

# THIRD CHURCH NEWS

Thursday  
11 April 2024  
Volume V, Issue 15

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CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

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## “Jesus Incognito”

Dr. Madison Boes

Sunday, April 14 10:00 AM

## Scripture

Luke 24:36-48

**In this edition:** March Financial Update | Upcoming Book Discussion | LIFT Next Week | Congregational Meeting | WTS Visitors | Third Church Family News | Announcements | Prayer Requests

## March Financial Update: Back on Track

—Dave Vanderwel, Church Financial Officer

March was a positive month financially with our income for the month exceeding expenses by a few thousand dollars. As a result, our net revenue (income minus expense) year-to-date improved to \$27,662 which is \$15K better than our budget and \$32K better than the comparable period last year.

While it is encouraging to have this kind of “budget surplus” as we enter the last quarter of the fiscal year (which ends June 30), this is also the time of the year during which our expenses are typically greater than our income. In 2023 our expense was \$17K greater than our income during April-June; in 2022 expenses were \$30K more than income over those months. Thus, we are where we want to be at this point, but we need to stay on track if we want to end the year with a balanced budget. Here are the figures for the year as of March 31.

	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>Last Yr YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD</b>
Contributions	\$867,433	\$843,928	\$858,400
Program Support	\$23,968	\$41,950	\$12,950
<u>Endowment transfer</u>	<u>\$47,500</u>	<u>\$35,880</u>	<u>\$43,500</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$938,901	\$921,758	\$914,850
Church programs	\$88,758	\$91,235	\$61,575
Church operations	\$693,071	\$693,048	\$709,225
<u>Outreach &amp; benevolence</u>	<u>\$129,410</u>	<u>\$142,179</u>	<u>\$132,755</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$911,239	\$926,462	\$903,555
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$27,662</b>	<b>(\$4,704)</b>	<b>\$11,295</b>

## Upcoming Book Discussion

There will be a book discussion on Anna-Lisa Cox's book, "The Bone and Sinew of The Land" on Sunday May 19 at 4pm. Look for more information in a future edition of Third Church News.

## LIFT Next Week: Reverse Karaoke for Piano Concertos!



Here are some upcoming LIFT dates to keep in mind:

- April 17: Special presentation "Reverse Karaoke for Piano Concertos." This involves a piano/computer duet! To join by Zoom visit the church website. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.
- April 24: LIFT Talent Show and final full LIFT of the semester

Here's the full description of the presentation on April 17: *Matt DeJongh will present his sabbatical research project entitled "Reverse Karaoke for Piano Concertos." He will play some Preludes and Fugues by J.S. Bach, then perform the Andante and Allegro movements of Mozart's A major piano concerto (K414) accompanied by his computer.*

## Congregational Meeting

May 5 is our annual congregational meeting. Again this year it will be held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. To facilitate the gathering of all our people, there will be only one service that day, with no separate service for El Encuentro. We will enjoy a meal together at the meeting, and will conclude with the Lord's Sup-

per. Maria Urrea will be making yummy breakfast casseroles, but we will need your help completing the meal. Call the church office to provide pastries, muffins, fruit, juice and to help with serving and clean up. At the meeting we will get a financial update, receive a state of the church report, and approve a slate of new elders and deacons. A Zoom link will be available for the congregational meeting, however it will be a non-interactive link, meaning Zoom participants will be able to observe but not vote or comment during the congregational meeting. An absentee ballot will be available in the office if you are unable to make the meeting. Nominees for Consistory are: **Deacon:** Mark Genzink; **Care Elder:** Kathy Miedema, Lynne Hubers; **Governing Elder:** Matt DeJongh, John Hoekstra, Jody Vanderwel, Yasser Palacios-Perez

## Third Reformed to Welcome WTS Hispanic Ministry Program Visitors

**On Sunday, April 28**, El Encuentro will welcome the 25-30 visiting students and faculty of Western Theological Seminary's Hispanic Ministry Program\* for our 11:30 a.m. worship service, which will include a reception of new members, and a baptism. El Encuentro will provide lunch for our guests following the service. We look forward to being inspired and encouraged by these visiting pastors, and also sharing about God's work among us here in El Encuentro and at Third! Please join us in greeting these guests with a warm "¡bienvenido!" ('welcome!') when they arrive!

*\*In 2017, WTS launched the Hispanic Ministry Program, to facilitate certification as well as post-graduate degree work in Spanish for Span-*

*ish-speaking pastors throughout the USA and Latin America. These courses take place primarily online in the form of distance learning (“DL”), with an annual in-person spring retreat and intensive module.*

## Third Church Family News

### Sympathy

To Bob Pott and Eunice De Witt on the death of Bob's brother, Terry Pott, on April 7.

## Announcements

### Mosaic Class

April 14, 21, and 28

### **THINKING CHRISTIAN-LY ABOUT ISLAM AND MUSLIMS: PERCEPTIONS AND MISPERCEPTIONS**

Dr. John Hubers, Professor and Consultant for the Christian-Muslim Relations Program at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Retired) and Third Church member

### **Session 1: Early Christian perceptions of Islam (how do they compare to ours?)**

In this session we will look at the first responses Christians made to the rise of Islam as it swept through the formerly Christian Middle East while examining whether or not those early responses continue to inform our own.

### **Session 2: An Alternative Muslim Jesus: How should we respond?**

In this session we will examine the Qur'anic and traditional Muslim views of Jesus asking how they impact not only our view of Islam, but how

to approach our relationship with Muslim neighbors who hold these beliefs.

### **Session 3: Examining Contemporary Christian Attitudes towards Islam and Muslims: Where do you stand?**

In this session we will examine contemporary views of Islam and Muslims using an insightful scale developed by a Lebanese Christian scholar. A Western graduate now serving as an educational director at a CRC church in Kalamazoo who is also a Muslim convert, will join us to offer his unique perspectives.

### 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

### Sympathy:

- Prayers for Bob Pott and Eunice DeWitt on the death of Bob's brother, Terry Pott on April 7.

### Pray for the following:

- Barb Neevel who has returned home from the hospital.
- Matt and Marcia Floding, Matt has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Grayson Sievert recuperating from surgery.
- Marcia Callicoat at home pray, for healing.
- Gayle (at American House) and Paula Wilson (home)
- Nathan Klay and Sue Boes dealing with cancer.
- Diann Koeman who is recuperating from a broken leg and ankle.
- Jonathan McMullen for healing.
- Kathleen, daughter of Charles Hunt dealing with advanced cancer.

- Steve and Laurie Orlow's son, Jeremy, dealing with cancer.
- Give thanks for our new church members: Angela and Rob Carpenter, Sarah and David Van Farowe and Grace McConaghie.
- Give thanks for 5 years of worship of El Encuentro.
- Congratulations to Pablo Perez on receiving his asylum papers.
- For all migrants and refugees throughout the world. For those seeking asylum, employment and housing, and cars. For peace and justice in Gaza and all countries dealing with war. Pray that aid can reach those who are starving.
- Pray for those traveling to Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Pastor Ryan, Pastor Angel, Pastor Samuel Lopez, Aspen Boes, Laura Baer and Luis Perez.
  - 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
- **Hospice Care:** Margaret Doorenbos, Mary Heideman, Tom Norman and Dennis Gebben.

### Prayer Spotlight

Home-Bill Charlton, Barb Mummert; Out of Town-Lucille Schroeder, Ellen Rieck, LaVerne Lievens; Quincy Place-Elle Kuiper.

### Missionaries

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

### Remember in our prayers

Joanne Kuiper, Larry Loss, Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen, 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.

**TRC MIDDLE SCHOOL**

2024 MISSION TRIP

**DATES:** JULY 11TH-14TH

**COST:** \$100 PER STUDENT

register now

contact

Hunter.brumels@trcholland.org

TRC Youth Ministry

**HIGH SCHOOL MISSION FROM HOME!**

Experience Mission from your own backyard!

Date: July 22-26th | Cost: \$150

SCAN ME

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