

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

THE SEASON OF LENT 2023



March 2, 2023

Volume IV, Issue 9

Our service this coming Sunday, March 5

“Jesus, Angels, and Participation Trophies” Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes on Hebrews 2:5-18

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Consistory Update for February 2023

—MARK HISKES, GOVERNING ELDER

Pastor Ryan opened the meeting with devotions from 1 Kings 19:1-8 and Romans 11:1-6. He reminded us through these lectionary texts that as the journey of Lent approaches we must remember that we are not alone and that God will provide what we need for the journey.

Dave Vanderwel talked about the reporting error that resulted in our budget deficit for last year being \$40,000 higher than the original \$12,000 that was reported. After a thorough investigation by Dave Vanderwel and Steve Orlow and a discussion with a representative from the Shelby Systems Financial program, it appears it was a software issue and the necessary steps will be taken in the future to ensure that it doesn't happen again. The good news is that no money was lost in the process, just misreported. The bad news is that our latest January income is about \$35,000 below budget, which is, of course, something only we the congregation can do something about.

We discussed Proxy Voting and using Zoom to join Consistory meetings when a member is either sick or out of town. We were reminded by Linda Jacobs that we have a rule against proxy voting, which, during COVID, was relaxed during ZOOM. We all agreed that in order to vote, consistory members need to be present at meetings to hear the full discussion and to vote wisely. As far as participating in a Consistory meeting through ZOOM, we all agreed that to govern well and to build community we need to be physically present at the meetings. Therefore, unless we are unable to reach a quorum because of absences due, say, to another pandemic, ZOOM will not be an option for consistory members. However, other groups and committees in the church may use ZOOM as necessary.

We then discussed the Care Elder Restructuring draft, which was created to address three persistent concerns about care elders: 1)they would like more training, 2)it is often hard to find enough people willing to fulfill the office, and 3)because of the time committed to caring and visiting, attending Consistory meetings as well can be a burden.

This proposed structure change will be voted on by the consistory at the March meeting, giving time for more discernment and input from everyone. In the proposed change, there will be only four care elders, one for each quadrant. In addition, each care elder will be assigned four care team members who would not need to be ordained, whose terms would therefore not be limited, and who would not attend Consistory meetings; each quadrant, then, would have five people making care visits. Those present offered thoughts and affirmations of the plan ahead of next Month's meeting. Though care team members would still have meetings to attend throughout the year, the meeting focus would be on care for their quadrant members. This structure would also free up the spouses of Consistory members to serve as Care Team Members. Finally, since we have two languages spoken at Third, this would allow us to increase our care for all members accordingly. Pastor Ryan made clear that this new structure, when passed, would be phased in and each current Care Elder would be able to finish his or her term.

Linda Jacobs informed us about the upcoming Nominations Committee for Elders and Deacons. Once the committee hears from those Elders and Deacons who are eligible and willing to extend their terms for two more years, we will begin calling all eligible congregational members to join us

(Consistory Update, continued)

on Consistory. We hope each of you will consider this call prayerfully so that we can continue the important work that the Holy Spirit is leading Third Church to accomplish. Personally, as someone who has served several terms as an elder here, I think we are in an especially exciting time to serve at Third Church.

Linda Jacobs also updated us on the Housing Committee's work. They are still involved in a fact-finding process. Any and all recommendations from this group will be fully developed before going to Consistory for approval.

Finally, the Consistory then addressed an item for decision: The Consistorial Report to

Classis, which Pastor Ryan put together based on the Classis questionnaire filled out by each elder and deacon. After Pastor Ryan reminded us that it would be impossible to capture all of the good work our congregational members are doing in God's name, we agreed that the report captures well the spirit of what is happening at Third. Pastor Angel reminded us of both the unique challenge and blessing it is to have, in a sense, two congregations at Third Church who are gradually becoming one congregation in Christ's name. May it continue to grow as one! A motion was passed to accept the Consistorial Report.

Doug Walvoord offered the closing prayer, which was an eloquent reminder of how blessed we all are to serve at Third Reformed Church.

Staytreat '23: It's Not Too Late to Register!

IMPORTANT: You don't have to attend every meal or every session to register for the retreat.



Please come to as much as you can, and register to let us know to put you in groups and count you in the meals you will attend.

If you have questions, please contact the church office at 616-392-1459. A bus will be provided for those from Freedom Village.

Please register by Tuesday, March 7, at 5 PM.

LIFT Next Week, March 8



Next week it's Pulled Pork for dinner!

We hope to see you all there for dinner at 5:30 and kids activities, Middle School Youth Group, and adult

bilingual Bible study as

well as lots of opportunities for

fellowship after the meal at 6:30.

Transportation Need

Arshad Amiri (17 yo), son of the Afghan family Third has been helping resettle, contracted bacterial meningitis this past week and has been at DeVos Children's Hospital. He is out of the intensive care now, and they anticipate that he will be moved to Mary Free Bed soon for a stay of 2 weeks to one month. There will be lots of transportation needs for family to visit him, and if you are willing to help, please contact Laura Baer at 616-610-1106.

Bread for the World Invitation

Bread for the World is a nonpartisan, Christian organization working to persuade our nation's leaders to eliminate injustices that contribute to hunger and poverty. A group of Holland Area Bread for the World members meet monthly at Third on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the library. We would love to have you join us!

This group is also offering another opportunity for you to learn more about the work of Bread for the World. Join us in the Third chapel on Thursday, March 9th at 10 AM, refreshments will be served. Our main speaker will be Mike Goorhouse, president/CEO of the Holland/Zeeland Area Community Foundation and member of the national board of directors of Bread for the World. To help us to plan for refreshments, please RSVP to hollandbreadteam@gmail.com.

Micro-Pantry Needs

The Micro-Pantry is currently in need of the following: cereal, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned meats, canned tomatoes, canned baked beans, canned fruits, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, rice, and noodles. As always, thank you for your support for this important community resource.

Announcements

BAKERS NEEDED FOR BLOOD DRIVE TREATS

If you would be willing to bring cookies or bars for the blood drive please sign up and pick up a container at the table in the Gathering Place this Sunday, March 5.

UPCOMING MOSAIC CLASSES

March 5, 2023

Spirituality in Visual Art

Joel Schoon-Tanis

A life-long member of Third Reformed Church, artist Joel Schoon-Tanis is constantly exploring spirituality in art - from canvases, to murals (on buildings and international border walls), to furniture. In this presentation Joel will share that exploration with us.

March 12, 2023

No Education Hour - Church Staytreat
Weekend

Be sure to join us this coming weekend at the church Staytreat '23. Even if you can't come for everything, come for as much as you can!

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.

Third Church Family News

THANK YOU

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the love and support I have received from my church family during my recovery from my surgeries! Thank you so much for all the cards, phone calls, meals, and prayers - they have been most effective, as I'm making a good recovery, and hope to be back in church soon!

Love to you all,
Ruth Sill

ANNIVERSARIES

Happy anniversary to Bill and Sarah Unzicker who will celebrate 60 years of marriage on March 9!

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Bruce Plasman and his sister Beth Mahr: 616-377-7085

Prayer Requests

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Condolences to the family of Don Maatman
- Arshad Amiri (17 yo), son of the Afghan family Third has been helping resettle, contracted bacterial meningitis and has been at DeVos Children's Hospital. Give thanks that he is now out of intensive care, and please pray for a full recovery as the family anticipates a move to Mary Free Bed for rehab soon, and for transportation for the family to be able to visit him.
- Prayers for the Wiebe family, Lora, Todd, Harrison and Maya, on the passing of Lora's father.
- John Hubers who is traveling to Ethiopia.
- Staytreat in March, those attending and those planning the activities.
- Lenten Bible Studies that begin this week.

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

- Dennis DeWitt
- Reno Lamanian
- Joanne and Jack Kuiper
- Larry Loss
- Dennis and Nancy Gebben
- Mary and Harry Boersen
- Margaret Doorenbos
- Bob and Elle Kuiper
- Tom Norman
- Lucille Schroeder
- Bill & Roxanne Helder.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT:

Maple Woods

- Beth DuMez
- Dennis DeWitt

The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village

- Martha Beld
- Esther DePree
- Margaret Doorenbos
- Mary Heideman
- Jack Kuiper
- A.E. Lacy
- Herb Pollock
- Eileen Resch.

MISSIONARIES:

- Jaime & Martha Amaro (Mexico)
- Albino & Sandy Rodriguez (Peru).