

# Plymouth Pulse



Volume 5, Issue 2

Spring 2014

## Chili Cook-off Fundraiser, February 19, 2014

We now know that there are some very talented CHILI COOKS here at Plymouth. Sixteen people entered our Chili Cook-off and came up with an incredible variety of delicious chili concoctions. Joel and Sherlynn James baked delicious homemade bread, Steve and Lori DeVries decorated the tables with artifacts from their collections, and the DR Team members made the desserts.

Tasters (and Dads) voted with their quarters and Jenny Koopman's "Delicious Beef and Bean Chili" took first place. "Alice's (Geelhoed) Colorful Chili" came in second and Lori DeVries' "Muy Rico" took third place. Thanks to all of the cooks and tasters who raised \$970 to support the team that traveled to the Dominican Republic in April.

### Team members

Jenny Koopmans  
 Emily and Nathan Diepstra  
 Charlie, Steve and Lori DeVries  
 Chrysanthi and Johan Sinniah  
 John and Marion VanDenHeuvel  
 Carley VanSwol  
 Mary and Lynn Faber  
 Brian, Marielle and Morgan Rottman

### The winners!!



Jenny



Alice



Lori

Listed below are the cooks and the names of their inspiring chilis.

Amy Blom	"Winter White"	Alice Geelhoed	"Alice's Colorful"
Jenny Koopmans	"Delicious Beef & Bean"	Susan Holwerda	"Salsa Chicken"
Mike Feys	"Meat Extravaganza"	Janeen VanSwol	"White Chicken"
James Vasquez	"Chili un Jardin"	Bea Diepstra	"Just Plain Chili"
Pat Nagle	"Bloody Mary"	Mary Diepstra	"Grandma's Chili"
Marion VandenHeuvel	"Beef Steak"	Chrysanthi Sinniah	"Vegetarian"
Lori DeVries	"Chile Muy Rico"	Dave Diepstra	"White Chili"
Dawn Block	"Pineapple Pepper Vegetarian"	Mary Faber	"White Chili Thunderpants"



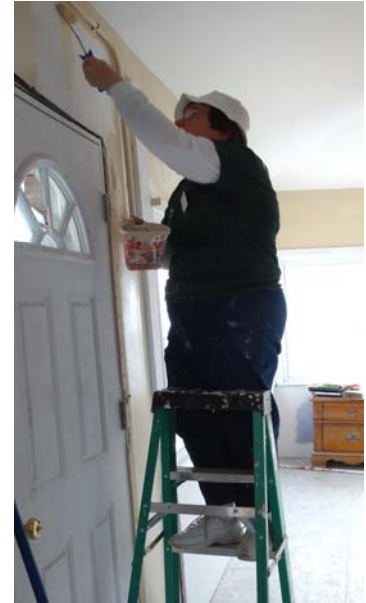
Mike's recipe probably had the most ingredients: ground beef, bison (\$9 per pound!), venison, kielbasa, bacon, venison jalapeno cheese sausage from Virginia, and more!

Equipping disciples to become neighbors...  
 ...inviting neighbors to become disciples.

## World Renew

World Renew Disaster Response Service (DRS) is currently managing two reconstruction sites: High River, Alberta (2013 floods) and Ocean County, New Jersey (2012 Hurricane Sandy). DRS is in need of volunteers for both sites continuing through the summer (three week commitments through June 14 and two week sessions in the summer). DRS uses volunteers of all skill levels in construction, destruction, and clean-up as well as cooking. Sam and Donna Anema volunteered for three weeks in January and two weeks in May at the New Jersey site. Sam, with his avocational interests in various building skills, has done installing of hardwood flooring, laying ceramic tile as well as miscellaneous carpentry work. Donna, a willing but low-skilled worker, was put to work painting, learning to hang and mud drywall, as well as miscellaneous clean-up. The experience is one of great fellowship with the team while reaching out to those in need. DRS provides housing, meals and partial reimbursement for travel to the site. The weekends are free to do sightseeing: the New Jersey site is very close to New York City as well as the ocean beaches. If this is something you might be interested in doing, check it out at [worldrenew.net/drs](http://worldrenew.net/drs) or talk to the Anemas or Mike and Deb Feys.

--Sam Anema



Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations!

*Wes and Fran Vryhof*

65 years—June 17

All wedding anniversaries are noteworthy, but the above is special. If you celebrate a "special" anniversary in April, May or June and it is not listed, please let us know.

You will see it in the next issue!

Attention Graduates!

Plymouth's Spring 2014 graduates (Middle School, High School, College, Advanced Degree) will be recognized in the next Pulse. Please complete a short form, found at the Information Center, and place it in Dawn Gebben's communicator, or email the information to [wdgebben@att.net](mailto:wdgebben@att.net) Thanks!



## Current Happenings at Plymouth CRC

Below are a few of the many activities that happen in the life of Plymouth Heights. Use this list to pray for fellow church members and perhaps find something that interests you. You are encouraged to add your activity so that it can be printed in future Pulse editions. Please send a few brief sentences to [ddyke1804@ameritech.net](mailto:ddyke1804@ameritech.net)

Bowling at Park Center Lanes happens every other Saturday, 7 PM to 9 PM, beginning in October and ending in March. The final night includes pizza, "fun" bowling and prizes. Jane Brouwer recently surprised herself (and perhaps others) by bowling a 173. Of the 16 teams, seven of them are either Blocks or Noormans. Nick Noorman holds the highest men's score (235) while Bonnie Noorman has the highest women's (181). Perhaps, for more info, one of the Noormans should be contacted! :)

Men's Fellowship meets every two weeks at Raybrook, and recently studied the book of Lamentations. If you are looking for a Bible Study and for something inter-generational, come and join us when we resume our studies in the fall. Call Fred Lummen for details.

Oasis Women's Bible Study is currently reading through the Gospel of John and has groups meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30 AM at Wolfgangs and 6:30 PM in the church library. Ask Kelly Buist for more information.

Softball teams play on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. There is one team of aged 40+ players on Wednesday evenings and two inter-generational teams on Thursday evenings. All teams play at the Christian Reformed Recreation Center between May and August. If you are interested in joining a team, contact Bert Block or Don Buist.

Men's Bible/Book Study is currently reading and discussing C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*. This inter-generational group meets every Wednesday at 6:30-7:50 PM in Room 300. According to Nathan Blom seats are still available and anyone willing to bring snacks is especially welcome. Contact Pastor Steve for more information.

Basketball on Tuesday nights has been a fixture in the community room for the last 12 years. Every Tuesday, from September to May, young men from the southeast side of Grand Rapids get together for two hours of intense "hoops." Stop by on Tuesdays between 7-9 PM and see how our church building serves the community. See Mark or Brian Bardolph, Doug Kool, or Dave Kline for details.



## Our Amazing Marv

PHCRC gets lots of use. Our church calendar always fills with activities. And that means oodles of snowy boots and muddy shoes come through the doors, up the steps, down the steps, and all over the building every week. Food from the kitchen goes out into the Community Room and Library with no guarantees that every morsel will stay on the tables. Snacks are carried and consumed throughout the church. Coffee drips find their way out of cups. Bits of paper drop themselves hither and yon. Your thoroughness erases it all.

How do you do it, Marv? You are consistently on top of things! When we come into the church every Thursday morning for Bible study, we comment to one another on how clean and tidy it is, but you don't hear our praises. Those spotless, carpeted steps, yes, all of the carpet throughout the place is amazingly perfect. You do a terrific job of keeping the entire building, including the huge sanctuary, beautifully fresh and tidy. We are, indeed, grateful. Thank you, Marv. Take a big bow!

--Alyce Boender

## Summary of Council Meeting Minutes—January 27, 2014

### **TREASURER'S REPORT** YTD December 31, 2013.

Treasurer Mike Brouwers noted that the Electronic Funds Transfer method of contributing processed approximately \$35,000 in 2013 and approximately \$8,000 so far in 2014.

**MINISTRY REPORTS** via handout and verbally by Rev. Steve DeVries, Rev. Sarah Albers, Ms. Megan Wunderink, and Ms. Sherlynn James. It was noted that 17 people are signed up for the Dominican Republic trip in spring.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS** by the following liaisons:

**Worship** - Olga Leder. A MOTION from Worship Committee regarding a congregational survey was tabled until more detail is available.

**Congregational Life** - Tom & Mary Van Wingerden.

Scheduled: Church Potluck on March 30, an all-church skating party on March 15, a bus trip to a Tiger Game on May 10.

**Youth & Education** - Lori Tilma.

**Neighborhood Engagement Team** - Tom Brassler. Brad and Wendy Brummel are the co-chairs of NET.

**Global Engagement Team** - Mary Gerritsen.

**Properties** - David Vriesman. The Albers family will move into the parsonage on March 1. Administrative Council toured the parsonage at the end of their January 20 meeting. They were very impressed with all the improvements, and especially thankful for the skillful, high quality work, often "at cost" or "no

charge" with volunteer labor. Those who worked on the parsonage remodel at little or no cost were Lory Bakker, Mike Feys, Larry Tilma, James Vasquez, Jeff Peterson, and Tom Stuyfzand. Bruce Gilman made the insulation as affordable as possible, Paul Bakker helped with the indoor/outdoor carpet, and Pastor Steve's woodworking expertise was very much appreciated!

**Finance** - Mike Brouwers.

**Endowment** - Paul Holwerda. A motion passed to approve the list of disbursements submitted by the Endowment Fund Committee.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Strengths & Opportunities Committee** - Kelly Buist reported that two major themes surfaced in their two meetings: 1) Desire for more relationship building. 2) Better communication.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

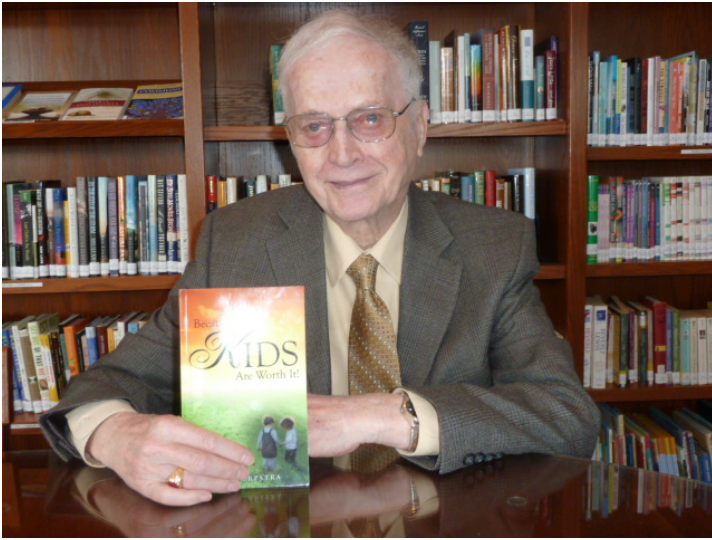
**MOTION** passed to approve the newly constructed handbook.

**MOTION** passed to report the actual contribution receipts and budgeted receipts in the bulletin once monthly. Amendment to MOTION: to remove summary inserts in quarterly statements also passed.

**MOTION** passed to elect Tom Stuyfzand (Benevolence Treasurer) to be Assistant Treasurer. All requests for paid services should now go through the Treasurer (currently Mike Brouwers), or through the Assistant Treasurer (currently Tom Stuyfzand), if the Treasurer is not available.



## Hot Off the Press!



He knew he should do it for 16 years, and finally Jake Terpstra wrote his book! Jake and his wife, Marty, have been members of Plymouth Heights CRC since he retired, and he knew he had expertise to share. Jake earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan, and for the next 50 years worked as a social worker, first in rural Michigan and then as administrator of three agencies for state licensing of child welfare services in Lansing, and later the U.S. Children's Bureau in Washington DC. His book, ***Because Kids Are Worth It***, came out in 2013 and includes his observations, experiences, and opinions about current child welfare services and recommendations for improvement.

Some chapter headings are:

Ch. 1 - "Careful Building Takes Time" - Child welfare can be learned, and understanding history can make the present more understandable. Origins of social work: private charity, settlement houses for immigrants, and orphan trains (which ran from New York to the West from 1854 - 1929, placing over 200,000 children). In 1935 the Social Security Act allotted public funds for child welfare services. By 1970 over a half-million children were in out-of-home care.

Ch.2 - "The Decline of Child Welfare" - In the mid-1960s when state and county financial assistance programs merged, child welfare services were subsumed, and graduate schools cut back on child welfare education. In the 1970s many mental health facilities were closed - some residents going to prisons and some entering the child welfare system.

Ch. 3 - "We Also Did It to Ourselves" - Some well-intended ideas had unintended consequences. For example, aversive therapy for autistic children became extremely harsh and was then banned in all but one state.

Ch. 4 - "The 1980s" - "The more conservative the administration the less it supports human services." During that time once-a-decade White House conferences were canceled, publications about children ceased publication, and the research division was eliminated.

Ch. 5 - "Supervision and Administration" - Until the 1980s only state agency directors were appointed by their governors. Beginning then, many layers of administrative staff were politically appointed, reducing continuity when governors changed.

Ch. 7 - "Rebuilding" - Among many changes needed, two are basic:

- Increase social work training for child welfare staff and foster parents.
- Reduce the heavy burden of bureaucratic detail on caseworkers so they can spend more time with children.

*The book is very readable and can be purchased at Barnes & Noble or Amazon.com.*

*--Dawn Gebben*



## Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is one of the ways Plymouth Heights CRC provides high-quality care to hurting people in the congregation.

### WHO ARE STEPHEN MINISTERS?

They are members of Plymouth Heights who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide one-on-one, Christ-centered care.

### WHAT DO STEPHEN MINISTERS DO?

Each Stephen Minister is paired with a hurting or lonely person—men are paired with men and women are paired with women. These pairs meet on a regular basis to offer care, support and encouragement.

Stephen Ministers care for those dealing with grief, divorce, job loss, hospitalization, financial struggles, loneliness, convalescence, terminal illness and many other life difficulties.



### WHAT DO STEPHEN MINISTERS NOT DO?

Stephen Ministers are not pastors, counselors, physicians, psychologists, therapists, social workers, lawyers or financial consultants.

While they do not assume to take the place of those important people, they walk beside care receivers to encourage them, to pray with them, and to bear their burdens with them.

The current Stephen Ministers and the new group in training would like to ask for your continued prayer support of this vital ministry. Pray that we remember that we not able to FIX anything...that's what God does.

We just walk the journey with those who need some special support during a difficult time of their lives.

Please pray too for Huds Nienhuis as he again has taken on the training of a new group Stephen Ministers.



--Olga Leder



Plymouth member Marilyn VanderWeide entertains Raybrook Residents with a ballroom dancing demonstration. Beautiful!

## Update from the desk of Megan Wunderink, Minister of Youth

### A BREAKAWAY WINTER RETREAT!

In February, the Breakaway Middle School Youth Group had a great Winter Retreat! We were able to spend the weekend at Camp Geneva with several other West Michigan churches. Our time was filled with large group worship and teaching, small group discussions, lots of free time and snow that kept falling. Fun activities included sledding, 9-square, broomball, ga-ga ball, an inflatable obstacle course, and a rock climbing wall. There was also a camp-wide Olympic tournament and an open mic talent show. Camp Geneva provided a worship band and we met four times throughout the weekend to sing and to listen to the guest speaker. The theme of the weekend: listening to the Holy Spirit and learning how to look for His lessons everywhere we are. We had a great time together!

Breakaway has also been busy with other events. Their activities included a night at the Holland Aquatic Center with other CRC churches, and we look forward to a Saturday at Craig's Cruisers. We have a service night planned when we will shop for and assemble Breakfast Bundles for Kids' Food Basket, the only organization in West Michigan focused solely on childhood hunger. Breakaway has also been working through a study series on relationships and how Jesus calls us to interact with people.

### LIFELINE

The second semester of the Lifeline High School Youth Group is flying by. During Christmas Break we had the opportunity to serve hot chocolate at Mulick Park and go sledding. We also met with four other CRC churches for a night of broomball and pizza. During one Sunday Night meeting we went on a community prayer drive, and on another night Lifeline and Breakaway together joined the evening worship service to wrap up our Inter-generational Bible Study on Spiritual Disciplines. Lifeline has also been studying the theme "Just Do Something" and has been looking at examples of young people from the Bible.

Thanks, Megan, for sharing with us what is happening in Breakaway and Lifeline!





Plymouth Heights  
Christian Reformed Church

1800 Plymouth Rd SE. Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Phone: (616) 243-5638

Email: office@phcrc.org

Website: www.phcrc.org

Minister of Worship, Leadership .....	Rev. Steve De Vries
Minister of Congregational Life .....	Rev. Sarah Albers
Pastor of Youth and Education .....	Megan Wunderink
Minister of Music.....	Doug De Vries
Children's Ministry Coordinator.....	Sherlynn James
Head Organist .....	Annelle Dekker
Secretary .....	Janeen Van Swol
Custodian .....	Marv Huizenga



Henrietta Bergmans celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in April. While wishing her a Happy Birthday, Pastor Sarah introduced Henrietta to one of our youngest members, Charlotte Albers.

Birthday blessings, Henrietta, from your church family!