



The Shepherd's Voice

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Volume III

Issue 8

MINUTE WITH MIKE

*For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD,
'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11*

Warm summer greeting to you and yours!

Praying that you are enjoying the beauty of God's summer and taking some time to recreate and vacation.

As I write this, my lawn has turned an interesting shade of brown. It's been very hot and dry for a number of weeks now, but we expect that to happen every year during the summer months.

I'm wondering if we equally expect God to bless us with favor and provision in season and out. The above verse, a favorite one for many people, tells us that God intends only good things for us—our health, spiritual life, etc. He does not punish his children, rather He blesses them!

When I look around, I am thankful for our nation and for those who serve her. I am grateful for my family, the community in which we all live, and for the church - locally and globally. I see God's "welfare" in the beauty of our surroundings and in the many friends we have and share.

He has, is, and will continue to bless us and look out for us, even into the "future," for we live in the midst of our Hope, Christ Jesus, The Lord who is the Hope of the world! May you rest and reflect upon this truth and the heart of our God who makes us such promises!

In His love and service,

Mike

GRANDPARENTS

Rachel Wahome is the grandmother - of twins. Baby boy Christian Maluki Masayi, 3.12lbs., 17.3" long, and sister Crystal Kairu Masayi 5.12lbs, 17" long, were born July 1, 2018. As of July 11 all were doing well but still in the hospital because the baby boy was underweight. Grandma Rachel went to take her first opportunity at spoiling them in July.

Al Schumacher became a first time great grandfather. His grandson and wife, Jack and Stacey, welcomed Bryce Edward on June 30, 2018. Congratulations to all!

AUGUST DATES

- No more 10:00am Friday Chapel services at the Seminary until August
1st (Wed.) Softball Game at 8:30pm (Diamond 6)
5th (Sun.) 8:00am Prayer, 9:00am Adult Study
 10:00am Worship with Communion – Rev. David Wallis preaching
7th (Tues.) Baynai's Home Group meeting at 7:00pm
8th (Wed.) Softball Game at 6:30pm with Ice Cream tail gate after (Diamond 6)
9th (Thurs.) Bilyea's Home Group meeting at 1:00pm
9th (Thurs.) Session meeting 6:30pm
12th (Sun.) 8:00am Prayer, 9:00am Adult Study
 10:00am Worship
 LOVE Team (Worship) meeting after worship
15th (Wed.) Softball Playoff Game
17-19 (Fri. - Sun.) Family Camp
19th (Sun.) 10:00am worship – Rev. D. Laura Smit preaching
21st (Tues.) Baynai's Home Group meeting – 7:00pm
23rd (Thur.) Bilyea's Home Group meeting -- 1:00pm
26th (Sun.) 8:00am Prayer, 9:00am Adult Study
 10:00am Worship
 LIVE Team (Mission & Media) meeting after worship

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|----------------------------|
| 8 | Jean Bailey | 26 | John and Lorraine Kapellar |
| 12 | Bev Schaafsma | | |
| 15 | Toni Kenyi | | |
| 17 | Dan Vanderberg | | |
| 20 | Leonard Postema | | |
| 24 | Marcia Jones | | |
| 31 | Vi Squires | | |

SESSION NEWS

Treasurer's Report (as of 6/30/2018)

\$ 38,713	Balance on Hand as of 6/30/2018 (less following committed funds)
<u>- 11,000</u>	Building Fund
\$ 27,713	Uncommitted Funds Available

Notes:

- Uncommitted funds as of 5/31/2018 were \$30,110.
- A total amount of \$928 was disbursed in early July to The Potter's House as follows: \$464 from the Joyful Noise offering and \$464 matching funds from missions.

Membership

Active Membership as of 6/14/2018	55
Remove Eckhart Chan and Courtney Mills; dropped from active rolls at their request	- 2
Add Leonard & Dorothy Postema; Letter of Transfer from Hope Reformed Church	+ 2
Active Membership as of 7/10/2018	55

* Please note that the membership total of 57 in the prior Clerk's Report has been adjusted down to 55 to reflect a typographical error in March.

Love (Worship Team)

There is a need for people to learn and work in the sound booth. Eileen Ladd has announced she will be available only through the end of August so we will need a replacement in September. Donna will continue with the bulletin and PowerPoint and will ensure that the hymns will be on the screen from now on.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Mike reported the following:

- Preparations are ongoing for CityFest, the two-day evangelical event.
- Church of the Straits has donated \$3,000 to Fikre Norcha from their mission funds.
- A planned pulpit exchange with Pastor Dave Wallis from Church of the Straits will occur Sunday, August 5.
- The Seminary now would like to negotiate an intern and is willing to make concessions on the cost. There will be further dialogue followed by further discussion at the next Session meeting.
- On August 6 Pastor Mike will be flying to Washington, D.C. to preside over the burial of Bob and Elaine Brooks at Arlington National Cemetery. The Session approved paying for his air fare.

Missions

The mission payment to Grace's Table was erroneously sent to Pregnancy Resource Center. After extended discussion it was decided to stick with the original plan of dropping PRC from the 2019 rotation and doubling up for Grace's Table in 2019. A letter of apology and explanation of the situation will be sent to Grace's Table.

Learning

The 9:00 a.m. Bible study is well attended (6-10 people).

EVENTS

Sunday Devotionals:

12th - Samaritas (the Lodge) 2:15pm

26th - American House 3:00pm

PULPIT EXCHANGE

On Sunday, August 5th, Rev. David Wallis will visit us and fill our pulpit while Pastor Mike and Donna preach at Rev. Wallis's church; Church of the Straits in Mackinaw City. This exchange is designed to introduce and build relationships within our Presbytery. Be sure to give Rev. Wallis a warm GSPC welcome!

NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Laura Smit

I'm writing this month's report from San Diego, where I'm meeting with a group of pastors who have been my friends and support for well over ten years. We're in San Diego because one of our members, Jerry Andrews, is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of San Diego, a wonderful, evangelical congregation that's remaining faithful while inside the PC(USA). Jerry is the head of the Fellowship, the renewal group for evangelicals in the PC(USA). I arrived on Saturday, and that evening I was able to attend Jazz Vespers at First Pres. In fact, I came early just for that reason. If I had to pick one worship service to attend every week for the rest of my life, I think it would be this one. There's wonderful live jazz, plus all the elements of a traditional Presbyterian worship service, including weekly communion. I got to go to the traditional service on Sunday morning as well. Jerry has a tradition of telling the children a Bible story using flannel graph as the children's sermon. I've seen him do this before, and it's one of my favorite things. The kids don't know that it's old fashioned, and they're learning all the stories of the Bible. There are a lot of homeless people in San Diego, some of whom come to the worship services, and the congregation has a luncheon for them every Sunday afternoon.

Our group has just spent all of Monday talking about the nature of the church and the nature of our confessions. Several members of our group have published books or articles since we last met, and we've looked at two of those today, as well as spending significant time in prayer together. One of our group members is Darrell Guder, a retired professor from Princeton Seminary who's one of the originators of the idea of missional theology, something that's very important to ECO. Tomorrow we'll be talking about an article he's written on that subject. Also tomorrow we'll be looking at a book by another group member, Joe Small, the retired director of the Office of Theology and Worship in the PC(USA). I remained in the PC(USA) as long as I did largely because Joe was in charge of that office. Joe and Jerry and I were the three members of the original ECO Theology Task Force, although back then in 2012 we didn't know that the new thing we were talking about would end up being a new denomination, and we certainly didn't know what its name would be. Neither Joe nor Jerry chose to come into ECO; they both felt that should stay at their posts as long as they were still free to do faithful ministry, and they've both been in places where they had that kind of freedom. But they're still supportive of what we're doing in ECO as well.

Being with my friends and having this sort of support is essential to my ministry. Whenever we meet, I'm convinced all over again about the wisdom of ECO's requirement that every pastor be a member of a pastor's group. I'm also a

member of a group of ECO pastors, and we try to meet by Skype when we can't meet in person, but we've been having trouble being faithful about that. I know that I need to press for us to meet more regularly. This is also why our congregation is required to have a partner congregation with whom we develop a relationship of support and accountability. The hope in ECO is that such strong relationships will help to keep us faithful to the gospel that we confess. I know that this time with my friends and colleagues is helping me.

I'll be back to Grand Rapids in a few days, and then next Sunday I'm preaching for the first time at Knapp Reformed Church (RCA). I'm looking forward to meeting some new people, but also looking forward to being back at Good Shepherd at the end of the month.

FAMILY CAMP

As noted in last month's newsletter this year we'll hold family camp on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 17-19 at the home of Anne and Dan Vanderberg in Muskegon. All members and friends are invited to attend all or part of this weekend event. There will be a church-wide camp fire on Saturday evening at 6:30 for anyone wishing to go and spend a few hours with the "campers". Additionally, the "campers" (including Pastor Mike) will worship outdoors on Sunday morning at 11:00am for anyone wishing to drive up and join them. (Bring your lawn chair...). Rev. Dr. Laura Smit will lead worship at Calvin Seminary at our regularly scheduled time (10:00am). For more information about Family Camp, contact Shauna Gipe at (616) 528-2310.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

The new e-mail address for Fikre is : Fikre Norcha <fikrenorcha@yahoo.com>

A NEW TIME FOR THE BAYNAI HOME

For the past year or so, the Baynai's have opened their home up as a Home Group meeting place. The meetings have been held at 4:00pm. Believing that 4:00pm is just not a good time for so many members, the meeting will be at 7:00pm in August. Pastor Mike is hopeful that some of you who are not currently in a Home Group would make it a point to visit his home every FIRST and THIRD Tuesday of the month. The visits last about an hour and are very informal. Pastor Mike is hoping that at least a few of you will give it a try and visit. For more information contact Pastor Mike (616) 822-9988 RevMCB@hotmail.com

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

There are always things to do around the house or office, and there are always things to do around the church. If the Lord prompts you, consider one of the following projects:

Every morning for worship there are a number of things that get set up, one of which is the paraments, the colored cloths that adorn the communion table, the baptismal and the pulpit. It takes about ten minutes.

BOB AND ELAINE BROOKS INTERNMENT

Our dear brother and sister in the faith, Bob and Elaine Brooks, will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. on Monday, August 6th at 11:00am. Pastor Mike will attend the service along with a number of members of the Brooks family. Bob was a member of the US Marine Corp. and had made arrangements for Elaine and him to be interned there long ago.

A HEARTFELT WELL DONE AND THANK YOU

Many of you know that our dear sister in the faith, Eileen Davis-Hoogerhyde, was married recently and is now Eileen Ladd. She and her husband Steve have purchased a home in Muskegon nearer to Steve's employment. Eileen has made the move and is ready to settle into the Muskegon community. She will be playing for us for the last time on Sunday, August 26th. Eileen has been so faithful in blessing us with her God-given talents for so many years, and although we will deeply miss her, we wish her God's speed and hope to see her around for special occasions. Bless you and thanks, Eileen!!

SOFTBALL

The Good Shepherd Men's slow pitch softball team is as hot as the summer weather this year. We've played eight games and have won seven of them. We've scored more than 100 runs in those eight games; even Pastor Mike has gotten on base a few times! The games are played at the Christian Reformed Church Recreation Center on the corner of 36th Street and Schaffer. Plenty of free parking and there is no admission to the games. We play on Diamond 6. Be sure to bring your lawn chair for extra comfort. There is a concession stand and restrooms. The Team plays August 1 (8:30pm), August 8 (6:30pm with free ice cream tail gate after the game for everyone), and August 15 (a playoff game - time to be announced).

DEVOTIONAL MUSINGS

It's more than likely most of you have favorite devotionals, and some entries seem more meaningful than others for whatever reason. Why not think about sharing them with other members? Feel free to submit them to the "Shepherd's Voice." All you need to do is to provide the source and author along with the content of the devotional message. This is your newsletter so why not be a part of it? Included in this issue is an example to get you started. In the interest of space, as in most devotionals, scripture source is all that is provided. You can e-mail it to brittersdorf@sbcglobal.net, or if you don't do e-mail, you can write it out or give a print copy to Betty Rittersdorf.

From Words of Hope

Read Mark 8:36-37

Living with an Eye on Eternity

(What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?)

We human beings seem to be hardwired to want things—and we want them now! We call it "instant gratification." Why should we wait? Instant gratification may sound good, but is it really? Most of the things we want satisfy us for the moment, but most do not have long-lasting positive effects on us. Fast food may be fast, but is it nutritious? It may be convenient, but is it healthy?

Our Lord realized that instant gratification is not the way to go. In particular, Jesus is setting up a contrast in values. What things are really important to us? Usually we are tempted to set our hearts on material things and earthly successes. For example, working your way up the ladder of success may seem admirable—but is it the most important thing? Jesus puts it this way: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" (v. 36)

Our top priority should be honoring God above all. You can be successful and rich here on earth, but what about in the world to come? What about your soul—that part of you that will live forever? Jesus wants us to live with an eye on eternity. "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else...and He will give you everything you need." (Matt. 6:33 NLT). – John Koedyker

PRAYER: Help us, Lord, to live with our priorities straight and our eyes fixed on eternity.

LETTER FROM PRESBYTERY

June 29, 2018

TO: GLP Council, Pastors, and Clerks
FROM: GLP Moderator Dr. Jerry Kasberg
TOPIC: Updates from the GLP Council Meeting

First of all, I trust that all of you are, or will be, enjoying some personal and professional time this summer to relax, renew, and recharge. Each of us needs time for building and strengthening spiritual and family relationships that will help to carry us forward during the “school year.” The Great Lakes Presbytery (GLP) Council recently met to plan our work through 2018. **The following is a brief summary for church leadership regarding our GLP plans:**

1. Initiate monthly pastor **phone conference calls** to increase the quality of GLP communication. These will begin in July.
2. Hold a **2019 Leadership Retreat** for the Council, Pastors, and one elder per church. The retreat should be missional, bolster our spiritual depth, and focus on building a strong and relational GLP Team.
3. Initiate a **newsletter and a web-site** to increase communication.
4. Strengthen the **relationships between and among churches**. The Ministry Partnership Team (MPT) plans that team members will visit all GLP churches once in 2019.
5. Increase **opportunities for all pastors** to actively participate in ECO and GLP training and events.
6. Share information regarding **missional opportunities** such as mission trips, camping/retreats for families, children, youth, confirmation classes, leaders, etc. Reinforce churches working together to accomplish His work.

This summer you will be receiving additional information on the **GLP Meeting on October 5-6, 2018**. We are delighted to meet at **Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI**. Throughout the two days we will reinforce the **focus of the GLP for 2018: ENCOURAGE, CONNECT, OPPORTUNITIES**.

GLP plans to gather on **Friday, October 5**, for an evening of worship, celebration of our faith, and fellowship. **Saturday, October 6**, will have multiple large and small group sessions aimed at strengthening our relationships; growing in the faith; and learning about opportunities for growth and service that are designed to enhance flourishing churches. As you plan forward, please put these dates on your church calendar. You will be receiving more information about this GLP Meeting in July.

The **ECO National Gathering** will be held in **Colorado Springs on January 28-31, 2019**. We are planning the **GLP Meeting on January 30 at 3:30 p.m.** Please put these dates on your church calendar.



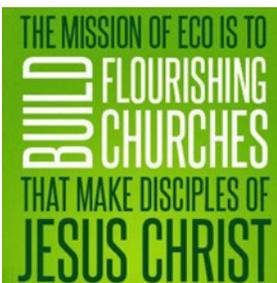
Hello Great Lakes Presbytery...

You are looking at the first edition of our Great Lakes Presbytery Church Planting Newsletter. As part of our desire to “ECO” (Encourage, Connect and Opportunity) you, we have developed this newsletter to encourage, connect and inform you as to what is happening throughout the presbytery in the area of church planting. As each of us came into ECO, we had committed ourselves to being “Missional People.” A big part of that is to look for ways to share and communicate the Gospel whenever and wherever we find ourselves. It is also a commitment to work towards and pray for the establishment of worshipping communities outside our current local congregations. This missional movement is one that I am personally excited about as we look to the many areas in our current States of Ohio and Michigan where there are presently no ECO congregations. We have been commissioned to GO and Make disciples. The question now for each of us is not when... But where? Where will you find yourselves this week that just might be the place where God intends to plant a new community of believers? Who will you pass by that is waiting for someone to care enough to share the “Good News” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? May He give us the eyes to see and the courage to speak. You think about that... Amen. Your brother, friend and Moderator, **Jerry Kasberg**

Church Planting Mindset

Last January I attended the Exponential Conference with other ECO church planters and church plant supporters. The EX Conference changed my perspective by awakening me to the reality that church planting advances the gospel to unchurched people in greater measure than established churches. Furthermore, when churches seek to multiply, their own churches grow as well. There is a connection between growing and sending. Currently, only about 20% of churches are growing (adding people) and of those only 4% are reproducing (adding churches). Yet, church planting is one of the greatest opportunities to advance the gospel. That is why ECO has identified Church Planting as one of its top 3 priorities (along with Revitalization and Leadership). We need to think differently for the sake of those far from God. Will you join us in praying, supporting, financing, and mobilizing the good news of Jesus?

Nancy Dumford, GLP Church Planting Team



Great Lakes Presbytery—Church Planting Report

If you’re like me and many others I know in our Presbytery, the term “church planting” is not frequently used. In fact, we historically have even struggled with words like “evangelism.” So, what’s this church planting business all about?

Glad you asked. We would all agree God has called us to make disciples – right? Well, when we make enough disciples, we need to help them form their own

community; thus, a new church plant. Now before you fear that we are in over our heads and that nobody’s doing that kind of work consider this. Of the 14 churches that make up our Great Lakes Presbytery, more than half are to one degree or another already involved with planting a new church. One church that has already hired staff and is in the process of training and preparing for a new church plant. A couple of churches are currently sharing a building and ministries with another church within their community. Still other churches have plans on the drawing board, are actively seeking to provide financial support, or willing to pray for new churches to be planted in OH and MI. You see, the Great Lakes Presbytery is already actively involved with planting new churches, however, we dream of more. This newsletter is an attempt to inform, encourage, and partner with our fellow brothers and sisters in our Presbytery (GLP) for this great work. Please spread the word, share this update and join us in the mission of God’s kingdom.

It is my hope that all 14 of us will participate in the planting of new churches. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Thanks, and bless you as we serve a Mighty God!

Mike Baynai | (616) 822-9988 | RevMCB@hotmail.com

Dear Great Lakes Presbytery Family,

Summer is the perfect time to plant seeds and watch them grow. The conditions are right. That’s true for tomatoes. It is also true for new things planted for the Kingdom of God--churches, missional communities, small groups, whatever!

Within ECO (and within Great Lakes Presbytery, in particular) I have been witnessing God preparing the soil for new things to flourish. Specifically, I have sensed a growing urgency to reach the lost, creativity and collaboration in the ways we love our neighbors and a deeper longing for prayer. As we make a shift from thinking that “planting is something a denomination does” to thinking that “we can all grow flourishing churches through planting new things” I believe we will see more church planting throughout ECO.

While the vision and excitement for church planting within our denomination is growing, we are not there yet. We have a long way to go and many cities and towns, many neighborhoods and networks that are fertile ground for starting something new. Like the parable of the sower from Matthew 13 reminds us, things get planted when the sower goes out to scatter the seed. He actually had to get out into the field to do the scattering! That involves risk and investment; a commitment to what could be by the grace of God! As you step out in faith to plant, remember that the seed--the Gospel--has the power to take root, grow and multiply.

Joyfully, **Becky Lahna, Graceland Church, Santa Barbara, CA**