

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.

OUR SERVICES TODAY will be conducted by our intern, Seminarian Nathan Eshelman. Our precenter for Morning Worship is Shawn Anderson. Rev. Lanning plans to return to the pulpit next Lord’s Day.

SABBATH SCHOOL: Classes are in recess, D.V., until Sabbath, Jan. 13.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEETING: Everyone is invited to our mid-week meeting for praise, Bible study and prayer, at the home of the Lannings, 415 Paris Avenue SE, beginning at 7:38 PM.

HOLY COMMUNION: The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be administered, D.V., during Morning Worship next week 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.

PURITAN PAPERBACK BOOK STUDY: Our monthly meetings will resume next month, D.V., on Sabbath, Jan. 27. Please read *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.”

IN CANADA TODAY: Linda, James and Evie Lanning are in Ontario today, on a visit to Linda’s family in Vineland. They plan to return to Grand Rapids tomorrow, D.V. Rev. Lanning was to have gone with them, but decided to remain in Grand Rapids with the Justin Pickering family, whose holiday visit to the manse was extended by three days due to Friday’s inclement weather.

WELCOME TO THE CARRS: Steve and Crystal arrived last week Thursday as planned, and moved into their new apartment. Thanks to the willing workers who assisted, and welcome, Steve and Crystal, to the fellowship of our congregation.

CYPU WINTER CONFERENCE (Dec. 27-29): Last week Friday, the weather report notwithstanding, Rev. Lanning left Grand Rapids at 7:50 AM, and drove down to the tiny hamlet of Monitor, IN, to a campground operated by the Church of God, and rented for three days to the Covenanter Young Peoples’ Union of Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery. Heavy weather in Indiana extended a journey of four hours to about six, including more than one hour spent in the truck, parked on I-65, reading the Westminster Standards; but Rev. Lanning arrived just in time to perform his part of the program. About 75 young people were on hand, and seemed to be having a great time. Rev. Lanning’s assignment was to lead a workshop on “Possessing Your Heritage: Making Public Profession of Your Faith.” Beginning with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Rev. Lanning discussed the three different patterns of spiritual experience evident in the lives of these three OT saints. Isaac’s experience of grace was very different from that of Abraham, the converted heathen, or Jacob, rescued and restored as a prodigal son; yet Isaac’s faith was just as profound, and his experience of grace was just as real. Next, Rev. Lanning presented and discussed the requirements and process for making profession of faith in the RPC. Finally, Rev. Lanning commended the practice of receiving Christ as Savior by means of an act of personal covenanting, in the manner of Rev. Thomas Boston and other Scottish Presbyterians. The 25 CYPUs on hand for the workshop were very attentive and responsive, several good questions were posed to the speaker. Afterwards Rev. Lanning lingered to meet various individuals, including our good friend, Rev. Keith Magill. Word of severe weather conditions in Grand Rapids indicated the need for a hasty departure. It was a long drive home, but the worst of the storm had passed by, and Rev. Lanning was safe in the manse by 9:30 PM.

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT WINTER CONFERENCE 2008: The conference will be held, D.V., Friday thru Monday, Jan. 18 through Jan. 21, 2008, at Sangralea Valley Camp, Kokomo, IN. Speaker David Hanson will enlarge on the theme, “Triumph through Tragedy: Understanding the Book of Job.” Cost: \$55 on or before 1/11/08; after that date, \$660. Further details to follow.