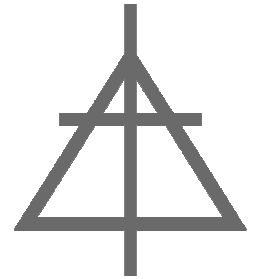


The Echoes

April, 2010

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



Our Pastor's Perspective

Coping

What are you doing to cope with these tough economic times? There are signs that the recession is changing direction, but it seems to take a little longer to make its way down to everyday people. I know and you know that even in the toughest times we have more than most in the world. There are places where people have less than a dollar a day to provide what they need, food, shelter and clothes. Some barely survive. Fortunately, we don't live in those places and we are not living under such austere circumstances, but we still have to be careful about spending to make ends meet.

I was watching Dave Ramsey program on TV a few nights ago. He's on Fox on a regular basis. He has provided a lot of good financial advice to people over the years. He urges people to do whatever they can to get out of debt and stay out of debt. One of his popular phrases is, "Stop living like everyone else so you can live like no one else." He uses an envelope system to budget and stay within a budget. Put the money in an envelope for each category of spending and pay cash for everything. It's a lot of basic common sense advice that sensible people have used for years but some seem to have forgotten in the era of buy now and pay later. He urges instead to "Live within your means." "Don't spend more than you make." He almost sounds radical these days of easy spending and deficit spending. Cut up the credit cards, he would advise, you don't need them and they simply make you spend more than you have. Testimonials abound on his program of those who have paid off their debts and now can announce "I'm debt free!" He is entertaining as well as full of helpful advice.

Giving practical advice is popular these days. Newspapers run columns and special features on saving money. Readers Digest continues to run articles how to make the best use of resources and this month ran stories on those who were frugal and tight. I learned of some new ways to be frugal. Our daughter-in law runs a blog of coupon savings and basic shopping advice. She loves to share information on how to get some products virtually free. She gathers information of where the sales are and what coupons are available to save a few cents here and there. Clipping coupons has become popular again. Every quarter, dime and dollar helps especially when

they are on products you would use anyway. Her blog is givemeneithe@gmail.com. You may find it helpful.

The proverb is written, "Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God." (Proverbs 30:8-9). God grant us the wisdom to live properly before him in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

Vern and Joanne Klaasen and Family

To understand where one is in life, it is good to go back and see where one started out life's journey. This is a look at where our family begins.

Vern was born and raised in Hamilton near the village of Overisel. He is the third of five children and grew up as the son of a dairy farmer. He attended Hamilton Public Schools for all of his school years. Life has dealt him many different work experiences from working in a slaughter house to driving a semi truck and many other things in between. He currently works with the Allegan County Road Commission as a road worker and snow plow driver.

I was born and raised here in Martin. I am the fifth of six children and also grew up on a farm as the daughter of a dairy farmer. I attended East Martin Christian School, Kalamazoo Christian High School and Dordt College. After graduating from Dordt, I worked as a secretary for an environmental testing lab in Holland.

Vern and I met at a post-high Bible study group in Hudsonville in 1986. We were married on October 5, 1990. We started out our married life together living in the Zeeland area. Our daughter Amanda arrived in October of 1995. In the summer of 1997, we moved back to Martin. It was shortly after we moved that we learned we were expecting twins, oh my! Jared and Jackie were born in January of 1998. Obviously, my days as a secretary ended and my days as a full-time, stay home mom began. The stay home part only lasted three years. I began working as a part-time cashier for Walmart store in Plainwell when Amanda started school. Now, nine years later, I am still employed there.

Amanda is fourteen and in the eighth grade at East Martin Christian. She likes to play volleyball, basketball, run track, and ride bike. Jared and Jackie are both twelve and in the sixth grade at East Martin Christian. Jared likes to play football, mow the lawn, ride bike, and spend time on the farm with Grandpa Haveman. Jackie likes to play volleyball, basketball, and swim in the summer. Vern likes bike riding. You may see him out and about the area riding with Amanda and Jared. They put in quite a few miles when they go out biking. I prefer to do yard work and read books as time allows.

Thanks for taking a look back with us.

Ponderisms

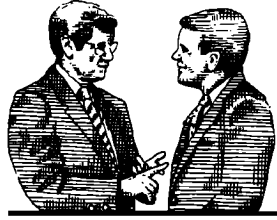
All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire.

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

In Contact With Council



Rob VandenBerg opened the meeting of April 13 by reading Matthew 28; 18-20 and prayer.

Minutes from previous meeting were read and approved. Also read minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held March 23.

Reports:

Pastor made several home, hospital and nursing home visits. Officiated at one funeral. Taught Catechism classes, prepared and preached (8) sermons and (2) Chapels. Attended several meetings.

Deacon's report reviewed and approved. Reviewed the 2010/2011 budget.

Worship committee has (3) candidates for Bulletin Secretary position.

Evangelism committee has reserved the Fair booth for September.

Building and Grounds committee is installing a new sink and countertops in the church kitchen. Also discussed condition of asphalt in parking lot.

Nine Council visits were made.

New business:

Congregational meeting will be held May 3 at 7:30 p.m. Nominees for Elder are: Adrian VandenAkker, Keith Smit, Ken DeMann Glenn Leep, Wes Leep, Tom Rook, Ralph Suk, Dan Jager. Nominees for Deacon are, Scott Tuinstra, Nate Leep, Nick VanDerHeide, Doug DeMann, Vern Klassen, Jerry Bronkhorst.

Keith Smit is volunteering leadership for a group from EMCRC to go to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip.

Classis Meeting will be held on May 11 at Third CRC. Pastor Weeda and Steve De-

Mann will be attending. Bill Snook and Bruce Tiemeyer are alternates.

Wayne Leep closed in prayer and has devotions at next Council meeting on May 11.

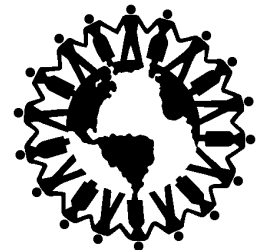
Pro -mo -tion Sunday

Another season of Sunday School has come and gone. On behalf of the Education Committee we would like to thank all the teachers and helpers who have made this a successful education season.

As is custom we celebrate the close of the Sunday School season by recognizing the 2nd graders who will be moving on to Catechism classes in the fall. This year's Promotion Sunday program will take place on April 25 during the morning service.

Those moving up from Sunday school to catechism are: Kelsey DeMann, Sara DeYoung, Shane Plank, Andrew VandenBerg, Emily VanDyke and Kate Wubben. The Bible presented will be a NIV Slim line.

Mission Emphasis



Faith Promise pledge cards for 2010 were included in your bulletin on April 18. Please prayerfully consider how you can support these causes as God has blessed you and return your completed forms on April 25 or May 2. Additional forms can be found in the narthex.

On May 2 we will enjoy a potluck at 11:30. Bring a hot dish, a salad or dessert and your own table service. Coffee and water provided. Come for a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

High School Youth Group Lock-In



Thirty-one high school students had a great time staying up all night at the first ever Lock-In. Who needs sleep anyway! We stayed active with a Wii bowling tournament (the winner received a \$20 gift certificate to Celebration Theater), Dodge ball, Mat ball, Ga Ga, and movies.

Thanks to all those who donated snacks, pop and pizza. Breakfast was served at 6 a.m. with pancakes, hash browns, ham and cheese omelets and OJ. We raised \$290 for our Serve Trip to Louisiana. Thank you to the Post Hi and parents who helped chaperone the evening.

Save the Date!

Invite a friend and plan to come to a unique retreat – designed to glorify God through music and great speakers, and to renew and uplift all who attend. This exciting event will be held on September 28 and 29 at the Prince Conference Center in Grand Rapids and is sponsored by Bible League International Volunteers.



Julie Baker is a gifted speaker who cares about people and brings out their best. Julie enthusiastically shares secrets for success based upon the Word of God. She will be the featured speaker at the retreat. Souls Harbor, a talented mixed trio, will provide our evening concert. Marilyn DeMann and Judy Bouma will lead our Praise and Worship time.

You do not need to be a member of Bible League Volunteers to come and enjoy this retreat. It is a unique experience open to anyone who is looking for a great spiritual experience.

You'll soon be receiving a brochure with more details.

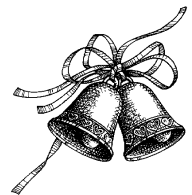
Rillema Children

Many of you have been asking lately if we have an update on Trey and Avi. We had so much “drama” going on with them all last spring and summer, then on October 31 we found out that we were chosen to be their parents. We filled out a little paper work at the end of last year and all the rest has been waiting on Lansing! We were told the process would take about 1 – 2 months last November, then in December, then in January, and in February again – you get the picture!

We just continue to hope and pray that the paper work will arrive in the mail soon – then we will OFFICIALLY be Trey and Avianna’s parents. Thanks for everyone’s prayers and support! You all have truly been amazing through this whole process! (We hope by the time the next ECHOES is published, we will be able to tell you they are ours and we will be scheduling a date to have them baptized!)

Engagements

Erica DeMoore (daughter of Jim and Char DeMoore) and Joe Culver became engaged on Joe’s birthday, March 26. on the beach at sunset on Anna Maria Island.



Larry and Phyllis were very surprised when they were invited out for a wonderful dinner with Joe’s grandparents, Bruce and Delores Culver and were to witness Joe on his knee asking Erica to marry him. It was a very touching thing to be a part of. The wedding will be May 14, 2011.



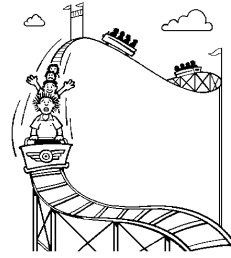
Jeffery Alan Bouman and Kathryn Michelle Steffes’ story begins at work. Kathryn began working at Fisen Corporation several months after Jeff was hired. When she first started she was given the tour around the facility to

meet all the people she would be working with. Jeff claims that he can remember the first moment they ever met but the beginning days at a new workplace made the days a blur for Kathryn. After several work interactions, Jeff's friendly disposition naturally started to attract Kathryn to him and they quickly became friends, then they began dating and next they had to determine how they would ever last now that she moved back to the East side of Michigan. Despite the geographical distance, they continued to grow closer together.

Kathryn is the youngest of David and Elaine Steffes' two children. After graduating from Notre Dame Preparatory High School she moved to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University. She completed her studies and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. After college she moved to Grand Rapids to work at Fisen Corporation where she and Jeff met. Now she is living in Ortonville, Michigan and works for Xerox Corporation.

Jeffery is the second of Randy and Mary Bouman's four boys. He graduated from Kalamazoo Christian High School and moved to Houghton, Michigan to continue his education in the beautiful Upper Peninsula at Michigan Technological University. He obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Coming out of college, Jeff had many job opportunities but decided on beginning his career at Fisen to be closer to family. Jeff is still currently working there and commuting in from Martin everyday.

Jeff proposed to Kathryn on March 14 at Holland Beach, a spot they used to frequent while both were working in Grand Rapids. Jeff got down on his knee to ask Kathryn to marry him. After an enthusiastic "Yes" they have begun the exciting process of planning their wedding. They look forward to being able to spend the rest of their lives together. Kathryn and Jeff are pleased to announce that they are getting married September 11 at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Michigan.



Pinewood Derby

On Wednesday, April 14, forty-eight cars vied for 1st place in the annual Cadet Pinewood Derby.

Cheryl DeJager took first place for the second year in a row, Cody Eister took second place. The East Martin Cadets invite Covenant United Reformed to participate in the Derby also. A member of their Cadets took 3rd place. Trayton Tuinstra won best of show.

Rocket Night will be Wednesday, May 12, (weather permitting). Everyone is invited to come see the sky "light up" with Cadet made rockets.

Offerings for March

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund | \$ 7,771.92 |
| Ministry Shares | 3,024.80 |
| Building Expansion Fund | 1,108.49 |
| Education Assistance | 45.00 |
| Benevolence | 302.25 |
| Faith Promise: | |
| DeYoung | 110.00 |
| Meyer | 110.00 |
| Shaarda | 110.00 |
| Nightingale | 110.00 |
| East Martin Missions | 145.00 |
| Sr. High Youth Group | 895.50 |
| Jr. High Youth Group | 500.00 |
| GEMS | 490.00 |
| Sunday School | 24.67 |
| East Martin Christian School | 1,009.00 |
| E. M. Christian High School | 314.15 |
| Total Offerings | \$16,070.78 |

Year to Date

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund – Ideal | \$125,000.00 |
| General Fund – Actual | 120,396.18 |
| General Fund – Under | \$4,603.82 |
| Ministry Shares – Ideal | \$61,654.70 |
| Ministry Shares – Actual | 40,026.40 |
| Ministry Shares – Under | \$21,628.30 |



We don't know how to begin to thank you for the many ways you have supported us throughout Hank's illness and death. The many trips to Kalamazoo, help around the

house, meals, cards, and especially prayers are just a few ways you have shown kindness to us.

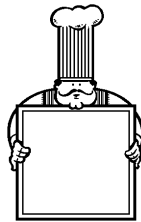
Hank loved being a member of the East Martin congregation and was happy to serve in various capacities throughout the years.

We especially would like to thank Pastor Jake for his messages each Sunday which help us grow in faith, for his visits during Hank's illness, and for the beautiful message at the funeral. God has truly blessed us with the love he promised during difficult times in our lives.

Judy, Lee, Alisha,
Solomon, Caleb, Ellie and Elijah Korringa

Chilled Marinated Asparagus

2/3 cup packed brown sugar
2/3 cup soy sauce
4 tsp. lemon juice
2 pounds fresh asparagus, trimmed
2/3 cup cider vinegar
1/3 cup canola oil
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 cup chopped pecans, toasted



Combine brown sugar, vinegar, soy sauce, oil, lemon juice, and garlic powder; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes. Refrigerate until cool.

In a large skillet, bring to a boil 1/2" of water. Add asparagus, reduce heat, cover, and simmer 3 – 5 minutes. Drain and rinse in cold water.

Place asparagus in large ziplock bag. Add marinade, seal and turn to coat. Chill at least 2 hours or over night, turning occasionally. Drain and discard marinade. Place asparagus on a serving platter, sprinkle with toasted pecans.



Church Cleaning

May 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday

Come, one and all!

From the Council ---- Severe Weather Policy

To eliminate any confusion that may exist regarding our tornado cancellation policy please note:

Tornado Policy:

A tornado watch or warning in effect one (1) hour prior to a worship service or meeting will result in the cancellation of worship service or meeting.

Watch TV channel 8 or listen to radio station WCSG (91.3) for Sunday closing.

This policy is also listed in the back of your church directory. Watch the bulletin for details on the Honeywell Instant Alert system coming soon.

CRWRC Updates

The people of western China are reeling after 6 major earthquakes struck in just 3 hours on Wednesday, April 21. Hundreds of homes were destroyed in this farming area and thousands are now in need of immediate assistance. CRWRC is responding through the work of its partner organizations, providing emergency food and supplies.

CRWRC has begun construction of 900 transitional shelters and will soon begin building 720 permanent homes for earthquake survivors in Haiti. To assist with this process, CRWRC is hoping to hire three new staff members (a project manager, construction manager, and finance and administration manager).

Groundwork



The week of April 18 was the official launch of Groundwork, the successor program to The Back to God Hour! ReFrame Media and Words of Hope combine over 130 years of Christian broadcasting to bring you this next generation program that digs into the soil of scripture to lay the foundation for our lives. Tune in to Groundwork on your local radio station or listen at Groundwork-Online.com.

THANKS FOR PRAYING FOR THE VILLAGES OF TEPOZAL, SAN GABRIEL, AND JIQUILPAN AND THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL THERE.

This week I had the opportunity of visiting two different mountain villages. Both were meetings focused on outreach. We went with groups of believers from the city each time. We took along guitars and sang our hearts out along with sharing the gospel.

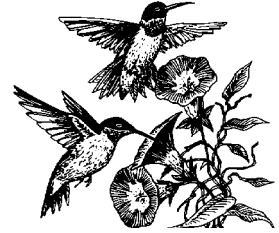
The first meeting was at one of the local politician's homes. Three young college graduates: Josue, Lupe, and Carlos were asking questions about the Christian faith. They had noticed that the evangelist Melquiades who works with them lives by a different set of rules. His faith is a shining testimony to what Christ can do. Everywhere he goes in the 27 villages in the area, he shares the gospel. In one village there is a new church starting.

The second visit was much different. It was a 50th wedding anniversary of Melquiades' parents. They renewed their vows and invited 200 people. We went out from the city with about 30 believers (most of whom traveled in the back of two pickups) to share in this joy-filled gathering. Mel's father, Benito was an alcoholic all his life until three years ago. He was also a very well respected man even considering the alcohol problem. But when he became a believer his life changed radically. Almost all his children and grand children are now believers. Many of them came from far away places like: Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Los Angeles, and from Guadalajara (3 hours). You would have loved to have been there and have seen this Christian gathering. No alcohol and lots of fun. The gospel was shared through preaching and about 100 tracts that were given out.

Wayne and Sandy DeYoung

Birthdays

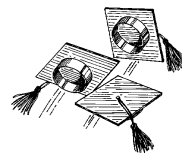
- 1 Rev. Wayne DeYoung (missionary)
- 2 Leah Vandenberg
- 3 Mary Bouman
- 5 Ron VanDenBerg
- 6 Brittany Jager
- 8 Tressa DeMann
Adam Rook
Leah Wubben
- 10 Matt Double
- 11 Joyce Kayim
- 13 Toby Smith
Rob Vandenberg
- 14 Nancy VanDerHeide
- 15 Nick VanDerHeide
- 16 Randy Bouman
- 19 Judy Korringa
- 20 Cassandra Leep
Addison Tuinstra
- 21 Russ Quick
- 23 Kim Haveman
- 24 Phyllis VanDorp
- 25 Bob Katje
- 26 Wayne Leep
- 27 Lorraine VanDenBerg
- 28 Laura Westendorp
- 30 Jim DeYoung
- 31 Dave Mejeur



May

Anniversaries

- 2 Cory and Nicole Wright
- 11 Rod and Peggy Bourdo
- 13 Jim and Ruth Mejeur
Cory and Ashley Lindsey
Harold and Kathy Wykstra
- 19 Joel and Jennifer DeYoung
- 20 Mark and Melanie Suk
- 23 George and Kathy Adrianson
- 24 Bill and Bonnie Snook
- 29 Tom and Deb Rook
- 31 Jason and Kathy Westendorp



Anyone from our church who has or will be graduating during the current school year from 8th grade, high school or college, please contact a member of the

ECHOES staff by the next copy deadline so the graduation information will be correct.

Greeters

May 2: a.m., Ralph and LuAnne Suk, Chuck Paufler; p.m., Wes and Darlene Leep.
May 9: a.m., Dan and Terri Jager, Rob VandenBerg; p.m., Keith and Loretta Fennema.
May 16: a.m., Joel and Mechelle Shaarda, Jason Westendorp; p.m., Nick and Nancy VanDerHeide.
May 23: a.m., Bill and Bonnie Snook, Steve DeMann; p.m., Chuck and Henri Paufler.
May 30: a.m., Paul and Karen DeJager, Don Smith; p.m., Carl and Mina Haveman.

Ushers

May 2: Les Lynema, Cameron Tuinstra, Bruce Mejeur.
May 9: Henry Tuinstra, Adrian VandenAkker, Dean VanderMeulen.
May 16: Mike VanDenBerg, Dave Mejeur, Ron VanDenBerg.
May 23: Steve and Chad VanderKam, Geri Van Elderen.
May 30: Mike, Mark and Paul Van Elderen.

Nursery

May 2: a.m., Nancy Smith, Joanne and Amanda Klaasen; p.m., Jenny Mejeur, April Wubben.
May 9: a.m., Jill Lynema, Ann Smit, Jesse Damsteegt, Rachel Leep; p.m., Lacey Smith, Leah Wubben.
May 16: a.m., Stacie Leep, Jeanine VanderKam, Jackie Klaasen; p.m., Laura and Rebekah Westendorp.
May 23: a.m., Renee Aukema, Terri Jager, Mary Lynema; p.m., Kathy Westendorp, Lily Van Elderen.
May 30: a.m., Karen and Christine DeJager, Joan Lynema; p.m., Mina Van Elderen.

Children's Worship

May 2: Denise Leep, April Wubben.

Library

May 2: a.m., Jeanine VanderKam; p.m., Megan Westendorp.
May 9: a.m., Carolyn VanderMeulen; p.m., Jared Westendorp.
May 16: a.m., Betty DeJager; p.m., Joel Westendorp.
May 23: a.m., Linda DeYoung; p.m., Tim Westendorp.
May 30: a.m., Ida Westendorp; p.m., Ashley Tiemeyer.