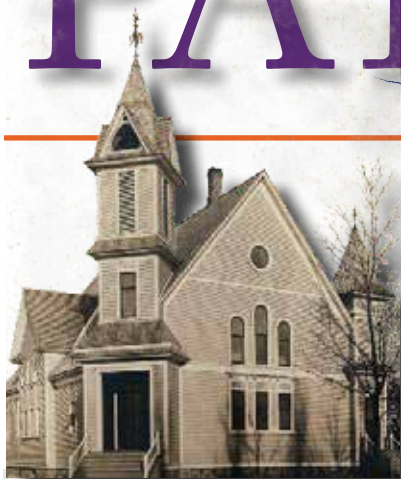


Central Park Church

*Celebrating
100
Years!*

PATHWAY



MARCH 2018 "Good News" of Central Park Church

Vol 18, #3

Pastor's Corner...

— Guest Column by David Beattie

Fat Tuesday is Gone... We're now firmly planted in March and the season of Lent

With a part of my family living way down in N'awleans, all the fuss about "Fat Tuesday" has always intrigued me. What's with all the partying before really having to knuckle down for the 40 days of Lent and focus on the coming sacrifice of our Lord?



*The "Party" is over,
but the Real Celebration of Lent is Here.*

Mardi Gras, which is French for "Fat Tuesday," is the last day of a festival called "Carnival" which usually runs from the Thursday before through the Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday and characterized by feasting and dancing. Carnival is typically celebrated in Catholic countries of southern Europe and Latin America and may not seem to have much in common with the austerity of Lent, but the two seasons are inseparable. ***The day after Fat Tuesday is Ash Wednesday*** — the end of Carnival followed immediately by the beginning of Lent. *Lent is a time of fasting and penance in preparation for Easter. "Carnival" is one last "binge" before having to give something up for 40 days.*

What does the Bible say about all this? There is nothing in the Bible that suggests early Christians observed either Lent or Carnival. There is, of course, no biblical support for the kind of fleshly indulgence generally practiced on Fat Tuesday. In general, Mardi Gras fosters the notion that you can do whatever you want on Fat Tuesday, as long as you shape up on Ash Wednesday. It's been called the "bender before the benediction."

So what does the lenten season mean for those of us who really feel the need to repent, fast, and meditate on the coming Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ? We often associate giving up certain foods or bad habits as a way to observe this 40-day period. What are the weaknesses of the flesh or spirit that hinder us from really sharing the love of Christ? While I write this on the first Sunday of Lent, for many, our choice of sacrifice has already been decided. For those of us who waffle and might be looking for more "lasting" choices, here are some thoughts to ponder, a few more options you might consider leading up to, and even *through*, the Resurrection...

What could we "give up" that might have lasting impact? Here are some possibilities:

- Give up complaining... focus on gratitude***
- Give up pessimism... become an optimist***
- Give up harsh judgments... think kindly thoughts***
- Give up worry... trust Divine Providence***

(continued on page 4.)

OUR MARCH PATH

Pastor's Corner

Fat Tuesday? Carnival? What does it Mean to Give up Something for Lent? (pg. 1)

Worship This Month

The "Story" Continues to Guide our Worship and Fellowship in February (pg. 2)

Consistory Notes

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Youth Going Forward

Retreats, Trips, and other Events offer Fellowship (and Fun) @CPC (pg. 3)

Spiritual Life

The Spirit Continues its Work in the Community and the World (pg. 3)

Outreach & Mission

Reaching Beyond with the Light and Life of Christ in the World (pg. 3)

People & Places

Healing & Hope through Faith... Redemption & Restoration of Our Families & Friends (pg. 4)



*Celebrating
100
Years!*



Celebrating the Journey

OUR COVENANT ... OUR GIFTS

- ❑ The General Fund total for **JANUARY 2018** was... **\$18,152...**
(... budget monthly/annual need: \$25,542/\$306,499) (YTD: **\$18,152**)
- ❑ Mission offering for **January 2018** was... **\$2,585...**
Note: As part of the total budget need (YTD: **\$2,585*)*
- ❑ Expansion Fund giving in **January 2018** was **\$ 3,724...**
(... budget monthly/annual need: \$6,700/\$80,400) (YTD: **\$3,724**)

ARC Loan Praise! — **The mortgage balance is currently \$ 619,800**
note: approximately 2/3 of each payment goes to principle.

OUR FAITH-LED DECISIONS

Supervising Consistory & Shepherding Elders January Meeting Notes...

- ❑ Approved a plan for nominating, contacting and selecting elders and deacons whose term will begin July 1, 2018. Nominating ballots were made available by in February and must be returned by Sunday, March 4. The Congregational Meeting for the selection of Elders and Deacons will take place on Sunday, May 27, 2018.
- ❑ Approved a plan for working with Regional Synod Staff member, Doug McClintic, for a vision and goal setting process. We hope to engage the process before the end of April and to include members of the congregation as well as the installed leaders of the church.
- ❑ Approved the recommendation of the Executive Team to obtain a new or newer snow blower for clearing the church sidewalks.
- ❑ Approved an addition to the Staff Policy to clarify how salaries are paid out.
- ❑ Appointed a team of Mike Pastoor and James Stam to begin looking into the refinancing of our mortgage on the ARC in preparation for our current contract to expire on April 30, 2019.
- ❑ Approved the updating of wording on our weather cancellation policy.
- ❑ Approved the recommendation of the Outreach & Missions Team to provide a grant of \$1,400 to Randy & Leah Bennett for the trip to Haiti in which they participated in February.
- ❑ Approved the recommendation of the Worship Team to purchase some new microphone cables.
- ❑ Approved the paperwork for requesting a grant which has been offered by Holland Classis for covering half of the cost of participating in Module 2 of the Ridder Church Renewal Process.
- ❑ The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will next be celebrated at the Good Friday Service on Friday, March 30, 2018, at 7:00pm.

OUR WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Worship Plans for March 2018



March 4

Third Sunday of Lent **"Queen for Such a Day"**

– Esther 4:14 1 –

The Choir will bring the Ministry of Music. Barb VanderZwaag & the Praise Team will provide the Music in Worship.

March 11

Fourth Sunday of Lent **"If You Build It ..."**

– Malachi 3:1 –

The Praise Team will lead in Worship.

March 18

Fifth Sunday of Lent **"A Scandalous Gift"**

– Luke 1:46-48 –

The Choir will bring the Ministry of Music. Barb VanderZwaag & the Praise Team will provide the Music in Worship.

We Will Celebrate the Lord's Supper.

March 25

Palm Sunday Worship in the ARC

– Matthew 3:16-17 –

Children's procession with Palm branches

"The Beginning All Over Again"

The Praise Team will lead in Worship.

Friday, March 30 7:00pm

Good Friday Service in the ARC @ 7:00pm

The Drama Team will present "Condemned" – "Hints of the Passion"

– John 1:29 –

We Will Celebrate the Lord's Supper.

The Praise Team will lead the Music in Worship.

April 1!

Easter Sunday

"No Ordinary Man"

– John 15:5 –

The Choir will bring the Ministry of Music. Barb VanderZwaag & the Praise Team will provide the Music for the Resurrection Celebration.

Central Park Church

PATHWAY

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OUR LIFE & COMMITMENT

Youth Ministry Rolling:

Goin' Strong! Central Park Church is about youth groups that are alive and full of energy and great activities... Programming is going well and we've been cookin' (literally)!



Hunter, Fearless Youth Leader

Showing the Love: Thank you so much for all your generous support over the past few weeks!

Flapjackin'... The youth held a Pancake Fundraiser for a digital monitor to be hung up in youth room! We raised way more than expected! Such a testimony to the support of our youth program! Thank you so much! We had the monitor up for the Super Bowl and we had such a great time enjoying food and the game!



The CPC Flapjack Gang Rockin' the Kitch!

As the high school youth group gets ready to head to the Genesis Retreat, please pray for safety and the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the kids that go!

Our Journey through "The Story" Marches On...

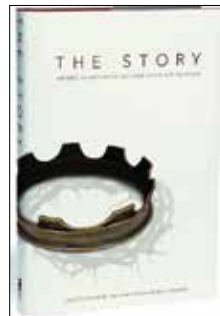
February started with the decline of the Kingdom of Judah.

It was discouraging to read that even the reforming work of good and godly kings like Hezekiah and Josiah could not change the hearts of the people of God. They insisted on worshipping the gods of the nations around them and living selfishly in community instead of caring for the poor and weak among them.

While the Assyrian army dispersed the kingdom of Israel throughout its empire so that it ceased to exist, the Babylonian army which destroyed Judah took the people to the city of Babylon where they established communities of their own and learned once again how to follow God.

In captivity, we found people like Daniel and his three friends who demonstrated what it looks like to live as the people of God in a foreign land. And then the people were allowed to return home. Under the leadership of Ezra, the people made a new covenant with God and began to reclaim the land.

In March, we will wrap up the Old Testament and move into the New. The stories of the courage of **Esther** and **Nehemiah** will inspire the people and us to live in hope of what God is going to do next. Finally, we will see the fulfillment of God's promises to his people as Jesus comes into the world and begins his ministry.



Easter Egg Hunt 2018



Saturday March 31... 10:00am

For Children up to 5th Grade!
The Hunt will be outside on the Lawn
In case of bad weather the event will be held inside in the ARC

More to Celebrate in 2018!

Special Upcoming Dates!

Wednesday Workshop, 6:15pm March 14
Ken Freestone, City of Holland Residential Energy Advisor, on "How to Compost."

Saturday, April 21... "Almost 5K" Run/Walk from Graafschap Church to Central Park, followed by Food, Fun & Games!

"Almost 5K"... Come and join this FUN activity with members of Central Park Church as we celebrate our 100th Year at the corner of Myrtle and Floral Avenues in Holland. Our church began in the new colony of Graafschap in 1848, just a few months after the Holland colony began. Although this new church was part of the division into the Reformed and Christian Reformed Churches some ten years later, we continued to worship in the faithful Community of Graafschap for many years. **In 1917, the Church building and the horse barn were moved in sections, on lumber wagons pulled by horses,** from the Graafschap community to the expanding community of Central Park.

We will recreate our journey at 8:30 A.M. on Saturday, April 21 at the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church location, on foot or bicycle for 2.6 miles (4.18k) following the probable route to today's Church. Please join us then at Central Park Church for snacks, children's pony wagon rides and stay to view a number of Antique Autos and Trucks including a fully functioning 100 year old REO Truck. This FUN event is not a sanctioned race but we would love to have you join us as part of your personal training and commitment to our Holland Community. Shuttles to the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church for walkers and runners will be provided before the race at Central Park Church at 614 Myrtle Avenue, Holland 49423 starting at 7:45 AM. Shuttles will also be provided from Central Park Church back to the starting location as soon as walkers and runners complete the course and will conclude when all are safely returned.

Mission with Us in 2018. Sign Up Now!

An Intergenerational Mission Trip July 15 through 20... is in the planning stages. We are in discussion with **Grace Covenant Ministries** (an RCA Mission focus) in Annville, Kentucky.



Annville Reformed Church, Kentucky

Grace Covenant Ministries (GCM) serves in Appalachia where we find some of the deepest poverty in the U.S. As a ministry committed to holistic community development, GCM works to bring God's love and restoration through home construction and renovation, Vacation Bible schools, trade stores, family enrichment, and more.

We need to know by March 8th how many will be coming in order to secure housing. We need VBS leaders and Construction/Repair leaders to ensure successful outcomes for the trip.

The trip is planned for **July 15 through July 20.** Watch the Bulletin and the Website for details...

Outreach Alert! Practice for Annville... VBS Coming Up in June... June 18 - 21 from 9:00am - 11:45am. It will be an **Amazing Amazon Adventure!** Please watch for announcements on how you can help with this amazing adventure for our children and the children of our community!



Restoration

Prayer & Thanksgiving

Joys, Healing & Sympathies

Let us remember these concerns and praises as we hold our church family in our prayers:

For Healing, Hope, and Praise...

— **MaryLou VanHeest's** condition is somewhat better at this time while she remains at Lakeside Vista.

— **Rose DeJonge** was recently admitted to Holland Hospital with pneumonia. Pray for Rose and her daughter Sandra.

— **Karen Holmes** is now undergoing rehabilitation at the Inn at Freedom Village for her broken leg. Please keep Karen and Ralph in your prayers.

— **Jovo Filips** is recovering at home following a recent neurosurgery. Please keep him in your prayers as he recovers.

— **Charlie VanHouten** had a biopsy recently which came back as non-cancerous.

— **Cayla Mayer** diagnosed with Fibromyalgia in addition to the auto-immune disease, Sjögrens Syndrome. Please keep her in your prayers.

In Sympathy & Concern...

For those unnamed requests for prayer during challenging times ... Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God... I am going to prepare a place for you. — John 14: 1-2

With Our Lord... We pray for those recent losses of so many loved ones, friends and relatives over the past months at Central Park

Billy Graham... A member of all God's family, passed from this earth on Wednesday, February 21. He will be missed by all.

In Praise & Joy...

Thank You... We express our appreciation to **John & Jan Harthorn** who gave a gift to Central Park Church in honor of John's mother, **Grace Harthorn**. Grace was a long-time member of Central Park Church who passed away in August of 2014. They have designated the gift of \$1,500 to be used in ministry with children since Grace gave much of her time serving with the children.

Wow! Thank You! The amount of money raised and given to us here at **Mescalero Reformed Church** is such a blessing and encouragement for us as a church as well as for Miriam and me. We give all glory to God! We continue to covet your prayers as we continue to minister to the wonderful people of Mescalero. God is so faithful! Thank you! Thank you! Please come and visit!

—**Pastor Mark Vellinga**

Thanks for serving... to **Calvin Van Lente** for his thirty years of service on the sound team at Central Park Church. Cal has decided to step aside. We have appreciated his knowledge of sound and his willingness to assist over the years.

— **The Worship Design Team**

Thank You! For all the prayers and support from my wonderful "home" church after my recent appendectomy — **Austin Beattie**

Odds & Ends...



Cardio Café! Tired of looking outside, unable to walk and get your exercise? Try **Tuesday and Thursday** mornings in the ARC from **8:30am to 10am** for time to get out, walk around the gym, enjoy a cup of coffee and a light snack with friends.

New FaithWalk Offering... Our new FaithWalk offering for the next few months is "Turn on the Tap" with Samaritan's Purse.

Holiday Shoppe Date Reminder... Please save the date for the next show, which is scheduled for November 10, 2018. **Get busy!**

Directory Update: — Nancy Gasper: nngasper@gmail.com.

— Noah & Paige Bosma's zip code is 49423

— Lindsey & Dan Kimble, 18th St. not 8th St.

Homebound Member Focus for March:

Bob & Arlyne Zwiers... 727 Apple Ave. - 49423

Community Night Carnival

Community Night will come to a close on Wednesday night, March 21, with a carnival here at Central Park Church.

As usual, the evening will begin at 5:30pm with a delicious meal prepared by James and the kitchen crew, but as soon as the kids have finished eating, the carnival will begin. A variety of games and attractions are being planned for the kids.

- Gaga Ball
- Ladder Ball
- And, face painting, just to name a few.
- Bean bag toss
- Cake Walk

Adults can join in the festivities by playing board games, joining with the kids in their activities or by volunteering to help out. Plan now to join in the fun of our end-of-the-season carnival on March 21.



In Memory of...

"My home is in heaven. I'm just traveling through this world."

—**The Reverend Billy Graham**
1918 — 2018

"Had it not been for the ministry of my good friend Dr. Billy Graham, my work in the civil rights movement would not have been as successful as it has been."

—**The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.**

"... When I was president, I was thankful that Billy came to the White House to visit. He has no political agenda. He has an agenda of the Lord."

—**Former U.S. President George W. Bush**

Pastor's Corner ...

(cont. from Page 1.)

Give up anger... be more patient

Give up gloom... enjoy the beauty that is around you

Give up gossiping... control your tongue

Give up sin... turn to virtue

Give up bitterness... turn to forgiveness

Give up hatred... return good for evil

Give up negativism... be positive

Give up giving up... hang in there!

In the end, we can all consider giving up a little something for the One who gave so much for us. The "Party" is clearly over; and we shout "Amen" that the "real" Celebration is just beginning!