

CALVARY COURIER

January 2024

Paul and the Colossian church – a guideline for Prayer.



One of our Calvary Small Groups completed their book study in 2023 on “The Life-Changing Power of Prayer” by T.W. Hunt.

A Scripture reference used in the book was Colossians 1:9-14, where Paul is praying for the Colossian church. Paul prays that 1) the church might be filled with the knowledge of God’s will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, and 2) that they would bear fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

The commentary from the NIV Life Application Study Bible on this passage was especially meaningful to the group, and follows below:

Sometimes we wonder how to pray for missionaries and other leaders we have never met. Paul had never met the Colossians, but he faithfully prayed for them. His prayer teaches us how to pray for others, whether we know them or not. We can request that they:

- Understand God’s will
- Gain spiritual wisdom
- Please and honor God
- Bear good fruit
- Grow in the knowledge of God
- Be filled with God’s strength
- Have great endurance and patience
- Stay full of Christ’s joy
- Give thanks always

All believers have these same basic needs. When you don’t know how to pray for someone, use Paul’s prayer pattern for the Colossians.

Thank you for all the prayers, visits, cards, and food given while I had surgery and chemo treatments for my cancer. I have had my last treatment and now am scheduled for a Pet scan and labs for follow up.

- Marilyn Harms

Calvary has quite a few members who are in care facilities or are home bound. They miss coming to church, but we can bring a bit of church to them by visiting them, sending cards or letters, or giving them a phone call. Here is an update of where these members are living:

The Cottages: Elma Beyer, Marti DeBoef, Ernie De Jong, Betty Elscott, Roger Jansen, Wilma Ryken, Cobie Spoelstra, Will Stallinga, Marie Van Maanen, Vern and Geneva Van Zanten, and Elva Vos,

Fairhaven East: Lucy Stravers

In their own Homes: Nelson Roozeboom, June Slagter, Norma Van Weelden,

Independence Village:, Dorothy Van Kooten, Terry Van Zee, Marilyn Veenstra,

Pella Manor: LeNora Van Weelden, Harold and Marg Sikma, Joey Bandstra, Bernie Spoelstra, Willa Branderhorst, Janet Jansen, Effie Groenendyk, Lilburn and Geneva Jansen

Northern Mahaska Care Facility, Oskaloosa: Cornie Van Hal

Westridge, Knoxville: Joyce Nikkel

Mill Pond, Ankeny: Grace Van Ryswyk



Calvary CRC Council Highlights

Council President, Joe Hoksbergen, opened the December Council meeting reading a text from John Piper called, "Endings Are for Gratitude, Beginnings Are for Faith". We should always be grateful for God's blessings in our past and look to the future with faith in Him. He then prayed for Calvary Church and for peace and comfort for Don Van Wyk and Marilyn Sterk.

Brandon Mick was a guest at the meeting. He is thankful to join Calvary Church and his new position as a chaplain at Vermeer Corporation. He has served at other churches for 20 years. In recent years he felt called to be an ordained chaplain so he went to Calvin Seminary. He will have his Classical examination this February. He described his chaplain's job is to show care to all employees, counsel them, and connect to them resources. He requested our prayers for the future.

Pastor Brad will be on vacation Dec 20-26 and on study leave Jan 8-14. Pastor Nate will be on vacation Dec 15, 18, and Dec 27-31.

The updated Membership Guide (formerly known as the Directory) is now online in Breeze.

Admin is looking into developing an HR policy manual. Pastor Brad received a copy of a manual from a church in Grand Rapids. Our staff will edit it to personalize it for Calvary and then give it to Admin for review. It is recommended to have congregation members with HR experience and our insurance company review it after the edits are made.

Elections for new Council, Consistory, and Deacon officers were held.

Council elected

Council President: Mike Jansen

Council Clerk: Bill Strong

Consistory elected

Consistory President: Randy Nugteren

Consistory Clerk: Jeremiah Schutte

Deacons elected

Deacon President: Shawn DeVries

Deacon Secretary: Jesse Roose

Asst Treasurers: Levi Ver Meer

Treasurer: Eric Van Wyngarden

Deacon Vice President: Derek Vander Ark

Benevolence Treasurer: Cory Mass

Offerings (Special Collections) Treasurer: Lee Roose

Building Fund Treasurer: Dan Systema

Mission Fund (Classical Ministries) Treasurer: Barb Van Gorp

Memorial Fund Treasurer: Aaron Sandbulte

Admin elder advisors: Rob Bandstra and Kevin Vos

The Council approved Dave Gritters request to continue the use of the Rick Admiraal's office in the Youth House for New Life Prison Ministries. Dave is the New Life Council President and does some preaching at the prison.

The Council approved Multi Media's request to spend \$13,000 to replace the projectors and the front screens in the sanctuary with two 100" TV monitors.

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Ricki Lanser Bridget Vande Zande	2 Dave Gritters Joseph Goodyk Brighton Mass	3 Steve Veenstra	4	5 Cindy Gritters Ana Leticia Martinez	6 Lainy Verhoef
7 Cora Bierma	8 	9 Allison Van Wynyarden	10 Shawn De Vries Mary Van Maanen	11 Kelly Fleming Steve Van Weelden Jeff Wetter	12 Laurel Roozeboom Cornie Van Hal* John Hogan	13 Joe Oppewall* David Roose Don Van Wyk Del Zuidema
14 Paloma Melo Rodriguez	15 Florence Sandbulte	16 Sue Theune Evan Van Gelder	17 Wilma Van Kooten*	18 Margaret Duren	19 Duane Van Maanen*	20
21 Randy Kelderman Tracey Roose	22 Regina Gritters*	23	24 Paul Boer Dan Sytsma	25 	26 Tim Schut	27 Pastor Brad Bierma Robin Vink
28	29 Bev De Vries Kandace Stravers	30 Effie Groenendyk* Jalayna Schutte Leanne Hogan	31 Harold Van Wyk			