

## Recent highlights at FRC

- Many high school students participated in the Youth Praise Team on Sunday, October 30.
- About 18 families from our church passed out candy to around 175 children at our Trunk or Treat event.
- The Volga Christian School raised \$48,000 at this year's Harvest Festival.
- Rebecca Joy Olson, daughter of Justin and Melissa Olson, was received into the family of God through baptism on November 6.
- Approximately 90 shoe boxes were given to Operation Christmas Child on November 6.
- A good crowd came out to hear the music presented by the Valley Male Chorus on November 6.

## Christmas Parade of Homes to Help Erika Cotton go to Africa

You are invited to go on a Christmas Parade of Homes from noon to 4pm on Saturday, December 2. This event will help Erika Cotton go to Africa this coming summer. Erika was chosen at Rocky Mountain High to join with 15 others in going to Uganda. They will be working with Food for the Hungry, June 30-July 12 to provide mission outreach in that area. To support Erika and Food for the Hungry, you can purchase a \$10 ticket by contacting Erika or Penny Cotton (695-9133).



## Medical prayer list

The following members needed medical care this past month and appreciate your prayers:

- Kevin Ohm—undergoing chemotherapy, heard another good report last week and doesn't have to go back for 3 months
- Jodi Koerner—undergoing chemotherapy
- Sheldon Cotton—hospital stay for a swollen tongue
- Harriet Mast—hernia surgery
- Arnold Van Maanen—injuries sustained in a fall (he's recovering at Golden Living Center in Arlington)
- Clara Vande Weerd's granddaughter Laurie Johanson had a thankful Thanksgiving with an encouraging report and is back home again.

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

November 2011

# Glad Tidings

*"I bring you glad tidings of great joy..."*

Luke 2:10

## Upcoming worship services

Here's what you can expect in worship services in the coming month:

- **December 4**—It's the Second Sunday of Advent, and we will light the Bethlehem candle.  
The Dordt College Brass Quintet will be playing many numbers at the morning service.  
We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. The sermon will look at the angel's words about good news of great joy.
- **December 11**—A praise team will lead our worship on the Third Sunday of Advent, as we light the Shepherd's candle.  
Pastor Dave will preach about the angels announcing a birth in the city of David.
- **Saturday, December 24** —For our **7pm** Christmas Eve candle light service, a men's group will sing and the Christ candle will be lit.  
Pastor Dave will preach about the sign of the manger.
- **December 25**—On Christmas Day we hear the angels sing "glory to God."  
A praise team will lead our singing.  
You should also know that because it is Christmas, our service will be held a half hour later than usual, **at 10am**, and there is **NO** Sunday School.



## Plans in the works for a choir

The Worship Task Force is working toward starting up a choir in the new year that would rehearse and sing once a month. We are leaning toward finding a Wednesday night for this to happen, but we would like some input from those interested in singing in it. Please let the Worship Task Force members know of your interests or ideas (Carolyn Cotton, Barb Dyer, Tom Kleinjan, Pastor Dave, Dawn Lucas, Bill Van Beek, Kent Vander Wal, Sally Vander Wal, or Susan Vander Wal).

In the meantime, a choir will be rehearsing under Gina Vander Wal's direction (November 30 and December 14 at 8pm) in order to sing on December 18. Also, a men's choir led by Bill Van Beek will sing on December 24.



## Congregational meeting December 7

On Wednesday, December 7, the confessing members of First Reformed Church will gather for the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will hear reports from the task forces, approve a new budget and ask the Lord to choose new consistory members from among those nominated in November.

## Congratulations to:

- Kevin and Dori Ohm on the birth of a granddaughter, Quinn Alice Jean Peper on October 27. Quinn is the daughter of Amber and Tyler Peper.
- Charles and Ruth Sapp on the birth of a granddaughter Kinsley Sapp to John and Rochelle Sapp in Orange City on November 13.
- Tom and Carol Kleinjan on the birth of a granddaughter, Evelyn Viola to Pete and Katherine Kleinjan in Sioux Falls on November 19.

## Hy-Vee receipts

You may bring your Hy-Vee grocery receipts to the church at any time. When we have receipts totaling \$150,000, we will receive a check for \$1000. We have around \$33,000 collected at this time. There are stipulations which the RCW Service Committee will monitor. The purchase of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products will not be honored. Please turn in the entire receipt which includes the tax taken out. Thank you.

## Cheerful Greetings—from Daud Moris Simon—Tanzania

First Reformed Sunday School—I greet you in Jesus name. My family and I are fine and healthy. Thanks for the help you give me because you don't give up. I continue praying for you. I thank God so much because Jeremiah 33:3 says call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

I continue well in my studies. I am in Form one at Mwenbesango Secondary School. We learn business studies, science and arts. In those studies I like learning book-keeping, commerce. I am in the profession of music and I have friends which we do together who are Joseph, Jonathan.

At the Center we had tour we visited nation parks—Mikumi Nation Park. It is the fourth in biggest in Tanzania. We saw different animals like, lion, elephant, leopard. Is there any nation park there at your country? At the Centre we learn computer.

Also we have fasting prayers on Wednesday. We pray for you and we saw God doing this work. In our family, I thank God my brother called Franic graduated at the university. Goodbye and God bless you.

## Greetings from Patmos in Sioux Falls (Ken Eberline)

Friends at First—Thank you for your support over the last few years, without it we would not be around! As the year comes to a close and budget time creeps in, we ask that you would remember us. “Is Patmos growing? Are we reaching people?” The answer is YES! We've added three new families (17 people!)

God is definitely stirring!

For your help—thank you!

- Ken and the rest of Patmos

Something also of note, on more of a personal level (although it is important for Patmos too), I have (finally) finished my MFCA requirements for ordination! MFCA is the agency/process that students who do not attend a RCA seminary have to complete before they can be ordained—basically it's a bunch of extra classes, assessments, meetings, psychological profiles, and one really long (and important) belief statement. And, I'm done, so on Friday, November 18 at 6pm (at 1st Reformed in Sioux Falls), Patmos and the Classis will gather for an ordination service!

Ken Eberline

## Sunday nights in December

In order to keep Jesus as the reason for the season, we are offering three special events on some Sunday nights in December.

**Christmas Sing on December 4** Everyone is familiar with a hymn sing, but this will be a Christmas carol sing at 7pm. Invite your family and friends to join you in singing (or hearing sung) many old favorites as well as a few “winter” songs that have been retooled with new lyrics.

**Caroling on December 11** We would like to make some of our older members (who have a hard time getting out) know that we appreciate them by caroling at their homes and nursing homes. So come to church at 5:30pm and we will split into caroling groups. Then we will meet back at the church for hot chocolate and a game of Christmas bingo.



**Christmas Program on December 18** Our Sunday School Christmas program will take place at 7pm. We will hear the Christmas story through scripture and song. The Children’s Bell Choir will be playing “Still, Still, Still”.

## Preparing the Way—Ways to Get ready for Jesus This Advent Season

### Prepare Your Home

Decorating your home inside or out with lights, candles, nativity scenes and Christian ornaments tells all who visit you that Advent for you is about awaiting the Light of the World, the Christ Child who came to make himself at home in our lives.



### Prepare Your Gifts



Much of our time during Advent involves searching for and wrapping the “perfect” gifts for friends and loved ones. But as we prepare our gifts for others, we need to keep reminding ourselves that our gift-giving represents God’s giving of the greatest Gift of all, Baby Jesus, wrapped in flesh.

### Prepare Your Heart

Spending time with Scripture and in prayer during the Advent season keeps our hearts in touch with the heart beat of God, who is pouring out His love to us in Jesus Christ and desiring that we grow to know His Son more.



## Bake Sale at Beta psi Gallery of Gifts At Sioux Valley School Saturday, December 3, 2011

All members of the congregation are encouraged to donate to this bake sale as projects like this and the pie booth at Old Timer’s Day help purchase items for the church and support mission projects.



Please bring your items to the Sioux Valley gym by 9am. Use the door on the south side of the new gym.

Please package your items attractively on a palte or container. Cover them with clear plastic or in a clear Ziploc bag. Do NOT price them.



If you are unable to bring your goodies to the booth, you may contact Carol Kleinjan or Linda Vande Weerd. Circle 1 is in charge of arrangements.

## Decorating Tips

When you start decorating your home for Christmas this year, consider ways that you can highlight your Jesus-related decorations more prominently. When you receive Christmas cards with Bible verses or images of the Christmas story on them, place those cards in areas of your home where they can be seen more readily.

## Gift Tags

As you wrap your gifts, you might want to add a gift tag with a Bible verse on it or with a personal message of love to a friend or family member. Reminding each other the reason why we give helps to turn us away from the tendency in our culture during this time of year to think only about the personal satisfaction we might (or might not) receive from our gifts.