

# ON Broadway

Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church Newsletter

December 2015 / January 2016

## Worship Symposium—Past & Future

*Jan Musch for the Worship Staff*



On November 14, a group of AACRC folks enjoyed a mini-worship symposium with Rev. Paul Ryan and the Worship Apprentices from Calvin College. We participated in Spirit-filled worship followed by a time of learning and discussion around the topics What Is Worship? (morning) and Collaborative Worship Planning and Evaluation (afternoon). The morning conversation continued over a delicious lunch.

This was just a small taste of what is available at the annual Calvin Symposium on Worship sponsored by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Thursday through Saturday, January 28-30, 2016. Hundreds of attendees and dozens of presenters from a variety of Christian traditions will gather from across North America and around the world to worship, learn and interact together. There will be multiple opportunities for worship (with sermons taken from texts in Isaiah) as well as workshops of interest to pastors, musicians, artists, worship planners and leaders, ministry leaders and volunteers, and all of us who worship day by day!

It is possible to register for one, two or all three days of the conference. This year Pastor John and our worship coordinators, Paul, Jan and Marilyn, plan to attend, so we have already qualified for the group registration rate of \$70 per day for three or more attendees from the same congregation. For information about the conference program, schedule, presenters, registration and more, go to <http://worship.calvin.edu/symposium/>. If you have questions or would like more information about Symposium, we would love to talk to you. We always return from Symposium inspired, refreshed, and renewed, and we know you will, too!

### Loving God, Serving People

Building a community

loved and changed by Jesus,

loving and changing the world for him.



## 2015-16 Connect Ministries Calendar

### Book Studies

**Fall:** “Telling God’s Story: A Parent’s Guide to Teaching the Bible” by Peter Enns. (In Progress)

TGS gives not just parents, but grandparents, friends, or parishioners who have made covenantal promises to children a way to speak the beauty and the truth of God’s word to children in a way that is developmentally appropriate and has biblical integrity.

**Late Winter (Jan -Mar):** “Growing Yourself Up” by Jenny Brown

GYU is about exploring what it means to be “mature” and to bring our best into every relationship. Together we’ll explore what it means to grow in our most important relationships.

### Events

**October 21, 2015 – 6:30 PM (Already Done!)**

**College Care Packages**—An intergenerational opportunity to support our college students who spend most of the year apart from us. We write notes of encouragement and pack boxes full of goodies and practical things for college students.

**December 13, 2015 – 5:00 PM**

**Carols, Children & Chili**—Come to church and participate in a good old fashioned carol sing that our children’s choirs will also participate in. Stay for a chili dinner afterward.

**February 10th, 2016 – 5:30 PM**

**Ash Wednesday**—Join us as we begin our Lenten journey together as we break bread and are marked by ashes. We’ll start with a soup and bread dinner at 5:30 and our Ash Wednesday service begins at 6:30 pm.

**April 17th, 2016 – 5:15 PM**

**WE Night**—We’ll gather as a congregation for inter-generational faith formation that OF COURSE, includes a meal. We’ll share a meal together and spend the night learning from each other and growing in our faith together.

## International Ministry Trip–2016 Costa Rica

*Bill Vander Roest*

For our church's next High School International Ministry trip, God is calling us to minister to His people in Costa Rica. Our trip will take place from July 30 – August 6, and we will be serving alongside Jim and Ruth Padilla-DeBorst, missionaries with whom our church has enjoyed a long relationship. Our team consists of: Clare Brush, Eva Doorlag, Justin Eekhoff, Gannon Henke, Dane Hubers, Darian Karr, Kelly Tan, and Kevin Tan. Megan Boes will be co-leading this trip.

Although the details of our trip are still being worked out, the things we will likely be doing in Costa Rica include:

- Experiencing the history, culture, and people of Costa Rica
- Experiencing life as a missionary
- Experiencing new ways to worship
- Experiencing life in a Christian community
- Experiencing poverty—showing Christ's love to the poor
- Experiencing abandonment—showing Christ's love to the littlest ones in an orphanage
- Experiencing ecology from a Christian perspective

One of the objectives of the trip is to take us out of our comfort zone. During our first meeting we discussed the fact that God calls us to trade fear of the unknown for trust in the unseen. We talked about aspects of the trip that are unsettling to us and we compiled a list that we are now actively praying for. We invite you to join us in prayer for these concerns and, as well, for God to bless our trip.

1. Our ability to form relationships in a short period of time and be accepted.
2. Our ability to deal with language/communication issues.
3. Confidence to step out of our comfort zones, especially with the Costa Rican families.
4. Comfort as we will be far away from home and families.

5. That we'll stay healthy & happy the whole time.
6. That we will have safe travels there and back and safety throughout the week.
7. Dealing with separation anxiety from our electronic devices.
8. That we will be open to trying new foods and that we will actually enjoy them.
9. Making new friends who speak a different language.
10. Living in a different house for a week.
11. That this trip will change our lives.
12. That we won't feel awkward spending time with the people and kids there.
13. That we will have experiences that will stick with us and maybe inspire future missionary work.
14. That we can work out and stay in shape while we are away.
15. That we will get to know each other better and our group comes together as a cohesive team where we are all comfortable with each other.
16. Calmness during the plane ride.
17. Freedom from anxiety and associated symptoms.
18. That we will be able to work and interact well with new people and work out of our comfort zones.
19. That we can fall asleep quickly at night.
20. Getting through customs and immigrations smoothly.
21. That we have everything we need while we are gone.
22. That we will make a real difference in the lives of those we meet.

### Save the Date International Ministry Fundraisers

January–Sub Sale

March 5–All-church family fundraising dinner

## A Voice for the Voiceless Special Offering—December 6

*Missions Team*

Plans are under way for the Annual Fridsro Christmas Meal/Party. For the past four years many friends of Fridsro, at AACRC, undertook to provide the gifts and treats for a Christmas Party/Meal at the Children's Home in Sri Lanka. The holiday season will soon be here and raising adequate funds for this annual event is of great concern because of their present financial deficit, more pronounced having lost the support of donors in Sweden. The party is very much an encouragement and motivational time for the children and the staff. Included is usually lunch for all the children and staff, followed in the afternoon with a party of games and gifts for the kids, along with tea and snacks for all. Fridsro was thankful for the financial support that they received from AACRC for the party, last year, and ask you to prayerfully consider support again for 2015. The expenses for the party usually run approximately \$4,800, but with a current monthly deficit of \$3,000 they anticipate they will not be able to give presents and will have a modest Christmas. A special offering for this event will be taken on December 6. Those who wish to join in sponsoring this party again can make a check out to AACRC with "Fridsro/Christmas Party" in the memo line.

Fridsro has received support through the AACRC Mission Budget for many years! We first became familiar with this ministry when Roger & Norma Verhey lived in Sri Lanka, in early 1970. Over the years, we have been privileged to have members of the Perera family visit and share with us about the on-going work in Sri Lanka. At the time of the tsunami in 2005, the Fridsro Disaster Relief Team was on the 'front line' with assistance. Later, at the time of the Civil war in the country, they again provided assistance in many different ways.

You may remember that Jake Perera, the Director of Fridsro, and his family moved from the US WorldROC office to Thailand, to cut down on travel time related to the ministry. It was good to have Jake, and Sanjeev Jayaweera, Deputy Chairman, with us August last year and they were able to give an update about the work and share about their needs. As this ministry continues to expand, we have been made aware that they also face new challenges.

At the present time there are 65 resident children at Fridsro and several staff that work in all their projects (Community Based Rehabilitation, Disaster Relief, Child Friendly Community, Disability Rights, etc.). About three years ago, they were asked to take over the operation of a tea plantation, the CINDA Project in Nuwara Eliya, located in northern Sri Lanka, and in so doing added 450 children to their 'family'. This year they have partnered with other churches and missions organizations to work in a war torn northern region of Sri Lanka adding a further 250 children!

Fridsro Children's Home has been nationally and regionally recognized by government agencies of Sri Lanka as providing a standard of care classed as "excellent." The children who have grown up and moved on from the home are doing well in the outside world. The older children, who have transitioned into jobs and adult life, will be coming 'home' to be with their family for Christmas. So there will be a large number attending the Christmas meal/party.

The magnitude of this ministry is hard for us to even comprehend. We ask that you would keep Jake and his family and the ministry of Fridsro in your prayers, and especially that the funds will be raised that are of immediate need. As we read the updates, they reminds us of how we move about in our 'comfortable surroundings,' quite unaware of what the rest of the world faces on a daily basis. Your help at this time, for the Christmas Meal/Party, will be a blessing to many. (Further information regarding Fridsro is found in the Missions Notebook, in the Fellowship Hall or you may go on line to [www.fridsro.org](http://www.fridsro.org) or [www.facebook.com/Fridsro](http://www.facebook.com/Fridsro).)

*"Whoever welcomes one of these little children  
in My name, welcomes Me." Mark 9:37*



## Gray Matters

*Roy Glover*

At its November meeting the Gray Matters (Senior Fellowship) recognized nine men who served in the Armed Forces of our country. We heard stories that recounted memories of their terms of service.

A highlight was witnessing a flag folding, led by Tom Larson, part of the ceremony that takes place at the graveside of those who have served in some branch of the military. The flag folding ceremony includes words to describe each fold. These words are filled with references to the Godly principles on which our country was founded. Below the picture are excerpts from that ceremony.



The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The fourth fold .... as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we trust."

At its meeting on December 9th, the Gray Matters will celebrate "An Afternoon At The Opera." The focus of the meeting will be an introduction to Mozart's fairy tale opera, The Magic Flute. It will include a synopsis of the libretto and an introduction to some of the beautiful music that has made The Magic Flute one of the most performed pieces in opera history. A benefit of learning about The Magic Flute is that The Metropolitan Opera is re-broadcasting a live Encore performance of the opera in two local theaters on Saturday, December 12th. Tickets for these performances should be in demand and can be purchased on line or at each theater box office. Any member of the congregation looking to expand their cultural horizons is invited to join in the fun.

## Fall AACRC Grounds Clean-Up

A few brave souls worked hard on Saturday, November 21, for a snowy clean-up day. Thanks so much!!



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@aacrc.org • www.aacrc.org

Published by the  
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Deadline: the 18th of every month

Sunday Morning Worship Services

8:45 & 11:15 am

