Reflections

Please forgive any errors or omissions. We'd be grateful if you would call them to our attention. Thank you for your cooperation when you are asked to submit a news article—without your help there would be no newsletter! Thank you also to the volunteers who help collate the Reflections each month.

Visitation

First CRC Shut-ins in rest homes:

Landsmeer: Hilly Vande Berg, Millie Wassenaar

Prairie Ridge Care Center: Bernice De Boer, Arlys Feenstra, Theresa Goslinga, Arie Mans, Irene Pennings, Lorna Reinders, Margene Van Zanten, Jim Wassenaar

Kosgrove: Mary Addink

Royale Meadows: Duane Den Hartog, Joan Den Hartog, Jeanette Jager, Betty Vander Schaaf

Pleasant Acres: Elizabeth Dykstra

Rock Rapids Health Centre: Arlene De Jong

At home: Dorothy Draayer

Please note—Bulletins and hand-outs are delivered weekly to the shut-ins in the local homes. There are no regular mailboxes for these members. If you have a card or other item, for any of these shut-ins, please place it in the designated pocket of the gray expandable folder located below the mailboxes.

Transportation

If you need a ride to a church service or another activity in church, please contact Bob De Jong (752-8295 or 230-2230) or Jon Hellinga (395-2031).

Hospitality

If you are in need of assistance, or know of someone who is, please contact your care unit deacon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 28—Thanksgiving Day Service, 9:30 a.m.
"A Gentle Approach"
From the Desk of Pastor Mark

Proverbs 15:1
“A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

How do you respond to someone when you know they are wrong and how do you respond to someone when you know you are right? Many of us, I believe, are very good at knowing the difference between right and wrong; we know what the Bible says; we know what we believe; we know what we stand for. But unfortunately, many of us get it wrong with our response to what’s wrong and what’s right. Many of us are mean with our words, hurtful in our approach, and not very gentle in our conversations.

In a sermon a week ago, I shared this quote by theologian Klyne Snodgrass, who said in his commentary on the book of Ephesians, “Healthy relationships cannot exist under force and threat. Some Christians present themselves as so brittle and hostile that no one wants to be around them. Even if they are right, they are repulsively right. Gentleness conveys a sensitivity, a desire not to harm, and a valuing of the other person.”

Being a gentle person is challenging, especially when you know someone is wrong and you know you are right. For instance, when you know that celebrating homosexuality is wrong, it’s hard to be gentle when you know that the Bible does not condone and is completely opposed to homosexuality. As a result, you want the truth to come out and you want the falsehood to be exposed. So when we know the truth, when we understand the truth and we hold on to the truth, and someone thinks differently, it’s hard to approach them with kindness, graciousness and love.

But that’s what gentleness is all about. Gentleness is all about the tact that we use and the approach we take. Gentleness is all about approaching the things that are wrong in a very kind, gracious and loving way. Gentleness is the keen sense of what to do or say in order to maintain a good relationship with someone else.

But many of us are repulsively right and our tact leaves something to be desired. We are mean, we are belittling, we are harsh with our words and we are hateful with our thoughts. Thus, we are not very gentle and I truly believe we give Christianity a bad name.

Granted, when things are wrong and truth is not lived out, we cannot sit idly by and do nothing. That’s being passive and being passive is not right either. We have to do something, but when we do something, our approach must be filled with gentleness.

My challenge for each of us is to be gentle in our lives in our approach. Watch what you say, watch your tone of voice and watch how you say it. You may be right, but please do not be repulsively right. Be, as Paul says in Ephesians 4:2, completely gentle.
**Sound Booth**
November 3  Gary Jeltema
November 10 Ryan Raines
November 17 LeRoy De Jager
November 24 Greg De Groot
November 28 Greg De Groot
December 1 Jon Hellinga

**Video Recording**
November 3  Austin Van Donge
November 10 Grant De Groot
November 17 Sam Byker
November 24 Nicholas Noteboom
November 28 Nicholas Noteboom
December 1 Austin Van Donge

**Projection**
November 3  Phil Kuiken
November 10 Daniel Ver Steeg
November 17 Shannon Schuller
November 24 Ryan Noteboom
November 28 Linda Ver Steeg
December 1 Phil Kuiken

**USHERS**

**November**
SW-Warren Dekkers
SE-Bob Dorhout
W-Henry Dykstra
South Balcony-Kaleb Hamming
Center Back-Curt Ahrenholz
   Rod De Groot

**December**
SW-Carter De Jong
SE-Wade Haarsma
W-Trey Kroeze
South Balcony-Jacob Van Donge
Center Back-Alan De Jong
   Loren Dykstra

**Please note:** Once the call to worship begins please wait to usher late comers in until the first song. Please try to evenly distribute people. Thank you!
Coffee Servers
November 3—Nate & Christina Zuiderveen, Mark & Gina Zylstra
November 10—Ken & Dawn Beukelman, Ross & Amy Bolkema
November 17—Gordon & Pat Bruxvoort, Grant & Heidi De Groot
November 24—Greg & Angela De Groot, Rod & Sondra De Groot
December 1—Irwin & Judy De Jong, Henry & Joyce Dykstra
December 8—Bob & Carla De Jong, Alan & Jody De Jong
December 15—Bykers, Helmings, Huizengas, Vande Zandes
December 22—Loren & Melissa Dykstra, Dennis & Margene Eekhoff
December 29—Jim & Marilyn Goslinga, Doug & Janice Hamming

Sunday Evening Greeters

November 3
FHE-Loren & Melissa Dykstra
FHW-Dennis & Margene Eekhoff
SE-Jerry & Carolyn Goedhart

November 10
FHE-Jim & Marilyn Goslinga
FHW-Wade & Aletha Haarsma
SE-Doug & Janice Hamming

November 17
FHE-Mark & Cindy Huizenga
FHW-Henrietta Jeltema & Geri Kiel
SE-Gary & Anita Jeltema

November 24
FHE-Brian & Nancy Kroeze
FHW-Bill & Gert Kooi
SE-Mark & Vi Kuiken

December 1
FHE-Ed & Ethel Kruid
FHW-Bruce & Connie Lefever
SE-Brice & Tyler Kroeze

Bulletin Delivery
November 3  Warren & Ruth Dekkers
November 10 Warren & Ruth Dekkers
November 17 Bill & Gert Kooi
November 24 Bill & Gert Kooi
December 1  Jim & Marilyn Goslinga
December 8  Jim & Marilyn Goslinga
December 15 Pete & Laura Zomermaand
December 22 Pete & Laura Zomermaand
December 29 Ed & Ethel Kruid
November 3 AM-Jenn Mills, Shari Visser, Sienna Rosenboom
   PM-Kristi Reinders, Brooke Jacobsma, Tyce Van Donge

November 10 AM-Shawndra Kuiken, Allison De Jong, Ruby Zylstra
   PM-Bethany Schuller, Levi Rosenboom, Amber Vande Zande

November 17 AM-Krissa Oolman, Audrey Schuller, Drew Noteboom
   PM-Bev Snieder, Jackson Vogel, Lindsey De Groot

November 24 AM-Patty Timmermans, Jenny Vogel, Deacon Vogel
   PM-Becky Visser, Ava Nykamp, Autumn Kroeze

November 28 AM-Kim Vande Zande, Janice Hamming, Rae Raines

December 1 AM-Carla De Jong, Cindy Schuller, Karli Noteboom
   PM-Amy Bolkema, Reagan Noteboom, Haley Schuller

December 8 AM-Shanelle Raines, Jane Dorhout, Lucy Zylstra
   PM-Angela De Groot, Carissa Reinders, Autumn Clark

December 15 AM-Jennifer Mulder, Gina Zylstra, Olivia Young
   PM-Jill Jacobsma, Kaleb Hamming, Riley Mulder

December 22 AM-Maria Noteboom, Connie Lefever, Kayla Vande Zande
   PM-Janna Van Donge, Julia Dykstra, Katie Young

December 25 AM-Heidi De Groot, Jody De Jong, Emily Vande Zande

December 29 AM-Melissa Dykstra, Anita Jeltema, Sabrina Timmermans
   PM-Nancy Kroeze, Carson Noteboom, Lauren Noteboom

November 3 Lesson: *The Ten Best Ways to Live*  
   Leader: Kristi; Flag Greeter: Jill J.; 2nd Greeter: Jayden M.

November 10 Lesson: *Exile & Return*  
   Leader: Kim; Flag Greeter: Anita J.; 2nd Greeter: Melissa D.

November 17 Lesson: *How the Church Tells Time*  
   Leader: Lindsey; Flag Greeter: Becky V.; 2nd Greeter: Ava N.

November 24 Off for Thanksgiving

December 1 Lesson: *The Prophets & Mary & Joseph Show the Way to Bethlehem*  
   Leader: Shari; Flag Greeter: Nancy K.; 2nd Greeter: Rae R.
Thank you for the cards and visits during my hospitalization and adjustment to the home in Rock Rapids. Thanks also to Pastor Mark and Pastor Jordan for their visits. It is a blessing to belong to the family of God.

--Arlene De Jong

Our heartfelt thanks for all the cards and acts of kindness shown to us following the deaths of our brother-in-law and grandson. What a privilege it is to belong to the family of God!

--Otto and Pris Huizenga

I would like to thank our church family for the prayers, cards, visits and meals following my surgery. Also thanks to Pastor Mark for his visits and encouraging words. They were all appreciated. Thanks for God for healing and modern medicine that found the cancer in a very early stage.

--Ethel Kruid

Thank you very much for your prayers, cards and visits. A special thanks to Pastor Mark and Don Snieder for their prayers and visits.

--Bill and Gert Kooi

Thank you to the person who put a copy of *The Voice of the Martyrs* in my mailbox. It was a good reminder of how blessed we are in the United States.

--Kathy Schuller

A BIG THANK YOU to the young people and their sponsors for raking up all my leaves, what a wonderful surprise!

--Leona Noteboom

Thank you for blessing us during Pastor Appreciation Month with your cards, gifts, food, words of encouragement and above all, your prayers. We are grateful and thankful that we have the opportunity to serve the Lord here at 1st CRC.

--Pastor Mark and Pastor Jordan

We welcome Pastor Jordan and Luralyn Helming, along with their children, Josiah, Magdalena and Matthias to First CRC!

From the Helmings: We have lived in Sioux Center since 2013 when Luralyn was hired to teach Psychology at Dordt. Josiah is 7, and enjoys school, sports, all types of vehicles, and making friends. Magdalena is 3, and enjoys dinosaurs, coloring, and pre-school. Matthias is 1, and enjoys trying to do everything by himself, going outside, and spending time with his siblings. As a family, we like to go to the zoo, play in the yard, and go for walks.

Welcome to First CRC, Helming family!
Upcoming Offerings

November 3 AM-1/2 Zestos, ½ OC Food Pantry (November Missions of the Month)
PM-Geneva Campus Ministries – University of Iowa

November 10 AM- Benevolent Fund
PM-Orange City Christian School

November 17 AM-Church Plant – F Street
PM-Inspiration Hills

November 24 AM-Mission and Service Projects Fund
PM-Crossroads Bible Institute

November 28 AM-Sioux City Gospel Mission

December 1 AM-One Body One Hope (December Mission of the Month)
PM-Christian Schools International

(the second offering every Sunday morning is for Christian Education)

Council Report

We received the memberships of Rev. Jordan and Luralyn Helming and their family from Bridge of Hope CRC in Sioux Center. We approved putting a new patio door and new windows in the parsonage. We concluded the meeting by meeting with Church Visitors from Classis Heartland.

--Irwin De Jong, clerk

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Shoeboxes are now available in the fellowship hall. The deadline to return them filled will be BEFORE the morning service on November 24.

If you would like to know more about this ministry--
--Answers to frequently asked questions
--How to fill a shoebox online
--Gift suggestions for boys and girls in each age group (see lists on following pages)
--How to track your own box by paying shipping label online
--How to volunteer at the collection centers in larger cities
--and more, you can go to: https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

Did you know? Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events, and how to implement The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program.
Here are a few age appropriate ideas as you pack your Operation Christmas Child boxes:

Do not include: candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

FOR ALL AGES:

Personal Note:
- You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself, your family, or group. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.

GIRLS AGES 2-4:

A “wow” item
- Doll
- Soccer ball (make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- Stuffed animal
- An outfit of clothing to wear
- Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or woodwind recorder)

Personal Care Items
- Comb, hairbrush, toothbrush
- Washcloth, bar soap, adhesive bandages (colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment)
- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (consider filling an empty contained with non-liquid items such as hair bow, bracelets, sunglasses, or washcloths to minimize space), blankets

Clothing and Accessories
- shirts and pants, pillowcase dress (loose-fitting sundress), underwear, shoes and socks
- Flip flops, hat/scarf/mittens, sunglasses, tote bag/purse

Craft Activities:
- Pencils, small manual pencil sharpener, colored pencils, pencil case
- Crayons, markers, pens, coloring pads, coloring books, picture book, notebooks
- Glue stick (do not include liquid glue), small adhesive tape
- Watercolor set (finger paint palette/crayons/markers (non-liquid containers), paint brushes, canvas or paper)
- Playdough (consider adding plastic cookie cutters as non-sharp utensils the child can use)
- Stickers, jump rope, make your own items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets.

Toys:
- Foam ball, kick ball, finger puppets, slinky, etch a sketch, interactive toys that include push buttons, lights, noise (include extra batteries)
GIRLS AGES 5-9
A “Wow” Item:
- Doll
- Soccer ball (make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- An outfit of clothing to wear
- Stuffed animal
- Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or woodwind recorder)
- Backpack

Personal Care Items:
- Comb, hairbrush, toothbrush
- Washcloth, bar soap, adhesive bandages (colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment)
- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (consider filling an empty contained with non-liquid items such as hair bow, bracelets, sunglasses, or washcloths to minimize space), blankets
- Non-liquid lip balm, flashlight, compact mirror

School Supplies:
- Pencils, small manual pencil sharpener, colored pencils, pencil case
- Pens, crayons, markers, notebooks, blank index cards, solar powered calculator
- Scissors, ruler, protractor, glue stick (do not include liquid glue), small adhesive tape

Clothing and Accessories:
- shirts and pants, pillowcase dress (loose-fitting sundress), underwear, shoes and socks
- Flip flops, hat/scarf/mittens, sunglasses, tote bag/purse
- Hair bows, friendship bracelets (woven with yarn or embroidery thread)

Crafts and Activities:
- Coloring books, watercolor set, puzzles, playdough
- Stickers, chalkboard and chalk, binoculars, jump rope

Toys:
- Foam ball, kickball, yo-yo, small Frisbee, small kite, etch a sketch, plastic toys and toy figures
- Costume items to play dress-up, such as crowns or costume jewelry

GIRLS AGES 10-14
A “Wow” Item:
- Doll
- Soccer ball (make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- An outfit of clothing to wear
- Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or woodwind recorder)
- Backpack
- Stuffed animal

Personal Care Items:
- Comb, hairbrush, toothbrush
- Washcloth, bar soap, adhesive bandages (colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment)
- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as hair bow, bracelets, sunglasses, or washcloths to minimize space), blankets
- Non-liquid lip balm, flashlight, compact mirror
- Nail clipper and file, stick deodorant, washable/reusable cloth menstrual pads

School Supplies:
- Pencils, small manual pencil sharpener, colored pencils, pencil case
- Pens, crayons, markers, notebooks, blank index cards, solar powered calculator
- Scissors, ruler, protractor, glue stick (do not include liquid glue), small adhesive tape

Clothing and Accessories:
- Shirts and pants, pillowcase dress (loose-fitting sundress), underwear, shoes and socks
- Flip flops, hat/scarf/mittens, sunglasses, tote bag/purse
- Hair bows, friendship bracelets (woven with yarn or embroidery thread)
- Wrist watch, bead jewelry/bead kit, hair accessories (hair clips, hair ribbons, elastic hair bands)

Crafts and Activities:
- Puzzles, binoculars, compass, chalkboard and chalk
- Sewing kit, fabric (1-2 yards), and ribbon
- Laminated decorative pictures with looped ribbon attached as a picture hanger
- Gardening kit with gloves and trowel hand tool (do not include gardening seeds)
- Playing cards, jump rope

Toys:
- Foam ball, kickball, yo-yo, small Frisbee, small kite, etch a sketch
- Kaleidoscope, marbles

BOYS AGES 2-4
A “Wow” Item:
- Soccer ball (make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- Stuffed animal
- An outfit of clothing to wear
- Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or woodwind recorder)

Personal Care Items:
- Comb, hairbrush, toothbrush
- Washcloth, bar soap, adhesive bandages (colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment)
- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as combs, markers, sunglasses, or washcloths to minimize space)

Clothing and Accessories:
- Shirts and pants, underwear, shoes and socks
- Flip-flops, hat/scarf mittens, sunglasses
Crafts and Activities:
- Pencils, small manual pencil sharpener, colored pencils, pencil case
- Crayons, markers, pens, coloring pads, coloring books, picture book, notebooks
- Glue stick (do not include liquid glue.), small adhesive tape
- Watercolor set (finger paint palette/crayons/markers (non-liquid containers), paint brushes, canvas or paper)
- Playdough (consider adding plastic cookie cutters as non-sharp utensils the child can use)
- Stickers, building blocks

Toys:
- Foam ball, kickball (include a manual air pump so the ball can be reinflated.
- Tennis ball, finger puppets, slinky, etch a sketch, plastic tools
- Play cars/trucks/boats, plastic dinosaurs
- Interactive toys that include push buttons, lights, noise (include extra batteries)

BOYS AGES 5-9
A “Wow” Item:
- Soccer ball (make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- Stuffed animal
- An outfit of clothing to wear
- Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or woodwind recorder)
- Toy truck or boat, backpack

Personal Care Items:
- Comb, hairbrush, toothbrush, non-liquid lip balm, flashlight, blanket
- Washcloth, bar soap, adhesive bandages (colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment)
- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (consider filling an empty contained with non-liquid items such as combs, markers, sunglasses, or washcloths to minimize space)

School Supplies:
- Pencils, small manual pencil sharpener, colored pencils, pencil case
- Pens, crayons, markers, notebooks, blank index cards, solar powered calculator
- Scissors, ruler, protractor, glue stick (do not include liquid glue), small adhesive tape

Clothing and Accessories:
- Shirts and pants, underwear, shoes and socks, flip flops
- Wrist watch, hat/scarf/mittens, sunglasses

Crafts and Activities:
- Coloring books, watercolor set, puzzles, playdough, stickers, chalkboard and chalk
- Building blocks, tool set, binoculars, jump rope

Toys:
- Kickball, foam ball, baseball and mitt, tennis ball
- Plastic dinosaurs, animals, action figures (nothing war related)
- Toy cars, yo-yo, small Frisbee, small kite, etch a sketch, hacky sack
BOYS AGES 10-14

A “Wow” Item:
- Soccer ball (make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- Stuffed animal
- An outfit of clothing to wear
- Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or woodwind recorder)
- Toy truck or boat, backpack

Personal Care Items:
- Comb, hairbrush, toothbrush
- Washcloth, bar soap, adhesive bandages (colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment)
- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as combs, markers, sunglasses, or washcloths to minimize space)
- Non-liquid lip balm, flashlight, blanket, nail clipper and file, stick deodorant

School Supplies:
- Pencils, small manual pencil sharpener, colored pencils, pencil case, erasers
- Pens, crayons, markers, notebooks, blank index cards, solar powered calculator
- Scissors, ruler, protractor, glue stick (do not include liquid glue), small adhesive tape

Clothing and Accessories:
- Shirts and pants, underwear, shoes and socks, flip flops
- Wrist watch, hat/scarf/mittens, sunglasses, bandana

Crafts and Activities:
- Puzzles, chalkboard and chalk, binoculars, compass, magnets
- Tool set with work gloves, fishing kit, brightly colored rope or twine
- Gardening kit with gloves and trowel (no seeds)
- Kaleidoscope, jump rope, playing cards, marbles

Toys:
- Kickball, foam ball, baseball and mitt, tennis ball
- Toy cars, yo-yo, small Frisbee, small kite, hacky sack

May you be blessed as you are blessing children around the world with Christmas gifts and hearing about Jesus.