

The Deepest Part of the River

ISAIAH 66:1 TELLS OF GOD giving “peace like a river.” I like that. I can easily picture splashing at the shallow edge of a stream, easing in for a swim, and wading through the rocks around the bend. But the peaceful, quiet part of the river is at its deepest, when the strong under-current guides vast volumes of rushing river, yet that power is barely discernible on the placid surface.

God’s eternal will, I believe, is the current that rules the mighty river of our lives. When it’s too deep and fast for you to swim, you must float, trusting the water to carry you along. That’s when you have no choice but to trust God.

My husband, Elbert, lived for 70 years. That, after all, is a good long life, and few people have even that. But he was unrecognizable at the end. I watched death steal upon him with a tighter grasp each passing day. He fell into unconsciousness on April 1, but his body didn’t give up for five more days. When he no longer responded to our voices or woke to complain of pain, I knew he was gone. His nurse, Jean, told me to keep talking to him. She said that he could hear me even if he didn’t respond. And so I did. I kept talking. I read Bible verses to him. But I knew he was gone and could no longer hear earthly voices.

I opened his eyes and looked into them. It was a wrong thing to do, a violation of something beyond my understanding. Because when I did that, I stared into his death. That was how I knew he was gone, how I knew nothing on this earth could draw his interest evermore.

I waited till the death I saw in his eyes prevailed against his stubborn beating heart and labored breaths. His emaciated

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body struggled desperately to live. There was the ghastly yellowing of the skin as the organs failed, and the Cheyne-Stokes breathing pattern that Jean explained was part of the process and meant the end was closer.

And it was. In that little room, where hours on end I had stared out the window at the ethereal beauty of the Sedona desert, my husband's breathing finally stopped. It was sunset, early evening. People rarely die there, I am told, during the day. It almost always happens at night.

Jean spoke softly to me about this being "for the best." She thought I was grieving, but I was not. The grieving was over. The weeping, wailing kind of grief for the loss of my husband of 50 years to Parkinson's disease had occurred years before. All that grief had wrung out every tear in my heart long before that evening on April 6.

I called our sons. They too had passed beyond mourning to relief at his end.

Romans 8:28 tells us that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." I believe that. I find, however, that it is much easier to believe that verse when things are going well. Not that I ever doubted my favorite verse. I just couldn't reconcile the words on the page with my heart.

We got married at the Little Church of the West in Las Vegas, Nevada, on November 28, 1964. He had just turned 20. I was 18. The sun was still shining when we paraded from the chapel followed by teasing, joyful family members.

I remember a handsome boy from a small town in Nevada who swept a shallow city girl off her feet. I remember

taking our precious baby boy and leaving the vast empty desert of Nevada for Seattle for a better job. We bore the incessant gloom of Seattle's rainy months as a tiny family unit of three, then four, moving on to Eastern Oregon where our third son was born.

We struggled, we fought, we grew up. We built up our family and our lives. Along the way, we ran into such hard times that we were forced to abandon the loose, easy ways of Las Vegas to cling to something that was real. That was about the time we found out that God was not just another name for luck. The lights came on.

When Elbert was 59, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's. He changed almost immediately . . . maybe it was the neurological effects of the disease itself, as the doctors said, or perhaps the medications. Something unseen so profoundly affected his movement, facial expression, and moods that soon he faded away and was gone. Where, I never knew. He was there in front of me every day, moving ever deeper into confusion, dementia, and fury. Utterly helpless, he thought that if I would only find the right medication for him, that would be the answer. He lost everything of himself, as is common, I am told, with degenerative disease.

I can still find my husband of 50 years in the fragrance of the wheat fields of Eastern Oregon waving in the gentle breeze, awaiting harvest. In the memories of sitting together on our little wooden porch to listen to the wail of the wild geese echoing through the dusk. In the memories of our three sons sitting down to dinner with their father and me, laughing, accusing, teasing each other, always vor-

ciously hungry for food and for life, testing limits and rules, growing up.

If all things really do work for the good of those who love God and have been called according to his purpose, then this is what I can hold on to: memories of that day in 1964 when we walked out of that chapel into the bursting sunshine, that long journey from the desert to the rest of our lives, the times we laughed and cried and struggled and came to understand the truth of Jesus Christ.

Because in God's providence, these times in our lives led as surely to that little room in Sedona at sunset as those little baby boys led to upright Christian men with loving families.

I can understand that it was the current that brought me to the hard bend, through the deepest part of the river. For God's eternal purpose. And I am content with that.

In the words of Ecclesiastes: "Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked? When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other" (7:13-14). ■



Carolyn D. Gardner is a member of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) and of Prescott Presbyterian Church in Arizona.

ADS

Deadlines: Nov. issue is 10/10/16; Dec. issue is 11/7/16. Details online.

Prices: Most ads are \$0.33^{US} per character (min. 150 characters including punctuation and spaces). A discounted rate of \$0.26^{US} per character applies to Anniversaries, Birthdays, Obituaries, Denominational and Classical Announcements, and Congregational Announcements. Photos are \$22^{US} extra.

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Denominational and Classical

Available for Call

REV. MARTIN MOBACH. Classis Alberta North heartily recommends Rev. Martin Mobach for consideration for a call as Minister of the Word and Sacraments. Rev. Mobach has faithfully served the Ottewell CRC in Edmonton for many years. He can be reached at 780-340-2862 or at mobach@shaw.ca.

Eligible for Call

We are pleased to announce that **ANDREW CARLSON** has now completed his academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word.

We are pleased to announce that **JESSE PALS** has now completed his academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word.

We are pleased to announce that **SHARON SMITH** has now completed her academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word.

We are pleased to announce that **YOHANES BUDHI** has now completed his academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word.

Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director

Congregational

Church's 50th Anniversary

COMMUNITY CRC in Baldwinsville, NY is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Everyone who has participated in the life of the church is welcome to join us for the celebration of worship at 10:00 am on Nov. 6, 2016 followed by dinner (\$17/adult). Please RSVP to April at ahwarner@gmail.com by Oct. 12, 2016.

Church's 80th Anniversary

TERRA CEIA CRC will celebrate "God's Grace, Our Joy, and His Mercy" at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 30, 2016. Worship service followed by potluck lunch. Please join us at 3298 Terra Ceia Highway, Pantego NC 27860.

General

PLANNING A TRIP to Southwest Florida this winter? Looking for a church home for the winter season? You are invited to join us at Bradenton Christian Reformed Church and to make us your "home away from home" while in sunny Florida. We would love to have you join us! If you would like assistance finding information about local housing (rentals) we can provide some contacts for you! Please contact bill@bradentoncrc.org for more information. We would LOVE to hear from you! We offer blended worship with Biblically based preaching along with congregational activities. You are most welcome to join us for worship, Bible studies, Coffee Break and more! We have an active choir which is very involved in ministry – (you may join whenever you arrive) and we offer multiple service times to accommodate your schedule! Come praise the Lord with us!

Birthdays

100th Birthday

ADRIANA (TIEMERSMA) DEKKER Congratulations, Mom, and thanks be to God, on 100 full and blessing-filled years in God's good world on October 24. In God's Grace you've made many lives good, not just for our dear, late dad, John, but for us children, Marilyn (Peter) Roeters, Betsy (Henry) Kluck and James (Rose), your five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, friends and more. Send greetings to Ada at c/o B. & H. Kluck, 21 Lake Ridge Club Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60527.

90th Birthday

JUD SMEELINK celebrated his 90th Birthday on August 5, with a family picnic at Gun Lake. His wife Elaine, 4 children and spouses, grandchildren, and great grandchildren thank God for His unfailing love and faithfulness.

ADA (VANDER GIESSEN) VOS will be 90 on October 12. Wife of John for 62 years (deceased 2009). Her kids who all live nearby (Jim & Melanie Vos, Alvin & Sherry Vos, Gary & Patty Braaksma), 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren, thank God for her physical preservation, pleasant wit and encouragement. Lynden Manor, 905 Aaron Dr. #236, Lynden WA 98264.



BOYD WITTINGEN of Allendale, MI celebrated his 90th birthday on September 26, 2016. He has four children and their spouses, 11 grandchildren, one dear granddaughter in heaven and 10 great grandchildren. We all praise God for the blessing he is to our family.



Dordt College is seeking applications for the following areas beginning August 2017:

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Application reviews will begin immediately. Qualified persons committed to a Reformed, Biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to follow the faculty application procedure at the link below.

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Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697
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www.dordt.edu/prospective_employees/faculty/

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Anniversaries

65th Anniversary

VANDER STELT Gerrit & Tracy (Zylstra) will celebrate their 65th Anniversary on Oct 24, 2016 at 337 E. Maberry Dr. Lyden, WA 98264. Children: Gary & Kristine Vander Stelt, Kevin & Jane Vander Stelt, Karen & David Bovee and Dale & Melisa Vander Stelt: 7 grandchildren & 7 great grandchildren.

60th Anniversary

BANNING, Will & Helen (Koopman) 9 Banning Dr. Whitinsville MA 01588. Celebrated their 60th Anniversary on September 4 with their 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild. God has blessed our family.

DOCTER, Bill and Tena (698 Gardenview, Byron Center, MI 49315) celebrate 60 years of marriage on October 5. Their four children and spouses, 13 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren join them in thanking God for a long and loving Christian marriage. We love you Mom and Dad!

DORNBUSH Gene/Hazel (DeVries) in Zeeland, MI, & their 5 children Linda/Warren Disselkoe, Kathy/Harv Roosma, Karen/Doug Riemersma, Jim/Nancy, Amy/Brent Sluiter, will celebrate their 60th anniversary Oct 18. They enjoy 18 grandchildren + 9 spouses & 20 great grand children. Praise God!

HISKES George and Audrey (DeHorn) of Munster, IN celebrated their 60th anniversary on September 29. They, with their children George/Elaine, Jayne/Andy Griffin, Mark/Carol, 9 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren, thank God for His love and faithfulness.

NEUMANN Fred and Celeen (Lemke) of Kenosha, Wisconsin, will celebrate 60 years of marriage on October 13. The Neumann's have been blessed with 4 children, 18 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Fred and Celeen are members of Kenosha Christian Reformed Church.

TEKRONY Henry and Henrietta (Hoogwerf) 307 Davis Ave. E, Estelline, SD 57234 celebrate their 60th anniversary Oct. 19. They and their family thank God for His goodness through the years.

VANDERWOUDE Hugh and Eleanor, 2709 Mulford Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49546, celebrated their 60th anniversary on Sept. 7. Their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild join them in praising God for his faithfulness.

VOS Jack and Marlene (Kraai) of 175 Brush Hill Road #205 Elmhurst, IL 60126, celebrated 60 years of marriage on September 7. Their children Judy (Tom) Sytsma, Jack (Leanne) Vos, Jan (Larry) Persenaire, 12 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren thank God for their love and example.

Church Position Announcements

PASTOR: Second CRC is seeking an excellent preacher who will inspire, challenge, and guide us in transforming worship and lead us in becoming more missional in our community of Grand Haven, MI. For more information, please access our church profile at crna.org, visit our website at secondcrgandhaven.org, or contact Search Committee Chairman, Jeff Binnendyk at 2ndcsearch@gmail.com or 616-844-4144

SOLE PASTOR First CRC in Edmonton, Alberta Canada is seeking a full time Pastor. We are seeking a relational and creative leader who can walk with our congregation as we seek to follow Christ. The pastor will be a collaborative leader who encourages and coaches members to develop and express their faith. For more information please contact stsolte@gmail.com

PASTOR Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church, located in the heart of the beautiful Blackstone Valley, is seeking a pastor to shepherd our congregation in Whitinsville, MA. Fairlawn is a community of believers committed to Reformed theology and worship who embrace a traditional style of liturgy and music with organ, piano, brass, and/or strings accompaniment. We are praying for a man of God who will share our love for the gospel, as expressed in the historic Reformed confessions, and will be an effective communicator of that gospel to our multi-generational congregation, as well as to our larger community. The successful candidate will have a thorough grounding in, and commitment to, the Reformed faith, as well as relevant training and experience in preaching, teaching, leading worship, fostering spiritual formation, providing pastoral care, administrative oversight, and outreach to the community. M. Div. is a requirement. Please send a resume, references, and inquiries to: Search Committee, Fairlawn CRC, 305 Goldthwaite Rd., Whitinsville, MA 01588, or searchcommittee@fairlawnrc.org.

CHURCH SECRETARY Lakeside Church in Alto, MI is searching for a friendly and helpful administrative assistant. Professional experience and computer proficiency preferred. Position requires 20 hours per week, 9AM-1PM, Mon-Fri. Pays \$14.50/hour. For more information or to submit a resume, call 616-868-0391 or email pastordave@lakesidecommunity.org

YOUTH PASTOR Almond Valley CRC in Ripon, CA is seeking candidates for a youth pastor position. We are searching for applicants with a passion for mentoring relationships with our youth and engaging students in spiritual growth using God's Word. This position has a primary focus on middle school and high school youth, and combined with an additional role (worship leadership, preaching, community

outreach or education coordination) is a full-time position. For a complete job description and contact info visit almondvalley.org.

"PASSIONATE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST making passionate disciples for Jesus Christ," of the Hebron CRC of Whitby Ontario, is seeking 2 Pastors. Hebron CRC is seeking a Full Time Pastor for Preaching & Teaching, a Part Time Pastor for congregational care. The two positions have overlapping duties. Send Resume or Pastor Profile to Tom Zekveld - tomzekveld@gmail.com

PASTOR The Rudyard CRC in the upper peninsula of Michigan (God's Country) is in need of a full time pastor. We are a somewhat conservative Rural Congregation with active programs in place for kids, youth and adults, with great leadership. We are looking for the person God has selected for us to lead us in our Worship services and any activities that time and ability allows. (Side note) Our area has been selected to host the 2020 Cadet Camporee the Good Lord Willing so we have lots of opportunity to Praise the Lord through Prayer, Worship, Work and Deed. Please respond to Monica Hoolsema at monisema1@hotmail.com and or Walter Bandstra at wbandstra@yahoo.com 906-248-5388

PASTOR Community CRC Dixon's Corners, a rural church south of Ottawa, is looking for a full time pastor. Please contact the Search Team at ccc.vacancies@gmail.com for more information.

FULL-TIME LEAD PASTOR Maranatha CRC in Cambridge, Ontario is a friendly and caring congregation with a strong sense of community and commitment to each other. Cambridge is a growing community situated in the heart of southern Ontario. We are seeking a full time lead pastor who, following Christ's leadership, will guide us into the next chapter of our ministry. Our congregation is in the process of discerning our identity and God's will for our ministry. Our pastor will help us carry out our vision, have leadership qualities and the ability to preach God's word in such a way that brings glory to our Lord and builds up the church. Our pastor will help us reach further into the community so that together we may proclaim and live the gospel of our Lord Jesus. Please send your letter of interest or profile in confidence to pastorsearch.maranatha.crc@gmail.com

THIRD CRC in Denver seeks a highly motivated Pastor of Congregational Life who has a passion for the ministries of pastoral care. This calling includes occasional preaching and other possible leadership ministries, depending upon the interests and skills of the candidate. Must enjoy a cooperative ministry with our lead pastor. Ordination required, a full time position preferred but other possibilities will be considered. Female applicants welcomed. Please send a letter of application to <<rjnydam@calvinseminary.edu>>



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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Christ Community Church
Plainfield, IL

Senior Pastor

Second Christian Reformed Church
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50th Anniversary

REV. ROBERT & CHERYL RITSEMA Congratulations on 50 years together. Thanks for your beautiful example of a Christian marriage. Love, Rob, Laura, Staci and families.

SPYKSMA Bill & Ko of Cobble Hill, BC celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 27. Their children, Kristie, Randy & Shari, Darren & Jaime and four grandchildren give thanks to God for His faithfulness and for their heart for ministry.

Obituaries

BROUWER Eva, age 88 passed away on Thursday, August 18, 2016. Eva is survived by Lester, her husband of 69 years, six children: Jean (Stan) Starkenburg, Wayne (Brenda) Brouwer, Shirley (Bill) Kuurstra, Evelyn (Jeff) Brouwer-Thomson, Ardie (Nathan) Elgersma, Lyle (Beth

Brouwer, and 15 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren. Address: 714 24th St. SE, Willmar, MN 56201

MARVIN B. COOPER (85) of Bradenton, Florida (formerly of Brookfield, WI) went to be with his Savior on July 28, 2016. Marv was born in Grand Rapids, MI. He served in the U. S. Air Force during the Korean War. He worked his entire career in the office supply industry. He was owner and President of the H. H. West Company in Milwaukee from 1972 to 1995. He then helped family in Bradenton FL start stores - Batteries Plus Bulbs. Marv was an active member of the Bradenton Christian Reformed Church and a supporter of Bradenton Christian School. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years (Joan Hoekstra), son Roger and a brother, Tom. Survived by sisters Mildred, Esther and brother, Jim and sister-in-law Doris Also survived by his children Bob (Susan), Carol (Keith), Craig (Jane), Steve (DeAnn), Marybeth (Matt). Marv and Joan were survived by 17 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren

OOSTEMA Violet G. (Nelson) 96, of Hometown, IL went to be with her Lord on June 26, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband Peter, son Peter E, grandson Gary, and great-granddaughters Lisa Marie O'Rourke and Heather Sienkiewicz. Survived by daughter Cynthia (Robert) Burnett, 3 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews.

PETERS Theresa, age 87, Sheldon, IA, gloriously arrived Home on June 28, 2016. Beloved wife of the late Herbert Peters, her memories are cherished by her children: Cori & Jerry Vreeman, Jacki & Tom Vreeman, Bart & Debra Peters, Mart & Deb Peters, 15 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, sister, Melvina, and 3 sisters-in-law. Ps.118:14 The Lord is her song & salvation!

RIBBENS Douglas C. (Sioux Center, IA) died August 10, 2016 at the age of 89. He is lovingly remembered by Henrietta, his wife of 28 years; his children Wayne & Barbi Ribbens, Bruce & Carol Ribbens, Karl & Pat Ribbens, Tim & Linda Ribbens, Cindy & Arlan Nederhoff, Rob & Holly Ribbens; 19 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; his brother Dennis (Harriet) Ribbens. He was predeceased by Ruth, his wife of 37 years; an infant daughter; his parents; 2 sisters; a granddaughter-in-law.

CORNELIUS "CORNIE" TOERING age 85, of Pipestone, MN, died Thursday, August 11, 2016 at the Pipestone County Hospice House. To view a full obituary go to www.hartquistfuneral.com.

VAN THOLEN Margaret, nee Oostema, age 95, went to be with her LORD on August 27th, 2016, 112 Penn Ct, Glenview, IL, 60026. Beloved wife of the late Henry; loving mother of: the late John (the late Alice) Van Tholen, Peter (Winifred) Van Tholen, Henry Jr. (Nancy) Van Tholen, the late Ronald (Christine) Van Tholen, Robert (Jo Ann) Van Tholen, Kenneth (Linda) Van Tholen, Grace (Robert) Dryden, Thomas (Valerie) Van Tholen, William (Ginny) Van Tholen, Margaret (Ronald) Cramer, James (Beth) Van Tholen, And George (Mary) Van Tholen; devoted Grandmother of 40; great-grandmother of 70; great-great-grandmother of 4; preceded by her brothers Theodore, Martin, Peter, Joseph, Bernard, and John, and her sisters, Ida and Grace. Memorials to Providence Life Services or Elim Christian Services are appreciated.

WOLFERT Simon, age 81, Surrey, BC, went to be with his Lord and Savior on August 6, 2016, following a lengthy illness. He was preceded in death by their daughter Raquel, and is survived by his loving wife, Jean and children: Robin Joy (Antonio), Mark (Mandy), Mark, son-in-law (Shannon); Opa of 5 grandchildren. Simon and Jean served the Lord faithfully in Brazil; Toronto (Scarborough); Vancouver, BC. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Employment

CAREGIVERS NEEDED Are you interested in working for the best living assistance services company in West Michigan? Visiting Angels is looking for people who can be excellent, not average; make a connection with our clients; be perfectly dependable; practice compassion and work with integrity. Contact Heather at 616-243-7080 or heather@vangels.com. www.vangels.com

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PRESIDENT Kuyper College (Grand Rapids, MI) is committed to equipping its 260 students academically, spiritually, socially, and morally—helping them become Christ-centered leaders who live out their faith by being the heart and hands of Jesus Christ to the world. In its next President, Kuyper College seeks a visionary leader, someone who understands Kuyper's opportunities and challenges and is eager to lead



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Real Estate: Sales and Rentals

MESA, AZ WINTER GETAWAY FOR SALE: Fresh Grapefruit, No Snow Shovel. Very Clean, Fully Furnished, 1 bedroom, 1 bath Park Model home in the active and outdoor oriented Viewpoint community of Mesa AZ. The property offers 27 holes of golf, 5 swimming pools, 10 tennis courts on site, and many hours of hiking in the nearby Tonto National Forest. Other offered activities include softball, performance and visual arts and crafts of all types, choir. \$14,900. Just bring your shorts, t-shirts and golf clubs. Steve 801-556-0280

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BONITA SPRINGS FL condo for rent, 1BR, 1BA, 2 pools - beautiful shell laden Gulf of Mexico beach directly across street, reasonable, 616-977-0039

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Miscellaneous

LECTURE Please join us for a lecture at Crete PRC 1777 Richton Rd in Crete, IL on October 28, 2016 at 7:30 PM. Professor Cammenga will speak on the topic The Tipping Point: Common Grace, Worldliness and the Growing Apostasy in the Church. This can also be live streamed from our website at prccrete.org.

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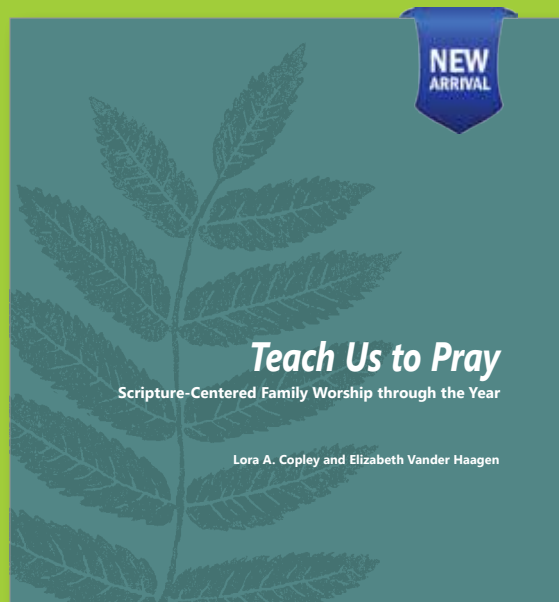
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Teach Us to Pray is a daily prayer book that guides families in both listening to and speaking to God through songs, scripture readings, guided action and quiet contemplation, organized to follow the life of Jesus through each season of the Christian calendar.

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—Peter Choi, City Church San Francisco

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Punch Lines

What has made *you* smile lately? Got a joke or funny incident you'd care to share with your wider church family? Please send it to *The Banner* at 1700 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407; or email it to editorial@thebanner.org. Thanks!

While giving a lesson on fractions, our school's math teacher wrote an example on the chalkboard. He explained that the numerator was the top and the denominator was the bottom. Leaning against the board, he asked the class, "Are there any questions?"

When he turned back to face the board, laughter filled the room. "Mr. Alexander," one student giggled, "you have chalk dust all over your denominator!"

—Dawn Gebben

Atheists don't solve exponential equations because they don't believe in higher powers.

—R. Smit

It was the last day of vacation Bible school and my mother was discussing next year's theme—Galactic Blast—with the craft leader. My mother said, "Next year we need to cut down on the decorating. It's just too much work." So I added, "We don't need to do any decorating; we can just have space."

—Elly Schreuders

A group of Americans was traveling by tour bus through Switzerland. As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young

guide led them through the process of cheesemaking, explaining that goats' milk was used. She pointed out a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

"These," she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in America with your old goats?"

A sharp older gentleman answered, "They send us on bus tours!"

—David Hollander

My 8-year-old granddaughter came to me with a unique question: "How does a mermaid give birth?" She also had a unique answer: "By sea-section!"

—Rudy W. Owehand

It was the Labor Day holiday weekend. In church the children's story leader talked about what we celebrate on special holidays. Christmas? Everyone

knew. Easter? Again, the right answer was given. Labor Day? A little confused, the children looked at each other.

Then Amber piped up: "I know! On Labor Day we celebrate the day before the Queen had her baby!"

—W. Kamphuis

Our 4-year-old granddaughter, Paige, was flying her kite when the string ran out. Thinking she might be disappointed that it couldn't go higher, I made a comment about it. Her response was, "It is so high it is to Jesus!"

—Earl Holden

I was babysitting my two granddaughters, Kortney, 3, and Megan, 1½, at a relative's swimming pool. When Megan fell and hurt her knee, she didn't want to go in the water. I said, "The water will be good for your owie." Then Kortney said, "That is psychology!"

—Sandy Sall

Golfers gathered at a prestigious country club for a charity golf outing on a bright sunny morning. A minister among them was asked to open with prayer. Overcome by the pristine setting and the beauty of the day, the preacher announced, "Please open your eyes, observe nature's beauty, and join me in prayer." Several golfers, including the preacher's son, skeptically looked at each other, wondering if the cleric was joking.

After the prayer ended, everyone expected a super tee-off from the minister. They were disappointed when he topped his golf ball and it rolled only a few yards down the fairway. His son grimaced. Quietly he said to a friend, "Can you believe it? My dad prays with his eyes open and tees off with his eyes shut."

—Frank Calsbeek



"... And to my faithful dog, Chester, I bequeath all my shoes."



ENCOURAGE
ONE
ANOTHER

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds . . . let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

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Photo courtesy of Celebration Community Church, a Christian Reformed church plant in Holland, MI

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