

*"Give thanks
to the Lord,
call upon His name,*

*Make known His deeds
among the peoples,
proclaim that His name is exalted.*

*Sing praises to the Lord,
for He has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth."*

Isaiah 12:4–5

*RVURC
Fall
Newsletter
2013*





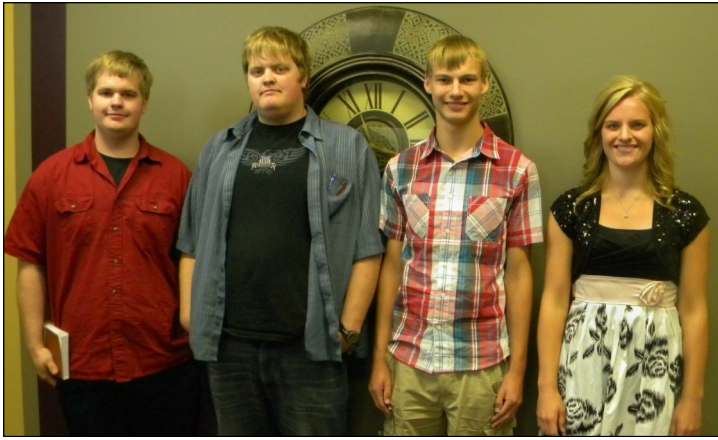
"You Can't Paint Without Paint"

Some of the things your parents taught you you'll just simply never forget. For me, one of those parentally planted lessons was: 'You can't paint without paint'. I can no longer count the number of times I've had opportunity to remind myself of this practical maxim. And now of course, all my children are well aware of the altruism: 'you can't paint without paint'. Imagine my delight when my daughter asked my granddaughter: 'Now Abby, what's the first thing you have to know if you're going to paint?' And my granddaughter immediately responds with absolute certainty and enthusiasm: 'You can't paint without paint!' Right on! Then why do we try to do it so often? Are we too lazy to refill our brush? Are we too impatient to get the job done? Are we trying to stretch the paint because we're running out? Why? Why do we always end up trying to paint without paint? Trying to paint without paint not only fails to cover, it makes a mess of corners, especially where the wall meets the ceiling or the trim of windows, doors, or baseboards. For lack of paint to push and run a straight line, you end up with too much brush where it's going to make a mess instead of a beautiful clean edge.

We run into similar problems when we try to be a Christian without Christ; when we try to be loving and love others without the love of Christ; when we try to be truly compassionate without the compassion of Christ; when we try to be understanding without the understanding of Christ; when we try to be kind without the kindness of Christ; when we try to be concerned about the truth without the Truth of Christ; or when we strive to be holy without the holiness of Christ. Trying to be a Christian without Christ just ends up making a mess of things. It'll wear us out because we'll soon come to the end of ourselves. Trying to be a Christian without Christ will also be a bad witness for the Savior because we say we're a Christian, but then we're living in our own strength. What others see is just us when it ought to be Jesus.

The Savior warned us about this distinct possibility when He said, "I Am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). I think we should rehearse this truth and commit it to memory: 'You can't be a Christian without Christ!' And while we're at it, it would also be a prudent and practically spiritual move to teach this truth to our children: 'You can't be a Christian without Christ!' If we said it more often we might ask the question: 'What's the first thing you have to know to be a Christian?' And the children would shout, 'You can't be a Christian without Christ!' Right On! Praise God we don't have to be!

Pastor Joel Vander Kooi



Professions of Faith

It was our privilege to hear the Public Professions of Faith of four of our young people on Sunday morning, September 15, 2013. Jonathan, Chris, Josh and Lindsay appeared before the Consistory to profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, and we rejoice with them and their families, as they have answered the call of their baptisms and have responded in faith to God's covenant promises.

Rev. Vander Kooi preached on Song of Solomon 2:3-7 under the theme "The Boasting Song About Christ". Verse 3 says "As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste." Jesus Christ is unique, like an apple tree hanging full with fruit in the middle of a forest. What a joy it is that we no longer bear the guilt of our exposed sin, because Jesus has paid the penalty, and we can now sit in His shade, resting in Him and tasting His fruit. We can boast in the Lord, and delight in His love for us. We were reminded that if we will *not* rest in Him, we have nothing, and will never taste that fruit.

It is our prayer that these young people, and *all* of us, will remain faithful to the professions we have made, relying on the Lord to finish the good work He has begun in our lives. To God be the Glory!

*"If you don't know the love of Christ, you don't know love.
We can say, 'Until you've been loved like I have been loved by the Son of God,
You don't know love at all.' That's our boasting love song!"*

Rev. Vander Kooi

On Tuesday, September 24 Rock Valley United Reformed Church led the Afternoon Worship Service at Whispering Heights Nursing Home. The Service was led by our Pastor, Rev. Joel Vander Kooi and was well attended by Whispering Heights residents. The Theme of this service was based on the Book of Ruth chapters 1 & 4 and the title of the message was 'Bethlehem's Bread' and centered on the fulfillment of Biblical Prophecy and the Faithfulness of God in Bringing 'The Bread of Life' our Lord Jesus Christ out of the House of Bread; where in the experience of Elimelech and Naomi, there was no bread for a season but a famine which drove them to flee to Moab. The message included the details of how God changes our bitterness (Mara) to pleasantness (Naomi) once again by giving to us a kinsmen-redeemer (Jesus Christ) to atone for all our sin and its bitter consequences in our lives. The service was very well received by the residents who expressed their appreciation and were visibly encouraged by the several members of Rock Valley United Reformed Church who came out to share in the praise of God and the proclamation of God's Word on a beautiful afternoon. We look forward to conducting our next service at Whispering Heights on Tuesday, December 24, that's right, Christmas Eve at 1:45. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us on Christmas Eve at 1:45 at Whispering Heights for a Christmas Afternoon Service!



NURSING
HOME
MINISTRY



A baby shower was held on Saturday, September 21, to celebrate the coming of Jakson, infant son of Megan and Brett.

We played a game called "Delectable Dirty Diapers"...yes, that sounds like a contradiction in terms, doesn't it! We needed to guess which smashed up candy bar was hiding in each diaper. Oh, man...they didn't look "delectable" any more! There were presents to open, and of course we enjoyed a light lunch together of decorated cookies and cupcakes, veggies and dip and punch. It's good to get together as women and celebrate new life and support our new moms!



My Thankful Heart

Making the stuffing for Thanksgiving dinner helps restore my heart to gratefulness.

First I cut bread into cubes to dry out. Has it really been a year since I thanked God for the simple things of life? Dear God, thank You for my daily bread.

Next I boil giblets for the tasty broth. When did I last express thanks for my body - even the oft-forgotten parts? Thank You, God for creating and sustaining me.

Then I dice onions and celery, adding them to the mixture. That reminds me to thank God for abundant harvests.

Finally I measure raisins, nuts, sage and salt into the stuffing, as scents fill the air. Lord, help me not grow weary of the interesting "spices" that fill my life.

As the stuffing goes into the oven, warm air wafting into the kitchen, I remember to thank God for providing my home. Here relatives and friends gather, often an odd combination. Yet when we bow our heads in thankfulness, we're an unbeatable mix.

Mary Ann Sundby



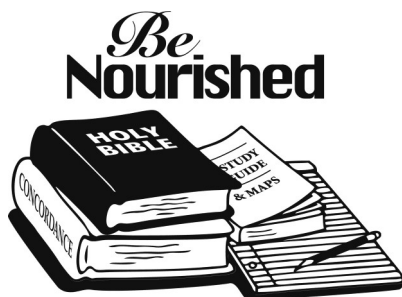
Happy Thanksgiving



OUR ANNUAL TRIP TO THE BONESTEEL INDIAN RESERVATION



Saturday, October 12th, 2013 at 8:30AM we met at our church to car pool. After a prayer together, asking God for safety on our trip to the Bonesteel, South Dakota Indian reservation, we began our journey. Those who went from our area were Herm, Lorna, Gloria, Gloria's mother and her aunt, and Gene and Dee. We arrived at the reservation around 11:30 and began to get the food preparations started and the room set up for the game time that would start later that afternoon. A church group from Cozad, Nebraska met us at the reservation and also began to set up for the children's games and crafts. When most of the preparations were complete we enjoyed our sack lunches and visiting with those from Cozad. It was a nice day (although a bit windy) so many of the children's games were held outside. We began our games at 1:30. We were hoping for a larger crowd but fewer people came than in previous years. We enjoyed playing several games of Bingo with the adults while the children played their games and enjoyed doing crafts. The youth group from Cozad had a short skit with a Biblical theme. When the games were finished, one of Cozad's church men gave a talk about how we are the Bride of Christ and Jesus Christ is the Bridegroom. He called them to see where their true relationships were and encouraged them to look to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There also was a time of singing praise songs, lead by the youth group from Cozad. Their pastor from Bonesteel, Alfred, also challenged them to seek the Lord. He then asked the blessing on the food that had been prepared and for those who prepared the food. The evening meal was served. The menu for the meal included pork loin, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and applesauce. The Cozad church had brought cookies and bars for the dessert. The people enjoyed the meal that had been served. When all had their fill, we cleaned the kitchen, roasters, and whatever else had been used to serve the meal. We then said our good byes and returned safely to Rock Valley. Thank you to the people who donated to the cost of the food and other expenses. It was appreciated very much.



Our **Bible Study** groups are under way once again for the 2013-2014 season. Besides the Sunday School and Catechism classes that are held for our children and young people, you can also find our **Adult Bible Study** meeting on Sunday mornings following our morning worship service. We are studying from the book *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer, but sometimes we get into discussions about the morning sermon that take up a lot of our time, and that's OK, too! If you find it difficult to find an evening open during the week, we encourage you to join us on Sunday mornings!

On the first and third Thursday evenings of the month our **Congregational Bible Study** meets. We are currently studying *The Holiness of God* by R.C. Sproul. We begin by viewing a lesson given by R.C. on DVD, and then move into the questions we have worked on in our Study Guides. R.C. Sproul has a gift for explaining some of these deep concepts and truths from Scripture in a way that is clear and thought provoking. We have interesting discussions on how we can apply these truths to our lives. We encourage everyone to join us! As we were challenged in a recent sermon "*Jesus' Tale of the Ten Virgins*", let's take advantage of these opportunities to "keep oil in our lamps" and to be ready to meet the Bridegroom.

Meet the New Members!

Justin was born in Sioux Falls, SD to Mel and Kathy on October —, 19— and he grew up in Northwest Iowa (both in Doon and Hull). He is the oldest child in his family with three younger sisters. He graduated from both Hull Christian School (K-8) and Western Christian High School (9-12) as well as completed welding courses at NCC. Justin's interest in welding began at a young age as he watched and worked with both his Grandpa and his Dad at Oldenkamp's in Hull. After graduating high school, Justin went to work full time at Oldenkamp's. Over time Justin and his parents took over the Agriculture Division of Oldenkamp's and renamed it ——— Manufacturing, which is where Justin currently works and is part owner. Justin enjoys fishing, shooting at the gun range, travelling, boating, and going to farm shows.



Cindy was born in Bellingham, WA to Duane and Arlene on April -, 19— and she grew up in Northwest Washington. She is in the middle of the family with one older sister and brother as well as two younger brothers. She graduated from Lynden Christian School (K-12), St Luke's College of Nursing, and Dordt College. After college she moved to Arizona to work as a nurse. She spent seven years in Arizona and then decided to try something different and became a traveling nurse for almost 2 years, which led to her living and working in Wisconsin, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Waterloo. She now works part time at both ——— in Rock Valley and ——— Manufacturing. Cindy enjoys camping, bike riding, reading, boating, and travelling.

It is while Cindy was working in Wisconsin, and in Northwest Iowa visiting relatives for the weekend that her aunt from Hull set Justin and Cindy up on a blind date. They had supper at Topher's in Sioux Center (currently The Lighthouse) and had no problem talking over their meal, and then spent an additional two hours talking in the parking lot! Justin had hoped that Wisconsin to Iowa would be the greatest amount of miles between them as they dated. But Cindy went on to work in Boston and California before finally working in Waterloo. Four hours was the closest they lived from each other the whole time they dated. Justin took advantage of having a personal tour guide in all those cities, and visited Cindy at each place. Justin proposed on November 30, 2012 while Cindy was living in Waterloo.

It was a very romantic proposal. He surprised her by being in her apartment one Friday afternoon when she came home from work. He first sent her a dozen roses at work to make sure she would come home after work (to drop the roses off). He had 80+ candles lit in the apartment. 56 of them were in a path from the door to a small table which had a beautiful engagement ring sitting on it. Justin then got on his knee and asked her to marry him. He also had another dozen roses set on a table with a candle lit dinner. Cindy was beyond surprised! She said yes, and moved to Hull in January to begin the next chapter in their story.



They got married in Lynden, WA on April —, 20— and took a road trip to Glacier National Park for their honeymoon.

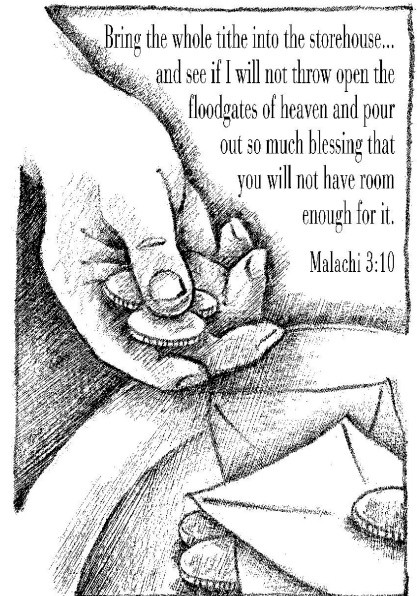
They are now getting settled in their home in ——. Together they enjoy boating, travelling, going to craft breweries and wineries, and hanging out with friends.

Welcome to RVURC, Justin and Cindy! We are so happy to have you in our congregation, and we pray that we may be a mutual blessing to one another for many years to come as we serve the Lord together.

Your Offerings at Work

*Have you ever wondered how the Lord uses our weekly offerings to advance His Kingdom?
The "Thank You" notes we receive help us to see His work.*

From **Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary**: "Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation to PRTS. Your donation will be used to better equip us in the training of men who we trust by the grace of the Holy Spirit will be made able ministers of the gospel. We commend you to the throne of grace and covet your prayers on behalf of our seminary. Pray that God will keep us strong in the doctrines of grace and faithful to the Biblical, Reformed, and Puritan heritage entrusted to us."



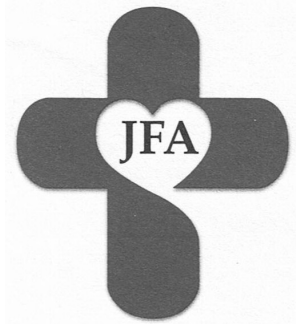
"On behalf of **Dordt College's "Putting Love Into Action" (PLIA) project**, we want to thank you for your gift. Because of gifts such as yours, students were able to travel to ministry sites during spring break and be of service to those in need. This experience not only ministered to the needy but was also important for the development of young people as they willingly gave of their time and energy. Thank you for your prayers for the safety of our PLIA teams and for their effectiveness as they served another part of God's creation."



From Cornerstone URC of Sanborn: "To our fellow servants of Christ, thank you for your recent financial support of **Stand and Deliver**. We are very excited about how God is using Stand and Deliver to encourage and equip our area young people, preparing them to "always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks" (1 Peter 3:15). Your partnership with us in this ministry is greatly appreciated and is an encouragement to us as we continue planning future events. We ask that you continue to pray with us for God's blessing on these efforts and to continue promoting Stand and Deliver to your young people."

"We want to express our appreciation for your prayer and financial support of **Heidelberg Theological Seminary**. Since donations are a key source of funding for the operation of the seminary, the board and staff wish to note our sincere appreciation for your support. Responses to the recent fund raising initiative have been encouraging for HTS and confirm the widespread support the seminary enjoys. Our fall semester is well underway, with five students enrolled via Internet in the distance-learning program. These students live in California, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. We also have one full time and two local part time students, and we praise the Lord for these eight students. We pray the Lord will continue to bless your labors and ministry in Rock Valley."

From **Justice For All**: "We appreciate your gift so much. These gifts are very important to our efforts. Because of people like you sharing time, skills, and financial resources, "the least of these" will realize the dream of owning their own home, the elderly will receive medical care with dignity, children will be quipped with life skills as well as academic excellence, just to name a few benefits. At the core of JFA ministry are the hearts and hands of the volunteers from all over the tri-state area. Without them, JFA ministry would not happen. Thank you for challenging your members to serve God in these many different ways. May God bless your church body as you have blessed us."



"Thank you kindly for your recent contributions to our ministry. We appreciate it very much." **Pastor Paul Murphy, Messiah's Reformed Fellowship of New York City.**

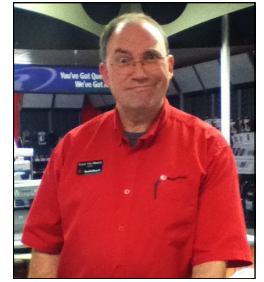
"Thanks so much for your support of **Rev. Allen Vander Pol** and his work with **MINTS!**" (Miami International Seminary)



Here's living proof that your momma was right...hitchhikers are often suspicious looking people and are not to be trusted...



At our Bible Study on October 31, we realized that four of our members were having birthdays. That called for a celebration, of course. Too bad one of the birthday boys couldn't be there...



Korrie realizing he missed out on his own birthday cake.



Meanwhile, Cherie found out that the secret to surviving your 50th birthday "*DEPENDS*" on the love and support of your family and friends!

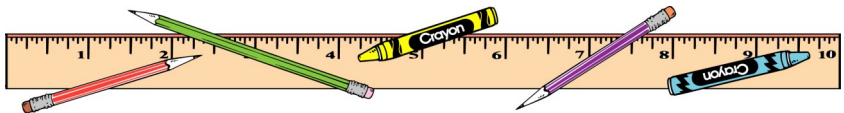


Good thing her 50 year old "ticker" could handle the surprise!



Herm demonstrates to Gene, Lance and Al the importance of learning to color inside the lines while you're in Kindergarten...

Man, that Candid Camera follows you EVERYWHERE



SMILE!
You're on Candid Camera



Marijke and Caity analyze the Spot-a-Pot while competing in "Amazing Race"...P U !



Kids of all ages love to ride the carousel, so you might as well give in and let them have fun, right Cornie?





Making sub sandwiches



We have to sample the product, you know...

Stand & Deliver Youth Outing in Sanborn on September 28



Go Get 'em, Jessica



Our favorite librarian gets us pumped up about story time...

Umm, yeah, Officer, We know this might look bad, but really, we're just competing in the "Amazing Race"... really!!



Place The Face!



It's fitting to have these two little girls together in this column; after all, they have been together all their lives. Born just 11 days apart, (they were actually due to be born on the same day!) they were baptized together, went to all the same Sunday School and Catechism classes, GEMS and Youth Group, and then made Profession of Faith on the same day, too. They were in the same grade in the same schools, played the same instrument in band (flute); both played volleyball through their Freshman year, and both were active in the WCHS Drill Team. They graduated together and had their parties together...yeah, when you saw one, you probably saw the other. In a few weeks there will be another milestone of life that will find them together, as one becomes a bride and the other will be her Maid of Honor. Who are they??



The answer is hidden somewhere in this newsletter.



Did You Know?



- Did you know that **Doug and Karla** are now Grandpa and Grandma? Their son and daughter-in-law, James and Rhonda of Sioux Falls, welcomed their firstborn son Titus in September. Congratulations to all!
- Did you know that it's possible to have a romantic date, even during harvest season? **Randy and Pam** don't let hours in the tractor cool off the romance! It's been reported that they enjoy supper picked up from Cedar Rock Grille right in the tractor cab, and Pam even hand feeds her beloved while he drives! Yeah, baby, the younger generation has nothing on these two love birds!



- Did you hear about this story of providence? A few weeks ago **Erin** was in a car accident on her way to Rock Valley from Sioux Falls. Her car rolled and was totaled, but providentially Erin was not seriously hurt. *But*, she had her beloved kitty "Sunny D" with her, and in the rough ride and excitement of it all, Sunny went missing. They searched and called, called and searched, but could not find Sunny anywhere. Erin left a description of the cat with the local people, hoping he might show up. Days went by, but the poor little de-clawed house cat was not heard from. Then, *nine days* after the accident, and after the corn was harvested from the field that the car landed in, the family that lived there heard something by their patio door, and there was Sunny!

Erin has been joyfully reunited with her kitty, but she sure wishes that Sunny could talk, and tell us all about his nine days in the wild. Sunny seems to have learned a lesson, as he's not nearly so quick to dash outside without his "mom".

Reunited!





Give Praise

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

1. Give Take Grab	2. peanut praise pear	3. temple house LORD	4. proclaim past present	5. name boy lad	6. ruin destroy make
7. pine acorn known	8. train nations bus	9. done donut muffin	10. Sing Sleep Yawn	11. she him girl	12. sun praise moon
13. tell fast slow	14. red all blue	15. horrible dreadful wonderful	16. acts sisters aunts		

" _____ to the _____ , _____ his _____ ;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____ .
 _____ to _____ , sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
 _____ . " PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answers to Place the Face—Rachel and Erin

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make,
 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all,
 15. wonderful, 16. acts
 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the
 nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his
 wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)