

ON Broadway

Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church Newsletter

July / August 2016

Look Ahead to Fall: The Season to Serve Internationals

Norm Fichtenberg

Although summer only arrived recently, planning for fall has already begun.

In September and October, our congregation's long history of hospitality and service to guests from all nations within our community will peak once again as we tutor new arrivals from around the world. As we did last year, AACRC and ISI (International Students Incorporated) will undertake a joint outreach to internationals by way of weekly Conversational English tutoring for adults, ESL for children and an American Culture class on Tuesdays.

The goals of the Fall Tutoring Program will be to: (1) show hospitality to visiting scholars, post-docs and students from other nations; (2) provide a service of intrinsic value to internationals; and (3) create an opportunity for internationals to meet and establish friendships with caring members of our community.

Based upon last year's successful experience with the Fall Tutoring Program, it is expected that once again connections will be made with internationals which will extend beyond October in the form of growing and flourishing

relationships throughout the time our guests are in Ann Arbor.

Accordingly, subsequent to the Fall Tutoring Program, internationals will be offered a variety of additional opportunities to develop friendships with Americans; including dinner in an American home, being paired with an English conversation partner, obtaining one-on-one Bible tutoring, and participation in a small group Bible study.

Of course such hospitality brings opportunities for congregational participation. During the Fall Tutoring Program Conversational English tutors will be needed, a role that does not require any previous experience. Afterward AACRC members will be invited to connect with internationals in the various ways mentioned above.

Please think about what you might be interested in and comfortable with in terms of connecting with guests from other nations during and subsequent to the fall program.

For more information: contact Barb/Norm Fichtenberg, Mary Staal or Jim/Priscilla Carlson.

Loving God, Serving People

Building a community loved and changed by Jesus,
loving and changing the world for him.



AACRC Faith and Food Garden 2016

Cathy Green

Six years ago AACRC joined a community-wide Faith and Food Ministry that grows produce for distribution through Food Gatherers. To date, we have grown and donated 1,767 pounds of food to this ministry. This ministry is a practical, hands on way for our congregation to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors: the poor, the needy, the unemployed, and those on the margins of society.

Our Food deliveries to Food Gatherers have varied over the years, depending on plant types and the weather. Table 1 shows the growth for each year, photos from last and this year's expansion of the garden area, and spreading compost.

Past Deliveries to Food Gatherers:

| Year | Pounds |
|-------|--------|
| 2015 | 328 |
| 2014 | 380 |
| 2013 | 426 |
| 2012 | 420 |
| 2011 | 213 |
| TOTAL | 1,767 |

One day's pickings last fall, 2015:



Wayne Van Zomeren created additional planting space this spring, 2016.



Compost was delivered and we hauled it into the garden. Pictured LTR: Larry Mieras, Wayne Van Zomeren, Marie Shaffer, and Roy Glover.



With the increased planting area we able to plant more vegetables. We planted tomatoes, peppers, carrots, beans and squash and, of course, flowers. If you visit the garden, you will see a new Water Drip Irrigation System (IS) has been installed. This is a pressure-controlled system that emits a small amount of water, which is dispersed evenly, throughout the tubing. The IS was installed to offer a more consistent method of watering for all the volunteers and, because it is on a timer, it reduces the amount of time a volunteer needs to be actively watering the garden.

Working in the garden is a great way to have some fun, fellowship, and enjoy the outdoors, with the added bonus of knowing you are helping others. If you would like more information about the Faith and Food Garden, please contact:

Barb Okonkwo at bjokonkwo@hotmail.com
 Cathy Green at greenm@comcast.net,
 Deanna Stevenson at deg.stephenson@yahoo.com

Coffee Break 2016-2017

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 through Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Katrina Brehob

What you can do RIGHT NOW!

- **Pre-register online at aacrc.org/CoffeeBreak**
- **Invite someone to join Coffee Break!**

We could use everyone's help with this! A personal invitation means so much. What if you made it a goal to find one person to invite to Coffee Break?

Not sure what to say about Coffee Break? Here's a quick summary:

Small group bible study for all women.

No knowledge of the Bible required. All levels welcome.

English learners and experts welcome

Child care available.

- **Volunteer**

Help lead a Bible study! Cuddle babies! Help teach older children about God's love for them! Maintain class lists! We would love to have you join the staff of Coffee Break. For more information, you can email Katrina at katbrehob@gmail.com.

- **Pray for Coffee Break**

Another thing everyone and anyone can do for Coffee Break! Please pray for the staff members as they rest and rejuvenate before the new program year begins. Pray for future class members and for an increase in the number of children and international women who attend.

We also pray that our advertising and outreach connects with the women who might be interested in Coffee Break.



News from Joel & Jeannie Huyser

Jeannie and I recently had the opportunity to visit and encourage missionaries. No, this time it was not a trip to Egypt, or to Kenya, or to Bangladesh. It was a visit to Denver, Colorado.

When we began with CRWM over twenty years ago we would have called our visit to Denver “deputation.” A “deputy” is an agent or representative who speaks or acts on behalf of another. Mission agencies at one time called the process of raising support “deputation.” The missionary was not raising support for his or her private purposes but as representative of the mission agency.

More recently the term “home service” has replaced “deputation.” But this has always been a confusing term for us. We lived in Nicaragua longer than anywhere else in our married life. So, isn’t Nicaragua really “home”? Or were we moving “home” when we moved to Dallas at the end of 2013, a place we had never lived before?

But there might be a more subtle reason why the term “home service” may no longer be the best term for visiting churches and individuals that pray for us and support us financially. “Home service” implies that one has returned “home” from the “mission field.” But what if Denver, Colorado is as much a “mission field” as Managua, Nicaragua? What if those we visit when we go to raise support in Denver are as much “missionaries” on a “mission field” as we are?

There are many stories I could tell of “missionaries” in Denver: a couple that are using urban gardening to build relationships with unchurched people, a worship leader whose day job is teaching and is looking to start a program to keep young people off the streets, and many more. Yes, Denver is a mission field and God’s people are joining in God’s mission to restore his creation and redeem a people for himself.

The “mission” of the new agency to be formed by joining World Missions and Home Missions

During the last six months a good portion of my time has been devoted to the organizational design of the new mission agency to be formed by joining World Missions and Home Missions. As part of that work we drafted new vision, mission and values statements.

This is how we worded the “mission” statement:

We exist to engage more and more people in the Spirit’s call to embrace God’s mission in their neighborhoods and in the world. We will do this by casting a vision for God’s mission, equipping missional leaders, and partnering with CRCNA congregations and other churches and ministries worldwide.

What if every believer was a “missionary” where they worked, went to school, or lived? What if every congregation was involved both locally and globally? What if “missionaries” and congregations in Denver were learning from “missionaries” and local ministry partners in Egypt, Kenya, Bangladesh, and Managua and vice versa? Would you dream with us?



Joel and Jeannie will be visiting AACRC on Sunday July 17, 2016. Please mark your calendar and prepare to stay after service for pizza and salad provided by our Missions Team so you can visit and speak with them about the work they do.

Covenant: Deuteronomy and I Corinthians

A covenant binds two people or parties together. This summer, Pastor John will be preaching from Deuteronomy and Pastor Ryan will be preaching from I Corinthians. Both Deuteronomy and 1 Corinthians teach us that the covenant God makes with us is designed to benefit the world. The decor in our sanctuary was the hard work of many hands and the vision of many eyes. The colored strips of fabric represent creation—people, communities, animals, water, land, etc. All of the cosmos are there. There is not one person left outside. And all of creation and all of us are bound up in the covenantal love of God. Because of the work of Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who holds us all together, God is bound to the fate of creation and we are bound to our God. A hearty thanks to all those who sewed, gave helpful input, gave time and energy. A special thanks to Sue Holdaway-Heys for coordinating all the sewing. May we feel God's covenantal love as we worship together this summer.



Please send to:

On Broadway
Ann Arbor Christian
Reformed Church
John Groen, Pastor of Worship Ministries
Ryan Boes, Pastor of Family & Youth Ministries
1717 Broadway, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-665-0105
office@aaccrc.org • www.aaccrc.org
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