

Eulogy

WHENEVER I DRIVE HOME from a funeral, I worry about my kids not being able to dig up enough honorable things to say about me once I've been dressed out in a coffin beneath the pulpit. My offspring, on the occasion of my death, will take turns at the lectern, scripts in hand. They'll clear their throats, and, like archeologists displaying pottery shards and fragments of burnished bone, present their findings to the gathered mourners. But what will they say?

Lord knows, I was too preoccupied with my work during my children's tender years. What have I done to encourage my little family—to help my daughter conquer her fear of algebra? To improve my son's tennis game or dry his tears when a bully belittled him? To explain to him the way of a man with a maid? To convince my kids that God loves them even when they can't figure God out?

I'm hardly a scoundrel. But in their last-minute preparations and hasty searching through outdated planners, faded photos, and the far recesses of their memories, will my kids be able to come up with a page of attributes to read before the solemn assembly?

Every funeral reminds me that yet another saint has been laid to rest. But why always a saint? What made the person such a shining light? I compare myself with friends and colleagues. Some, by all appearances, are beacons of piety and virtue. But others are a lot like me, their "halos" hardly glowing. And that thought brings comfort and reassurance. Maybe I'm not all that deficient in virtue after all.

At my funeral, the photo display will include images of the old man and the young man and the grinning baby, an aggregate of milestones in a long and well-lived life. The pet white rabbits will be there; the first bike; the family on a picnic; the graduation portraits showing confidence and no pimples. The honeymoon shot of a young man aglow with tentative triumph, radiant bride on his arm. The couple's children in advancing stages of maturation, always smiling and civil. A steady march toward successful aging. An exhibition of benign, if not virtuous, living. As if the old man had never been disappointed, had never in his life damned anything, had not clenched his fists or shed tears when things went terribly awry. Had not agonized over his doubts about God and fretted and fumed when his children frustrated him. Had never antagonized his forbearing wife or withheld his affection just to spite her. No, the visitors will ooh and aah over the photos and make comments about how well the deceased had aged and what a lovely family he had.



“Nothing but the truth” may sway a courtroom jury—but it tends to spoil a good funeral.

The point of a funeral service is to eulogize, to “speak or write in high praise of.” To extol. “Nothing but the truth” may sway a courtroom jury—but it tends to spoil a good funeral. Full disclosure has no place among mourners. The only funeral at which the whole truth would not cast a pall on the celebration of a life well-lived, had the dead man stayed in his tomb, was that of our Lord and Savior. But there had been no time for a eulogy, it being hard on the Sabbath when Jesus spoke his last words—barely enough time to wrap him up and deposit him behind a hastily rolled stone. By the time a service could be arranged for, the Subject had escaped.

Because of that great escape, I need not worry about my kids finding dirt on me, nor fear lest they come across mucky linens. The Risen One has swept away my dirt, clothed me in robes of righteousness. So I'm not all that concerned, after all, whether the minister's approbatory texts honestly describe my life. They will not. But that's okay. With those texts we eulogize not the casketed corpse but the living Christ. And give our kids permission to say good things while overlooking the shabby and the ignoble.

It's all good. ■



Hank Ottens is a retired orthopedic surgeon and an active gardener, photographer, and singer. He attends Second Christian Reformed Church in Grand Haven, Mich.

ADS

Deadlines: May issue is 4/4/16; June issue is 5/9/16. 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.

To Advertise: Place your classified ad online at www.thebanner.org/classifieds or email it to classifieds@thebanner.org or fax it to 616-224-0834. Questions? Call 616-224-0725.

Denominational and Classical

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER (U. S.) In May 1988 the President of the United States signed into law a bill establishing the first Thursday of May as a National Day of Prayer. This year the National Day of Prayer falls on Thursday, May 5. The synod of the CRC has urged churches in the United States "to observe faithfully any national day of prayer which the United States President publicizes to the nation" (Acts of Synod 1969).

"Our churches must be open to our congregations and our fellow countrymen on such occasions, when God in his providence leads those in civil authority to call our citizenry to pray. We must pray for and with our country" (Acts of Synod 1958).

Steven R. Timmermans, Executive Director

Calls Accepted

REVEREND DAVID CLARENCE GROEN from New Westminster CRC has accepted the call to Hope Community Church in Surrey, B. C.

Eligible for Call

REV. ALISON JONES was examined by Classis GLA and is eligible to serve as Minister of the Word and Sacraments. Rev. Alison has the gifts of intercession, drama, praise and worship. Contact: Alisonjonesajcc@yahoo.com; 2330 W. 115th Place, Hawthorne, CA 90250 or (home) 323-756-7566 or (cell) 323-877-9676

Meetings of Classis

CLASSIS ZEELAND will meet on Thursday, May 19, 2016, 4PM, at First CRC in Zeeland. Agenda deadline is April 6.

Rev. Ronald J. Meyer, S. C.

Available for Call

REV. RICHARD JONES The Council of Los Angeles Community CRC announces that its pastor Rev. Richard Jones is available for call as Minister of the Word and Sacraments. LACCRC can no longer employ a pastor due to budget constraints. Pastor Richard has a strong desire to reach the lost, exceptional skill on piano and organ and enjoys reading to grow in the knowledge of God to assist God's people. He has faithfully served as pastor of LACCRC the past 7 years. Contact: Richard.A.Jones@yahoo.com; 2330 W. 115th Place, Hawthorne, CA 90250 or (home) 323-755-7566 or (cell) 323-252-2930.

Retirement

PASTOR LARRY L. MEYER plans to retire as of June 1, 2016. His retirement will be marked with special worship services and activities on Sunday, May 22, at Christ Community Church (formerly First CRC), 428 Geele Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53083. The morning worship service is at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to come on May 22 to recognize the Meyers and give thanks to God for their devoted service to church and

kingdom. For more information, contact the church office (920-458-3112 or christcommunitysheboygan@gmail.com). Soli Deo gloria

Congregational

Church's 100th Anniversary

HOPE CRC in Grandville, MI is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2016. Join us on April 24, 2016 as we "Rejoice in Hope!" Services at 9:30 am and 5:30 pm. If you have questions or stories to share, contact us at secretary@hopecrcgrandville.com.

Birthdays

100th Birthday



CORNELIA (DEKKER) GABRIELSE will turn 100 on May 4th, DV. Please join her children, Edward (Jane), David (deceased) (Judy), Bernard (Carol), her grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren in wishing her a very happy birthday. Cards may be sent to Pine Haven, 531 Giddings Ave, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085. God is faithful.



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Pastor

Delavan (WI)

Christian Reformed Church

Director of Worship & Outreach

Thrive Ministries
Morrison/Fulton, IL

Missional Onramp Director

Calvary Reformed Church
Orland Park, IL

For more information on opportunities from ChapterNext, the leader among pastor search firms serving RCA & CRCNA congregations, visit www.chapter-next.com or email info@chapter-next.com.



Seeking applicants for the position of

Director of Communications and Marketing

Provide leadership, strategy, planning and oversight in the communications and marketing of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), in conformity with the denominational ministry plan.

The successful candidate will have a commitment to the faith, vision, and mission of the CRCNA; a degree in communications or marketing; at least seven years' experience in communications and/or marketing including experience in a non-profit organization.

The position will be based in either Grand Rapids, MI or Burlington, ON.

For a full description or to apply go to www.crcna.org/jobs

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MINNIE DELEEUW STOLK will celebrate her 100th birthday April 30. Her family and friends thank God for her life of faithfulness to Him. Cards may be sent to the Laurels of Hudsonville.



WILLEM VANDERMEER With thanks to God, we hope to celebrate Dad's 100th Birthday An Open House will be held in Horizon Hall at Holland Christian Homes, Brampton, Wednesday April 20, 2-4 p.m. Cards may be sent to Holland Christian Homes, Hope Tower, Apt 713, 7900 McLaughlin Road, Brampton, Ontario, L6Y 5A7



HARRIET WIERENGA née Westra will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 10. Her family thanks God for her and for her long life. #205, 13425-57 St NW., Edmonton AB T5A 2G1.

95th Birthday



PEGGY KNOLL will celebrate her 95th birthday on April 23, 2016. Her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren thank God for her cheerfulness through her long life. She has blessed their lives with her strong faith, unceasing prayer, and care, love and acts of kindness to them and to so many others. Her address is, 2105 Raybrook Dr SE, Apt 5035, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



LOUISE (CLOSING) VAN LONKHUYZEN will celebrate her 95th birthday May 1, 2016. Her family thanks God for her example of Christian living. An Open House will be held April 30 from 1-4 pm at Orland Park Christian Reformed Church, Orland Park, IL. Cards may be sent to: Louise Van Lonkhuyzen, 15233 S. 73rd Ct., Orland Park, IL 60462.

90th Birthday

FRANCES ENGEL (EHLERS) wife of Jake, of 999 W. 2nd St. The Manor #125 Ripon, CA 95366 will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 16. Thanking God for her life are her children: Charlene, Twyla, Randy & Janet Engel, and her grandchildren Janelle & Greg Mulder and Kelly.

GRACE MUSCH (4482 Port Sheldon St., Hudsonville, MI 49426) will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 24. She was married to Jack (deceased 2015) for 68 years. Thanking God for her life are her children: Laura & Doug Aldrink, Tom & Jill Musch, Ruth & Tim Dillon, Dave & Jan Musch, 10 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

ARNOLD TOERING husband of Lillian (deceased 2009) will celebrate his 90th birthday with an open house on May 15 at Calvary CRC, Wyoming, MI, from 2-4pm. All friends and family are welcome. Cards also appreciated and can be sent to 5862 Bayberry Farms Dr., Apt. #10, Wyoming, MI, 49418.

Church Position Announcements

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES Faith CRC, Elmhurst IL, is seeking qualified person to direct its youth ministry. This position is full-time with primary focus on middle and high school and some responsibilities for children's and young adult ministries. To apply, send letter of introduction with resume to dymsearch@faithelmhurst.org or contact Ray Middel at 630-862-1861

PASTOR 1st CRC of Fremont, MI (50mi N of GR) is seeking a full time pastor to preach the Word and shepherd the 180 member congregation. Our church profile is at CRCA.org. Contact Leslie Kolk at lskolk@yahoo.com or 231-924-3596

STUDENT MINISTRIES DIRECTOR Pillar Church is seeking qualified applicants for this full time ministry position. If you are interested please send a resume and cover letter to: Rob Housman at ministry@pillarchurch.com

PASTOR The CRC of Collingwood ON is seeking a pastor who desires to lead a small, dedicated congregation. We seek a spiritual leader who is gifted in preaching, meeting the pastoral needs of our congregation and mentoring us to reach out with love to the community around us. For more information, contact Jeff Beck at jandbeck@hotmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR Moline CRC, Moline, MI. Do you have a passion for today's youth? Do you feel a calling to encourage, lead and develop faith while sharing God's love? Moline CRC shares your passion and needs YOU! We are in search of a part-time Youth Ministries Director to organize, conduct and effectively communicate meaningful spiritual and relational programs for High School-aged youth. For more information visit www.molinecrrc.org or contact Scott Van Wyk at 616.485.8325

LEAD PASTOR East Saugatuck CRC, a rural community near Holland, MI is seeking a lead pastor. We provide Biblical preaching geared toward new and established believers. ESCRC is a growing church focused on outreach and discipleship. Contact searchteam@espoint.org.

YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR Do you have a passion for today's youth? Do you feel a calling to encourage, lead and develop faith and share God's love? Moline CRC shares your passion and needs you! We are in search of a part time Youth Ministries Director to organize, execute and effectively communicate meaningful spiritual and relational programs for high school aged youth. Send a letter of interest and resume to: Moline CRC, PO Box 158, Moline, MI. 49335 or e-mail molinecrrc@gmail.com APPLICATION DEADLINE is May 1, 2016 For more information visit www.molinecrrc.org or call 616-877-4218.

WORSHIP/MUSIC COORDINATOR Graafschap Christian Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan is seeking to fill a 30 hour per week position for Worship and Music Coordinator. This position requires a servant of Christ who understands the biblical concepts of worship and appreciates the emphases of Reformed theology in worship. The individual will be a vital part of Graafschap's life and ministry and

should be able to love and empathize with her. Interested candidates can submit a resume with references or other inquiries to: Graafschap CRC, 5973 Church Street, Holland, MI 49423 attn: Worship/Music Search Committee or graafschapworship@gmail.com.

PASTOR: For a two-point charge: Hull CRC and Westfield RCA in southern North Dakota, near the Missouri River. These two small churches are working together and would be open to either a full-time pastor or a part-time pastor. To inquire email droog@bektel.com or call Ren at 701-336-7240 or Sheldon at 701-336-7398.

LEAD PASTOR: West End CRC in Edmonton Alberta is seeking a lead pastor. We are a large vibrant church with a wide range of ministries located in the heart of the West End in Edmonton Alberta. Information on our congregation can be found at www.westendcrrc.ca. For more details about the position and to view the church profile please contact Michelle Rooker at bmrooker@hotmail.com

GROWING OUTREACH CHURCH Living Water Community Church in NW Iowa is seeking someone with a passion for discipleship, community, and outreach to serve as **Campus Pastor** for their new Sheldon campus. LW is a young, vibrant, mission-minded church that seeks to follow Jesus by loving God and loving others. The campus pastor will be responsible for equipping ministry leaders, preaching, and connecting with new attendees at our Sheldon campus, as well as serving on council and working alongside the ministry team from the Orange City campus. If you feel that God may be calling you to this ministry, you can find a complete job description and apply online at livingwateroc.com/jobopenings/

NEW FAMILY PASTOR POSITION Living Water Community Church in NW Iowa is seeking someone with a passion for strengthening families and helping youth to discover who they are in Christ, to serve as **Pastor of Family & Youth**. LW is a young, vibrant, mission-minded church that seeks to follow Jesus by loving God and loving others. The Pastor of Family & Youth would serve both campuses and primarily be responsible for overseeing our junior high and high school youth programs by recruiting and equipping volunteer leaders, building relationships with parents and youth, as well as, overseeing the children's ministry, and preaching monthly at each campus. If you feel that God may be calling you to this ministry, you can find a complete job description and apply online at livingwateroc.com/jobopenings/

YOUTH DIRECTOR First CRC Red Deer, Alberta is seeking a highly relational youth director who will help our youth grow spiritually, as well as grow their sense of belonging in the church. This person will be self-motivated and self-directed; yet will be able to work well in a team ministry. Education and/or relevant experience will be considered. Visit our website at www.firstcrrcdreder.org for job description. To apply, please send your resume and 3 current references to firstcrrcrt@gmail.com

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 crca.org, visit our website at secondcrrcgrandhaven.org, or contact Search Committee Chairman, Jeff Binnendyk at 2ndcrrcsearch@gmail.com or 616-844-4144

YOUTH PASTOR : New Westminster Christian Reformed Church in Burnaby, British Columbia, is looking for an individual to provide pastoral leadership for the Youth Ministries of our congregation. This position requires coordinating responsibilities and visionary leadership including: discipling youth, mentoring leaders, overseeing weekly youth gatherings and other events, and working successfully in a team ministry context. This 20 hr/week position, fairly compensated, requires an individual who: demonstrates a deep love for Christ and His people, is Gospel-centered, missional, and will work well in the Reformed tradition; is a servant-leader with strong relational skills; and possesses a college or university degree and theological training. If you wish to apply for this position, or for more details of the job, please go to www.nwrcr.ca/jobs. Application deadline is Apr 30, 2016.

FULL TIME PASTOR Vogel Center CRC is a body of believers dedicated to worshiping, reaching out, and serving in the name of Christ Jesus. We value Bible based teaching and worship. We love to fellowship and have a small town community that cares when someone is hurting. We realize the importance of nurturing our youth and strive to be of service in God's Kingdom. To that end, We are looking for a Pastor who is willing to lead us in sound doctrine centered on God's Word, and to encourage and inspire our congregation to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We look forward to hearing from you if you feel lead to contact us. Our contact info is winksdairy@hotmail.com or Jim Winkel at 231-920-7751

PASTOR: The Village Church, an 8-year old church plant in Thorold, ON, is seeking a full-time pastor. The person should have a heart for evangelism, strong leadership gifts and the ability to communicate to people beginning or growing in their walk with God. For more info contact: stevecollins631@start.ca

PASTOR : West Leonard CRC in Grand Rapids, MI is undergoing Renewal and is searching for an energetic and talented person to help lead the transformation. Contact Sue Lettinga at 616.456.1994 ext. 201 or email wlcrcsearch@gmail.com for a church profile and job description.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY DIRECTOR River Rock Church in Rockford, Michigan is seeking a Children's Ministry Director (25 hours/week) for our ministry which averages 100 children on a Sunday morning. This leader will be responsible for the overall vision of Children's Ministry (birth through 5th grade) and directly responsible for the K-5th ministry program. This person will join the GROW team that works together on the overall lifespan discipleship goals of River Rock Church. A detailed job description is available at RiverRockCommunity.com. We will be accepting resumes through midnight, April 10. Please submit questions or your resume to employment@riverrockcommunity.com.



PHYLLIS DENBRABER VANANDEL: Her children invite you to an Open House to be held in the Estates 2 dining room (2105 Raybrook SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546) from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday, April 23. Phyllis resides at #3035 of the same address.

ARTHUR VANDER AA, Pantego, N. C., turned 90 on February 20. Married for nearly 62 years to Grace (DeRuiter). Children Cyndie Van Dyke (Alan), the late Art, Jr. (the late Terry), Jennie Febus (Dave), Pam Kirkman (Barry). Nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. WW II veteran, still plays the mandolin in Church. Thanks be to God for his faithfulness.

80th Birthday

LINDA ZWIER VAN TIL The children, grandchildren, friends and family of Linda Zwier VanTil together rise up to acknowledge the blessing she has been to us all.

Anniversaries

70th Anniversary

YONKER Wendell and Dorothy, 12447 S. Natchez, Palos Heights, IL 60463, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on March 8. Their children, the late Cathy and Dave Larsen, Wendy and Eric Van Vugt, and Tom and Judy Yonker, nine grandchildren, and eighteen great grandchildren rejoice in Dad and Mom's example of faith and joyful living, and praise God for his faithfulness to them.

60th Anniversary

BAUM Neal & Ethel (Tanis) will celebrate their 60th anniversary on April 14, 2016. Formerly of Wyckoff, NJ, now at 2058 TreeRidge Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508. Children: Janet & Craig Klamer, Jim & Karen Baum, Judy & Kevin Hoekman, John & Mayly Baum. 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Mom & Dad, your family praises God for

blessing you with 60 years together, and for the love you give to everyone you meet. You are a wonderful example of Christ-followers for all of us.

DEJAGER Louis & Grace (Bosch) of Lethbridge, AB celebrate 60 years of marriage April 27, 2016. They and their children, grandchildren & great grandchildren praise God for His faithfulness.



NICHOLS Bruce & Gert (Bangma) of Lauderdale By the Sea, Florida will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on May 26, 2016. Our five sons, four daughters in laws, seven grandchildren are a blessing to us as we watch them grow in the Lord. We thank the Lord for 60 years, and His faithfulness and blessings on us and our family.

Obituaries

CHRISTIANS David K., 65, of Loveland, CO, entered heaven's glory on January 20, 2016. He is survived by his wife Donna, children Ryan & Leah, grandchildren Austin, Ashley, Sammie, his mother Evelyn Christians, brothers Stu (Jean), Bruce (Stephanie), Craig (Arlis), sister Lavaun (Ken) Wind, nieces & nephews Brandon (Kate), Kevin (Anna), Michele, Abby (Kurt), Jessica (Jordan), Brett, Jenna (Levi), Elliott, great-nephews Gavin, David, Paul, Liam, Eli, Harrison, Henry, & great-niece Evelyn. Preceded in death by father Henry in 2001. Funeral services will be held at Wright Christian Reformed Church, Kanawha, Iowa, in June.

DEVRIES Sadie (Eisma) age 100 and 7 months, peacefully went to be with her Lord on Feb. 15, 2016. She will be greatly missed by her son Curt DeVries!

HALMA Helen (Haringa), age 92, went home to be with her Lord on February 10, 2016 in Wayne, NJ. Formerly of Prospect Park. She was preceded in death by her husband Cornelius in 1992. She is survived by her children, Linda & Michael McCoy of MD, Ruth of Prospect Park,

Joan and Bob Vander Haak of WA, Barbara of Hawthorne, Edward and Debbie of East Hanover. Also 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. We thank God for her long life.



KOoy Dena (Withage) 95 of Lynden WA formerly of Nobleford AB Canada went to be with her Lord peacefully on February 8 2016. Dena is survived by her husband John of 71 years; 6 children, Wayne (Mary), Bea (Mike) Slavich, Brenda De Jong, Greg (Diana), Garth (Andrea), Ted, 13 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren.

MACLEOD June, 83, of Sarasota, FL died on February 4. She was predeceased by her husband, the Rev. Farquhar John MacLeod. Dearly missed by her children Roderick (Karen), Douglas (Cathy), Kathryn (Mark) Elliott, Kevin (Cindy), 14 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

TERPSTRA John W., age 96, of Highland, IN went Home to be with His Lord on Jan. 6, 2016. John is survived by his wife, Audrey; 4 children, Lynne (Jim), Bill (Vicki), Fred (Kim), and Diane; 15 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, 3 step children, 5 step grandchildren, 3 step great grandchildren; 2 brothers, 2 sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews. John was preceded in death by wife Violet. Family and church shaped the focus of John's life. He will be dearly missed. "To depart and be with Christ is far better" (Phil. 1:23)

VANDER KAMP Joan, nee Heslinga, 94, went to be with Our LORD on February 17th, 2016. 1140 S. Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, IL, 60126. Beloved wife of the late John Vander Kamp; loving mother of Richard (Ruth), James (Elaine), Patricia (Glenn) DeVries, and John (Lora) Vander Kamp; devoted grandmother of 13; great-grandmother of 18; preceded by 5 brothers and 3 sisters; aunt of many nieces and nephews. Memorials to Timothy Christian Schools are appreciated.



Dr. Richard J. Mouw

Richard J. Mouw taught at Calvin College for 17 years and served as President of Fuller Theological Seminary for two decades. He is currently Professor of Faith and Public Life at Fuller. He is the author of 19 books, including *Calvinism in the Las Vegas Airport* and *Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World*. His book, *Adventures in Evangelical Civility: A Lifelong Quest for Common Ground*, is due to be released in 2016.

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network

Employment

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Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED To work in the Lighthouse Store in Rolling Fork, MS for Miss Chr Family Services. April thru August. Would appreciate 2 weeks min. Good housing with AC. Contact Betty @662-873-9055 or MCFS117@yahoo.com

Real Estate: Sales and Rentals

SAN CLEMENTE CA 200 yards to beach access close to outlet mall & restaurants. 1 bed 1 bath comfortably sleeps 6. vrbo.com/795245 or 209-552-6139

ANNA MARIA ISLAND, FL CONDOS pool, beach access, linens, fully equipped. 1 and 2 bedrooms. \$650-750/wk. D. Redeker, 941-778-1915. redekercondos.com

WEEKLY RENTAL: Douglas/Saugatuck, MI: Newly built Lake Michigan family guest house, 2br, loft w/ 2.5ba - sleeps 8. Lake Mi view & private beach. Call Ken @ 630-268-1531 or email Groenjk@aol.com

GLEN LAKE COTTAGE June 25 - July 16. Max occupancy 6. \$3500/wk; \$3300 if 2 consecutive wks. Crystal clear water, sandy beach, row boat, kayak, paddle boat, raft, boat mooring. 1 mi. to Glen Arbor; 5 min drive to Sleeping Bear Dunes. 269-345-9854 for info/pics

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LAKEFRONT COTTAGE 4 RENT in Sand Lake MI. 20 min. N of GR. Sleeps 7. Available July 30-Aug 6. \$1000 per week. Dock and rowboat. Call 616-396-1549

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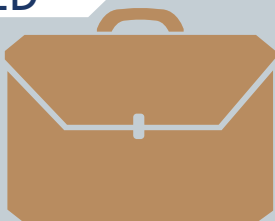


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Punch Lines

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!

We were attending a family baptism out of town, taking the great-grandparents along with us. Dad was 90 years old at the time. The service was wonderful, but it ran a lot longer than what we are used to.

On leaving the sanctuary, my father-in-law took his turn to shake hands with the pastor. Just as he stepped away, his pants started to fall down. Quickly he grabbed them and proceeded to tighten his belt.

Luckily it was over so quickly that few people had time to notice. Taking him aside, I asked, "What happened, Dad? Did your belt break?"

"No," he said. "I was in that service so long, I lost weight!"

—Annette Zylstra

On Christmas morning, I was offering a children's message. I brought along a small cake with a lit candle to celebrate Jesus' birthday. At one point I asked the children what they thought Jesus might wish for before he blew out the candle.

A 4-year-old boy raised his hand and answered, "That Satan would be nice."

The congregation responded with some snickers, but also some affirmation. To which the little boy responded with a fist pump.

—Bob Boersma

My daughter was reading the Bible to her 3-year-old son. When she started naming the disciples, James, John, Peter, and Thomas, he stopped her to ask: "Was that Thomas the Train?"

—Sandy Sall

Awoman telephoned a friend and asked how she was feeling.

"Terrible," was the reply. "My head is splitting and my back is killing me. The house is a mess, and the kids are driving me crazy."

Sympathetically, the caller said, "Listen, go and lie down. I'll come over right away and cook lunch for you. Then I'll clean up the house and take care of the kids while you get some rest. By the way, how is Sam doing?"

"Sam?" the complaining woman replied. "Who's Sam?"

"Oh dear," exclaimed the caller. "I must have the wrong number. I am so sorry."

There was a long pause.

"Are you still coming over?" the harried mother asked hopefully.

—Suzanne Lauritzen

Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

—Herman De Boer

Dave and Kathryn, an older couple, were walking hand in hand at church. I said how nice they looked holding hands and walking together.

Kathryn responded, "He is my 'Cain' so that I am 'Able.'"

—Cyndi Boss

Ever noticed that when you put the words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs"?

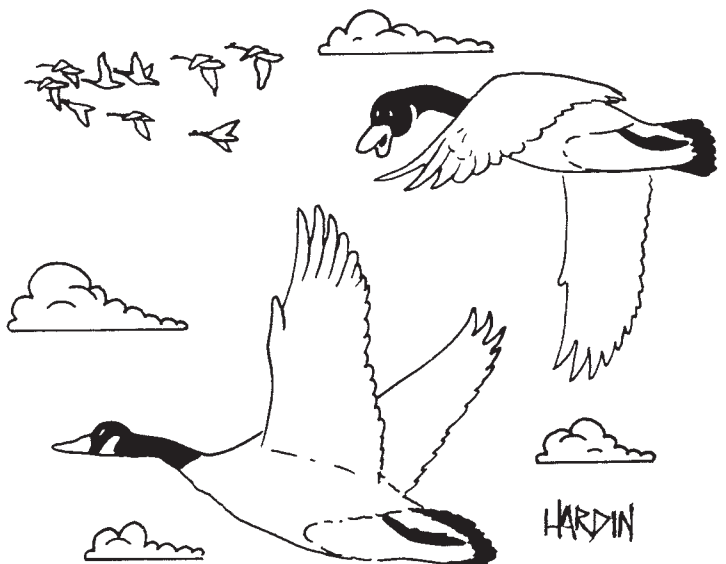
—Cornelius Peters

Couples who have lived together for a long time have developed their own method of communication. I remember one day my mother called upstairs to my dad, "What are you looking for in that closet?"

"Nothing," yelled my father.

After a moment, my mother called back, "Well, it's not in there. Look under the bed."

—Jan Veltkamp



"... and watch out for airplanes—they'll fly right into you if you're not careful."



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