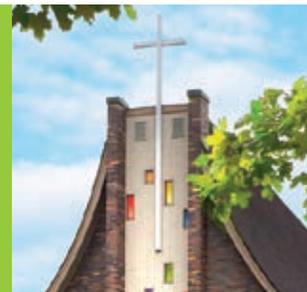


The 2017 COVENANT CHRONICLE



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Our God is a God of immense compassion, grace and faithfulness. He has clearly revealed Himself as such to me (Phillip Stoffregen) throughout the course of my life. I was raised in a Christian home, though not Reformed, my parents diligently sought to teach me about my own sin and misery and the need to be delivered by the blood of Christ shed on Calvary's cross for sinners such as me. I professed faith at a young age and was baptized at the age of 11.

Throughout my time of High School, I was drawn to the works of Ravi Zacharias and, being in a public High School, I felt more and more the need to share the Gospel with my fellow students. I had a growing interest in the apologetics, theology, the Gospel, preaching and ministry in general. I shared this with my pastor who decided to mentor me and helped me to write my first sermon and graciously permitted me to preach it at the age of 16. God continued to stir in me a love for His Word, for His people and for preaching, and so after graduating from High School, I enrolled at Calvary Bible College in Kansas City in order to prepare for the ministry.

However, at college, something happened that I did not expect. After discussing a number of things with my professors and after having innumerable lunch conversations about the Bible and theology with my fellow students, I was drawn more and more to the Reformed faith. After a long time, after a lot of thought and prayer, my faith looked less like my Bible Church faith that I grew up with and more Reformed. First, I embraced Calvinism over and against Arminianism. Second, I embraced Covenantal Amillennialism over and against Dispensational Premillennialism. Third, I embraced Covenantal Baptism over and against Believer's Baptism. In the years that followed, God continued to shape me and my faith, and the more I studied the Scriptures, the more I read, the more I thought, the more Reformed I became. As a result, when I graduated with my Bachelor's in Advanced Biblical Studies and Biblical Languages in 2012, I realized that it would not be profitable to pursue my Master's degree at Calvary's seminary since it was even more dispensational than the college.

I took a year off from studies and endeavored to find where it is that God would have me study for my Master's degree. During my time at Calvary, I came to love the Puritans and appreciate the writings and preaching of Joel Beeke. When I discovered that Dr. Beeke was president of Puritan

Reformed Theological Seminary, I simply had to go visit the seminary! After visiting, I felt sure that this is where God would have me to study, so I moved up to Grand Rapids from Kansas City in July of 2013. Seminary was equally hard and rewarding. It was a joy and blessing to sit under men like Joel Beeke, Gerald Bilkes, David Murray and William VanDoodewaard.

During my time in Grand Rapids I met my best friend, Sophia. In our first conversation, she mentioned St. Augustine and his Confessions, and she instantly had my attention. God used our relationship mightily in my life for my good and sanctification. She was, and continues to be, the woman who makes me want to be more like Christ. One thing led to another and we were married on April 24, 2015. About two months

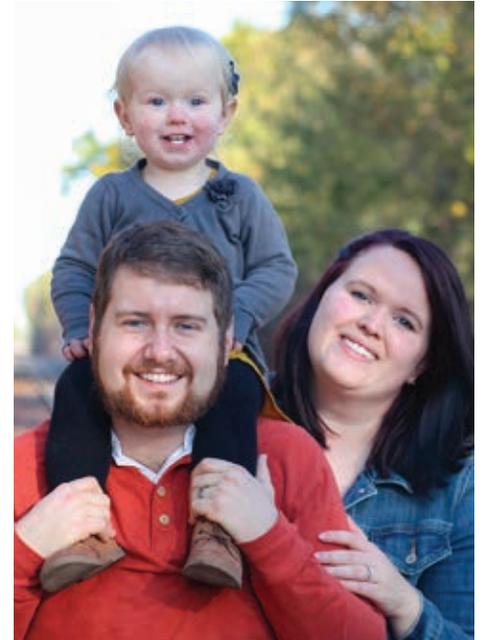
after we were married, we found that we were expecting, and God added Felicity Grace to our family on February 28, 2016.

Nearing graduation at PRTS, I had not seriously considered that the Lord would call me to pastoral ministry and serve in a church. For several reasons, I thought that the Lord would have me pastor someday, but it would not be until after I had finished further education. But one Sunday in March of 2016, I served as pulpit supply for Covenant URC, and shortly thereafter, I was contacted by the Consistory and was asked to consider a summer internship at Covenant with the possibility of being called to be the pastor. After much prayer, thought and asking for counsel, my wife and I decided that I would serve in this church as a summer intern and see what it is that

God would desire, and you know the rest of the story.

It has been a long and arduous road, and at certain times it has been excruciatingly difficult and painful, but throughout it all God has clearly revealed what sort of God He is. He is a God of immense compassion, grace and faithfulness!

Pastor Elect Phillip Stoffregen



Stay connected! Covenant URC's Facebook:
[facebook.com/CovenantKalamazoo/](https://www.facebook.com/CovenantKalamazoo/)

Remember to check our website under Members tab for bulletins, newsletters, videos and more, too!



Some of our members have friends in high places!

Welcome new members!



We welcome into our fellowship **Rex & Pat Webb**, who come to us from the Westnedge Hill Community Church (Formerly Trinity Reformed).
January 8, 2017

We also welcome into our fellowship
Mr. Bill Horton

formerly a member of a Presbyterian Church of America (PCA) congregation, a church with which the URC has ecumenical relations.

On April 1, 2017, we witnessed the sacrament of baptism to **Justus Solomon Pols,** infant son of Lucus and Amanda Pols. By Rev. Tim Bero.



On July 30, 2017, we witnessed the sacrament of baptism to **Alaina Mae DeJonge,** infant daughter of John and Kaitlyn De Jonge. By Rev. William Boekestein.



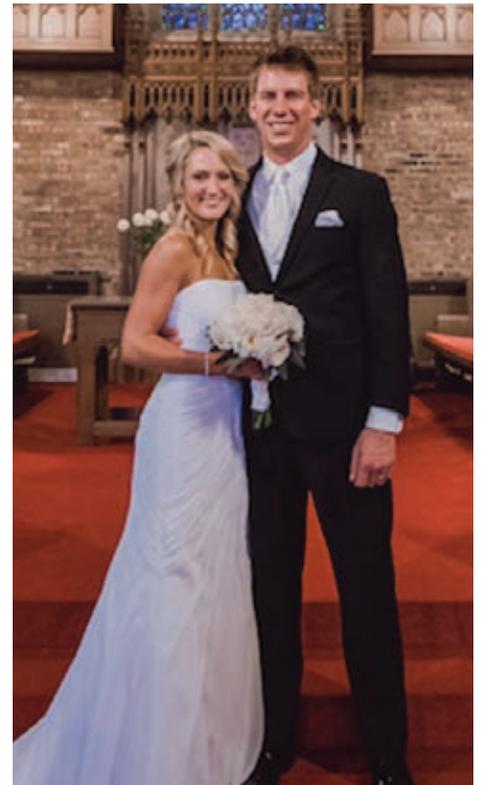
On December 10, 2017, we witnessed the sacrament of baptism to **Allison Kay Kalkman,** infant daughter of Jordan and Maria Kalkman. By Rev. William Boekestein.



Congratulations
Josh and Kelsey (Pryor) Balkema
were united in marriage Saturday, May 20th. May the Lord bless your newly married life together.



Congratulations
Ben and Heather (Kloosterman) Vlietstra
were married Friday, June 30th. The Lord's richest blessings on your new married life together.



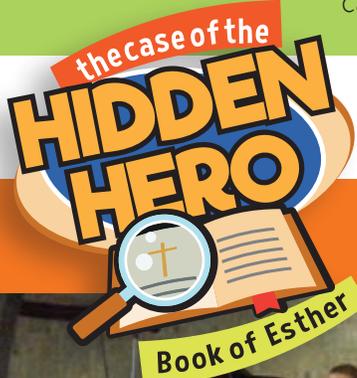
Congratulations
Kyle and Jordan DeBoer
were united in marriage Saturday, August 26th. We pray for the Lord's blessing as you begin your new lives together.



Cadets & Kingdom Seekers Winter Fun Night, February 22.



In April, the Cadets invited the church for supper, fellowship and the Annual Derby Car Race on Saturday, April 15 . They could even build their own Lego cars to race!



Around 65 children attended our daily VBS program this year. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard in putting this together!



Youth Group annual car wash/ flower sale, May 13



Clare Visser wishes Jim Mejeur a happy 99th birthday!



The Mission Committee and the Young Peoples invited us to a Soup and Sandwich Supper night combined with Mission and Evangelism night on November 10. Donations went towards operating expenses of the Youth Group and to help fund their trip to the RYS 2018 convention. We also enjoyed a hymn sing led by Roger Medema.



A combined Reformation Day service was held on October 31 with Immanuel Fellowship and Community Presbyterian. Guest speaker was Mid-America Reformed Seminary professor, Dr. Alan Strange.

2017 Council

Pastor Elect Phillip Stoffregen

Elders: Bernie Bronsink, Brian Eshuis, Leon Bronsink, Rich Hamming, Marty Horjus, Stan Nagel and Myron Rau.

Deacons: Lucus Pols, Zach Klomparens, Kyle DeBoer, John De Jonge, Jim Triemstra and Chad Van Dyk.



Sunday School Christmas Program

Watch the video! Link is on our website under Members tab



Remembering our brothers and sisters in the Lord, who were called home this past year



McCully, Mildred Jane (Farthing)

of Kalamazoo Millie, age 89, peacefully passed away on March 1, 2017, in the Heritage Community of Kalamazoo, Michigan after an extended illness. She was born on April 10, 1927 in Kalamazoo, the daughter of English immigrant Harold Cuthbert Ethelwolf Farthing of England, and Rhoda Mary Moyle of Ishpeming, Michigan. Millie was the second of 3 children: Frank the eldest and Roberta the youngest. She grew up in Mattawan and graduated from Mattawan High School. Mildred continued her education at Western Michigan University WMU, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree at a time when women infrequently attended college and rarely earned a degree. She was very proud of her education and passed along a love of learning in her sons. Upon graduation from WMU, Mildred worked as a Home Economics teacher in Vermontville and Albion. During the post-WWII housing boom, Mildred worked for Consumers Power demonstrating the latest stoves and ranges to homemakers, helping them learn to use these new appliances as electrification projects spread through rural Southwestern Michigan. After establishing a successful career, Mildred married Robert Dean McCully of Kalamazoo, and raised two sons,

Dean and Brian. Millie and her husband, Robert (Bob), worked for several years at The Upjohn Company. Upon retirement, they traveled frequently to visit their eldest son Dean, in Arizona, then in California. They enjoyed frequent trips to Binder Park Zoo and the Air Zoo with their grandson, Nathanael. As charter members, she and Bob were also deeply involved with Covenant United Reformed Church. Surviving are her husband: Robert; sister: Roberta (Ralph) Gotham; two sons: Dean (Lisa) McCully and Brian (Barbara) McCully; grandson: Nathanael McCully; sister-in-law: Edna Farthing and several generations of nieces and great nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were her parents; brother: Frank Farthing and daughter-in-law, Tami (Bruinsma) McCully. Graveside services for Mildred will be at 11:30am on Monday, March 6, at Maple Grove Cemetery, 24500 Red Arrow Hwy, Mattawan. A service to celebrate Mildred's life with a gathering in Michigan will be held in the summer of 2017 with details to be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Heritage Community Foundation. This organization provided support to Mildred and her family in a professional and caring manner for many months prior to her passing. Alternately, a donation in Mildred's name to a breast cancer agency of your choice, or to any youth education fund, would be appreciated. Arrangements were entrusted to Langeland Family funeral Homes. Please visit Mildred's personalized webpage for directions or to leave a condolence to her family at www.langelands.com.

Published in Kalamazoo Gazette on Mar. 5, 2017



Dykstra, Douglas A. "Doug"

Doug went home to be with his Lord on, Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at his home following a long battle with cancer. He was born on January 4, 1958 in Grand Rapids, the son of the late Andrew and Jean (Mulder) Dykstra. On August 9, 1997, he was united in marriage to Laurie J. Morrison. Doug was a life-long truck driver. He loved being behind the wheel and on the open road. He had a need for speed. Doug had a passion for drag racing at Martin 131 Speed Way. He would be found there on Friday & Saturday's with friends. He carried his love for cars through the years; Doug & Laurie would spend summers going to car shows. Doug was also a Sunday school teacher; he dedicated himself to his church and God his whole life. Surviving are his wife of 19 years: Laurie Dykstra; three children: Christina (Todd) Madden of Coldwater, Jason (Amy) Gilde of Kalamazoo and Jessica Gilde of Salem, ID; two grandchildren: Zeke Madden and Lucy Gilde; three aunts: Evelyn (Jack) Wenke of Plainwell, Jeanne Mulder of Kalamazoo and Frances Mulder of Lexington, KY; and many other extended family and friends. Visitation will be from 5-8 PM on Monday, March 13, at Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Westside Chapel, 3926 S. 9th Street. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, March 14, at Covenant United Reformed Church, 3724 Lovers Lane. Rev. James Admiraal will officiate. Memorial contributions may be directed to West Michigan Cancer Center or Covenant United Reformed Church Benevolent Fund. Please visit Doug's personalized webpage for directions or to leave a condolence to his family at www.langelands.com.

Published in Kalamazoo Gazette on Mar. 12, 2017



VanderBerg, Tina W.

3/31/1927 - 3/22/2017 Kalamazoo Age 89, went to her final home in glory on March 22, 2017. Tina was born in the Netherlands, on March 31, 1927, the daughter of the late John and Martha (Jonkman) Tuinier. She came to the United States at the age of 20. On May 12, 1950, she married Epke D. VanderBerg who preceded her in passing on March 4, 2016. They had five children who survive Marti (Walt) Chingo, Dan (Irene) VanderBerg, John (Dawn) VanderBerg, Paul (Carol) VanderBerg and Mark VanderBerg. Tina was also blessed with fifteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; a brother, John (Wilma) Tuinier. She loved to knit, crochet, and put puzzles together. Epke and Tina wintered in Florida for many years and always enjoyed their time there. They were both faithful members of Covenant United Reformed Church. A visitation will be held at the funeral home on Sunday, March 26, 2017, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. A funeral service will be held on Monday, March 27, 2017, beginning at 11:00 AM, at Covenant United Reformed Church, 3724 Lovers Ln. Kalamazoo, MI 49001, with Rev. James Admiraal officiating. Private interment at Genesee Prairie Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Rose Arbor Hospice Residence, c/o the funeral home. Family and friends may share a condolence message online at www.joldersma-klein.com.

Published in Kalamazoo Gazette on Mar. 26, 2017



Bos, Kenneth, Sr.

of Paw Paw Kenneth John Bos, Sr., age 78, went home to be with his Lord on June 8, 2017, after a 4 years battle against bladder cancer. Ken was born January 7, 1939 in Cicero, IL, the son of Abel and Florence (Miedema) Bos and has been a Paw Paw area resident since 1975. He served in the National Guard for six years. For many years he operated his own trucking business hauling steel from the mills in Gary, IN to Detroit, MI. During the many years of waiting for his steel load he had the opportunity to memorize many chapters of the Bible. He was also co-owner of Decatur Lawn & Garden with his good friend Anco Broekhuizen. Ken was a member of the Covenant United Reformed Church and through the years he had served as Sunday school superintendent, deacon and elder in the many churches he attended. He was also a longtime teamster member. He was united in marriage for 55 years to Paula Ann (Kottke) Bos, who survives. Also surviving are their five children Beth Ann (Andrew) VanderMeer, Kenneth John (Karen) Bos, Jr., Daniel Mark (Barbara) Bos, David James (Suzy) Bos, Thomas Abel (Amy) Bos; 12 grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; a sister Margaret (Joseph) Folkerts. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, a sister Alice (Al) Stob and a grandson Daniel Mark Bos II. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 8:00PM on Monday, June 12th at the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Westside Chapel, 3926 South 9th Street and at the church one hour prior to services on Tuesday. Funeral Service will be held 11:00AM Tuesday, June 13th at the Covenant United Reformed Church (3724 Lovers Lane) with Rev. James Admiraal officiating. Interment will be in Cuddeback Cemetery. Memorials in Ken's memory may be directed to Park Village Pines or Alternatives. Please visit Ken's personalized guest book at www.langelands.com

Published in Kalamazoo Gazette on June 11, 2017



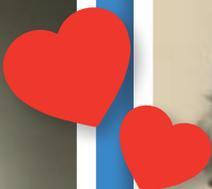
DEVISSER, Agnes Agnes DeVisser,

age 89, went home to be with her Lord on August 17, 2017. She was born in Everett, Washington, the daughter of Arie and Clazina DeRooy and has been a Kalamazoo area resident since 1948. The most important part of Agnes' life was her faith and family. Her legacy of making her home into a loving home where all were welcome will always be remembered. Agnes was a contented and thankful wife, mother, sister, friend and a member of the Covenant United Reformed Church. She was united in marriage to Henry DeVisser, who preceded her in death on November 18, 2016. She was also preceded in death by her parents and by all nine of her siblings. Surviving are her children Ruth (Jim) Bacon, Jim (Dianna) DeVisser, Joyce (Chuck) VanLaar, Kathy (Keith) Hurst, Paul (Chris) DeVisser, Tom (Marge) DeVisser, Deb (Bob) Withee, Mark (Sue) DeVisser; 20 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. The funeral service will be held at 10:00AM on Monday, August 21st at the Covenant United Reformed Church with Rev. Phil Vos officiating. The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00PM on Sunday, August 20th at the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Westside Chapel, 3926 South 9th Street; and at the church from 9:00 to 9:45AM on Monday. A private family interment will be in Portage South Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Agnes' memory may be directed to Covenant United Reformed Church, Park Village Pines, or Reverence Hospice. Please visit Agnes' personalized guest book at www.langelands.com

Published in Kalamazoo Gazette on Aug. 20, 2017

Place the face

Give up? Answers are at bottom of page



Remembering our seniors in 2017

John Balkema
The Springs at the Fountains
1451 Bronson Way
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Dorothy Balkema
5810 South 29th Street
Scotts, MI 49088
343-3791

Marv and Rena De Vries
809 Turwill Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
342-2010

Herm Franke
9643 South Westnedge Ave
Portage, MI 49002
327-2421

Robert McCully
1619 Egleston
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
345-1377

Betty Mejeur
2920 Crystal Lane - Room 232
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
372-0504

James Mejeur
2920 Crystal Lane - Room 104
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Calvin Miersma
1115 Eagle Drive - Apt 201
Wayland, MI 49348
269-792-2140

Lois Newmeyer
Oakview Terrace - Room 143
2920 Crystal Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Harriet Slomp
4029 Lakeside Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
342-8835

Peter Sluys
The Fountains - Apt 16
1700 Bronson Way
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
381-9863

Nellie Wiersma
2920 Crystal Lane - Room 218
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
372-0556

Judy Zigterman
7574 Garden Lane
Portage, MI 49002
327-1733

Throughout the year we were blessed through the faithful preaching of Rev. Admiraal, and his and Rita's care over our congregation.



Rev. Arthur Besteman
May 23, 1933 -
October 1, 2017

TASC

TEENS ACTIVELY SERVING CHRIST



RYS 2017 National Youth Convention was at Biola University in La Mirada, California. Our prayer was the speakers would be powerfully used by the Lord as they minister to our covenant young people.