

“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” Matthew 10:42

Winter weather may want to make us stay home and wait for spring, but we can never stop working. We still have times of fellowship and reminders to serve everyone we encounter.

Perk Up & OTL Christmas Party

By Anne Bokhoven

When the ladies of Perk Up decided to have a Christmas Luncheon during December and decided to invite any and all former members, the first call received was from Martha Slings. It's been a long time since Martha was an active member but when she asked "would it be okay if I came to the luncheon" you know we immediately said "of course". Martha, who at over 100 years old, is currently our oldest living church member.

We soon found out that Martha had made all her own plans. She would have her son, Marv, bring her to the Country Club and pick her up again afterward as long as someone kept an eye on her during the lunch. All this was dependent on the weather and how Martha was feeling on the day of the luncheon.

Well, it was a beautiful day, Martha was doing well and was one of the first to arrive. Dena Bokhoven took her under her wing, knew that she wanted some chicken soup (if they had it) along with a slice of toast, dish of fresh fruit and a cup of coffee. She settled for Chicken/Broccoli, ordered it and loved it. Before lunch was served, she asked, "Are we having devotions?" When we explained that each place setting had a copy of a

prayer that was to be used, she promptly took out her magnifying glass so that she could read along with the rest of us.

Meanwhile, after the initial announcement had been made regarding the Christmas luncheon, the gals from OTL decided they would like to join us as well, if possible. Of course, we said "yes" to that as well. That made it obvious there might be several that didn't actually know Martha so we made it a point to have anyone who wanted, to come up and introduce themselves before leaving. Martha was "beaming."

After a planned phone call, Marv came to pick her up. She got up immediately from her chair and was ready to go back to The Cottages. She indicated she had a wonderful time, as did we all. It became a "special" Christmas luncheon for all of us and it was good to have her. Besides - ALL the fellowship and good FOOD wasn't bad either.



I was there

By Nia Hoekstra

When nobody thought you were worthy,
When you thought you were alone.
When you thought that you would never be
enough.
When you thought no one was ever there for
you,
I was there.

When nobody thought you were there for
them,
When nobody thought you were kind.
When you were alone in this lonely world,
You thought you were alone,

I was there.

I was there in the depths of your suffering,
I was there, you are never alone.
I was there when you were in the midst of
the horrors,
Flashing through your mind.
I tell you, I was there

There will be times when life gets harder.
There will be times when you can't go on.
There will be times when your suffering
mounts,
and you feel like you're all alone.
I tell you, that's a lie.

There have been those times when you've
felt forgotten,
when you've felt like you have no one.
But I tell you that you are mine,
And I'm there for you through the storm.

You're not alone,
Never alone.
Sometimes lonely, but never alone.
You are my child,
I am your God.
For you are beautiful, not unlovely.
You are mine, I am yours.
We are fighting this war together.
I can't help it when you cry,
But sometimes crying helps.

You are mine, I am yours.
We are here,
On this shore.
Looking out on the horizon,
I can see your future here.

Have you ever seen me trying
To disappear from here?
If you ever needed
Anything,
I would be right here.

I came to this earth for you.
I died on the cross for you.

I rose again from the grave just for you.
You are my child, I am your God.
I am your Shepherd,
the King of Kings,
I'm the Alpha and Omega.
I am yours, you are mine.
We stare out at the horizon,
And everything comes together for you at
last.

Women's Retreat By Tammy Bradford

February 8-9 was a very special time for
many Pella 2 women to get away, to get to
know one another better, to laugh, to learn,
and to refresh. The study topic was all about
"making space" for God – what really
matters in our lives. Only as we make space
and time to be quiet and listen to God, are
we able to align our lives and priorities to
his prompting and will.

The world is busy and can fill our schedules
so much that we don't always realize how
frequently our schedules are squeezing
out God. We often fill our days
with good things but miss the
abundant life he alone can provide.

Thanks to all those who lovingly
hosted, planned lessons, planned
games, and cooked. It made my
first women's retreat at Pella 2
very special for me and special for
all who attended.



Pastor's Pen

By Pastor Paul Bradford

Dear Pella II Congregation,

In my last Pastor's Pen, I began discussing
the five core purposes of the church,

purposes which are commanded in the New Testament. These include *Community, Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry, and Worship*. In January I discussed *Community*. We learned that the church is called to live life in common, walking side by side, encouraging one another, uplifting one another, loving one another, and being accountable to one another. We are to live in authentic community. This week we'll discuss *Evangelism*.

Jesus came proclaiming the "good news of the Kingdom of God." (Luke 8:1) The English word evangelism is actually a Greek word (*euangelizo*) which means "bringing good news." The good news (or "gospel") is that Jesus, the Messiah, has begun establishing the Kingdom of God right here on earth. In God's Kingdom there is love, joy, peace, and everlasting life. In God's Kingdom people are under his good reign, a reign that brings wholeness and justice in lives and communities.

But to enter that Kingdom, one must be pure and reconciled to God. So, the good news is also the truth that Jesus has provided a way for us to enter the Kingdom. He died to pay the penalty for our sins, and rose again to give us life through his Spirit. Through faith in Jesus we can be forgiven, made holy through the washing away of our sins, and enter into God's Kingdom. This is the best news imaginable – reconciliation to God, peace and joy in this life, and the sure promise of everlasting life in God's glorious eternal Kingdom!

But there's some bad news. Those who don't put their faith in God remain under his wrath, and will face everlasting death. We

read the good news and the bad news in John 3:16-18:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

We, the church, have already entered everlasting life. What's more, we know the good news of how others can enter into that life and escape the just condemnation of God. We know; the world doesn't. Nothing is more important than for us to share that good news to those who are dying!

We bring good news when we tell others about Jesus. We bring good news when we invite someone to church where they will hear the gospel. We bring good news when we build a friendship with a non-believer and, when the time is right, tell them what Jesus has done for us.

Nothing is more important. That's why Jesus' final words to the church were a command to us to share the good news to all people. (Matthew 28:18-20)



As a congregation, we are going to seek to develop a culture of sharing the good news, and learn practically how to share the gospel with others. We'll also work to develop a Sunday morning experience that will not only upbuild believers, but that will also welcome and bring the gospel to non-believers. And we'll pray earnestly for the lost, for only God can draw a person to Christ!

The church is a family that encourages and upbuilds one another. We are also an army, sent by God to tear down the gates of hell and set free those who are in bondage to sin, Satan, and death through the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ!



It was my privilege to represent our church, along with Steven Roose as elder and Pastor Paul Bradford at the classis meeting on February 9. We thank the many representatives of our sister churches for coming. It is good to meet and discuss matters important to our classis, as well as to thank our heavenly Father in prayer for all He has done for His church.

Delegates to classis were greeted with coffee and pastries in the basement as we became acquainted. After moving to the sanctuary, classis was brought into session by Pastor Paul as host pastor. We were blessed by his meditation and by Jon Golliet leading us in praise with "The Stand" and "Take My Life and Let It Be."

Heavenly Father, give us eyes to see the wonderful salvation that is ours in Jesus Christ, and give us eyes to see those around us who desperately need that good news. Give us opportunity to build relationships with non-believers and to bring the good news to them. Empower us by your Spirit, for you have promised, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:8)." Let it be, dear Lord, let it be!

**Classis Central Plains
Second Christian Reformed
Church**

Pella, Iowa
By Bryan Harthoorn

The roll call was taken. Pastor Ryan Faber of the classis finance committee walked us through the 2019 classis budget. It was noted that there was a slight decrease in classis membership over the past year. This realization, as well as many churches' struggles to maintain full ministry share status based on their own budget issues, caused a need to trim spending on certain services. Budget was approved.

New business items were addressed next. Grace Fellowship had granted a two-year extension for Rev. Don Ridder to pastor Escazu Christian Fellowship in Costa Rica. Pastor Ridder is excited about God's work being done at Escazu, and thus this renewal request was unanimously approved by classis. A second new item for business was an overture from Peoria CRC to Synod

regarding a Synod Review Task Force recommendation. The Task Force recommendation required classis to include one woman and one person of ethnic minority in its delegation of one minister, one elder, one deacon, and one other office bearer to Synod. With the make-up of many churches in our classis, ethnic requirements could not be met, though a commendable ideal in scope. A couples of changes to the overture's wording were approved, citing that respective churches faithfully try to reflect their make-up in the representation they send to Synod.

After a delicious lunch was provided for us, we heard summaries of classis committee reports. Speakers for this classis were Pastor Rick Admiral of New Life Prison Ministries, Dr. Wayne Kobes of Dordt College. and Rev. Kevin Vryhof of Crossroads Fellowship and Liberian Ministry. Pastor Rick celebrated the 8 years of prison ministry at Newton Correctional Facility and that they are now called to become an organized church! He outlined steps they are taking to ensure this ministry continues to prosper. Dr. Kobes spoke briefly on events shaping the Dordt campus and her mission in higher education. Dordt College is in the process of becoming Dordt University. There would be more degrees available, undergrad and post-grad, as well as more programs offered. They hope to reach even more students in the future with these changes. Lastly, the Crossroads team spoke about the mission and ministry going on in Liberia. The teaming up of Crossroads and Liberian Ministry has created amazing ways of reaching the lost and sustaining the faithful. They are seeing growth in numbers



of those wanting to know more about Christ. Following the speakers, the classis voted to adjourn.

Thank you to all who donated their time to set up, prepare food and serve delegates, and tear down in time for Sunday service. A special thanks to Marilyn and Rob, who saw that ice and snow were removed prior to the delegates' arrival.

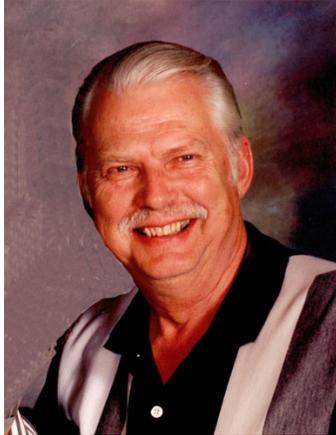
Is your Treasure on Earth?

Is your treasure here on earth
 Or have you stored it up above
 Has your life been lived for naught
 Or is it Christ that you love
 Have you been gathering near
 And far of these worldly things
 Or have you given of your all
 And shared the rich joy it brings
 If God calls loved ones home,
 Will your name be written there
 Do you await with eagerness
 All those heavenly joys to share
 God measures each life below
 With just a blink of human eye
 Shouldn't we all be ready to meet
 Him in yonder eastern sky
 No one knows the hour or day
 When this life on earth is done
 Even though we are old and grey
 Or even if we are still young
 I hope that every person here
 Will begin each day with prayer
 When you're called to leave
 This earth you'll meet Jesus there

By Norm Nieuwsma

In Memory

Norman Nieuwsma



July 26, 1933 – February 3, 2019

Gertrude Van Zee



September 30, 1931 – February 17, 2019

Welcome

Logan Luke Nieuwsma born to
Luke and Jeanetta on January 3

Pella II Newsletter invites your contribution. Drop a note in the mailbox of any one of our editors.

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