

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2018



Hello! My Name is Rev. Bill

This month I'm supposed to give you a little biography of myself. For me it all began when my parents moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan before I was born. I grew up in that house my whole life. Sundays would find us at Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids where my parents had become members when they were first married. Our family, my parents, older sister Edith (Edie), younger brother Rob, and little sister Jenny would sit in the same pew every Sunday, except when Dad was ushering or he or mom was on the consistory and would have to participate in worship.

While a kid growing up at Central I did most of the normal kid things. I went to Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School. In 3rd Grade I began attending the local RCA camp. Although having heard me sing now, you might not believe it but I sang in the kids' choir and played the bells. During the spring I played baseball. My life changed a little bit when my mom attended seminary when I was about 9. Mom's internship drew her to Heartside Ministry in Grand Rapids. Heartside was a ministry which focused in on My world was rocked by seeing a different segment of the world than what I was used to in worship. They reached out to people who were homeless, addicted to drugs, persons who you wouldn't find in most churches. From that time on I was a part of Heartside and Central. Mom graduated in '92, and ordained that year.

My life changed drastically, in November of 1993. The day was normal for November and until my bike crested the hill at our house, school and life had been normal. That day is one that I cannot forget and the details after reaching the top of the hill are forever etched on my memory. When I entered the house that day I learned that my father had sent three letters, one to my mom, one to the senior pastor at Central and one to his counselor. In those letters Dad informed them that he was going to commit suicide. He was found later that day. Needless to say it rocked our family to the core, and in that darkest of moments really opened my eyes to God, because somehow we got through it.

After Dad's death, our family found what would be for us a new normal. I attended high school where I swapped baseball for football. My senior year of high school found me asked to participate in Youth Sunday as one of those who would preach. At this time Mom had been in ministry for 6 years and my older sister Edie was planning on attending seminary after completing college. On that Youth Sunday as I was preaching I became aware of God's call on me, my call to ministry. And in the moment I felt joy. That all changed when the reality of what that meant hit me. And so after high school I decided to go into engineering. Well God is persistent and so I didn't last too long in engineering. But I was still set against going where God wanted me. I finally settled on going into teaching, hoping that somehow that will allow me to serve God but not be in

ministry.

Well fast forwarding a little I graduated with a BA in History with a Secondary Education and English double minor. Fast forwarding some more in the winter of 2004-2005 I was visiting my college and attending worship at the chapel when like a 2x4 across the shoulders I got hit with my call again. I couldn't tell you a single word of the sermon, but the scriptures were from Jonah, when he was in the belly of the fish. In that moment I finally accepted the thing that I had tried to run from for years. When I returned home I sat down with my Mom. After telling her what had happened, the full version, she sighed. She asked me if I knew what this meant. I told her that I did, and she told me, "then feed my sheep."

In fall of 2005 I started Seminary. While there I met a wonderful woman named Sara. The great part of my story is my last year of seminary. Western Theological Seminary had begun a new program called the Friendship House. The key premise was for seminary students to live with adults with disabilities. Three students would room with one adult in an apartment. My two roommates to be mentioned that they were interested, I was hesitant. God gave me a nudge, and during that time in the Friendship House I grew and learned. Also in that year I started dating and became engaged to Sara who I had known since we had started seminary together.

But that last year was not fun and joy because in June of that year my Mom was diagnosed with brain stem lymphoma. Mom had struggled with rheumatoid arthritis for year and one of the drugs which she took to help her symptoms most likely lead to this. She died that year between Christmas and New Years. Six months later having weathered so much already together Sara and I got married on July 11 of 2009. In February of 2011 I was ordained and began serving my first church in Coxsackie NY that March. While in Coxsackie we experienced a great joy and a great sadness. We lost our first child to a miscarriage, but in June of the following year we welcomed William Steven or Liam. Later that year, I was contacted by members of the church which Sara grew up in and asked to consider submit-

ting my name for consideration as their minister.

To make a long story short we wound up moving to central Illinois in June of 2013. For the next few years I served Second Reformed. During my time at Second our town was hit by a tornado. But perhaps the most significant moment came when Sara and I lost our son Luka. In October of 2014 we were finishing preparations to welcome Luka, when what seemed like an instant everything changed. He was born on the 20th but was stillborn. After losing him we were blessed to have a congregation care for us and love us, giving us time and space to heal, and in October 2016, we were blessed to welcome Barbara. Around that time we began to wonder if God might be leading us elsewhere, and as a result of that wondering we found our way here.

I've seen quite a bit and been through more loss and grief than most people my age. But when low points come I have found solace and comfort in knowing that I do not grieve alone, and that I am not alone. When I lost Mom and Dad, I had my family with me as I grieved, but I also had God helping me to get through those times. When Luka was taken from us before we had an opportunity to meet him, our family and church rallied around us. We got through that because of God seeing us through. When Dad died our senior pastor had a phrase which really rang home to me, and still does today. It is "God gets you out of nothing, but through everything." This has rung true my whole life. If you have questions feel free to ask them of me. I look forward to us getting to know each other better as we work to serve God and build God's Kingdom.

Grace and Peace in
Christ

Rev. Bill



APRIL EVENTS

April 1	Easter Sunday
April 8	Installation of New Pastor
April 9	Consistory
April 9, 16	Basket Making Class
April 10, 24	Women's Bible Study
April 11	Social Solos
April 14	Walk for Water
April 15	Soup
April 20	Movies with Meaning
April 21	Movies with Kids
April 28	Spring Clean Up Day
April 4, 5, 11, 12	AARP Tax Preparation



WALK FOR WATER 2018

JOIN OUR TEAM on the annual Walk for Water. This year's walk is going to support water purification systems for 9 communities in North Sumatra Indonesia. Proceeds go to Water Mission of Charleston, SC.

In the Walk for Water, people get a chance to get a small taste of what it is like for those who have to walk to get water everyday. It is a one mile loop, and you carry one gallon of water. One gallon weighs over 8 pounds, so keep that in mind when signing up. The donation is \$25 /person or \$50 per family, which you can get by asking for sponsors.

The event will kick off Saturday April 14 at 10:00am at Grace Church on Seremma Court in Lake Katrine.

See Rebecca Masters after church April 8th or email rebamast@gmail.com, or call 338-3556 if you would like to join us!



ANNUAL YARD SALE

Annual Hurley Yard Sale is coming up in June. The church will once again be selling spaces to individuals & retailers. With all of this winter weather still hanging on you can get to those boxes that you want to go through & see what you want to get rid of. More information on this in the months to come. So, get thinking of getting rid of some things & earning some cash. Any questions, see Sandy Emrich



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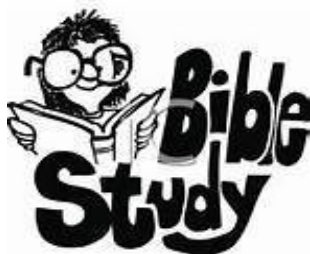
April

Birthdays

Wayne Waligurski	1	Lily Barra	16	Emily Waligurski	26
Travis Horvers	2	Kyle Constant	17	Pat Brennan	28
Mildred Mattison	4	Ann Every	17	Molly Shambo	29
Barbara Bondar	4	Liz Carpinelli	17		
Trevor Davenport	4	Joan Sutton	19		
Mia Zimmerman	5	Todd Jordan	19		
Kathy Hauck	5	Lauren Shaffrick	20		
Thomas Mann	5	Lois Morehouse	20		
Fred Kurtz	6	Esther Keator	22		
Jeff Rafferty	7	Henry Dussol	24		
Jean Dussol	8	Karen Waligurski	25		
Shirley Burns	9	Kendra Rubino	26		
Esther Stickley	11	Braison Boice	27		
Beverly Roosa	12	Miranda Davenport	27		
Barbara Baker	12	Mackenzie Dockery	27		
Christine Beesmer	14	Cody Baker	27		
Zachary Burns	15	Julie Jordan	27		

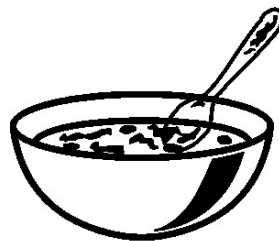
Anniversaries

Allan & Bonnie Dumas	13
Nita & William Rockwell	19
Carla & Craig Paton	22
Dan & Midge Stott	23
Gary & Lisa Longto	30



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

continues this month on April 10 and April 24 from 1-3 pm in the Dutch Room. We continue our reading of the book, "The Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible" The book is available at our meetings; its price is \$11. There are refreshments, laughter and fellowship! See Debbie Zuill.



SOUP: APRIL 14, 2018

The Soup Elves present this month's soup on April 15 after worship.



Next Lunch date:

April 11, 2018 at 12 Noon.

Restaurant TBA

REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN THEIR DAY TODAY NEEDS:

Keep them in your prayers.

Dolores McGoldrick is at home; Stephen Bliss is home; Dick Shook is home; Roger and MaryLou Vogt are in Hudson Valley Senior Residence; Clarence Jansen and Shirley Ruth are in Mountain Valley Manor; Bud Dussol at Golden Hill; Don Kent at the Terraces at Brookmeade; Betty Pirro, Bev Chrisey, Friedel Borst, Audrey Hornbeck and Fred Horvers at TenBroeck; Wayne Waligurski; ill Charlotte Gill; Tony Peralta (Julie Provenzano's son-in-law); Esther Keator; Lori Pink-ham in Wingate at Ulster, Peter Jackson from Hurley, England; William Wiacek (Cathy McGraw's brother).



April Rain Song

Let the rain kiss you
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops
Let the rain sing you a lullaby
The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk
The rain makes running pools in the gutter
The rain plays a little sleep song on our roof at night
And I love the rain.

By Langston Hughes



POT LUCK DINNER & A MOVIE

Well folks you missed a good one. If you didn't attend the March 16th pot luck & movie of "The Shack" you missed a good one. 40 folks attended. Some folks even brought friends which was so great!! A wonderful night was had by all. Thank you to everyone that attended!! Your support is truly appreciated!!

So, mark your calendars for April 20 when our next event will be held. Hope to see you there!!

Sandy Emrich

*Rejoice in the
Resurrection,
knowing that through
our belief in the risen
Christ, one day,
Jesus will take
our hand and lead
us home.*

Happy Easter!!!

STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER:

LISA LONGTO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON

JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER

ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)

SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)

KATHY JANSEN, CONSISTORY LIAISON

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

A SACRED PLACE OF BEAUTY AND CONTEMPLATION.
(LOCATED ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE CHURCH)

MOVIES WITH MEANING

& POT LUCK DINNER



When: Friday April 20
Pot Luck dinner at 5:30-6:30pm
Movie at 6:30pm
Where: Schadwald Hall

Sign up after church. Bring a dish to share & your own place setting. Or if you can't make the pot luck just come for the movie. This is a great evening of fellowship & a movie. This month's movie will be Fireproof. It is about Caleb Holt played by actor Kirk Cameron who tries to attempt to save his marriage. Caleb Holt is a firefighter who uses a 40-day experiment known as "The Love Dare".

Any questions please see Sandy Emrich or Kathy Jansen. Hope to see you there!!



MOVIES WITH KIDS

Date: Saturday, April 21
Where: Schadewald Hall
When: 2:00 pm
Now Showing: *Sing*



Set in a world like ours but entirely inhabited by animals, *Sing* stars Buster Moon (Academy Award® winner Matthew McConaughey), a dapper Koala who presides over a once-grand theater that has fallen on hard times. Buster is an eternal optimist—okay, maybe a bit of a scoundrel—who loves his theater above all and will do anything to preserve it. Now facing the crumbling of his life's ambition, he has one final chance to restore his fading jewel to its former glory by producing the world's greatest singing competition.

Apr 2018 (Eastern Time)

4pm - wedding rehearsal
9am - Spring Class

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Hurley New York 12443
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