

# THIRD CHURCH NEWS

## ORDINARY TIME 2023

August 17, 2023

Volume IV No. 33

THIS COMING SUN-  
DAY, August 20:

*That Time Jesus Was Wrong*

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes

on Matthew 14:22-33 and Romans 10: 5-15

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## Consistory Update for August

—Mark Hiskes, Vice President of Consistory

Pastor Janelle opened with a reflection on Exodus 30 and Matthew 17, which focus on the Temple tax. Remember that coin Peter found in the fish's mouth when Jesus told him to go fishing? No surprise, it was just enough for the tax. Her reflection on it was spot on, reminding us that when it comes to payments for the maintenance of the Temple (like, maybe, a new HVAC system?), God never fails his people. Have faith, folks. He's a God who gives freely.

The first order of business was to welcome back Ellen Awad, who agreed to serve as Governing Elder for one more year to step in for Carl Folkert, who had to step down for medical reasons.

Pastor Janelle knew, of course, the agenda for the night. First up on the agenda? The budget—and, after a tough financial year for Third, Jeff Beird couldn't have been more positive. We had a stronger than expected ending on June 30 for the short six month fiscal year (January - June 2023). What's more, thanks to some generous giving, we had a "killer July," as Jeff put it, giving us a good start to the 23-24 fiscal year. Yes, we do serve a God who gives freely: as we strive to get back to a balanced budget, let's keep reflecting that in our own giving.

Next up, the HVAC report from Dave Boes, which was, as always, thorough. One thing has been clear throughout this process: Dave Boes knows his stuff, and Third is truly blessed to have him overseeing this project for us. He reviewed the proposal from Comprehensive Engineering, who will replace our air handling units but not our boilers because they are still in good shape. The bid came in higher than he and we expected, but some unforeseen problems have to be dealt with that will cost us more than what was anticipated. Compared to other HVAC systems—geo thermal, for example—this system will cost less and will be cheaper to maintain than the alternatives.

Dave also reported that we no longer have a water-leakage problem in the basement. What's more, after some tinkering with the old system, we are on track to be 35% more efficient in our energy use this year.

Consistory members asked questions, and then we discussed Dave's report. After a month of discernment, Consistory will take it up again at our September meeting and consider whether and when to begin the process. Meanwhile, be sure to thank Dave for the countless meetings, building tours, and trouble shooting he's undertaken to get us to the point where, not only is the old system more efficient, but we as a congregation can also catch a breath before considering the next step

Following that we took up a motion to name Dan Bolt as Clerk of the Consistory for 2023-24. The motion carried.

We then heard from Dr. Madison Pierce, a member of Third and a professor at Western Theological Seminary. She shared her desire to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament by coming under the care of Holland Classis. This requires a letter of recommendation from our Consistory. She

shared her faith journey with us, which began in Louisiana and, after many critical moments in camps and classrooms, it was a course on the "Theology of Paul" that convinced her of her vocation as theologian and professor. It was nothing short of an inspiring story to hear.

A motion was then made to recommend to Holland Classis that Dr. Madison Pierce come under the care of Holland Classis. The motion carried. It was also noted that Reghan Harms, our Director of Children's Ministries, will also come under care of Holland Classis, but that will be by transfer from another classis and requires no decision on our part.

The night concluded with a discussion about the current nursery. After many years, the Zoermans are retiring from their work in the nursery, their last Sunday being August 27, and it was made clear that we are grateful for their years of service. The Consistory then met in small groups to generate some good ideas for using that space to meet the varied future needs of Third families during worship times. Consequently, a motion was made that Reghan Harms, our Director of Children's Ministries, will convene an ad-hoc team to figure out the best use for our nursery room going forward. The motion carried.

Pastor Ryan told me prior to this meeting that he thought it would be a "life-giving meeting," and it most certainly was. A lot of substance and rich discussion made it clear that, just as Pastor Janelle reminded us about Peter's miraculous fish, God has given us many and varied gifts to share as we follow him in our Third way.

Deacon Bethany Bulthuis's prayer of thanks and blessing closed the meeting, and we were left to appreciate the beauty of a summer night.



## Resettlement Storeroom

Thanks to all TRC members who have donated to our storeroom of household goods.

We are still building our inventory of the following items: Corelle plain white dishes; stock pots, silverware sets of 6 or more, laundry baskets, fans, dish towels & pot holders, and brooms. Any cash donations will be used for the above and new pillows. We have already had 3 families access the room and 2 more will soon. Thank you!

—Sue Boes, Kay Stewart, & Cindy Hiskes

## New Members Class

Are you new to Third Reformed, and beginning to wonder about making Third your church home? We'd love to get to know you more, too! Please join us for time for sharing about each one's faith journey, learning about the reformed tradition and the Reformed Church in America, as well as specifics about Third Reformed's rich heritage, present opportunities, and future vision! Bring your questions too. Participants will have one additional meeting with elders and pastors, date TBD.

**Thursdays, Sept 7, 14, & 21 at 6:30-7:30 pm  
(at the church)**

To register, please email [office@trcholland.org](mailto:office@trcholland.org), and provide your name, phone number and email address to receive further information.

## Help Us Out with Salad or Dessert!

If you want to help out with the Backyard Bash, here's a great (and easy) way: sign up to bring a salad or dessert. Just call the church office or click on the link in the Third Church News email and tell us what you can bring!

## Hey High School Students (and Parents) (Oh, and Anyone Else Who Loves to Cook and Wants to Support these Kids)

Earlier today students and parents received an email from Hunter regarding signing up to bring a meal to one of the High School Youth Group meetings. There's even a way to get reimbursed for the food cost. Contact Hunter Brumels to sign up!

# Announcements and Dates to Remember

## A (Partial) List of Dates to Remember

- Our annual Back Yard Bash is on Wednesday, September 6.
- Fall LIFT begins on Wednesday, September 13.
- Sunrise Saints resumes on Thursday, September 7.
- Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 10.

## Third Church Family News

### Happy Birthday

to Duane Booi who turns 97 on August 23!

### Happy Anniversary

- to Don and Lois VanLare who celebrate 66 years on August 23.
- to Ed and Sandy Stielstra who celebrate 54 years on August 23.
- to Bob and MaryAlice Ritsema who celebrate 66 years on August 24.
- to Gordon & Barb Mummert who celebrate 62 years on August 25.

*(For the mathematically inclined, these four couples share 248 years of marriage!)*

## Prayer Requests

### Condolences:

Kathy and Dennis Nienhuis on the death of Kathy's mother, Betty Page on August 10.

### Pray for the following:

- Sandra Ter Haar who will have surgery on August 24.
- Al Osman who is recuperating from surgery; he remains in the hospital in Grand Rapids.
- Carl Folkert who is having cancer treatment.
- Kathy Van Tubbergen who asks for wisdom of

a surgeon in how to treat a pinched nerve in her neck.

- Recuperating at home or rehab after hospitalization: Alma Holkeboer, Dennis Gebben, Bob Kuiper, Ken Porter, Mary Boersen and Etta Hesselink.
- Pray for the safety of Christians in Pakistan, including our missionary there, and that things will calm down from the recent violence that included the burning of churches and fleeing of Christians from their homes in Jaranwala, Pakistan.
- Pray for families who have appointment at the border for immigration. Pray for housing for new families arriving.
- For teachers as they prepare for the beginning of the school year.
- For all students who are in the last few weeks of summer vacation. Pray especially for the young children who will be attending school for the first time.
- Drew and Clinton Howell who are attending Camp Geneva.
- For plans being made for the fall activities.
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos.

### Prayer Spotlight

The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village: Martha Beld, Esther DePree, Mary Heideman, Jack Kuiper, A.E. Lacy, Linda Parchert.

### Remember in Our Prayers

Reno Lamania, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Larry Loss, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Barb and Gordon Mummert, Tom Norman, Linda Parchert, and all others who find themselves in difficult and lonely situations.

**Missionaries:** John & Lynne Hubers (Ethiopia), Angel Lopez (Mexico).