

Traveling Through Romans in August (continued from front page)

- **August 9** —Pastor Dave will bring a message from the book of Romans. Gene Bjorklund will be the worship leader. A praise team will lead some singing at the beginning of the service.
- **August 16** — Pastor Dave will continue with a message from the book of Romans. Erika Weaver will bring the ministry of praise. A praise team will lead some singing at the beginning of the service.
- **August 23**— Pastor Dave will continue to expound on God's Word from the book of Romans.
- **August 30**— Another message from the book of Romans will be brought to us by Pastor Dave.

Red Cross Blood Drive a Resounding Success

The American Red Cross wants to thank First Reformed for hosting an awesome blood drive on June 23. It was our best blood drive ever with 29 units of blood collected from 29 donors, twelve of whom gave for the first time. Those numbers are double the amounts we've collected in the past.

There may be a number of reasons for the great turn-out. One, frequent donors have not been able to donate in the area lately because so many blood drives have had to be canceled over COVID-19 concerns. Two, the public is very aware of the need for blood donation in this time of pandemic.

Thank you to all the donors for giving, and also to Keith and Shirley Van Duyn and their helpers for organizing and hosting this blood drive.

(A thank you was sent directly to Pastor Dave and he posted the above on the website.)

REMINDER about Hy-Vee Receipts

If you turn in Hy-Vee (Brookings only) receipts to the basket along the north wall in the fellowship hall, you can be part of a MESA fund-raiser. When we have \$150,000 worth of receipts, Hy-Vee will donate \$1,000 toward a MESA project yet to be determined. As of July 21 we have collected \$79,306.21

Thank you for your willingness to help.

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

August 2020

Glad Tidings

“I bring you glad tidings of great joy...”

Traveling Through Romans in August

We will still observe some social distancing practices. These would include not providing nursery attendants or a coffee time after the service. We will also hold off on having children's messages at this point. The offering plates will not be passed, but we encourage you to put your offering in the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary. We also encourage people to maintain a 6 foot distance from one another when entering, exiting and choosing places to sit. If you feel more comfortable sitting in the fellowship hall, you are welcome to sit there.

Here is what we know about the services in August:

- **August 2**— Pastor Dave will bring a message from the Romans 7. Scott Vander Wal will serve as the worship leader.

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IN NEED OF PRAYER

The following members needed medical care recently and appreciate your prayers:

- Bernita Kooima—chemotherapy
- Dawn Lucas—chemotherapy
- Jodi Koerner—chemotherapy
- Pastor Dave—stem cell transplant

Congratulations



- Ben and Sarah Landegent were married on June 12 in Salem, Oregon
- Carter and Courtney Vander Wal were married on July 11 here at FRC

The Greatest Achievements are Those that Benefit Others.

To be the greatest, be a servant. Matthew 23:11 (TLB)

Thank you to those who pitched in at the last minute getting the fellowship hall ready for worship by setting up chairs and gathering hymnals on Sunday, July 12. Thank you also for picking up chairs and putting the hymnals away.

Thank you, Penny, for use of your phone flashlight!

Looking Back Ten Years..... 2010!!

- An outdoor service was held at the Volga City Park with the CCTF cooking and serving pork loin and corn on the cob
- Witnessed the baptism of Noah Casey Minor, infant son of Casey and Laura Minor and grandson of Charles and Ruth Sapp
- Pastor Bob Vander Schaaf announced his retirement to the congregation

Thank you from Teen Challenge of the Dakota

A check for half the proceeds (\$213.50) from the Beta Psi Bake Sale held in December 2019 was sent to Teen Challenge at a outdated address. The check and letter were left in a little used mailbox and was discovered quite some time later. A new check was sent to them recently.

The following thank you has been received:

“Praise the Lord who saves and delivers! Thank you for being partners with us here at Teen Challenge of the Dakotas.

Jesus said to the Jews, *“The Son can do nothing by Himself”* (John 5:19) Even Jesus was in partnership with the Father. I believe as we agree with the Father in heaven, we will see lost souls come to salvation. We will see sick, addicted men healed and we will witness God’s awesome deliverance come to our students’ lives.

These signs and wonders of changed lives are occurring here every day because of our partnership with you and our Heavenly Father. Life and peace come from God through His Son, Jesus, our blessed hope.

It is an expensive undertaking to feed, house and disciple men for many months, but it is well worth it to do the Father’s will. Thank you for helping us and for being partners with us in this great work of God!

Sincerely in His Service, Rev. Michael Gilmartin, Executive Director

PS: Thanks so much for being patient and understanding and generous.

(A note from one of the men was included: Teen Challenge has helped turn my life around. Thank you for your donation.—God Bless—DB)

Dear VCS Church Family,

The board of Volga Christian School would like to thank you for your prayers and generous offering support, especially over the past several months as we've navigated uncharted territory. We have truly been blessed knowing that our church family is behind us.

Our mission at VCS has always been to provide a quality Christ-centered education to our students. The board feels this is best achieved with in-person learning. Therefore, we are planning to return to school as normal on August 25th, following CDC guidelines for social distancing and good hygiene. We will strive to remain open, but there will be contingency plans in place for remote learning if the COVID-19 situation in Volga worsens. The safety of our students and staff is our utmost priority, and we have the ability to adapt our plans if and when problems arise.

Please continue to pray for us at VCS as we move forward in the coming school year. Despite the uncertainty, we can be sure that our Heavenly Father is always with us. *'For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'* (Romans 8:38-29)

Yours in Christ,

The VCS Board of Education



Beautiful America

By C. T. Taylor

Oh! Beautiful America, land that I love
With great majestic mountains, towering above,
Mountains of grandeur, rugged and high,
Ever reaching upward to touch the sky.

Oh! Wonderful America, land of my dreams
With beautiful rivers and sparkling streams,
Rivers of splendor, so deep and wide,
Ever flowing onward to the ocean's side.

Oh! Glorious America, land I adore
With valleys and plains from shore to shore,
Valleys so fertile, so long and wide,
Ever reaching outward to the mountain's side.

Oh! Marvelous America, land of the free
With people by the millions, like you and me,
People who believe in the God up above,
Ever going forward in the spirit of love.

