

# 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 should begin promptly at 11:45 AM. Please speak to Nathan Eshelman to find out what classes are being offered.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEETING:** Everyone is invited to our midweek meeting for praise, Bible study and prayer, at the home of Mrs. Evelyn Brandt, 7071 Oakbrook Drive SE, beginning at 7:38 PM.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to Dick and Rieta Bonner and their loved ones for the loss of Dick’s sister-in-law, Char Bonner, who passed away Saturday, Dec. 8, at age 64. The funeral service was held last week Friday at First Congregational Church of Muskegon. Char’s husband, Jim Bonner, is in very poor health, suffering from cancer.

**NEWS FROM THE PICKERINGS:** Marion Pickering reports that Justin continues to suffer episodes of acute chest pain and shortness of breath. Thorough testing by a cardiologist has ruled out any heart dysfunction or disease. After a complete physical examination, Justin’s personal physician concluded that Justin is suffering the cumulative effects of prolonged stress, and a new regime of medicine, diet and exercise should free him from this affliction in due time. Marion and baby George plan to come to Grand Rapids, arriving by air, D.V., on Wednesday evening; Justin will follow, arriving Tuesday, Dec 25; together they will return to Roanoke, VA, on Friday, Dec. 28.

**HELPING HANDS ARE NEEDED:** Members Shawn and Tammy Anderson plan to arrive in Grand Rapids, D.V., this week Wednesday between 8 and 9 PM. They request that anyone willing to help should be at 1660 Wendler Avenue SW at that time or after prayer meeting. Steve and Crystal Carr will be arriving, D.V., Friday, Dec. 28. Their new address is: 1709-201 North Greenfield Circle NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505. Steve's cell phone number is 1(320)420-2785. Crystal's number is 1(616)856-0588. Pray for the Andersons and Carrs as they pack their things and make the long journey overland to Grand Rapids “amid the winter’s snow.”

**BENEVOLENT OFFERING:** A second collection will be taken at both services today for the work of Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery. Members are reminded that our new presbytery made a significant investment of time, talent, and treasure on behalf of our congregation as we completed our transition into the RPCNA; and that we are not required to pay any assessment to presbytery in 2008.

**WINTER CONFERENCE (Dec. 27-29):** All youth age 14 and older are urged to attend this event, sponsored by the Covenanter Young People’s Union (CYPUP) of Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery. Theme: “Living Out My Faith.” Rev. Robert McCracken will speak on “How to Live as a Reformed Christian.” Rev. Lanning has been invited to lead one of the Conference workshops, D.V., on Friday, Dec. 28. Location: Lafayette, IN. Registration forms are on the literature table. Cost: \$70 per person. Contact Rev. Lanning or Doug Sikma for online registration forms.

**CANADA BOUND:** The Lannings plan to travel to Canada to visit loved ones in Ontario, leaving early on Saturday, Dec. 29, and returning on Monday, Dec. 31. In Rev. Lanning’s absence, our services on Sabbath, Dec. 30, will be conducted by our intern, Seminarian Nathan Eshelman.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be administered, D.V., during Morning Worship on Sabbath, January 6, 2008. Communicant members are reminded of their duty to make diligent use of this means of grace, and to make due preparation beforehand. See Larger Catechism, QQ. 171 & 172.

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME:** Brett Schut has an extra bound photo-copy of the two volumes of Dr. Thomas Ridgely’s *Commentary on the Larger Catechism*, and wants someone else to have them as a valuable addition to his or her Christian library. Dr. Ridgeley’s massive work is one of the very few volumes devoted to expounding the riches of the Larger Catechism. If you are interested, please speak to Brett or Rev. Lanning after worship today.

**REFORMATION HEROES** is the title of a new book by Diana Kleyn and Joel R. Beeke, “a simple, illustrated overview of people who assisted in the great work of Reformation,” which has just been published by Reformation Heritage Books of Grand Rapids. Written for older children and teenagers, this book is good reading for adults, too. Many striking “period art” illustrations are provided with the 34 chapters introducing many notable Christians of the Reformation era. A copy is on the literature table for your inspection; additional copies will on sale tomorrow in the seminary bookstore.