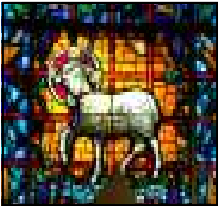




CENTRAL LIFE

SUMMER 2010

Photos by Greg Young, George Brown, Dan Ballast, Patsy Troost



MISSION BUDGET-WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

BY

Dr. Louis Lotz

The Mission Budget of Central Reformed Church is calculated to be one-tenth of the General Fund. We ask our members to tithe—one-tenth of their income to support God's work—so it only seems appropriate that the church would tithe as well. This annual Mission Budget is formulated by the Christian Action Team (C.A.T.), ratified by the Consistory, and approved by the congregation at the annual Congregational Meeting.

This year's Mission Budget (2010-2011) totals approximately \$68,000. The budget includes \$11,250 for three Reformed Church missionary families: Bill and Peg DeBoer (New Mexico), Bob and Linda Schut (New Mexico), and Abraham and Sayuri Kist-Okazaki (Japan). Bill DeBoer is a son of Central Reformed Church, by the way. Last year, Central supported a fourth mission family, Michael and Tina Bos (Oman), but the Bos family recently left Oman to pursue opportunities elsewhere.

The Mission Budget invests funds in Central's own food-related ministries, with \$9,300 going to Addie's Diner, our twice-a-month meal for underprivileged folks in the community, and \$21,000 going to Addie's Pantry, which provided groceries to 1,837 families in 2009. The salary of our part-time Food Pantry Coordinator, Debra Byl, is also included in the Mission Budget. "I was hungry," said Jesus, "and you gave me food." (Matthew 25:35).



Our church gets hundreds of requests for financial support every year from very worthwhile agencies and ministries, and it is not possible to respond to all of them. But every year C.A.T. selects a few that seem most needy. This year's list includes Camp Geneva in Holland, where many Central young people go every summer; Words of Hope, a ministry of evangelism with a world-wide reach; and two Grand Rapids area Reformed Church ministries that serve the poor—Heartside Ministries and Clancy Street Ministries.

Several items on our Mission Budget are mandated by the North Grand Rapids Classis. Churches are assessed a per-member fee, with the money going to support Western Seminary in Holland, New Brunswick Seminary in New Jersey, Diaconal Ministries in Grand Rapids, Classis missions, Synod missions, and salary aid for struggling churches. All these organizations do good work and God's work, and we are happy to support them.

This year's Mission Budget sets aside a Discretionary Fund of \$13,400. It's impossible to know, in June, what mission-related appeals or emergencies are going to come along in, say, February. Setting aside undesignated monies gives the C.A.T. the



THE CENTRAL PULPIT

July 4: Dr. David Bast, Preaching
Liturgist: Rev. Neva Evenhouse

July 11: Dr. David Bast, Preaching
Liturgist: Rev. Neva Evenhouse

July 18: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
Baptism: Logan Cameron Edington

July 25: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching

August 1: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
Lord's Supper Served

August 8: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
The Lord's Supper Served

August 15: Rev. David Veldt, Preaching
Liturgist: Rev. Neva Evenhouse
(Dr. Lotz preaches at Camp Geneva)

August 22: Rev. David Veldt, Preaching
Liturgist: Rev. Neva Evenhouse

August 29: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching

flexibility to respond to urgent, unforeseen needs in the community and the world.

But the Mission Budget only tells part of the story. Central members contribute thousands of dollars every year to the Thanksgiving Offering and the Lenten Offering. Last year's Thanksgiving offering was divided between Clancy Street Ministries and Servants Community Church, and our Lenten offering raised more than \$4,000 for Catherine's Health Clinic. And, don't forget Undie Sunday, Ingathering Sunday, the Giving Tree at Christmas, the Haiti Relief offering, and more that \$1,000 given to Compassion International for the purchase of mosquito netting. Central is a generous church; so many people give so much.



Please remember that your support of the General Fund increases the church's tithe to mission-related activity. As the General Fund grows, the Mission Budget grows with it. For more information about the Mission Budget, the Christian Action Team, or to become a member of that group, please call the church office.

Thank you for your support of the church's ministry to the poor, the homeless, and those who need to hear the gospel. I will look for you in your proper place on Sunday morning.

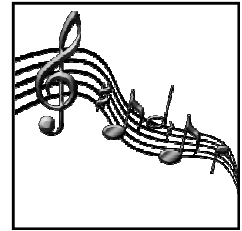
THE END OF ANOTHER GREAT SEASON OF MUSIC

Thanks to everyone who gave of their time, their talents, and their commitment to make the music program one for which to be proud.



HIGH SCHOOL HANDBELL CHOIR BEING PLANNED

The Celebration Ringers Handbell Choir did an exceptional job this year and also made our Wednesday evening rehearsals fun and challenging. A few of these talented kids will be in high school in the fall. So for the upcoming season efforts will be made to establish a High School Handbell Choir for those in grades nine through twelve; and, of course, continuing with our Celebration Ringers for those in grades four through eight. Watch the upcoming



Central Life issues for rehearsal times and starting dates.

KLOKKENKOOR HANDBELL CHOIR GETS BETTER ALL THE TIME

This was a great and challenging year for the Klokkenkoor Handbell Choir. Thanks to each and every member who stepped up to those challenges and the success experienced with improvement of ringing talents and capabilities.



CENTRAL SENIOR RINGERS A POSSIBILITY

Speaking of handbell ringers, have any of you that are over sixty years of age ever wondered how those ringers do what they do? How do a few of them ring two bells in one hand, and make it look easy?!! Well, if you've ever been interested in the art of handbell ringing, you are invited to be part of the "Central Senior Ringers," a new ensemble that would begin in September. Contact Brian Bartusch if you are interested or have any questions. Reading music is not a requirement, although it is helpful.

MUSIC FOR SUMMER WORSHIP

Now that the Chancel Choir is on break for the summer, a wonderful line-up of guest soloists and instrumentalists have been scheduled to take part in our worship services:

June 27, Diane Penning-Koperski, soprano; **July 4: Jackie Sides**, mezzo-soprano; **July 11, Fred Overeem**, Bass; **July 18, Reid Taylor**, Tenor; **August 1, Mary Tuuk**, soprano; **August 8, Stephanie Wiltse**, handbell duet with **Brian Bartusch**; **August 15, String Quartet** (with Hanna Vis); **September 5, Sherman Street Quartet**; **September 9, Betsy Archer**, Soprano.



PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING ONE OF OUR MUSIC ENSEMBLES

If you are interested in singing, ringing, or both, please speak to **Brian Bartusch** or to any of the choir members. We'd love to have you join us!! The fall season begins on September 2, 2010.

PLANS FOR THE ORGAN

Every week is a joy and challenge to play our wonderful organ. Its limitless combination of stops and registrations is a learning experience that is on-going. But, such an instrument with thousands of parts and pieces that wear and deteriorate over time, needs regular upkeep, and sometimes major repairs and some-

times partial restoration. To keep this magnificent instrument for many years to come, some critical repairs are now needed. A first phase of repair began on June 28, when the replacement of worn leather components began. These leather components are located in the windchest of the choir division (located above the organ console). This is part of the original Schantz Organ installation that was completed in 1957 when the church itself was built.

Only a part of the organ is visible to the listener. There are thousands of internal parts that are in the organ loft surrounding the chancel. Besides the metal and wooden pipes, an intricate layout of leather "pouches" located within the windchests help transfer wind to the pipes to create a pitch. This leather has become dry and brittle, and eventually will tear or fall apart; resulting in "dead notes" on the organ. These leather pouches are currently being replaced and restored. The Music Committee has committed a portion of their budget to begin this important project. Additional phases of this work will be completed as funds become available.

DEDICATION OF PEKICH PARK



There is a small park, a pocket park, located in Heartside at Cherry and Division. At a ceremony on Thursday, June 3, that park was named "**Pekich Park**" in honor of Rev. Barb Pekich, Director of Heartside, and a member of Central. According to those present, Barb's death left a hole in the Heartside Neighborhood. There will be a plaque in the park that says the following: **Rev. Barb Pekich was a loving pastor who devoted twenty years to working with residents of the Heartside Neighborhood. An advocate for the homeless, a tireless worker for the poor, and a woman of deep faith, Barbara left her mark on this neighborhood and its people.**

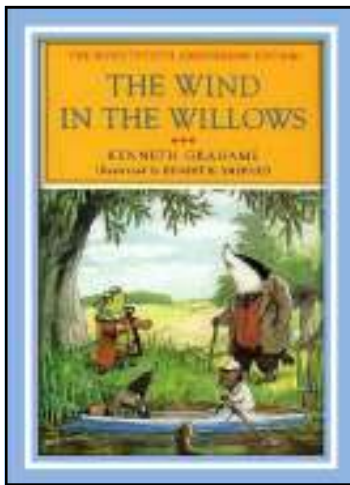
SENIORS INVITED TO PLANNING SESSION

Any senior...yes, now you know the drill—unsolicited AARP news, 50 cent coffee at McDonalds, reduced admission fees, etc. On **Thursday, July 15, at 10:00 AM**, other seniors like yourselves will be meeting in the Conference Room at Central to discuss plans and activities for the coming year. If you have a special interest or any ideas—a game night, theater, travel, a book review with discussion, or service project—join us so we can put some of your ideas into action.

Members of Central love God and love being together. The fellowship we share when we get together is a gift from God. Let's enrich our lives in the year ahead!! Coffee and goodies will be served to stimulate our discussions! We'll see you all there. Blessings!
Rev. Mary Bos, Pastor to seniors.



SUMMER BOOK STUDY



Mark your calendars for the study of this intrepid tale of Mole, Water Rat, Badger, and the Incorrigible Toad.

DAY: Wednesday

DATE: July 21, 2010

WHERE: The air-conditioned Dykstra Chapel.

TIME: 7:00 PM

LED BY: Dr. Lou Lotz

2010-2011 CONSISTORY CONVENES



The Class of 2013 was ordained and installed on Sunday, June 27: Elders-**Craig Neckers, Susan Poll, Roger Snider**; Deacons-**Joel Brandt, Mark Bulhuis, Ryan Cook**.

Class of 2012: Elders-**Linda Ballast, Mark Bolhuis, Judy Morris**; Deacons-**Carol Bergman, Paul Bukaweski, Fred Overeem**.

Class of 2011: Elders-**Carol Austin, Sue Karsen, Dawn Tillema**; Deacons-**Steve Cornelius, Ryan Rinvelt, Stu Stewart**.

Executive Committee for the Consistory of 2010-2011: President- **Dr. Louis Lotz**; Vice President-**Carol Austin**; Clerk-**Dawn Tillema**; Chair of Deacons-**Stu Stewart**; Chair of Personnel-**Judy Morris**.



August 12, 1840, First Reformed Church founded in the home of **Rev. Hart Waring** as part of the RCA's

"Western Enterprise."

Summer, 1840, Second Reformed Church established by **Rev. A.C. VanRaalte**.

June 25, 1967, new dormitory at Hope College named in honor of **Dr. John A. Dykstra**.

July 8, 1979, a Vietnamese family, supported by Central, welcomed to Grand Rapids.

DEDICATION

PLAQUE AND PHOTO MONTAGE DEDICATED

Sunday, June 20 was a special day for our church. A plaque and a montage of photos of the 29 ministers of the



people of Central since 1840 were dedicated. The plaque and montage of photos were dedicated to the Glory of God and to remember and honor the dedicated persons who ministered to the people of Central as senior pastors for the past 170 years; and in gratitude to God for His faithfulness to this church, a faithfulness that brings peace and joy in the present and confidence in the future. The plaque will be secured to the wall in the Atrium. The location of the montage is still to be determined.

SPECIAL ISSUE OF CENTRAL LIFE DISTRIBUTED

Also on Sunday, June 20, a **Central Life Special** was distributed to the congregation. This special edition included a picture of each of the 29 senior ministers who have served the people of Central since 1840, including a short biography of each; a picture of the founders of both First and Second Reformed Churches, and pictures of the churches in which they worshiped.

Only recently have pictures of several of the senior ministers been found/discovered.

Copies of this special edition are available by request.

ENJOYABLE CHIHULY TOUR

Lunch and a tour of Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, including the Chihuly exhibit was fun and enjoyable. On Sunday, June 13, a group of about twenty-five people met



for lunch, and then began either a walking or a tram tour. Rain threatened, but held off until those attending reached their homes.

CENTRAL HOSTS DELEGATES TO WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES

Also on Sunday, June 20, Central hosted twenty-five delegates to the World Communion of Reformed Churches. **Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit**, the President of the World Council of Churches preached; and delegates participated in worship followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall. The delegates were from Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, Zambia, Malawi, Indonesia, Switzerland.



The luncheon provided delegates a chance to get to know each other and to share information about their ministries in their own countries. Those who shared lunch were privileged to listen

to hymns and folk songs from Sri Lanka, Malawi, Zambia, and Indonesia. The delegates prayed together and sang together. Only later would the Central members who prepared the luncheon, along with Dr. Lotz, discover that the delegates were overwhelmed with the hospitality of Central, and that the morning at Central was a life-changing event for most of the delegates..



IMPORTANT DATES

June 28-July 13; August 16-24: Dr. Lotz on Vacation.

July 18: Baptism of Logan Cameron Edington.

July 19-26: Brian Bartusch on Vacation.

July 21: Book Study, *The Wind in the Willows*, led by Dr. Lou Lotz.

September 12: Full church programming begins.

