

# ON Broadway

Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church Newsletter

July 2017

## Thank You AACRC!

We have received two letters from the families of Joel & Beth Wallinga which follow:

### From Beth's Parents

Dear Christian Friends:

Thank you so much for your many acts of kindness and love for our daughter, Beth Wallinga, her husband Joel, and their family and household, especially during the last three-and-a-half years of Beth's suffering with cancer.

We know how many of you took turns doing this or that chore; specifically helping Beth with her meds and other needs; and just "being there and available" as a need might arise. What you've done is a God-honoring and God-inspired action on your part, and that's incredible! We not only appreciate all that you do/did, we actually stand in awe and give heartfelt thanks to God for you all!

Dear Joel and family still need your prayers, and we're glad that that is forthcoming from the likes of you. Thanks for that, too!

You make us humble and proud at the same time. Please accept our heartfelt thanks ... for everything!

With much love,

Ken & Rose Swets

### From Joel's Parents

Dear Congregation of Ann Arbor CRC,

We would like to thank you so much for being the hands and feet of Christ to Joel and Beth Wallinga and family during these past years of Beth's illness, and now during her home-going. Your gifts of meals, treats, cleaning, transportation, visits, cards, birthday celebrations, and most of all your fervent prayers, have been amazing. It has meant so much to us, in so many ways that we could not, due to distance. Thank you, from the depths of our hearts, for standing in the gap, and serving them with such tender care. We covet your continued prayers in the days ahead as they must go on without dear Beth. While missing her, we are so thankful that she is now with her Lord and Savior.

In Christ,

Louis & Ethel Wallinga and Joel's brothers:

Jerry & Gay Wallinga

Jack & Mary Wallinga

Jim & Patti Wallinga



### Loving God, Serving People

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

## Ten Phrases Not to Say to Our Kids

*submitted by Pastor John*

### **Some things are better left unsaid.**

copied from: <http://www.aish.com/f/p/Ten-Phrases-Not-to-Say-to-Our-Kids.html?s=mm>

It's the one-liners, the eye-rolls, and the subtle messages that sometimes have the greatest impact on how our kids behave, think and feel about themselves and the world around them. Here are just a couple of one-liners we might find slipping from our tongues from time to time. They're usually better left unsaid.

#### **1. "I promise."**

Trust is difficult to foster and easy to destroy; promises are easy to make and harder to keep. Instead of using the phrase "I promise", replace it with a safer phrase like, "I'll try." Don't create a situation where we'll lose a kid's trust because we were too quick to promise.

#### **2. "Here, I'll do it."**

It's hard to see a kid struggling with a project and tempting to offer our help. But giving our kids the easy way out is not necessarily the best way out. Let's not rob our kids of the valuable, hard-earned lessons of accountability, responsibility, and hard-work ethics.

#### **3. "You're so smart!"**

It's important to give positive feedback and compliments to our kids, but overpraising can hurt too. Watch what you praise. Overpraising our kids for being smart, beautiful or talented can pressure them to live up to our personal expectations and relays the message that we value inborn attributes over positive behavior and moral integrity. And when you do praise, be specific and genuine.

#### **4. "Why can't you be more like ..."**

Telling our kids to measure up to anyone but themselves does more harm than good. Every child is and should be perceived as a world of his or her own.

#### **5. "Don't cry." "It doesn't hurt." "There's no reason to be afraid."**

Our children should have the license to feel and express pain regardless of our perception or opinion. Telling them they shouldn't feel the way they do invalidates their feelings and gives them the message that they shouldn't trust to their own emotions. Instead let's validate our kids' feelings while helping them navigate their emotions in a constructive way.

#### **6. "You're making me angry/sad."**

Kids should learn to respect their parents' wishes. But censoring behavior solely by the way it makes us feel and not with an objective sense of right and wrong teaches our kids that we shouldn't do things because they're inherently good or bad, but just because it upsets Mom or Dad.

#### **7. "Don't be so shy/lazy (or another negative term)."**

Actions should never define or label our kids. Labeling only gives kids a negative self-image and discourages them from reaching their potential.

#### **8. "Your mother/ father is a ..." "You're acting just like your mother/father!"**

Ouch. For the sake of family health, let's leave our kids out of spousal discord and stop using them as cables or punching bags to relay or express negativity towards our partners. Learn how to speak to your loved one directly or buy a bona fide punching bag instead.

#### **9. "I do everything for you!"**

We have plenty of opportunities to teach our children the virtue of gratitude, but this is probably not one of them. Telling our kids how much we had to sacrifice for them might instill them with resentment or shame, but not more virtuous character traits.

#### **10. "You're driving me crazy!"**

Sure, we sometimes feel like that, but saying it obviously hurts our children and doesn't accomplish anything positive. And no one can drive you crazy, except yourself.

## The Lindquist Dinner Marks 50 Years

Edmund Hodges-Kluck & Nicole Michmerhuizen



As soon as you open the door, piano music and the smell of roasted chicken fills the air. The entryway is already crowded with friends, laughing and talking. You squeeze through, take off your shoes, and toss them into the ever-growing pile. You make your way into the living room—a long, airy space with windows and skylights, where several round tables have been set. As you look around, someone catches your eye and walks over to introduce himself. “Is this your first time? How did you find out about the dinner?”, he asks. The dinner bell rings, there is a prayer for the meal, and you line up for a plate while talking to your new friend. As you reach the buffet, the hostess greets you, saying “How is your world? We’re so glad you decided to come.”

Each year, many newcomers to Ann Arbor (and some long-time residents) share this experience at their first Lindquist dinner. Since 1967, George and Mary Lindquist have been feeding—and ministering to—college students, young professionals, families, retirees, and anyone else who wants to enjoy a home-cooked meal and good conversations with friends. While originally conceived as a matchmaking scheme for a relative, George and Mary have faithfully hosted their Tuesday night dinners through three homes and busy lives: in addition to raising three children, Mary also founded Arbor Hospice, took over her daughters’ quilt store, and ministered to many, many individuals who crossed her path, all while planning and executing the Tuesday home-cooked meal.

By now, the Lindquist dinner is a well-oiled machine, going on throughout the academic year regardless of whether George and Mary are even in Ann Arbor. Their current house was designed and built in 2002 especially to accommodate the dinner, and a cast of cooks and helpers—including Dorothy Vegter, Kathy Hillig, Ruth Lewis, Rachel Bush, Dan and Anita Lautenbach, and others—arrives early to make a meal for 40, 50, or even more, with dinner starting around 7 pm. The group of diners is sustained by word-of-mouth, and attendees are encouraged to invite their friends.

Although the dinner bears none of the usual hallmarks of ministry, such as a lesson, discussion, or Bible study, God surely blesses the attendees through the open-hearted hospitality that comes from seeking to be a neighbor rather than asking whom we must serve. To some, the dinner is a reminder of home. To others, it is a respite from a grueling rotation in medical school. To others still, it is the only solid meal they will eat in a week, or their main social opportunity. To all, it is a chance to hear and be heard; no one sits alone.

God works not only through the Lindquists and kitchen crew, but also through the attendees, many of whom become friends and go on to serve others. One example from the last year involves attendees (along with Mary and her friends from the quilt store) planting flowers, providing new furniture and books, and putting on performances for the residents at the underfunded Whitehall Health Care Center nursing home south of town.

We are thankful to God for 50 years of Lindquist dinners, and we ask for His blessing as they start again in September. We encourage you to pray that God would bring some of our lonely, tired, hungry, or busy neighbors to Orchard Hills Drive, and that Mary and George can continue to host the dinners for as long as it is right. If you are interested in checking it out, you can find out more by talking to one of us or to Mary directly.

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BEFORE I leave, I need to reserve a campground for our volunteer retreat in July. Pray that I can find a great place for a good price.

Pray that I can share about our ministry with many people when I get back. And that we would find new donors. Our financial support has been very low and our expenses high due to some doctor visits and oral surgery. Pray for provision of a new used minivan for ministry and a car for Lucy. Our current vehicles are extremely old.

God is good. We are so thankful to have you as prayer partners. You are a blessing!!

**Larry Champoux**



## **Following a Gentle Voice to Egypt**

### **Following a Gentle Voice to Egypt**

*Jessica Boy, CRWM's placement advisor for Canada, recently joined six others from North America on the Egypt Vision Trip 2017. She shares her emotions and experiences here. This is a story from crwm.org.*

Travelling to the Middle East was not on my radar. The modern-day stories of violence and atrocities against women that permeate North American news kept me away. But something twinged in me when the Egypt Vision Trip was introduced. I heard a small voice say "you're going on this" and I responded with reserved delight.

Upon arriving, our guide posed the question "Where was Moses raised?" With that question ringing in our ears, we visited the pyramids where we spent the day under the desert sands to find expansive chambers filled with mind-blowing artistry.

Out of the ancient world we entered the much newer world of Coptic Christian Cairo. We explored an Egypt that is known as the first Christian nation. Walking the streets, we met surprises at every turn. From Coptic Christian youth singing praises to carefully crafted mosaics and paintings depicting Jesus' life adorning the walls of temples and streets.

### **Encouraging Christians**

As we ventured into modern day Egypt, we were introduced to some challenges faced by the Christian community. Our host arranged a visit with the largely underfunded public Christian 'Salaam' schools to meet

with teachers and help them practice their English. What a privilege to hear their stories and attempt to encourage them in our small way.

We also met men who have left the Muslim faith. For these men to choose Jesus is to choose a life on the run with a price on their heads, with no law to protect them. Yet, for the men we met, they declared it was worth it. They asked us not to pray for their protection, but instead for their spouses – for their families to come to the Lord, to have companionship on this life journey. It was a sober reminder of the qualities that make each of our lives and our faith more bearable.

We spoke with a man whose God-given passion for Egypt results in his daily sunrise prayer over the city. He believes revival is imminent in Egypt and has pages of names sent with requests for prayer. As we prayed with him, he added our names to the growing list.

### **Lasting Lessons**

Egypt was filled with so many surprises, so many beautiful encounters, and a rich Christian heritage. I cannot express my experience in a way that feels justifiable. The Middle East is teeming with life that is largely overridden in the news that reaches North America.

To have the privilege to witness this raw refined faith, to encourage those tired on their journey, and to be encouraged in turn leaves me continually in awe. My faith has been deeply impacted, my witness expanded, and my heart broken by knowing that we belong to such a brave and courageous family of believers.

May we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear all that is happening in Egypt. As God continues to call each of us deeper into His work, I ask you to consider how He is calling you to participate in the work happening in the Middle East.

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months during the Serve build up, many of you have approached the Serve Leadership Team and asked how you can be involved. Great news!! We're attempting to answer that question in this email. One place for all of the needs we have for Serve.

**Food:** Over the course of the week we will be feeding and preparing over 1700 meals. On Serve Sunday there will be an all-church BBQ. (more details on that to come). Darlene De Vries is taking the lead on coordinating the menu, but we are in need of some donations, detailed below.

We did our food scouting and menu-making at Gordon Food Service (two locations in Ann Arbor), so that is the most helpful place to purchase items. Our church has a rewards account with GFS, so make sure you mention that you are shopping for Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. These rewards will help us control our costs.

In addition, we have students and leaders with peanut and shellfish allergies, so nothing that contains those ingredients or is manufactured in a facility that contains those ingredients (check out the packaging, it will be listed). To that end, to be as safe as possible, we are a nut-free site—that includes anything made in our home kitchens. Any questions? Ask Darlene.

Here are a few highlighted food-related items:

- People to serve breakfast (menu already made) on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.
- People to make 10 pasta salads for Sunday evening (each should serve 10 people).
- People to make some bars & cookies (we are a nut free site).
- Lots of people to help provide some non-perishable food items for the week.

You can sign-up for one or more items, or if donating money to is easiest—we'll happily receive it. You choose the best way to participate.

**Community Life:** Our biggest CL need is to run a Sunday afternoon activity from 2-4:30 PM. We need drivers with vans to transport the teens and we need people to be stationed as "clue givers" around Ann Arbor (great idea for a group or family!). Victor Chen is leading the effort here.

In addition, we need someone who can help us run a photo booth as the students check in on Saturday afternoon.

We also have a need for some board games that can stand up to a week of middle school use. **Spiritual Life:**

**Prayer Teams:** There will be 11 teams of middle school students at our Ann Arbor Serve this year. We would like to match each team with a prayer team from our

church. Everyone children, singles, families, couples is encouraged to be part of a prayer team. Prayer teams will be formed and assigned to middle school Serve teams in early July. Prayer teams are asked to pray for the middle school students regularly, and, if in town, sit with their middle school team during the July 23 commissioning service (more details on that to come) and join the middle school team at a potluck following that service. This is something that we hope everyone can sign up to do!

**CONNECT Night:** Volunteers are needed to move furniture, create welcome banners, decorate the sanctuary, create room signs, arrange the kitchen, prep for activities, etc. There will be tasks for every age level and ability so come out and have fun working together to prepare for Serve at 6:30 PM on July 19th!

Other supplies we are looking to borrow for the week:

- 10 large coolers
- 10 wheelbarrows

There are two ways to sign up:

1. Go to: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4ca5a622a46-annarbor>
2. Sign-up at the Serve table in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday between now and July 23rd.

We continue to be awestruck by the encouragement and support from the congregation and we look forward to Serve being something that our WHOLE church hosts.

Serving together,

Ryan Boes  
Hank Byma, Worksite Co-Coordinator  
Victor Chen, Community Life Coordinator  
Darlene De Vries, Food Coordinator  
Sue De Zeeuw, Spiritual Life Coordinator  
Bill Vander Roest, Worksite Co-Coordinator  
Ross Weener, Host Team Coordinator

