

# CALVARY COURIER

November 2023

## Calvary CRC Council Highlights

Council President, Joe Hoksbergen, opened the October Council meeting with a reading from Matthew 12:47-50. He discussed that we are all children of God making us all one family. Everyone at Calvary are members of that family. We should not be strangers to one another but serve each other.

Pastor Brad is leading a class for new members to Calvary with 26 attendees. He is also investigating starting a Spanish language congregation in Pella.

Pastor Sheldon is continuing to visit the sick and shut-ins. He is leading classes for Mission Circle and Thursday Night Alive.

Pastor Nate reported that Bennett is doing well and growing. He is gaining weight but still needs a low dose of caffeine to stimulate him to remember to breathe. Caitlin is staying at the Ronald McDonald House and working part time online. Pastor Nate is splitting his time between Pella and Des Moines. They are thankful for the many prayers, food and gifts they have received.

The Youth Group will be having a fundraising dinner Wednesday, November 1.

Pastor Nate led a discussion of the possibility of Calvary and some of the local churches hosting SERVE. ThereforeGo Ministries would provide direction for how to host SERVE. ThereforeGo Ministries has over 30 years of experience in service ministries. Their program provides direction for churches to host teams of volunteers to come to their community for week-long mission trips that provide tangible work that benefits members of the community as well as ministering to them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The volunteers themselves also gain transformational training in compassionate service to those around them and helping them to grow in

their spiritual walk. Our young people have participated in these mission weeks and would like to continue to do so. But they would also like to be able to host other groups to come to Calvary to serve our community. An alternating schedule of hosting and sending would be proposed with a 3 year commitment over a 6 year period. We are at the beginning of the investigation for hosting. A decision to go ahead is not needed until August 2024 to host in the summer of 2025. Volunteers to lead the effort and service projects would have to be lined up first.

The annual Congregational Meeting will be Monday, November 13 at 7:30 pm. We will be selecting new elders and deacons and approving the budget for 2024.

The slate of new elders and deacons nominees for 2024 is complete. There are 7 nominees for 5 elders: Jerry Bandstra, Kevin Bolt, Ron Fulker, Mike Jansen, Randy Nugteren, Nathan Rus, and Dan Van Kooten. There are 4 nominees for 2 deacons: Cory Mass, Dawn Wood, Shawn De Vries, and Levi VerMeer.

Membership statistics have been compiled for the CRCNA Yearbook and for the 2024 church budget. We have 336 adult active members to be used in the count for Ministry Shares and pension fund for the denomination. This appears to be an increase from 291 members reported last year but it is not due to an error in interpretation of how to calculate adult active members. There will be more explanation at the Congregational Meeting when the 2024 budget is presented.

Barb Van Gorp closed the meeting with prayer.

Bill Strong, Council Clerk

**Thank you to Pastors Sheldon, Pastor Brad, Ivan Mulder & Marv De Boef and other members for their cards, visits and prayers after Linda's heart attacks. God answers prayers.**

**Bill & Linda De Groot**

**Thank you for all cards, prayers, and drivers to Des Moines. Thanks to Brad Jungling for organizing drivers for me to Des Moines. Lots of great conversations from Pella to Des Moines.**

**Don Van Wyk**

## Welcome, Larry Ribbens



Larry Ribbens was the third of five children born in 1953 to Ted and Lois (Kooima) Ribbens. Larry grew up in Rock Valley and later moved to Hull where he graduated from Hull Western Christian High School in 1971. He attended Eastern Oklahoma State College where he received his associate degree in park management. Following college, Larry moved to Denver to work for a landscape business. While living in Denver, he met Paula Visser who was from Orange City. They got married in 1975 and moved back to Orange City in 1979. Larry joined Evan Visser in a landscape business called "GREENWORLD Inc." and months later took ownership of the business and moved the business to Sioux Center, Iowa. Larry and Paula had three children. Josh lives in Aurora, Colorado, Shelly Wallenburg lives in Grimes, Iowa, and Becky Miedema lives in Granger, Iowa. Larry has seven grandchildren. Sadly, Paula passed away in August 2019.

Larry was an active member, serving in different leadership roles, at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church. Larry sold his business in 2016 to his two nephews, who were longtime employees. He continued working for them until 2020. He loves spending time with his family and enjoys golfing, being outdoors and loves trees and caring for them.

Larry and Cornelia were married on January 1, 2021. They were introduced to each other by mutual friends in Northwest Iowa. With Cornie's son and family residing in Pella, and his two daughters in the Des Moines area he was ready to make a move to Pella.

Larry has enjoyed meeting new people at Calvary and making new friendships through Cornie. They are adjusting to a mostly retired lifestyle. They love to follow their families' activities, traveling, golfing, biking, and time with family and friends.

## Welcome, Haley Van Hal



Haley Van Hal was born and raised on Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia in Canada. Haley's parents are Hans and Julie Wilting. Haley's mother, Julie, was born in Chino, California and her maiden name is Van Leeuwen. Haley's father, Hans, was born on Prince Edward Island. Both of Haley's parents went to Dordt College and graduated in 1992. Haley's father is a potato farmer, and her mother is a music/art teacher at Grace Christian School on Prince Edward Island. Haley has one brother who also attended Dordt and works on the farm with her father. Haley left Prince Edward Island in 2015 to attend Dordt College. She graduated from Dordt in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After graduating from Dordt, she moved back home and worked as an RN. At the end of 2020, she moved to Rolla, Missouri and started working at the hospital there. Haley married David Van Hal on July 9, 2021, and in May of 2023 she moved to Pella, soon to be joined by her husband David after finishing his military career. Haley is currently working at the Infusion Center at the Pella Regional Hospital. Besides working, Haley enjoys being outdoors, reading, CrossFit, hiking, traveling, baking, and they enjoy going to the beach. David and Haley are looking forward to the birth of their twins in April of 2024.

## Welcome Ryan Bouwkamp

Calvary Church welcomes Ryan Bouwkamp. Ryan was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He attended Calvin Christian elementary, middle school and high school. He also attended Calvin College, now Calvin University. Calvin has had a tremendous impact on Ryan, both the school and John Calvin himself.

In his spare time, he enjoys almost any kind of sports: pickleball, ultimate frisbee, disc golf, soccer, lacrosse, and football. Aside from sports, Ryan also enjoys reading and listening to podcasts about theology and church history.



## Welcome back to Phil and Laurie Goodyk!



Phil's parents (Jake and Wilma) raised him and his 4 siblings (Ruth, Mike, Pam, and Patricia) while attending Calvary. Phil grew up on a farm near Harvey. He attended Otley, Knoxville, and Pella schools and then graduated from Pella Christian High School. So, if he's not related to someone, he probably knows them.

Phil worked for Gosselink Builders for 12 years and worked 35 years in the office at PPI. Now he is enjoying retirement!

When he was younger, he played fast pitch softball for years, and has quite a ball card collection. Baseball is a passion, and the Dodgers is his favorite team. He coached all four of his own kids in baseball/softball for many years. He's also a loyal Hawkeye fan. Phil has served in the council at Calvary, been a cadet leader and sang in the Calvary chorale and on praise teams. These days his hobbies are hiking, biking, golfing, traveling, watching sports, and doing crossword puzzles. He still loves to sing and is active in Bible study and prison ministry.

Laurie grew up on a farm near DeMotte, Indiana with 8 siblings. After graduating from Dordt, she joined Calvary church. Phil and Laurie met at a young adult meeting. She was a new teacher at PCGS at the time. Since then, she has worked for Van Wyk State Farm

Insurance, Heritage Lace, Pella schools, and then back to Pella Christian grade school! She is now also enjoying retirement.

Her hobbies include anything outdoors (both plant and animal, rocks, shells, etc.) biking, hiking, travel, pickle ball, beach walking, and reading. When their children were young, she taught Sunday school and catechism at Calvary, and helped in children's worship. She attended mainly music with grandchildren, and still attends coffee break. Laurie would love to sing again (used to be a member of Calvary choir and chorale) if she could only get her voice back!

They raised their 4 children while at Calvary, and all 4 made profession of faith there. Lindsay now lives in Caledonia, Michigan with her husband and 3 children. Dan lives in Peninsula, Ohio with his wife and 2 children. Matt and his wife (newlyweds!) live in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. And Joseph came back to Pella. You've seen him with Diane and their 3 children -they also are members of Calvary!

Phil and Laurie are often on the road, off to see family, as you can imagine. Laurie's mom is a frequent stop as she still lives on the family farm.

After attending church with Phil's siblings for a time, they missed their roots at Calvary, and decided to come back to their home church. They also felt it important to attend church with children and grandchildren whenever possible. They've always appreciated the ministries of Calvary, and the way Calvary takes care of their members, and shows love to the community.

# Calvary's Council Retreat

This year Calvary's annual Council Retreat looked a little different. On Saturday, August 5 at 8 AM, elders and deacons met in the parking lot at Calvary. After circling up for prayer, they boarded the church van and another couple of cars and headed up to Joshua Christian Academy in Des Moines.

Upon their arrival, Howard and Cathy Vroom greeted the group outside the school's main entrance. Howard and Cathy are long-time volunteers at JCA, starting in 2013 when Pastor Todd invited Calvary members to help at JCA one beautiful Saturday morning. Currently Howard serves as the president of the school board. Howard briefed the group on the task list for the day. The Vrooms then guided a tour through the school, pointing out work that needed to be done.

The council members set to work. One group cut thick rubber horse stall mats to use as padding for a new weight room. Another group added a fresh coat of paint to the lines of the parking lot. Another group added plastic floor-protectors to the bottoms of chairs. Others repainted office walls and door trim. As the day progressed, council members shifted to other tasks like removing old, insulated AC lines; rewiring a blinking hall light; removing old broken-down tables from storage; removing weeds and adding wood chips to the landscaping.

Everyone gathered for lunch in a multi-purpose space that mostly serves as a chapel. As they ate subway sandwiches, Chris Hurley, JCA's Director of Advancement, shared the story of the school. Joshua Christian Academy began as a mustard seed of an idea, to see Christ-centered education provided to urban families who had historically not been able to afford private education. Through its 14-year history, God has been faithful to the mission. The school has grown to three different campuses, serving kids K-12.

This journey has not been without challenges. Hurley described the difficulties of working with students who come from unstable or transient backgrounds. Some students get bussed in from the dorms at Bethel Mission. There were also security issues that come with an urban setting. JCA had to install fences around the buses so that the catalytic convert-

ers under the buses wouldn't get stolen.

As an organization the school has also run into obstacles with getting accreditation, to offer ESA assistance to families. Through each of these challenges and more, Chris testified that God has been there walking with the school and its leadership, providing facilities, volunteers, generous donors, and willing hearts. And there are plenty of success stories of students who are putting their faith in Christ and going on to flourish as kingdom citizens.

After Chris Hurley's moving story, the crew returned to finish the work they began. Council members worked until 3PM and then headed back toward Pella. In reflecting on the day, participants valued conversations amidst the work. Some shared that they would like to see Calvary partner to a greater degree with this worthwhile ministry. Everyone was struck by the story of a school and God's faithfulness. God is moving at JCA!





# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Kristi Roose Jackson Wood	2	3 Lance Nunnikhoven	4
5 Jean Engle Jana Rus	6 Norma Roose* Larry Ribbens	7 Ryan Bouwkamp Lyla Van Beek	8 Roger Jansen* Denise Roose Crystal Cerritos	9 Emma De Haan Nathan Rus	10 Rick Admiraal Melissa Wehrle Scott Huisman Beth De Vries	11 Nora Sandbulte
12 Abrianna Mass Ryan Nugteren	13 	14 Goldie Dingeman* Jay Schelhaas	15 Blake Gallaheer <b>Harold Sikma* 99 years old!!!</b>	16 Sherrilyn Nikkel	17 Morgan Carley Lenora Van Norden*	18
19 Betty Elscott Lisa Schelhaas	20 Galyn Vande Zande	21 Isaiah Rus	22 	23 Karla Hofman Daniel Roose John Van Gorp	24	25
26 Rose Admiraal	27 Jeff Robinson, Sean Roose Daryl Pommer	28 	29 Micah Herdegen Christy Van Zee	30 Ernest De Jong*		