



*"Honor your father
and mother, as
the LORD
your God
has
commanded
you...."*

Deuteronomy 5:16

*Rock Valley
United Reformed Church
Newsletter
Spring, 2013*



A case to appreciate the Holy Spirit

The religious world we live in today is largely dominated by Pentecostal denominations that seem to expand both in terms of geography, and local influence. Those churches have a great amount of focus on the work of the Holy Spirit both in terms of extraordinary gifts; healing, speaking in tongues, and seeing visions; along with the ordinary gifts of faith, repentance, and lives of holiness. With the growth of such a worldwide focus on the work of the Holy Spirit one would expect to see deep theological development of the Holy Spirit as Pentecostalism expands. However, that theological development seems to be lacking. As J. I. Packer suggests in his book called *"Knowing God,"* "The person and work of Christ have been, and remain, subjects of constant debate within the church; yet the person and work of the Holy Spirit are largely ignored. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is the Cinderella

of Christian doctrines. Comparatively few seem to be interested in it." Therefore, some consideration of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit would be helpful for us to undertake, and would be beneficial especially as Pentecostalism continues to grow and influence us.

One must ask what the proper work of the Holy Spirit is, where he comes from and how important his work is.

When considering the unique work of the Holy Spirit one finds the confessions to be a great asset as they help to direct our consideration. The Heidelberg Catechism says that we cannot do good works without being born again by the Spirit of God (Lord's Day 3), and that the Holy Spirit is given to God's people "so that, by true faith, he makes [the believer] share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts [him or her] and remains with [him or her] forever." (Lord's Day 20) We also know in the very popular Lord's Day 1 that "Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes we whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him." So we can conclude that the work of the Holy Spirit is very influential in our salvation, and can even say that his work is necessary since without him we would not be made willing and ready to live for Christ, nor would we be made partakers of Christ and his blessings, and therefore we could not be saved without him.

We have a tendency not to pay particular attention to the Holy Spirit since he is like an electrician working a spotlight in a theater. The one who works the light does not draw attention on himself; rather he casts light on the actor who is performing on the stage so that the audience can see, and understand the plot. The Holy Spirit does that type of work as he illuminates Christ's ministry by teaching God's people about Christ just as Jesus promised when he said, *"The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."* (John 14:26) That illumination is what the Holy Spirit would do for the Apostles, and what he continues to do for all God's people as the Holy Spirit points to, and bears testimony of Christ's work.

So one could say that the Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity who continually draws attention from himself by placing that attention on another. He does that by pointing to Jesus Christ, and applying Christ's saving work to his people. The Spirit then is instrumental in the salvation of God's people, since without him they would not know Jesus, nor would they have faith in him. Furthermore without the Spirit the saving work of Christ would not be applied to all those who are chosen to believe. We know that since *"In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things to him, things in heaven and things on earth"* and *"But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his spirit who dwells in you."* (Ephesians 1:7-10; Romans 8:10-11) So we see clearly from those texts that the Holy Spirit is necessary and instrumental in our salvation as his work is to reveal, teach, and apply Christ's redemption to sinners.

The Holy Spirit's work is done like that of a contractor. The Spirit does not go and do whatever he wants when he wants, but our Lord Jesus Christ sends the Spirit. That is clear from Jesus' promise to send the Spirit in texts like John 14:26, and the Pentecost account given in Acts 2 and following. In Acts 2 specifically the apostles and witnesses were experiencing the work of the Spirit directly as they heard a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and they saw divided tongues as of fire that appeared and came to rest on each of the apostles; yet in Peter's sermons he does not preach about the Holy Spirit, and explain the mechanics of speaking in tongues to the crowd. No, Peter preached about Christ crucified with a call to *"repent and be baptized... in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* That text then is not primarily about the work of the Holy Spirit, but about Christ who has kept his promise by sending the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles so that he would be a blessing to all people.

This work of the Holy Spirit is not to be misunderstood as being a work separated and secluded from the redemptive work of Christ. There can be a temptation to separate the Holy Spirit's inspiration, or gifts, as being separate manifestations that are permitted to disagree with scripture, or with what we know of Christ's teaching. We could spend an exorbitant amount of time on this aspect of the Spirit being misunderstood and misapplied; however a simple reference to Jonathan Edwards' work called *"Religious Affections"* will have to do as we remember that visions, fervor for God, increased love for God and neighbor, and other affections can be faked by the devil. However, a true sign of the Spirit's work is an increased love for God in his beauty and perfection. This love is not selfish or self interested, however it stems from a knowledge and conviction that God is Holy, righteous, and majestic which then brings a worshiper to his or her knees in faithful, thoughtful worship. The correctly applied and understood work of the Holy Spirit agrees with scripture, testifies to Christ, and applies the redemptive work of Christ to the believer. He does that in a way that cannot

be faked, manipulated, interrupted, or hindered by the devil, the world, or our sinful flesh. In God's grace he softens our stubborn, sinful wills, and protects us from all threats as the Holy Spirit regenerates the believer which leads to faith, repentance, justification, sanctification, perseverance, and glorification. All of that he does by grace, despite our sin, despite our misery, so that God would have the glory, and pleasure in saving sinners.

Make no mistake that without the Holy Spirit there would be no gospel, no true faith, and therefore no one who is saved from their sins. Without the Holy Spirit the gospel writers would not have understood Christ, would not have had inspiration, and would not have written the gospels. Without the Holy Spirit there would be no gift of salvation given to people, and there would be no way then for the blessings won for us in Christ to be applied to us. Without the Spirit's work there would be no salvation.

As we have considered one of the marginalized persons of the Trinity we realize that he is very beneficial to us, and that without him we would have no knowledge of our sinful, miserable state; we would not have knowledge of Christ and no gift of the gospel; and we would not have Christ's saving work applied to us. As we consider this we also realize that the work of the Holy Spirit can be misunderstood, misapplied and that if we do not know the Spirit and his work we can easily be fooled by the devil who lies to us, and tempts us to stray from our calling as Christians. What we find though is that our God has planned for the attacks of the devil, and has once again defeated the devil as the Holy Spirit effects true faith in each of God's sons and daughters, which affects their lives forever.

What we also find is that there is a rich heritage of teaching concerning the work of the Holy Spirit that has been done for us in our confessions, keeping us from misunderstanding and being confused concerning his work and his sender. We realize quickly that the Holy Spirit is not merely a promise, but is a promise that is fulfilled as he has been poured out on the church, and continues to work wonders in God's people. We perceive him all around us, working in our loved ones as they confess faith and grow in righteousness. Our Reformed heritage is a great blessing as we confess what we do concerning the Holy Spirit, our own salvation, and the ongoing work of our ascended Lord Jesus Christ as he continues to gather unto himself a people of every nation, tribe, people, and language.

Therefore we give him honor, and praise God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for their work in our redemption. We praise the Spirit for his ongoing work in our lives as he continues to build us up in the faith, and make us not only willing, but also ready to live henceforth unto Christ. We realize that he is also behind our public professions of faith as he works in us the will to profess our faith publicly, the ability to profess it, and by his grace the desire to live a life of gratitude—even if that life is full of inconsistencies, and fraught with stumbling—despite our original, our active, and our passive disobedience.

As we go forward into a season when we have a special service for Pentecost, and as we witness public professions of faith, we can do so rejoicing in God's application of his plan of salvation for sinners. We go forward knowing whom the Spirit is, what he does, and give God the praise and the glory for his great redemptive work we continually witness within God's people, and ourselves.

Robert



Our Nursing Home Ministry

By Dee

On Tuesday, April 26, a group of people from our church met at Whispering Heights for a chapel service. Several residents also attended the service and joined us in singing and worshipping. It was especially nice to worship with one of our members, Kathryn.

Robert lead the service for those attending. We began the service with the singing of 2 songs: *Rock of Ages* and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. Robert then read Scripture and gave the message. The Scripture reading was taken from I John 1:8-2: 2. His message was titled "John Comforts Little Children in Our Sin." Robert shared that only Jesus is our advocate with the Father and He comes before God declaring us righteous because of His perfect sacrifice for our sin on the cross. Robert explained that the propitiation of Jesus simply stated means "wrath removing sacrifice" and Jesus was that sacrifice. He paid the full wrath of God for our sins. Now we are seen in God's eyes as washed clean from sin because of Jesus' shed blood and death on the cross.

We completed our service with singing Crown Him with Many Crowns. Those attending had the pleasure of hearing Robert play the piano. Thank you Robert for sharing your talent with us. It was very well done!! (In case some of you are wondering, he played the song by ear and was not using the song book).



*We are so happy to welcome
Craig, Karen,
Josh, Joel and Anna—
To RVURC!!*



Craig was born on March 5, 1968 in Sioux Center, IA. He was the oldest son and second child born to Gary and Sandra. He was blessed with the wonderful privilege of being born and raised in a Christian home. He attended Sioux Center Christian School for grades k-8 and Unity Christian School for grades 9-12. The faith of his parents became that of his own and he made profession of faith when he was in high school. When he graduated from high school he chose Dordt College to be the place to receive his B.A. degree.

Karen was born on January 5, 1968 in Bellingham, WA. She was the oldest daughter and second child born to Hans and Bev. She was blessed with the wonderful privilege of being raised in a Christian home. She attended Lynden Christian School for grades K-12. The faith of her parents became that of her own and she made profession of faith when she was in high school. When she graduated from high school she chose Dordt College to be the place to receive her B.A degree.

As many of you may have guessed, Dordt College was the location where the couple met. The two met during their freshmen year on a double date that was set-up by some mutual friends. Craig was set-up with Karen's room mate and Karen was set-up with Craig's close friend. There was no love connection on this date by any of the parties involved. Craig and Karen's paths really did not cross again until their Jr. year even though they were both education majors- Craig a physical education major and Karen and elementary education major.

Once their paths crossed again, Craig and Karen became very good friends. They spent a large amount of time together in group settings and at church. From the beginning of their friendship their mutual faith played a big part in their relationship. They often would hang out together discussing church issues- especially issues pertaining to the CRC denomination. Sometimes the articles Craig read in the "Banner" fueled these conversations. Craig also became Karen's chauffeur to church and over the next two years their friendship began to grow and on March 3, 1990 Craig and Karen went out on their first date. This first date was not like most first dates because the couple knew each other very well. They knew that marriage was a very good future possibility for them being as they were already best friends.

Graduation came first and then came marriage. After graduation in May of 1990, Craig and Karen both returned back to Dordt for another semester. Karen needed to finish up some student teaching and Craig wanted to get a minor in English. (They both really wanted more time together to date.) This time spent together confirmed to the couple that they wanted to be together beyond Dordt College and so on May 24, 1991 they were married in Everson, Washington.

Soon after the wedding, the couple moved to San Jose CA where they both taught for the next three years. Karen taught second grade at Milpitas Christian School and Craig taught k-8 PE and some Jr. High classes at San Jose Christian School. To the couple, those three years in sunny warm California were like a long honeymoon. A lot of their time was spent working, but there was still quite a bit of free time to explore the Bay Area. Many Saturday afternoons were spent relaxing on some sandy beach along the Pacific Ocean and every Sunday was spent attending a wonderful Orthodox Presbyterian church located not too far from the couple's apartment complex. The two things that were highlights of that church experience were the excellent expository preaching and the exposure to some new believers who had a passion for God's word.

San Jose, though nice, was much too expensive to become a permanent home for the couple. The couple also wanted to be nearer to family so they traded in the sunny skies of California for the cloudy skies of Washington. Mt. Vernon, WA became their new home, Mt. Vernon Christian School became their new place of employment, and MV 1st CRC became the couple's new church home. Karen taught for two more years and then resigned from teaching (in a school environment) to become a full time mom. Much to the couples joy Joshua Alan was born on May 7, 1996. Craig continued to teach for the next seven years at MVCS during that time the family happily welcomed Joel William on July 16, 2000.

The summer that Joel was born was also the summer that Craig began his Master's degree. The next two years were busy for Craig with full time teaching, coaching, serving as a deacon, and taking classes part-time. (During these two years, Craig also put an addition on the family's home in his "spare time". This hobby of home additions/renovations is a "spare time" activity that continues to this day.) These were busy years for Karen too as she began home schooling Josh as well as taking care of an active toddler.

In January 2002, Craig's mom, Sandy, was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. This was a very difficult time for the family. Up until this point, they had never really experience a truly difficult situation before. They were aware of God's goodness and grace during these years of ease. They knew, even during the good times, that most likely there would be some hard times ahead-how could there not be when you are living in a fallen world? They were aware of God's goodness and his grace in the hard times too and they were able to say good bye to Craig's mom nine months later knowing that they would one day be reunited in heaven because of what Christ had done for them on Calvary's cross.

Soon after Craig's mom passed away Craig completed his Master's degree and he then decided that he wanted to get his Doctorate. (This news was a little surprising to Karen.) The couple decided that the best way to accomplish this goal would be for the family to move to the mid-west. A move to the mid-west would allow Craig to go to school full-time and allow Karen to remain a full-time mom and home educator. Craig was offered an assistantship at the University of South Dakota and the couple sold their house in Mt. Vernon, WA and purchased a home in Viborg, SD. Home renovation was a large part of the Viborg experience. Even the young Heynen boys were given a paint brush and were put to work.

Craig's dad, Gary, was diagnosed with advance kidney cancer soon after the couple moved to Viborg. Karen's brother's wife, Lisa, had also been diagnosed with cancer just a few months before this. Once again this was a difficult time for the couple, yet they couldn't help giving thanks to God for in His good providence He allowed them to move to the mid-west and they were able to spend much time with Gary in the last remaining months of his life. Gary and Lisa died two days apart from each other in July, 2004. Once again the couple felt joy mixed with their grief for they knew that they served a risen Savior and through the pain of cancer and death they began viewing life with an eternal perspective. Over the next few months death touched the couple's lives a few more times as God called three of their grandparents home to glory. But God was also merciful during this time and He blessed the family with the gift of life for on May 11, 2005 Anna Christine joined the home! The name Anna Christine means "God has been gracious". God is indeed gracious for He grants life in death through his only son, Jesus- Our Lord!

After Craig's dad's death, the family sold their home in Viborg, SD and moved to the family century farm where they continue to live to this day. Craig was offered a job at the University of South Dakota in 2005 after the completion of his Ed. Doctorate degree in Curriculum and Instruction. He taught in the USD Education Department until Dordt College offered him a job in 2007 and this is where he currently is employed as the Head Track and Field Coach and as a professor in the HHP department.

Karen continues to home school both Joel (grade 6) and Anna (grade 2), as well as being a full time home maker. Josh is currently a Jr. at Unity Christian High School. The Lord has greatly blessed the family over the past many years of their lives and they can say whole heartedly with the Psalmist, "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable." (Psalm 145:3)

Several of our members attended the Women's Retreats that were sponsored by our sister churches. Here are some of the highlights:

The first retreat was held on March 22-23 at Pine Lake Camp in Eldora, Iowa, hosted by the United Reformed Church of Wellsburg. Gloria and Cheryl attended, and traveled with seven Sioux Center URC women. Rev. Matthew Nuiver and his wife Lisa led the 70 women, ages 19 to 84, in a song service Friday evening, singing favorite Psalms, and then we had our first session with Glenda Mathes. After a good night of sleep we had breakfast provided by the Wellsburg women, and then three more sessions on the Psalms. There was plenty of good food and fellowship with women from area United Reformed churches and even other denominations. We arrived home again, safe and sound, and refreshed by the Word of God.

Cheryl

On April 5-6 Cornerstone URC of Sanborn put on the Women's Retreat at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sioux Falls. The guest speaker was Pam Pluister from the Chicago area, who is a Nouthetic counselor. Nouthetic counseling is based on the Word of God, maintaining that the Bible is sufficient for handling life's situations and the multiple problems we face in a sin-cursed world. She spoke on the topic "Fully Equipped to Be the Woman God has Called You to Be". On Friday night we started with singing, and then Pam spoke on 2 Peter 1:2-4. The focus was that if we turn and trust in Him, His divine power grants us everything pertaining to life and godliness. We ended the night with a Dessert Buffet and a time of fellowship.

On Saturday we started at 9:00AM with some more singing, followed by a session by Pam who spoke on John 15:16- "You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, so whatsoever you ask the Father in my name He may give to you." This reflected on God's calling on our lives - in our homes, our church, and our personal walk with Christ. The third session was a small group discussion. After lunch we had our 4th session by Pam on becoming partakers of the divine nature; escaping from corruption. We learned that in every situation we must ask ourselves "Is what I am doing honoring to God?" Take time to think how God might see the situation, and when we are weak, draw strength from God in the trials of our life. Brenda and Pam attended both Friday and Saturday, and Carla and Lora joined them for the Saturday sessions. Mrs. Pluister was a very good speaker, and it was a fun time of learning and fellowship.

Pam





Honorary
resident of the
Netherlands

Our Trip of a Lifetime to the Netherlands

By Herm



Garbage trucks maneuvering through the narrow streets.



Cheryl and I flew out of Sioux Falls to Minneapolis and on to Amsterdam on the 8th of April. We stayed for two weeks with my first cousin, Ron and (**Leny**), who have lived in the North Holland province most of their lives, in the city of Huizen, just east of Amsterdam. They took two weeks of vacation just to take us around, and we thought that was very special of them to do that for us. It was quite the experience. They live in an apartment type of home that has two stories, plus a usable attic and cellar. Their home is only about 30' wide and the same with the back yard. Everything is small and crowded. There are bicycles everywhere, and every street has its own bike trail, sometimes on both sides. The bike trails have a different color brick than the brick that is on the main road. There are no stop signs, just roundabouts and raised intersections to slow traffic down. Bikes and pedestrians have the right of way. I had my directions turned around the whole time I was there, because there are no straight north, south, east and west roads; it's all curves and slanted roads because of all the canals everywhere.

The first thing we went to go see was Noah's Ark by Dordrecht. We also sailed Gooimeer Lake, took the covered water bus through the canals in Amsterdam, went to the coast of the North Sea and drove over the dam they built to reclaim the land from the sea. We toured a 3 story, 400 year old secret Catholic Church that was hidden in a house in the middle of town, and only a few knew of it! We toured some windmills and saw what each one did - sawmill, paint mill, flour and spice mills - no wind, no work! We also went to Keukenhof to see the LARGE garden of flowers, maybe 50 acres or so! They have many kinds of tulips and other flowers mixed in all sorts of shapes and paths winding through the trees and canals. It was very, very beautiful, with all kinds displayed throughout the gardens. After the gardens we went to a flower parade. There were over 50 huge floats made of fresh flowers. What an aroma that was! The open markets they have every weekend in their town was neat to see and fun to shop, also. And, of course, we observed the different kinds of garbage trucks! We took over 250 pictures on our trip!

We also found out that my great grandpa Rozeboom, who died in 1968, immigrated to America exactly 100 years ago, in February of 1913,

because of the threat of World War 1. I have documents of 10 generations of the Rozeboom's, all the way back to 1665. A large family of boys back in the 1800's changed the spelling of their last name by adding an extra o, n, or by changing the z to an s. I guess they did this so they could keep their families apart and to help keep track of who belonged to whom.

I mentioned earlier that we went to see Noah's Ark. This is a story all it's own. It's located south of Amsterdam. Johan Huibers first built a smaller version and is sailing all over Europe. The full size (450') ark just opened last summer. It is too large to sail the canals. We spent 4 hours looking through it. We bought the book he wrote and it is a very inspiring life story of Johan. His work ethics are very commendable. Some comments made inside the cover of the book: "Johan is an example to all who want to discover God's plan for their life and fulfill it. Nothing is impossible...This is one of the most remarkable stories of our lifetime. No one believed that Johan would be the first man since Noah to succeed in building the ark. But this book isn't only about Johan. Ultimately, this book is about your dream. So be warned: The message contained in this book could change your life for good." This book can be found on the website www.arkofnoah.org. The site also has some short videos about the ark. Cheryl and I very much recommend everyone to read this book and go see the ark if possible. We will make our copy available because we both have read it on our vacation. Once you get started reading it, you can't lay it down. I also hope to read it again sometime.

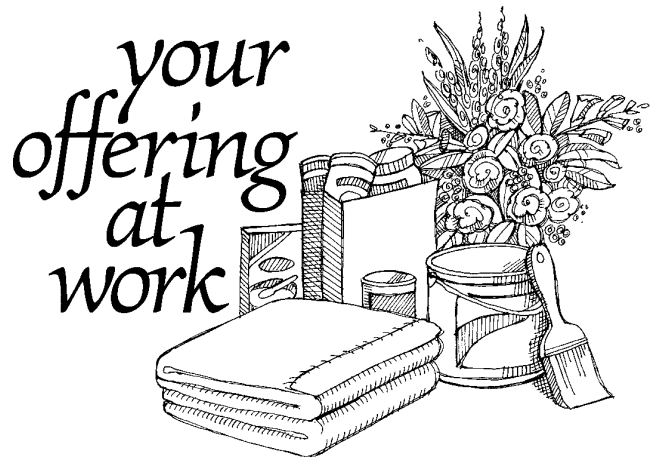


The "Rozeboom" connection!

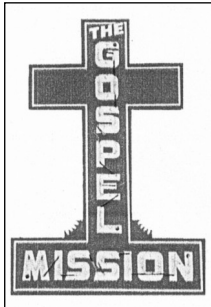


Noah's Ark

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 Messiah's Reformed Fellowship and Rev. Paul Murphy: "Thank you for your kind support of our ministry. We truly appreciate your gifts, prayers and faithful support, and we are most grateful."

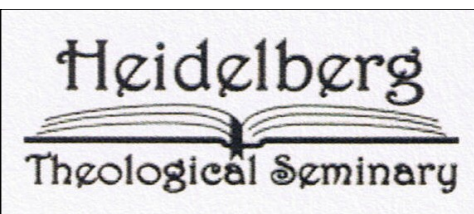


From the Sioux City Gospel Mission: "Thank you so much for your gift to this ministry. Your generosity is truly a blessing and a source of encouragement to all of us at the Mission. We could not do the work the Lord has called us to without your generous and caring support. The number of guests we serve swells when the weather is cold, and we have the opportunity to share His love with more people than at any other time during the year. When loneliness or despair or hopelessness settles in, the Good News is being proclaimed. Thank you for helping us to reach the hungry and forsaken. Your prayers are being answered as lives are being changed. Your continued prayers and future giving are encouraged and appreciated, for His honor and glory."

"Thank you for your support of our ministry here at **Mid-America Reformed Seminary**. It is a great encouragement to know you share our commitment for training the next generation of men God has called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to shepherd His people. The largest portion of operating revenues needed to carry out this work comes from the faithful giving of God's people. We are grateful for your vision and willingness to partner with us in this extremely important task. As God uses your gift to prepare laborers for the harvest field, it will impact the lives of many of His people for years to come."

"Thanks so much for your support of **Rev. Allen Vander Pol** and his work with **MINTS!** From First United Reformed Church of Chino, California."

From Western Christian High School: "Thank you so very much for your gift to Western Christian High School, and for supporting Western with your prayers as well as your gifts. Your commitment to have your children and young people receive a Christian education is most pleasing to God. We are grateful that Western can be part of your commitment."



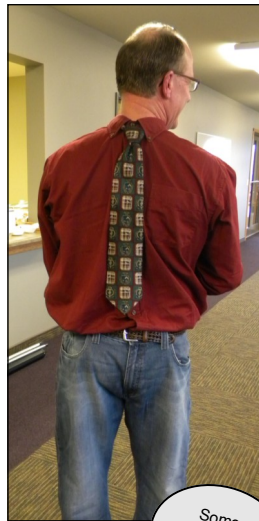
"On behalf of the board, faculty, students, and staff of **Heidelberg Theological Seminary**, we want to express our appreciation for your support, and we give thanks to Almighty God for your gifts. The 2013 spring semester is now underway with an on-campus enrollment of 3 students in the M.Div. program. Additionally, 2 local students are auditing the apologetics course and one student is auditing a course via our "Internet Distance Learning" capability. An encouraging note includes the consideration by 3 students to move to Sioux Falls next fall to enroll in the M.Div. course work. Their move would bring on-campus enrollment of the seminary to 6 students in the M.Div. program. For these blessings we praise the Lord. Professor Rev. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Ron Morris, Rev. Chuck Muether and Rev. Spencer Aalsburg currently provide two class-years of instruction. Since donations are a key source of funding for the operation of the seminary, the board and staff again wish to note our sincere appreciation for your financial and prayer support. We pray the Lord will continue to bless your labors and ministry in Rock Valley."



BACKWARDS SUPPER



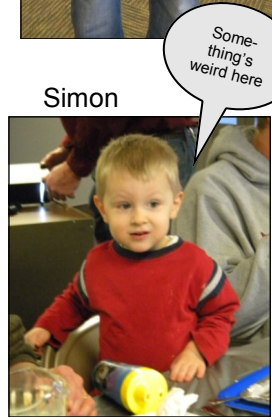
Gene and Dee Loren are kinda backwards, and they like it that way !!



Love-birds Bob and Cherie



Come on, you guys, can't that wait??



Simon

Something's weird here



On March 27 the Youth Group treated us to a "Backwards Supper". They served a delicious meal that began with dessert! Later came our salads, and then ketchup, mustard, onion, cheese, relish, and later came hamburgers, hot dogs, and milk! We had a great time. Thanks to our Youth Group for a fun evening, and thanks to our supporters!



CUTIE PIE JONAH



Playing "Electric Fence".

Some of us have a better current than others...

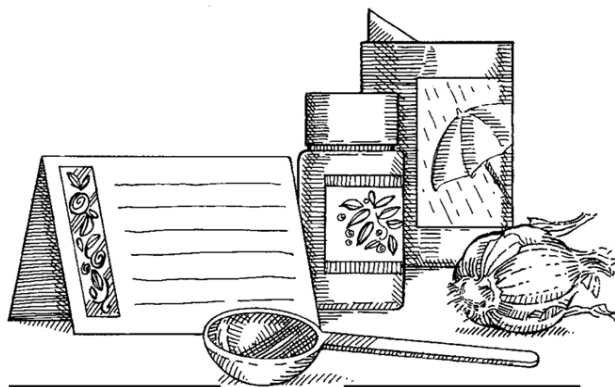


Oh boy, it's Michelle vs. Arlin...who will be faster off of their seat?
Yep, it's Michelle!



Yeah, she beat you, Al, fair and square!





Recipe Corner

Cheese Sandwich Spread **Carla**

1 Tbsp. sugar	1 beaten egg
1 Tbsp. flour	1 Tbsp. butter
3 Tbsp. vinegar	1/2 cup milk or cream
1/2 tsp. salt	

Cook until thick. Then add 1/2 lbs. soft cheese, 1 tsp. onion and 1 hard boiled egg, chopped.

Can be stored several days.

White Chocolate Delight Cookies **Lora**

1 c. white sugar	1 tsp. salt
1 c. brown sugar	1 tsp. almond flavoring
1 c. oleo	1 tsp. baking soda
1 c. oil	3 1/2 to 4 c. flour
1 egg	1 pkg. white choc. chips
1 T. milk	1/2 pkg. toffee bits
1 tsp. cream of tartar	

Mix in order given. Drop on cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-14 minutes.

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share, or if you would like to request a recipe from someone, submit your recipe or request to Lora or Cherie, and we'll include it in the next newsletter.

Slow Cooker Lasagna **Dee**

1 lb ground beef
 1/2 lb sausage (I use 1 1/2 lb hamburger, no sausage)
 Onion to taste
 1 15 oz container ricotta cheese **or** small curd cottage cheese
 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
 1/4 tsp garlic powder (I omit garlic)
 Pepper to taste
 3 c shredded mozzarella cheese
 1 26 oz spaghetti sauce
 1/3 c water
 1 8 oz package of sliced mushrooms
 8 uncooked lasagna noodles uncooked

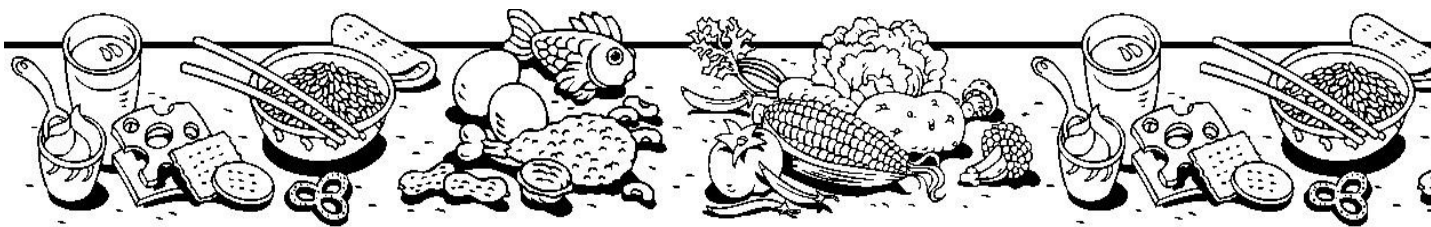
Brown the hamburger/sausage with onion, drain well. Combine ricotta cheese, parmesan cheese, pepper, garlic in bowl. Mix spaghetti sauce with water in separate bowl.

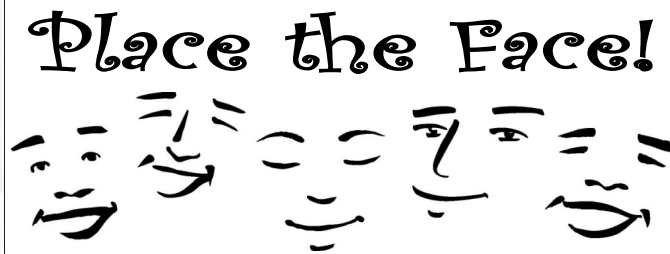
Spray bottom and sides of slow cooker well with non-stick spray.

Layer:

1. 4 noodles (broken in pieces to fit)
2. Spread 1/2 meat over noodles, 1/2 cheese mix, 1/2 mushrooms, 1/2 sauce
3. Spread 1/2 the mozzarella cheese on meat and cheese layer
4. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients

Cook on low for 4 hrs. Let stand 10 minutes and serve. Cook only 4 hours or lasagna may burn.





You may think you know everyone in our congregation pretty well, but do you recognize these familiar faces? Answers are hidden somewhere in the Newsletter!



In this picture she has a doll in her hands, but we would've expected her to have a book in them. Who is she?

When you're born in the middle of a family with 9 kids, you have to be *this cute* to get a picture by yourself! Who is she?



This family enjoyed a night out on Wednesday, March 20, courtesy of the GEMS. As part of "Daddy Date Night" Brad and Mary Kate enjoyed a nice dinner at Cedar Rock with the other 7th and 8th grade girls and dads.



Abby, Allison and Brenda and the other 5th and 6th grade GEMS and moms were treated to "Mommy and Me Pampering Night". The ladies could choose to have pedicures, manicures or mini massages. Brenda chose the massage, and Abby and Allison got their nails done.

This was the first year of including the Mommy & Me Pampering—and it was a big hit!



WCHS' Jr/Sr Banquet was Friday, April 12, a *cold* spring day. It was a "Big City Bright Lights" theme. After the dinner, everyone was invited to the Hull bowling alley. Around 11:00 o'clock everyone headed back to school for the after prom games and prizes. When that was over, around 2:00AM, I went to a friend's house for breakfast before calling it a night. It was a really good prom! I had a lot of fun hanging out with friends and getting all dressed up!

Lindsay—ready for the runway.



We had a real treat when the Chamber Singers of Western Christian High presented their concert at RVURC after our evening service on April 21. RVURC's own Lindsay is a member of the Chamber Singers.





Congratulations to **Lindsay**, daughter of Randy and Pam, who will graduate from Western Christian High School with the class of 2013 on May 21.

As she closes this chapter of her life, Lindsay is eagerly focusing on her future.

"This August I plan to pursue a two year Associate of Applied Science degree in Therapeutic Massage at National American University in Sioux Falls, SD. Upon graduation I plan to build up clientele by starting an in home business. After a few years of an in home business I plan to start my own spa business outside of my home. The spa I wish to found will not only offer therapeutic massage, but also a variety of other services, which are currently undecided."

We pray for the Lord's richest blessings for you in all your future activities, Lindsay!



Did You Know?



- Did you know that **Peggy** will be participating in the Orange City Area Community Band again this year? They will perform 3 concerts this summer. The concerts are all on Wednesdays : June 5, July 10 and July 31. The concerts start at 7:00 p.m. and are held in downtown Windmill Park. Come on out—it's a fun way to spend a summer evening! Take a lawn chair or a blanket. In case of rain they are held in the town hall across from the court house. Also of interest—the band is directed by a Rock Valley native. She's also the band director at Unity Christian High.

- Did you know that **Allison and Abby** did very well at the Iowa AAU Volleyball Tournament in March? Their team ended up taking 2nd place at the 5th grade level at the state tournament! They were undefeated in the tournament until the championship game, where they met up with Dike-New Hartford and lost. The sting of defeat was easier to take, though, when **Allison** was selected for the All-Tournament Team! It's interesting to note that Dike-New Hartford had a boy on their team, and we are told this is the first year boys are allowed to play AAU volleyball, although they do have to play a grade up. So the boy on their team, who was a phenomenal jump-server, was only a 4th grader! However, this is not what beat our girls in the match, as the D-NH girls were super players also.



Allison (2nd from left) selected to AAU Volleyball All-tournament team. Congratulations!!



Abby spikes the ball at the AAU Volleyball Tournament

**Way to go, girls!
Congratulations!**



- Everybody probably knows by now that **Rachel** and Austin are engaged to be married! Austin popped the question in February, after making his future mother-in-law keep his plan a secret for a week - not an easy thing for her to do! They are planning to be married on Friday, December 27, 2013 at the Calvary Protestant Reformed Church in Hull. Congratulations!

- Here's something you probably *did not know* about **Rachel**... Since she is going to become a new bride, Rachel thought it would be good to enroll in a Foods Class at Dordt as part of her Science requirements. She expected to learn about proper nutrition and cooking, etc. She did not know (until it was too late) that this would include raising chickens at the Dordt farm, and ultimately *butchering* them! This wouldn't be a problem for a dedicated Iowa farm girl, but our little Rachel is better known as the girl who likes to do her nails, hair and makeup! But, being a

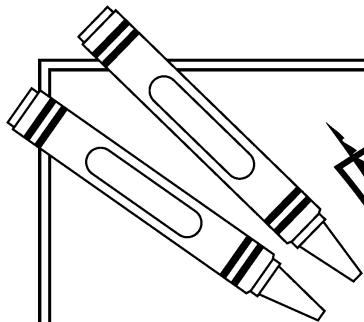
dedicated student, she learned how to feed and care for them, and then cut off the head and pull off the skin, and cut up the meat. We knew you could do it, kid! (You probably won't need to build a chicken coop in the backyard for her though, Austin!)



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Did you know that **Ed and Mary** have moved from the hustle and bustle of city life in Rock Valley to a quiet acreage in the country near Boyden? You can update their information in your Church Directories as follows:





PUZZLE

LOOKING INTO THE SKY

As Jesus ascended into heaven, two angels had a message for his disciples.

Directions: Underline the word in each group that doesn't belong. Then write it on the line below to complete the angels' message in Acts 1:11, NIV.

1. strange
same
odd

2. Lazarus
Jesus
Martha

3. who
then
there

4. pear
been
apple

5. taken
cat
dog

6. sky
from
earth

7. you
work
toil

8. desk
chair
into

9. house
hallway
heaven

10. can't
will
won't

11. breakfast
come
lunch

12. nose
back
mouth

13. see
the
hear

14. oval
round
same

15. way
girl
boy

16. his
her
you

17. white
have
black

18. one
seen
two

19. go
low
high

20. sea
heaven
ocean

" This _____ , _____ has _____

_____ ,

_____ in _____

_____ him _____ into _____ ."

Acts 1:11, NIV

"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11, NIV



Words of appreciation

Show your love for your mother, grandmother or aunt this Mother's Day by placing words of appreciation throughout the house for her to find.

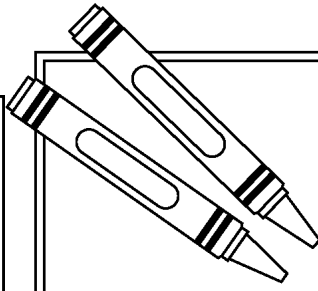
What you need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Tape

THANKS!

What you do:

1. Fold construction paper into fourths.
2. Cut paper along the folds to get four pieces.
3. On each rectangle, write words of appreciation, drawings and so on.
4. Tape the papers throughout the house. For example, a note on the refrigerator or pantry might say, "Thank you for making yummy meals for me." A note on a mirror might say, "You are beautiful inside and out!"



Just for

KIDS

A legacy of faith

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy was influenced by his grandmother and mother.

Complete 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowel.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

"_ h _ v _ b _ _ n r _ m _ nd _ d _ f
3 1 2 2 2 3 2 4

y _ _ r s _ nc _ r _ f _ _ th, wh _ ch
4 5 3 2 2 1 3 3

f _ rst l _ v _ d _ n y _ _ r gr _ ndm _ th _ r
3 3 2 3 4 5 1 4 2

L _ _ s _ nd _ n y _ _ r m _ th _ r
4 3 1 3 4 5 4 2

_ _ n _ c _ _ nd, _ _ m p _ rs _ _ d _ d,
2 5 3 2 1 3 1 2 5 1 2

n _ w l _ v _ s _ n y _ _ _ ls _ ."
4 3 2 3 4 5 1 4

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 (NIV)

Answer: "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

