



The Echoes

January 2023

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

Why should we pray for those in authority over us. I believe for a couple of good reasons. First, authority was created by God, is controlled by Him, and effects our everyday lives. Romans 13:1 says “Everyone must submit to the governing authority, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authority that exists has been established by God.” I Timothy 2:1 & 2, tells us, “I (Paul) urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may have peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

Second, God is in control of those in authority. Proverbs 21:1 states, “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases”.

We see some great examples of God being in control of Pharaoh when it says in quite a few verses in Exodus 7-14 that “God hardened Pharaoh’s heart” through the plagues where God displayed His power to the Israelites and Egyptians. Also, Cyrus, king of Persia, is used by God to send the remnant of Israelites who were in captivity back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Ezra 1:1 states clearly the “the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia” to do this to fulfill Jeremiah’s prophecy about the exile, that it would be 70 years, and would then return and rebuild the temple. He sent the gold and silver articles that were taken out of the temple when Israel was captured, to be put back in the rebuilt temple. And interestingly in Ezra 6:10 he asks Ezra to “pray for the well-being of the king and his sons”.

So what should we pray for? Here’s a few things that come to my mind:

- if they are not saved, that God would put people in their lives to lead them, and He would work in their hearts to bring about salvation.
- if they are saved, they would be strengthened in their faith.
- that they would seek Godly counsel, be drawn to God-fearing advisors, and seek Godly friendships. We know from Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”
- they would be shielded from occultism, New Age, cults, false religions, and secret societies.
- they would endeavor to restore the sanctity of life, families, divine order, and morality in our society and culture.
- and finally, they would realize they will give account to God for what they do.

Those in authority need God to guide and direct, whether they know or admit it or not. And we as citizens, need to seek God’s guidance for our leaders. Let’s be on our knees.

In Contact With Council



Jonathan Kalkman opened the meeting of January 13 with devotions from Proverbs 12 and prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Communications: Ben Tiemeyer requested that his membership be transferred to Community Presbyterian Church. Motion made, supported and passed.

Deacons' Report. The offering schedule was moved, supported and passed.

The Search committee met with Pastor Prince to review names of prospective pastors. The next meeting is January 25.

Council visits: 16 were made.

Profession of faith classes will be led by Pastor Prince.

Motion to adjourn was made, supported and passed. Dave Mejeur closed with prayer and has devotions at the next meeting.

A Bit About Pastor Dave and Patrice

Patrice and I are so very grateful for your warm welcome. Word has reached me that you would like to know a little bit about us.

I was born in Grand Rapids but starting at age 7 we made the first of a couple of moves. First to Saginaw for two years, then to Cleveland for seven years and then to Ann Arbor where I finished high school. Patrice was born in New Jersey and moved to Grand Rapids when she was in middle school. She attended Seymour Christian and Grand Rapids Christian High School. Then, like me, it was off to Calvin College.

We met in the summer of 1980 after the morning worship service at 1st CRC. I have to confess that she didn't make too much of an impression on me because I was scanning the Fellowship Room for any tall, blond, Dutch girls I might have recognized from Calvin. However, I started to see Patrice quite often at the Calvin coffee shop that fall because her roommate was a friend of mine. Patrice and I became good friends after that.

Recently I was at Woodland Mall with my granddaughters and I showed them the restaurant where I interrupted a date Patrice was on with a guy named Bruce. It was a few months after our graduation from Calvin and I hadn't seen her for a while. I invited her to have coffee with me which turned into frequent coffee dates and within a few months we decided to get married. We got married at 1st CRC in August of 1983. (And to continually remind her of how it all got started, whenever she gets mad at me, I say: "You know, you could have married Bruce!")

We started our family in 1987 with the arrival of our son Loren and then some 15 months later he was joined by our daughter, Emily. We lived in Grand Rapids until after Emily graduated from high school in 2007 and I graduated from Calvin Seminary at the same time. Our kids were off to college and we were off to pursue God's leading in ministry. In the fall of 2007, I was called to the Platte (SD) CRC. We stayed there for seven years and then took a call to Kincheloe, MI in the UP. After 4 years there we went to Britt, Iowa for 2 years. We came back to Grand Rapids in January of 2021 and shortly thereafter I began a year of Interim ministry at the Grant (MI) CRC. I was granted Emeritus status (retired) in October of 2022.

Our son now lives in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He and his wife, Salem, have blessed us with two granddaughters, Zoey and Anya. Our daughter Emily is single and she lives in Grand Rapids.

In July of last year, I started a job at Butterworth Hospital. You have heard me speak about what I do there. I am a Behavioral Health Technician which simply means I take care of one patient during my shift and it tends to be a patient who is at risk of hurting themselves or others. Typically, my patients have some severe mental health issues or are recovering from a brain injury, and often they are aggressive or verbally abusive. This has been a wonderful job because I regularly have conversations with my patients that become pastoral in nature.

When we moved back to Grand Rapids two years ago it also meant retirement for Patrice. She has spent much of her career working in elder care. A wonderful story regarding this is that when Patrice was attending Calvin, she worked at the Holland Home where she took care of my Aunt Helen. Aunt Helen would often ask Patrice (who was her favorite aide) "have you met my nephew, David Prince"? Sadly, though, when Patrice and I met on that summer Sunday morning, there was no hint on her part that I was the one Aunt Helen had been telling her about.

Lastly, Patrice loves to knit and is often knitting baby blankets for newborns. I, on the other hand, enjoy golf. This leads to the secret of our happy marriage . . . I don't knit and she doesn't golf!

Sunday School and Catechism

The second half of the Sunday School and Catechism year has begun.

This year the lead teacher for Pre K through 1st grade is Amy Kalkman. She has a helper to assist her each week. Libby Dendel teaches 2nd through 4th grade.

The Catechism aged kids from 5th through 8th grade are taught by Bruce Tiemeyer. The 9th through 12th graders are taught by Jonathan Kalkman.

We are so grateful that our teachers from the first half of the year have continued to finish out the season. Thank You.

The following changes took place in our membership in 2022.



**YEAR
IN
REVIEW**

Lennon Kai Zhou was baptized.

Sam DeYoung and Thomas Westendorp were welcomed into our membership through profession of faith.

Dan Jager, Elizabeth DeJager, Marilois Leep and Kathy Wykstra were taken from us by death.

The memberships of the John VanderMeulen, Nick VanderHeide, and Derek Noorman families, Jason and Kathy Westendorp, Chris Leep, Amanda Wnuk and Jackie and Jared Klaasen were transferred to other churches.



New Library Books

MIRIAM'S SONG — JILL EILEEN SMITH
 FIELDS OF FIRE — RYAN STECK
 (Suspense)
 THE TEACHER OF WARSAW — MARIO ESCOBAR (Novel based on a true story)
 The start of WWII changed everything in Poland except for one man's capacity to love.
 THE KREMLIN CONSPIRACY — JOEL C. ROSENBERG (Suspense)
 THE ORPHAN'S WISH — MELANIE DICKERSON (Tells a story of courage and loyalty, friendship and love, and reminds us what "family" really means.)
 A MARK of GRACE — KIMBERLY WOODHOUSE (Secrets of the Canyon #3)
 CRITICAL THREAT — LYNETTE EASON (Extreme Measures)
 DARK OF NIGHT — COLLEEN COBLE (Anne Peterson novel #2)
 WHAT I WOULD TELL YOU — LIZ TOLSKA (Story of WWII when Jews were killed). Fiction with lots of true facts. Author did a great job.



Martin Area Resource Center

When you are grocery shopping in February, please purchase some of the items below for the Martin Area Resource Center.

Breakfast items: Cereal, Pop-tarts, cereal/ breakfast bars, oatmeal and instant oatmeal flavors, pancake mix and syrup.

Thank You

Please accept my sincere thanks for your prayers, meals, visits and cards following my "tumble" on the Brooklyn Bridge. I had x-rays recently and the orthopedic doctor was pleased with the healing that has taken place and amazed at the range of motion I have gotten back in 10 weeks. PT continues ...

Thanks again, Marcia



Wild Game Dinner 2023

East Martin Christian School will be hosting the annual Wild Game Dinner on Saturday, February 4. Doors will open at 4 pm. The speaker will be Greg Abbas, former co-host of TV's A-Way Outdoors. A \$5 donation at the door gets you entered for a prize. There will also be Silent and Dutch Auctions. If you wish to participate in the Coyote Hunt, contact Wayne Leep.

Creamy Potato and Hamburger Soup

1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
 1 medium onion peeled and diced
 1 large clove garlic minced
 6 cups chicken broth or bullion
 6 cups peeled and diced potatoes
 2 cups corn or vegetable mix
 3 tsp dried basil
 2 tsp dried parsley
 1 1/2 cups milk
 2 Tbsp cornstarch
 8 oz cheese

1. Fry ground beef, onion and garlic until browned
2. Put beef mixture in a crockpot or stockpot on stove
3. Add potatoes, broth, vegetables, basil and parsley
4. Cook in crockpot on low for 6-8 hours or on high for 3-4 hours or simmer on stove until potatoes are tender and starting to dissolve slightly
5. Wisk the cornstarch into the milk, then stir into the soup. Add cheese and let it melt, stirring occasionally.

December Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$38,050.00
Ministry Shares	1,559.00
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	45.00
Shaarda	4,661.00
Smit	4,181.00
Tiemeyer	4,106.00
Walker	4,151.00
Guatemala Orphanage	4,231.00
Sr. High Youth Group	673.00
Cadets	2,229.00
Cadets—Denomination	178.00
Youth Unlimited	307.00
East Martin Christian School	1,307.00
Resonate Global Missions	10,000.00
World Renew—DRS	2,500.00
World Renew—General	12,500.00
Bible League	5,000.00
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission	5,000.00
Growing Hope Globally	5,000.00
Wycliffe Bible Translators	5,000.00
The Luke Society	5,000.00
Forgotten Man Ministries	5,000.00
Crossroads Bible Institute	5,000.00
Moody Radio	5,000.00
Haven Today	5,000.00
Martin Resource Center	10,608.00
Right to Life Education Fund	10,000.00
Total	\$151,286.00

General Fund 12% ahead
 Ministry Shares 25% behind

Offering Schedule for February

February 5: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares; PM—Forgotten Man Ministries
 February 12: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Gideons
 February 19: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Right to Life Education Fund
 February 26: AM—Christian Neighbors; PM—Kalamazoo Christian High School

Greeters

February 5: AM—Don & Julie Wubben, Jonathan Kalkman; PM—Keith & Deb Smit
 February 12: AM—Scott & Becky Rillema, Bruce Tiemeyer; PM—Wes & Darlene Leep
 February 19: AM—Joe DeKoekkoek, Harold Wykstra, Tom Rook; PM—Bruce & Renee Aukema
 February 26: AM—Chris & Marlene Bontrager, Glenn Leep; PM—Cameron & Kristie Tuinstra

Ushers

February 5: Tim Westendorp, Scott and Nate Rillema
 February 12: Preston Rillema, David and Justyn Rillema
 February 19: Sam DeYoung, Henry Michael Tuinstra, Dan Wubben
 February 26: Dean Wubben, Jonathan Kalkman, Bruce Tiemeyer

Nursery

February 5: Laura DeMaagd
 February 12: Hailey and Kaylee Tuinstra
 February 19: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
 February 26: Rebekah Westendorp

Library

February 5: Rena Lynema
 February 12: Linda DeYoung
 February 19: Ida Westendorp
 February 26: Linda DeYoung

