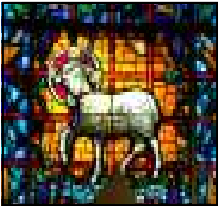




CENTRAL LIFE

FALL 2010

Photos by Greg Young, Dan Ballast, Marybeth Timmer, Youth Trippers



MINISTERS USED TO HAVE STUDYS

By Louis Lotz

Over my vacation I finally got around to reading a book I should have read five years ago, *What's The Matter With Preaching Today?* (Westminster, John Knox Press). Several prominent preachers - Barbara Brown Taylor, David Buttrick, Fred Craddock, Thomas Long, to name a few - address the question: What's the matter with preaching today? Some responses are hilarious and some are disturbing; most are spot-on. Preachers should read this book.

For me, the book's best insight comes from Marva Dawn, professor of theology at Regent College in Vancouver, BC. She laments the failure of preachers to make time to read, pray, reflect, study the Scriptures. One line says it all: *"Ministers used to have Studys. Now they have Offices."*



She's right, of course. Years ago it occurred to me that I was doing more business stuff than minister stuff. Administration had trumped exegesis. At Central, I am fortunate to have excellent lay leaders and committees that do much of the administrative work, but a lot still sloshes onto my desk. A

minister friend of mine who serves a big-steeple church in New York complained to me, *"I went to seminary to be a pastor, but I wound up as the CEO of a mid-size company."* He's exaggerating, but every pastor knows what he's getting at.

Administration is a fact of life for clergy, and I have made my peace with it. Central is a big place, with layer upon layer of organizational complexity. Somebody has to keep track of all that. My job title - Pastoral Leader - speaks to the dual roles of ministry. I'm a Pastor - preaching, study, prayer, visiting the sick - and I'm a Leader - administration, finance, staff supervision, organizational direction. But Marva Dawn inspires me to maintain a healthy balance between the two roles, and to not merely find time, but to *make* time for reading, Bible study, prayer.

Summer is over. Close up the cottage and come back to church. Catch up on your giving, please. Tell a friend or neighbor that you enjoy your church, and invite him or her to worship with you. The number one reason why people visit and eventually join a local church is: *"Somebody invited me."* Be somebody.

I'll look for you in your proper place on Sunday morning.



THE CENTRAL PULPIT

September 5: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
The Seven Deadly Sins (#1 In a Series)
Lust: Not Tonight, Honey, I'm Going Online
The Lord's Supper (Intinction)

September 12: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
The Seven Deadly Sins (#2 In a Series)

Pride
Children in Worship begins
Church Picnic, Manhattan Park (11:30 AM)

September 19: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
The Seven Deadly Sins (#3 In a Series)

Sloth
Children's Processional!
Chancel Choir Begins
Sunday School Begins

September 26: Dr. Leanne Van Dyk, Western Seminary, Guest Minister

October 3: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
The Seven Deadly Sins (#4 in a Series)

Gluttony, Our Big Problem
Lord's Supper Served (Passing)
Flu Shots: 10:30 AM - Noon

October 10: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
The Seven Deadly Sins: (#5 in a Series)

Envy
October 17: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
The Seven Deadly Sins (#6 in a Series)

Greed
October 24: Dr. Louis Lotz, Preaching
The Seven Deadly Sins (#7 in a Series)

Anger
Baptism: Benjamin Hoezee
October 31: Dr. Stan Mast, LaGrave CRC, Preaching
(Dr. Lotz preaches at LaGrave)

HAPPY 170th ANNIVERSARY

Central Reformed Church began on August 12, 1840, with the founding of First Reformed Church in the home of twenty-nine year old Rev. Hart E. Waring. His home was located on the northwest corner of Bronson (now Crescent) and Ionia Streets.



Rev. Waring was appointed by the Classis of Albany of the Reformed Church as part of its *Western Enterprise*. The Reformed Church had already been present in the Eastern States for over 200 years.

ADDIE'S PANTRY UPDATE

FROM WHERE DO WE GET OUR FOOD?

This is a frequent question. Our food comes from several sources:

The Congregation: Some bring food every Sunday. A huge influx comes each Thanksgiving at our annual *In-Gathering Service*.

Sales: We take advantage of sales at retailers such as Meijers, Costco, and Big Top.

Feeding America West Michigan: Formerly known as Second Harvest Gleaners, this is our biggest supplier. "Feeding America" is a regional non-profit clearinghouse for donated surplus food from the food industry and links to churches and charity agencies that feed and shelter the needy. This food is purchased by us at a great discount. Last year (2009), Addie's Pantry bought 41,545 pounds of food valued at \$90,152.65 for only

\$8,555.18. "Feeding America" does not always offer what our pantry needs, we often are able to purchase frozen meats, fresh produce, crackers, cereal, and other items we otherwise could not afford. A special thank you to Tom VandeBunte, and Murl Bogert who do the weekly pick-up and delivery.

F&AM in Wayland: This source specializes in supplying whole-

some foods at wholesome prices to non-profit organizations to help supplement their donated goods. This source provides most of our canned goods.

Thank-you's: A special thank you to Tim Tillema who is the once-a-month pick-up and deliverer for us. **We could use another person or two to share this volunteer opportunity. Please talk with Tim Tillema or Deb Byl if you are interested.**

One more big thank-you to Dave Hager, Lou Lotz, and Betsy Van Antwerpen for sharing the harvests of their gardening this summer with Addie's clients—who **GREATLY** appreciate it.

Remember Addie's Pantry when you do your shopping. We are low on personal care items, laundry detergent, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste. We also welcome canned and boxed items that you may find on sale such as fruits, vegetables, cereals, soups, etc.

Canvassers Needed for County-Wide Food Drive

On Saturday, October 9, 2010, the 14th Annual Access County-Wide Food Drive will be held. Canvassers (9 AM—Noon) and Sorters and Packers (10 AM-Noon or Noon-2 PM) are needed. If interested, please contact Deb Byl (debrabyl@comcast.net) if you want to "join the energy and cooperative spirit of all ages, from all walks of life, working together to improve food security for our community."

CENTRAL CHOSEN FOR ARTPRIZE VENUE

Joel Schoon Tanis' sculpture "*Church Lawn: Three Lions*" will grace our corner of College and Fulton this year as his 2010 ArtPrize entry. **On Sunday, September 26, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, in our chapel,** Joel will lead a public discussion about his art, the artistic process and specifically about this sculpture, a whimsical, three-dimensional depiction of three lions. He will give his rationale for why Central Reformed Church is the perfect venue for his latest large-scale art piece.

"Most of my art has to do with seeing the world through the eyes of children. Hopefully, my work helps you discover a little of this childlike perspective."

Joel, our most recent "*Teacher-in-Residence*", is a celebrated artist whose work has been exhibited on a world-wide basis. His murals can be found in schools, children's hospitals and churches. He has won several awards for his illustration work in children's books and has been recognized for his work in children's television with two Telly awards and twelve Emmy awards.

During this year's ArtPrize and as a celebration of Central being a venue, our own **Brian Bartusch will perform a series of three organ recitals from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Thursdays, September 23 and 30, and October 7, 2010.** Brian's selections include pieces from his recent organ recitals in Europe.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW REINSTALLED

The stained glass window of Central's Crest has been reinstalled after repair.

Years of trapped moisture and heat damaged the window to such a degree that it needed repair.

This window is modeled after the crest that hangs in the narthex. That crest was designed and carved by Mr. Henry Kronemeyer in memory of his wife. It was gold-leafed and painted by Mr. Charles Whitman. Both Mr. Kronemeyer and Mr. Whitman, now deceased, were active members of Central Reformed Church at the time the church on Barclay was destroyed by fire and this facility constructed.

The window was donated by sisters, Mrs. L.J. Lewis and Esther Thomasma in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Thomasma. It was installed on July 7, 1963.



REACHING FOR OUR CONSTELLATION OF STARS.

Fall Season Adult Education at Central

An exciting Fall season Adult Education Program has been planned around the Constellation of Stars:

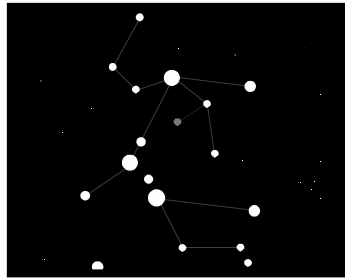
Ministry to Youth and Children. Sunday, September 19: The kick-off Sunday for a one-week training event for teacher training Ministry to Children and Youth led by Marybeth Timmer.

Christ-like Caring/ Christian Relationships, Sunday, September 19

will be the lead-off of a multi-week discussion, from a Christian perspective, about care-giving and disabilities, whether emotional or physical.

This discussion will begin with Dr. Lou Lotz, followed in subsequent weeks by Elizabeth Veldt and Dr. Carey Krause.

ArtPrize. September 26, Joel Tanis' discussion about his ArtPrize entry, "Church Lawn: Three Lions".



CLASSES PLANNED FOR THE COMING WEEKS:

Life-Long Learning. A study of world religions and faith - what are our similarities and differences from other people of faith? We begin with Dr. Sahibzada from the Islamic Center of Grand Rapids, followed by an Old Testament class taught by Dr. Thomas Boogaart, the Dennis and Betty Voskuil Professor of Old Testament at Western Seminary.



Excellent Facilities.

Dr. Dan Ballast will take us through a study of our architecture, including ways our Chancel area can enrich our worship.

Excellent Worship/Music. Carol Bechtel, Professor of Old Testament at Western Seminary, Tim Elzinga, Fred Overeem, and Helen Phillips will help us prepare for Advent through the words, notes, and images of Handel's Messiah.

KidZ Central

...HELP MAKE WAY FOR THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN!

Monday morning, August 23, adults and kids gathered to help create a space for a children's garden. They pulled weeds, trimmed bushes, raked, swept and carried broken limbs, preparing the way for new plantings. After the work, the volunteers enjoyed slurpies & hotdogs at Crazy Charlie's. WOW! Thank you Mrs. Boeve. Watch for colorful and exciting changes outside the Bedingfield Children's Library window.



BACK: Grayson Snoeyer, David Jigo, Mark Boeve, Tyler Brand.
FRONT: Daniel Jigo, Lucas Snoeyer. No Pic: George Schmidt, Bill Dykstra, Greg, William, & Mary Timmer, Shelly Boeve.

Worship Centers Begin Sept. 12

FELLOWSHIP STAGE
PRODUCTIONS

Saturday, Nov. 6

The Passing Parade

'TIS THE SEASON!

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 18 & 19

2010/2011

What's the Matter Wit Kids?

Sunday, June 12

OUR TOWN

Saturday, June 25 Dinner Theater



Thank you for a fantastic and life-altering experience!

-The 2010 Alaska Mission Team-

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

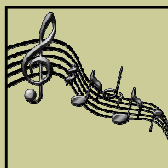
CHURCH PICNIC, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

MUSIC

Wednesday, **September 8**, at 6:15 PM
- Celebration Ringers for grades five through nine begins rehearsals.

Sunday, **September 19**, at 11:00 AM -
Adult Handbell Choir begins rehearsals.

Sunday, November 7 - Barker Concert.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE FALL DATES

Sunday, **October 25**, at 6:00 PM -
Hot Dog Roast and S'mores - An
Evening of Adult Fellowship at Leslie
and Frank VanderHoff's home.

Sunday, **November 6**, at 6:30 PM -
Euchre Night at Stan and Norma
Sterk's home.



Sunday, **December 12**, at 6:00 PM - All Church Christ-
mas Open House at Duncan and Jodi MacLean's home.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Sunday, **October 3**, 10:30 AM until Noon - Beginning of
monthly Blood Pressure checks.

Sunday, **October 3**, 10:30 AM
until Noon - Flu Shot Clinic in
Fellowship Hall. Methods of pay-
ment - cash, check, or insurance.
Insurance plans that Visiting
Nurses will bill: Medicare Plus



Blue, Priority Health Medicare, Unicare Medicare, Hu-
mana Medicare, Medicare Part B, Avantara Freedom Medi-
care, Secure Horizons Medicare, Wellcare Medicare, Pri-
ority Health Plans, Blue Care Network, ASR, Cofinity,
Medicaid/Priority Health Medicaid/MiChild.

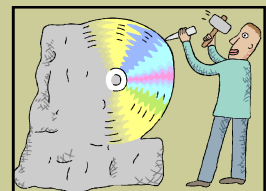
14TH ANNUAL ACCESS COUNTY-WIDE FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, **October 9**.



ARTPRIZE

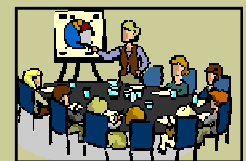
Sunday, **September 26**, at
11:00 AM Joel Tanis leads dis-
cussion about his ArtPrize entry.



Thursday, **September 23, 30,**
and October 7 at 6:00 PM. Art-
Prize Organ Recitals with Brian
Bartusch.

ADULT EDUCATION

September 19. Ministry to Youth and Children. One-week
teacher training with Marybeth
Timmer.



**September 19. Christian Relation-
ships. Care-Giving and Disabilities.**
Led by Dr. Lou Lotz.