

“Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:13-14

The new year has begun and, in this issue, we meet more of our youngest members. Also, read about activities from 2019 along with Breeze updates!

Wyatt Nieuwsma

Parents: Lance and Megan Nieuwsma



I'm Wyatt, and I'm two years old!

On Mondays I get to play with my cousin, Beckham, at my Grandma & Grandpa's house. On Tuesdays and Fridays, I get to play with all my friends at daycare. Wednesdays are spent at home with my Mom and Thursdays with my Dad!

I love to play outside, vacuum, and watch Toy Story.

Pizza is my favorite food. I also like anything sweet.

My favorite toy is my Dyson vacuum. I usually take a two- or three-hour nap during the early afternoon.

Ella Talsma

Parents: Steven and Kala Talsma



I'm Ella, and I love spending every day with mommy and Nora and getting lots of cuddles and naps. In fact, talking to mommy and daddy, cuddles, naps and pacifiers make me very happy!

My favorite food right now is milk!

Since I'm not very big, I take multiple naps every day.



Olivia Van Kooten

Parents: Brent & Lisa Van Kooten



Olivia loves being around her family whether it is mom/dad, grandparents, great grandparents, and cousins. She also loves cats and dogs. She loves being outside as much as she can be. While outside she loves looking for planes, picking up sticks, and exploring in the yard. She especially likes to ride around on the four-wheeler or in her wagon/stroller.

She loves to eat definitely anything that involves cheese. She also loves blueberries.

Olivia loves building with blocks, playing with tractors and making them go "broom broom," and dolls. She loves sitting in a chair to rock her baby. She also loves to feed her babies. She also loves to have you sit on the floor while she sits in her chair so you can play catch/throw.

She does still take a nap, though sleeping isn't her favorite activity. She would much rather be on the go and explore different things.

Olivia is a very inquisitive child. She is always watching what people are doing and trying to figure out how they do what they do. She is always examining items to see how they work. She also likes to explore anything and everything. She is always on the go and her mind is always running.

Addilyn Vaverka

Parents: Jacob and Regina Vaverka



I'm Addilyn, but my family calls me Nini, and that's what they call me most of the time. In fact, I think that sometimes they forget my real name!

I love to do many things! While my mom and dad are at work I go to my Grandma's and hang out with my brother. We do lots of fun things like paint pumpkins and put together puzzles and read lots of books. I like to pick on my brother, but I also really love my blankie and zebbie.

I will eat anything and everything, but especially food that is on my mom's plate! If I think of what my favorite toy is, I would have to say, "Any puzzle."

I still take naps! Every afternoon I love to snuggle up and take a nap.

Mom and Dad say I am “sugar and spice.” They think I am super fun and love my brother! I love to sing "Jesus Loves Me" at bedtime and yell "Abby!" at our family dog whenever she tries to steal my food!

My Volunteer Trip to North Carolina

By Kathleen De Haan

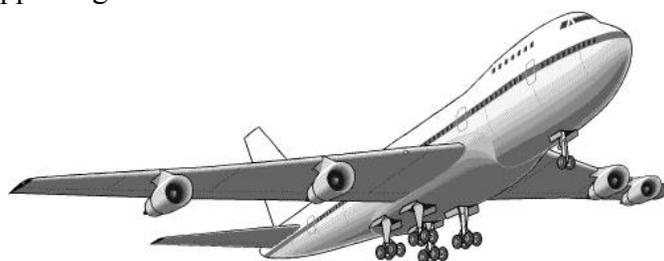
On September 10 I flew to Charlotte, NC to spend 6 weeks at the Wycliffe/JAARS Center near the small town of Waxhaw. The support services center is in a rural area with several buildings all supporting the work of Bible translation.

Approximately 450-500 people are there at any given time, including those who are home on furlough or there for training.

Every morning I had a 15-minute walk to the department where I worked until noon. This was Purchasing & Shipping where I have worked in the past, doing Accounts Payable and other office work. Two afternoons I worked at the reception desk in Partnership Ministries. I enjoyed getting to know new people and learning about their jobs. Sometimes at noon I ate lunch in the Cafeteria, while visiting with friends.

I loved walking and the weather was great, although there were several hot days. September had a record number of 90-degree days. One day it was 98 degrees or higher. As we got into October there were still some very warm days, but the humidity was getting lower, and 80-degree days were quite comfortable.

The highlight of the week was Center Meeting on Tuesday mornings from 8:00 to 9:00. Meetings began with a time of praise and prayer. Visitors and short-term volunteers were introduced. There were usually two presentations – sometimes from those who had been working in another country or reporting on special projects on the Center. One Thursday afternoon there was a Scripture Celebration. Twenty New Testaments finished in the past 12 months were highlighted beginning with a procession of people carrying flags of the various countries and the completed New Testament. There were speakers, videos, and prayers by local pastors. (Actually, more were finished during that time. Maybe, some Old Testaments, also.) It was truly a time of celebration.



I was able to attend two Bible studies; one a Singles group that met twice a month. The other one was a group from the church I attend that met weekly at someone's home. My church while there is Trinity Presbyterian, a small church across the line in South Carolina.

Getting together with friends was special, too – several lunches and dinners, including a couple meals in the homes of friends. I thank the Lord for allowing me to spend time again at the JAARS Center. And, thank you, church family for your prayers, interest and support.

Pastor's Pen

By Pastor Paul Bradford

Dear Pella II Congregation,

Our leadership has been discussing where the Lord is leading Pella II. Those conversations are still in progress, but one thing we've all affirmed is that we want to be an outward reaching congregation.

But becoming outward reaching won't happen just by saying that's what we want; it requires that each of us be intentional in how we respond to newcomers and outsiders.

Four Important Practices of an Outward Reaching Congregation

As a congregation, and as individuals, there are four practices of great importance that we need to strive towards as we seek to become more effective in reaching people outside of our congregation:

- ① *Connecting* – be intentional about seeking to develop relationships with those who aren't connected with Christ or the church.
- ② *Inviting* – step out and invite people to come to services and events at Pella II where they can connect with others in the church and hear the gospel.
- ③ *Welcoming* – when people show up, be intentional about welcoming them.
- ④ *Enfolding* – finally, in addition to warmly welcoming people on Sundays and other church events, also seek to enfold them into your circle of relationships.

The above order is sequential – we connect first, then we invite, then we welcome, and

then we enfold. All are essential and equally important. But they all rise and fall on *welcoming*. If we connect and invite, but people don't feel welcomed when they show up, they probably won't come back. Our connecting and inviting will be useless. And if people don't return, we'll never have a chance to enfold them. In future Pastor's Pen articles, I'm going to talk about all of these four habits. Right now, we'll begin by discussing *welcoming*.

Welcoming

When people in long established churches are asked, "Is your church friendly," nearly everyone responds by saying, "Yes! We're a very friendly church!" But when visitors are asked the same question, they often respond by commenting that most churches they have visited have been standoffish.

Here's the problem. We naturally see things from *our own perspective*. My church is friendly *to me*! But when newcomers come, everybody is talking to their friendly friends, and we can fail to notice the lonely visitor or new family standing in the corner of the fellowship hall or looking lost at the front door! We can be so busy talking with our good friends that we don't tune in to new people.

So, the first step to being welcoming is *paying attention*. We must learn to be on the lookout, and when we see a newcomer, we need to reach out in kindness, going out of our way to greet them and strike up a conversation with them. Let them know we'd love to see them again, and then look for them the next week.

But, what do I say to someone I don't know? In my next Pastor's Pen, I'll share a tool that I have found helpful when starting conversations with someone I don't know. In brief, you begin by asking their name,

then you can ask about their home, their family, their work, and things they enjoy. Of course, we need to be flexible, letting the conversation flow naturally, and being sensitive to how the Lord may be leading. And we always need to listen more than we talk. As you pay attention to people, and listen to them, they will know you care about them, and they will be open to coming back.

This is a group effort. There may be several newcomers on a given Sunday, and we can each only tune in to one person at a time. So, every Sunday, ask yourself these two important welcoming questions:

Am I intentionally looking around for people who might be new or alone?

Am I going out of my comfort zone to connect with them?

If we're all on the lookout each week, we'll become known as a truly welcoming congregation.

Breeze Photos needed!

By Regina Vaverka

One of the things I have been "tasked" with is updating the church directory through Breeze. We are working on getting updated pictures for all members uploaded to Breeze. Perhaps you have seen a few emails coming out about this!

I am happy to help getting those pictures uploaded! If you send me a picture of your

family, I can use that as your family picture and I can also take snips from the family picture to use as individual family pictures or you can send me an individual picture for each family member as well.

If you are comfortable with your birthday's being on the site and accessible please include that in the email as well.

If I could get a response by **January 8**, I would appreciate it. That would help me know the progress that has been made. If

we don't get pictures loaded near then, then we will be using the black and white pictures from our most recent printed directory. If that is your preference to do either way please let me know and I can get that taken care of as well.



Here is what would be helpful to send to me:

1. PLEASE send them to just me
2. Picture of your family
3. Picture of you as an individual, and individual photos of your child/children
4. If you would like to list your birthday(s) please include those as well.

You can either send your picture to Regina Vaverka (rgngrnd@gmail.com) or to breeze@pella2crc.org. Alternatively, please place your materials in my church mailbox. Thank you for your help!

Questions and Answers about Pella II Breeze

By Jason Van Hal and Tony Van Zee

Q. What is Breeze?

- Breeze is church management software. It assists in the management of membership, offerings/fundraising, communication, events, and reports.

Q. What are some of the benefits of Breeze to Pella II?

- ✓ Provides tools to effectively manage our ministries
- ✓ Event coordination – including scheduling and calendars
- ✓ Online directory of members and ministries
- ✓ Streamlined offering recording and financial reporting
- ✓ Enhanced communication capabilities

Q. As a congregation member, what are some reasons I would use Pella II Breeze?

- ✓ Access the church calendar of events and group/ministry activities
- ✓ View your current offering/contribution records, including building pledges
- ✓ Access the online church member directory
- ✓ Update your personal information in the directory, including pictures
- ✓ Set-up online giving
- ✓ View your consolidated personal volunteer schedule

Q. Where I can I find all this information in Pella II Breeze?

Breeze has four main options: My Profile, People, Tags, and Events

1. My Profile:

- Detail tab – View and update your name, address, phone, email, and pictures.
- Tags tab – View your Shepherding Team contact
- Giving tab – View a detailed record of your current budget/weekly offerings and building pledges
- Volunteer tab - View events and services at which you are scheduled as a volunteer.

2. People:

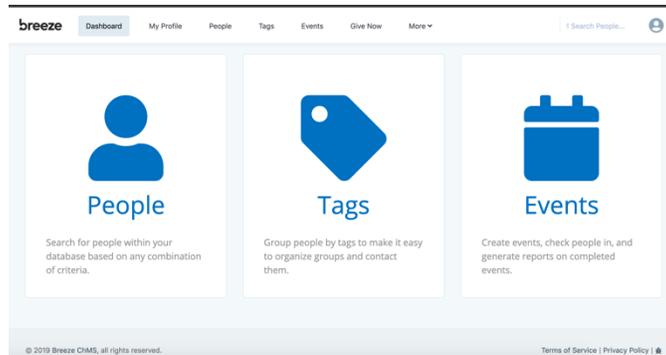
- The online church directory

3. Tags:

- View Pella II’s missionaries and the Shepherding Team members

4. Events:

- Events is the church calendar. It displays the time and title of services, small group meetings, and other events.



- View when the church sanctuary, basement, etc. are reserved.

Q. What if I forget/lose my password?

- On the log-in screen, click on “Forgot Password”.

Breeze will email you a link to set-up a new password.

Q. I have more questions about Pella II Breeze.

- Please contact Tony Van Zee and Jason Van Hal at breeze@pella2crc.org. We are glad to help with any questions on Pella II Breeze, including assistance with logging-in and navigation.

Various Quotes

“Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties; write its precepts in your heart, and practice them in your lives.” Ulysses S. Grant

“A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.” Theodore Roosevelt

“My love of consistency with my own doctrinal views, is not great enough to allow me to knowingly alter a single text of Scripture. I have great respect for *orthodoxy*, but my reverence for *inspiration* is far greater. I would sooner a hundred times over, appear to be inconsistent with myself, than be inconsistent with the Word of God.” Charles Spurgeon

In Memory of

Lawrence Vander Molen



February 24, 1933 – November 26, 2019

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

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