

# GRACE NOTES

News from and about Grace Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan Vol.7 num.4, June, 2015

## REMEMBERING JOYCE LING (6/22/1935— 4/6/2015)

On April 11, friends and family of Joyce Ling gathered at Grace Church to remember and celebrate her life. And it was a real celebration! Through remembrances, music, art, and poetry



the gospel choir and working on neighborhood projects. For thirty years Joyce worked professionally as a case worker for the Michigan Department of Social Services. She had a true heart for people who faced dire situations and was always ready to go the extra mile for them. That compassion and energy translated well to her work at Grace—where as a deacon and advocate for children, she also encountered people with true need.

Joyce was raised Swedish Lutheran but was drawn to the warmth and acceptance of the Grace congregation, which she joined officially in 1988. She has continued to value greatly the visits, cards, and prayers of Grace members during recent years when she was confined to her room at Luther Village. And she found great peace in knowing that that same community was there to support her daughter Cathy. Anyone who talked to Joyce in recent months heard stories about the children and grandchildren that she loved so much. And they also heard her calm assurance that she would soon meet her Lord.

*Ruth VanderHart*

*Top, Joyce with Grand daughter Alex, Below, Cathy, Joyce, Bruce and Kris, below Joyce at work on left, and Cathy with her Mom on right.*



children and grandchildren gave tribute to a mother and grandmother who had continued to love them, comfort them, and challenge them during her long fight with Emphysema and COPD. They celebrated her life, and they celebrated that she was no longer suffering but was whole and well with Jesus.

Although Joyce has been unable to worship at Grace for many years, many members remember her ready smile, her energy, her dedication, and her giftedness. She was a moving force in developing and launching a daycare center at Grace during the nineties. And she was honored to be one of the first females to be elected in West Michigan as a deacon in the Christian Reformed Church. She served in countless other ways in the life of the congregation, including singing in

## CONGRATULATIONS HARRY!



Did you know that between half and two-thirds of college students who identify themselves as Christians before college lose their faith during their college years? Did you ever think of a campus as a mission field? If only the church could clone Harry Lew!

On Sunday, May 31, Grace Church honored Harry as he retires from campus ministry with students on the downtown campuses of Community College, Davenport, and Kendall. But capturing the depth of his commitment and the scope of his ministry takes more than a luncheon or a few paragraphs in *Grace Notes*. Here are some of the significant ways in which Harry reaches out and interacts with students who are searching for community and a safe place to ask faith questions on campus. During a typical week Harry. . .

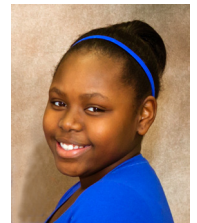
- leads several Bible studies,
- meets with student leaders to develop their ministry skills,
- invites lecturers to campus to address challenging issues,

- offers discussion groups around special interests,
- creates opportunities for fellowship and outreach (like movie and pizza nights),
- mentors individual students as they make career choices in the light of their faith.

When asked, Harry will tell you that one of the most gratifying parts of his ministry has been simply helping students make it through school. Because many of the students he comes along side of are “first generation” college students, they lack the models and encouragement that are taken for granted in families for whom college education is a given. Add to that Harry’s commitment to helping young adults live out their faith through their career choices and life decisions and you have a glimpse of the legacy he leaves to his successors in Campus Ministry leadership.



*Pat Nederveld*



**Cheyenne Pinder**

graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Tri-Unity Christian Middle School and will be attending high school there in the fall.



**Hannah Van Houten**

graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Ridge Park Charter Academy. She plans to attend Grand Rapids Christian High in the fall.



**Nathan Van Harn** graduated from Grand Rapids Christian Middle School and will attend Grand Rapids Christian High in the fall.

**Judah Van Dyke** graduated from Grand Rapids City Middle School and will continue at City High in the fall. He hopes to spend the summer playing music and not thinking about school. *(no photo available)*

*Karen DeVos*

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



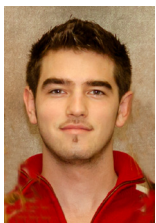
**Amanda Hays** graduated from Calvin Seminary with an MA in Pastoral Care. She plans to continue her training by taking Clinical Pastoral Education at Pine Rest this summer.

**Daniel Van Kooten**

graduated from Calvin College with a degree in Engineering. He plans to work for his dad at Medema/Van Kooten Associates, a civil engineering firm.



**Becky Van Dyke** graduated from Calvin College with an interdisciplinary B.A. in history, chemistry, and biology. She hopes, after a year off to work, to enter a Physicians’ Assistance program at Grand Valley State University. *(no photo available)*



**Aaron Hoekwater** graduated from Calvin College with a degree in Business/Finance. He plans to work for his dad this summer. Plans after that are still open.

**Emily Crow** graduated from Grand Rapids

Christian High School. She plans to work as a life guard at the Kroc Center this summer and then attend Calvin College in the fall.

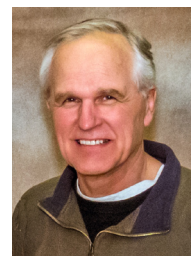


## THANK YOU RETIRING ELDERS



Jennifer Bridgewater served as President of Council and the Administrative Committee, Bettye Higgins was a delegate to the Synod of 2014 and Pat and Arie served as a team, with Pat serving as the secretary of the Elders.

## THANK YOU RETIRING DEACONS



Mike Foster served as Chair of the Deacons. Dave Lucas and Deveta Clayton served as Deacons