

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

ORDINARY TIME 2023

November 16, 2023

Volume IV No. 46



Beginnings
A Genesis Series | Fall 2023

"Called Again and Again, and Again"

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes on Genesis 12
November 19 at 10 AM

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October Financial Update: Steady As She Goes

—Dave Vanderwel, Church Financial Officer

After the volatility of our giving throughout the summer, our finances have settled into a more normal pattern. Through the end of October, our overall income is \$5K higher than the comparable period last year while our expenses are just \$1400 higher. That gives us net revenue that is \$4K better than July-October in 2022.

Just a reminder as you look at the numbers below that we have switched our fiscal year from a calendar year to a program year (July-June). Thus we are just four months into this fiscal year without a looming budget year-end in front of us. Also for perspective, we typically run a deficit most months from January through October before calendar year-end giving provides the cash to manage the deficits in the ten months that follow. Thus the deficits you see below are planned within our budget for this year.

That overall summary for this budget YTD looks like this:

	July-Oct. 23	July-Oct. 22
Tot. Income	\$350,174	\$345,161
Tot. Expense	\$389,418	\$388,063
Net Revenue	<i>(\$39,244)</i>	<i>(\$42,902)</i>

Within these numbers, there are a couple items of note:

- While our overall income is up \$5K over last year, contribution income is up \$19K (+6.4%).
- Our physical plant expenses, especially utilities, are running well below last year (-\$10K).

With the deficits YTD, our cash balance in the operating account has dropped to less than \$100K (sufficient for cash flow through the end of the year, but 17% below the long-term average balance at this point of the year).

Thanksgiving Offering Designated for Community Action House Food Club



Food Club is a membership-based grocery store run by Community Action House. It provides choice, flexibility,

and access to healthy foods to families in need, along with membership perks and support at the Opportunity Hub.

Since Food Club's opening two years ago:

- 4,267 families accessed fresh, healthy groceries
- 2,000,000 meals-worth of groceries have been provided
- 558 volunteers have dedicated time and talent at Food Club
- 32,158 referrals were made to helpful community resources
- 600+ guests attended health and nutrition classes

The Thanksgiving Day offering has been designated to support this important work done by Community Action House.

THIRD REFORMED POPUP VOLUNTEER TEAM

Then Third Reformed Pop Up Volunteer Teams are just right for you! At different times of the church year we have special events or meals where we sure could use some volunteer help, and we are hoping this is an easy way for people to step in and help out.

Coming up this December, we will have three events where we need volunteers to help:

- Wednesday, December 6 we need volunteers to help with Parent's Night Out. This will include helping with activities and serving food/ refreshments.
- Sunday, December 17 at 6 PM is the Choir Carol Service. Volunteers will put out cookies and punch, refill platters, and bring the empty/ dirty dishes back to the kitchen.
- Our Christmas Eve Service and Children's Pageant is at 7:00 PM, and volunteers will again be needed to help put out cookies and punch, etc. This year there's only one Christmas Eve service because it is on a Sunday.

If you're interested in helping out at one of these events (or two, or all!), contact the church office to let us know!

Christmas Cookies Needed!

We are in need of Christmas cookies for upcoming events. Please bring cookies ready to be frozen (i.e. packaged in a freezer bag or in an appropriate freezer container) so that we can keep them fresh all month. You can drop them off in the church office, or place them directly in the freezer on Sunday morning with a note on them that states they are for Christmas events. PLEASE NOTE: If your cookies contain tree nuts or peanuts, please pop a note on them stating this so we can let our members with allergies know. Thanks!



No LIFT Next Wednesday

Join us Wednesday, November 29 for our last regular LIFT before the Christmas Holidays. Join us for dinner at 5:30 and activities for all ages.

Women's Ministries Giving Tree



Advent is coming and so is the "Giving Tree." The Women's Ministries of Third Reformed will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves, socks and underwear to be donated to Community Action House. Donations will be accepted from Sunday, December 3 through December 17.

Living Green

—Mark Faga, Head Custodian and Green Team Member

Have you noticed these past few years how powerful the wind has been as the different fronts come in? I sure have. They seem to be more frequent and much stronger. Sure makes dealing with the leaves this time of year a challenge doesn't it? With that in mind I came across a nice article from Earth911 entitled, "A Kid's History of Wind Energy." To read the entire article, just visit Earth911.com and search that title (might even be useful for some extra credit in school). For now, I thought I'd just highlight some of the interesting facts in timeline fashion.

- The first ideas about windmills date back to Babylon almost 3700 years ago.
- The famous Dutch windmills were adapted from Muslim designs to help pump water.
 - Wind has been harnessed to produce electricity since 1887.
- James Blythe developed a simple turbine to power his cottage. He was the first to use wind to drive an electric generator.
 - He tried to get a nearby village to use his idea to power their homes.
- They thought he was CRAZY thinking it was the work of the devil.

- His next windmill found a home at the Montrose Lunatic Asylum.
- Poul la Cour improved the windmill's efficiency when he discovered that fewer blades spinning faster was the best way to generate electricity.
- In 1927 brothers Joe and Marcellus Jacobs opened a factory in Minnesota to produce wind turbines selling them to farmers.
- In 1931 George Darrieus patented the "eggbeater windmill".
- In 1931 Yalta, a city in Ukraine, produced a very efficient horizontal wind generator, capturing about 32% of the wind's potential energy. By contrast, solar panels capture between 18 and 24% of the sun's potential energy.
- In 1945 the first mW turbine was built in Castleton, Vermont. and could power 1,000 modern homes.
- In 1956 Johannes Juul designed a 200ft tall turbine in Gesdar, Denmark.
- Nasa refurbished the Juul turbine and in 1980 the first wind farm was completed in New Hampshire
- In 1990 Denmark built the first offshore wind farm.
- In 1990 in Delabole, Cornwall, England, an on-shore wind farm generated enough power for 2,700 homes with just 10 turbines.
- By 2003 the UK introduced its first offshore wind farm with 30 turbines along the coast of Wales.
- In 2020, the British government announced that they had reached a tipping point where renewable energy outperformed fossil-fuel energy at a lower cost.
- Wind turbine generation capacity is growing by an average of 7% per year.
- In 2023, the U.S. Dept. of Energy reported that 10% of electricity generated in the U.S. came from wind, enough to power 43 million homes.

I will leave you this month with a quote: *"We are like tenant farmers chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using nature's inexhaustible sources of energy - sun, wind and tide....I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power!"* —Thomas Edison

Announcements

Elder Invite

The elders of Third Reformed Church would like to invite all elders from the greater consistory to participate in serving communion in 2024. If you are interested in serving with the current elders in the months ahead, please contact Kristen (392-1459 or email office@trcholland.org) and she will put you on the list. We celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month and also on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday (March 28 & 31, 2024).

Mosaic Class *Taking Place in the Sanctuary*

November 19

ISRAEL-PALESTINE: FIVE KEY UNDERSTANDINGS FOR AMERICANS

Bart DenBoer, Current Executive Director of Kairos West Michigan and Third member

Bart has lived and studied in Israel-Palestine and frequently leads biblical study tours to that area. Due to the volatile situation in Israel-Palestine, Bart has refined the focus of his class to help us understand the current state of the region.

Corinthian Correspondence, Part Deux *Location Change*

This class will join the Mosaic Class in the Sanctuary for the presentation on Israel-Palestine.

Third Church Family News

Congratulations on Baptisms and Welcome New Members

To Dan and Jenna Callam on the baptism of their daughter, Clara. Cards and notes may be sent to the Callam family at 16263 Riley St. Holland, MI 49424.

And to Luke and Katherine Panning on the baptism of their daughter, Lena, and on joining Third by way of reaffirmation of faith. Cards and notes may be sent to the Panning family at 680 Central

Ave. Holland, MI 49423.

Prayer Requests

Condolences:

Steve and Laurie Orlow on the death of Laurie's father, Pastor Hub Nelson, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Pray for the following:

- Janelle Sievert who is recuperating from surgery, and gives thanks for good reports.
- Dean Miedema who will have hip replacement. Surgery has been postponed to December.
- Jonathan McMullen for healing.
- Kathleen, daughter of Charles Hunt dealing with advanced cancer.
- Steve and Laurie Orlow's son, Jeremy, dealing with cancer.
- Carl Folkert as he continues with treatments.
- For all migrants and refugees throughout the world. Pray for the new families that have arrived in Holland.
- For Marcia Callicoat's son who is currently serving off the coast of Israel on an aircraft carrier and others who are serving in the military.
- For peace and justice in Israel and Palestine and all countries dealing with war.
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos

Prayer Spotlight

Home: Bill Charlton, Barb Mummert. Out of Town: Lucille Schroeder, Ellen Rieck, LaVerne Lievense. Royal Park: Harley & Phyllis Brown.

Remember in Our Prayers

Joanne 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

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