

ON Broadway

Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church Newsletter

October 2015

You Are Invited

Pastor John

To What? Workshops on Worship.

When? Saturday, November 14, 2015

Time? 930 am to 230 pm.

We are privileged to welcome Paul Ryan to AACRC to present two workshops on worship. You'll find their descriptions below. Paul's bio on the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship—where he works—states the following.

Paul Ryan is a resource development specialist for mentoring worship leaders at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and associate chaplain for worship at Calvin College. Paul's work with CICW includes planning for the Calvin Symposium on Worship, organizing and leading regional training events, developing resources for the CICW website, and networking with church and college campus worship leaders locally and nationally. At the college, Paul directs the Sunday evening student-led worship service LOFT (Living Our Faith Together) and mentors students in the Worship Apprentice Program.

Paul's interests include the implementation and development of worship teams, planning theologically rich and culturally sensitive worship, reviving historical practices for the next generation, creating and integrating new music and media, and cultivating healthy corporate and individual worship habits. Paul is a graduate of Indiana University School of Music (BM, vocal performance) and Calvin Theological Seminary (M.Div) and is an ordained pastor in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

We will begin the day with worship and then move into a 90 minute workshop entitled, "What is Worship?" After lunch Paul will present another 90 minute workshop entitled "Collaborative Planning and Evaluation."

Following is a description of the workshops.

What Is Worship? A general session exploring Biblical principles of worship and worship planning (including three ways the Bible uses the term worship, four levels of conversation about worship services, and a central purpose for corporate worship: engaging in a relationship between God and us)

Collaborative Planning and Evaluation. How can a worship planning team work best together? How can we maximize the strengths of collaborative planning while minimizing its weaknesses? In this workshop we explore a process for planning worship that is life-giving, balancing creativity, team work, and efficiency. We will also discuss planning tools that can enable effective collaborative planning and evaluation.

Once again—you are invited to join. There is NO cost. If you have any questions, please ask me. Please consider joining us.

Loving God, Serving People

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

Chinese Students, Scholars and Families @ the University of Michigan

Lynn & Mary Degener
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Dear Friends and supporters of our ministry,

One of our small group Bible studies that meets weekly shared this good news recently:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty! It was a happy day on July 31, 2015. We had the opportunity to participate in a baptism ceremony for eight young adults. Five of them were our friends who have been attending our small study group; two young couples and one young lady. Our joy is indescribable because God is glorified by these people who chose to follow Him. It was all God's plan and their submissive hearts.

These Chinese young adults are visiting scholars. Yet they never really heard about Jesus nor the gospel in China. God opened a door for them to come to America and the U-M for a year. God provided opportunities for them to seek Him through interactions with Christian groups, a Chinese church and our small study group. Becoming their friends, we got opportunities to share the Good News with them, to help them to understand about the relationships between our Lord and human beings; and to learn the truth about salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We truly thank God for opportunity to serve Him, to be His servants!

Recently some of the Visiting Scholars have returned to China after one year at the U-M. We had a few of them over for a "returning to China" party. We asked them what they would do differently when they return to China. One of the responses from a young man that has been here with his family responded "I will spend more time with my family. Before I came here I always spent most of my time working." This is a huge change for a Visiting Scholar to make and the first time for us to hear it.

Thank you for partnering with us in ministering to the Chinese that come here; they are lonely and searching for meaning in their life. May our God continue to help us get connected and provide opportunities to show them Christian love through His word.

Hard of Hearing—Easy Listing

Glovers & Dykstras

Senior Fellowship met for the first time on September 9 with 60 people in attendance. The group was encouraged to hear Merling and Luke Tsai recount the blessings as well as the difficulties they've experienced during the 40 years their autistic son, Steven, has been a member of their family. At our next meeting on October 14, we've asked Dirk Evans to speak on the topic of "Listing." Please put this date on your calendar and try to attend if your schedule permits. Oh, I forgot to mention, the coffee, cookies and fellowship are also not to be missed.



Aviation Hall of Fame Induction

The Iowa Aviation Museum located in Greenfield, Iowa, proudly inducted Marie Mountain Clark into the Hall of Fame on August 29, 2015.

This honor is respectfully bestowed upon Iowans who have contributed significantly to aviation. In all aspects of flight, these men and women have pioneered and fostered the growth of aviation with their innovative ideas, unyielding dedication and indomitable spirits. This service has resulted in immeasurable benefits for all. Iowa is proud of Marie Mountain Clark and we express our sincere appreciation for her work and the dedication in the field of aviation."

To honor her World War II service as a US Air Force pilot as a member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, Marie was awarded the congressional Gold Medal posthumously in 2010.

What Is Guiding Our Choices for Partnering with Missionaries?

Mission Team

We support our missionaries with money, active participation in their activities and prayer. For some, where distance and security are involved, financial support sent to their sending agency is primary. We may participate more actively with others. The Mission Team recognizes that active partnerships foster a mission-minded church and successful missionaries. We are looking at more ways our congregation—as individuals and groups—can partner with our missionaries.

From congregation members, small groups such as fellowship groups, crafters, high schoolers, our missionaries and pastors, the Mission Team learned that focusing more on a few could foster closer relationships, better understanding and more active partnerships between our church and our missionaries. To achieve this, an early step is discovering who are good fits with our passions and talents, who are most effective missionaries and with whom can AACRC be an active partner.

To help in making choices the Mission Team added more defined criteria to the Mission Team Policy requirements. The criteria are based upon “Five Streams.” The Christian Reformed Church Synod 2013 declared that Five Streams *“Tell who we are and form the basis for all we say and do. Let this river flow over us, through us, and to the world in which we live.”* *Five Streams converge into a river that marks God’s presence and blessings.*

The Five Streams with brief descriptions are:

Faith Formation—Challenge and equip each believer to grow in their faith

Servant Leadership—Identify, recruit and train leaders for the Kingdom

Global Mission—Start and strengthen local churches everywhere. Share the gospel

Loving Mercy and Doing Justice—Respond to the brokenness of disobedience and disaster and disease; ministries of mercy and doing justice

Gospel proclamation and Worship—Hearing God’s word in church worship and worshipping with our lives in spiritual acts of worship.

Two additional criteria are considered:

Partnership—Can AACRC actively work with this missionary?

Communication—Reports, letters, visits, etc. are needed for knowing missionaries, and what and how they are doing and how we can partner with them.

The Mission Team looks at the reports, newsletters and visits of missionaries to learn in which of these streams each missionary is working effectively, and how we might be an active partner with them.

Pray that the Lord will guide the work of the Mission Team and that our members and friends will find joyful purpose in increased participation in “making disciples of all nations.”

Your Mission Team members are Jim Steenstra and Teresa Streng (co-chairs), Marilyn Cummins, Barbara Fichtenberg, Jenelle and Sean Newman and Tom Trevethan who has joined the team for a season.



A Poem for Your Inspection

Mary* had a roll of tape,
she liked it very much
It’s useful way beyond all dreams,
to hang up notes and such.

Displays and pics hung all about,
on walls and doors and brick.
Some had the tape bunched up behind,
which is a clever trick.

Tape leaves its mark when it’s removed
from where it used to be.
Its glue attaches passing dirt,
or pulls off paint, you see.

There is no doubt that tape is nice
where clips and pins should be.
The latter are our current choice;
we hope you will agree.

With all our walls and doors now new,
it might be nice to try
to hang things up up some neater way,
on strips and clips we’ll buy.

We will be pleased to help
each willing guy and lass.
Just put the tape away for now,
and help us look first class.

Anonymous

*It could have been Jim. Mary seemed like a good way to start a poem.

VBS News from Nardin Park Community Church – Detroit, Michigan

"Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11



Would you continue to live in a neighborhood where there are many empty houses, empty lots, graffiti on buildings and numerous burned out homes? The area surrounding the Nardin Park Community Church has changed dramatically since the 1st VBS began 24 years ago. BUT . . . some things do not change – like the eager anticipation of the kids (preschool through high school) who are eager to sing, participate in the activities of the morning and the faithful staff.

It has now been 24 years since Nardin Park Community Church (NPCC) and Community Assistance Program (CAP) have joined hands to offer a 5-day Vacation Bible School Program. This year the theme was: *"Jesus – The True Superhero: Savior, Protector, Provider."* Through engaging Bible stories, the students were able to learn the qualities needed to be a superhero for Christ, including hard work, compassion, faith and boldness. Each year, AACRC has provided help in the area of financial support and music. Both are needed and most appreciated! One younger teacher, a VBS student many years ago, learned from the example of the older women (in their 70's & 80's) and now is committed to reaching the teens. The dedication of these women of the church, to reach out to the youth and who have carried the *torch* is truly an example to all of us.



This year the church was given a large van which was most helpful in going out to pick up students. The ages of those attending was from 9 months (child of the younger teacher) to high school students! Some former student's, now off to college or married, stopped in to say 'hello' and maybe sing a few songs with us. There is a loving concern for all ages and respect is shown to others. Music continues to be a high point of VBS for all ages. The list of songs is *long* – many with a direct Scripture reference. There's clapping and movement and hearts full of praise and we pray that the Word will be hidden in their hearts – for a lifetime! Each morning included: an opening time of singing, prayer and a brief meditation; class time and music classes for various age groups; a closing time with more singing. At the closing time, each class briefly shared about the lesson of the day, a prayer was given by Pastor Morris who then dismissed the students, by class, for their noon meal which Josephine Collins (Director of CAP) oversees. VBS is over for another year, but the work at NPCC is on-going. We do not know what lies ahead for them but are thankful to be part of their journey as we have reached out over the years to the children/families at Nardin Park



During this past summer relationships have again been made while memories linger in the minds of both students and teachers! It is by faith alone that this church continues to be a light amidst darkness that surrounds it. The ministry of CAP still reaches countless people and Josephine Collins, along with her son, Michael are vital to this program. Remember to pray for Pastor Morris along with our brothers and sisters in Christ at NPCC as they will do follow up with children/youth and parents that have been reached through the summer programs. And also pray for these people as their work is difficult and for the many people in the Nardin Park neighborhood, each day is a challenge. May the seeds that have been sewn grow and blossom as this church continues to reach out and share His love to those in need.

Tim & Char Larsen



*"Put on the whole armour of God,
Put on the whole armour of God,
Put on the whole armour of God,
That you may stand against the devil and his wiles. . .
Take your stand with truth as your belt.
Take your stand with truth as your belt. Refrain
(Song from Ephesians 6:10-17)*