

2012

March

A Publication of  
South Grandville  
Christian  
Reformed  
Church

# Spotlight



*So neither he who  
plants nor he who  
waters is anything, but  
only God, who makes  
things grow.  
- 1 Corinthians 3:7*

## this issue

Coins for Kids P.2

Women's Ministry Events P.3

Heart-to-Heart &

Hand-in-Hand Ministry P.4

Adoption Fundraiser Info P.4

Backpack Club P.5

Humor & Inspiration P.6

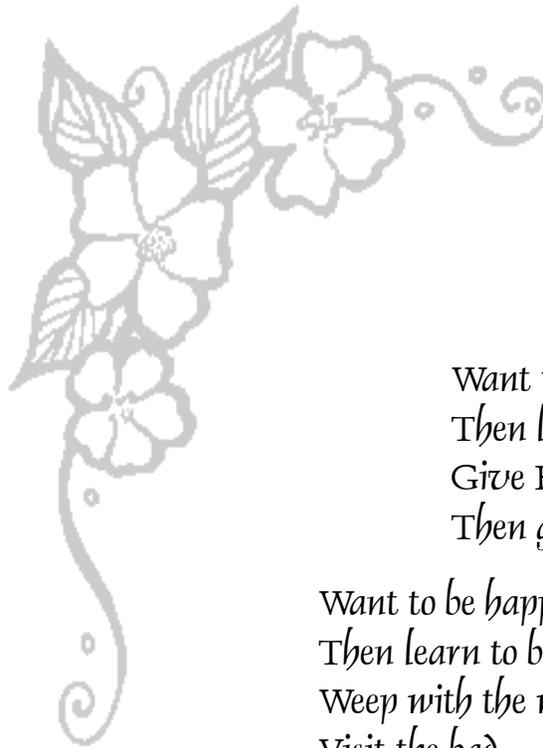
Disability Awareness P.7

Denominational News P.8

Church Family Birthdays P.9

Opportunities to Serve P.10-11

Church Calendar P.12

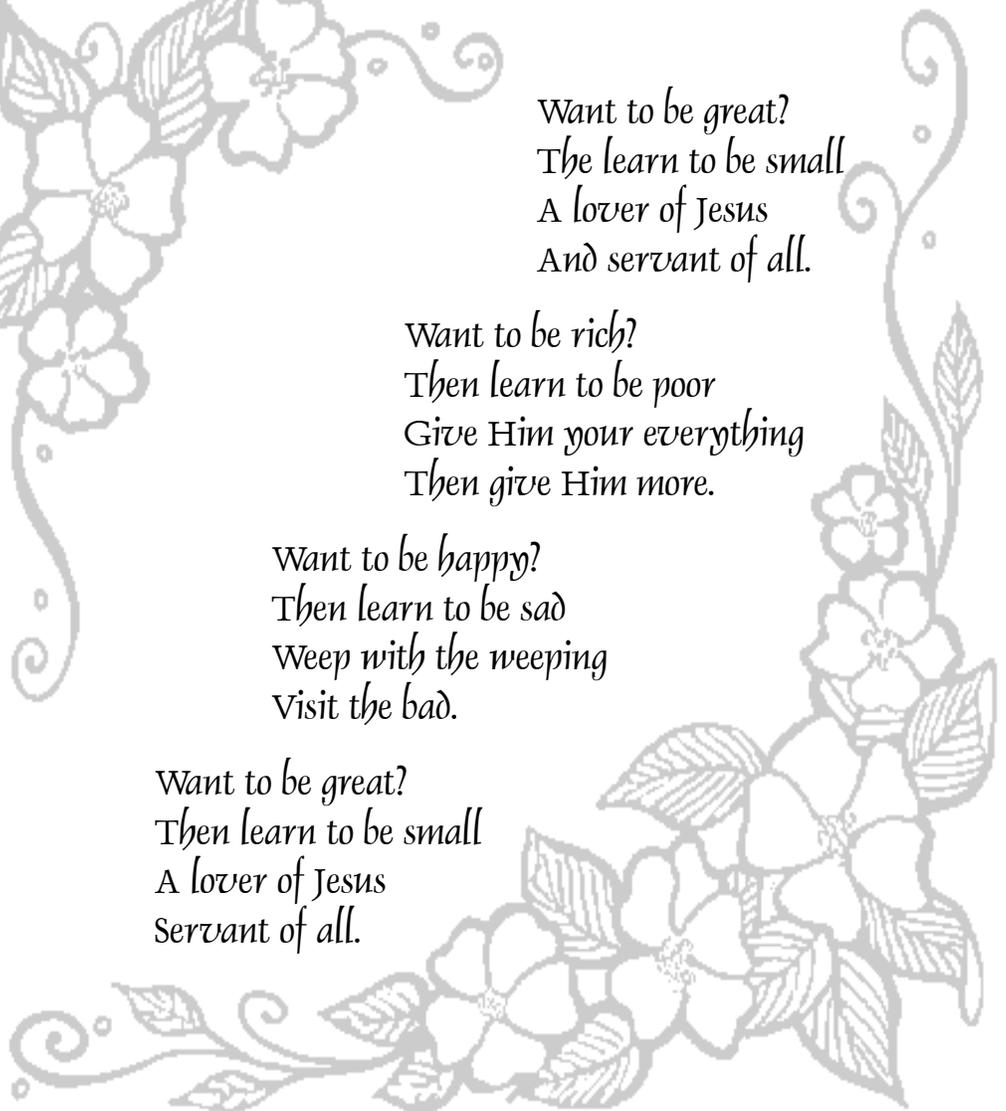


*Want to be great?  
Then learn to be small  
A lover of Jesus  
And servant of all.*

*Want to be rich?  
Then learn to be poor  
Give Him your everything  
Then give Him more.*

*Want to be happy?  
Then learn to be sad  
Weep with the weeping  
Visit the bad.*

*Want to be great?  
Then learn to be small  
A lover of Jesus  
Servant of all.*



## Coins for Kids Drive

South Grandville is partnering with Grand Rapids Right to Life to raise money through their “Coins for Kids” program.

On Sunday, March 4, each family will be given a baby bottle. During the month of March you will be asked to drop your spare change (and bills if you wish) into the bottle. Hopefully each family will be able to FILL their bottle to the top! On March 25 you can bring your bottle back to church to be given to Grand Rapids Right to Life.

50% of the proceeds will go to Grand Rapids Right to Life’s educational programming and Students for Life, and 50% will be given to five local crisis pregnancy agencies that provide material support for women facing unplanned pregnancies.



## Women's Ministry Events



On **March 16, at 7:00p.m.**, a representative of **Women at Risk** is coming to speak to us about the work that they do in making safe places for women who are in sexual slavery and also how they help them to become independent. Many of you have seen and purchased some of the beautiful jewelry, scarves and bags that they sell at their store on 44<sup>th</sup> street or in Rockford. Along with a speaker they will have merchandise available for sale.

The Mission of Women at Risk is :

**Women At Risk, International unites and educates women to create circles of protection and hope around women at risk through culturally sensitive, value-added intervention projects.**

They also have an interesting history. Women At Risk, International (WAR, Int'l) was established in 2006 with representation in 16 states, and projects in 14 different countries around the world. It became its own 501 (c) 3 in October of 2007, with a mission to unite and educate women and children in areas of human trafficking and sexual slavery. In 2008 they opened their first store, The WAR Chest Boutique, in Rockford Michigan, and in June 2010 they opened their second in Wyoming, MI. WAR is now represented in all 50 states and expanding into new countries as additional projects and partnerships are being formed. WAR, Int'l now reaches 14 different risks including domestic violence, depression, loss, disease, exploitation, and more. Its goal is to create circles of protection and hope around women and children at risk through culturally sensitive, value-added intervention projects.

Just recently we collected makeup and other items to be taken on the Circle Tour. We will hear more about this tour and how we can volunteer for this organization. Human trafficking is not something we like to think about, but it does happen and we cannot put our heads in the sand. Come join us for a delightful time of education and shopping (or just looking). Wonderful desserts will also be available.

### ***Spring Fling Vendor Fair*** April 14, in the Friendship Hall 9 a.m-1 p.m.

This is not a fundraiser but is a way to showcase the many home businesses in our congregation and in the area. Come and look around, purchase what you want and just have a good time. Some of the businesses are:

- Scentsy - a delightful and safe way of introducing scents in your home
- Pampered Chef - new items and some of the old favorites
- Watkins - vanilla and other items that have been available for over 100 years
- Mary Kay - a wonderful line of makeup.
- Blessings, Unlimited - a unique blend of business and ministry, offering exclusive, message-based products including home décor items and gifts created to encourage hearts, build relationships, and bring beauty to the place where you live.

We are hoping for more vendors, so if you or someone you know would like to join us please call either Diane at 532-5413 or Molli at 340-9040. Watch for more details as we continue to work on this event.



## ***Heart to Heart & Hand in Hand Visitation Ministry***

Are you aware of the blessings that this ministry brings to members of our church family? We have several members who are unable to get our very often because of health or other reasons. People that represent this ministry visit these members. Each person is visited once each month and the visitor visits a different person each month. These visits are a friendly visit, to give encouragement and show interest in how the person is doing. It also gives the person visited an opportunity to have some contact with members of our church family. The visits can be made during the day or evening, whichever is convenient with the visitor and the person being visited. These visits do not replace the visits of the pastor or elders.

Presently we have two people that would like a monthly visit. The problem is that we do not have enough visitors. If you would be willing to be a visitor and make a visit to one of these people, please contact Terry Nyenhuis. He will put you on the rotating schedule to be a part of this ministry.

### ***Save the Date!!***

**Saturday, April 21, 2012  
6:00 p.m.**

The Bakker adoption fundraiser auction will be held that night here at South Grandville in the Fellowship Hall.

The Hudsonville Grille will be catering this event with a delicious Italian buffet.

The adoption committee has begun collecting items to auction off for that night.

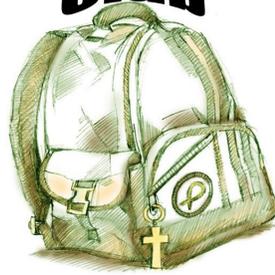
If you are interested in donating some items or a service please check out the table in the narthex and fill out a donation/service form.

***All forms should be turned in by April 15.***

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to serve food or work at the auction please, let Holly Gort know!

Thank you  
Ephesians 1:4-6

## Backpack Club



### Food Drive February 26-March 11

**We are particularly in need of the following items right now:**

- Spaghetti/pasta
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Chicken
- Individual-size cereal boxes
- Pop Tarts
- Cookies (individual serving size packages)
- Microwaveable lunch cups (spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)

**We can always use:**

- Chicken or Tuna Helper
- Single-serving applesauce or fruit cups
- Canned Tuna
- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- Easy Mac cups
- Canned Beef Stew
- 100% Fruit juice (pouches or boxes)

Thank you for helping us stock up over the last several months. We're getting low on the above items, so please pick up a few if you are able and place them in the grocery cart in the narthex.

Thank you!

# Humor & Inspiration

## Take Time

**Take time to work -**

***It is the price of success.***

**Take time to think—**

***It is the source of power.***

**Take time to play—**

***It is the secret of perpetual youth.***

**Take time to read—**

***It is the fountain of wisdom.***

**Take time for friendship—**

***It is the source of happiness.***

**Take time to dream—**

***It is hitching your wagon to a star.***

**Take time to love and to be loved—**

***It is the privilege of God.***

**Take time to look around—**

***It is too short a day to be selfish.***

**Take time to laugh—**

***It is the music of the soul.***

**Take time for God—**

***It is life's only lasting investment.***

## Spring Fever

Four high school students afflicted with spring fever skipped their morning classes. After lunch, the boys told their teacher they'd had a flat tire.

Much to the boys' relief, the teacher smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test, so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."

Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said, "First question: Which tire was flat?"



## The "Un-naturalness" of Lent

It's countercultural, unnatural even — this Lenten call to deny oneself and resist temptation, to put aside comfort for a time in reflection of Jesus' sacrifice for us. It's downright uncomfortable.

Lent is a most unwelcome experience because human nature seeks pleasure and avoids pain at all costs. But those who dare to follow Jesus into the desert will find a rich reward.

## Not 'OK' But 'Forgiven'

Since Thomas Harris' popular self-help book *I'm OK, You're OK* was first published in 1967, the title has become a cliché, thanks to knock-offs and parodies. One is titled *I'm OK, You're Not So Hot*. Indeed, it's often in our nature to be more accepting of our own behavior than of others'.

Yet at other times we're too quick to dismiss a wrong done against us. When a wise Christian apologized to me for something she'd done, I immediately replied, "It's OK." But she responded, "No, it's *not* OK, but you can tell me I'm forgiven."

Lent reminds us that none of us is perfectly "OK" in our relationships with God and one another. But thanks to God's unconditional love, demonstrated through Jesus' willingness to suffer even death for us, we're indeed forgiven.

—Heidi Mann

## Everybody Belongs, Everybody Serves

### *Disability Concerns*

*This is the next in our series of articles that focus on disabilities. There are many people in our church who do have disabilities, some obvious and some not so obvious so it will help each of us to have some knowledge about disabilities. This information comes from the "Everybody Belongs. Everybody Serves" Handbook.*

#### **Tips on Etiquette**

**Principle:** *Treat everyone with dignity and respect.*

- Shake or touch hands (or the prosthesis); shaking the left hand can be appropriate too.
- Ask before you assist a person and listen carefully to instructions. Do not interfere with a person's full control over assistive devices.
- Allow the person with a disability to serve you and others.
- Speak directly to the person with a disability rather than to a companion.
- Relax. Don't be embarrassed to use common expressions such as, "I've got to run now," "See you later," or "Have you heard about," even if the person doesn't run, see, or hear.
- Avoid words and phrases such as "crippled," "deaf and dumb," and "wheelchair-bound." Say instead, "Mary is deaf (or hard of hearing)," or "Denise uses a wheelchair."
- Avoid excessive praise when people with disabilities accomplish normal tasks.
- Don't lean on a person's wheelchair — it's considered an extension of personal space.
- Don't pet a guide or companion dog while it's working.
- Give unhurried attention to a person who has difficulty speaking.
- Speak calmly, slowly, and directly to a person who is hard of hearing. Don't shout or speak in the person's ear.
- Greet a person who is visually impaired by telling the person your name and where you are. When offering assistance, let the person take your arm and remember to state when you are approaching inclines or turning.
- When you talk with a person in a wheelchair for more than a few moments, try to position yourself at eye level.
- Whatever you do, don't let fear of saying or doing something "wrong" prevent you from getting to know a person with a disability. If you are unsure of what to say when you first meet, try "Hello" or "I'm glad to see you."

#### ***The Christian Reformed Church's Disability Concerns Ministry***

helps churches become healthier communities that intentionally seek...

- ◆ To end the isolation and disconnectedness of persons with disabilities and their families;
- ◆ To nurture the spiritual lives of people with disabilities so that they become professing and active members of their churches; and
- ◆ To encourage the gifts of people with disabilities so that they can serve God fully in their churches.

## The Birth of Mississippi Christian Family Services

“I thank God when I stand on the porch of my three-room shack watching two of my six children go to pre-school,” one woman wrote to CRWRC in 1986. “I am 26 years old, and I want them to have a better life than I’ve had. Thank you for providing Mississippi Christian Family Services with the resources to help me.”

This woman’s story is a great reminder that sometimes it is as important to address needs at home as it is to respond to needs abroad. In 1974 CRWRC staff member, Elvinah Spoelstra, returned from Korea where she had spent eight years leading the Christian Adoption Program of Korea (CAPOK). Upon her return to the United States, Elvinah’s social work background drew her to one of the poorest areas of the United States – Sharkey and Issaquena counties in Mississippi. She found that many social agencies were already at work serving many segments of the population, yet there was one group for whom there were no programs – the physically and mentally disabled.

In the late 1970’s, public schools in this region of Mississippi were unable to accommodate the special needs of those with disabilities. At the same time, there were no other training programs available in the community to help children learn or develop their skills. As a result, children with physical and mental disabilities were often unable to talk, dress themselves, or play with other children. They were confined to their homes, and their parents were left to struggle on their own to meet their children’s many needs.

Elvinah began planning. In late 1975, with CRWRC support, Mississippi Christian Family Services (MCFS) opened its doors to five children with developmental disabilities in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. This racially integrated program was the first of its kind in that area, and marked the first time since the Civil War that children of different races were learning together.

The children received training from the school and were encouraged to develop their abilities and independence. Over the years, through the patient one-on-one attention of MCFS’ 17 full-time and 11 part-time staff, many children learned important life skills – talking, socializing, dressing, and even reading.

MCFS also expanded. To the school program, MCFS added a day-care program for younger children to help them get on the right path for a lifetime of learning. Adults with disabilities participated in MCFS workshops, where they learned basic skills, developed their self-confidence and earned an income doing small contract jobs for area businesses. A home-bound program was also started to provide assistance to people whose disabilities kept them confined.

Recognizing the need for local ownership and a representation of the local community within the organization’s leadership, CRWRC and MCFS encouraged diversity on the board of directors. The racially-integrated board was the first of its kind in the area and helped to build a strong base of local support from all races.

Throughout this process, CRWRC provided financial support and volunteer experience. In 1982, 190 CRWRC volunteers helped renovate MCFS’s new headquarters. CRWRC then began to transition support of the organization over to that local board so that by 1985 it was running as its own separate entity. Today, MCFS serves 231 clients through a day habilitation program, supervised community living and a resident group home in addition to programs in money management, vocational skills, and work placement.



~ by Kristen deRoo Vanderberg,  
CRWRC Communications



Congratulations to all of our church family members  
who will celebrate birthdays in March!

<u>2</u>	Linda Hole		
<u>3</u>	Larry Koetje Ed Peters	<u>16</u>	Brian Breuker Sam Streelman Bill Timmermans Lee Wierenga
<u>4</u>	Elaine Marsman Eileen Overbeeke	<u>17</u>	Jerry King
<u>6</u>	Rose Sikkema Melissa Willett	<u>18</u>	Don Homan
<u>7</u>	Missy Berg	<u>19</u>	Gloria DeMaagd Paul Streelman
<u>10</u>	Jaben Bakker Jared Ebels	<u>20</u>	Sally King
<u>12</u>	Brenden Brandt	<u>23</u>	Raisa Bakker Celeste Stob
<u>13</u>	Justin Blodgett Julie Ebels	<u>26</u>	Jake Lucas
<u>14</u>	Emily Dertien Angela (Homan) Neve	<u>29</u>	Micah Cammenga
<u>15</u>	Trevor Dornbos Linda Schroeder	<u>30</u>	Kristina Netz Sue VanderMarkt

## Opportunities to Serve our Children



Please mark your calendars for the date you are scheduled to serve. It is important for us to have nursery attendants so that families with small children can worship together. If you cannot make this date, please find your own substitute (adult for adult). If you cannot find a replacement, please call **Holly Gort at 667-2647**. **Nursery attendants please be in the nursery at 9:10.** Nursery during the evening services has been discontinued indefinitely due to a declining number of volunteers. The nursery door will be open during the evening services, should you need to walk out of the service with your child.

### March 4

a.m. Lisa Bessey  
Sara Ashbay  
Katie Bessey

### March 11

a.m. Cindy Alkema  
Pat Bosscher  
Conner Wilson

### March 18

a.m. Kathy Bradfield  
Erin Breuker  
Jared Ebels

### March 25

a.m. Luanne Cammenga  
Stacy Chaffin  
Nancy DeMaagd



### March 4

"Lent: The Most Important Commandment"  
Leader: Cindy Alkema

### March 11

"Lent: Cleansing the Temple"  
Leader: Cindy Alkema

### March 18

"Lent: The Poor Widow's Gift"  
Leader: Julie Ebels

### March 25

"Lent: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet"  
Leader: Julie Ebels



### Little Lambs

### March 4

"In the Temple"  
Leader: Linda Schroeder

### March 11

"Jesus Calls His Disciples"  
Leader: Maria Sytsma

### March 18

"The Samaritan Woman"  
Leader: Maria Sytsma

### March 25

"Jesus Heals a Little Boy"  
Leader: Sara Ashbay



## Opportunities to Serve One Another

### Coffee Servers

- March 4** Arnie & Cindy Morren  
Ben & Kristina Netz  
Terry & Tress Nyenhuis
- March 11** Ed & Susan Peters  
Gary & Sue Pipping  
Brian & Diane Reed
- March 18** Ken & Barb Schemper  
Steve & Linda Schroeder  
Keith & Rose Sikkema
- March 25** Roy & Sandy Sloterbeek  
Rob & Celeste Stob  
Paul & Jane Streelman



### Ushers

- March 6 & 11**  
(a.m. only) Art & Paulette Ackerson  
Dave Bakker  
Roger Grit
- March 18 & 25**  
(a.m.) Jim & Cindy Alkema  
Rod Williams  
Burt Westveld



- March 4 & 11** Brian Breuker
- March 18** Ed Peters
- March 25** John Kortman

### Greeters

- March 4** Ken & Barb Schemper
- March 11** Tress Nyenhuis & Vicki Ploeg
- March 18** Kathy Bradfield & Crystal Koetje
- March 25** Judy Wolters & Mandy Blackmore

## Offering Schedule

**March 4**  
a.m. General Fund &  
Faith Promise

**March 11**  
a.m. General Fund

**March 18**  
a.m. General Fund &  
Baby Pantry

**March 25**  
a.m. General Fund &  
Benevolence

p.m. CRWRC-DRS

p.m. Back to God  
Ministries

p.m. CRC Home Missions

p.m. CRC World Missions

# March 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Friendship	2	3
4 9:30 a.m. Worship (Creator's Choir sings) 11:00 a.m. Children's Church & WE Class 5:30 p.m. Worship	5 6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Admin. Committee	6	7 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Cadets	8 7:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 9:00 a.m. JOY Breakfast 7:00 p.m. Friendship	9	10
11 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Children's Church & WE Class 5:30 p.m. Worship	12 6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study	13 2:00-4:30 p.m. Baby Supply Pantry Open	14 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Sewing Group 2:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. GEMS 7:00 p.m. Cadets	15 7:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Thursday Night Supper served by Friendship Group	16 7:00 p.m. Women's Ministry Event— Women At Risk presen- tation	17
18 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Children's Church & (last) WE Class 5:30 p.m. Worship	19 6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Elders & Deacons	20 7:00 p.m. Book Club	21 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Cadets	22 7:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Kids Hope Lunch 7:00 p.m. Friendship	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Children's Church & Catechism 5:30 p.m. Worship	26	27	28 2:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 6:00-6:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 p.m. GEMS 7:00 p.m. Cadets	29 7:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Friendship	30	31