

GRACE NOTES

News from and about Grace Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan Vol.6 num.2, JANUARY 2014

Kaylisa Ware -- Friend, Servant, Sister in the Lord



Kay lived in the Grace House only 14 months before going to be with Jesus, so suddenly and so unexpectedly. She was only 44. While she was with us she told us funny stories, she declared her faith and joined Grace Church, she served at the Food Pantry and at FLI, she substituted for Melanie, she delighted us with her sumptuous Grace House breakfasts, she took pride in her job and in doing it faithfully, she dreamed of starting up a neighborhood cooking class.... and even though she was a very private person, she made it clear that she loved the embrace she experienced at Grace CRC.

Kay modeled something very important for us in the way she did her work as a telephone fund raiser, and in the way she talked about it. Being there faithfully was important to her, and she was willing to ride the bus afternoons to work and ride home late in the evening to work

the hours needed for telephone solicitation. She was proud of the results she got! She told us when she was the top solicitor for the shift. Better yet, she cared

about the ministries she was representing no matter which one. She was able to represent the interests of many kingdom causes, and she loved doing it. I was blessed by Kay's attitude about her job.

Kay could be Mother, sister, friend, fellow disciple, and she could move among these roles pretty freely. She loved her "natural" family, and she loved her church family. When we'd go out to lunch (strawberry waffles at Wolfgang's, with extra strawberries) she was very clear about how much she cared. I'm thankful for Kay's part in the Grace House, and in Grace Church. God was at work in her heart, and he was using her to bless others. We miss her.

Karl J. Westerhof

ROOF CLEARING

Snow and ice in November, more snow in December, and still more snow in January piled up on streets, sidewalks and roofs all over West Michigan. As the snow drifts grew we started to hear about flat roofs collapsing—here a garage, there a factory or house,



surprisingly the Christian Reformed Recreation Center clubhouse. Some of us thought of



our own buildings, and Kim Egebeen, Church Custodian, remembered the flat roof of the church.

She has been up there more than once to patch leaks, sweep off storm debris, or check up on the heating units. On Feb 5 —and then again on the 6th, and the 8th--Kim marshaled a troop of neighborhood men willing to shovel snow and brought them up to the roof to lighten the load of snow and ice there. She warned them to leave

4 inches of snow on the roof so they would not rip the roof material. She clocked their hours, brought them water to drink when they got thirsty, and encouraged them when they got tired. It took eighteen hours of shoveling for the men to cut down the heavy snow banks that had been growing for the past months. Thanks to Kim and her crew we have had no cave-ins and no leaks.
Virginia LaGrand

ART FAITH AND COMMUNITY

Who is My Neighbor ?

Conference & Art Exhibit

April 25 & 26, 2014, Grand Rapids, MI

The Who Is My Neighbor? Conference will be a dialog about art and creativity within the context of church and community. Our journey will be guided by the ideas of Catholic Latino theologian Cecilia González-Andrieu and Calvinist philosopher Nicholas Wolterstorff. Together we will explore how art can become a bridge “to our neighbor,” and a creative catalyst for social change and spiritual renewal within our own neighborhoods, churches and communities.

The conference & art exhibit will be held in 7 churches in downtown Grand Rapids, including Grace Church and feature 2 days of seminars, workshops & artist presentations. There will be an 11 artist exhibition with over 300 pieces of original art including the work of Chris Stoffel Overvoorde. The exhibit will be held throughout the host churches and will be open to the public for 3 weeks after the conference with guided tours available for schools, churches and community groups.

To explore God’s biblical call “To love your neighbor as yourself” through art, visual theology & the voice of the artist. For more information visit: www.eyekons.com/who_is_my_neighbor.

If you are interested in volunteering for the conference contact Chris Overvoorde at 956-7454. We will need greeters and coffeemakers for Friday and Saturday afternoon when Chris will make his presentations at Grace Church.