

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

Thursday
29 February 2024
Volume V, Issue 9

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

“Images of Love: Advocacy”

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes
Sunday, March 3
10:00 AM

Scripture

John 2:13-22

In this edition: LIFT Next Week | Lenten Bible Study | All Church Retreat Information and Registration Link | Memories, Show & Tell Items Requested | Cookies Needed! | More Financial News | Third Church Family News | Announcements | Prayer Requests | Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

LIFT Next Week

We will have lasagna for dinner at 5:30. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available as well. Following dinner we have Middle

School Youth Group, activities for children 4 - 5th grade, and groups for adults. We hope to see you there!



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.

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).

Call the church office to sign up.

Lenten Bible Study

There's still time to sign up for a Sunday session! 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 and Dr. Ruth Padilla DeBorst. The synopsis reads:

Cookies Needed!

Women's Ministries of Third Reformed are hosting the reception following the Regional Worship Service to Celebrate 50 Years of Women's Ordination in the RCA on March 10, and are in need

of cookies and bars to put out for this celebration. These may be brought to the church kitchen until Sunday, March 10. Please note if your items include peanuts or tree nuts.



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



Look for the full schedule at the end of this edition of the newsletter, and register today!

Memories, Show & Tell Items Requested for March 10 Celebration

Dear members and friends of Third Reformed Church,

Next Sunday evening at 6:00 PM, we will host a special regional RCA service of worship and thanksgiving for the legacy of 50 years of women's ordination in the RCA, as well as celebrate the gifts and service of all women who contribute so much to the life of the RCA! Missionaries, Sunday School teachers, professors, church musicians, WMTRC, elders and deacons are all examples! Don't forget to think beyond Third Church, too. If you have a small item, souvenir, photograph, article, or memento that represents your own experiences, or those of a loved one, or mentor, you may submit these to the office or to Pastor Janelle for a table where memories will be displayed on Sunday evening. A limit of 1-3 items per person, please.

Items should be of a size to be on a table display (not larger than a cereal box), and should be accompanied by an index card sized note with the date, your name and the name of the person, event or program being recalled. These memories may certainly extend well beyond the past 50 years, and both men and women are welcome to submit your memories and treasures! Please deliver your items to the glass coffee table in the TRC office anytime this week, up to 11:30 Sunday, March 10, to allow time for set up. Thank you!

More Financial News: First steps on the long-anticipated HVAC project

—Dave Vanderwel, Church Financial Officer

Consistory this past week had a very significant meeting as it approved a number of recommendations of a financial nature that will unfold over the next several years as we tackle the long-anticipated work on our HVAC system. For this project to move forward, we needed to identify how to fund the work to be done and concluded we will do it with a combination of fund-raising, the use of existing capital resources, and borrowing the unfunded amount. These consistory approvals allow all three components to move forward.

1. **Sale of two houses:** Approved was a recommendation from the deacons to sell the 14th Street and 16th Street houses that have been serving as transitional housing. This comes as a result of a housing task force review of our housing ministry which indicated that we can serve more families more effectively by having a housing assistance fund to assist with down payments and rent support rather than place one family in each of the houses. Other agen-

cies are also moving out of being landlords as that approach ties down resources that could be spent more broadly. The approved motion called for establishing a \$100,000 revolving housing assistance fund from the proceeds of the sale of the houses with the balance of the proceeds being applied toward the future HVAC campaign.

2. **Development of a bid package for the HVAC system:** Approved was the expenditure of up to \$50,000 for engineering and architectural studies needed to develop the specifications for a bid package for the HVAC project that can be released to potential contractors. Once actual bids are received, the consistory will meet to approve awarding the bids for this project before moving forward. These two steps of developing the specs and getting final bids are needed to update and define the cost of the project. Plans are for the work on the updated air conditioning and ventilation system to begin this fall and be completed by May 2025.
3. **Fund-raising campaign to cover HVAC costs:** Approved was a congregational fund-raising campaign with a goal to raise \$1,200,000 in cash and pledges over the next three years to address our HVAC, roofing, and some accessibility needs. Jeff Munroe and Dave Vanderwel agreed to lead this campaign. Conversations with several members of the congregation indicate strong support for these projects with \$221,000 already received as part of this campaign.
4. **Construction loan:** Approved was applying for a loan of up to \$750,000 from the RCA Church Growth Fund for the interim financing needed during the construction process when the construction expenses come more quickly

than the pledge payments. The RCA Church Growth Fund provides financing for churches at a more favorable rate than commercial institutions with loan payments being used to finance construction and renovation projects at other churches. We anticipate that the proceeds from the housing sale and the fund-raising campaign ultimately will equal our construction expenses, and we'll be left with approximately \$100,000 in financing costs to absorb in our budget.

These are all very significant decisions in the life of our congregation but put us in a position in which we can address a long-term need with minimal long-term financial implications.

Third Church Family News

Thank You

Once again, I would like to thank the congregation for its loving support. The meals, cards, prayers, calls, and good wishes have been a lift to my spirit. The new hip is functioning well and the broken bone is slowly healing. I hope to return to in-person fellowship and worship soon.

—Dean Miedema

Announcements

Mosaic Class

March 3

**ANTHONY TROLLOPE AND TED LASSO:
HONORING THE HOLY FOOL**

Third Church members Mark Hiskes and Rev. Jeff Munroe

We will draw parallels between the 19th Century English author's novel "The Warden" and the Apple TV show Ted Lasso, suggesting that both offer a message that is critical for our times.

March 10

NO CLASS - ALL CHURCH RETREAT

Church Office Closed Monday, March 11

The church office will be closed Monday, March 11, to give the staff time to catch up after the retreat. All regularly scheduled onsite meetings and gatherings will happen; this closing only involves the office.

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

Condolences:

- To Peg Van Grouw and family on the death of Steve February 20.
- To Dennis Nienhuis and family on the death of Kathy on February 20.

Pray for the following:

- David Krieger recuperating at home after hospitalization.
- Bea Rozeboom recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- Marcia Calliccoat in Royal Park for rehab (returned home)
- Gayle (at American House) and Paula Wilson (home)
- Nathan Klay preparing for surgery on 3/13.
- Bob Kuiper at Quincy Place
- 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. For those seeking asylum, employment and housing.
- For peace and justice in Gaza and all countries dealing with war. For all children who are in war areas, children who are fleeing dangerous places and are displaced from their homes.
- For the Lenten Bible studies that begin this 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
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos, Mary Heideman, Tom Norman and Dennis Gebben (home)

Prayer Spotlight

Home: Bill Charlton, Barb Mummert. Out of Town: Lucille Schroeder, Ellen Rieck, LaVerne Lievense. Royal Park Atrium: Marcia Calliccoat, Harley Brown. Quincy Place: Bob & Elle Kuiper.

Remember in Our Prayers

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

Missionaries

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