

Recent highlights at FRC

- The youth room has been revamped so that it has a more informal, welcoming feel. Some additions include: a new large screen TV, a couch, a stuffed chair, and some wrought iron tables and chairs. Thank you to Marlys Vander Wal, Marcia Carver and Shawn Vander Wal for heading up this project.
- Many people from the area went on the Tour of Homes to help Erika Cotton fund her summer 2012 mission trip to Africa with Food for the Hungry. Just over \$3200 was raised.
- The Thanksgiving Eve service took in \$2495 for Chairs of Hope. The RCW Bake Sale took in \$668.50. Also at that service, several pieces of warm winter clothing (5 BIG boxes) were given for Jackets for Jesus at the Center of Hope and over 80 quilts and blankets were donated for Project Linus.
- The Dordt College Brass Quintet brought Christmas joy to us at the December 4 service. A good crowd came out that same evening to sing and hear Christmas carols at church.
- About 35 people went in four different teams to go caroling on December 11 at some area nursing homes and at the homes of some of our elderly members.
- Our children presented the Christmas story through songs, recited pieces and enactment to a full house on December 18.

Women of Faith is coming to Volga

Women of all ages are invited to a Women's Night Out at First Reformed on Wednesday, February 1 beginning at 7pm. There will be fellowship, of course, but will also be watching a video by Chonda Pierce (who speaks at Women of Faith Conferences) on putting together the puzzle pieces in our life with God. A sign-up sheet will be up soon to let us know if you are coming.

Medical prayer list

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

- Edward Mulder—surgery for bleeding on the brain (recovering at Avera).
- Betty Beukelman—thyroid surgery
- Jodi Koerner—undergoing chemotherapy
- Kevin Ohm—undergoing chemotherapy
- Arnold Van Maanen—is recovering at Golden Living Center in Arlington



First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

January 2012

Glad Tidings

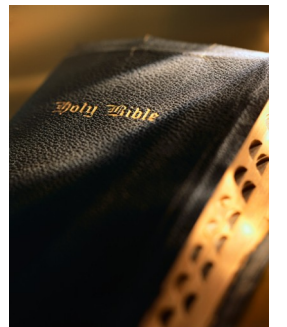
“I bring you glad tidings of great joy...”

Luke 2:10

Upcoming worship services

Here's what you can expect in worship services in January. Some of these dates may change, depending on when the Landegent's granddaughter is born. On the Sunday that Pastor Dave is gone, Rev. Carl Boersma from Faith Reformed in Brookings will be preaching.

- **January 1**—Pastor Dave will begin a series on Jesus' miracles in the gospel of Mark. We will also be installing Kent Vander Wal as a new elder and Kevin Vander Wal as a new deacon.
- **January 8**—A praise team will lead our worship and Pastor Dave will preach about the miracle of forgiveness found in Mark 2.
- **January 15**—This may be the Sunday that Rev. Boersma will be preaching.
- **January 22**—Pastor Dave will preach about some miracles of Jesus on the water from Mark 4 & 6. A praise team will lead the singing.
- **January 29**—The youth praise team will be singing again, and Pastor Dave will preach about a miraculous exorcism in Mark 5.



ParaPraise Concert on March 4

On Sunday, March 4, we will have a ParaPraise concert, which is what Pastor Dave calls it when he changes the lyrics of Top 40 music (from the 50's to the 2000's). This concert will revolve around the theme of miracles, to fit the sermon series for January-March.

What he needs are people interested in singing solos and/or group songs.

The first practice is called a "pick-a-song" rehearsal, so please come and check out some possibilities. Pastor Dave will have all the music and lyrics available at the rehearsal. This "pick-a-song" rehearsal will take place on Sunday night, January 15 at 7pm (but if the Landegents are gone because of a grandchild, the rehearsal will move to January 22.)



Lego nights start January 25

On the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, starting on January 25, Pastor Dave is inviting elementary students to come and build his Lego kits (space, town, castle, Star Wars, firemen, etc.) We will go for an hour, starting at 6:30pm. There's one catch—you need to bring a parent, grandparents or older brother or sister with you—AND invite a friend and their parents to join you.

New Adult Class starts up January 29

Pastor Dave will be leading a new Sunday School class for adults in their 20's and early 30's, starting on January 29. Watch the bulletin to learn more about what they will be discussing.

Thank you from Elizabeth's House

Dear First Reformed Church, Thank you for your recent gift of \$100 to Elizabeth's House. Your support is greatly appreciated. The number of calls and visits to Elizabeth's House by people in need of assistance has been increasing and we are making a positive impact on the lives of these people.

Our purpose is to save babies and we know that you are behind us 100% on this important goal. Your donation will be of assistance to us in providing pregnancy counseling to women and men in need. Thank you for your generosity. With sincere appreciation, Elizabeth's House.

Board of Directors: Deb Burckhardt, Janean Caugherty, Deborah Dyer, Executive Director, Tamara Forsyth, Joel Houglum, Erich Olson, Sara Rowland, Orv Smidt, Laurie Stiegelmeier.



Task Force reports presented at the Congregational Meeting

From Buildings and Grounds, Wayne Ulvestad reporting

Projects completed in 2011:

- sided the parsonage with the work being done by Brower & Buys
- painted the inside of the parsonage (Harold Beukelman was in charge)
- repaired and replaced other small items at the parsonage
- removed the garden shed from behind the parsonage
- removed old trees

Projects for 2012:

- install new windows at the parsonage
- plant new trees at the parsonage
- new landscaping in the front yard at the church
- paint the bell tower

MESA, Shirley Van Duyn reporting

MESA stands for Mission—Evangelism—Social Action

- promotes communicating with our missionaries. You might notice a sheet in your mailbox asking you to write a missionary. It gives you their address and suggestions on what to write about. These letters are very much appreciated and you are encouraged to take the time to write.
- A new project of Trunk or Treat for Halloween was organized. Nearly 200 children came to 18 trunks for treats and were also given a children's version tract also. It makes for a safe environment, but also gives FRC a reputation for being friendly and open.
- Giving Garden is the main project. This is the third year and each year new things are learned on how to make it more successful. Many people are touched with our giving and also just visiting with those who come. Notes are placed in each bag explaining that the produce is a gift from FRC. The garden is a fun, but a very time consuming project stressing that more people are needed to help plant, weed and harvest the produce. Produce from your garden is welcome as well.
- About 90 Operation Christmas boxes were collected this year.
- Jackets for Jesus (as well as warm winter clothing) were collected and sent to the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls.

Report from the RCW presented at the Congregational Meeting, Barb Dyer reporting 2011 was busy year for the Reformed Church Women. Thank you to the circle chairpersons and their members for handling the many activities during the past 12 months.

Our major fundraisers, the pie booth at Old Timer's Day and the Gallery of Gifts bake sale, again provided monies to support our commitment to the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls and other local mission needs.

The RCW officers were thanked for so faithfully serving this past year. They provided special events such as the Mother's Day program, the outing to Schade Winery and our monthly Bible study to name a few.

The service projects were successful due to the support of the whole congregation. THANK YOU!

The ladies are willing and want to continue to keep the organization functioning and pray that more FRC ladies will take part in the future.

RCW will NOT meet on January 11

A suggestion was made to the RCW Executive Committee to give up meeting on January 11 enabling the TLC youth group to have the entire church for their late Christmas party.

The RCW officers will be installed at the January 25th meeting at 7pm along with the business meeting.

The Bible study lesson will follow the business meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: We will be finishing last year's Bible study. Please prepare lesson 12 in the book "Meeting Jesus" by Leighton Ford. The lesson is entitled "Jesus the Dying King".

A note from the Center of Hope

At the Center of Hope, we again feel much thanks to God and His people for generosity! But the ANXIETY is there too, as our operations has quite a large financial gap to close—\$29,400.

As we close that gap, we can confidently budget for further growth in the new year, especially in the following key programs:

- **The Bike-to Work program has grown much!** 1) 625 quality bikes distributed this year, 2) assisted over 300 people in fixing their bikes for only the cost of parts, 3) 2 part-time staff members and 7 regular volunteers work in our well-equipped 2000 sq. ft. bike shop. 4) God's love through word and deed was shared with many! If we could keep up with the demand, over 1000 bikes would be distributed in 2012!
- **Restored 2 Life is new and exciting!** Brian Narcomey, a Native American from Oklahoma, joined our staff in March 2011 as a partnership between us and the RCA. At this time in our life, it was key to have a Native American in a pastoral position here, and Brian has been a great match. Brian leads our worship with Ministry Director Brett Rockvam, and it is now a church called Restored 2 Life. It also includes an addictions recovery group, a Bible study, and much pastoral visitation is done.

There has been strong attendance!

Spiritual gifts are being activated!

Education, Kevin Vander Wal reporting

- Shawn Vander Wal and Sherry Anne Langland served as FRC's representatives on the Vacation Bible School Committee.
- Memorization goals were set for each Sunday School class and a recitation schedule was put in place.
- A teacher appreciation potluck dinner was held in April.
- A soup supper and basket auction was held as a fundraiser for Rocky Mountain High.
- ETF and RCW continue to support our youth attending summer camps.
- Several youth attended Rocky Mountain High this summer along with Bruce and Dawn Lucas. We also asked Pastor Fred from the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls if he knew of a couple of young people that may like to go along, so Tiffany and Kaylene also attended as our guests. By all reports, it was an inspirational and energizing experience and a tremendous blessing for everyone. The support of the congregation is greatly appreciated.
- Sara Vander Wal assumed the role of SS superintendent and Jodi Koerner will be her assistant.
- Rollyn Clapp (and family) produced an exceptional concert/light show for the Sunday School Kickoff. A noon meal was provided for the event.
- The TLC and Senior High Youth Group continue to meet.
- ETF hosts Easter and Christmas events.
- We appreciate everyone from this group and all who volunteer time and effort to help in any way for special events and the education of our youth.

Worship, Kent Vander Wal reporting

- The WTF had the opportunity along with the rest of the congregation to work with Interim Pastor Thvedt. The ideas he brought to us as a task force were very well received. There were some changes in the order or worship, the notable sayings he had during the congregational prayers and the 'active' children's sermons! We hope the kids and maybe adults got a chance to do a word search or color a picture during the service!
- In August we said goodbye to Pastor Jim and Gloria Thvedt and warmly welcomed Pastor Dave and Ruth. We have thoroughly enjoyed Pastor Dave's thoughts and ideas that he has brought to the task force.
- The task force helped plan the Holy Week services as well as a Prayer for Crops and Industry service and the "Praise in the Park" in August along with the CCTF.
- We are also doing more special Sunday evening events such as the Valley Male Chorus and the Christmas hymn sing. In the next couple of months we will be planning a musical journey and a ParaPraise service.
- We welcome ideas that you as members have to help improve the worship here at FRC. If you have a comment or a suggestion, don't be afraid to let one of the task force members know or put it on a piece of paper and drop it in the suggestion box in the back of the church.