

A NEW
YEAR
&
NEW
OPPORTUNITIES

Fellowship Is.....

Monthly news publication of the
First United Reformed Church

6159 Riverside Drive
Chino, California 91710

909.591.9111

office@chinourc.org

www.chinourc.org

December 26, 2010



Dear Church Family,

We wish to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, calls, words of encouragement and other kindnesses, and also the visits by Pastor Scheuers, Falkena, and Eric Chapell and elder Larry Vanden Berge and many others this past year, first because of Herman's severe pain from the shingles and then the diagnosis of lymphoma in May. We are thankful that he has completed his chemo treatments and that the last scan shows that they have been effective. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

In Christian love,

Herman & Rheta Haringa

Thank you to Pastor Scheuers and Pastor Falkena and others who came to visit me while I was recuperating from my fractured spine. Everyone has been so thoughtful for making me dinners and thanks especially to Judi Rietkerk for bringing them to me. I also received many get well cards which lifted my spirits. The Lord has blessed me with such a caring congregation.

Thank you again.

Jeanne De Jong

I wish to thank my pastors and my elder, Mr. De Haan, for their visits before and after my surgery. They were greatly appreciated. It was great being back in church the past 3 weeks. God is good and I can feel that I'm getting stronger each week.

Nelvina Sybesma

My heart overflows with thankfulness for the visits of Pastors Scheuers and Falkena as well as the many tokens of love and sympathy shown to me in the loss of my dear husband and the childrens' father and grandfather.

I still have an ongoing concern for my health as I need to visit the neurosurgeon in January concerning the tumors in my brain. I'm so thankful that I have no pain and am at ease about my future as I know I'm in the loving hands of my Heavenly Father.

Grace and the combined Vander Wal and Piersma families

I want to thank all of you who so graciously and generously expressed your love to me as I celebrated my recent birthday. It is a wonderful privilege to serve among you as your pastor. Thank you for your constant prayers.

In Christ,

Pastor Scheuers

Thank you to all the many members of our Church who sponsored, through prayer or donations, Ontario Christian's "Turkey Trot" fundraiser. The monies raised helped those who qualify for tuition assistance.

One of the Providence Professors (Russ Reeves) would like to rent out his Chino home. If you know someone who might be interested, check out the following listing:

<http://inlandempire.craigslist.org/apa/2072659228.html>



In the Mailbag!



Caleb Lucas Nanninga was born early in the morning on Sunday, September 26, 2010 at Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Riverside, California. He weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long.

On October 10, Caleb was baptized by Pastor Falkena. Having Pastor Falkena conduct the Baptism was very special because Caleb was his first baptism as a minister and the Falkenas are also friends. Pastor Falkena held Caleb in his arms while he baptized him. He preached on Acts 2:14-41. This passage is a sermon from the Apostle Peter where Christ is proclaimed as the Messiah who fulfills the Old Testament promises. The Covenant of Grace not only includes us as adults, but also our children. Acts 2:38-39: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift

of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." The baptism was concluded by singing the first verse of "Jesus Loves Me". Special music included a song played by the bells, "When Morning Gilds the Skies".

His grandparents, Pete & Sandy Nanninga and Arend & Dorothea Bakker, and Uncle Steve & Aunt Dena were there to witness this blessed sacrament.

May our faithful God and Father show His love and salvation to Caleb and his parents and may Caleb come to love and own Him as Lord and Savior at an early age.

What ARE You Thankful for?

Sunday School Kids are thankful for....

- Kaylee – Food, Baby Wyatt, I love my Mom, Dad a lot and Parker too.
- Jacob B. – Mom, Dad, Family, Motorcycles and Racecars
- Jordan A. – My family and paper
- Carson – Christmas Trees!
- Madison – My little sister and my Family
- Sydney – My house
- Adam – Colors
- Cody – Jesus who died on the cross
- Micah – Candy
- Parker - Presents
- Emilee – Mommy and Daddy
- Michaela – My family, friends, food & water, church and praising God!
- Mariam – Food friends, family and supplies



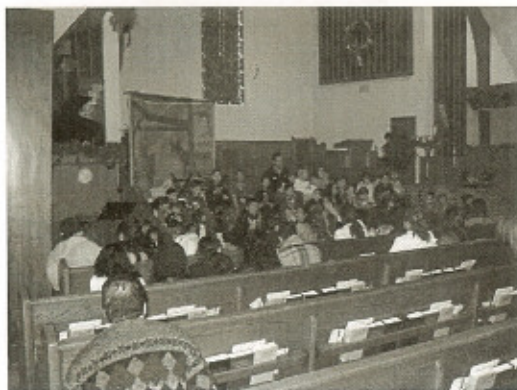
God's Love is Displayed at Angel Tree

Last Saturday, December 18, approximately 60 children and their families came to our church to receive their Angel Tree gifts. Although it was a dreary, rainy day outside, the excited children and their families walked into the Fellowship Hall with smiling faces and were warmly welcomed by a throng of volunteers from our congregation.



The families were greeted by Cheryl Smith and Aaron and Connie Munguia at the sign-in table and were given name tags. During the social time, several of our church members were able to visit with the families and mingled with them at one of our circular tables. When most of the invited families had arrived, Cheryl officially greeted them on behalf of Angel Tree and welcomed them to our church. Dan Smith opened with prayer and asked the Lord's blessing on the meal. A delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, prepared by several ladies of our church and assisted in serving by some of our young people, was enjoyed by all in attendance ... including pumpkin pie for dessert!

After dinner, Jean De Jong led the gathering in singing a few favorite Christmas carols. Pastor Quentin Falkena then directed the families to the front of the sanctuary and sat with the "angels" on the platform steps. He told the children the sanctuary is our gathering place to worship God, pointed out the stained-glass windows and their relation to Scripture, presented the true gospel of Jesus Christ to them through the Christmas story, and prayed with them. The children were then directed to the foyer where they excitedly awaited their gifts outside the bride's room. Pam Offinga oversaw the distribution of the gifts which included a personal message from their incarcerated parent. Families were also given a box of groceries to supplement their physical needs and English or Spanish Bibles to supplement their spiritual needs. An informational flyer describing our church's beliefs and activities was also given to the families. Nearly all the children on our Angel Tree list attended the luncheon but for the few that didn't, volunteers this past week delivered the remaining gifts to their homes and explained the Good News of salvation to each child.



Angel Tree is truly a wonderful ministry and a tremendous opportunity to present the gospel to hurting families. Thanks to Pam and Cheryl for their work and organization of this vital ministry. Also, thanks to those who picked "angels" and purchased gifts for them, donated generously, brought groceries, cooked, donated their time on Saturday, and delivered this week. This year, there were more church members involved than ever before so we were even more effective in carrying out the objective of the Angel Tree ministry. We certainly felt God's love and blessing as we participated. Our prayer is that the children and their families feel God's love through Angel Tree, too, and will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Saints of God at First United Reformed Church,

Another year has quickly passed by! This means that Amanda and I have been here for almost 2 ½ years! It has been a busy couple of years for us, to say the least. We moved across the country as newlyweds, jumped into grad school and pastoral ministry, and endeavored to get to know you as brothers and sisters in Christ. Since we didn't write a letter to go with our Christmas cards (which are forthcoming), I thought that as 2010 draws to a close, and 2011 begins I would reflect (with some help from Amanda) on our time here so far, and write a sort of personal article/letter.



One of the biggest blessings that I've enjoyed as a minister here is the opportunity to partner with Pastor Scheuers. He is often sought out for advice and wisdom on classical and denominational matters, but as colleagues I very much enjoy the time we have at our weekly "staff meetings" to discuss theology, pastoral ministry and sometimes life in general. I regularly benefit from listening to his wisdom in council and consistory meetings, as well as when I catch him in the hall, or knock on his study door. I have been blessed to forge a friendship with him, and we as a local congregation, are very blessed to have Pastor Scheuers as our senior pastor.

It is my hope that my teaching, preaching and Bible studies have been a blessing to you as a congregation, but I have heard it said that the best thing for a church is the sanctification of its pastor(s). In that regard, the longer I am here, the more I realize that my personal life and my personal interactions with you are an integral aspect of pastoral ministry. In this regard I ask and urge you to keep me in your prayers, asking that the Lord continue to work in my heart and life, that I might be more like Christ, and lead and point you to Christ all the more.

In regard to the life of our church we are excited for the many special opportunities for growth this new year presents, such as Mission Emphasis Week, the RYS LOGOS West Singles Retreat, youth retreats, the Growing Reformed Churches Conference, a Spring Missions trip to Costa Rica, Summer Teen Evangelism Project (STEP), Vacation Bible School (VBS), the RYS National Youth Convention and much more. However, we are also excited for the regular, week to week rhythm of church life, where we as brothers and sisters in Christ join together in corporate worship, are fed by the Word and the sacraments, sanctified by the Spirit, and conformed to the image of Christ.

One of our personal highlights for this coming year is that Amanda will graduate from USC with her Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) on May 13. We are looking forward to this momentous occasion that will bring seven years of school to an end! Before that, however, she will have a very difficult spring semester spending three days each week at a clinical setting in Long Beach, and two days in classes at USC's medical campus.

Finally, at the end of this year Amanda and I want to express our deepest gratitude for the many different ways that you, as the family of God have encouraged us. Your prayers, cards, comments, and other expressions of love and appreciation have been a great encouragement and have sustained us more than we can possibly imagine. Even though we are away from you for a time of vacation during this Christmas season, you are in our thoughts and prayers, and we look forward to being with you again soon.

Sincerely,

Pastor Quentin & Amanda Falkena

**Our 36th Annual
Mission Emphasis Week 2011
Schedule of Events**

Saturday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m.
Mission Emphasis Week Prayer Meeting

Sunday, January 23
Sunday Education – 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School – Cathy Bernales
Adult Education – Rev. Vic Bernales
Morning Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Vic Bernales
Evening Worship Service – 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Vic Bernales
Coffee Fellowship Hour – 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Vic Bernales

Wednesday, January 26
Family Night Chicken Dinner – 6:30 p.m.
Guest speaker – 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Vic Bernales – Power Point presentation

Sunday, January 30 – Commitment Sunday



Rev. Danny Hyde



Rev. Vic Bernales

Growing Reformed Churches Conference

We are looking forward to the 2011 Growing Reformed Churches Conference, scheduled for April 1 & 2. The theme this year is, "The Consolation of Prophecy." Those scheduled to speak are, Dr. W. Robert Godfrey, Dr. Cornelis Venema, Dr. Dennis Johnson, and Dr. Kim Riddlebarger. The conference brochure includes the following description:

"Why has God given us prophecy about the future? Certainly all Christians would agree it is to give us hope for Christ's return and to remind us of coming judgment. But why does much of the Church seem to mirror popular culture's fascination with speculation about things that are not the focus of Scripture--such as setting dates and interpreting current events? And does biblical prophecy teach us simply to save people from hell and wait for heaven? In contrast to such attitudes, our Reformed heritage has recognized the practical benefit of future prophecy for our Christian walk and work in this world. This conference will explore the "usefulness" (2 Tim. 3.16) of eschatology for the Church today. We need to understand what God has given us, even in these difficult portions of Scripture, because in them God calls us to obedience and faithfulness, and promises both comfort and encouragement as we read and study."

Please join us!



35th Annual Cadet Pinewood Derby

(and GEMS too!)

Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

Refreshments will be served.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US!

Thank you for your
love & generosity!
- Debra Gorter

Thank you
for your kind hospitality!
Josh Dykstra

Thank you so much
for all your hospitality!!
- Danielle

Thanks
for everything.

Thanks so
much!
- Jon Becker

Bryan -
Thank you so
much for your
love and hospitality!
Good Bless, Steven

You've made every Sunday
seem like we were coming
home to family! Thanks for
everything!
- Carissa Knol

Thank you so much for
your hospitality each
week. It is such a
joy for me to be
part of this church
body. Thank you
for your servant
hearts. May God
bless your Christmas!

Love,
- Libby

Thanks so much
for your generous
hospitality &
your love and welcoming
spirit is incredible.
- Becca Kynabell

It has been so wonderful to be able
to eat and unshipping with my First Chino
family this year - thank you for making this possible!
- Shubh Laya

Dear First URC Chino,

We cannot thank you enough for the many ways
you've been a blessing to us in this first semester at a
new campus! You've demonstrated Christ's love &
providence in the hospitality you've shown to all of us.
Thank you for your willingness to have us in your
homes, provide meals for us, purchasing gas cards, &
for your constant prayers & financial support. What a
blessing it is to be a part of the body of Christ!
Thank you especially Hospitality Committee for organizing
all of these things. We've greatly enjoyed worshipping &
fellowshipping with all of the saints at First Chino! We
look forward to communing with you each week! Thank
you once again for your hospitality & your love. We
give thanks to God for the opportunity we've been
given to be a part of the First URC's body of
believers! May God continue to bless you & keep you!

In Christ Alone,
Students of Providence Christian College

