

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

Thursday
15 February 2024
Volume V, Issue 7

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

“Images of Love: Proclamation”

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes
Sunday, February 18
10:00 AM

Scripture

Mark 1:9-15

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LIFT Next Week

Dinner is at 5:30, and Feb. 21 it will be nachos (vegetarian, and gluten-free options will be available). Following dinner we have Middle School Youth Group, activities for children 4 - 5th grade, groups for adults, and an intergenerational book club focusing on the classics. We hope to see you there!



and Dr. Ruth Padilla DeBorst. The synopsis reads:

What does the Cross reveal to us about who God is? How can we know him more intimately through contemplating Christ's crucifixion and resurrection? This 12-day plan invites you to prepare your heart for Easter as you journey toward the Cross, reflect on the events of Holy Week, and celebrate the Resurrection.

Lenten Bible Study

As we did last year, we plan on having several small-group studies for Lent. This year's study is "Journey to the Cross: A 12-Day Reading Plan" and it includes contributions by Dr. Wesley Hill

Sessions are available on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 after LIFT dinner (in person), and Sunday evenings at 6:30 (one group in person, the other via Zoom).

Contact the church office to sign up for this study.

2024 Consistory Nominations

You will receive an email today with our consistory nomination letter and a link to the online nomination form. Those who do not have email will receive the letter and nomination form via standard mail. If you would prefer a hard copy of the nomination form, you may pick one up from the church office.

Nominations are due no later than Sunday, February 25.



Cultivating a Culture of Lavish Hospitality: The 2024 All Church Retreat

***Designed for all ages: Presenters from the RCA;
Women's Coffee Hour; Youth AfterParty, & more!***

Join us March 8 - 10, 2024, as we work on cultivating a culture of lavish hospitality the third way, practicing wholehearted hospitality or *hospitalidad de todo corazón* in Spanish. Held at the church building, this will be a weekend full of food, fun, and fellowship!

This year's retreat will feature keynote presentations by the team from the RCA's Office of Diversity and Belonging. The following speakers will be presenting and facilitating over the weekend, as well as participating in leading worship, leading a Women's Ministry coffee time, and participating in youth and student activities.



Liz Testa
Director of Women's
Transformation and
Leadership



Annalise Radcliffe
Director of Future
Church Innovation



Ruth Langkamp
Coordinator for Next
Generation Engagement



Jeremy Simpson
Director of Diversity
and Belonging

Our weekend will also include great music led by a combined worship team, a Youth AfterParty, Coffee Time for TRC Women's Ministry, break-out activity options for different age groups throughout the weekend, including children's time with Reghan during keynotes, as well as a fun swimming outing to our local pool, and wonderful mealtimes and fellowship.

On Sunday evening at 6:00 PM, TRC will host a region-wide RCA worship service celebrating 50 years of Women's Ordination in the Reformed Church. This is a worship service for men and women, giving thanks and praising God together! For further information, contact Pastor Janelle or Pastor Ryan. Registration begins Tuesday, February 6. Look for our email with a link to the form!

January Financial Update: Things Look Good!

—Dave Vanderwel, Church Financial Officer

Our financial picture continues to be positive as of the end of January. You may remember that we went into this fiscal year believing things were going to be tight and thus did some trimming of expenses in order to present a balanced budget. In that budgeting, we hoped to buy some time by reducing expenses for the year as we felt income would increase based on membership and giving trends that would put us back on track financially. We are now seven months into the fiscal year

and I'm optimistic we can achieve our budget goals for the year.

Through the end of January, our income is \$43K over budget (+6.2%) and \$62K better than the comparable months last year (+8.7%). Meanwhile expenses are just \$6K over budget YTD (+0.9%) and \$32K under last year (-4.2%). As a result, our net revenue (income less expense) is \$37K better than budgeted and \$90K better than a year ago over the same period. (This picture is somewhat artificially positive, however, as we have \$32K in gifts received for the Maria y Jose fund and Frontera de Gracia that are recorded as income at year-end but have not yet been dispersed as of January 31.) The 1/31/24 numbers look like this:

	Actual YTD	Last Yr YTD	Budget YTD
Total income	\$741,481	\$681,932	\$698,250
Total expense	\$698,217	\$728,907	\$691,988
Net revenue	\$43,264	(\$46,975)	\$6,262

We can be grateful that Third is doing as well as it is as that allows us to move forward in ministry without feeling strapped by our budget. Thanks for your generous support of the church.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: FEBRUARY 2024

—John Hubers, Third Church Member



Rowland and Jane Van Es St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya

Rowland and Jane Van Es are teaching at [St Paul's University](#) near Nairobi, Kenya (a leading world-class chartered Christian University in Kenya), Jane as an instructor in Social Work and counseling, Rowland in the theology department. Like a number of East African countries, Kenya is both home to dynamic, growing churches and a great number of economic, political and social challenges. In their latest letter, Rowland and Jane note how these challenges are impacting students at St. Paul's:

Due to rising external debt and pressure on the Kenyan currency, the government has reduced the number of student scholarships it gives to students at private universities like St. Paul's. This has reduced the number of students enrolled and forced the school to lay off many part-time lecturers. As a result, full-time teachers, like our colleagues and us, have to teach more than a full load (five classes). Some are experiencing burnout and/or spending less time mentoring students.

They also note that those who may want to help provide scholarships for students who are now unable to attend because of this financial crisis can do so through a scholarship fund that has been set up by the RCA to help. If that is something you would like to do, click on this link: www.rca.org/vanes

In this same letter, written soon after Rowland and Jane returned to Kenya from a four-month home leave (including a visit to Third!), they listed the following prayer concerns. Please remember them in your prayers:



- Pray for the Kenyan economy that makes it harder for the government to sponsor students, harder for students and families to raise support, and harder to pay back their loans. .
- Pray for us as we return to Kenya after completing four months of home service that began in the Fall of 2023. Pray that we are refreshed and ready to make new relationships with our students.

Pray for the family we leave behind: Rowland's parents in their mid-80s, our two adult daughters living together in Holland, MI, and our siblings and their families scattered across the country.

Living Green

—Mark Faga, Head Custodian and Environmental Witness Task Force Member

We often talk about plastic in Living Green. Why to cut back, the need to recycle, where and how to recycle and even what plastics can and cannot be recycled. Today however, we will focus on metal. Did you know there are two types of metal? Ferrous and non ferrous. Do you know how to tell them apart? That one is easy. If a magnet (any magnet will do) sticks to your metal it is a ferrous metal most likely steel. If your magnet doesn't stick to it you have a non-ferrous metal. Copper, aluminum, stainless steel and bronze are non ferrous metals.

Here in Holland, and I would assume in many communities, you have a couple of options to choose from when you have metal to recycle. You can choose to toss your metals into your curbside bin or if you'd like to make a little money you can take your metals to the Black River Recycling center off of Chicago drive.

If you're interested in making some money or maybe you have a large amount to recycle and decide to make a trip to Black River you again have a couple of options. You can decide to lump all of your metals together where they will pay you simply the steel price (since they will have to sort it) or you can go with your metals sorted to optimize your return. Copper is going to net you the largest return while brass comes in second with aluminum and stainless paying you roughly what steel will pay you.

There are a couple of things you need to know before you go.

1. They will recycle old propane tanks but you need to let them know that you have one (or more) and they will direct you as to where they

can go.

2. Do not for any reason include batteries in your metal recycling. Please recycle those at Batteries Plus or Lowe's

And finally a note... *Think before you snack!*
Food packaging and containers make up 31.4% of plastic pollution.

Together we CAN make a difference.

FAN FAVORITES
SONGS & MOVIE THEMES

Rob Lunn
Guitar

Sun Hui,
Erhu

FEBRUARY 22
@ 7:00 PM
TRC SANCTUARY

Third Church Family News

Thank You

Dear Third Reformed Church Family,

What caring and compassion you have provided for Carl and me during Carl's six month illness. Following his death, you have continued to wrap our family in tangible support and prayer. Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

—Barb Folkert

Dear Third Church,

I greatly appreciated the thoughts, prayers and cards that you sent my way during my recent hospitalization. I felt warmth and support from my church family during a frightening and challenging period.

Grace and Peace,
—David Krieger

Happy Birthday

To David VanDuinen, who turns 18 on February 15.

Announcements

Mosaic Class

February 18

ASSOCIATION FOR A MORE JUST SOCIETY

Hannah Applebach, ASJ Partnership Coordinator

What does it mean for Christians to “do justice” as Micah 6:8 compels us to live into? The Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) has asked this question for over 20 years, and this organization is coming to share stories, information, and updates about how they are working to address the root causes of injustice in education, public policy, and security systems and bring about flourishing for everyone in Honduras, specifically people living in the most vulnerable circumstances.

Office Reception Hours

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Fridays 8:00 AM to Noon. Phones are answered Monday to Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Prayer Requests

Pray for the following:

- Dennis and Nancy Gebben dealing with Covid.
- David Krieger is home from the hospital
- Bea Rozeboom recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- Marcia Calliccoat is at Royal Park for rehab.
- Gayle (at American House) and Paula Wilson
- Nathan Klay waiting for test results.

- Bob Kuiper is at Resthaven Rehab.
- Steve Van Grouw at the Freedom Village Inn
- All those who are at various stages of diagnosis and tests.
- Recuperating from surgery: Dean Miedema and Dan Bolt
- Jonathan McMullen for healing.
- Kathleen, daughter of Charles Hunt dealing with advanced cancer.
- Steve and Laurie Orlow's son, Jeremy, dealing with cancer.
- For all migrants and refugees throughout the world. Pray for the new families that have arrived in Holland this past week.

For confirmands and their mentors as they go through the profession of faith process:

- Anna Stewart - Kay Stewart
- Lucy Green - Chris Walvoord
- Faith Millen - Anna Beird
- Kimia McMullen - Susan Boes
- Rilla Carpenter - Madison Pierce
- Lucy Carpenter - Laura Baer
- Jana Honeycutt - Jane Dalman
- Remi VanFarowe - Megan Boes
- Miriam Lopez-Koolhaas - Kathy Schoon-Tanis
- Lorena Lopez-Koolhaas - Bethany Bulthuis
- For the Church retreat March 8-10
- For peace and justice in Gaza and all countries dealing with war. For all children who are in war areas, children who are feeling dangerous places and are displaced from their homes.
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos, Mary Heideman, Tom Norman

Prayer Spotlight

Appledorn: Donna Prins. Vista Springs: Barb Piaget, Phyllis Brown. Maple Woods: Beth DuMez, Ruth Heideman.

Remember in Our Prayers

Joanne Kuiper, Larry Loss, Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen, Elle Kuiper, Barb and Gordon Mummert, Tom Norman, Linda Parchert, and all others who find themselves in difficult and lonely situations, and those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Missionaries

Rowland Jr. & Jane Van Es (Kenya), Victor Kanyi (Kenya).