

Wheelchair Basketball

Last year I started wheelchair basketball. I play for the Nebraska Red Dawgs. We practice at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO). Our age group is 14 and under and it's called Prep. After you turn 14 you can play on the Varsity until you graduate from high school. There are 14 players on my prep team. The youngest is 5 and the oldest is 14. There are boys and girls on the team. We have players from Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri.

Our season starts in September and ends in April. This past season we played in 5 regular season tournaments; 3 in Wisconsin, 1 in Minneapolis, and 1 home tournament in Omaha. The tournaments are 2 days and we usually play 3-4 games.

This year we qualified for the National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky because we were in the top 16 in the nation. There are about 32 prep teams in the US. We were ranked 10th. At the tournament we won 2 and lost 2. Our 2 losses were to the 7th and 8th ranked teams and we only lost by a total of 10 points. We finished 10th in the nation. We only have 1 player who has to move up to varsity so we are looking forward to another great season next year!



The best thing about wheelchair basketball is the games and spending time with my teammates. I like learning new skills and getting better at basketball.

-Eli Horstman

Courier

May 2018

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

From the Elders...

Dear Covenant brothers and sisters, as I write this, we are experiencing a second day of most welcome spring weather. As creatures made to live on this beautiful earth, we delight in the warmth of the sun on our skin and the sweet sounds of nest-building birds in our ears. We remember the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus, and of the new life we have in him... and of the new life that the whole created order is eagerly anticipating.

But still, we are overcome with grief as we remember a beloved spouse who is no longer with us. We are also overcome with grief when we read and hear about violence and hatred in our own communities and in communities around the world. We are overcome with grief when an intimate relationship seems to be coming undone, or when we are alienated from our parents, brothers and sisters, or children.

Nevertheless, the days of grace that God gives us continue to come, one after the other, to us, members of the universal Church of God at Covenant CRC in Sioux Center. As a congregation, we continue to love each other and look after each other. We continue to search for a new pastor—thanks for your hard work, Search Committee! As elders, we continue to look ahead to Covenant's role as a worshipping body and a witness to the love of God in our neighborhood and around the world. We wrestle to make decisions that follow the Holy Spirit's leading. We need your regular prayers as we seek to serve you, brothers and sisters.

During the April 22 morning worship service, a group of Sunday School children interpreted the offertory song, "Rescuer" in sign lan-

guage—thanks children and teachers! Just like the springtime sunshine, these children warmed our hearts and are a loving reminder from our heavenly Father to put our trust in him.

Finally, I leave you with a schedule of the combined evening worship services of First CRC and Covenant CRC for the summer months. Note the location of each service, and the name of the preacher, if known. May we continue to grow together in the grace of God.

- May 27: First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief
- June 3: First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief
- June 10: Covenant CRC
- June 17: First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief
- June 24: First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief
- July 1: Covenant CRC: Dr. Jason Lief
- July 8: First CRC
- July 15: First CRC
- July 22: Covenant: Dr. Jason Lief
- July 29: First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief
(Communion Service)
- August 5: First CRC
- August 12: First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief

-Sanneke Kok (on behalf of the Elders)



Thanks to the youth group for caring for our kids during the Christian Education Fund Auction!

Phil

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Fifty years after it went out of style, he still wore his hair-great hair, by the way-in a duck tail. Had he let it grow a little longer, he might have passed for Sikh and never worn a turban. He was the quintessential Fifties guy, loved cars, and never really stopping lovin' cruisin'.

He could spend hours in his own garage, stoking a pipe maybe, tinkering, keeping the dust off his buggy, cleaning up. Quiet, meticulous to a fault, he arranged his life the way he did his shop, not a thing left where it shouldn't have been. Careless is a word he didn't know.

He had opinions, I suppose, but he didn't air them all over creation. You had to work to get them out of him, if they ever made it off the rack at all. That he wasn't particularly opinionated may well help explain how it was he was pretty much satisfied with the way life had worked itself out. He never wanted much more than he had. We should all be so blessed.

I lived in his basement for a couple of months when I was a college kid, did so because he was gone, in the military. It was 1968, and there were others from the small town who were gone, some of them called up with the National Guard, and other women living upstairs in his house back then, GIs' wives, including his. We got along well, sometimes flirted a little.

He was a townie who, early Sixties, managed to pick up a college girl, got her into his buggy somehow-maybe it was that duck tail, the

preacher said-and she never left. In the Iowa village where he'd been born and reared, the two of them had three kids and no huge problems. Sweet and wonderful grandkids too. Life is good, he might have said, if he'd say much at all. Mostly, he just smiled.

His communications specialty in his Army years translated into a job with the phone company when he returned to his wife and the house with the rental basement. He fixed phones every day of his working life-yours, mine, and the neighbor's. Had his own truck, rigged up thoughtfully with the tools he was going to need to get the job done, all of them kept in perfect order. Of that you can be sure.

He hung around the college where I taught because he was the phone guy for the entire institutional system. Phones were big and mechanical then-rotary dial, the kind you have to go to a museum to see. Then push buttons replaced the old ones, got sleek and had memory. Technology took a jump into the next century. Just about then, he retired.

The truth is, he had more health problems than most of us knew or will ever see ourselves. That hefty tool belt he will always wear in my memory circled a girth so slight that you couldn't help wonder where he found belts that small. He was our phone guy. Got a problem, get a hold of Phil. Won't slay you with gabbing either. He'll just get the job done. Big smile. In the twilight of his phone company job, he was always around.

You don't think much about people like him until they're gone, at which time you begin to consider how it was they were always there when you needed them. Some knew him as a father, a brother, a grandpa. Some knew him

(Continued on page 7)

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

3	Luanne G	16	Annika Frisch	25	Mark & Lisa C
4	Ale C	17	Meghan V	26	Lewis C
6	Luke VT	18	Yazzie Bierma John-Patrick MC	28	Charlie F David H
8	Eldon & Marcia W		Ethan & Donna B		Erik & Barb H
9	Lisa C Len R	19	Elliot P Mark & Barb T	29	Steve & Pat C
11	John & Becky S	20	Zoey E	30	Emily E Dan & Jeananne Kuiper
12	Rob & Megan H	21	Phyllis L Ben & Laura L	31	Mark H Joan MC
14	Lisa F Carol O Daniel T Tom T	22	Everett F Rowan H Bernie & Kathy DW		
15	Will B	23	Kurt V		



Offering Schedule

May 6

AM General/Building Fund

PM World Renew

May 13

AM Christian Education Fund,
Compassion Fund

PM Bethany Christian Counseling

May 20

AM Missions Fund

PM Sioux City Gospel Mission

May 27

AM Tuition Assistance Fund
PM (at First CRC)

4

Church Spring Cleaning!

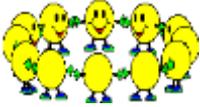
**Saturday, May 5
8:30 AM**

Join the fun! All ages can help—
and many hands make light work!



May Assignments

Here are the assignments for members to “practice hospitality” this month...
Remember to wear your name badges!



Nursery

Parents of the month: Mike & Laura J

May 6

AM INF Rebecca DS, Chris G
TODDLER Bob DS, Rin G, Laura J
PM Jake & Trena VW, Tom & Ruth C

May 13

AM INF Lisa F, Ryan Z
TODDLER Ross F, Val Z
PM Andy & Rachel L, John & Linda V

May 20

AM INF Erik H, Sarah H
TODDLER Barb H, Luke H
PM Daryl & Deb H, Barb T

May 27

AM INF Mark H, Luanne G
TODDLER Sara H, Dave G
PM (at First CRC)

June 3

AM INF Erin E, Marty VP
TODDLER Joe E, Kris VP
PM (at First CRC)



Coffee Servers

Ruth Clo, Jill F, Luanne G,
Luke H, Andy L, Dennis VP



Greeters

AM Donna B, Les S, Rog VH
PM George F, Ron O, Lee R



Ushers

AM Duane B, Beth VB, Trena VW
PM Jo A, John Z

Substitutes

If you are unable to serve on your assigned date for coffee, usher, or greeter, contact

Bob DS, Dave G, Barb H,
Mark H, Joan MC, Linda V



Courier Copy—It's up to you!

The *Courier* is issued monthly at Covenant church. If you have copy that you wish to be included, send it to the church office. Each issue is distributed on the last Sunday of the month. **Copy deadline** is Monday, **May 21** for the June issue.

Serving at Covenant

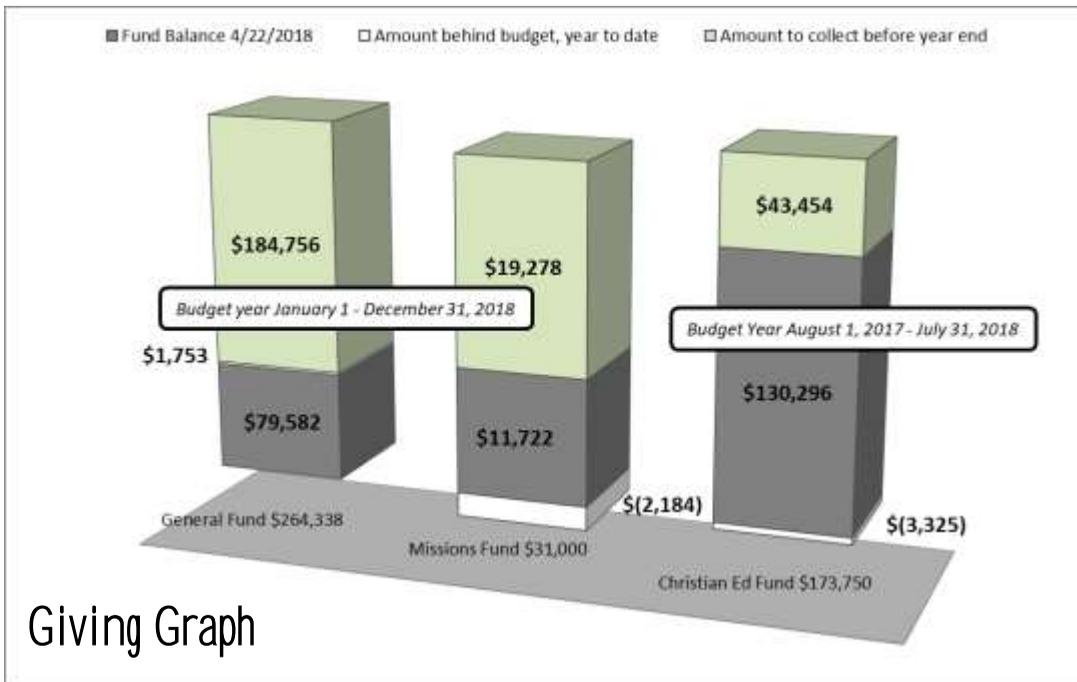
This is part of an ongoing series about how Covenant folk serve in their community and beyond!

Kathleen and I have been involved in serving God's special children around the world for many years. When we lived in Michigan we were blest to be the foster parent to Big Luk, one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," while he adjusted to his new country and attended high school. We also became the foster parents to two brothers from Bangladesh, Sam and Gabe. Their parents, who have a Christian ministry in an Islamic country, were looking for a way to provide their children with safety and a Christian education. Through their association with Audio Scripture Ministries, they chose to send them to Holland Christian Schools where Kathleen was teaching at that time. Through Sam and Gabe, we got involved in supporting

children through Compassion International and have faithfully continued to support children in impoverished areas through regular monetary gifts, prayer, and letter writing for many years.

Kathleen has also visited Nicaragua many times over the last seven years to lend her expertise in special education to Tesoros de Dios, a school established to serve children and families of children with disabilities. Her work at Tesoros de Dios has opened the door to her being asked to do workshops with and consult with many other schools in the country and even with the Ministry of Education. I have been able to accompany her there twice now, and I get drafted into helping in many different ways. I have spent time teaching young men and women simple instrument and electronics repair, worked one-on-one with special children in school, substitute taught

(Continued on page 7)



Giving Graph

Serving at Covenant

(Continued from page 6)

third grade at Nicaragua Christian Academy, and been a general handyman and plumber at Tesoros de Dios. The last week I was at Tesoros de Dios, they asked me if I could assemble some desks. I agreed and asked where the desks were that needed to be assembled. I was pointed to a large stack of plywood sheets.

One of the needs we see among the people we work with in Nicaragua is for good wheelchairs. Access to a sturdy and appropriate wheelchair would make a big difference in the life of a child whose disability has taken away the ability to walk. I am hoping that a long term and sustainable way can be found to solve this need.

As I write this, the country of Nicaragua is experiencing civil upheaval. There are large protests and demonstrations going on and people are being beaten and killed. We are praying that our friends and colleagues who are there will be safe and the country will experience positive change.

-Dwight VanTol

Note from the Halls

Thank you, Covenant family, for your love, prayers, and the beautiful table runner!

We left Sioux Center on March 30 and plan to move into the retirement home on April 30. We have been living with Jack and Shelley since we couldn't get into the retirement home where we had planned to go. This one was built by the same organization—Presbyterian Homes—there are 44 in Minneapolis. It was suggested that we move into their new one and get into the system in order to have priority. This one is located further east but still close to our youngest son, Tim, who has children, ages 5 and 7, and this was one of our purposes to move. Our new address is:

Orchard Path, Room 229
5400 W. 157th St.
Apple Valley, MN 55124

So please stop and see us when going to Minneapolis! We are close to the zoo and Mall of America.

Our love, prayer, and blessings,
-Howie & Vicki Hall

Phil

(Continued from page 3)

from work. Some knew him because, like him, they loved cars, preferably old ones, one of those from American Graffiti. And some of us, like me, knew him only because he was a servant, which is, biblically speaking, a noble calling, even if we often forget as much ourselves.

This morning, once again, snow is falling, as it is in the cemetery where his mortal coil has

now been laid to rest, same town he was born in. If he'd been Native, he'd be wearing his tool belt right now.

This morning, the morning after his funeral, I'm thankful for him and his quiet life, and for so many others whose service is epic even if their lives never seemed to be, men and women whose servanthood—what a biblical word!—I too easily take for granted.

-James Schaap



Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Jasper and Phyllis Lesage are proud grandparents again! Ryan Kai was born to Diego and Emily Hurtado and big brother Jaylin in Des Moines on Sunday, March 25. He weighed 7lbs, 13oz and was 21 inches long. Praise God for this new life!



Congratulations to Dennis and Pam DeJong on the birth of a new grandson! Rowan Patrick Peters was born to daughter Allison and her husband Greg in Missoula, MT on April 23. He weighed in at 7 lbs., 14 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Another road trip to Montana is imminent!



Going, Going, Gone!



Jenni, Robin, and Levi worked hard keeping up with the bidding and recording it all.



Thank you to everyone for donating, for attending, for bidding, and for bringing your checkbook in order to support the Christian Education Fund!



Thanks to the Christian Education Committee for all your hard work in planning and organizing the auction this year!