

People of Faith

The Newsletter of Faith Christian Reformed Church

May 2009

Praying in Transition

"...in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6.



May 7th is the National Day of Prayer. Last year on the National Day of Prayer Faith Church had a wonderful time joining with several Elmhurst-area churches praying for our country and our community. Many people expressed great appreciation for that display of unity with other Bible-believing churches, and many requests were made to continue to join with other churches on

that day in the future.

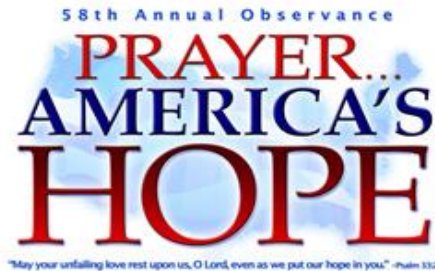
But we're not going to do that this year. Instead, we're going to meet with just our church on the National Day of Prayer. Why? Because, while we're going to be praying for our world and nation and community, this year we need to be praying for our church. We're in a time of transition. New elders and deacons are going to be taking office in June while others retire. We're going to be starting a new financial year in June. Dr. Koning will be retiring in a number of months. The church is calling me to a new position at Faith. A search committee is being formed to fill the position I am leaving. People are in transition due to the economic situation. People are in transition as they mourn the loss of a loved one and learn to live life on this earth without that person with them.

The truth is that though we are in a time of extra transition, we are always in transition in our lives, to a certain extent. Life changes. Furthermore, God's Word is transformative! It should always be changing us! We should always be putting sin away and putting on Christ! That involves change and transition, as individuals, as a church.

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Coming Events

May 2, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Men's Breakfast
May 4, 7:30 p.m.: Annual Congregational Meeting
May 7, 7:00 p.m.: National Day of Prayer meeting
May 13, 6:45 p.m.: GEMS 50th birthday celebration
May 17: Deadline for submitting articles for June newsletter
May 21, 7:00: Faith Book Group meets
May 30: Jr. High event. See Melvin Kim for details.
June 22-26, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: Vacation Bible School



National Day of Prayer 2009

The 58th Annual National Day of Prayer will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2009. Millions will unite in prayer as thousands of events will take place from coast to coast. The theme is "**Prayer... America's Hope**" and is based on Psalm 33:22 : "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

Noted author, Beth Moore, will join Shirley Dobson, of Focus on the Family, to lead the nation in prayer as the 2009 Honorary Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. Refer to Pastor Schuringa's article for details of the prayer service at our church. —Submitted by Kathy De Vries

Vacation Bible School

Travel to Rome this summer without even leaving Elmhurst. Explore the marketplace, visit with Paul and the underground church, play games, and eat tasty treats while learning about Jesus and what He has done for us. VBS will be held from June 22-26 at 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. You can register your son or daughter online by following the link from the church website www.faihelmhurst.org. Come join the fun. We are also looking for volunteers to be part of our team. We need actors for the drama team, family leaders, and marketplace merchants. Please consider how you can help out. Contact me at Rachel.Baron@comcast.net with any questions.

—Rachel Baron

Faith Book Group

Faith Book Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. on May 21. Our book selection is *What's so Amazing about Grace?* by Phillip Yancey. The author asks penetrating questions: If grace is God's love for the undeserved, what does it look like in action? If Christians are its sole dispensers, how are we doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and unforgiveness than it does of mercy? For the following meeting, we'll read, *What in the World is Going On?* by David Jeremiah. We meet at church and everyone is welcome to join us.

—Submitted by Ann Bradley

Library Highlights

Awesome Animals in the Bible

Enjoy an awesome Bible journey for the whole family! There are lots of animal stories in the Bible, and on this DVD, you'll see ten of them. Watch as Noah loads thousands of animals onto the ark, or stand beside Daniel as he is lowered into the Lions' Den. The stories are narrated by Steve Green, Max Lucado, and Larnelle Harris. Sing along to the songs as you see the stories unfold before your eyes. The words also appear on the screen. Approximate running time: 1 hour. Recommended for ages 3 to 10.

Levi's Will

By W. Dale Cramer

Fleeing his Old Order community, 19-year-old Will leaves behind a pregnant girlfriend and all things Amish. When efforts to reconcile with his father fail, Will spends years trying to make things right. Can he learn that love, not work, heals the past before his own sons pay the price for his sin?

—Submitted by Joyce Hoogstra

Apples of Gold

The third session of Apples of Gold is being planned for the Fall. This six-week mentoring program for young women is based on Titus 2:3-5, a godly command for older women to teach younger women. It nurtures younger women in six areas; Kindness, Loving your Husband, Loving your Children, Submission, Purity and Hospitality.

The secondary purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate practical application of these principles in the areas of Cooking skills, Relational skills, Homemaking skills, and Sharing Hospitality with others.

Each week we spend time in the kitchen, in Bible Study, and then share a meal together where we

spend more time reflecting on the subject of the evening. If you would like to find out more about this ministry don't hesitate to talk to one of the nine mentors: Jan DeBoer, Martha Hoekstra, Joyce Hoogstra, Darlene Hoving, Pat Koning, Lynda Lanenga, Jayne Lindemulder, Sharon Rozendal, Harma Slinkman, or any of the 17 former "Apples," a few of whom are: Heather Lindemulder, Kelly Day, Sarah Schuringa, Heidi Koster, Stephanie Huizenga, Cathy Canelos, Niki Tazelaar. If you are a woman under the age of 40 and would like to join our fall session, contact me at 630-325-8775 or jandeboer49@gmail.com.

—Jan DeBoer, Coordinator

Small Group

The small group of Greg and Lynda Lanenga, Clarence and Cindy Klaassens, Scott and Val Smits, and Tom and Cheryl Boyle meets about once a month to study the book by Bill Hybls about *The Volunteer Revolution*. It's a great study on doing volunteer work for the Kingdom. We've learned how the church works and grows through volunteer work and giving of our time to the Kingdom. This month we are taking our learning of volunteer work to a real time experience of filling food baskets at Willow Creek Church for hungry starving children in Africa. We all agree our small group experience has been a blessing to all of us.

—The Lanengas

GEMS Celebrates 50 Years!

We're having a party! GEMS, former GEMS, former Calvinettes, and anyone who has ever been a **counselor in GEMS or Calvinettes** is invited to a 50th Birthday party for the GEMS ministry on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 6:45 p.m. Come and celebrate what God is doing through the GEMS ministry and help our current GEMS earn the Flashback badge. Invite your moms, daughters, sisters, grandmas, and friends to join in the celebration. RSVP to me at 630-932-8534, or the church office, 630-279-1776, or by signing up in the narthex by May 10.

—Karen Folkerts

Submit articles for the June newsletter to Ann Bradley at mccbradley7@comcast.net by May 17, 2009.

The purpose of this Newsletter is to help the people of Faith Church stay well informed concerning the ministry, activities and events of our congregation while honoring our Lord Jesus Christ.

People of Faith Newsletter is published 10x/yr. by Faith Christian Reformed Church, 1070 S. Prospect Ave., Elmhurst IL 60126.

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Youth Ministry

Junior High

Please be watching the bulletin for future Jr. High events! Specifically, there will be an event on Saturday, May 30, so keep your eyes scanning for details....

The gathering

ATTENTION EVERYONE!! The Sub Sale is currently happening! Order one, two, or fifty of these delicious subs today. The cost is \$5 per sub. Place your order with any high school student or pick up an order form from the sign-up table in the narthex. Order your subs through Sunday, May 10 and they'll be ready for pick up on Saturday, May 16 between 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The gathering reports on their summer service project fundraisers so far: The taco dinner brought in great tasting tacos and guacamole dip, and it raised a total of \$2,270! Thanks to all who supported **the gathering** and their summer service project to Atlanta!
—Melvin Kim

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)

Each Wednesday from 9:15-11:15 a.m., May through September, more than 150 women and 30 preschool children spend time studying God's Word together. Faith Church has hosted BSF for over 15 years and we are one of almost 1,000 classes worldwide. Its four-fold approach to studying God's Word makes it unique. Each member is given daily questions for personal study. A small discussion-group setting gives members opportunity to share their insights. This is followed by challenging lectures with applications for daily living. Study notes are distributed to each member attending each week. In this way, BSF desires to accomplish its vision of producing a vibrant relationship with God in all who participate.

BSF has men's and women's classes accompanied by children's programming for preschoolers in the day classes and school programming in the evening classes for first graders through high school students. This area of BSF has experienced the most growth in recent years as parents seek to give their children solid study of God's Word. BSF is a seven year program that covers the life of Moses, the history of Israel and the Minor Prophets, Acts, Genesis, Romans, Matthew, and next year's study, John.

Won't you prayerfully consider this opportunity to grow your faith? If you would like details about BSF, please consider attending an Introduction class scheduled for the first two weeks of May. For further details, refer to the church bulletin or contact Jan DeBoer at [630-325-8775](tel:630-325-8775) or Sharon Rozendal at [630-782-1998](tel:630-782-1998).

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (P.A.D.S.)

The economic downturn, increasing unemployment rate, foreclosures, and government cut backs to the homeless have all contributed to the increased demand for P.A.D.S. services. Elmhurst Presbyterian Church has been full every Saturday night. This leaves us with the difficult task of turning people away and it becomes even more distressing when the Bensenville and Clarendon Hills sites are also at capacity. There isn't any place to send these people.

In addition, this year we have seen an increase in the number of families and single moms showing up at our door step with children ranging in age from newborn infants to teens. I am glad we are there to provide food, shelter, clothing, and sometimes a toy for the children. But it is very sad to see children end up in a homeless shelter. We would like to pass on the gratitude of the guests we serve. Every time we are at the shelter, the guests will thank us for being there and thank our church for supporting P.A.D.S. The weekends of April 4 and 11 brought to an end our commitment until October 2009.

Thank you to the family of Faith for the prayers, food, clothing, cash, other donations, and the hours you worked to help the homeless. "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me,'" Matthew 25:40.

—Submitted by Evangelism Committee

Diaper Derby for Care Net

Reminder: The Family Focus and Adult Ministries Committees will sponsor a Diaper Derby for Care Net from Mother's Day, May 10 through Father's Day, June 21. Find further details in your mailbox. "Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us," Eph. 5:2. —Kathy De Vries

Praying in Transition (Continues from front page)

We need God's power to be transitioning in godly ways. In this special time of transition in our church, there is much planning going on. There have been extra meetings. There are many thoughts and ideas. There is much sadness in saying goodbye. There is excitement about the future. There are concerns and worries too. In the midst of all of this there absolutely must be much prayer. Your prayers will do more than any meeting will ever do.

So please pray! Pray for God's will to be done. Pray for God's Kingdom to come. Pray in private. Pray with your family. Pray with Christian friends and in small groups. Pray in worship in the church. And let's pray together at this special service of prayer on Thursday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. We need to pray now, more than ever, don't we? In these times—as always!—prayer is the most significant action that any member of Faith CRC could take. So take action on behalf of your church today—pray!
—Pastor Schuringa

Young at Heart



May flowers are starting to bloom and Ida (Tameling) Mulder is one of Faith CRC's lovely flowers. Ida was born in Chicago on October 24, 1915, to Peter and Henricka (Hoven) Tameling, who were parents of four sons and four daughters. Of these eight children, five are deceased. Her remaining brother and sister, Henry (Marie) Tameling and Hattie (John/deceased) Voss, are members of our church. She graduated from Ebenezer Christian School and obtained an office position at Sears. Ida's family were members of the First CRC of Chicago where she met the love of her life, George Mulder. His parents, Thomas and Cynthia Mulder, George and his four brothers also lived in Chicago. George graduated from Ebenezer Christian School and Chicago Christian High and then went to Worsham College of Mortuary Science.

As the romance between George and Ida blossomed, he realized she was the woman of his dreams and they were married on December 30, 1938. God blessed them with two daughters and two sons, 13 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. George established the Mulder Funeral Home, which, for many years, was located at Roosevelt

Road and 60th Ct. in Cicero.

Along with a busy family, Ida assisted George, and their kindness to those who needed their services during difficult times, made them beloved by all. George also served as the choir director of Ebenezer CRC for many years. They were members of Ebenezer, First CRC of Cicero, Lombard, and now Faith Churches. Several years ago, the Lord called George home after he suffered a heart attack. Two of George and Ida's highlighted travels are their trip to Holland with her brothers and their wives and their cruise to Aruba. Ida's hobby is crocheting. When asked about her favorite Bible passage, Ida quoted the beloved Psalm 23: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..." She fell some time ago and now makes her home at Saratoga Grove. When visiting at Saratoga, stop by Ida's room and you'll be greeted by her warm and lovely smile.

—Kathy De Vries



Happy Mother's Day

Mom, there have been many times in my life when your love has made all the difference...

Even though we've had some hard times to get through, just the fact that you were there and that we got through them together helped make me stronger.

You gave me the greatest gifts a mother can give a child...

A desire to love and serve the Lord and your beautiful example of strength and courage. And now on this Mother's Day, I hope you know I'll always thank you for being so strong... and I'll always love you for being you.

—Submitted by Kathy De Vries

Missionaries of the Month Jeong & Misook Gho



The missionaries of the month for May are Rev. and Mrs. Gho, who are missionaries with Christian Reformed World Missions in Japan. Their work focuses primarily on training church leaders for several denominations in Japan, China, and Korea. They are also involved in the planting of a church in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

Rev. and Mrs. Gho are currently on home leave, and we were privileged as a church to hear Rev. Gho preach during our Mission Emphasis week this past March. Let us pray that their time in the States will be a time of both effective work and rest, and that it will equip them as they go back to their work in Japan in mid-July. If you would like to contact the Ghos, e-mail them at jeonggho@gmail.com.

—Michelle Bonnes