. For more information and to apply, visit www.rochesterchristianschool.org/employment-opportunities

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June 26 – July 6 | Henk & Thressa Witte

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Winter Tour 2017 Dordt College Concert Choir



January 3, 7:00 pm

First Christian Reformed Church
Edgerton, MN

January 4, 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church
Grand Forks, ND

January 5, 7:30 pm

Covenant Christian Reformed Church
Winnipeg, MB

January 6, 7:30 pm

Emo Christian Reformed Church
Emo, ON

January 7, 7:00 pm

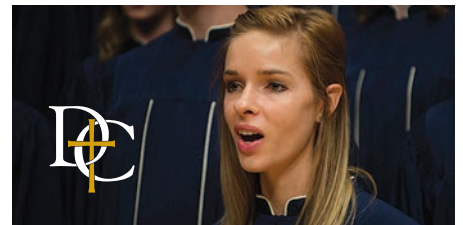
Pease Christian Reformed Church
Pease, MN

January 8, 4:00 pm

Grace Evangelical Free Church
Fridley, MN

January 9, 7:00 pm

First Christian Reformed Church
Sioux Falls, SD



The Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Kornelis, is bringing the music of Dordt College to a location near you!

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Christian Reformed Church

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crcna.org/Worship

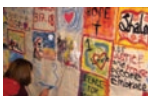
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Punch Lines

What has made *you* smile lately? Got a joke or funny incident you'd care to share with your wider church family? Please send it to *The Banner* at 1700 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407; or email it to editorial@thebanner.org. Thanks!

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house a few weeks before Christmas.

At bedtime, both boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers. The youngest began praying at the top of his lungs: "I pray for a new bike." "I pray for a Nintendo."

The older brother leaned over and nudged him. "Why are you shouting your prayers?" he said. "God's not deaf."

To which the younger brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!"

—Clarence Wildeboer

The CEO was scheduled to speak at an important convention. He asked one of his employees, Jenkins, to write him a punchy 20-minute speech. When the CEO returned from the big event, he was furious. "What's the idea of writing me an hour-long speech?" he demanded. "Half the audience walked out before I finished."

Jenkins was baffled. "I wrote you a 20-minute speech," he replied. "I also gave you the two extra copies you asked for."

—D. Gebben

In the bulletin in the order of worship for last Sunday's communion service:

Communion

Pass the bread: "The Old Rugged Cross"

Pass the wind: "Resurrection Hymn"

—Henry Lise

A pastor stopped a boy on the street and asked him for directions to the post office.

After being told how to get there, the pastor said to him, "Now if you'll come to my church on Sunday, I'll tell you how you can get to heaven."

"No thanks," said the boy. "If you didn't know how to get to the post office, I doubt you can tell me how to get to heaven."

—Aletta Whipple

I was teaching a lower elementary Sunday school class about being a follower of Jesus. We

reviewed the 12 disciples, and I mentioned that they are sometimes called "apostles." A 5-year-old boy got all wide-eyed and said, "You mean like the Apostles' Creed?"

—D. Brumfield

Why did Hendrik become a baker?

Because he kneaded the dough.

—R. Smit

My husband is in the financial planning and insurance business selling annuities and the like. When my son was young, he was asked what his dad did for a living. Ben, aged 5 or 6, proudly answered, "My dad sells iniquities!"

—Cathy Jager

I have learned two very important lessons in life. I don't remember the first one, but the

second one is to write everything down.

—Rich Klajnscek

While growing up, Grandpa's older sister would often point her finger at him and shout, "Behave! Act your age!" Now, at age 84, it is quite easy for him to act his age. But his behavior is questionable.

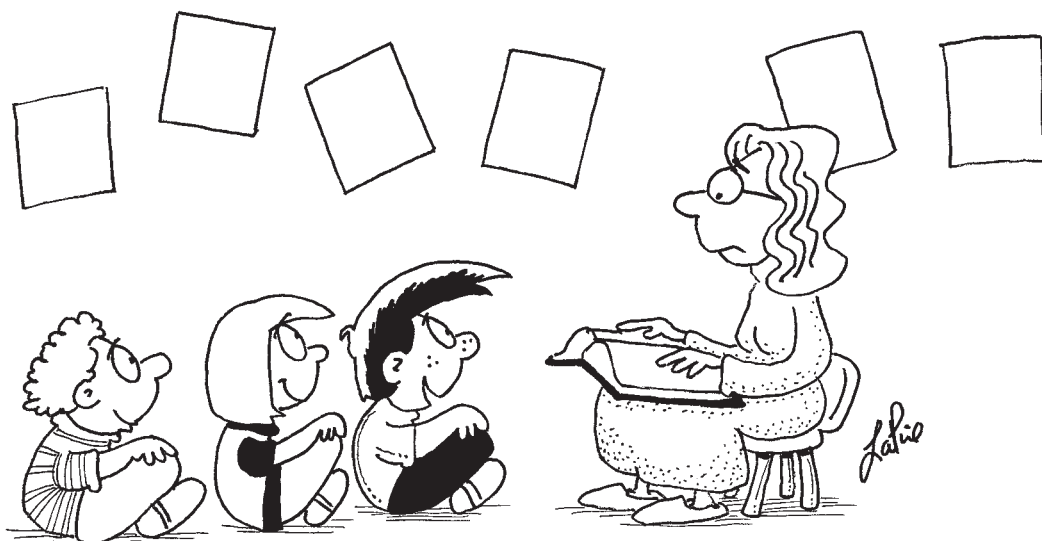
—Adrian Vander Starre

Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous.

—Connie Brink

A young couple regularly allowed their 6-year-old daughter to fall asleep at night with the radio on for some soothing background noise. After a while, they were surprised to hear the ending of her bedtime prayer: "God bless Mommy and Daddy and my sister. Amen. And FM."

—Alvin Bosma



"Did God ever write any children's books?"

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