

First Church News and Notes

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED to all our visitors. We are glad you came today! Please join us to enjoy a time of fellowship after Morning Worship. *“Let us therefore follow the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another”* (Rom. 14:19).

COFFEE HOUR: Join us for coffee following Morning Worship. Children will be served at tables in the lounge; food and drink should be kept in the lounge or conference room.

SABBATH SCHOOL: Classes for all ages resume today, commencing no later than 11:45 AM.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEETING: Everyone is invited to our mid-week meeting for praise, Bible study and prayer, at the home of the Eshel-mans, 2131 Union Avenue SE, beginning at 7:38 PM.

JANUARY BENEVOLENT OFFERING: A second collection will be taken at both services today for the work of the Pregnancy Resource Center of Grand Rapids.

BUILDING FUND OFFERING: Next week Sabbath, Jan. 27, D.V., a second offering will be taken at both services for our church building fund.

PURITAN PAPERBACK BOOK STUDY: Our monthly meetings will resume, D.V., next week Sabbath, Jan. 27, following the close of Evening Worship. Please read to the end of Part I of *The Christian’s Great Interest*, by Rev. William Guthrie (1620-1665), minister of Fenwick, Kilmarnock, and known in his day as “the greatest practical preacher in Scotland.”

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We want to provide nursery care for infants and toddlers for the forthcoming Conference on Biblical Evangelism Saturday, Feb. 2). Please let Nathan Eshelman or Connie Sikma know if you can serve in this way.

AT HOME ONCE MORE: Paul Clarke was released from Butterworth Hospital early last week when the doctors determined that there was no more pneumonia. He appears to be suffering from chronic anemia for reasons unknown; a doctor’s appointment has been scheduled.

The Value of Each Human Life

(Excerpts from the *Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church*)

6:19: Every man was created in the image of God. His life, therefore, whether he is regenerate or unregenerate, should be recognized as having value to himself, to society, and to God.

7:3: The Covenant of Works has not been revoked. All men remain under its requirement of perfect obedience and will have to give account according to it at the last judgment.

12:4: There is a sense in which God is the Father of all men, because He created them. They are therefore obligated to love and seek the welfare of one another; yet to the redeemed alone belongs the right to be called the sons of God.

23:21: No civil government which deprives men of civil or religious liberty, fails to protect human life, or proposes to force men to do violence to the spirit and precepts of the Christian religion or interferes unjustly with private ownership of property, can in such matters rightfully expect the submission of its citizens or the blessings of God promised for obedience to Him.

23:22: Both the Christian and the Church have a responsibility for witnessing against national sins and for promoting justice.

23:30: God alone is Lord of the conscience, and the decisions of civil courts cannot determine for the Christian what is morally right and what is sinful. A decision of a civil court cannot legitimize sinful conduct.

24:19: Unborn children are living creatures in the image of God. From the moment of conception to birth they are objects of God’s providence as they are being prepared by Him for the responsibilities and privileges of postnatal life. Unborn children are to be treated as human persons in all decisions and actions involving them. Deliberately induced abortion, except possibly to save the mother’s life, is murder.

31:6: It is the responsibility of the Church to declare God’s Word to civil authorities as it applies to their use of the power that has been given them.