

# Dispatch CRC Newsletter

## Just a Thought

# DISPATCH

A couple of years ago, I presented a series of sermons that were based on the book *I Am a Church Member* by Thom Rainer. Rainer introduces his book by stating that church members need to look in the mirror. Many church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. We join our churches expecting others to serve us, to feed us, and to care for us. We don't like the hypocrites in the church, but we fail to see our own hypocrisies (pg. 5).

Rainer suggests that each church member should make a pledge to be a member the way the Bible speaks and the way God designed it. Each church member should make a commitment to put the following into practice (pg. 77-79):

(1) I must be a functioning member whether I am an "eye," an "ear," or a "hand." As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others.

(2) I will seek to be a source of unity in the church. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God's power to help keep the church in unity for the sake of the gospel.

(3) I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. I am in this church to serve others and to serve

"I must be a functioning member... I will give. I will serve. I will minister..."

Christ. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that are just not my preference or style.

(4) I will pray for my pastor every day. His days are filled with constant demands for his time. My pastor cannot serve our church in his own power. I will pray for God's strength for him and his family every day.

(5) I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church.

(6) This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of

salvation through Jesus Christ, I became part of the body of Christ and identified with a local body. I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person or member.

This is the kind of attitude that will make a difference. Committing ourselves to this kind of attitude will reflect the love and grace of Jesus Christ in a way that is so needed in our society. This is the kind of attitude that will grow the body of Christ. Are you willing to develop this kind of attitude? Are you willing to make this pledge and be the kind of church member the Bible speaks of and the way God designed it to be?

~Pastor Steve

## Ora et Labora

Ora et Labora wrapped up our current season of Bible study and fellowship with our last meeting on April 25. Since



January, our "Women of the Bible" study has

taken us through the lives of Rachel, Leah, Tamar, Potiphar's Wife, Jochebed, Miriam, Rahab, and Deborah. We have discussed their life situations, personal character, and how

God used them in His redemptive plan for all His chosen people. We also talked about the lessons of faith and obedience to God that they displayed and what we can learn from them. We will continue this study when the fall season begins in September.

The funds that were raised from the annual bazaar last November have been used for several different projects in the church. We have donated funds to reupholster the chairs in the fellowship hall, purchased a new space heater for the nursery cry room and a stepstool for the library, and provided 8 Bibles to GEMS girls who did not have one of their own. We have recently purchased 12 new chairs for the Council Room, a room divider for the basement, and a glider rocker for the nursery cry room.

An all church barbeque was held on May 19 at 6:30 p.m. We served hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, potato salad along with a variety of other salads, and S'mores. We had a fun evening of fellowship and outdoor games. Thanks to all for helping us celebrate the completion of another school year!

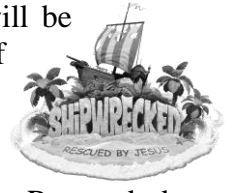


Have a safe and fun summer!

~Sherri Eakin, Secretary

## Dispatch VBS 2018

Dispatch VBS will be held the week of June 11-15. The theme for this year's VBS is "Shipwrecked - Rescued by Jesus". At Shipwrecked VBS, kids will discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms.



Preparations have begun and staff positions are filled except for some extra helpers.

Each day, kids will learn a Bible point that will correspond to a Bible story and verse. This year the Bible stories include Jesus parables of lost things (Luke 15), Martha's worries and complaints (Luke 10:38-42), Jesus' friends try to rescue him in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-54), Jesus welcomes a criminal before dying and coming back to life (Luke 23:26-24:12), and Peter and John heal a lame man in Jesus' name (Acts 3:1-26). The Bible points are "When you are lonely...Jesus rescues", "When you worry...Jesus rescues", "When you struggle...Jesus rescues", "When you do wrong...Jesus rescues", and "When you are powerless...Jesus rescues".

For the last several years we have been doing a rotation schedule for VBS. At first it was hard to think of changing our old routine, but we have gotten the hang of the rotating schedule and everyone seems to like it. Each day starts out with everyone gathering in the sanctuary for singing, a skit, and announcements for the day. The preschoolers have all of their activities in the basement.

The Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are divided into 3 crews. Within these crews the kids are in mixed age groups. Each crew spends 20 minutes in Bible Discovery, Imagination Station, or KidVid Cinema. The key Bible verse and Bible point are reinforced at each station. Of course there's a time set aside for snacks and recess before concluding the day. For the final 30 minutes everyone meets in the sanctuary for singing and talking about what was learned that day. Five days go by really fast as the schedule keeps everyone moving! We invite anyone who is interested to come and see what goes on during this exciting week!

Our mission focus this year will be for the Downs Food Bank. Each day the kids will be asked to donate an item such as canned goods, bar soap, or cereal and/or cash to help with the needs of our community. We plan to have a little bit of an incentive to encourage interest and make it more exciting for the kids each day.

We appreciate your financial support and prayers for this outreach ministry. We try to faithfully plant the seeds and ask God to help the relationship with Jesus grow in each child that attends.

~Sherri Eakin – VBS Director

## Dorcas

Dorcas Society began the fall season with a new meeting time and day. We now meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, and after our meeting we enjoy lunch together.

We have completed our study of John, Titus, and Philemon. Next fall we will study Hebrews and James.

We plan to vote on officers for next year at our last meeting in May.

The quilters are busy getting a beautiful new quilt ready for the bazaar in November. Have an enjoyable summer.

~Terril Koops, Secretary

## Tuesday's Children's Bible Class



This has been a good year with the five young people I have had in class. I want to thank the parents for asking if I would be willing to teach a Bible class for the children of this church. I also appreciate the parents that allowed their children to come and learn more about God and our church. I want to thank the elders for their support of this ministry of our church.

The children have worked on many memory verses. Some have also learned Psalm 1, 23 and 100. One has also learned Genesis 1:1-10. These children have worked very hard at memorizing Scripture and hiding it in their hearts.

We have finished looking at each part of worship and why we do the things we do in church. We have also discussed why they are important. Along with learning about the parts of worship the children of the congregation have been encouraged to take notes on some parts of the service. At this point they still do this for the reward but the prayer is that they will do it for themselves in the near future. We have started looking at what the different books of the Bible are about and ways to remember the names of the book. We have looked at the first five books of the Old Testament. We are also learning a song that tells how Jesus is working in each of the books of the Bible. Perhaps they will share it with the congregation next school year.

We have looked at the Fall, and how we are saved. We have discussed the two sacraments of our church. We have looked at how the commandments help us see why we need salvation. We even discussed what happens after we die. It has been a good year. During one of our lessons we were talking about sharing Jesus with others and I told them they would be sowing seeds then. One of the children started retelling the main points of a sermon they had heard two weeks prior. Several more joined in on this.

We ended our year with a time of celebration. We had parents or grandparents come to class. The adults were on one team and the children on another to see who could answer the questions and answers from our

studying. Then we mixed everyone up into two teams and did Sword Drills. I gave a passage and the team that found it first received a point. We ended our time with root beer floats and certificates. I am so thankful to God that He has put it on these parents' hearts to have their children learn these things. I am also thankful that God has allowed me the honor of teaching them.

~Lynn Boersma, teacher

## **PROMISE KEEPER'S MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Our Promise Keepers men's group is studying Lesson 7 "Experiencing the Power of Jesus" in Max Lucado's workbook "Experiencing the Heart of Jesus".

The memory verse for this lesson is 2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you." So I am happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ's power can live in me.

Lucado recounts one story after another of Jesus restoring wounded lives. The first was of Jesus healing a bleeding woman. She had "spent all she had" and had reached a point of total desperation. She thought, "If I just **touch** His clothes, I will be healed". When she did so, her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At

once Jesus realized that **power** had gone out from Him and He told her that her faith in Him had healed her. God says that the more hopeless your circumstances, the more likely your salvation. The greater your cares, the more genuine your prayers!

The next story is of Jesus healing a demon-possessed boy. Imagine the pain of the father which drove him to pray out of desperation, "If you can do anything for him, please have pity on us and help us." Jesus responded, not to the eloquence of the man, but to the pain of the man. The power is not in the prayer; it's in the **One** who hears it!

John 5:2-9 gives an account of Jesus healing a lame man by the pool of Bethesda. In a sense we are all like the paralytic. That's our predicament: Only the holy will see God. Holiness is a prerequisite to heaven. When it comes to healing our spiritual condition, our only hope is that God will do for us what He did for the man at Bethesda. God has forgiven all our sins, cancelled the debt and the **power** of God has made us alive forevermore.

The power of Jesus over death is demonstrated in three instances:

- 1) Jesus raises a widow's son from the dead
- 2) Jesus restores the daughter of Jairus to life
- 3) Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

In all of these instances, the "Word of God" spoke and the power of death was broken:

"Young man, I say to you, get up!", "My child, get up!" and "Lazarus, come out!" Oh, the power contained in God's words and His voice! A day is coming when everyone will hear Jesus' voice; there will be no more death!

Lucado shares that the goals of these stories is to help us look forward with faith. The God who spoke still speaks. The God who forgave still forgives. The God who came still comes. He comes into our world. He comes into your world. He comes to do what you can't. He comes to move the stones you can't budge.

Stones are no match for God, not then and not now. He still moves stones. Praise the Lord!

~Stephen Cordel

## **From Our History**



Local churches  
open used  
clothing store

Eleven ladies from the Downs community churches met Thursday afternoon in the Bortz building to form a worthwhile project. Their purpose is to serve the community; show Christian love; to create understanding among the churches and do local mission work.

They will be working in Christ's name and want the support of the community.

Mrs. Carol DeJong of Dispatch Christian Reformed church was elected chairman of the group; secretary, Vivian Cowley of First Christian Church; treasurer, Marcena Brummer of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

"Christian Agape Shop" was chosen as the name for the group with "He cares, we share" as their motto.

They will open the shop the first weekend after Easter on Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Bortz building.

They will accept clothing, spring and summer and up to date; complete dress patterns, shoes and boots; washable bedding; jewelry and yard good remnants. They want articles in good, wearable condition.

Newspaper article taken from the Thursday, March 27, 1975 Downs News and Times

~Submitted by Russell Groenendyk

## Op-Ed

This item is being presented as a response to the article published in the March issue of "The Banner" entitled "Eating toward Shalom" -Why Food Ethics Matters for the 21st Century Church. In that article Matthew Halteman, philosophy professor at Calvin College, goes to great lengths in Where no one would have to beg for a meal

referring to today's agriculture production system as one that treats animals inhumanely, particularly when it comes to animals being raised in confinement facilities. I have worked with dozens of producers in agribusiness for almost 30 years now, and can honestly say that I have rarely seen abuses take place in livestock production. What I have witnessed instead is a care for the animals in a climate controlled environment, not subject to open adverse weather conditions or if outdoors, ones that provide protection and humane care for the animals in times of difficult weather. The farmers I come into contact with are some of the most conscientious, generous, and humane people I know, putting in the extra effort to provide for their livestock at all hours of the day and night, especially in times of preventing or treating sickness in the animals or assisting them in bringing new offspring into the world. They also utilize good conservation practices and caution in the products they use for crop inputs to protect the environment that they have a future stake in.

We live in an era like none other in history, where the largest percentage of the world's population (6 billion people) lives above the poverty level. There is still work to do as 700 million people remain below that line. With the enhanced ability to afford a better lifestyle has come the increased demand for healthier food products, which provides a A place where our everlasting father will be

more protein based diet that includes meat. Genesis 1:26 speaks of man's dominion over the fish of the sea, birds of the air, and livestock. That mandate does not give us a license to misuse that privilege, but rather an obligation to be good stewards of those resources for the good of all. Our farmers provide a safe and efficient food supply system that feeds the world. If we revert to the food ethics system suggested by Halteman, I believe we will face greater food costs because of specialized production, which will cause an increased number of people to be priced out of the market from an economic standpoint and ultimately result in a lesser food supply. There is room for developing new and responsible techniques; however, the practices singled out in this article are not reflective of the farmers that I know and feel they should be represented in a different light.

~Don Koops

## A Poem

### *A Sinless World*



There will be a world where there will be no sin  
A place where everyone everywhere will win  
A place where people wouldn't even think to lie  
A world where everyone is perfect every guy and girl  
A place where no one would ever steal  
And we can live with him eternally



A place where every single one  
 is nice  
 A place where to get something  
 you don't have to pay a price  
 Where there are streets of  
 golden bricks  
 A world where you won't get  
 bitten by ticks  
 A place with no black magic  
 Where there won't be anything  
 tragic  
 A place where you can live  
 happily  
 Where you can be with your  
 family  
 A place where you aren't mean  
 to people with funny names like  
 Mevin  
 This place is what people call  
 heaven

~Jonny Schlatter

## Church Life



We extend our  
 condolences to  
 the family of  
 Margaret  
 LaDow.

Margaret passed  
 away on January 27, 2018. Her  
 funeral was held at Dispatch  
 CRC on Saturday, February 3,  
 2018.

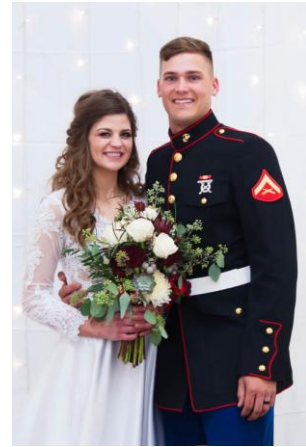


Alida Draayer – Doctorate of  
 Occupational Therapy,  
 Creighton University, Omaha,  
 NE

Alexis Koops – Bachelor of  
 Arts in Elementary Education,  
 Kansas Wesleyan University,  
 Salina

Holly Tanis – Lakeside High  
 School, Downs

Abigail Schlatter – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade -  
 Smith Center Junior High  
 School



Congratulations to Mathew  
 Pfannenstiel and Jihan Arnold  
 on their marriage. They were  
 married at Dispatch CRC on  
 January 25, 2018. A reception  
 followed in the fellowship hall.  
 Mat is in the Marines, and is  
 currently stationed in Hawaii,  
 while he awaits orders for  
 deployment. Jihan remains in  
 Kansas. If you would like to  
 drop him a card or letter of  
 encouragement, his address is:

LCPL Pfannenstiel, Mathew  
 3D Marine Regiment Rein CAC  
 Box 63004  
 MCBH Kaneohe Bay, HI  
 96863-3004

**Newsletter Staff**

Vacant - Editor  
Jan Tanis - Layout

[jjtanis@ruraltel.net](mailto:jjtanis@ruraltel.net)

**You are welcome to submit material for possible publication in the Dispatch CRC newsletter. Just e-mail any articles or stories to Jan Tanis or U.S. mail to the following address:**

**Jan Tanis  
242 C Road  
Cawker City, KS 67430**

**If you receive this newsletter and live far away, we would love to hear from you. Jot us a note telling us what's happening with your family!**

**For More Information**

**This newsletter is a publication of Dispatch CRC. If you would like more information about Dispatch Christian Reformed Church please call:**

**(785) 454-6608**

**Or write to:**

**Dispatch CRC  
ATTN: Evangelism Comm.  
298 N. 10 Road  
Cawker City, KS 67430**