

ON Broadway

Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church Newsletter

September 2018

Stephen Minister Training to Begin January 2019

Louise Gruppen and Marian Ijzerman

Looking for a new ministry opportunity in our congregation? If your spiritual gifts include one or more of the following—faith, mercy, teaching the faith or encouragement—consider Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one caring ministry. The next opportunity to participate in Stephen Ministry training is January 2019. After an enthusiastic but limited number of recruits applied for the Spring 2018 training class, Louise and I decided to combine our training program with the much larger training program of First Presbyterian Church. We believe that by combining resources with First Presbyterian, we will be able to train small numbers of recruits, typical for a small church, in a richer and more vibrant learning environment.

Below is a timeline of the events leading up to the first class on January 7, 2019

- September: Louise and I will host an informational session on becoming a Stephen Minister on September 16 in Room 11. Stephen Ministry Applications will be available at the session or by e-mailing stephenministry@aacrc.org;
- October: Applications will be due by the second Sunday in October;
- November: Interviews will be scheduled during the first two weeks of November;
- December: Our class list will be finalized by December 1st.

Training will be conducted on Monday evenings from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM and on three Saturday's from 9:00 to 2:30 PM. The last training session will occur on May 13, 2019. Training will be held at either AACRC or First Presbyterian Church.

Stephen Ministry training will help you strengthen your gifts and skills to make you an effective Stephen Minister. We look forward to training a new group of Stephen Ministry recruits in 2019.



**We are a purposeful community transformed by the love of God
and engaging the world with the grace and truth of Jesus
through the practice of Christian hospitality.**



Ann Arbor Serve 2018 Reflections

Nicole Michmerhuizen

When Ross asked me to consider being a leader for the middle school SERVE trip, I knew what I wanted my answer to be. I remembered being involved when Ann Arbor CRC hosted SERVE last summer (albeit in less time-consuming ways), and I was excited to participate again. I also thought back to my experiences at Christian summer camps and on church mission trips—these weeks represented some of the most important in my faith journey, and I hoped that I could be part of allowing younger students to have the same experience. Plus, spending a week at church and in the community with kids sounded like it could be a lot of fun. So I thought about what it would take to leave the research lab for a week, found out a little more about what I might be getting into, prayed about the opportunity, and finally said yes.

Despite these preparations, I didn't really know what I expected God to do during the week of SERVE. I expected Him to show up, but I wasn't sure what form this would take. I was uncertain especially since I was experiencing a trip like this as a leader and not as a student for the first time. Regardless of my hesitations, God didn't disappoint, making His presence at Ann Arbor SERVE abundantly clear. Here, for the sake of brevity, I will limit myself to perhaps my three most meaningful examples of this:

1. What happened in our church sanctuary each night during SERVE was incredible. Yes, the music was louder and more contemporary than it is on a normal Sunday—but it was also filled with incredible joy and passion. There was clapping, motions, lifted hands, cheering, and all was done with the primary and exclusive aim of praising God. Beyond the time of singing, Nick Wolters, our speaker for the week, did an amazing job of connecting with and challenging both the students and leaders through the theme for the week ("Love God, Love the World"). Nick shared with us about Christ's various encounters with the Pharisees and how we could emulate His teachings in our own daily lives.

2. On Monday, the first of our work days, my small group was assigned to go to Hope Clinic. We were fortunate enough to be around to help with their "Produce Station", which aims to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income members of the community. After organizing radishes, corn, and apples, among various other items, we were each assigned one food to pass out. As the clients began to cycle through the garage where the food was set up, I watched as the students distributed the produce. The way they greeted the clients—smiling and welcoming them, playing with their children, complimenting them, and wishing them a good day as they left—filled me with hope and made me eager to see how God would continue to use these children to build His kingdom.

3. Later in the week, I traveled with my group to Heartland Health Care. Here, we began by painting and coloring with many of the residents. One gentleman, however, was less interested in crafts and wanted to just sit and talk with me. We began a conversation that led to him sharing many of the things that had happened over the course of his life. On at least two occasions, he turned the discussion toward the way that God had directed the events of his life in the best way possible. While I doubt that this man knew how God was using his words, they were exactly the reminder that I needed. Thinking outside of my experiences during the week of SERVE back to the competing commitments and sometimes overwhelming unknowns of normal daily routines, I felt the Spirit using this conversation to renew my mind and lead my heart to a place of deeper trust in God's sovereign plan.

Looking back over this trip, I am so glad that I had this opportunity to be part of SERVE. I feel honored to have been able to represent this church and to do ministry alongside so many of you, and I pray that we can continue to love God and His world together in the year ahead.



*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year
of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18-19*



Serve Reflections, Continued

Sean Newman

When Ross reached out to me to be a leader for Serve, I was both excited and a little apprehensive about the week. Excited because as a Roots leader and having never been to Serve before, I'd heard from the middle schoolers that Serve had been a great experience for them. But a little apprehensive because spending a week sleeping at church was stepping a bit out of my comfort zone.

After my Serve experience I can only say, "Can I do this again next year?"

One of the focuses of the week was helping the students look for "God moments", that is, interactions with people and moments in their own lives where they saw God at work. And I can say that not only did the students see God at work, but I did too. I saw God at work in the way AACRC came together to support Serve and the students as they worked at the various sites.

It was inspiring to see the AACRC community support Serve and the middle schoolers in the way they did. The careful selection of work sites where the students would have meaningful experiences volunteering and ministering. The love and dedication that went into preparing food for over 60 middle schoolers, with various dietary restrictions. The volunteering of time in everything from manning stations in the Amazing Race on the streets of Ann Arbor, to the helping by site hosts at the various work sites that the students visited. Not to mention the weeks of detailed planning that went into making Serve a success. God is good!

I wasn't the only one stepping out of my comfort zone - the students did too. One example where this stands out to me most was when my team worked with Friends in Deed. In particular, when we delivered furniture - a bed, couch and recliner- to Daniel. As we drove into the complex where Daniel lived, some of the students in the van remarked that they were surprised that the complex looked so good. We reminded them of the mantra that we had learned from Food Gatherers the day before - "What does a hungry person look like? - Anyone". Daniel was overwhelmed with gratitude to receive the furniture after we managed to lift the pieces into his second floor apartment. He could not stop praising God, and the students were challenged by the discrepancy between their initial impression and the man who was so happy to be helped. In Daniel's apartment, we decided to pray and Daniel suggested that the students also pray. It may have been the first time that many of those students were praying in public in front of a stranger, but they did - a "God moment" indeed.

Another area I saw God at work was in the friendships developed between the students as they worked and played together. Initially, as they played games of Ga-ga and 9 square, there was some friction between the American and Canadian students as to which is the proper pronunciation of certain words, or which brand of candy came first - for example, smarties or rockets? By the end of the week, emails were being exchanged between students from the two countries, who formed strong friendships over their shared experiences during Serve.

The week was a God infused time of service and growth for the students and leaders. The speaker, Nick, challenged the students daily in language and story-telling that they appreciated. For instance, one of the students in my team took Nick's plea for God to break his heart for what breaks God's, as his own personal prayer. Indeed, all the students came to Serve with a humble attitude as they spent a meaningful week of loving God, loving the world.





Serve 2018 Worksites:

- Nardin Park (CAP)
- Detroit Afro-American Mission
- Food Gatherers
- St. Louis Center
- Friends in Deed
- Hope Clinic
- Emmanuel House
- Family Life Services
- Heartland Healthcare Center
- Global Health Services Network



What is Restorative Justice?

Submitted by David Learned, Social Justice Committee-AACRC

Synod 2005 of the Christian Reformed Church in North America called "our churches to preach and teach restorative justice as a biblical perspective and to apply the principles of restorative justice to the problems of crime in our communities and countries." The Synodical directive also encouraged "the active participation of churches and church members in restorative justice efforts in order to restore and reconcile victims and offenders where possible, and to effect, as far as possible, the establishment of justice for all members of our societies."

According to the CRCNA Office of Social Justice. "Restorative justice offers satisfaction to victims, hope to offenders, and restoration to the wider community. It is simple and it is profoundly spiritual - a way of living out the way God ordered the world: for restoration, wholeness, connection, and community.

Richard Rohr, a Franciscan friar, delineated the basic foundational principles of restorative justice in a recent meditation, which the remainder of this article presents in abridged form.

It is a nearly universal belief that in one way or another sin and evil are to be punished and retribution is to be demanded of the sinner in this world—and usually the next world, too. Such retributive justice is a dualistic system of reward and punishment, good guys and bad guys, and makes perfect intuitive sense. It may be called the economy of merit or "meritocracy." This system seems to be the best that prisons, courtrooms and wars, appear equipped to do.

Jesus showed that sin and failure are, in fact, an opportunity for the transformation and enlightenment of the offender. Mere counting and ledger-keeping is not the way of the Gospel. Our best self wants to restore relationships, and not just blame or punish. This is the "economy of grace."

What humanity really needs is an honest exposure of the truth and accountability for what has happened. Only then can human beings move ahead with dignity. Hurt needs to be spoken and heard. It does not just go away on its own. This can then lead to "restorative justice," which is what the prophets invariably promise to the people of Israel (e.g., Ezekiel 16:53; Isaiah 57:17-19) and is exemplified in Jesus' story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) and throughout his healing ministry. We lose that and we lose the Gospel itself.

The aim of restorative justice is to return the person to a useful position in the community. Thus, there can be healing on both sides. Such justice is a mystery that only makes sense to the soul. It is a direct corollary of our "economy of grace".

As any good therapist will tell you, you cannot heal what you do not acknowledge. What you do not consciously acknowledge will remain in control from within, festering and

destroying you and those around you. Only mutual apology, healing, and forgiveness offer a sustainable future for humanity. Otherwise, we are controlled by the past, individually and corporately. We all need to apologize, and we all need to forgive. No wonder that almost two-thirds of Jesus' teaching is directly or indirectly about forgiveness. Otherwise, history devolves into taking sides, bitterness, holding grudges, and the violence that inevitably follows. As others have said, "Forgiveness is to let go of our hope for a different past." Reality is what it is, and such acceptance leads to great freedom, as long as there is also both accountability and healing forgiveness.

"Jesus showed that sin and failure are, in fact, an opportunity for the transformation and enlightenment of the offender."





Habitat for Humanity - Service Opportunities

Matt Admiraal

The 2018 House of Faith that are church helped to sponsor and that several members of our church worked on has been completed, and the dedication for the new owners of the home, the Sowe family, was June 10. Thank you so much to all of those who helped out with this house by volunteering their time and also to those who provided lunch for the workers. You can view photos of the work that took place on the House of Faith from the 2018 House of Faith Flickr album: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm8eG2uF>.

Habitat for Humanity is already working to line up volunteers to both maintain the neighborhoods in which they have built homes and to get started on building activities for the new build season. They hosted a Thrivent Repairs Day on August 25 in which volunteers helped with exterior repairs (minor), cleaning gutter guards, painting fences and landscaping activities for homes in the West Willow Neighborhood. Habitat is also hosting Building on Faith activities in September and October, in which they are in need of volunteers. They have a Neighborhood Clean Up & Dumpster Day on Saturday, September 15, where they will need about 100 volunteers, as well as two Build days on October 5 and 6. Details of the activities are below.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP DAY Date: Saturday, September 15, 2018 Time: 9 AM - 4 PM (lunch break at noon)
Meeting Location: West Willow Community Resource Center, 2057 Tyler Rd., Ypsilanti. Join other Habitat for Humanity volunteers to help with yard and community clean up projects for residents, move items to the dumpster and into the ReStore truck for resale. Lunch providers are also needed!

BUILD DAYS Dates: Friday, October 5 & Saturday, October 6 Time: 9 AM - 4 PM (lunch break at noon) Location: TBD (Ypsilanti Township). Join other Habitat for Humanity volunteers to help renovate an Ypsilanti Township home for a future Habitat Homeowner. Materials and safety equipment will be provided. Tasks range from demolition to installing windows, doors, siding and trim, painting and exterior work. No experience necessary!

The link to sign up to volunteer is <http://bit.ly/HVThriventBuildingonFaith> or volunteers can contact Matt Admiraal (admiraalm@netscape.net). Please also complete a liability waiver by the Friday before your volunteer day. The waiver can be accessed at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2018adultwaiver>. Habitat for Humanity requires volunteers to be at least 16 years of age, and those that are age 16 or 17 must have a completed and signed paper waiver filled out by his/her parent or legal guardian and bring it to the worksite on the day in which he/she wishes to volunteer. Habitat for Humanity provides all needed tools. No experience is necessary.

The more opportunities in which Habitat for Humanity engages their faith volunteers, the more funding opportunities - and community work - they have through Thrivent Financial. Therefore, the more volunteers that we have for these activities the better!



In Memoriam - Margaret Van Wylen



Margaret De Witt Van Wylen of Holland Michigan died Saturday, August 4, 2018, one day shy of her 94th birthday. She and her husband, Gordon, were founders of our church in 1955 and wise and Godly leaders here until they moved to Holland in 1972.

Margaret was a leader who led not only by her words but by her character and example. She was a stable, wise advisor and friend to the women who formed the "Women's Seminars" in this church; women who wanted to follow Jesus in all their relationships. We learned Margaret's secret when we discovered that she put her young children down for naps every afternoon and she spent that time in her room in God's Word and prayer. She taught us to enjoy and spend time with our children; "These are the Golden Years", she would say. She led a Bible study in her basement with seven female medical students, which included Mary-Anne Schuur. She and Gordon hosted and led a Bible study for international students for years. She had a heart for those who needed to be noticed, and a knack for helping people.

Margaret was born in Grand Haven and graduated from Grand Haven High School in 1942. She was a 1945 graduate of Duke University and attended Biblical Seminary in New York City for a year before entering the University of Michigan Medical School. As she was completing her medical degree, Margaret contracted tuberculosis; the illness hospitalized her for 16 months and delayed her graduation from medical school. She graduated in 1952, but rather than pursuing medicine at that time, she devoted herself to her home and family, returning to medicine in 1975 to complete her internship and residency in Psychiatry before pursuing a medical career.

She retired from a widely appreciated career as a psychiatrist in 1994, having served on the staff of Holland Hospital, Ottawa County Community Mental Health, and Child and Family Services. She also maintained a private practice. From 1972-1987, Margaret distinguished herself as the First Lady of Hope College, where her husband Gordon served as the President. She is remembered for her warmth and grace, hosting countless guests who

visited the President's House, including students, faculty, staff, trustees, friends of Hope College, and members of the Holland community. Faculty, staff and friends of Hope established the Gordon J. and Margaret Van Wylen Scholarship Fund at Hope in 1982 in honor of the couple's service to the college, and Hope presented Margaret with an honorary degree during the college's Commencement ceremony in 1987. One year later, 1988, Hope unveiled its new library, named in honor of both Margaret and Gordon. The college's Alumni Association presented the couple with Meritorious Service Awards in 1988.

Through the Years, Margaret was extensively involved in the community, where among other activities she was a member of the boards of Hospice, Community Action House, and Evergreen Commons, and an administrative elder at Christ Memorial Church. For seven years she was Kids Hope Tutor at Van Raalte School. Prior to moving to Holland, Margaret helped launch and was deeply involved in the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church and with Gordon, hosted and led a Bible study for International students. In recognition of the remarkable manner in which she balanced family and professional life, she was named "Michigan Mother of the Year" by the Michigan Mother's Association in 1980. Along with husband, Margaret was the grand Marshal for Holland's Tulip Time Volksparade in May 2005.

Margaret, Margo, Mom Grandma, Great Grandma, Doctor – Thank you for enriching and inspiring us by your attentive and empathetic listening, your wise counsel, your vibrant and personal faith, your enjoyment of all things big and small, your sparkle when up to something fun, and for gracing this earth for nearly 94 years with your kindness and compassion.

Margaret is survived by Gordon, her husband of 66 years, along with five children; Elizabeth (Jack) Rudenga, Steve (Kathy) Van Wylen, Ruth (Neil) Jaspers, Dave (Pat) Van Wylen, and Emily (Tim) Overway. In addition, Margaret has 16 Grandchildren and eight Great grandchildren.



Adult Education Update

John Bush

It's hard to believe I've been coordinating Adult Education for over 10 years. And, I have to say, I've never been more excited about our church's educational opportunities than I am right now.

Of course, education has always been highly prized at Ann Arbor CRC, driven by our surroundings near one of the biggest research institutions in the world. We know that it plays a large part in our faith formation. (Although we learn by doing, teaching is the foundation.) And so we've provided a forum for learning on all the major issues of the modern church: theology, missions and evangelism, social issues, relief work, health, church history, and culture, among many others. These sessions have taught us, motivated us, engaged us, and moved us.

This fall begins a new chapter for Adult Education with the launch of a different type of program, including more concentrated sessions as well as invitations to guest pastors and speakers from farther afield than we have seen in many years. Plans for adult education during the Sunday School hour this coming year include visits from

Travis West and Tim Brown from Western Seminary, and Kate Kooyman from the CRC's Office of Social Justice.

In the past, we programmed Adult Ed for over 30 Sundays each school year. Perhaps we were spreading ourselves too thin, not giving ourselves enough opportunities to connect with each other. The new model is to program fewer Sundays for large groups, in favor of more ways to connect in small groups. These include house groups, strength finders & gift analysis, workshops, and days when a guest preacher also leads an Adult Ed session.

On the days when we do have a traditional type of session, we still plan to get speakers who are at the heart of what we've always prized: missions work, theology, health care, culture, social issues, and beyond. I look forward to hearing from you about what you'd like to see, the types of speakers you want us to bring in – from our area, as well as outside it. And I also want to urge you to talk to me about the things you treasure about Adult Ed that you want to make sure we keep, and the new topics you'd like to focus on.

Oikos: A Series on Making Room - Fall 2018

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| Sept. 9 | Pastor Ryan: <i>A Vision and a Calling</i> |
| Sept. 16 | Pastor John: <i>Hospitality as Salvation</i> |
| Sept. 23 | Pastor Ryan: <i>Making Room for Love</i> |
| Sept. 30 | Pastor John: <i>Hospitality as Gospel</i> |
| Oct. 7 | TBD |
| Oct. 14 | Dr. Travis West: <i>Making Room for the Story</i> |
| Oct. 21 | Pastor Ryan: <i>Hospitality as Prophetic Witness</i> |
| Oct. 28 | Rev. Dr. Tim Brown (Reformation Sunday) |
| Nov. 4 | Rev. Kate Kooyman: <i>Making Room for Justice</i> |
| Nov. 11 | Pastor John: <i>Making Room for Difference</i> |
| Nov. 18 | Pastor Ryan: <i>Entertaining Angels</i> |
| Nov. 22 | Thanksgiving Day Service (9:30 AM) |
| Nov. 25 | Pastor John: <i>Welcoming God the Stranger</i> |

God's Word in Review

Mary Admiraal

This program year (2018-19), our Sunday school ministry team is going to continue to practice the "holy habit of studying God's Word and memorizing it so our children can be equipped them along their journey of faith. Former children's minister Mary Van Aalsburg says, "When you start immersing children in God's Word at a young age, they keep growing in it." In addition, Scripture study can remind children of basic truths:

God made me. (Pslam 139:14.)

God loves me. (John 3:16)

God is my friend. (John 15:15)

I can trust God. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

I need to obey God's commands. (1 John 5:3)

I need to treat others the way I want to be treated. (Luke 6:31)

The DWELL teaching materials, what our pre-kindergarten through eighth grade Sunday school teachers use, lead students through God's story, emphasize Scripture study, and provide opportunities for memorization. At the end of our program year, the students will have memorized six Scriptures. (See the list below for the Scriptures each grade level will learn.) Geoffrey Caine, author of *Making Connections: Teaching and the Human Brain*, says that meaning should be memorization's goal. Therefore, the Sunday school ministry team will help the children understand the meaning of the Scripture text by connecting the verse to real life, and teachers will share what the text means to them. In addition, they will use games, art, body movement, music, role play, and reflection to help the children memorize the Scripture text.

I would like to invite families and other friends in the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church faith community to partner with us to model Scripture study and memorization. So, how can you get involved? "If it's lived in their life and other people memorize, kids will want to, too," Caine says, "because there's a context where something is familiar and loved." Some other suggestions include:

- Put the words to a Scripture verse to a simple tune and sing it regularly.
- Submit a computer image of the verse(s) being studied to mailbox #43.
- Use a dry erase marker and write the verse on your bathroom mirror.
- Incorporate the verse into your prayers.

It is my desire that our children, their families, and our faith community would come away from this year of Bible study and "...delight in the law of the Lord and meditate on it day and night." (Psalm 1:2) Ultimately my prayer is that, the body of believers at AACRC, will read Scripture, pray Scripture, and share Scripture. If you have any questions please contact Mary Admiraal at 248 278-6101 or marykutschke@yahoo.com.

PLAY (PreK)

Psalm 118:24

Psalm 150:6

Proverbs 3:5

Colossians 3:2

Colossians 3:16

1 John 5:3

IMAGINE (K/1)

Psalm 100:1-3

Psalm 62:1-2

John 3:16

Matthew 10:14b, 16

Psalm 121:1-2

John 14:15

WONDER (2/3)

Genesis 62:1-2

Genesis 6:24-26

Isaiah 41:10

Deut. 10:12-13

Philippians 4:6-7

Psalm 46:1-2

MARVEL (4/5)

Psalm 23

Matthew 22:37-39

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:8

John 14:1-3

Matthew 28:1-7

DIVE (6)

Romans 14:8

Genesis 17:7

Ephesians 2:8-9

Isaiah 53:2-6

John 14:15-17

1 John 1:8-10

DIVE (7/8)

Psalm 23

Psalm 95

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthias 13:1-6

Matthew 5:3-12



DWELL Sunday School (Pre-K through 8th grade)

An opportunity for the children and youth in our church and community to PLAY, IMAGINE, WONDER, MARVEL, and DIVE into timeless truths in God's big story, using creative storytelling, and engaging activities that allow age appropriate small group interaction to practice what they've learned.

BEGINS Sunday, September 9, 2018

10:50—11:50 AM

(Children should report to designated classrooms for singing with their grade level friends at 10:50.)

Contact: Mary Admiraal at marykutschke@yahoo.com

2018-2019 Sunday School Classroom Locations and Staff

Sonshine Singers (Kindergarten through First): Room 28 - Laura Boonstra, Anita Lautenbach

Shepherd's Singers (Second through Fifth): Room 23 – Louise Gruppen, Ann VanZomeran, and Joan Brush

Savior Servant Singers (Middle and High school): Room 18 – TBD

Nursery (Infants through two year olds): TBD

Preschool (Three and Four Year Olds: Room 27 (Katrina Brehob and Jill Fenske, TBD and Carmen Kim)

Kindergarten/First: Room 27 (Deb Weener and Amber Diemer, Phil Boonstra and Titia Vander Molen)

Second/Third: Room 21 (Todd and Rachel Redder, Debbie Tuckey and Kaitlyn Vapenik)

Fourth/Fifth: Room 22 (Gabby VanderMolen, Wayne VanZomeran, and Martha Kooistra)

Sixth: Room 13; Downstairs first room on the left across from the Youth room
(Eric Wright, Sarah and Dane Peterson)

Seventh/Eighth: Room 12; Downstairs in the second room on the left from the Youth room
(Matt Admiraal and Jim Steenstra)

Sunday School team leader: Mary Admiraal



Coffee Break

Women's Bible Studies with child care will be starting on September 11. There are two sessions available, 9:30-11:15 and 1:15-2:45. (Childcare is available during the morning session.) We meet most Tuesdays throughout the school year and all women are welcome! There is a registration fee of \$25. Please register online (follow link on the aacrc.org website) or at our first meeting. Hope to see you there!