

# ON Broadway

Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church Newsletter

November 2015

## Health Ministry News and Notes

Barb Okonkwo, RN, FCN



Health Ministry recognizes and appreciates that we at AACRC are a caring community. This caring takes many forms and is often only noted by those most directly involved; it could be a hug, a prayer, a sincere “how ARE you,” an encouraging note, call, email, or even a Facebook post; it could be an invitation for lunch or coffee, a game of racquetball or basketball, a walk; it could be a visit, help with meals, laundry, cleaning, babysitting, etc., etc.

Penned under the pseudonym of Ian MacLaren, Rev. John Watson is said to have written, “Most of us are acutely aware of our own struggles and we are pre-occupied with our own problems. We sympathize with ourselves because we see our own difficulties so clearly. (But) let us be kind to one another, for most of us are fighting a hard battle.”

This “battle” may be current, past, or future but the saying reminds us to pay attention, take note that the person sitting in the pew with us, standing in the fellowship hall or absent from Sunday services may be facing a difficult time and need a kindness.

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, says, “*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*” (NLT)

To explore how this “comfort” is and can be evidenced in the life of our community, Health Ministry is planning an adult ed series that will center on the theme of “Walking With” those in our community who ...

**November 8:** Betsy Ventura will share her story about living with chronic illness.

**November 22:** Joe Yunkman will share his story with us.

**December 6:** We will hear from Luke and Merling Tsai and others about the journey with children who are otherwise gifted.

Won't you join us?

### Loving God, Serving People

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

## Thanksgiving Meals for the Community Assistance Program (CAP) in Detroit

*Service Deacons*

The Community Assistance Program (CAP) is a non-profit Christian crisis center providing emergency assistance to individuals and families. They assist people in obtaining the resources they need to improve quality of life. CAP serves the inner-city Detroit neighborhood of the Nardin Park Community Church, which is an area of approximately 70 square miles.

November is Thanksgiving. Our church has the opportunity to share what God has given us abundantly. We will participate in the annual collection of Thanksgiving meals to benefit people who are in need. This collection will begin, Sunday, Nov. 15. Please put bags on the tables that will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able to provide a meal (or more), it will be greatly appreciated. You can also consider getting together with friends to share the cost.

Each meal should be placed in double grocery bags, for added strength. A check for \$25.00 **made out to CAP**, will help purchase each turkey. Checks should be placed in a box in the Fellowship Hall. The meals will be delivered to CAP in Detroit on Sunday, Nov. 22.

- 1 (14-½ oz.) package of macaroni and cheese (or 2 smaller boxes)
- 1 (2 lb. or 5 lb.) package Aunt Jemima self-rising corn meal mix, yellow or white
- 2 (15 oz.) cans of one or more vegetables (peas, corn, green beans, please no carrots)
- 1 (40 oz.) can of yams
- 1 (12 oz.) package of Stove Top Stuffing
- 1 (14 or 16 oz.) can of jellied cranberry sauce
- 1 (box, any size) yellow or white cake mix
- 1 (12 or 16 oz.) can ready mix frosting
- 2 (9 oz.) packages of Jiffy pie crust mix
- 2 (1 lb. 5 oz.) cans of pie filling of the same flavor (peach, cherry etc..)
- 1 (10.5 oz.) can turkey gravy

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Also, when the food is taken, we will be delivering clothes to CAP. Currently CAP has a need for clothing for all: men, women, & children.

The CAP closet for your donations is located on the lower level in the back hall across from the women's rest room.



### November Special Offerings

November 1 • World Renew, World Hunger Sunday

November 26 • Thanksgiving Day • Food Gatherers

## Ginny Champoux International Students, Inc.

*Mission Team*

A recent newsletter from Ginny Champoux.

Dear Family and Friends,



Thank you so very much for your prayer support and financial support. Some highlights of my summer include my early morning coffee and time with God in my back yard. The fruits of my new raised bed veggie garden include wonderful greens, tomatoes and more.

Did you know we have over 8,965 international students and scholars at the University of Michigan? In the whole of the U.S. there are 1,133,939 internationals. Sixty percent come from nations with restricted access to the Gospel. The top three sending countries are China, India and South Korea.

I enjoy hosting the monthly Saturday ISI prayer group in my home. It is a blessing to hear how God is working in each of their lives and the lives of the students they have contact with. I also continue my two women's Bible studies with the Japanese and Korean ladies (my Chinese gals returned to their homeland). Lord, who do you have next for me?

Another highlight, "J" from Korea shared that the Bible study we have together made her realize how God's word affects her in a real way. Yet another highlight was a visit from a Brazilian woman we met 25 years ago. As a Fulbright scholar with two young children, she attended our meetings and social events and then returned home as a professor in a Catholic university with a vision to live for Christ. Always a blessing, is hosting dear friends and several close missionaries who come to visit. During a beautiful summer day in historic Tecumseh we enjoyed a girl's day around town with good food and lots of shopping. Oh how these Japanese gals enjoyed themselves!

"Sanctification is not my idea of what I want God to do for me; sanctification is God's idea of what he wants to do for me." OC

As we serve together,

Ginny Champoux  
ginnychampoux@gmail.com



## Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM)

*The following are excerpted from Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) recent newsletters.*

### **Missionary Support—What is it?**

In Romans 10:15, the apostle Paul identifies two important components of missions – those who “go” and those who “send”. Churches and missionaries are partners in missions, two halves of a team that God uses to extend His Kingdom worldwide. They encourage one another, pray for each other, and share progress and challenges. Through their partnership, God is glorified and both parties are strengthened in their vision and mission.

Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) has more than 200 missionaries serving in over 40 countries, and through partnerships, our work extends to more than 50 countries. We currently have about 50 career missionary positions (over 130 adults). CRWM also partners with churches and individuals to send volunteers to serve alongside career missionaries. Last year CRWM sent about 440 volunteers to serve all around the globe.

For over 125 years Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) has been helping Christian Reformed Churches fulfill the Great Commission. We focus our work in four major categories.

**Christian Education:** We are sending Christian teachers and equipping educators to apply a holistic biblical worldview. Through this ministry, students are becoming active participants in God’s mission.

**Leadership Development:** We are multiplying vibrant disciples and churches through the development of godly servant leaders. Our ministry in leadership development involves both formal education and non-formal training.

**Evangelism and Discipleship:** We are sharing the good news of salvation and leading people to develop and deepen a personal relationship with Christ and with His body.

**Transforming Communities:** Throughout the world the Spirit is inspiring Christian movements to ask what the good news of Jesus might look like in the context of their time and place. CRWM identifies, encourages, and

learns from these movements as we together endeavor to put faith into action.

### **Highlights**

- In the United States, 71% of CRC congregations are connected to an international missionary or project through CRWM.
- CRWM had 103 unique requests in the United States for services including programs, events, or preaching engagements from individuals or congregations.
- A total of 438 volunteers served in cross-cultural ministry work with CRWM.
- Members of the CRC helped more than 5,000 people around the world participate in adult discipleship ministries through CRWM.
- A total of 85 teachers and administrators served students of all ages in international schools through CRWM Missionaries serve in church communities around the world.



### **Project Window**

*Muriel Learned*

Project Window is a letter-writing ministry from women in our church to women in the Women’s Prison in Milan, MI. There will be a meeting for those already writing letters to women in prison and anyone else who would like to be involved. Come to the Conference Room near the church office at 4:00 pm on Monday, Nov. 2, where we will share any feedback on our letter-writing. We will also hear about some who no longer get responses from their letters. This will be a time to encourage one another, to get some new names to write to and to share experiences. It will be a time for new letter-writers to hear about the details of this program. Come to be informed and encouraged. RSVP to Muriel Learned.

## 2015 Faith and Food Garden

Cathy Green

Another Faith and Food (F&F) growing season has come and gone. Many have enjoyed sitting by the garden for lunch, planting the garden, working in the garden and others harvesting the food to take to Food Gatherers. This year we donated beans, carrots, squash, kale and tomatoes. The tomatoes may not have been as plentiful as those in past years, but they were a healthy crop!

For those of you who may be new to AACRC, here's a little history of the garden and its purpose. It is called a **"Faith and Food"** garden because we are part of a county wide ministry that grows produce for distribution through Food Gatherers, a Washtenaw county food bank and food rescue program. The Faith and Food organization was founded in 2009, in response to faith-based efforts to address hunger in our community. AACRC joined this network of gardens in 2010, as a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors: the poor, the needy, the unemployed, and those on the margins of society. Today, we are one of 34 congregations in our community participating in this worthy cause.

**AACRC's guiding principle is from Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35, "... for I was hungry and you gave Me food;"** from its inception, we have had 43 volunteers involved with our garden. Some provided the necessary funds for the project to begin. Some dug the postholes; some built the fences, gate and raised beds; and some helped to prepare the beds for planting and then planted the seeds or seedlings. Some faithfully watered and maintained the garden during the growing season. And still others harvested and delivered the produce to Food Gatherers.

This season, we delivered 328# of produce to Food Gatherers!!! This total is comprised of our F&F garden and individuals who donated from their garden on behalf of the AACRC F&F Garden. **Our total donations for all five years are:**

- 2011: 213 pounds
- 2012: 420 pounds
- 2013: 426 pounds
- 2014: 380 pounds
- 2015: 328 POUNDS
- Grand total: 1,767#

On Oct. 17, 2015, five volunteers gathered with me to finish the harvesting and clean the garden for winter: Audrey, Harvey, Barb, De Anna, Ann.

We have truly experienced the Lord's answer to our prayers: to bless this garden for His purposes.

*"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Matt. 9:37.*

We hope you'll choose to join us next spring. It takes many hands to make our Faith and Food Garden an expression of God's love at 1717 Broadway.



## Make a Joyful Noise!



You are invited to a hymn sing on Sunday, November 1 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hymn requests are encouraged. If you have a brown hymnal, please bring it with you. Contact Ann

VanZomeren if you have questions.



## Group Travel Opportunity

Think of sitting in a pew with splendor and beauty surrounding you. Now is the time to make that dream a reality. Join Dr. Randy Engle, pastor of North Hills CRC in Troy, MI, on a trip to visit England's heritage from July 16-24, 2016. Highlights include a private tour of Lambeth Palace and Archives, worship at St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Chichester Cathedral, a private organ tour at Westminster Abbey and attendance at the Southern Cathedral Festival. Along the way, travel through the Cotswolds, eat fabulous food, and stay in luxurious accommodations. Don't hesitate, reserve your spot today! Visit [www.wittetravel.com](http://www.wittetravel.com) or email Randy Engle at [randyengle@aol.com](mailto:randyengle@aol.com). Sponsored by Calvin College Alumni Association—open to all.

## Advent–Christmas 2015

### Theme: “Almost Emmanuel”

*Pastor John*



#### **Nov. 29, Advent 1: Luke 1:67-79, Isaiah 40:9-11–Pastor Ryan**

God’s desire is to be with people, to redeem people, God’s movement toward the world—a hope and desired expressed in the prophets who each color the picture in their own way. Prophets were custodians of the hope—and Zechariah speaks his mind after his son John is born.

How has the purpose and desire of God for the world become evident in our community and in our own lives as we wait for the return of Christ?

#### **Dec. 6, Advent 2: Luke 1:5-55–Pastor John**

Mary presents herself to God as so many in Israel’s history had done. Her response to God’s action is one of presenting herself to whatever God has in mind for her. Jesus’ attitude was exactly the same—there’s a family resemblance in how he presented himself to God to be used for God’s purpose. How have we as a community and individuals presented ourselves to God to be used for his purpose in the world? Your Kingdom come, your will be done was the attitude evident in Mary and Jesus. Also in us in our waiting?

#### **Dec. 13, Advent 3: Matthew 2:1-18–Pastor Ryan**

The incarnation of God is threatened by a man afraid to lose his power and influence in the world.

The sacrifice of children for the well-being and security of adults has a long history among human beings—it still happens today. Children are sacrificed to satisfy the desires of adults. Children are sent to war directed to do so by powerful older men in their comfortable offices.

We realize that the hope of peace that Jesus brought us has not yet fully come. This Advent we again remember and mourn the deaths of so many in our world because people like Herod have the power and the means to make it happen. Violence is a horrible reality in our world—violence evident in every day speech and dropped from very fast fighter jets.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen!

What are we afraid of losing with the coming of Jesus into our lives? What are we afraid of losing when Jesus returns and as we prepare for his return? What do we protect with violence?

#### **Dec. 20, Advent 4: Luke 2:8-20–Pastor John**

God uses surprising people to work through—people that the majority in society would not choose, people the majority would not listen to. God wants all people to enter his kingdom and he uses all sorts of people to announce his kingdom and to work through so that his kingdom does come. Jesus does not enter the pristine story of ideal people, but he enters the stories of so many different sorts of people—shepherds no less—men who were out of line for the family inheritance, the family business and who were given the work of shepherds—a despised occupation. Jesus comes into the world and lands at the fringes. He enters into the world and ends up with the poor, as poor as they were.

To whom can we show unexpected respect or kindness this week as we prepare for the poor man, Jesus, to appear among us again?

What job today coincides with the job of being a shepherd? Would we send our children to college and university to prepare them for a lifetime of shepherding sheep?

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**Dec. 24, Christmas Eve • 11:00 pm**

Pastor John & Pastor Ryan reading a collection of texts taken from our Advent observations, song, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper

**Dec. 25, Christmas Day • 10:00 am**

Luke 2: Pastor Ryan

**December 2015 • Evening Worship**

**Dec. 13, Connect Night • 5:00 pm**

Please join us for an evening of carol singing with our youth choirs. Following our time of singing we will have a time of fellowship and food.

**Dec. 20, Lessons and Carols • 6:00 pm**

**Longing for Home**, led by the Adult Choir. God's garden was a home made just for Adam and Eve, for us, with our needs in mind. But Adam, our representative, forfeited the right to live there. God banished us, but not without providing for us a way to come home again. Jesus did more than show us the way. He is the way.

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