

Pork 'N Bands

Pork 'N Bands 7 is in the books! We couldn't have asked for better weather for the big event—there were blue skies, a slight breeze, and the sun was shining. Even the bugs weren't too bad! There was a real hum of excitement in the air that night as everyone from Covenant folk to local Sioux Centerites to Dordt University students gathered in the Fruited Plain Cafe's parking lot to enjoy live music and delicious pulled pork sandwiches. It was so *gezellig* to have people from all walks of life brought together by an appreciation of good food and talented local musicians, many from our very own Covenant CRC.

This year Pork 'N Bands brought in a record



\$4,108 dollars to help meet our Christian Education commitments. But we could never have done it without the help of our amazing congregation who year after year comes through with donations of food and drink for the meal, and provides labor in the serving line and kitchen. Our committee is also very thankful for the pork-smoking talents of Marty Vander Plaats, Ryan De Kruyf, Robbin Eppinga, and

(Continued on page 6)

Covenant
Turns...



Church Retreat

The Covenant Retreat will be held on Friday, October 13 from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Sandy Hollow Clubhouse. We'll be playing 70's trivia, sharing stories and jokes, and maybe even doing a few dances. If the weather cooperates, we'll end the night with a bonfire. We are looking forward to your presence for a fun night of fellowship. If you have a story, joke, skit, etc. you want to share, please email Len and Lee Rhoda (rhoda@mtcnet.net) by October 1.

-Lisa Christians

Courier

October 2023

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Cadet Camporee



On July 19-26, Kurt Vos, Aidan Vos, Richard Eggebeen, and I attended the International Cadet Camporee near Dunville, Ontario, Canada.

Kurt and Aidan rode with other cadets and counselors from Three Rivers, Sioux Valley, and Golden Plains Cadet Councils in 3 vans. They left on Tuesday morning, and spent the night at Jon Buiten's (1st CRC, SC) parents' house in Ontario before arriving at the Camporee site on Wednesday mid-morning. Richard rode with the Hawkeye Cadet Council bus out of the Pella/Oskaloosa area.

Kris and I took our time, stopping at her brother's place in Ann Arbor for a couple of days before arriving at the Camporee site. Kris stayed at a campground in Niagara Falls, and did sightseeing with a group of counselors' wives.

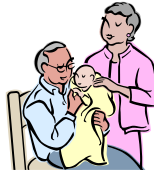
Wednesday afternoon involved building shelters and setting up camp. Each cadre (10 peo-

ple—8 cadets and 2 counselors or 9 cadets and 1 counselor) were given 12 14-ft. poles, a bundle of twine, and 2 30x40 sheets of plastic to build their shelter for the week.

Each morning started with an assembly with praise and worship and devotions, followed by each cadre returning to camp to cook their own breakfast.

Thursday, Friday, Monday, and Tuesday involved the 8 color areas (approximately 100 people) rotating through different activities from riding the Horn Blower at Niagara Falls, going to a water park, hiking, canoeing, shooting sports, a service project, camp games, and making a souvenir craft. Being on staff, I (Marty) was involved with the excursion which involved going on the Horn Blower at the falls, and then going to the water park on Thursday and Friday. Monday and

(Continued on page 4)



Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!



Doug and Marge De Boer thank God for the healthy birth of their 3rd great-grandchild. Lainey Joy Kelderman was born September 14, to Mykle and Andrea from Doon.

*-Doug & Marge
DeBoer*



As we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary, let's see what you know about Covenant's history! Here is another set of question for you to research this month!

1. Who were the beautiful hydrangea bushes on the north side of the church planted in memory of?
2. What are the names of those who have served Covenant as church secretary?
3. Who has served Covenant as Worship Coordinator?
4. When did Covenant overture Classis to allow our church to use the New International Version of the Bible as our pew Bible?
5. When did Covenant members help to establish the Coffee Break Ministry in Sioux Center and how long did this ministry meet in Covenant?

Answers to this month's questions will be in the November *Courier*—but we encourage you to ask around and find out before next month!

And here are the answers to the questions that were printed in last month's *Courier*:

- Q:** When did Covenant elect the first woman to our Council and who was elected?
A: The first woman member of Covenant's Council was Jeri Schelhaas elected in April of 1991. She is presently serving as

an Elder on our Council.

- Q:** When was the first issue of the *Courier* published?
A: The first *Covenant Courier* was published in 1977.
- Q:** When, how many years, and who served on service teams who traveled to Haiti to build a Christian school after the devastating earthquake in 2010?
A: After the devastating 2010 earthquake Covenant sent three teams to help World Wide Christian Schools build the "Paradis" school near Flon, Haiti which was located near the epicenter of the earthquake. Members who served over the years (some multiple years) were Wil Alberda, Lisa Christians, Laura Dykstra (Dordt student) Terry Friend, Dave Goslinga, Cara Horstman, Joey Horstman, Verne Meyer, Ron Oostra, Don & Sherri Ten Napel, Marty & Kris Vander Plaats, and Chase Vis (grandson of the Alberdas). These mission trips were a very memorable experience for all involved.
- Q:** Who was the Covenant pastor who hid a bottle of whiskey behind the pulpit and why?
A: At a time when using props by a minister was very uncommon, Dr. Franklin Steen hid a bottle of Southern Comfort whiskey behind the pulpit. His sermon was about Biblical "comfort" and his prop was used to illustrate something that was not the source of comfort.
- Q:** How long have Dale and June Brands been Covenant's janitors?
A: Dale and June Brands have served Covenant as janitors since 1997.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Judah Hawley	13	David Westfall	24	Sophia Bailey Lydia Clark Marv Wielard
2	Ethan Brue Ava Landman	15	Mark Horstman Dan & Sandi Altena	25	Layne Vos
3	Alleke Crull	18	Pam DeJong Cora Donahue	27	Dave & Emily Kramer
5	Ed Brummel	19	Pat Crull Laura Janssen Tammy Lief	28	Julia Kramer Linda Vanden Hoek
6	Elijah Schreurs	20	Esther Eppinga	29	Nick Breems Jonathan Van Tol
9	Steve Holtrop Kara Maletoungou Samuel Maletoungou Ed & Natalie Brummel	23	Nola Jewett	30	Emilyn Smit
10	Samuel Westfall				

Cadet Camporee

(Continued from page 2)

Tuesday I swapped with a staffer that tweaked his back and did the canoe activity.

After returning from the afternoon activity the cadres would cook their supper and then return for an evening assembly with more praise and worship and other activities.

The Saturday morning activity involved each cadre building a catapult for an unknown activity. After building their catapult, they came to the assembly area and arrived to find multiple 4x8 printed images of the cadet president with a large hole where his mouth was. Their goal was to launch as many tennis balls as possible into Dave's mouth.

Saturday afternoon was spent cleaning up and organizing camp for the Sunday service and visitors.

Sunday morning involved a worship service with the cadets, and visitors, and families. There were approximately 2,500 visitors, ranging from members of southern Ontario churches to families of cadets who came for the event. A noon meal was served, and the camp was open for visitors until 3 PM.

Tuesday evening involved doing as much cleanup around camp as possible in preparation for tear-down on Wednesday morning. By 11:00 AM camp was dismissed and everyone boarded their transportation for home.

As far as I can tell, everyone had a great time. I am sure Aidan and Kurt would be willing to share their experience if you ask.

You can see more pictures here:

camporee.calvinistcadets.org.

-Marty Vander Plaats

October Scheduling



Greeters

Laremy DV, Cheri H, Val Z



Ushers

Wil A, Ruth Clo, Marge DB



Coffee Servers

Pat C, Terry F, Megan H,
Merrill MC, John Z

Substitutes

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

Jo A, Jenni B, Sharon D,
Luke H, Andy L, Dani W



Thanks for serving!

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, **October 22** for the November issue.



Nursery

Nursery Monitor: Joni V

October 1

AM Channon & Joni V, Barb T

October 8

AM Mark & Cheri H, Luke & Sarah H

October 15

AM Marty & Kris VP, Ron & Carol O

October 22

AM Ryan & Val Z, James & Courtney R

October 29

AM Jason & Dani W, Jake & Trena VW

November 5

AM Tom & Ruth C, Chris & Rin G

Formation Sunday Evenings

Join us for our 6:00 PM Sunday evening gatherings this month:

October 1: Vespers

October 8: Possible Prairie Walk (TBD!)

October 15: Vespers

October 22: Vespers

October 29: Joint Reformation Day Service

Notes from the Deacons

Dear Covenant Congregation,
 We have received our final obligations for Christian education for the '23-'24 school year. With the Educational Savings Account active, we see a significant decrease in Covenant's commitment to schools to assist our families who send children to Christian day schools. We have 65 children attending local Christian schools, and we have pledged to contribute \$95,880 to our local Christian schools. Our Christian education pledge last school year was nearly double this amount.

While our commitment is reduced, we plan to continue enjoying efforts that create community alongside generosity. We plan to gift additional funds to local needs or international ministries that share a vision to teach children about God's love. Our Christian education committee organized and gathered our community together for the Pork 'N Bands event on September 16, celebrating good music, good food, and good conversations. They are already making plans for our Covenant auction which showcases loads of local artisan-skills and creativity, alongside an evening filled with laughter.

As always, thanks for your continued support at Covenant CRC through your prayers and financial gifts. We seek to steward our financ-

es well as we care for the spaces and people God has provided.

-Deacon Ruth Clark

On behalf of the Covenant Deacons:
 Pam DeJong, Dane Hibma, Kristi Hummel,
 Lee Mellema, Josh Van Schouwen,
 Dwight VanTol, John Visser

Pork 'N Bands

(Continued from page 1)

Dave Kramer who all once again provided the mouth-watering pulled pork for the sandwiches. As chair of the Christian Education Committee, I also want to recognize the committee members: Bob De Smith, Carlene Van Schouwen, Sharon Vos, Jenni Mellema, Steve Crull, and Sarah Hawley who all work very hard to make the night a success. And lastly, I would love for everyone to know about our unsung hero, Kris Vander Plaats, who is in the sweltering kitchen for every Pork 'N Bands, making sure the meat is getting heated up properly and doing any number of big and small tasks to keep everything running smoothly.

Can't wait for Pork 'N Bands 8!

-Emily Kramer

(for the Christian Education Committee)

Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/23-9/17/23) \$234,922	\$236,943	+\$2,021
Christian Education	(8/1/23-9/17/23) \$12,907	\$21,345	+\$8,438

An Ode to our Generous Gardeners

As I left church Sunday morning and walked to my car, I noticed two young women sitting on a bench in front of the house across the street. Earlier when I arrived for Sunday morning worship, I had noticed the bench, thinking it could use a coat of paint. Now, all I noticed were two beautiful young women enjoying a conversation on the front porch. I smiled and waved and said “good morning,” and they smiled and waved back.

I was suddenly aware of the weight on my arm because of the sack of vegetables I was carrying. The vegetables came from an array of good stuff on our harvest table. I reached into the sack, pulled out a tomato and offered it to them, and said “Would you like a

tomato?” It was my action they understood, not my words.

“Yes, yes, *gracias, gracias,*” they said as they came to meet me and took the tomato from my hand.

I love it when the Holy Spirit inspires me to capture a moment, so I said, “Would you like more tomatoes?” remembering there were several more where this one had come from. Knowing they had not really understood me but were still smiling, I quickly put my purse and sack of vegetables in my car. I then took the hand of one of the young ladies and began to lead her to the church. She came with me eagerly, while the other one turned and went back toward the house. We entered, climbed the steps together, and I led her over to the table, still quite full of the mouth watering cucumbers, tomatoes, and pears.

Her eyes were big and I got another big smile. I handed her an empty bag and opened it. She said a word I did not understand and questioningly pointed to herself, and I said, “Yes, for you,” and then I began to fill her bag. She chuckled at the green tomatoes and seemed to question them but I told her they were delicious and put a couple in the bag. When I started to put in a couple of pears I could really sense her excitement and said, “I think you must really like these.” She responded with “Yes, yes,” to my offer of a couple more. And then to my own surprise and hers also, I just picked up what remained of the whole bag and handed them to her! (I apologize to any of you who were still there and had hoped to pick up a couple on your way out.)

(Continued on page 8)



*One September Sunday's beautiful bounty!
And thanks to Sevriena Postma for making us a new
“Covenant Shares” sign—our previous one was get-
ting a bit old and torn, so we're thankful for a
freshly created reminder to share God's goodness.*

An Ode to our Generous Gardeners

(Continued from page 7)

I took her hand again as we left, and there, waiting right outside the door, was the other young woman along with three more beautiful young women and about a half dozen cute little kids. They all crowded around and chattered and looked at me and looked in the bags. I did not understand a word they said, so I just told them my name and asked them all their names, including the children. Unfamiliar sounding names were shared. They were lost on my ears, but not in my heart, as each one was eager to tell me. As we parted, I told them, “Jesus loves you. Do you know Jesus?” “Yes, yes, Jesus, Jesus, *gracias, gracias.*”



An Anonymous Covenant Member



Sunday School is off and running!

Our classrooms are full and our hearts are ready to learn more about God and His goodness.

Thank you to the teachers for being ready to welcome students into His story.

Pictured: 1st-6th grade students gather before class to sing “The Goodness of God.”