

Love Link



Redder's Redactions: "Healthy vs. Unhealthy"

At the second meeting of the Search Team that I attended, I asked the group to amuse me with their taking a short little test. Taking tests was not why they were there, of course, so there was a little underlying opposition to doing so. Taking it proved to be most interesting – even fun. For those who have opened eyes, it may have been most revealing.

The "Church Readiness Inventory" is designed to provide a guide to discover the level of readiness of a church to move to greatness. Thousands of churches across America and Canada have taken this test and most, after having been surprised often at the results, have settled on the results being a quite accurate picture of themselves. The quiz measures many things, but, overall, it may be said to measure "church health." Is this church, or any particular church, a healthy church or an unhealthy church?

At this point I won't tell you the results of that one taking of the inventory. But I want to use it as a springboard to lay before you a few of the acknowledged characteristics of healthy churches versus unhealthy congregations. If you desire Biblical references for such distinctions, I have included references from Acts. I also will list only a few differing distinctives, not all.

Healthy church – Emphasis on grace (15.1-36)
Unhealthy church – Emphasis on works-righteousness

Healthy church – Based on the Bible (2.42)
Unhealthy church – Based on tradition

Healthy church – Diversity is encouraged (2.9-11) and there is respect for individual beliefs and cultural differences
Unhealthy church – conformity is prized, and individual beliefs and cultural differences are devalued

Healthy church – Prayer is a priority (4.23-31)
Unhealthy church – Prayer is talked about but not practiced

Healthy church – Repentance is stressed (3.19)
Unhealthy church – Repentance is whispered

Healthy church – Members trust other members and leaders (5.1-11)

Unhealthy church – Mistrust is evidence by an undercurrent of unexpressed hostility

Healthy church – Members feel empowered (4.31) and share power with one another

Unhealthy church – Members or leaders use power and control over others

Healthy church – Organizational structure is functional and flexible (6.1-7) and a gift-based ministry is in place

Unhealthy church – Organizational structure is inflexible and dysfunctional with haphazard ministry

Healthy church – Cohesion is high; there is a close emotional bond among members – members share with each other (2.44-45)

Unhealthy church – Division exists – people feel distant from one another – there is a lack of caring and empathy

Healthy church – Loving relationships permeate every aspect of the church (20.36-38)

Unhealthy church – Members are distant from each other

The contrast goes on for many more distinctives, but these few examples will suffice to portray the difference between a healthy congregation and an unhealthy one. From the perspective of an outside observer, but as well often from an "inside" observer with a hidden agenda, all this may be easily not acknowledged or rashly dismissed. How would you rate your church?

If we identified the strengths of Coopersville Reformed, would you be eager to build on them? As well, identifying weaknesses deserves measures to acknowledge them and deal with them. That great and glorious day is going to come when Jesus will be presented with his beautiful bride, the church, and only then will we all be without blemish. However, until that time we pray and rely on Christ's Word and Spirit to help us strive to be all the Lord wants us to be as His church today. What do you think – healthy or unhealthy?

Ronald L. Redder, Interim Pastor

So Quote Me Bethany Van Kempen, Love Link Editor

I recently started a new endeavor. And with a new endeavor comes change, more demands, and different expectations. Now, most of us don't like change. I, for one, like my "little box." But, as we all know, getting out of our little box of comfort can be good and rewarding.

I knew that I was entering unfamiliar territory. But, what I did not know was how I was going to be molded and taken care of...how refreshing!

What is expected of and from you? Jesus says in Luke 12:48 that, "from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

Are you ready to tackle the unfamiliar in your life?
Are you ready to have more asked of you?
Or are you content with your "little box"?

2008 Church Family Verse:

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NIV)

Consistory

Consistory Highlights - Sept. 9, 2008

1. The following dates were set:

October 14, Consistory Meeting

November 27, 9:30 a.m.,
Thanksgiving Service

December 2, 7:00 p.m.,
Congregational Mtg.

December 25, 10:30 a.m.,
Christmas Service

January 4, 9:00/11:15 a.m., Installation
Services for Elders and Deacons

2. The communicant memberships of Norman & Mary Ann Smoes were transferred to Little Farms Chapel O.P.C., Coopersville.

3. The Sunday School collection on October 5 will be given to the Coopersville-Marne-Ravenna Crop Walk.

October Preaching Schedule

Oct. 5 Pastor Ron Redder

Oct. 12 Pastor Ron Redder

Oct. 19 Pastor Ron Redder

Oct. 26 Pastor Ron Redder

Information, Etc.

The following information includes advertisements and reminders of upcoming church events. For more information or to include your ad in this section, please contact the church office at **837-8949**, or email **Bethany Van Kempen at bvk599@charter.net**. Thank you!

2009 Budget

If you have requests for consideration for the 2009 proposed budget, please give them to Tim Wurm (or put them in his church mailbox) by Tuesday, October 7.

Women's Opportunities

1. Beth Moore's Bible Study, "Stepping Up," a journey through the Psalms of Ascent (Psalm 120-134): Offered on Monday mornings (beginning October 13, 9:00 a.m., facilitated by Ellen Rozema) and Tuesday evenings (beginning October 14, 7:00 p.m., facilitated by Ann DeYoung) in the Children's Worship Center. Books are \$13. Sign up in the lobby by the GiG board for either date so materials can be ordered.
2. Bible Study: Meet the first and third Mondays of the month starting October 6. Topic: Begin with Christ First Place & Health. Child care will be provided. Additional volunteers are needed to help with child care. Contact Lisa Davis (997-0434) if you have any questions or to volunteer for child care.
3. SpringHill Women's Fall Retreat: October 10-12, "Embrace Grace," featuring Liz Curtis Higgs. Release your doubts, fears, and regrets. Experience the boundless freedom God's grace offers. Information and registration blanks are at the GiG board in the lobby. Contact Anne Vander Jagt for carpooling.

Pictures for the Love Link

Calling all picture takers (or photographers). The Love Link is looking for pictures of the different ministries and activities. If you have any extras, please send them via email to Bethany Van Kempen at bvk599@charter.net. Thank you.

Extra, Extra!



Praise & Worship

Stan McGuire, Worship Leader

I have been the worship leader for the second service for the past 3-1/2 years. Over this time, I have been blessed to work with a number of different people who have each contributed to the worship experience by bringing their various gifts, talents, and abilities to the table. God has raised up singers, instrumentalists, sound guys, and computer operators. Together we all form a team. It has been exciting to watch God at work. Personally, I have been challenged and stretched beyond my comfort zone. Our goal is to help create an atmosphere of worship, where people can let their guard down, open up, and come before the throne of God. We sing to an audience of One, and invite the congregation to come and join with us. And since He inhabits the praise of His people, let's get to it!

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." (Psalm 98:4)

The CROP Walk is Sunday, October 12, at 1:00 p.m.

C-R-O-P stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. This year's walk starts at the Church of the Saviour once again. A light lunch is provided starting at 12 noon. The walk is a little over 6 miles. Please see Doug and Kalene Sietsema if you would like to participate. If you can't make the walk, you can 'walk in spirit' by making a donation to another participant or going to the church website and clicking on the CROP walk icon.

Information, Etc. continued

Senior Adult Ministries

A fall color tour is Monday, October 20, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be furnished on the way. Lunch is on your own plus \$1 for the bus. Invite others.

M4C (Men for Christ)

Begins Tuesday, October 14, 5:00 a.m., in our Activity Center. This year's topic is "The Great Adventure." Invite others to come out for this great opportunity.

Operation Christmas Child

If you want to start early to fill a shoebox for a child overseas for Christmas, boxes are available in the basement coatroom. November 16 is the deadline for turning in filled boxes. Millions of children in many countries experience the joy of Christmas through this ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

Oct. Servant's Page

October Nursery

October 5	9:00 a.m.	Infant Toddler	Katie Speet-moore, Melaine Chapin Kris Van Huis, Evan Vander Kolk
	11:15 a.m.	Infant Toddler	Lynda Kuperus, Kaitlin Chapin Melissa Madison, Megan Haner
October 12	9:00 a.m.	Infant Toddler	Anne Metten, Marie Vander Jagt Marcia Draft, Melissa Dyke
	11:15 a.m.	Infant Toddler	Pete Mast, Olivia McBride Julie Bukrey, Abby Grit
October 19	9:00 a.m.	Infant Toddler	Linda Vander Jagt, Alyssa Draft Bonnie Vander Kolk, Marla Chapin
	11:15 a.m.	Infant Toddler	Therese Berrington, Eric Langlois Jill Sparks, Kayla Bolthouse
October 26	9:00 a.m.	Infant Toddler	Jaime Smoes, Julie Vander Jagt Barb Vander Jagt, Kalene Sietsema
	11:15 a.m.	Infant Toddler	Emily Speet, Jordan Kuperus Carmen Langlois, Tim McGuire

October Greeters

October 5	9:00 a.m.	Frank & Janet Kuperus
October 12	9:00 a.m.	Bob & Marla Chapin
October 19	9:00 a.m.	Hal & Gay Heckel
October 26	9:00 a.m.	Mike & Donna Van Tassell

October Celebrations

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Bernard Bennink, Judy Bos, Laura Busman, David Wikstrom
- 2 Paul Breen
- 3 Sheri Busman, Trever Freeman, Noah Jefferson, Lynn Quist
- 4 Colleen Humphreys, Richard Jordan, Aaron Van Kempen
- 5 Cookie Speet, Marilyn Tanner
- 6 Christina Wade
- 7 Elijah Buist
- 8 Carmen Langlois
- 9 Barbara Buist, Drew Johnson, Tonya Lemmen, Katie Miller,
Anne Vander Jagt, Ginny Veldman
- 10 Shirley Dyke, Katie Faber
- 11 Sherri Meindertsma
- 12 Sophie Bukrey, Karen Hoop, Doug Mauk, Colleen Maycroft
- 13 Jeff Alberda, Lisa Doneth, Cody Reynolds, Zachary Van Houten
- 14 Jodi Boom, Jessica Klein, Sara Maki, Maddie Schell, Foster Vay
- 15 Nicole Cushway
- 16 William Connor, Maxson Hershberger, Evan Keller, Suellyn Metten,
David van der Zwaag
- 17 Michelle Truskowski, Connie Witte
- 18 Jesslyn Bolthouse, Kayla Bolthouse, Sandy Cushway, Shadrach Nykamp
- 19 Dan Ronning, Charlie Vander Kolk, Andrew Whittemore
- 20 Donna Bush, Kevin Smoes
- 21 Michelle Straley
- 22 Beth Wikstrom
- 23 Robyn Freeman
- 24 Brandie Leach, Desiree Longoria, Gertrude Potts
- 25 Joyce Metten, Delores Mol
- 26 Wes Busman, Donna Van Beek
- 27 Jim Fritz, Dominic Lemmen, Tierstyn McBride, Alex Melinn
- 28 Christopher Van Ryswyk, Michael Vander Lugt
- 29 Bill Baron, Terry Busman, Nicholas Eberlein, Douglas Ferguson, Nicholas Rottier,
Jeff Smoes, Arlyn Walt
- 30 Ernest Bush, Lauren Davis

If you would like your birthday included or deleted in the Love Link, please call the church office or leave a note in the Love Link mailbox. Thank you!

Family Night Activities

@ Coopersville Reformed Church

OCTOBER 1, 2008-MARCH 25, 2009

There's something for everyone!

PW Friends

7:00-8:15 p.m. for all 4 year olds-5th grade

Pre-registration begins at 6:30 p.m. on October 1. All kids will then meet in the sanctuary.

Parents, please pick up all preschool and kindergarten kids at 8:15 p.m. each Wednesday from the kindergarten Sunday School classroom in the church basement.

Needed: Small group leaders (no teaching involved) and substitute leaders

Pinewood Derby Cars will be made by all 4th & 5th graders during craft time at FW Friends.

Family Dinner Night

6:15-6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meals are simple and free.

Sign up in the lobby each week – not required, but helpful for planning.

Crossroads (Junior High Youth Group)

7:00-8:15 p.m. in the Activity Center

Cuddle-up Time

7:15-8:00 p.m. in the Children's Worship Center for ages 0-3 and a significant adult

Extra opportunities

6:30-7:00 p.m. – Drama for 1st-5th grades (meet in the sanctuary)

7:00 p.m. – Men's Group

7:30-8:30 p.m. – Senior Choir Rehearsal (9th grade-adults in the sanctuary)

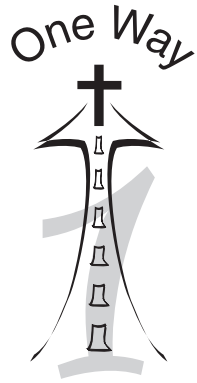
Vacation Dates

No Family Night activities will be held November 26, December 24, or December 31.

Watch the weekly bulletin for any changes in schedule

Pig Roast & Auction

Come support our Senior High Youth Group



Coopersville Reformed Church
High School Youth Group

ONE WAY'S PIG ROAST & AUCTION

Saturday — November 8, 2008

**Coopersville Reformed Church
in the Activity Center**

Pig Roast 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Auction begins at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!
Invite your friends and family!!
Come and enjoy great food, fun, and fellowship!!!

**Proceeds are for One Way's mission trip to Guatemala
(July 20-27, 2009)**

One Way & Crossroads



One Way



OW (One Way) 7:00-8:00 on Sunday nights

Sixteen of us did a kayak/canoe trip on the Pere Marquette River. Before we even got started, a canoe flipped over.

Oct. Happenings:

October 3 & 4

Is Acquire the Fire in Chicago, IL. This is a national youth event, held in different areas.

The theme this year is "Here Comes Trouble."

We leave at 4:00 on Friday afternoon and arrive back home late on Saturday night.



2009 Mission Trip: Guatemala!

There were 10 youth groups vying for 6 positions. We got in, with the dates of July 20-27. Our first fundraiser will be the Pig Roast/Auction on November 8.

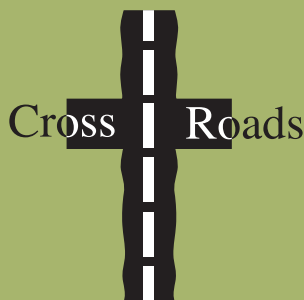
Ministry Need...Help!

If you have a heart and passion for youth, we would love for you to give this high school ministry a try in the leadership area. We have four leaders: Mike Metten, Albie and LeighAnn DeVries, and Louise. Albie and LeighAnn are expecting their second child in December. If this is something you're feeling God is calling you to do, please connect with Louise for further discussion!

Crossroads: 7:00-8:15 on Wednesday nights

October 1

We are going to Cornerstone University where they have a life-sized replica of the Old Testament Tabernacle. Cost: \$3 each. We leave at 6:00pm, come home at 8:15pm. Parents are welcome to join us!



P.A.S.S.
Time

providing After school support

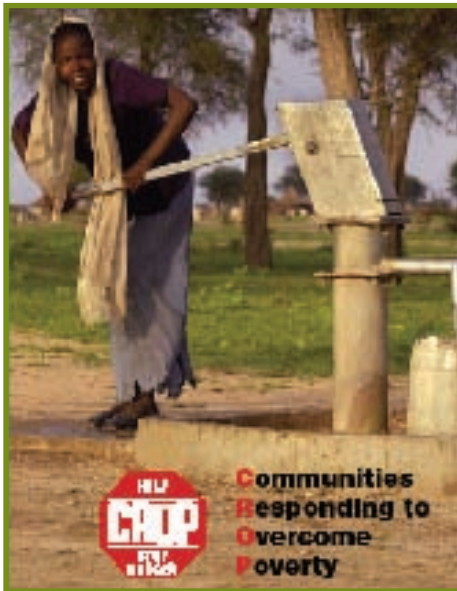
Don't Forget PT (P.A.S.S. Time) 2:30-5:00 p.m.

The Activity Center is open to students on Monday and Wednesday afternoons during the school year. If school is closed, P.A.S.S. is closed, too.

Coopersville Reformed Church

423 West Randall Street
Coopersville, MI 49404

PRESORTED STANDARD
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The Crop Walk is Back!

Mission Statement

The mission of Coopersville Reformed Church is to be a:
Christ-Centered People
Reaching Up and Reaching Out
Changing the World One Life
at a Time!



Church Staff

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Beth Mast, Treasurer

Scott Struyk, Senior Choir Director

Stan McGuire, Worship Leader

Don't Forget

9 a.m.
Spirited Traditional Service

10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School

11:15 a.m.
Contemporary Service

This Issue:

Pastor Letter/Editor Letter/Praise
Worship Letter
Consistory Highlights
Information, Etc.
Servant's Pages
Birthdays
Family Night Activities
Pig Roast & Auction
Youth Page
Calendar

October 2008