

Haven Highlights

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Winter, 2012

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:12

Couples Road Rally

On a fall night in October, over 60 couples from Haven got together for a night of fun and surprises. We began with a "minute-to-win-it" game to start off our race to the surprise destination. As each team finished, they were given a clue to begin their journey. We raced to various locations to find more clues, and ended the road rally at Post Farm where we had pizza and some time to get to know each other a little better. Next, everyone suited up in their cowboy hats and learned to square dance! After all the allemande lefts, bowing to our corner, do-si-dos, and promenading, we had learned a lot, stepped on a few toes, and had plenty of laughing! It was a great way to spend a fall night - having fun with old Haven friends and getting to know some new ones. You'll want to make sure you don't miss the next adventure!



The deacons have been focused on needs identified within the Haven family. Thankfully we have been able to help those who need assistance. The deacons also are taking part in future planning for Haven. Many exciting opportunities are ahead.



Council Quarterly Report

The full council of Haven church has spent much of its time the past year preparing Haven for the arrival of a new pastor. Under the expert guidance of Pastor Larry, all aspects of Haven's ministries have been reviewed. Many changes have been made as a result.

Shepherding elders have focused on the spiritual health of Haven. Addressing cares and concerns were a priority focused on by Pastor Larry and the elders. Also, those areas where Haven had not followed the path set forth by Jesus were identified and confessed as sins by council and the congregation.

Shepherding elders and the deacons also introduced the new concept of family life groups. A new way of bringing the people of Haven together and sharing and caring for those who need assistance and comfort. The shepherding elders are encouraged by the increase in fellowship and acts of kindness that have been exhibited in each Life Group.

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Peter Fish

On October 16, CRWRC Peter Fish and devotionals were handed out to the congregation with instructions to read the stories and to do the daily activities until World Hunger Sunday on November 6. The Peter



The admin team has been busy working through process with Zeeland Classis that prepares a church to begin the calling process. That went smoothly. Pastor Larry was a great help providing guidance as a search team has been formed and has begun its mission.

Admin is now focused on the future. The calling process has started. The health and size of Haven church continues to grow. This has brought us to a point where the church buildings have some major issues that must be addressed. Many people have been working to identify the issues. A long range planning team will be formed in the next month. This team will be charged with identifying the long range needs of Haven and the financial implications of those needs. This will more than likely bring the Haven family to a point where some major decisions will have to be made. The plan is to update the congregation as this team works through the issues before them.

God has a plan for Haven. He has brought us through a very difficult time. Pray for God's guidance as we move forward. Ask for His blessing and that we may always walk in the light.

Fish were then collected that Sunday. Through your support for CRWRC's World Hunger Campaign, our church raised \$2,465 (\$970 in coin with the Peter Fish to help fight global hunger and poverty.

Haven's Ministry Teams

Haven's Ministry Teams meet quarterly and provided a structured opportunity to work within teams and to collaborate with other teams. Meetings begin with a short message from Pastor Larry. Then the teams are updated on new policies, procedures, or challenges that need to be addressed at Haven, followed by a working session. At the meeting's end, teams share their plans/hopes for the next quarter. In addition to their quarterly plans, each team works off a set of Mandates that support their ministry and give direction to all they do. These mandates and quarterly goals are reviewed and approved by the Admin Council on a quarterly basis. The below quarterly team goals are from November. Please pray for the teams as we meet again on February 9 and work towards our next quarter goals! If you are interested in sharing your gifts with any team, please contact Vicki in the Haven office.

Quarterly Goals (November 2011-February 2012)

- WORSHIP MINISTRY** Increasingly connect with other teams so that we can explore ways in which our Sunday services can help to be a catalyst for the growth and ministry of the Church.
- ACTS TEAM MINISTRY** Continue working on a fund raising campaign (Mission Possible) to provide financial support for Haven's service projects and service trips.
- ADULT MINISTRIES** Find a coordinator! Develop small study groups, promote the prayer team, and grow the Wednesday night Bible study group.
- STUDENT LIFE MINISTRIES (7th-12th grade)** Build relationships with students through activities, service, study, and worship. Students come to experience, accept, and live in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (age 3 - 6th grade)** Encourage the kids that are currently in programs to invite others to come to our ministry on Wed. nights and Sundays.
- SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES** Contact shut-ins and imprisoned for communion during holiday season. Work with Family Life Group leaders to make them aware of the special needs in their groups and how to address those.
- COMMUNICATIONS TEAM** Continue to develop guidelines and templates for team communication - both internal and external to provide a consistent message/look. Provide the Haven family updates on ministry work. Expand the Haven Highlights.
- FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES** Finalize a team, plan four (4) fellowship events, promote ushers/greeters.
- BUILDING & GROUNDS TEAM** Compile a list of existing facility needs, with costs. Put together immediate needs and long-range needs and bring to Admin for review.
- TECHNOLOGY TEAM** Collaborate with worship team to promote worship service experience to a broader audience. DVD Solutions? Distribute full service? Continue to fine-tune the sound system. Maintain a current online sermon library.
- FINANCE TEAM** Maintain communications with the congregation about Haven's financial situation, including a report with positive things that have happened this year.

New Sound System/Speakers

Can you hear the difference? Many of you have shared your appreciation for the new audio system, a blessing that we will enjoy for many years as we Worship at Haven! Haven was blessed to pay for this new system through your generous giving and the generous gifts of those who matched funds, dollar for dollar.



Towards the end of 2011, the Haven Tech team and Audio Space, Inc. installed the new audio system in the Worship Center. The new system was necessary by many counts. Our old equipment was failing and was never intended to support the volume of worship that we now have. The new equipment is comprised of the new ceiling speakers, a new in-ear system for the worship team, and a new mixer (sound board).

As with all new equipment, there are still some bugs being worked out of the system. We appreciate your patience. This new system is sensitive enough to pick up "static" from guitar strings touching, so balancing the entire system just takes time.

The Worship Team and Tech Team are also looking at some acoustical problems in the worship center, mostly relating to the sound volume from the drums. So although the major overhaul of the sound system is complete, there are still a few items that need to be addressed in the future.

We are so thankful for this gift to the Haven family and pray that this new technology will bless your worship each and every week.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

I John 1:9

ACTSion Report

submitted by Ken Bosma

Hearing God's Word in the Mountains



"You could literally hear the Word of God echoing through mountains of Lesotho, Africa", Christina Terpstra reported. What a blessing for the people of Lesotho to receive audio Bibles from Audio Scripture Ministries. These were gifts from the Haven congregation which were delivered by the Beautiful Gate Team this past October. There was dancing and singing in the streets when the infallible Word of God was heard. We are reminded of God's

promise to us in Isaiah 55, "So is my Word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Through Haven's support a 12 member team was able to celebrate with the Geurinks and the staff the 10th anniversary of Beautiful Gate in Lesotho, Africa and to encourage Bryan in his new role of being Director. Christina adds, "Bryan and Anita are playing a huge role in making sure that the children at BG are loved and cared for and that the staff knows how vital they are in God's plan."

Please continue to praise God and pray for the Geurinks and the staff for the work they are

doing and keep them from the attacks of the devil. Continue to support the Geurinks and BG through prayer, words of encouragement, and giving financially. Pray that God's Word will continue to echo through the mountains.

Please follow the Geurinks blog at: ourbeautifulmission.blogspot.com/



Listening to God Through Life's Storms

Years after the people of New Orleans were affected by hurricane Katrina, they are still seeking a spiritual calm in their lives. The Verkaik family and some seniors from Holland Christian went on a service trip in October to New Orleans to help bring encouragement and relief to the area. What the team found is that despite the tremendous storm and the years of struggle the residents near St. Bernard's parish have lived through, some of the residents were thanking God for what He taught them through the storm and the losses they experienced.

Mike reports that throughout the week they reflected on a series of devotions on how

"we become aware of the voice of God and how we can block that voice through our business and the fears we allow to come into our lives." One of those passages they reflected on was Ephesians 3:14-21 which talks about receiving the Holy Spirit and grasping the love of Christ so that "we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

*"... and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."
Ephesians 3:19*

The week not only allowed for some physical rebuilding in the community, but more importantly it brought a spiritual rebuilding in the area and to members of the team that went from Holland Christian.

The team asks for prayers for Pastor Randy of St. Bernard's parish as he personally struggles with Hepatitis B and is in need of a new liver. "Pastor Randy is the glue that keeps the church going and relevant in the community," states Mike Verkaik.

Fall Retreat Builds New Relationships

Mosaic (9th-12th grade) worked not only on building relationships with one another at their fall retreat, but they also enjoyed the opportunity to enjoy new friendships with Ecclesia Church in Muskegon. The focus was about serving and building relationships in our West Michigan communities.



Because much of the area is illiterate near the Ecclesia Church, the Haven students were asked to collect books to bring with them to set up a "book store", so the members of the community could come and pick up the books for free.

The LIME students (7th & 8th grade) also had a great time interacting with the families of the community

by playing games, working on crafts, and carving pumpkins.



Mirror

As we begin a new year, I started thinking about an object we use so often – the mirror.

As we use mirrors on our cars to see what is behind us, we often in a new year look back on what was done in the past year. Haven has been involved in many ministries and is having an impact on the lives we come in contact with. We have served in ARO, BG, COAH, Mississippi, Muskegon, VBS at Logan Estates, New Orleans, Lakeshore Pregnancy Center, and so many other places where God allowed us to plant seeds. We are thankful for the service that the Haven congregation has provided. Unlike the object in the car mirror that becomes more distant over time, we want to encourage you to continue to keep these areas in your vision and continue to build relationships with them to change lives for Christ.

A mirror is also used to really take a look at ourselves. Sometimes when we look into the mirror we find we need to brush our hair, wipe some dirt off our face, or

maybe lose a few pounds. Proverbs 27:19 states "As water [or a mirror] reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart." What do you see reflecting back? We all should look at ourselves and ask if our lives are reflecting the face of Christ. Sometimes we need a little "touch up." As we go into a new year, there are several things we can do.

- **Pray** for the gift of the Holy Spirit to fill you and also ask God where you can help serve and bring others to Christ. Also pray for the ministries and their staff that we are supporting.
- **Build Relationships** by reading the ministries' newsletters/blogs, by replying back to them and thereby encouraging them in your interaction with them, or by spending actual time with the ministry or those served by the ministry.

- **Give** as you have been blessed to help provide the resources the ministries need. Please note that time is one of the most valuable resources we have.

*Truly we have been blessed and together with God's help we can see God do more than we can *Imagine!**

If you have a story of interest about how Haven is being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and beyond, please submit to Ken Bosma.