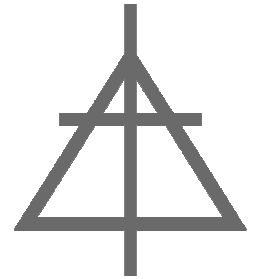


The Echoes

May, 2010

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



Our Pastor's Perspective

Mistakes

Remember the old joke where someone says, "I'm never wrong. There was one time that I thought I was wrong, but it turned out that I was right after all, so I was wrong."

It's one of those circular jokes that's especially funny because of who says it, usually someone who laughs along with the statement because it is so obvious that he has made mistakes before. I've never had the problem of thinking I'm never wrong. I usually know quite well when I'm wrong and if I don't realize it at the time, someone is sure to point it out before the hour or day is over.

I've made mistakes in my wood shop, on the golf course, in conversations with friends and strangers, in our family, and in church.

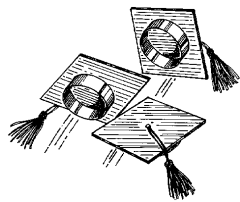
Sometimes I venture into saying something that I have no clue about, but I heard something that made sense and I tried to repeat it and got it all wrong. It happened a couple weeks ago when I tried to repeat what someone else had said to reinforce the point in my own sermon. It didn't work well because I had no idea what I was talking about. It was about plus and minus polarity within cells and where that was located in electrons and protons or something like that. I could tell I didn't have the information right when several listeners winced as I waxed on in my apparent ignorance. If this makes sense to you, you remember the occasion. I'm not going to set the record straight because I could dig an even deeper hole of ignorance. When an error is spoken and someone hears it the listener can just say they may have heard it wrong, or the speaker can say he mis-spoke himself, but when it is in print the error is there for always. I just have to be more careful about what I say because there are those who trust what I say is true. That is a heavy responsibility.

But if I do make a mistake, I shouldn't be so insistent on my being right that I can't laugh off a mistake made or ask for forgiveness for a wrong done. I guess that's the first step in dealing with mistakes made. Don't take yourself too seriously. Recognize that a mistake has been made and acknowledge it. If it has caused injury, apologize for being the cause of pain. Ask for forgiveness. If restitution is needed, make things right. Know that God's grace is sufficient to cover mistakes and even sins because of Jesus. I'm really glad about that.

Our Graduates

East Martin Christian School

Joshua Anderson
Jesse Damsteegt
Cheryl DeJager
Amanda Klaasen
Timothy Westendorp



East Martin Christian High School

Brittany Jameson
Darrin Suk

Kalamazoo Christian High School

Casey DeMoore

South Christian High School

Leah Wubben

Tri-Unity Christian High School

Travis Smith

Wayland Union High School

Shelby Quick

Calvin College

Katie Haveman – Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Accounting

Haworth College of Business (WMU)

Rena Lynema – Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems (December '09)

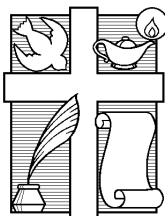
Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Dustin Quick – Associate's degree in Applied Sciences (December '09)

Aurora University

Maria Kayim Tuten – Master's Degree in Social Work

Ann Smit was inducted into the National Honor Society at a breakfast at Tri-Unity Christian on May 12. Among other requirements Ann must maintain a 3.5 GPA. Congratulations Ann and keep up the good work!



In Contact With Council



The Council meeting of May 11 was opened with Scripture reading of Luke 11:9-13 and prayer by Wayne Leep.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Congregational meeting minutes of the May 11 were read and approved.

Reports:

Pastors report presented: several home and hospital/nursing home visits were made. Prepared and preached (7) sermons. Held combined chapel with EMCHS and EMCS. Attended Classis meeting May 11 at Third CRC.

Deacon's report reviewed and approved.

Worship committee: motion made and approved to offer Kathy Westendorp the Bulletin Secretary position.

Five Council visits were made.

New Business: Installation for new Elders and Deacons May 23 at morning service. The Lord's Supper will be observed June 6.

Jason Westendorp closed in prayer. The next meeting will be June 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Cadet Rocket Night

On May 12 Cadets, fathers and grandpas met on the soccer field behind the gym to shoot off their rockets.

Some of the rockets landed on the road and even one landed in the pond behind Leep's. Mitchell retrieved the rocket only to find a few parts missing, this was par for the course, most of the rockets were in need of some repairs.

A good time was had by everyone.

Bruce and Joanne Mejeur and family

Both Bruce and Joanne grew up in East Martin. Well, not quite. Bruce moved here when he was 11 and other than a brief stint in Plainwell after we were married, we've live here ever since. We both graduated from East Martin Elementary back when there were only 3 rooms and 3 classes to a room. We both graduated from Kalamazoo Christian High and Joanne graduated from Kellogg Community College with a Physical Therapy Assistant degree. We were married in 1984 and lived in Plainwell until we built our house on 6th Street.

Bruce has worked at a few different places. He started in construction right out of high school, and then went to lumber yard sales, hardware store manager, and then back to construction. He is currently working, together with his brother Dave, at Mejeur Bros. Construction for the last 14 years. He likes hunting and fishing, building fishing rods and fishing lures as well.

Joanne is working for West Michigan Rehab in their Allegan Hospital clinic and has been there for more than 20 years. She likes playing the piano and scrap booking.

Lane was born in 1996 in Alpena, Mich. He has the distinction of being born the furthest from home of all of us. He is 13 and in 7th grade at EMCES. He is trying to decide on the next step in his academic career. He likes computers, soccer, and bowling.

Karina (Kari) was born in 2001 in Grand Rapids and she is 8 and in 3rd grade at EMCES. She likes riding bike and is also learning to play the piano and can play "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow" faster than anyone

we know (including the "Amen" at the end).

We all like camping whenever we can during the summer, we like dogs and cats (especially cats) and our current family project is a flock of about 20 chickens that are totally ignorant of property boundaries or even road right of way in their effort to be totally "free range".

Dylan Michael Newbre was born on April 19. He weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 19 ¾ inches long.



Dylan was born with a diaphragmatic hernia. He was air-lifted to the children's hospital at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Most of the tubes and lines have been removed at this time -- some of which Dylan removed himself. Dylan has been making great strides and may be able to come home in a few weeks.

Michael and Becky are very grateful that they have been able to stay at the Ronald McDonald House which is located a few blocks from the hospital.

Dylan is expected to make a full recovery and his Dad predicts that he will be chasing his big sister, Leah, around the back yard in a few years.

Continue to pray for Dylan as he improves.

Our congratulations to Joel and Jennifer DeYoung on the birth of a son, David Justice. David was born on Wednesday, April 21, at 8:36 p.m. at Borgess Hospital. He weighed 11 pounds and 2 ounces, measuring 22 ½ long.

David was welcomed home by his three siblings, Sara, Sam, and Jacob.

GEMS

GEMS finished out the season with a Mother-Daughter Dinner on April 21. At the dinner the girls received the badges that they earned this year. All together the 28 girls earned 189 badges, with Amanda Klaasen earning 33 badges this year to finish the badge book. Lily Van Elderen earned 30 and Jackie Klaasen earned 21. Good job ladies!! Each GEM was encouraged to work on badges during the summer.



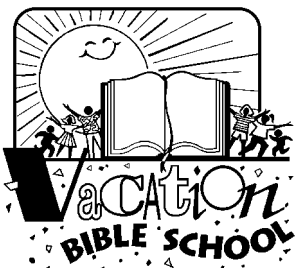
Thank you to all the ladies who were counselors or helpers this year. You are very much appreciated. Anyone wishing to be a counselor or helper next year? Please let Sheri Van Elderen know. Thanks.

Coffee Break Wrap Up

We are now finished with Coffee Break for this season. The lessons were based on the book of Mark and proved to be very enjoyable. At the close of that study we looked at some of the different characters of the Old Testament, such as Jonah, Hannah, Samuel, Abraham and Caleb and Joshua.



A big thank you to everyone who helped make this year enjoyable. Our sincere thanks to Deb Smit for her leadership and the time she gave to prepare for each lesson. We hope to see each one again in the fall and everyone is invited to attend.



June 21—24
at
Martin
Reformed Church
from
9-11:30

For many years now, our church has sent a team down to work in the orphanages of Guatemala.



This August a group of 30 will be headed to Fundación Salvación in Huehuetenango, Guatemala. This will be our third trip to Fundación Salvación. For those not familiar with the orphanage, Fundación Salvación, is a private orphanage that is home to over 100 orphaned children ages newborn to 18. They receive no government support and rely on private donations and groups like ours to support the orphanage and children.

Our main project this year is funding and completing a new dorm for the teenage boys. In addition to that, we will be purchasing and installing a water purification system, painting and helping out the staff where needed. Throughout the week we will also be holding a Vacation Bible School for the children as well as having evening activities to develop relationships.

This year's team members are: Henry, Alice, Hannah, Joshua and Jesse Damsteegt, Ally and Chase DeMaagd, Merrie Beth Den Boer, Holly and Liz Freeman, Hailee Holsapple, Emily and Terri Homrich, Kara and Kristy Katje, Brad Leep, Glenn, Nancy, and Laura Leep, Bruce and Lane Mejeur, Mike Poulos, Dustin Quick, Rachel Rogers, Angie, Ashley and Sue Tiemeyer, Rob and Amy VandenBerg and Ashley Webb.

We ask that you please pray for our team as we continue to make preparations for the trip and also for those in Guatemala who will be receiving us. Thank you in advance for all your support.

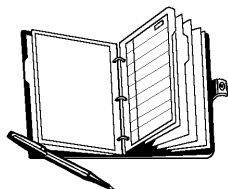


Update on the Rillemas

We've made a little progress with Trey & Avi since the last ECHOES. They are officially able to live with us and we are now their legal guardians - not their parents yet - but we are getting closer. Our paper work is in the Allegan County Courthouse. They tell us it should be about 1 month yet before they are OUR children!

As for Shane, Liam & Kaelyn, we are slowly making the transition back to their parents. They are officially supposed to move back in with their biological mom and dad on June 10. This is a very confusing time for these kids. Please pray for their parents, Shane, Liam, and Kaelyn and their other siblings as they are all reunited. Please pray that this transition back is as smooth as possible for all involved and that they are all able to adapt to the positive changes that have had to occur in their family routine.

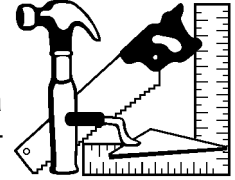
Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you for everything you have done! Shane, Liam and Kaelyn have felt so at home here and they have felt so accepted. They have grown in so many positive ways since they first came to us last June. They couldn't have asked for a better environment to have spent the last year in! Thanks again!



Save the Date – September 9

Save the Date for Fashion on Parade: The Bible League volunteers will be hosting a style show with clothing and accessories from Second Impressions on Thursday, September 9, at Westwood CRC beginning at 6:45 p.m. Come and support the Bible League and enjoy an evening of fun together.

Volunteers Needed



CRWRC-DRS is looking for a few good volunteers this summer to assist with disaster clean-up and rebuilding in Cedar Rapids, IA. and Munster, IN. Both skilled and unskilled workers are needed—individuals, couples, families and groups. Do you have a week you can give to help flood Disaster Response Services? To volunteer, call 1-800-848-5818, email drs@crwrc.org, or go to www.greenshirts.org to find out more.

Back to God Ministries Prayer Requests



Praise God that 10,000 copies of the Back to God Ministries International Chinese-language Truth Q&A booklets have been distributed in mainland China to people hungry for more information about the Bible. We are printing an additional 10,000 booklets. Pray that this important discipleship tool will be distributed safely into the hands of those who need them most.

Praise God that an increasing number of listeners in the Middle East are visiting Back to God Ministries International Arabic website to download messages and passages from the Bible. Pray that these media tools will increase the Gospel impact among Muslims in the Middle East.

Praise God for the completion and dedication of BTGMI's new International Ministry Center in Campinas, Brazil. Pray that as program productions, leadership training and discipleship are carried out from these facilities millions of lives worldwide will be transformed for God's purpose and glory.



Offerings For April

General Fund	\$ 9,800.00
Ministry Shares	2,811.00
Building Expansion Fund	2,037.25
Education Assistance Fund	110.00
Benevolence	941.00
Faith Promise:	
DeYoung	520.00
Meyer	470.00
Shaarda	435.00
Nightingale	220.00
E.M Missions	135.00
Cadets	381.50
Jr. High Youth Group	300.00
Cadets – Denomination	138.76
GEMS – Denomination	158.00
East Martin Christian School	508.50
East Martin Christian High School	1,145.32
Guatemala	1,680.00
Martin Resource Center	55.00

Total Offerings \$21,846.33

Totals to Date

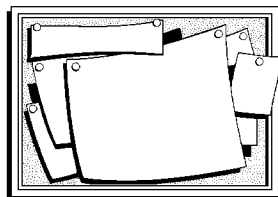
General Fund – Ideal	\$137,500.00
General Fund – Actual	130,196.18
General Fund – Under	\$7,303.82

Ministry Shares – Ideal	\$67,820.17
Ministry Shares – Actual	\$42,837.40
Ministry Shares – Under	\$24,982.77

Remaining Building Debt \$125,073.72

Just a reminder:

The Echoes offers a “for sale”, “for rent”, “wanted” spot so if you have something that fits into that category let one of the staff know.



Greeters

June 6: a.m., Communion – Elders; p.m., Larry and Phyllis Tuinstra.

June 13: a.m., Roger and Dawn Anderson, Keith Smit, p.m., Jason and Kathy Westendorp.

June 20: a.m., Jim and Lauri DeYoung, Russ Quick; p.m., Dennis and Linda DeYoung.

June 27: a.m., Bruce and Joanne Mejeur, Adrian VandenAkker; p.m., John and Milly VanDerMeulen.

Ushers

June 6: Brian Westendorp, Loretta Fennema, Ken Mejeur.

June 13: Dan Wubben, Don Wubben, Ralph Suk.

June 20: Keith Fennema, Loretta Fennema, Dean Wubben.

June 27: Earl Wykstra, Ken Mejeur, Dan Jager.

Nursery

June 6: a.m., Mary and Anna Bronkhorst, Deb Smit; p.m., Lacey Smith, Angie Tiemeyer, Kari Mejeur.

June 13: a.m., Luanne Suk, Nancy Smith, Rebekah Westendorp; p.m., Jen Tuinstra, April Wubben.

June 20: a.m., Ruth Katje, Dawn Anderson, Ann Smit; p.m., Nancy VanDerHeide, Jenna Wubben.

June 27: a.m., Sheri Van Elderen, Kristie Tuinstra, Ally DeYoung; p.m., Mina Van Elderen.

Library

June 6: a.m., Nancy Tuinstra; p.m., Ally DeYoung.

June 13: a.m., Carolyn VanderMeulen; p.m., Lily Van Elderen.

June 20: a.m., Betty DeJager; p.m., Rebekah Westendorp.

June 27: a.m., Linda DeYoung; p.m., Leah Wubben.

Birthdays

- 1 Pastor Jake Weeda
- 3 Nathan Haveman
Larry Tuinstra
- 4 Jeff Jameson
- 8 Gerda Wubben
- 9 Karen Misner
- 11 Jennifer Anderson
- 13 Karina Mejeur
Ashley Lindsey
Darrin Suk
Sue Tiemeyer
- 15 Tiffany Katje
Evan Nightingale
- 17 Connor VanDenBerg
- 19 Ann Smit
- 22 Jerry Bronkhorst
Jon Weeda
- 23 Dean VanderMeulen
- 24 Kyle Aukema
Shelby Quick
- 25 Connie Grevenstuk
- 30 Chelsea DeMoore



Anniversaries

- 5 Pastor Jake and Linda Weeda
- 9 Randy and Mary Bouman
- 10 Wes and Darlene Leep
John and Milly VanDerMeulen
- 15 Glenn and Nancy Leep
Ellie and Vonnie Wykstra
- 16 Bob and Ruth Katje
- 19 Brian and Laura Westendorp
- 21 Chip and Audrey Nightingale
- 26 Earl and Linda Wykstra
- 30 Les and Rena Lynema



Happy Father's Day
June 20

STRAWBERRY – RHUBARB PIE

This is just as tasty as Grandma's strawberry-rhubarb pie – but with 1/5 the calories. By replacing the butter-laden crust with a whole-grain crumble, we've eliminated more than 30 grams of total fat and slashed the saturated fat by almost 90 percent. A splash of citrus enhances the strawberries' natural sweetness, which helps make up for the almost 2 cups of sugar cut from the traditional version of this pie.

- 1 small orange
- 1 pound strawberries (hulled and cut in half or quarters if large)
- 10 oz. rhubarb, trimmed and cut into 1/2" slices
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 1/3 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1/3 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1/4 cup whole wheat flour
- salt
- 3 Tbsp. butter or margarine, slightly softened



Preheat oven to 375 degrees. From orange, grate peel and divide between 2 large bowls, squeeze 1/4 cup orange juice into small bowl.

In 1 large bowl with peel, combine strawberries, rhubarb, and granulated sugar until well mixed. Into small bowl with juice, add corn starch; stir until well mixed. Stir juice mixture into fruit mixture until well combined. Pour into 9 inch glass or ceramic pie plate; spread filling in even layer.

In other large bowl with peel, combine oats, brown sugar, flour and pinch salt. With pastry blender or with finger tips, blend in butter until mixture forms coarse crumbs with a few pea-size pieces remaining.

Sprinkle oat mixture evenly over strawberry mixture. Place pie plate on foil-lined cookie sheet to catch any drips. Bake 45 minutes or until topping is golden brown and fruit filling is hot and bubbling.

Cool pie on wire rack until filling is set but still slightly warm - at least 1 hour. Serve warm. Serves 8.