

# Search Committee Update

Since our last update in the March Courier, the Search Committee has met four times. Working from the list of 60 suggested potential pastors suggested by members of the Covenant congregation, we reviewed profiles and sample sermons of those pastors to pair the list down to those we believed warranted further attention. We then wrote and sent a letter of inquiry to the 35 pastors remaining on the list. We asked for responses to our letter by the end of May. We also published a Pastor Search webpage that may be accessed from the Covenant website. We are currently awaiting responses from the pastors to whom we sent letters of inquiry, and we ask for your prayers for God's guidance as we receive and review responses from those pastors.

-Dennis Vander Plaats

---

## From the Elders...

Dear Covenant brothers and sisters, this past Sunday we celebrated the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on believers from all tribes and nations by singing hymns and songs from several different cultures in our service. Carlye Tazelaar and Ariel Gomes were married the day before and father-of-the-bride Mark described how the newlyweds were addressed by loved ones speaking several different languages. Both of these events are lovely pictures of the future—the redeemed creation in which God will dwell with his people from all “tribes and peoples and tongues.” May we as a congregation, with this future in mind, and knowing God's faithfulness in the past, as our preacher Justin Bailey explained on Pentecost Sunday, live in obedience and hope each present day that God gives us.

As a congregation we're also thankful for those who have agreed to serve as new elders and deacons. And thank you, again, retiring elders and deacons, for your loving service.

May God be with all of us during these summer months, which often bring with them a change of routine and some opportunity for travel and vacation. May God give wisdom and discernment to those of us who are undergoing difficult times and may all things work out for God's glory. We look forward to worshiping with First Christian Reformed Church during the summer months. There was a schedule in the elders' note in the previous Courier.

I (Sanneke) am looking forward to attending the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, which will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I hope to represent our classis and congrega-

*(Continued on page 8)*

# The Fruits of the Christian Education Auction...

## Youth Group Pranksters



The youth group successfully pulled off a prank on Mark Christians' office. If you remember, the youth group donated the opportunity to pull a prank on the person of your choice at the Christian Education Fund Auction this spring and Barb Tazelaar bid

with determination for the right to do so. For the prank, the youth group converted Mark's office to the 12<sup>th</sup> hole of Augusta National Golf Course. (Could this be more of a dream come true rather than a prank for Mark???)



## Juggling Show

Eric Rowe entertained some Covenant folk with his juggling expertise. Beyond the traditional balls, he also juggled knives, bowling balls and fire!



# Ron

*This was written for a College Composition class at Unity Christian High School as part of a "Building People Project" and was reprinted with Caden's permission.*

Quietly strolling through the Heritage Village, Ron Oostra soaks in the beauty of a well-ordered village. Year in and year out he meticulously prepares for visitors and members of the community to have a fantastic experience taking a step back into history. Quaint to say the least, Heritage Village in Sioux Center attests to the history of Sioux Center and pioneer life on the prairie. Ron's countless hours of dedication to the preserved 'town' ensure that the Heritage Village operates smoothly and can be enjoyed by all. From sod huts to rhubarb throwing contests, he has seen it all in his many years of service to the communi-



ty. Though easily overlooked, his contributions are integral to garnering an appreciation and understanding of days gone by. In this respect, Ron has built the lives of both people in the present day and those in the past who built up the community.

-Caden Zonnefeld



## Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Les and Lila Sybesma are proud grandparents of Luna Wilde Ochsner, born April 26, 2018. She was born at a small birth weight of 3 lbs and 3 oz. by a planned C-section and stayed in the NICU for several weeks. The family is now at home in Orange City. Kyle is Northwestern College's exercise science instructor and head strength & conditioning coach. Jeni is a wedding and family photographer. You can follow Luna' on Instagram #lunainthewilde. Luna's name is taken from her great-grandma LUCy, and her great-grandma anoNA. She is strong, smart, skilled, and a very happy baby.



# June Birthdays & Anniversaries

2	Mark & Cheri H Daryl & Deb H Mike & Nancy VB	11	Amira Ribbens Ross & Lisa F	24	Alexa C Tom & Ruth C Verne & Gidge M
4	Davey H Sherri TN Dallas & Carol A	12	Troy & Faith Bierma Lee & Jenni M Les & Lila S	25	Logan H Barb T Bob & Rebecca DS Fednel & Kara T
5	Jo F Joe & Erin E	13	Joya B Terry & Jill F	26	Rachel L Nick & Jenni B Laremy & Rebecca DV Rockne & Joan MC
6	Corrie DV Naomi P	14	Cal J	27	Steve H & Sharon B Jim & Barb S
7	June B Beatrix S	15	Faby C Kurt & Sharon V	28	Gaby C Howie H Sally J Alyda M
8	Peter F	16	Kyle VP Jake VW	29	Kurt F Ryan H Jasper L
9	Jeri S Adam & Robin F Don & Sherri TN Marty & Kris VP	18	Dale & June B	30	Andy L
10	William C Sarah H Mike & Megan Ribbens	19	Daryl H Howie & Vicki H		
		21	Duane B		
		22	Donna B		
		23	Robin F Isabella H Stan & Beth VB		



## Offering Schedule

### June 3

**AM** General/Building Fund  
**PM** Her Health Women's Ministry  
(at First CRC)

### June 10

**AM** Christian Education Fund,  
Compassion Fund  
**PM** World Renew (at Covenant)

### June 17

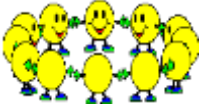
**AM** Missions Fund  
**PM** Youth Unlimited (at First CRC)

### June 24

**AM** Tuition Assistance Fund  
**PM** First CRC Mission and Building Fund  
(at First CRC)

# June Assignments

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



## Nursery

Parents of the month: Lee & Jenni M

### June 3

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

### June 10

AM INF Cheri H, Josue F  
TODDLER Mark H, Ana F  
PM Duane & Jan B, Kurt & Sharon V

### June 17

AM INF Jan V, Jason W  
TODDLER Dave V, Dani W  
PM (at First CRC)

### June 24

AM INF Donna B, Doug DB  
TODDLER Ethan B, Marge DB  
PM (at First CRC)

### July 1

AM INF Emily K, Ryan H  
TODDLER Dave K, Angela H  
PM Rob & Megann H, Steve & Pat C



## Coffee Servers

Ed B, Isabel C, Paul C,  
Shirley T, Jake VW, Jason W



## Greeters

AM Mark C, Erin E, Kurt V  
PM Jenni B, Rin G, Marty VP



## Ushers

AM Cal J, Dave V, John V  
PM Marge DB, Bernie DW

## Substitutes

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

Wil A, Steve C, Jo F,  
Cheri H, Jeri S, Laurey Z



*Are you interested in serving in any of these ministries, but aren't currently on the schedule? Contact Sara in the church office—we'd love to add you in! (covenant@mtcnet.net)*

## 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, **June 18** for the July issue.

# Notes from the Deacons

Summertime brings changes: perhaps preparing for new courses or having school-age children at home each day, or perhaps the opportunity to leave town for an extended time. As deacons, we see that desire to get out of town reflected as fewer members worship at Covenant and the amount given in summer declines too.

While those changes take place, it's good to reflect that many activities and needs remain constant. Ministries of the congregation and denomination continue, missionaries continue to daily engage people in their communities and utility payments such as electricity for air conditioning on warm summer Sundays continue. Covenant budgets support for the above

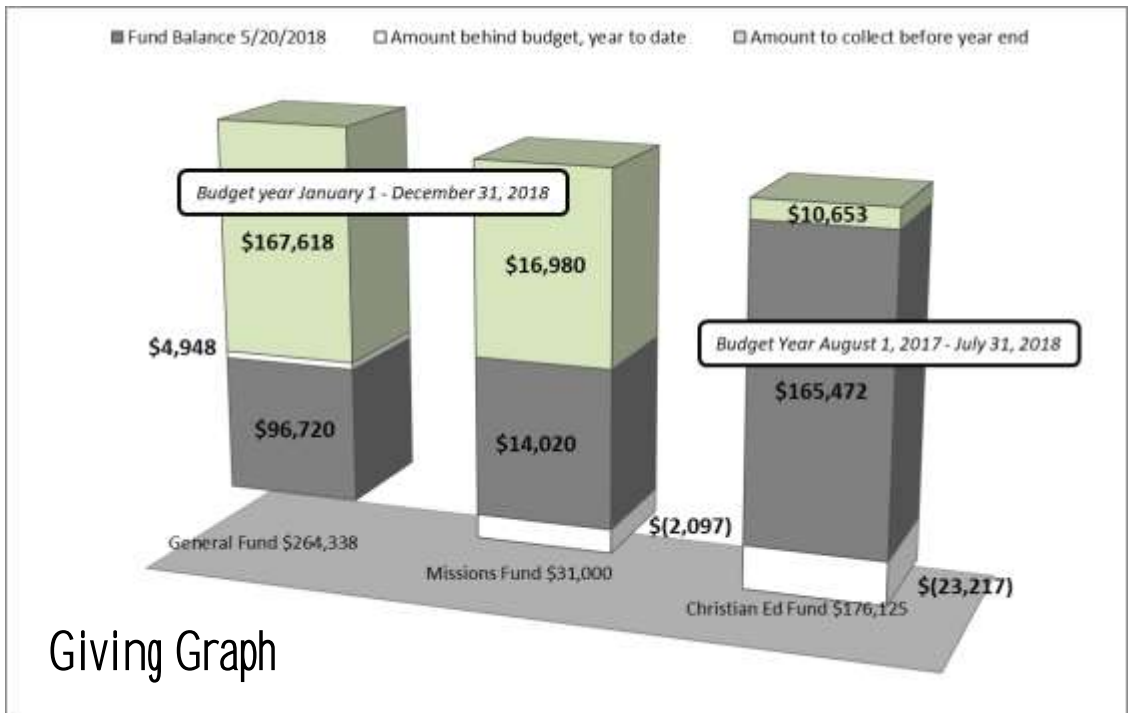
and more over each month of the year.

As you anticipate getting out of town, please don't forget the freedom and opportunity you have to continue supporting Covenant!

This summer we will be sharing evening services with First CRC. Note the list of causes supported by the evening offerings. Please remember that deacons will not be able to prepare receipts for evening offerings collected at First CRC. If you wish a receipt for your donations, please place your offering in the morning envelope and indicate the amount you wish to support the evening offering cause.

-Chris Goedhart

on behalf of the Covenant deacons



# Congratulations, Covenant Graduates!

## Sioux Center Christian

**Sam Eppinga**  
**Levi Landman**  
**Jane Taylor**

civil engineering. In a few weeks, he will be headed to Denver, Colorado and will be working for Saunders Construction as a project engineer.

## Unity Christian High School

**Rylan Brue**

Rylan will be attending Dordt College and majoring in Theology and Philosophy.

**Zoe Hoekstra**

Zoe will be attending Dordt College and is undecided on a major.

**Caleb Smit**

Caleb is planning to attend San Francisco Conservatory of Music to study Percussion Performance.

**Caden Zonnefeld**

Caden will be attending Dordt College and plans to study Actuarial Science.

## Dordt College

**Kinza Brue**

Kinza graduated with a BA in Secondary English Education with endorsements in Middle School, English, and Math. Next year, she will be teaching 7th/8th grade at Community Christian School in Pease, MN.

**Arie Hoekstra**

Arie graduated from Dordt with a degree in

**Jacob Van Tol**

Jacob graduated from Dordt College with a degree in Computer Science and is now working for Center Fresh in their IT department.

## Trinity Christian College

**Cara Horstman**

I graduated from Trinity Christian College near Chicago, Illinois, with a degree in Biology and Psychology. This summer, I will be traveling to Haiti and Israel with groups from Trinity and then working at a STEM camp for middle schoolers in New Jersey, Boston, and New York. I am in the middle of job applications as I try to finalize plans for the next year. I am also beginning to apply to graduate programs in Clinical Psychology. Even though I couldn't make it home to Covenant much, I have felt the love, support, and prayers that you have poured over me the past four years and am looking forward to the next season of life that God has in store.

## South Dakota State University

**Derek Friend**

Derek graduated from South Dakota State University with a Master's degree in Data Science. He plans to head to University of Nevada in Reno to pursue a Ph.D. in Geography.

## Evening Worship Schedule

**May 27**

First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief

**June 3**

First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief

**June 10**

Covenant CRC: Dr. Davey Henreckson

**June 17**

First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief

**June 24**

First CRC: Dr. Jason Lief

## Note from the Elders

*(Continued from page 1)*

tion well and get a better idea of what is going on in the denomination as a whole, in Canada and in the United States. I plan to give a report after I return.

Finally, let's not neglect to love and pray for each other in the congregation, including June and Dale Brands who prepare the sanctuary and other spaces for use each week, the elders and deacons, the worship planners, our secretary, and the Search Committee.

-Sanneke Kok (on behalf of the Elders)

## Thank You, Nick!

Sometimes it's good to acknowledge the behind-the-scenes helpers at Covenant—there are so many who serve in little and big ways! This week as I've struggled with computer issues once again, I've been very mindful of what I don't know, and so very thankful for people who have training and expertise in those areas. While bulletins are printed and emails sent out each week and all may seem well on the office front at Covenant, behind

the scenes it's been a bit rocky this year. I was delighted at the beginning of this year that the deacons got a new, faster computer for the church office which has



"There are better ways to log off."

sped up my work significantly. And Nick Breems graciously agreed to help switch things over from the old to the new computer. My guess is that he had no idea what he was getting into.

To make a long story short, we have had significant problems with transitioning our church database with all of our member information over to the new computer, and Nick has spent many hours at church trying to make things work so that I can do my job and access the information that I need. I'm so grateful for his computer expertise, his kind and gracious spirit when I asked over and over for help, his generosity with his time, and his persistence in finding solutions so that I could come back to the office and do my work.

So thank you, Nick, for serving Covenant by sharing your time and gifts so generously!

-Sara Ploegstra

*(A new database system is in the works for this summer so Nick doesn't have to keep sitting in the church office fixing things for me.)*