



Covenant CHRONICLE

2ND QUARTER 2015

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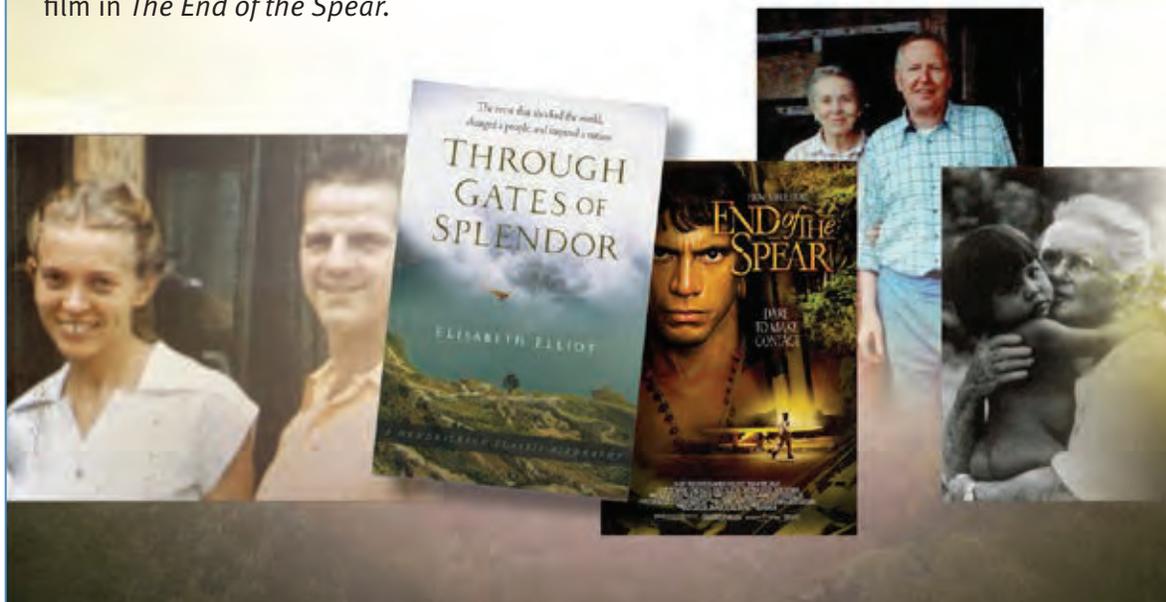
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Do the next thing

On June 15, 2015, a woman who ministered to thousands passed through the gates of splendor into eternal glory. Her name is Elizabeth Elliot. Likely that is not a new name to you. She was the wife of the famous missionary martyr, Jim Elliot. Jim, along with four of his missionary friends, were speared to death on a beach in Ecuador in 1956. They had come as missionaries to the Huaorani tribe, and some of these Huaoranis warriors, threatened by the presence of the missionaries, killed the missionary men. Years later, due the grace of God and the perseverance of the missionary families who stayed among the savage Huaronis, some of the killers would themselves come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is a story of providence and power, of grace and redemption. Elliot has written of this remarkable story in *Through Gates of Splendor* and *In the Shadow of the Almighty*, and it has been captured on film in *The End of the Spear*.

When Jim Elliot was killed, Elizabeth was 30 years old and had a ten month year old daughter, Valerie. She pressed on and continued her ministry, and 13 years later got remarried to a man named Addison Leitch. Tragically, Leitch died of cancer just four years into their marriage. Elizabeth was a widow again, and understandably confused by the tremendous amount of loss she suffered, now for a second time. In working through and writing about her losses and loneliness, she became a spokesperson of how to trust and obey God through suffering. As a gifted writer, Elizabeth captured deep biblical truth in fresh and striking ways. "In God's economy nothing comes to nothing," she would say, "no suffering is for nothing."

Although not originated by her, the proverbial advice to "Do the Next Thing" has become famous through her. The



Do the next thing



concept is based upon an old poem, the author unknown. Do the Next Thing? Yes, when we find ourselves in episodes of grief, loss, loneliness, or confusion, the best thing we can do is to “do the next thing.” Doing the next thing is simple wisdom, great therapy, and wonderfully used by the Lord to bring healing and peace. What does this mean?

Well, it's not infrequent that the pain and perplexity of life paralyzes us — emotionally, spiritually, and even physically. We don't know what to do, so we don't do anything. Our mind stirs in circles and fret and fear begin to strangle us. An introspection and self focus sets in. Some of this introspection can be fine. It is often in hardship that we take a hard and honest look at ourselves, and we spot sin that we hadn't seen before, and the Lord uses these seasons redemptively to bring fresh repentance. But there is an introspection that becomes unhealthy and leads to serious emotional and spiritual bondage. We don't feel like doing anything, so we don't do anything. Even getting out of bed in the morning feels like a catastrophic undertaking. In so doing, we don't love well those whom God has placed in our lives, and become guilty of forsaking certain life responsibilities. So, at times, we simply need to get over ourselves and “do the next thing.” Do the next thing that needs to be done. Whatever that thing is. Sweep that floor, fold that laundry, tidy that room, clean that garage, mow that lawn, weed that garden, make that bed, pay that bill, do that errand, write that email, send that card, make that call, talk to that neighbor, etc, etc, etc. Just do the next thing. Whatever that thing is. Take the next step of trust

and obedience, offer it to God as a living sacrifice of praise, and then watch how God blesses that simple act of faith. We are typically given enough grace just for the next step, but we must appropriate that grace, and that grace showers upon us and sparkles from us as we do the next thing. And doing the next thing can be used by the Lord to rescue us from our pity party (a party which isn't too much fun) and turn us in a direction of redemptive healing and hope. Now, we may not feel like doing the next thing, but it's not a matter of feelings. Sometimes we simply need to do — and the feelings will come after. Perhaps you have experienced the liberation that comes from this advice of doing the next thing. It's great advice; practical theology at its best.

The Christian community continues to lament the loss of our dear sister and teacher, Elizabeth Elliot. We rejoice that her faith is now sight, and we continue to be inspired by her teaching and legacy.

“...Today is mine. Tomorrow is none of my business. If I peer anxiously into the fog of the future, I will strain my spiritual eyes so that I will not see clearly what is required of me now....Do the next thing.”

Rev. Jeremy Veldman

Poem: Do The Next Thing

*From an old English parsonage down by the sea
There came in the twilight a message to me;
Its quaint Saxon legend, deeply engraven,
Hath, it seems to me, teaching from Heaven.
And on through the doors the quiet words ring
Like a low inspiration: "DO THE NEXT THING."*

*Many a questioning, many a fear,
Many a doubt, hath its quieting here.
Moment by moment, let down from Heaven,
Time, opportunity, and guidance are given.
Fear not tomorrows, child of the King,
Trust them with Jesus, do the next thing*

*Do it immediately, do it with prayer;
Do it reliantly, casting all care;
Do it with reverence, tracing His hand
Who placed it before thee with earnest command.
Stayed on Omnipotence, safe 'neath His wing,
Leave all results, do the next thing*

*Looking for Jesus, ever serener,
Working or suffering, be thy demeanor;
In His dear presence, the rest of His calm,
The light of His countenance be thy psalm,
Strong in His faithfulness, praise and sing.*

Council Notes

April

April meeting was canceled.

May

Council met on May 4, 2015 (the April meeting was cancelled). A new elevator maintenance contractor was identified and a new telephone contract is expected to save about \$100 per month. A new lockable mailbox is expected to arrive this week and will be installed shortly after that. The Young People's flower sale is planned for Saturday May 9 and their Bike Ride had over 20 participants. After further study by the Deacons, a motion to resume support for the Bible League passed. The section of our Policy Manual dealing with the use of our building and related fees has been and continues to be under review. We have received some helpful information from national legal support groups specializing in church building policies. No decisions were made as the subject is complex and more time is needed to do a thorough review. A task force was formed to improve communications between the Council and other internal groups in the Church.

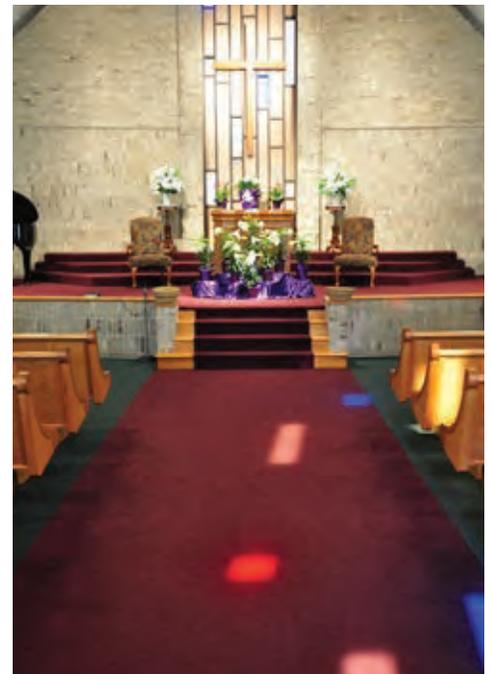
June

Council met on June 1, 2015. Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that a new higher-security mailbox has been installed near the office entrance. Missions and Evangelism Committee has arranged for Grace Bronsink and Jake Boer to do the VBS canvassing this year. They also report a continuing shortage of teachers for VBS. Education Committee is in the process of moving their stored materials to the newly installed cabinets. Deacons are sending out questionnaires again to help identify suitable causes for collections. The financial report was received and is in good order. Our Building Use Policy continues under review with no final decision being made at this meeting. Preparations for upcoming Classis Michigan were finalized and work on our new website was discussed without any decision being made. Sarah DeBoer has resigned from Nursery Oversight effective August 31 and Council decided to send thank you notes to Donna Partin, Barb Bos, and Sarah for their good work in nursery. It was noted that our Church Secretary

will be on vacation July 11-18 and July 25-August 2. Elders will cover in-coming calls and the Prayer Line should function as normal.

*"God is God.
Because he is God, He is
worthy of my trust and
obedience. I will find
rest nowhere but
in His holy will that is
unspeakably beyond my
largest notions of
what he is up to."*

-- Elizabeth Elliot



Districts

Elder Contact

Deacon Contact

Agema - Hagerty

Marty Horjus, 345-8174

Ron Newhouse, 343-2336

Hamming - Leep

Tim Partin, 349-0431

Chad VanDyk, 629-5907

Lingbeek - Rickmar

Henry Visser, 375-2239

John De Jonge, 616-477-2180

Riedstra - Zigterman

Leon Bronsink, 760-7991

Jeff Hoeksema, 324-7220

Clerk

Richard DeVisser, 808-6304

Tom Nagel, Elder President

Jake DeBoer, Deacon Chairman



John Hoeksema

Graduated 8th grade from Kalamazoo Christian Middle School and will be continuing his education at Kalamazoo



Lydia Kloosterman

Graduated 8th grade from Reformed Heritage Christian School and will be continuing her education at RHCS High School. She loves playing volleyball and is interested in trying cross country. She enjoys hanging out with her friends and taking care of her pet rabbit floppy and her 11 chickens.



Alexandra J. Van Dyk

Graduated 8th grade from Kalamazoo Christian Middle School. Over the past few years she has enjoyed playing Volleyball, Basketball and goalie for both indoor and outdoor Soccer. This year, Lexi participated in the Middle school's Community Worship team. This group organizes the speakers and music for the school's chapel every other week. Lexi also was in the cast of both the eighth grade play and musical (CSI, Neverland and HSM Jr.). This summer, she has been babysitting and will be taking driver's ed.

Currently, Lexi plans to continue her education at Kalamazoo Christian High School where she would get her HS diploma as well as working towards an associates degree.

Adam Eshuis

Homeschool, graduated 8th grade

Rebecca Vander Berg

Portage West Middle School, graduated 8th grade

Monica Christina Horjus

Graduated from high school after being homeschooled for 10 years. She plans on going to Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) in the fall and to eventually go into event planning. During her high school years, Monica enjoyed playing soccer for the Kalamazoo Cougars Varsity team, as well as running with her family, camping all around the country, playing her flute and working at her family's bakery. She just recently went on an educational tour with her Shakespeare teacher to London and Paris, which was a huge blessing and an amazing experience. Her interests include traveling, hiking, taking pictures on her Polaroid camera and enjoying good coffee. Her favorite verse is Ephesians 2:8-9.



Heather Kloosterman

Graduated from high-school at Reformed Heritage Christian School this year. She plans on staying at home, studying business/accounting at KVCC, and working at a horse farm. She enjoys reading, singing, volunteering, and hanging out with her friends. Heather received the Excellence in Education Award from RHCS.

Casandra Klomprens

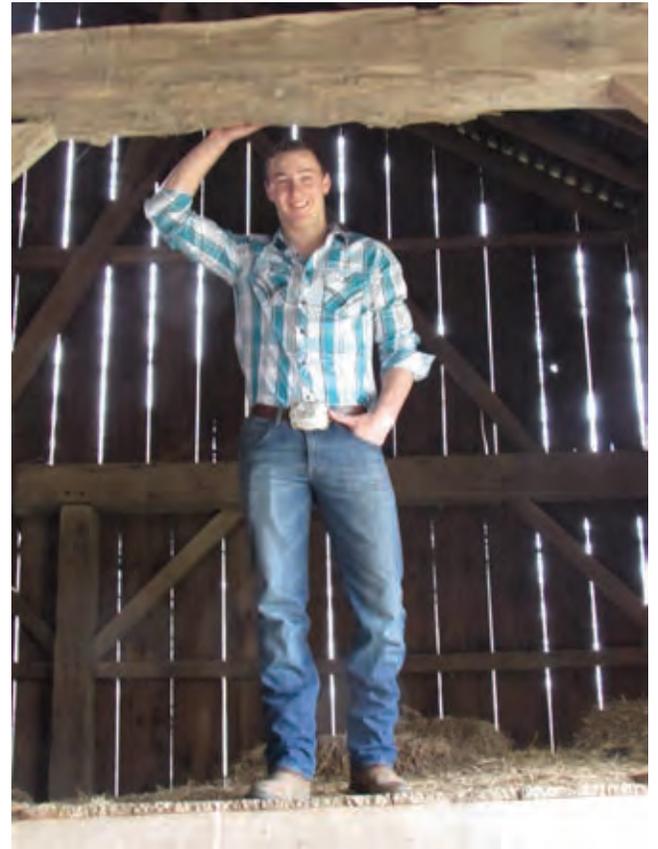
(Not Pictured)

Casandra graduated from Galesburg Augusta high school at the end of May. She graduated in the top 10 with highest honors. Casandra participated in many groups including the national honors society and she also played volley ball for 4 years. Casandra also earned her basic EMT certificate her senior year. She is currently seeking employment in healthcare and plans on taking the paramedic program at KVCC this fall and eventually transitioning into nursing (RN).



Hanna Newhouse

Graduated from high school this year after being homeschooled her whole life and completing several classes at KVCC as well. She was recently accepted into WMU's nursing program and hopes to study there for three years to earn her BSN. She plans to live at home and work part-time as she studies. *"In the future I look forward to serving God through working as a registered nurse and seek to follow His will for my life."*



Jacob Allan Riedstra

Graduated from 12th grade at Reformed Heritage Christian School this May. He will be working on the farm this summer and is planning on going to college to pursue a business degree.



Katie Vander Meer

Graduated from high-school at Reformed Heritage Christian School this year and plans to attend KVCC, later transferring to Western Michigan University to pursue a Bachelors in Business Administration. For her future plans, Katie says she is *"hopefully going on another TASC trip next summer so I can serve the Lord by helping others in need with other Christian teens."* Her address is 6520 Hollison Dr, Kalamazoo, MI, 49009

Events

RYS Junior High Retreat

On May 1-2, 2015 Reformed Youth Services hosted a Junior High Retreat at Camp Geneva in Holland, Michigan. The theme of the retreat was **I Am and IM**. The retreat included meals, activities, and teaching on the topic of technology and the possibility for it to become an idol in our lives.

The 2016 RYS Junior High Retreat will be hosted at Cran Hill Ranch, a horse ranch that is located 1 hour north of Grand Rapids.



The RYS Junior High Retreat at Camp Geneva was awesome. The cabins were divided into two rooms and twelve people could sleep in each room. We slept in bunks with our sleeping bags. The cabins were nice. The people there were kind and helpful. The activities were great and Lake Michigan shining down the hill added a spirit of adventure to it all.

Reverend Byrd's message were very good. He said that technology is good if we don't let it control our lives. Overall, I had a very good time there and hope to go again.

-- Clair Hamming

Ascension Day

May 7, 2015

On Thursday, May 14, 2015 we hosted a combined Prayer Day and Ascension Day service with Immanuel Fellowship and Community OPC.

*I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1*



"One reason we are so harried and hurried is that we make yesterday and tomorrow our business, when all that legitimately concerns us is today. If we really have too much to do, there are some items on the agenda which God did not put there. Let us submit the list to Him and ask Him to indicate which items we must delete. There is always time to do the will of God. If we are too busy to do that, we are too busy."

-- Elizabeth Elliot

Events



*Directed by:
Kathy Van Dyk*

*Accompanied by:
Deb Koning*

*Photos & Video by:
Jeff Steenholdt*

Resurrection Sunday

On April 5, 2015 we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ with a special choir and song. The choir was conducted by Mrs. Kathy Van Dyk and they sang In His Love. A video of the choir can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/user17403262/videos>



*In His love we have victory, in His sacrifice we have hope again.
In His cross we have glory, in His love we have life.*

Ladies Bible Study

We closed out our 2014-2015 season with a wonderful lunch at Bob Evans. Most of the ladies, nursery help and children were able to attend and a good time of fellowship was had by all.

This fall we hope to complete the book of Acts and also do another study, which we haven't chosen yet. Details will come later.

As Titus 2:3 states that the older women in the church are to instruct the younger women, we encourage all ages to attend. Our first meeting (Lord willing) will be Thursday, September 16th at 10:00am.

If you have any questions you may contact Barb Haan or Gera Schoonbeck

*"The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to make us like the Son of God. To become like Jesus, we must fill our lives with His Word."
-- The Purpose Driven Life*

*You've given us your Spirit, Lord,
To help us grow, mature, and learn
To teach us from Your written Word,
So truth from error we'll discern
-- Spurgeon*

Events

Vacation Bible School

Children ages 4 - 12 joined us in the mornings on June 22-26th as we traveled with Cowboy Pete through the Wild West and learned about the parables of Christ. Each day's journey included Bible lessons and verses, singing, crafts, and recreation.



Thank You!

To the VBS Committee - April Hoeksema, Sarah DeBoer, and Kim Balkema - for all of your hard work in planning, preparing, and putting on VBS!

To all of the VBS Teachers!

Opening Devotion, Rev. Veldman, April Hoeksema
4-5S - Sarah DeBoer, Monica Horjus, and
Emma Partin

6-7S - Ann Barthelmess, Barb Bos, and Kari Leep

8-9S - Bev Bronsink

10-12S - Joy Mejeur

Verse - Amanda Pols, Grace Bronsink

Crafts - Kim Balkema

Recreation - Kristy Nagel

Music - Katie Kloosterman, Michelle Eshuis (pianist)

To all of the VBS Helpers - registration, nursery, classroom, and the kitchen - we couldn't do this without your help!

Anna Balkema, Audry Bil, Ruth Bil, Ryan DeBoer, Barb Haan, Tami Hamming, Lydia Horjus, Anna Gandy, Kylie Klomprens, Casandra Klomprens, Deb Koning, Joe Nagel, Ruth Newhouse, Alaina Partin, Kelly Partin, Myron Rau, Kristen VanderBerg,



Getting Started



*“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock”
Luke 6:46*



Bible Lessons



"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6

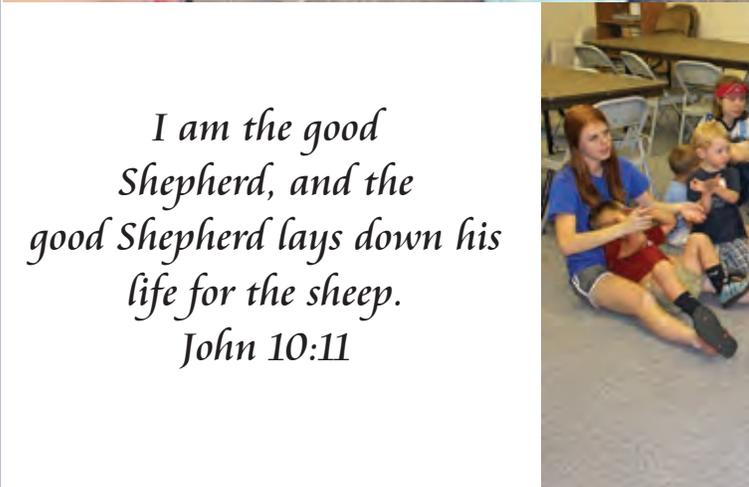


Events

Recreation



*“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”
Isaiah 55:7*



*I am the good
Shepherd, and the
good Shepherd lays down his
life for the sheep.
John 10:11*



"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15





*“Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes;
and I shall keep it until the end.” Psalm 119:33*

On Saturday, May 9, 2015, the Young Peoples hosted their annual flower sale and car wash fundraiser for their summer RYS Convention, Amazing Love.



*"Today is mine.
Tomorrow is none of
my business. If I peer
anxiously into the fog
of the future, I will
strain my spiritual
eyes so that I will not
see clearly what is
required of me now."
-- Elizabeth Elliot*





On May 2, 2015, Covenant URC Young Peoples hosted a Kal-Haven Trail ride from Kalamazoo to South Haven with a picnic at Packard Park located on the beach of Lake Michigan at South Haven.

We had a beautiful day to ride and a very good group of riders and people who came out for the picnic, a total of around 25. We were blessed with many awesome sites, sounds, and fragrances along the way, reminding us of our wonderful creator God. We enjoyed fellowship with one another and friends from Byron Center Covenant URC, 2nd CRC Kalamazoo, Calvary Bible, and Center Point Church. At the end of the ride we were all ready to enjoy the fresh fruit, hot dogs (yes, even the burnt ones), drinks, and snacks.

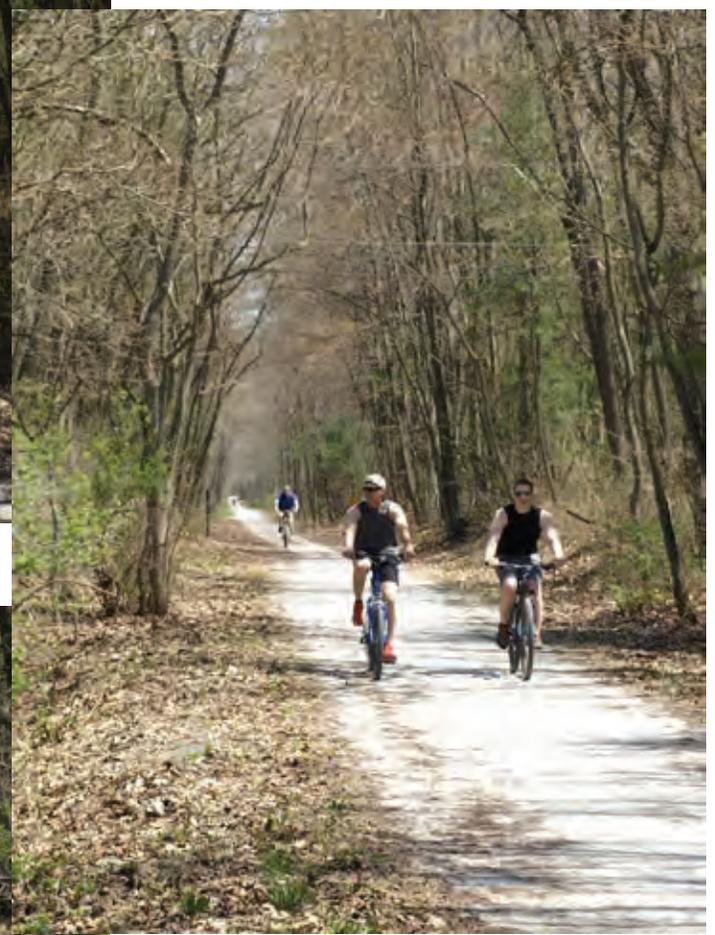
A special thanks to Mr. Bronsink (support vehicle) Mrs. Bronsink and Mrs. Newhouse (picnic coordinators) and Mr. and Mrs. Rau who came out and helped set up the picnic area and enjoyed the picnic with us.



Young Peoples

Church Bike Ride & Picnic

By Ron Newhouse





Eleven people from Illinois, Vermont, New York, and Michigan travelled to Pantego, North Carolina to assist in the rebuilding efforts on the Van Essendelft home. The intent was to install the windows and doors and begin installing the cement board siding on the residence. We found that there was plenty to do to get the house ready for rough in inspections. Wally from NY worked on the electrical upgrades along with various helpers, the Fennemans and the Howletts worked on removing the old sheathing and reinstalling new OSB around the old part and by the end of the week, new siding began to be installed. Numerous floor joist were sistered on to the old joist, new sub-floor was installed in the bathroom/laundry room, a new deck was built, and other aesthetics to the exterior were also added.

There is much work to be done yet before the family can move back to the “property” as it is lovingly called. Continue to lift our brothers and sisters up in prayer as many decisions and improvements must still be made.

Throughout all that has happened in the past few months, Mark and Carla are very grateful for the outpouring gifts of labor and money that has poured in from all over the world. Above all, they thank their Heavenly Father for sparing their lives and sustaining them through all the events that took place. A post-it note on the refrigerator is a reminder to all of us as it reads “SMILE-today is 100% providence”

Thank you for all your prayers and gifts towards this family and the people who have worked on this project!

God Bless You!



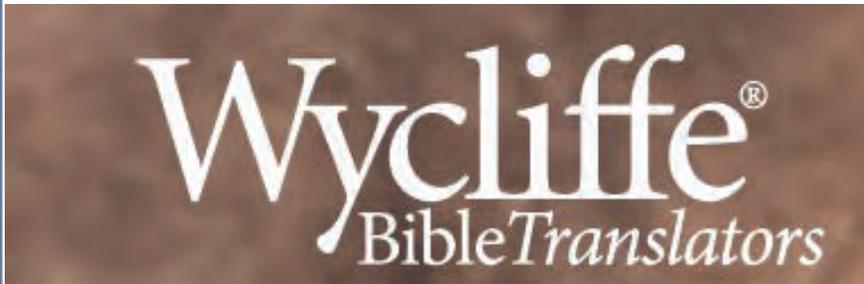


We have endured extreme heat without complaint, and God has been glorified. We have fed the homeless, and God has been glorified. We have cleaned up yards, washed windows, power washed houses and God has been glorified. We have built a front porch, and God has been glorified. We have replaced a roof, and God has been glorified. We have painted houses and community buildings, God has been glorified. We washed cars, raised money for the Carolina Pregnancy Center, and God has been glorified. We have forged friendships, and God has been glorified. We have heard God's word, and God has been glorified. We have prayed for and with each other, God has been glorified. We will enjoy God's creation today at the beach, and God will be glorified. We are "Saved to Serve" and God is glorified.



Ministry Highlights

Below are basic overviews for a few of the ministries supported by Covenant URC. These overviews are provided to keep us informed of each ministry's mission and purpose.



Who We Are

Wycliffe Bible Translators is dedicated to translating and delivering Scripture to people around the world in a language and form they understand best.

How We Started

In 1917 a missionary named William Cameron Townsend went to Guatemala to sell Spanish Bibles, but discovered that many people didn't understand Spanish well. They were Cakchiquel speakers, and they didn't have a translated Bible. Cam dropped everything for the next several years to translate Scripture for them. The completion of their New Testament was the beginning of a worldwide movement.

In 1942 Cam founded Wycliffe to help reach every people group with Scripture in their language.

Our Mission

To see a Bible translation program in progress in every language still needing one by 2025.

Our Vision

God's Word accessible to all people in the language of their hearts.

The **Wycliffe Spring 2015 update** may be found at: <https://www.wycliffe.org/resources/publications/frontlines/2015/spring/A-new-Bible>

This update includes information on:

1. Waiting for Scripture in their language - the Lutos people in North Central African Republic.
2. A New Bible Translation in the Russian Federation - a translation of the whole bible in the Tatar language is nearing completion.
3. Stand with the Roma - providing training and support for Bible translators working among the Roma people in Romania and Bulgaria.

Special Offering List

Below is a list of ministries that special offerings are taken for:

- Alternatives of Kalamazoo
- Bethany Christian Services
- Biblical Counseling (Meengs)
- Crossroads Bible Institute
- Divine Hope Reformed Seminary
- Forgotten Man Missions
- Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
- Inst. for Reformed Biblical Counseling
- I.T.E.M
- Mission To The World
- Middle East Reformed Fellowship
- Mid America Reformed Seminary
- MINT
- Park Village Pines
- Reformed Heritage Christian School
- Reformed Missions Services
- Reformed Youth Services
- Rev. Bill Green - Costa Rica
- So. India Missions
- Wycliffe Bible Translators (Michaels)
- Young People
- Askings - URCNA Federation
- Askings - Classis Michigan URNCA

Below is a list of ministries that special offerings are taken for:

URC Church Plants

Colorado Springs

Kuai

Sioux Falls

Sovereign Grace

Other Kingdom Causes

Providence Christian College

Adventures in Missions

Answers In Genesis

Berea Baptist Missions

Kalamazoo Christian Schools

Ligonier Ministries

PLACE THE FACE

“a little blast from the past”

Can you guess who these fellow church mates are? (answers on bottom of childrens page)

Contributed by Barb Haan



A clue!

'It was so Kalamazoo': Bystanders help couple escape house fire

KALAMAZOO, MI — As his eyes surveyed the damage left by a fire that tore through much of the house his parents have called home for the last 46 years, Charles Wattles couldn't help but feel a sense of sadness and disappointment.

But it was a feeling of gratitude that Wattles spoke of Wednesday, how he was thankful that bystanders who spotted smoke coming from the house in the 2800 block of Oakland Drive were able to call 911 and then help his parents, Jack and Marian Wattles, escape the flames safely.

"We had a couple of innocent bystanders walk by and do the right thing," Wattles said as he stood Wednesday in the front yard of his parents' home while Kalamazoo Public Safety officers were on scene. "It was so Kalamazoo."

The fire, which was reported at 7:20 a.m., gutted the garage of the house, which is located on Oakland just north of Parkview Avenue. KDPS Lt. Christopher Franks said flames were shooting from the attached garage when officers arrived and it took about an hour to bring the blaze under control.

The fire spread into the house, but Franks said officers were able to contain the fire damage to the garage and the southern half of the house. However, there is water damage throughout the home, he said.

Franks said investigators believe the fire started in the garage. The city fire marshal is investigating what caused the blaze, he said.

Charles Wattles said his parents were in bed when the fire started Wednesday morning and were alerted to the flames by smoke alarms in the house, as well as the loud banging of two men who spotted smoke coming from the house as they were driving in the area.



Carol Jennings said she was on Oakland Drive Wednesday morning and headed to a friend's house when gray smoke in the air caught her attention. At first, she said she thought someone might be burning leaves or having a bonfire.

She turned her car around to investigate and quickly found out differently though.

"I said, no, someone's house and garage is on fire," Jennings said.

Jennings said she dialed 911 and was on the phone with a dispatcher relaying the house's address when two other people — Charles McNinch and another man — arrived and began banging on the front door and windows of the house.

McNinch said he and his wife were on Parkview Avenue and headed home after dropping their grandkids off at preschool when, like Jennings, a "huge" plume of smoke in the air caught his attention. He said he turned onto Oakland and found the Wattles' house ablaze.

McNinch said the garage was on fire when he arrived and the garage door was open. He said only one car was inside the two-car garage and he wondered if maybe the homeowners had left prior to the fire breaking out.

"It was shooting out like a flamethrower," McNinch said of the flames coming from the house's garage.

McNinch said he and another man who stopped to help banged on the front door of the Wattles' house for what seemed like five minutes. McNinch said he nearly had the front door kicked in when Jack Wattles opened it and exited the home.

McNinch said Wattles told him his wife was still in the house as McNinch noticed heavy smoke coming from the front door. After taking a moment to catch his breath, McNinch said he was preparing to crawl through the front door when Marian Wattles, in her nightgown with a phone in her hand, met him at the landing of their staircase and took his hand and walked with him to safety.

McNinch said he grabbed two folding chairs from his car for the Wattles' to sit in Wednesday. As Public Safety officers battled the blaze, the Wattles sat in those chairs together, side by side, as family, friends and neighbors huddled around them.

Charles Wattles said his parents were worried Wednesday about their family cat, Sam, who did not come out of the house with them. Franks said Wednesday morning that officers were searching for the cat as they did overhaul on the house and gathered up some of the Wattles' personal belongings.

Jennings said she was overcome with emotion after watching the Wattles exit their home safely, and then as Public Safety officers began battling the fire.

"All I could do was cry because I'm glad they got out," Jennings said. "That's a very emotional feeling ... You don't want to see anyone lose their life because of a fire."

As he stood in the front yard of his parents' home Wednesday, Charles Wattles said his parents, who are in their 80s, will repair the home and eventually move back in. The family moved to the house, Wattles said, when he was in seventh grade and it has been the place for numerous family get-togethers and holiday celebrations.

He said that, despite the damage to the house, he was thankful his parents were safe.

"Everyone pitched in and did an awful lot of work and good," Wattles said. "I would much rather have my parents than a house. Those Good Samaritan types, they did good work."

Rex Hall Jr. is a public safety reporter for the Kalamazoo Gazette.

Gazette article contributed by Nellie Wiersma.



Not the Griffin, state archeologists say after dive of Lake Michigan wreck

FRANKFORT, MI – Michigan state archeologists have completely ruled out the possibility a Lake Michigan shipwreck is the long-lost Griffin.

State Archeologist Dean Anderson and underwater archeologist Wayne Lusardi participated in the dive Tuesday, June 9 of the wreck near Frankfort, along with Michigan State Police divers.

The two Muskegon men who discovered the wreck, Kevin Dykstra and Frederick J. Monroe, in late 2014 came forward with photos of the wreck, saying they thought it might be the Griffin -- one of the earliest ships lost on the Great Lakes, missing since September 1679.

Other divers and historians were skeptical.

Tuesday's dive confirmed to state archeologists it isn't the Griffin, even though they already had it wasn't from viewing Dykstra and Monroe's evidence.

"They went out Tuesday because the state values and is interested in learning about the many wrecks on the bottomlands, even if they aren't the Griffin," said State Historic Preservation Office spokeswoman Laura Ashlee. "It

was fortunate that Wayne was able to coordinate with the State Police divers who were doing a training dive and was able investigate the vessel Fred and Kevin found."

The group of divers found an 80-foot wooden hull, one too long to have been the Griffin, Ashlee said.

Lusardi "thought it was a tug boat and that there was some steam machinery on it as well," she said.

He placed the date of the boat as late 19th century or early 20th century.

Also known by the French equivalent Le Griffon, the ship was built and commanded by explorer Rene-Robert Sieur de La Salle on behalf of King Louis XIV. During its maiden voyage in

September 1679, the Griffin departed from near present-day Green Bay, Wisconsin. Carrying a crew of six and a cargo of furs, the ship was never seen again.

The state of Michigan owns about 1,500 shipwrecks on lake bottoms, Ashlee said. It gathers information on the wrecks from amateur divers.

"We're interested in what's down there," she said. "We encourage people to report when they find a shipwreck."

Stephen Kloosterman is a reporter for MLive Muskegon Chronicle and a former member of Covenant URC.

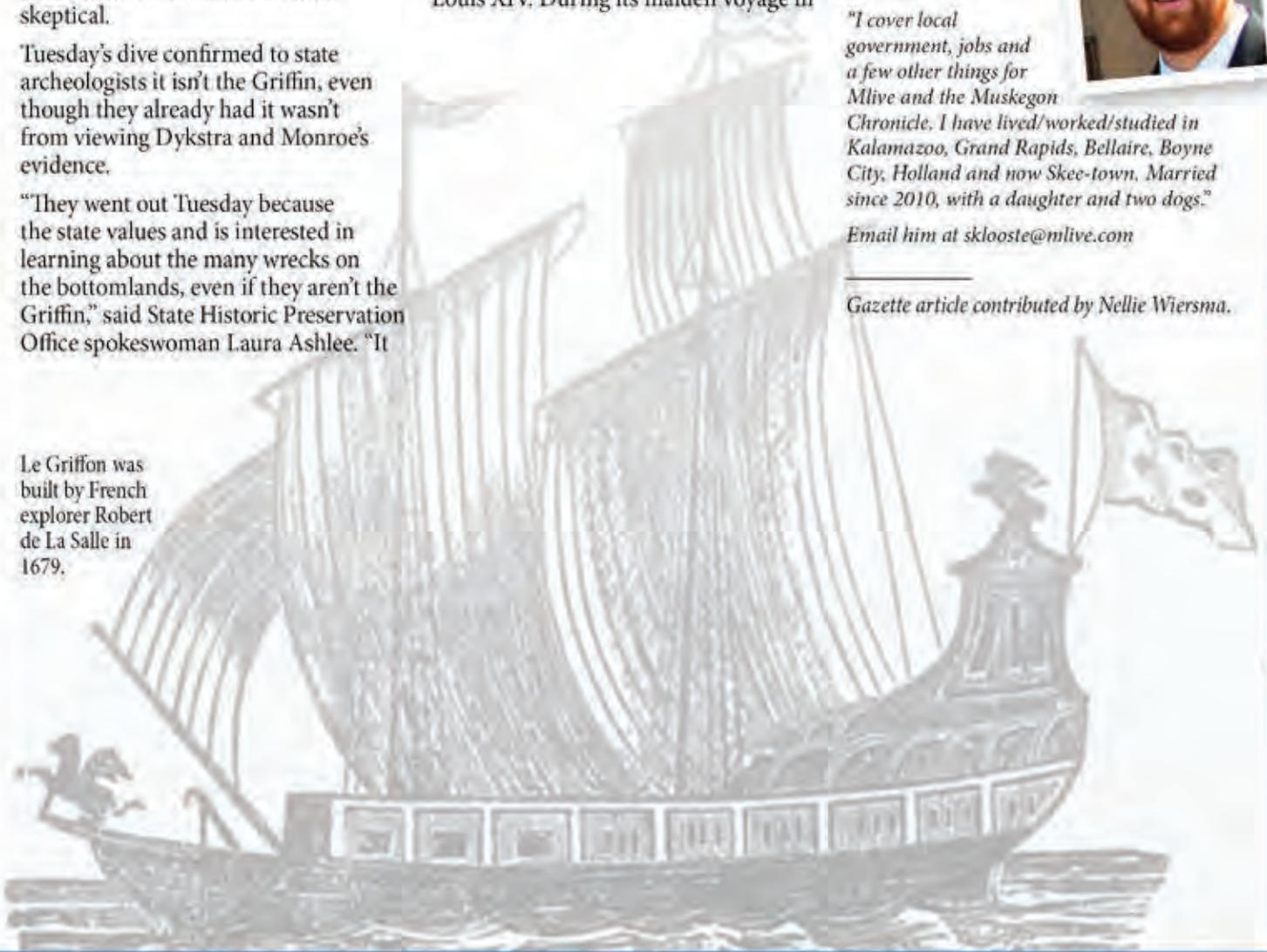
"I cover local government, jobs and a few other things for Mlive and the Muskegon Chronicle. I have lived/worked/studied in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Bellaire, Boyne City, Holland and now Skee-town. Married since 2010, with a daughter and two dogs."

Email him at sklooste@mlive.com

Gazette article contributed by Nellie Wiersma.



Le Griffon was built by French explorer Robert de La Salle in 1679.



Build Your Life On The Rock

Crossword Puzzle

B U I L D F L S D K K N Q T E
 R Q Q N K O L T R P C P D S V
 B W Q L A X E O I K B O T I C
 O K I R P M F O D N A S R R L
 X O A A Y F H D L F F F K H O
 P I C A I X S S R C V J R C Q
 N R L R X G X E I F D H J S V
 W A R E S Q K R N L L F O U Z
 B I U B G M N E Y R O B V S X
 B G N T E A O V S G O O M E E
 A E I D M X B I B I I E F J Y
 U W I E S M E W Z Y Z D N L F
 N E S B Z X H G A C D T P G A
 I I T N J A N T L T R Q A T R
 W Y K T P J P C W Z B M O E G

*“Where does your security lie?
 Is God your refuge, your hiding place, your
 stronghold, your shepherd, your counselor,
 your friend, your redeemer, your savior, your
 guide? If He is, you don't need to search any
 further for security.”*

~ Elizabeth Elliot

BUILD	ROCK
FELL	SAND
FOOLISH-MAN	STOOD
JESUSCHRIST	WINDS
RAIN	WISE-MAN



Place the face Answers:
 (for bottom of childrens
 page)
 A. Clare Visser
 B. Norma Herder
 C. Harold Vlietstra
 D. Rob & Judy Moerman