

GRACE NOTES

News from and about Grace Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Vol.8 num. 2, March 2016

CALVIN COLLEGE NURSING

Ministry and Service in Community Health Nursing at Grace CRC

For many years nursing students from Calvin College have been connected to the people at Baxter-Madison Neighborhoods and at Grace Christian Reformed Church. The experiences in Baxter/Madison and at Grace are a part of the student's courses in Community Health Nursing, benefiting both the student in their understanding of community health and the community through the partnership with the neighborhood people. It has been a privilege to serve God's people as we provide education and health promotion/health protection activities.

Following is a letter written by Calvin students as they began their community health rotation in their senior year. These same students were at Grace as they began their junior year. As they return to Grace, their understanding of community health has grown, and this letter reflects both their growth and their appreciation of the people of Grace CRC:

Dear Members of Grace CRC,
As nursing students from Calvin College, we have been blessed with many great experiences in our clinical rotations. One of these experiences has been working in the Baxter-Madison Neighborhood and learning how to improve the health of individuals in this community.
During our junior year we had the chance to work with people at Grace on Tuesdays during the food distribution program. During these weeks, we routinely performed blood pressure and blood glucose screenings to the people who gathered there. We were blessed to have this opportunity to not only practice these skills, but also to offer some advice to the people about their health concerns and the results of the screenings.

In our senior year we have the privilege of returning to Grace and to the food distribution program. We are excited to continue our partnership with Grace and the people who participate in the program on Tuesdays. The focus of our time this year is dealing more with the results of the screenings



and using this evidence to support ways in which the overall health of the community can be improved.

We have loved spending time with the people at Grace, and appreciate the encouragement and support that we have received from all of you. May God continue to work a good work in you as you serve Him at Grace CRC.

The Nursing Students at Calvin College

I conclude by adding my deepest thanks and appreciation for the on-going partnership with you. May God bless you all.

Professor Muriel Larson Calvin College, Department of Nursing

A GIFT OF GRACE

Dear People of Grace Church,

Grace Church has a council approved policy that permits your pastor time for sabbatical after each 4-year period of full time service to the church. The policy permits a sabbatical of up to 3 months. It is a very generous offer, for which I am truly grateful.

Although I'm in my 12th year of service to Grace Church, I don't want any of you to say to me, "You deserve it". I know that would not be true. I know that many of you deserve such a gift but it is not available to you. I know how hard some of you work and struggle in your daily lives. I know that many of you do difficult jobs faithfully everyday. I know that I have not worked as hard as some of you do each day. Yet, few, if any of you are given the opportunity and the luxury of a Sabbatical. So I know that I don't deserve it. It is a gift of grace from all of you to me. I have not earned it and don't deserve it but I thank you for it from the bottom of my heart.

Because it is a gift of grace, I feel an obligation to you



as my church to serve you as well as I am able over the next several years. I feel that it is not an obligation to come back to you at the end of June smarter than when I left or more eloquent or a better preacher or pastor. I feel an obligation to come back to you renewed, restored and refreshed, ready to resume with enthusiasm my ministry among you.

A sabbatical for me is a time of attentiveness to God. It is a time for reading and study of the Word in preparation for the next years of ministry at Grace. It is also a time to reflect on our culture and society and the changes that we are seeing all around us. I intend it to be a time in which my normal routine will be interrupted to engage in rest and play as well as focused study and learning, which I pray and trust will benefit this church that I am so pleased to be serving.

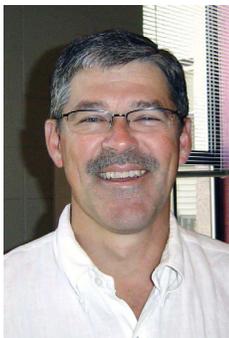
It will be a time to step back to learn from the perspectives and insights of other Christian leaders. It will include extended time with people who have been important in my ministry life and spoken into my life. My time will include being with Dr. John Perkins in Jackson MS and Rev. Peter Scazzero in New York City. Peter, as some of you will recall, is the author of the book, "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality," which we studied as a church several years ago. Peter more recently authored "Emotionally Healthy Leadership," which I will study in preparation for meeting with him. I will also be in regular contact with Dr. Andy Atwood, who has been a friend and counselor, and Rev. Jack Dik, who leads "Deeper Journey," a ministry of the Great Lakes Region of the CRC, that I have been privileged to be part of. Jack will serve as my "spiritual director" during my time of Sabbatical.

Again, I am most grateful for this opportunity. I intend to use the time well and return to Grace renewed. The responsibilities of being your pastor include in some way, leading you into the presence of the Lord. It includes modeling the life of the Spirit. It includes providing thoughtful guidance to God's people at Grace during times of challenge. This time will be focused on those commitments. Thank you for the opportunity to renew my spirit, learn and grow. I trust and pray that it will prepare me to better serve Grace Church over our next years together.

Pastor Kooreman

CROW HONORED

Hall of Famer Crow had great support from parents



No matter the arena, the competitive sport or the opponent, Bob Crow always had at least two supporters in his corner – his parents, Helen and Charles.

As a Grove City High senior, weighing whether Westminster College would be his destiny or to remain in his hometown at Grove City College – Crow recalled the

ultimate decision was simple.

"I had opportunities to play other places, the one I really contemplated the most and it came down to was Westminster College. But I ended up staying in my hometown," Crow recently related. "I had my family close by, and I knew – and this was also part of the reason why I decided to stay in Grove City – my parents would be going to all of my games, or most of my games.

"And as it turned out, in my four years, they only missed one game and it was because the car broke down," Crow proudly pointed out.

His parents were there, too, when Crow was inducted with the Class of 2016 into the Mercer County Hall of Fame – his mother, in person; his father, in spirit.

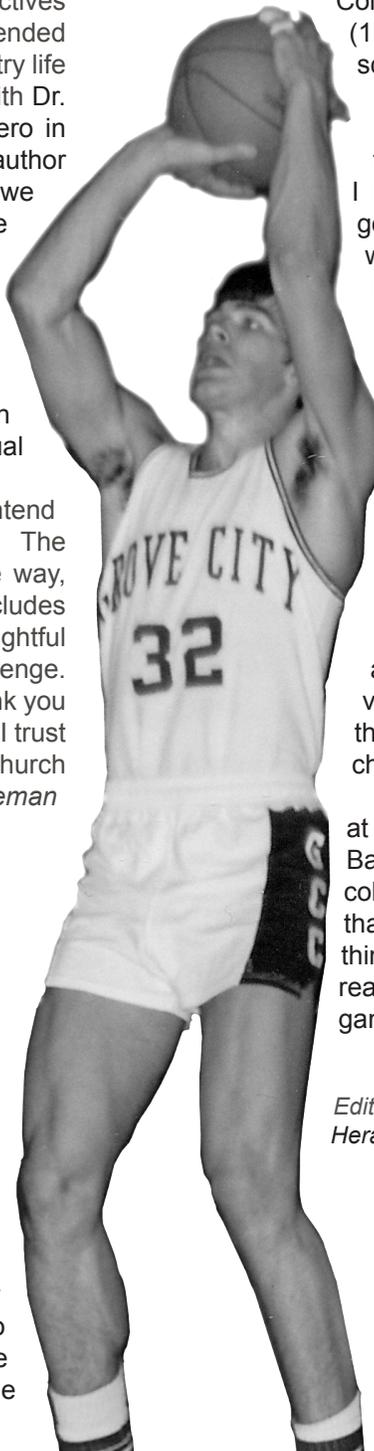
Crow concluded his collegiate cage career as Grove City College's second-leading scorer (1,450), which followed an outstanding scholastic tenure.

Growing up in Grove City, Crow recalled, "I loved it! It's a smaller town – still about 8,000 people – but I had really good friends who were good students and also playful, so we would do a lot together, athletically. But basketball ended up being my sport. And coaches ... I was really privileged to have good coaches all the way through."

"Dick Adams – when I was in seventh- and eighth-grade – introduced me ... and I didn't know the first thing about basketball," Crow confided. "Everybody who went out made the team; nobody got cut. But what I credit him with is: he showed me what the game is about. He taught the fundamentals, very basic. I started to see the joy that comes with this game – and the challenge."

"So I went to basketball camp at Grove City College, and met John Barr, who eventually became my college coach. I ended up going to that basketball camp every year. But I think that was the turning point for me; I really started to find the passion for this game."

ED FARRELL | Herald Assistant Sports Editor Reprinted with permission from The Herald, Sharon, PA



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome nine new members to the Grace “family” of believers this Easter Sunday morning. Pastor Jack has mentored this group for several weeks. Together they have grown in their knowledge of the Word and of their salvation in Jesus Christ. They are professing their faith in the Lord Jesus and that they belong to him.



Brandon Alexander

My name is Brandon Alexander. Myself and my family have been coming to Grace Church for as long as I can remember. I as a child participated every year in the vacation bible school program. I am a father to 3 wonderful boys (Dresden 6, Jourdain 4 and Nehemiah 2) that mean the world to me.

My parents, Tommy and Janet Alexander have been active within the church for years. My Grandmother is Mary McKinney. Over the years I’ve fostered many meaningful relationships with members here that have proven to be invaluable: Former Pastor Roger Van Harn, Gordon Van Harn, Mary Hoeksema (my kindergarten teacher), Jim Dekker, Jotham Ippel and Pastor Kooreman all of which have had a profound impact on my life from boy to becoming a man. I wholeheartedly believe that this now is the time to take the next step in my development in faith and to doing that God has placed me on this earth to do, His will.



ELI HART

I’m Eli Hart. I am 12 years old. I attend the Potter’s House Middle School. I have been coming to this Church all of my life. I enjoy playing instruments; piano, guitar, drums, percussion.....and also playing soccer. I enjoy this Church very much !



DAWN HINES

Hi, I’m Dawn Hines. I am a woman that knows that God has called me to be His ! I am here because I want to re-ignite the Fire, to Serve Him and Live my life everyday to be a blessing to the body of Christ. My heart’s Desire is to do God’s will. I have been looking for a Church home and have found it in Grace. Not

only have I found a Church home I have also found the man of my dreams here at Grace; David Turnbull, my fiancé !



TESSA HOFMAN

My husband Brian and I have attended Grace for two years now. We started attending when Brian started at Calvin Seminary. I really enjoy being at Grace and enjoy how the people of Grace take the time to get to know anyone who is new and bring them into the Grace family. I truly am thankful for all the people at Grace and the marks they have left on my heart.



HANNAH LAGRAN

Hello, my name is Hannah LaGrand, and I am from Barrie, Ontario. I came to Grand Rapids five years ago to attend Calvin College, where I met my husband John. We have been attending Grace for a few months now and are excited about becoming more full and active members in this community.



JOHN LAGRAN

Hello, my name is John LaGrand, and I was born and raised in Grand Rapids. I first attended Grace as a child with my family, but spent most of my life at Eastern Ave CRC. I went to Calvin College where I met my wife, Hannah. While visiting churches together we experienced Grace and loved it. We’re excited to become members and engage more fully with this community.



CATHY LING

My name is Cathy Ling. I love listening and singing along with WCSG Christian radio station. I’ve been a member at Grace since 1997; It is when we had the Priscilla Circle Bible study, my

Mom (Joyce Ling) and I were members of that study. Mrs. Burress and Mrs. Larson were the leaders of that study. I was also in the Folk Choir, the Praise team Choir and the main Librarian. I first started getting involved with Grace because my Mom and brother, Bruce Ling, and sister-in-law Christie

niece Micah and nephew Taylor all went here as well. I felt very welcomed here. It is a great Church ! I've been praying that God would send a Christian man into my life and He answered my prayers and sent me Greg Peterson. I'm so Grateful for Greg in my life !



JODI MUILENBERG

I came to Grace from many years of attending Ada Bible Church. I moved to this neighborhood. I thought it would be great to attend a Church in the neighborhood from which I lived. I've been attending Grace for 1.5 years and thought it was time to re-affirm my faith and become an official member. I am a single Mother of two adult children. Corinne and Marc. Marc and his fiancé Karlee are getting married Sept. 2. As you can well imagine I'm pretty excited. I look forward to becoming more involved in Grace, it's mission, the community as it continues to grow and enhance God's Kingdom.



GREG PETERSON

My name is Greg Peterson. I like woodworking, model trains, and camping. I also enjoy helping people with special needs. I really enjoy going to different Christian Churches and learning different bible verses. I like to help people get on their feet that are homeless and need

jobs. I got involved with Grace Church through a wonderful lady named Cathy Ling and I want to learn more about Bible verses. I want to learn how to be a good Christian as well.



JACOB ROUKEMA

Jacob is 20 years old. He was baptized at Grace Church in February, 1996. He attended Calvin Christian Schools in Wyoming and Grandville and graduated in 2014. Currently he attends Grand Rapids Community College part time and works at Meijer part time. He enjoys playing video games in his spare time. His lives with his parents Henry &

Marilee. In the past he has helped out with running power point during worship services. He is looking forward to full participation at Grace Church.

This Easter Morning we Baptize two of God's precious children. Dawn Hines presents her daughter 11 year old Shyann Hines. Al and Kate Moss present their fourth child; Judah

SHYANN HINES

My name is Shyann Hines. I'm 11 years old. Jesus is my everything and has been in my life forever. I know and understand that I am not perfect and I am a sinner. I also know that is why I am being baptized today. My hope is to grow in my faith and learn more about Jesus LOVE. I hope to get more involved in the singing and music area's of



FACILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

The building and grounds need your help: the tall sanctuary windows need to be caulked on the outside, some areas of the inside need a spring cleaning, the grass needs to be raked and the flowerbeds trimmed and weeded. In short: we need to welcome spring.

We're planning a work day on May 7.

If you can caulk and are not afraid of climbing a ladder we have work for you! If you like to work outdoors, there is lots of yard work. Save the date!

Last year the east wall of the basement got a chair rail and paint job from the Van Kootens. We have recently replaced the boiler that heats the sanctuary radiators. It was rusted out. Now we have plans to work on the playground and the parking lot, and we are getting opinions on the need to replace our frequently leaking roof. Anyone with an interest in joining the committee please see Virginia La Grand, David Turnbull, Gary Spears, David Vander Hart, or Steven Van Kooten