

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

January 10, 2023

Volume IV No. 2

In this issue:

- New Tech and Budget Shortfalls. What's Going On? •
 - Youth Student Sponsor-thon •
 - Save the Date: Staytreat 2023 •
- Wondering about Membership at Third? •
- Gifts and Memorials Exterior Inventory Questionnaire •
 - Announcements •
 - Third Church Family News •
 - Prayer Requests •

New Tech & Budget Shortfalls. What's Going On?

First: The Budget.

As we close out the 2022 year, we want to do so with a word of deep appreciation for the way in which the congregation has responded to the needs of the church and the world around us. Especially notable is that the congregation this year gave \$228,000 in benevolent or outreach gifts (19.4% of all expenditures) not including what we've invested in our growing Spanish language ministry.

In summary, our income for the year (\$1,163,104) was \$36,900 under budget (-3%) and \$19,000 less than last year. However, general fund giving was up \$10,000 (+1%) over 2021, and it's important to note that our 2021 income included \$15,000 from Payroll Protection Program loan forgiveness. Thank you for your year-end giving which surpassed December 2021 and allowed us to end the year as we did.

Our expenses (\$1,174,859) were \$25,150 under budget. This was \$48,500 less than 2021 expenses, largely due to the timing of the realignment of our staffing.

The bottom line is that our net revenue for the year stands at a loss of \$11,750, which is \$30,000 better than last year's loss.

Second: The Blessing of Long-Term Vision

Due to the wisdom and foresight of earlier leaders, Third Reformed is blessed with funding sources outside our operating budget to address facility needs. These include the Future Fund to address non-budgeted facility and program needs which has been largely created by estate gifts; the Mission Memorial Fund which funds mission shares; our Gifts and Memorials which largely comes as a result of memorial gifts; and the reserve funds which we set aside each month for future building expenses.

Through Gifts and Memorials, we were recently able to replace our old, round tables with lightweight versions designed for use in settings such as ours where they are put up and taken down often.

Through the Future Fund, we were able to implement a dramatic audio and visual upgrade in our Fellowship Hall this past week. This upgrade provides a video wall to replace the old, under-powered projector at a quarter of the cost of a new projector (and, additionally, allows us to replace the broken projector in the chapel with the one in the Fellowship Hall, saving even more money). It also provides good quality sound that fits the space and makes services and music much easier to hear and understand.

Thanks be to God for his provision. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we move into a new, short, fiscal year in preparation for transitioning our accounting year to a fiscal rather than a calendar schedule.

COME TO THE **STUDENT SPONSOR-THON**
FRIDAY, JAN. 20, 2023, 5:30-7:30 PM
FOOD, FUN, INFO
AND A **SILENT AUCTION OF AMAZING STUDENT SKILLS**
(SERIOUSLY, YOU GIVE SOMETHING, YOU GET SOMETHING.)
AND HELP DRIVE (OR FLY) THEM AWAY!
THIRD Reformed Church
www.trcholland.org
616.392.1459

The Youth of TRC are preparing for middle and high school retreats and mission trips this year. On January 20th, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, the Youth will be hosting a Student Sponsor-thon (see above graphic).

Students have been training hard, honing their skills, and preparing to offer their gifts to the highest bidder! Everyone, and we mean EVERYONE, is invited to this fundraising event to help the youth of TRC! Come join us for a time of hors d'oeuvres (fancy word for appetizers) served by the youth, a program on the various trips youth will take, and.....drum roll, please.....bid on youth provided skills such as babysitting, shoveling, baking, dog walking, and so much more, during the silent auction portion of the event! Our goal is to raise \$6,000!

Please consider donating to help the youth of TRC experience the love of God through service, learning, and community, as they take part in the retreats and mission trips both domestically and internationally! Please contact Hunter Brumels, hunter.brumels@trcholland.org, if you would like more information.

Trips include:

- Middle School Retreat - Camp Geneva, January 27-29th, 2023
- High School Retreat - Grace Adventures, February 24-26th, 2023
- High School Mission Trip to Juarez, Mexico - Mar. 31st to April 5th, 2023
- Middle School Mission Trip - Hope House Detroit - June 26-30th, 2023

It's coming soon...

March 10-12, 2023!

This editor was going to open the newsletter with a hearty "Happy New Year" and then realized that was already over a week ago. So just think how quickly our Staytreat '23 will be here!

We will have registration open for this COMPLETELY FREE 2.5 day enjoyable and educational extravaganza by the end of the month. In

that registration form there will be a spot to indicate where you'd like to help out during this fantastically fun fiesta of fellowship and learning weekend. Please take some time in the next couple of weeks to consider how you could help - we promise it'll be so much fun!



Wondering About Membership at Third?

If you are brand new, or even already quite familiar with TRC, you may have questions about what it would look like to take the next step of membership commitment. We would love to hear how God has been leading you, talk through any questions, and share with you about our Reformed faith tradition, church organization, and ways you can get involved!

We intend to offer an evening Inquirer's Series for prospective new members starting in mid January 2023, with a small group already forming, and room for more! The specific dates will be arranged between the pastors and interested participants. To sign up or ask questions, please email Pastor Janelle at janelle.lopezk@trcholland.org.

Gifts and Memorials Exterior Inventory Questionnaire

The Gifts and Memorials Committee is updating their inventory list and is hoping you can help. If you know of a plant/tree/other exterior item that was given as a gift commemorating something, or a memorial for someone, please take a moment to call the church office with any information you may have. Thanks!

Announcements

Learning Trip to Frontera de Gracia

The next RCA trip to Frontera de Gracia is February 16-20, 2023. Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, where Frontera de Gracia is located, is across the border from El Paso, Texas. For more information on how you can be a part of this missional work and accompany the group on this trip, please contact Pastor Angel at alopez@rca.org.

Upcoming Mosaic Classes

January 15, 2023

Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates

Sam Filcik, asylum attorney; Grace McConaghie, Specialized Legal Assistant

Sam Filcik was hired by LIA in 2022 in response to the exponential growth of asylum petitions, especially for Afghani asylees resettling in Michigan. Grace McConaghie is a Specialized Legal Assistant, focused on asylum cases. Their team at Lighthouse works with petitioners from Afghanistan, Central America, and from all over the world. Both Sam and Grace traveled recently in November 2022 with a group from Third Reformed to visit the Frontera de Gracia shelter in Ciudad Juarez, and to observe the crisis at the border firsthand. They are uniquely qualified and experienced to answer questions about the asylum petition process, and about immigration systems and structures experienced by immigrants.

January 22, 2023

A Migrant at the Lord's Table: Migration, Home, and the Christian Life

Dr. Alberto La Rosa Rojas

Dr. La Rosa Rojas's scholarship lies at the intersection of systematic theology and ethics, focusing on theologies of migration and home. His family recently moved to Holland where he is the 2022-23 Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics. Dr. La Rosa Rojas received his Th.D. in Theology and Ethics from Duke Divinity School (2022) with a dissertation titled, "God's Journey Home: Toward a Theology of Migration and Home from the Americas." He's a graduate of Western Theological Seminary and Trinity Christian College. He is also a licensed candidate for ordination in the RCA.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Corinthian Correspondence: The Cross Changes Everything.

A study with Rev. Dr. George Hunsberger.

This study takes place in room 22 on the lower level.

Notes from Women's Ministries

A BIG THANK YOU to each of you who donated to our mitten tree. Over 400 items were graciously made or bought, then distributed, some by our own church but most by Community Action House. Also a thank you to Jane Hunter who organized and facilitated this project.

CELEBRATING SABBATH, the Carol Bechtel CD, is available in the library. Some discussion leaders

have found it helpful in lesson preparation. Please return it promptly to its little stand so the next person can use it.

DVD on the Artwork Of John August Swanson Available

The DVD on the artwork of John August Swanson, artist of the 4 panels in the Gathering Place by the north stairwell, is available for check out at the library.

Intergroup Dialogue Sessions Start Thursday

This Thursday our first round of Intergroup Dialogue sessions begin. Our slate of facilitators for this conversation are: Elissa Lappenga, Jim Neevel, Ellen Awad, Dan Rooks, Vicky Mast, and Tim DuMez. These small groups will be facilitated in teams of two, and we have enough people signed up to create three good-sized groups.

Thank you to those that agreed to facilitate these conversations! We ask that you please keep all those involved in your prayers as they undertake this important work.

Micro-Pantry Needs

The Micro Pantry continues to serve a need in our neighborhood. You will notice that it has moved from the church driveway to under the canopy. We are low or out of the following items:

- Canned Fruit
- Baked Beans
- Spaghetti Noodles
- Elbow Noodles
- Rice
- Diced Tomatoes
- Tomato Sauce
- Tomato Paste
- Canned Meat
- Cereal

Thank you for your faithful support of our Micro Pantry.

Third Church Family News

Thank You

Don Triezenberg reports that he is healing from his recent heart surgery. And thanks, the members of Third for their visits, cards, prayers, and their encouragement.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following:

- Give thanks that Ahmadza (eldest son of the Afghan family we've been assisting) will be reunited with his family on January 9. Pray for safe travels.
- Rebecca Rannow who is having difficulties with her pregnancy.
- Jo Kuiper who has return home from Holland Hospital.
- Etta Hesselink who has returned home from Holland Hospital following surgery.
- Herb Pollock who is now at the Inn at Freedom Village.
- Mary Boersen who is now at the Inn at Freedom Village.
- Jaime Amaro recuperating from surgery on Monday, Dec. 26.
- Tom Ten Hoeve who has returned home.
- Lucille Schroeder.
- Steve and Dawn Vander Ark and their son Adam.
- Betty Lou Voskuil recuperating from surgery.
- Hospice Care: Lois Jalving, Sue Ten Hoeve

Remember in our prayers: Reno Lamanian, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Don Maatman, Larry Loss, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Tom Norman, Elvira Garcia.

Prayer Spotlight: Vista Springs - Barb Piaget; American House - Ed & Jane Westerbeke; Apple-dorn - Bob Kuiper, Donna Prins, Ellen Rieck.

Missionaries: Linn G. (Asia), Cheryl Barnes (Malawi), Lubna Y. (Asia).