

GRACE NOTES

News from and about Grace Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan Vol.7 num.2, March, 2015

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Roy Zuidema



Roy Zuidema initially chose Grace Church in the fall of 2013 because of friends who are members. Over time, he has “found Grace to be a loving, caring and accepting church.” He “looks forward to getting to know God’s family at Grace and becoming more involved in the ministries of the church.”

Roy grew up in rural northwestern New Jersey at Sussex Christian Reformed Church. His dad owned an auto body shop and his mom, mostly a stay-at-home mom, worked part-time for a local elementary school. He has siblings in eastern Michigan, New York, and one “back home” in Sussex..

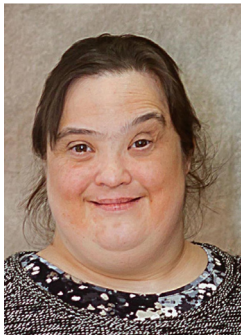
Graduated from Calvin College in 1979 and the University of Michigan in 1981, with a Master’s degree in exercise science, Roy taught in Georgia briefly before coming back to GR.

For the next 23 years, he worked for wellness centers, raised his four boys, attended a CRC on the west side of GR, and finally, in 2007, accepted his present position at Calvin College as Director of Campus Wellness.\

Roy came to Grace looking for a place where he and his wife could worship together. That did not work out and the marriage ended with pain for Roy. But he is adjusting and finding joy with his children and grandchildren and his job. Welcome to Grace as a member, Roy!

Alice Menninga Richards & Elizabeth Izenbart

She was Alice Menninga when we knew her 10 years ago. She felt called to ministry at Gold Avenue church for those years but now she’s back as Alice



Menninga/Richards. She says coming back to Grace is like “coming home.” She’s already joined the music team and hopes to become active in other ministries as well.

Alice has done years of ministry with developmentally disabled people. Joining her in her return to Grace Church is Elizabeth Izenbart who is “so excited” to be back with us. Welcome to both of you!



(left to right)
Avieon Cloud,
Robert Harvey,
Aden Hart,
Eli Hart,
Giovanny Ramirez.

GRACE CADETS “BEST IN SHOW”

Ten Grace Cadets and 5 leaders attended the Grand Rapids Cadets council Annual Pinewood Derby on Saturday, March 21. Our Cadets won 5 trophies for ‘best in show’ (design).

WORSHIP VALUES

We just wrapped up a series of sermons on the worship values that the worship committee put together. We hope that this will serve as a way for us to articulate the common values we share when we worship together here at Grace.

The worship committee plans to use these values to keep track of some goals -- asking ourselves regularly if we are seeing diverse faces leading worship, if we are including people of all ages and abilities, if we are providing space for free expression and testimony as well as traditions. If you have ideas for ways that we can live out these values more fully, please share them with the worship committee.

Colossians 3:14-17 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Worship at Grace...

IS STEEPED IN PRAYER (Matt 6:9-13)

There are lots of ways to pray, and everyone’s prayers help us have better conversations with God.

Our practice: We will pray formally and informally, through words, movement, and silence, using a variety of voices (ages, genders, ethnicities, etc.).

TESTIFIES TO TRUTH (Eph 4:25)

Telling stories – Scripture’s, our own, someone else’s, of Grace Church’s past – helps us see where God is working. Telling stories helps us to see that we are part of God’s big story.

Our practice: We will work hard to be good listeners to stories told at Grace; we will be willing to share our stories as a way to give witness to God’s narrative.

IS ROOTED AND FREE (Romans 15:1-7)

We worship in some ways that Christians have done since the beginning. We also claim our freedom through Christ to worship in ways the Holy Spirit is helping us to create today.

Our practice: Our worship will be deliberately diverse; we will experience old and new, polished and down-to-earth ways of worship, always trusting God and one another, especially when something may feel strange.

IS WHOLE-HEARTED (Psalm 86:12)

Worship is a safe place to bring all the things we feel to God.

Our practice: We are all broken and need God’s grace, and we can trust God and each other with our deepest feelings; when we let our real selves show, it’s a way to honor each other and honor God.

SENDS US OUT (Micah 5:6-8)

The reason we worship is to be more like Jesus every day.
Our practice: We come together to learn to be dutiful disciples and active agents -- and we learn by doing, by taking part in God’s work in the world, starting with our little corner of His Kingdom at Sheldon and Buckley.

EMBRACES DIFFERENCE (Romans 15:1-7)

People experience God in different ways, and sometimes that will make us uncomfortable.

Our practice: There is no “right way” to worship. Because we are different, God moves us through different words, gestures, songs, images. Because God has been gracious to us, we can be gracious to each other, and in doing so, we can allow our understanding and experience of God to grow.

BRINGS US TOGETHER (1 Cor 12:12-13)

We are not all the same. We are learning that this helps us to experience God more fully.

Our practice: We belong to one another. Out of love and respect, we will challenge and support one another toward faithfulness; we will allow others to challenge us to see things with new eyes; we will expect God to meet us in new ways.



JUSTIN KOOREMAN FILLS SHORT-TERM INTERN POSITION AT GRACE

Justin Kooreman says he loves Grace Church and hopes a new short-term position will help him contribute to its ministry. From April through June he’ll serve as “justice mobilizer intern” at Grace in a program recently launched by the CRC’s Office of Social Justice. The idea is to help Grace members learn more about local justice ministries and support them. Justin, whose role has been endorsed by the Council, will particularly focus on building connections between Grace and The Micah Center, a Grand Rapids area justice-oriented network of churches and individuals. Currently, Grace supports The Center with an annual contribution of \$500.

Mike Bruinooge
