BEACON LIGHTS

BY PROTESTANT REFORMED YOUTH

Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to be taxed. They could find no place to stay so they had to stay in a stable. When they stayed in a stable, Jesus was born!

A multitude of angels sang to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

I think it is wonderful that God sent Jesus our Lord, because Jesus took away our sins. Christmas is not for only presents but also Jesus!

By Nathan Pastoor

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EDITOR'S NOTES DECEMBER 1991

by David Harbach

In the past the Beacon Lights has held a few writing contests. Since there has not been a writing contest for some time, and at Prof. Engelsma's suggestion, the staff has decided to hold a writing contest. Now as writing contests go, this one plans to provide the opportunity for just about everyone to write. The divisions and basic themes of the contest will be as follows:

Division	Theme	Pages
3rd - 4th Grades	Animals Showing God In Creation	1 page written
5th - 6th Grades	Animals Showing God in Creation (Draw a picture)	1 page written
7th - 8th Grades	History of a Biblical City	2+ pages
9th - 10th Grades	History of a Biblical City (Significance then and now) Cities - Jerusalem, Athens, Damascus, Rome, Beirut, Alexandria, Baghdad	2+ pages
11th - 12th Grades	World Religions Description and its opposition to Christianity	3+ pages
18 - 22 years of age	Witnessing in the Workplace (Active & Passive Witnessing)	3+ pages
23 - up	Financial Stewardship	3+ pages

The best three articles for each level will not only be printed in the Beacon Lights but the authors will receive a book gift certificate also. Look for further details in school newsletters, bulletins, and the next issue of the Beacon Lights.

Look for a new editor-in-chief within the next six months.

"Musing With Molly" is from our writer from "downunder", J.P. de Klerk. His story of Molly shows us a taste of what Christmas is like in New Zealand. Christmas in New Zealand is different from a season point of view. You'll understand this from what he writes to me, "Meanwhile we enjoy Springtime over here. All the fruit trees in the garden have blossomed abundantly, the birds are singing and building their nests, the broad beans and the early cherries will soon be ready for harvesting." Thank you Mr. de Klerk for your story. We sometimes wish it were a bit warmer here in the Grand Rapids area during the Christmas season.

We don't often have two stories in an issue. Mrs. Thelma Westra, our faithful proofreader for many years, submitted "Reality -?-" which she completed a couple of months ago. The road that leads home has many stepping stones which teach us to always have our thoughts and desires fixed on the things that are above not on the earth below. Thank you, Mrs. Westra, for your interesting story that turns our thoughts heavenward no matter what our situation in life is like here below.

Letter #13 by Mrs. Brands is an introduction to chapters 4-6 of Ecclesiastes, which shows us four ways men seek meaning in their labor apart from God. Thank you, Mrs. Brands, for your letters.

Lora gives us the latest in abundant Church News. Thank you, Lora, for keeping us abreast of church life.

I have included a couple of short pieces from the very young hearts of Katie Kooienga and Nathan Pastoor which they wrote in school over

a year ago. These are faithful reminders of the importance of Christmas. Nathan's appears on the front cover. Thank you, Katie and Nathan, for bringing to our minds and hearts the Christmas story that we love to read. And to you, reader, I say that these writings are evidence that the faithful efforts of parents at home and teachers in our schools are truly blessed of God.

This issue also includes two articles that were written for the purpose of obtaining a Protestant Reformed Scholarship that is offered every year. I thank Daniel Kleyn and Alison Huisken for their articles concerning the Old Paths and The Christian's Peace. May these articles not only serve to encourage us to keep the old paths but also encourage you young people to apply for the scholarships when they become available.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear no: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:6 - 11

Scholarship Article

PERFECT PEACE

by Alison Huisken

Peace is something every person wants; every community in every nation wants peace. The whole world is crying for peace, peace for all mankind. They cry until there is no voice left in their mouths. But the world cries in vain for peace, because they will never receive it. They have the wrong idea of peace. The peace that the world desires is freedom from the laws that God has placed over them. They want to be free from a God who will damn them in His just judgment. Instead, the world wants a God that they have made themselves, one who will let them live in sin without paying the consequences for that sin.

The world has made this 'new' God and has done so by doing the direct opposite of what the Word of God has told them to do. The Bible tells them that homosexuality is wrong; they condone it. The Bible tells them that the woman must submit to her husband; they press womens' rights. The Bible tells them that murder is wrong; they allow millions of abortions a year to take place. And the list could go on to eternity. They do exactly what God has told them not to do and yet they still think that they are going to find peace. it's absurd!

The world's making of a 'new' God has found its way into the church also. The church has picked up on the world's many changes of God's law. For example: many churches are allowing homosexuals to become ministers, and women to hold church offices. Most churches condone divorce and remarriage and many agree with abortion. Churches are making changes in their worship services also. Doctrine is thrown to the birds and special numbers from choirs and discussion groups take its place. This is all done to make the youth, the new generation of the church, happy, so that they will come to church. The churches that do this want to make everyone happy, satisfy every member, and in the meantime keep an outward appearance of peace. But they won't be experiencing true peace, for God tells us in Jeremiah 6:13-17 that such as follow their own devices, instead of God's laws, will fall and be cast down.

God also tells us in this text how one does experience true peace. Follow the old paths! Christ is telling us here to forsake the new ways of the world and to obey the laws that God hath given us in His holy Word. Not only must we ourselves walk in the old paths but we must make sure our children are taught to walk in them also. And that is the awesome responsibility of the teachers in our Christian schools. Without covenant teachers to continue teaching the children of the covenant the right way, the old paths that we were taught in, our denomination will go down the road of apostasy and never return. We must stress to these children constantly that the only way to experience true peace is through obedience of God's laws and through the faithful preaching of sound doctrine. We must stress also that every one of the old paths must be followed. If we abandon one of the old paths and instead start out on a new path, that is the beginning of apostasy. Very soon we will be abandoning other paths which are in close association with the first path. The end result is a church which is thoroughly rotten with apostasy. All of the paths must be followed: all of God's laws must be obeyed! Then only will we find true peace with God. God isn't promising here in Jeremiah a life free from all anxiety and troubles, for that isn't possible in this life. But we pray daily for that ultimate peace, the peace which we will have for eternity, when Christ shall come again on the clouds of glory.

Scholarship Article

The Old Paths and The Christian's Peace

by Daniel Kleyn

We live in an age of war. Just recently we all experienced and felt the closeness of war when our country was involved in fighting with Iraq. This was a terrible war, full of death and destruction. But even though this war is over, yet there are countless other wars raging throughout the world. We may experience some sense of peace here in this country, but in many other lands, war has been continuous since the end of the Second World War.

In this atmosphere of war, and especially during the time our country was at war with Iraq, what was the cry and call of the church world? Everywhere we saw signs and banners asking us to "Pray for Peace", and when the war was over, "Thank God for Peace". We are therefore led to believe that "peace" has been attained. In all this we are somewhat surprised at how openly men acknowledge that we need to pray to God for peace, and that we need to thank Him for it, but alas, the world is deceived into thinking they have "peace when there is no peace".

Maybe someone will object when we say this and will respond "Why isn't this peace? Surely an end to war is peace?" Sadly this is the way that much of the church world today views peace. An earthly peace is sought after. They think that as long as there is no fighting and war then all is well and good. God's Word instructs us, however, that this is not peace. There is only one sort of peace in this world, only one source of true peace to man, and that is when he is at peace with God. This is not an earthly peace, but a heavenly. It is only when man is at peace with God that he is able to have peace with his neighbor, and therefore to have peace from war. We need therefore to carefully consider what this peace is that we have with God, and also to know how we attain this peace.

In Jeremiah 6:13-14 we are shown what the false peace is. The situation is this. Old and young, rich and poor, and those of all ranks and professions, are all seeking the treasures and pleasures of this world. And what is being done about it? Nothing. The prophets and priests, those who teach and instruct the people, are simply telling the people that all is fine, nothing is wrong. They are saying that there is peace. Is not this the same today? Everyone - and the reality is that this includes those in the church too - is seeking the pleasures of this life and of this world. They are after a good time and wish to have lots of fun. And that too is the peace which men seek, the false peace. If there is war and strife then men are unable to lay back and enjoy life, but they are faced with the reality of struggle, fighting, and death. This is a hindrance to enjoying this life's pleasures, so therefore men "pray for peace". The world does not, as the Christian should, pray for a peaceable life so that he can serve God in it, but men want peace so that they can fulfill their own selfish desires. We as God's people are also guilty of this if we likewise become involved in the things of this world and neglect the things of God.

We are also shown what the true peace is, the peace that we should seek after and pray for. God tells us in Jeremiah 6:16 that we must look for and ask concerning the old paths, and we must walk in them, and then we will find rest for our souls. But what are these old paths? Do we simply have to do as our fathers have done and all will be well? Is it just a matter of observing the experiences of those that went before us? No! In seeking the old paths we do have to look to what happened in the former age, but we are to look, not to the deeds of men, but to God's dealings with His people in times past. Further instruction in this is given in Job 8:8, where we read, "For enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers". We are also told this in Deuteronomy

32:7. In these passages we are commanded to look for and follow the old paths, the paths prescribed by God's law. We are to see how those who have gone before us have been blessed as they have walked in God's ways, and also how they have been punished for disobedience. Most importantly we are to look to the Bible, for the Bible most clearly sets before us what we must do, and what we must not do. The old path is the way of godliness, the way that God's saints in all ages have walked in. By walking in these old paths we will find the true peace, and inner and spiritual peace within our soul, peace with God, and peace with our fellow man.

This, therefore, is the peace which we must seek after. If the old paths are preached and taught, and if we walk therein, then we can have true peace, a peace that is within and that gives us comfort and security, in spite of the wars that may rage around us. We must pray for this peace, and not for the earthly peace from war, for that peace is not peace at all. The true inner peace is a gift from God, and something to be sought after, and something that is a great blessing that we have as God's people. May we diligently seek this peace.

MUSING WITH MOLLY

by J. P. de Klerk

"Am I not forgetting someone?", wondered Molly Dokkema as she let her eyes wander about the mess on the table. Molly loved to give others something; to make them happy, glad, surprised. She was inclined to indulge. . . . William, her husband, and she had since their immigration to New Zealand changed over from the Dutch St. Nicholas' Eve (5 December) to Christmas. The sphere was different, Molly thought, especially because in this part of the world Christmas comes in the midst of the summer instead of in the winter, when there is snow and ice. That could not be helped.

Besides, her parents, brothers and sisters were all overseas. Most of her neighbours and acquaintances in Ashhurst would be on holiday with their children, somewhere in a summer-house or in a caravan. Some friends, members of the church, would stay with relatives up North, others would go to the South-island.

She had to keep that in mind. "Now, let me see, what will make grandfather really happy? What will mum like? Or perhaps something for dad and mum together? I'll have to hurry. What is suitable for sister-in-law Betty? And for Colin? If I give him chocolates again, he will become chubby. . . . I must not forget uncle Ben, so that he will receive his parcel in time by mail. . . . I

don't want to make the same mistakes as last year. . . . I want to be more attentive". She went quickly through the list she had made.

She remembered that the tradition of giving with Christmas seems to go back to the history of the Wise Men of the East who brought gifts to the stable in Bethlehem where Jesus was born; God Himself had shown these men the way they had to go by using the shining light of the Eastern Star above the village. Perhaps Joseph had used some of the gifts later, when the young family had to flee to Egypt. Well, it was possible.

The marks of honour would have been of practical value for the King of Kings and His earthly parents in that way. . . .

"Oh! I must not forget that old Mr. Jackson who lives across the road; often he is not well. And a card with compliments of the season for the postie, who brirgs the mail faithfully, rain, hail or shine, on her creaky bike. And Mrs. Welchman, at the corner, who I often meet walking with her stick". Molly brought her a bag with groceries once a week from the village. She would bake a fruit cake for her. . . . Molly made most of gifts herself or she composed a Christmas hamper in a decorated basket, with fruit, nuts, jam and cheese.

William, with a smile, called it self-torture. . . She really looked forward to Christmas, with everything it stood for, framed by hominess like a frieze of gold. . . .

Through the open window a gust of wind blew some of the Christmas cards on the carpet. Molly recognized the typical sounds of sparrows catching insects in the rose bushes. . . .

She would play carols on the piano again this Christmas. Perhaps, next year, she would have a baby to look after and would understand even better what it had meant for Mary in Bethlehem, although that had been different.

And she had to learn a lot, to be prepared. . .

JESUS IS BORN

The Christmas story is the best Bible story I ever heard. When people tell me that story I feel glad and sad.

The dark years before Christmas made be feel sad. I think the best part of the story is when Jesus is born. He was the light after all that darkness

I will tell you the story when Jesus was born.

The 400 dark years had past. God had still kept His promise.

Let's start at Bethlehem. That night Jesus was born there in a stable.

Far away in the fields outside of Bethlehem there were some shepherds watching over their sheep. All of a sudden an angel came upon them. The shepherds were scared! The angel told them the Savior was born. They would find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Then a multitude of the heavenly hosts sang, "Glory to God in the highest. . . ."

Katie Kooienga

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REALITY - ? -

by Mrs. Thelma Westra

Drowsily I stretched and attempted to roll over. My left side seemed to be one long continuous pain. Startled, I opened my eyes. Darkness. Darkness that enveloped me. Darkness that penetrated into my mind. My right hand reached out - reached out toward . . . nothing. Beneath me was sand. I sensed strangeness and feared to cry out. My mind refused me a clue. Where am I? Can this be a dream from which I shall soon be released? The stiffness . . . the pain . . . the darkness . . . seem so real. Could I have gone blind? Has my mind been darkened?

I must have slept. Again consciousness was returning. I opened my eyes to a blue, blue sky with fluffy cotton clouds lazily drifting by . . . and I drifted with them. Suddenly I was awake - wide awake. My ears picked up the sound of waves lapping the shore. The smell of the sea hung heavily on the air. I sat up with surprisingly little effort. My shoulder ached. My left leg felt stiff and sore. Determination overcame the pain and I stood. However, my better judgment soon prevailed upon me to gently ease myself to the ground.

I am on a rather wild, desolate beach. All is quiet - that is - all human sounds are stilled. At times it seems the ocean roars, drowning out all else. Even my jumbled thoughts are a giant push-pull of waves. And then at times it seems so quiet - so utterly still that a falling pin could awaken me from my reveries and cause me to cry out in terror. However, no pin does fall. I have no pin. I have nothing. Nothing but the clothes I'm wearing, a white cotton shirt and navy skirt. No shoes, no purse, no food. Food? I need food. No, my mind must turn to other things. But how obedient is the mind? It's quite elementary to observe that the harder we try to banish a thought, the more we dwell upon it. All right then, let's face it. My last meal was dinner last night. But was it last night . . . or the night before . . . or how long ago? A meal on the plane soon after taking off from Miami on Monday. Yes, this must be Tuesday. I don't think I could have lain here for more than 24 hours without awakening. I'm not seriously injured; no broken bones I'm quite sure, but bruises aplenty. Within a few days I'll probably look like a darkened rainbow - black, blue, purple, red, green, and yellow!

A rainbow! God's sign to His people! Did I imagine myself to be alone? Am I not ever in the hollow of His hand? What a comforting thought! Yes, truly my only comfort in life and in death! What happens to me here on my earthly journey is not the important thing. Each event is merely a stepping-stone on the pathway I'm traveling - the road that leads Home. How easily I can lose sight of this in my busy, every-day life! Actually, what a blessing it is when God snatches me from my comfortable existence and forces me to meditate on things spiritual. Really, a mother in a home can be so busy with the care of the family - even busy in teaching catechism and Sunday-school lessons, busy in societies and Christian school activities and the like, but too busy for real introspection . . . too busy with earthly cares to truly experience the sweetness and richness of communion with God.

"Come ye apart and rest a while" - yes, that applies to me. I have come out of my busy-ness to rest a while. I feel contentment and peace, not panic, as I would have expected when finding myself alone and injured in a strange place. But that is just the point. I'm not alone or in a strange place. I'm with my dearest Friend in the hollow of His hand.

Physically I ache: I'm hungry: I'm thirsty! These needs are very real. I wonder if I should try to hobble away from this spot. But which way? "Where can I go but to the Lord?" As this thought comes to me I again experience that real assurance that I am precious in His sight and "it

is well with my soul." I can actually see that my physical needs are but pictures of my spiritual needs. They are the realities!

Above the roar of the waves I'm suddenly aware of another roar. A small plane is almost directly overhead. The pilot dips his wing and I know that I've been spotted. I shall soon be rescued! Again I am struck by the fact that that is just a picture of the heavenly reality. I have been rescued - I've been saved from the sin and death in which I lie by nature to become a new creature in Christ Jesus!

ECCLESIASTES 4-6: INTRODUCTION

LETTER #13

4 WAYS MEN SEEK MEANING IN LABOR

by Mrs. H. Brands

Let's briefly get back into perspective with the whole book as far as we've studied it.

ECCLESIASTES
("The Preacher")
Theme: Search for Meaning in Labor and Life

CHAPTER 1: Introduction
CHAPTERS 2-3: Personal Experiences
CHAPTERS 4-6: Counteracting Errors

As the outline shows, this third section is the one in which Solomon attempts to counteract various errors which people have. Solomon never tries to counteract every single possible error; that would be impossible. People seek for meaning in an endless host of pursuits. Rather, he takes samples from four main areas of life and from here on we can take the principles which he gives us and apply them anywhere else in life. These four areas of life are enough to teach us not to seek for meaning in life apart from God. If we haven't caught the message by then, we never will!

People try to find meaning in labor and in life in four main areas, apart from God. We'll write one introductory paragraph on each area.

First, many people labor with the goal of PLEASING PEOPLE, of seeking their approval. This seldom, if ever, works, does it? Most people are, by nature, out for themselves, and so they seldom approve of other people unless it "pays" for them to approve of the other. Yet the error of seeking meaning to labor in this way is so common that Solomon gives four examples of it to show how vain this way of life is. His four examples are:

Example 1: People who live under OPPRESSORS and who can find no comforters.
Example 2: People who labor well but with the goal of PUBLIC APPROVAL.
Example 3: People who live SELFISHLY.
Example 4: People who seek HIGH OFFICE.

We'll study these four examples one at a time in our next four letters.

The second erroneous area of seeking meaning seems at first to be in recognition of God but, as we learn on closer study, is rather in service of an IDOL-GOD, a false god of one's own mak-

ing. Because their god is of their own making, not the true God, they actually still labor "under the sun", apart from God. Their error is in seeking to manipulate God to serve their own secular goals rather than in fearing Him for what He really is.

The third area of error is in laboring for SOCIAL POWER. Solomon will illustrate how futile this is by showing that it fails due to two weaknesses: (1) people are fickle and easily change allegiances; and (2) the person seeking power also changes once he gains the power and loses the abilities which originally brought him to the office.

The fourth foolish area of seeking meaning apart from God is the most common of all: laboring to be RICH. Solomon thoroughly slashes riches as a goal, showing that they never satisfy, they often do real harm to the person, they cannot be enjoyed, and they are fleeting at their very best. He does point out, too, that material things have a proper place and that we may use with pleasure what God gives us if we use them for God, not out of love for riches themselves.

The last three verses of chapter six draw us to the only conclusion which this section as well as the whole first half of the book have taught us: labor wherever you will, nothing will satisfy apart from God and you had better not attempt to ignore or refute God!

May God help us never to set our goals on any earthly attainments apart from Him but rather to walk one step at a time, by faith, wherever He leads us.

"Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go;
Anywhere He leads me in this world below!
Anywhere, without Him, dearest joys would fade.
Anywhere, with Jesus, I am not afraid!"

Letter #13. Theme ECCLESIASTES 4-6: Introduction

"4 Ways Men Seek Meaning In Labor"

Questions:

1. What is the first erroneous way of seeking meaning in life without God (Chapter 4)?
2. What is the second erroneous way of seeking meaning in life without God (Chapter 5:1-7)?
3. What is the third way (Chapter 5:8-9)?
4. What is the fourth way (Chapter 5:10-6:9)?

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Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she as found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:18 - 21

CHURCH NEWS

by Lora Bouwkamp

IMMANUEL, LACOMBE, (Canada)

The annual church picnic was held August 5.

Bethany Kuiper publicly made confession of her faith June 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Zylstra commemorated their 40th wedding anniversary July 13.

HUDSONVILLE, (Michigan)

We extend our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Johanna Schut who passed away September 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Todd Miedema give thanks to God for the birth of Danae Lynn on September 25.

Mrs. Anna Schut passed away October 3. We extend sympathy to her sons.

The consistory has received the membership of Timothy Decker from First PRC, Mrs. Kathy Decker from Hope PRC, and Dean Allen Dykstra from Hope PRC.

On October 8 the Lord delivered Mrs. Kathye Knoper from her sufferings. We extend sympathy to her husband Don and family in their sorrow.

LeighAnn Renae Van Putten, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Cliff Van Putten was baptized.

George Hoekstra and Kathy Timmer were united in marriage October 18.

Dave Overweg and Denise Kraker were united in marriage November 8.

GRANDVILLE, (Michigan)

The marriage of Jim Van Dyke and Kim Vander Ploeg took place September 28.

On September 25 Rev. and Mrs. Harbach celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary.

Randy and Peggy Scott were blessed with the birth of Hannah Rebecca September 22.

On October 6 Blake Andrew Peterson, infant son of Jim and Brenda Peterson and Courtney Christine, infant daughter of Andrew and Donna Peterson were baptized.

Kurt and Deb Van Overloop mourn the death of Deb's mother, Mrs. Kathye Knoper.

Roger and Anne Veldman were blessed with the birth of Andrew Case October 6.

Ken and Pam Engelsma were blessed with the birth of Jessalyn October 9.

HOLLAND, (Michigan)

We extend sympathy to the Calvin Yonker family in the loss of his mother.

The membership papers of Donald and Cynthia De Jong and six children have been received from South Holland PRC.

Joan Doezema and Tim Kaiser were united in marriage August 23.

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bonzelaar was baptized September 29.

HOPE, Redlands, (California)

Mr. Clarence De Vries celebrated his 76th birthday September 8.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Blake Wesley De Boer, son of John and Becky De Boer September 15.

Steve and Beth Potjer were blessed with the birth of Lauren Sue. Baptism was administered September 29.

The membership papers of Miss Kristi Brummel have been sent to Faith PRC upon her request.

Bud and Mary De Vries commemorated their 53rd anniversary October 5.

Roger Gritters and family have transferred their membership papers to Grandville PRC.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Meelker celebrated their 56th anniversary and Ben celebrated his 86th birthday October 27.

Mrs. Effie Krikke celebrated her 85th birthday October 21.

BYRON CENTER, (Michigan)

The public confession of faith of Miss Naomi Noble took place July 14.

Miss Denise Holstege made public confession of her faith August 4.

Dan and Rose Bush rejoice in the birth of Danielle Ruth.

Tim Bartelds and Heather Kreuzer were united in marriage August 16.

We express deepest sympathy to Mr. Jay Holstege and family in the sudden death of his son Randy.

Rick and Jill Elzinga mourn the death of his grandmother.

The church picnic was held September 7.

Brad and Julie Dykstra rejoice in the birth of Bethany Joy.

Chip and Laura Wierenga were blessed with the birth of Alyssa Brooke.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Bethany Dykstra,. Danielle Bush, and Alyssa Wierenga on September 29.

Denise Holstege and Jim Brinks were united in marriage October 4.

Mr. Robert Knott and Miss Dawn Davies were united in marriage October 12.

BETHEL, (Illinois)

The consistory has received the membership papers of Matthew Medema from Peace PRC.

The consistory received the membership of Mr. and Mrs. William Meerse from Des Plaines CRC.

LYNDEN, (Washington)

Swietse and Etta Vander Meulen mourn the death of their sister-in-law.

The consistory has received the baptism papers of Jake DeHoog from Sumas CRC.

Al and Marie Kaptein celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary August 7.

The church picnic was held September 2.

The congregation expresses her sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Stuit in the death of Wilbur's sister.

We remember in prayer Don and Trena Bruinsma in the loss of their baby girl, still-born.

The church celebrated its 40th anniversary during the month of September.

SOUTH HOLLAND, (Illinois)

Andrea Lenting made confession of her faith September 8.

We express sympathy to Menno and Sadie Smits in the death of his brother, Alfred Smits.

Egbert and Carroll Holleman mourn the death of her grandmother.

Tammy Lenting and Laurence Lautenbach were united in marriage September 27.

Janice Goetz and Roger Maatman were united in marriage September 28.

The congregation expresses its sympathy to Mel and Phyllis De Boer in the death of her mother, Mrs. Dora Evers-Lawson.

The sacrament of baptism was administered October 13 to Danielle Evonne, infant daughter of Earl and Gloria Kamps; to Ethan Lammert, infant son of George and Monica Lanting; to Vance Philip, infant son of Tom and Jeanne Ven Huizen.

The membership papers of Jim and Julia Blankespoor were received from Peace PRC.

Bob and Linda Lenting mourn the death of her mother, Mrs. Kathye Knoper.

Jim and Leah Lenting were blessed with the birth of Andrew James October 24.

Pastor and Verna Terpstra were blessed with the birth of Justin Charles October 25.

HOPE, (Walker)

The baptism of Zachary Richard Shepherd took place September 29.

Miss Barb Huizinga and Miss Yvonne Ramos made public confession of their faith October 6.

Shar Besselsen and Kathy Hop made confession of faith November 10.

On October 25 a program was held to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the congregation.

Prof. and Mrs. Hanko mourn the death of their sister-in-law, Mrs. Kathye Knoper.

Tim Schimmel and Yvonne Ramos were united in marriage October 18.

FIRST, (Grand Rapids)

We extend congratulations to Miss Anna Van Til who celebrated her 93rd birthday September 16 and to Mrs. Harriet Griffioen who celebrated her 81st birthday September 22.

On September 22 the sacrament of baptism was administered to Jill Marie Hofman, daughter of Bill and Joan Hofman and to Nicholaus Jay Monsma, son of David and Kim Monsma.

The congregation expresses her sympathy to Rev. and Mrs. George Lubbers in the recent death of Mrs. Lubbers' sister-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. James Dykstra mourn the death of Mrs. Dykstra's mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Pastoor rejoice in the birth of a son.

Mr. Roy Vanden Berg celebrated his 91st birthday October 1.

The congregation expresses sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Noordyke in the death of his

mother; to Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Faber in the death of his sister; to Mr. and Mrs. Sid Newhof in the death of her brother; and to Mrs. Jess Rietema in the death of her sister.

Doug Looyenga and Melissa Hofman were united in marriage October 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryven Ezinga mourn the death of her sister Kathye Knoper.

Mrs. Helen Newhof celebrated her 87th birthday October 18.

The congregation extends her sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Ron De Vries and Mr. and Mrs. Jack De Vries in the death of Jack and Jackie's mother.

At their request, the membership papers of Prof. and Mrs. Decker and their son Jonathon were transferred to Hudsonville PRC.

Mr. John Prince celebrated his 92nd birthday October 29.

Congratulations to Mr. Otto Vander Woude who celebrated his 93rd birthday November 4.

Mrs. Sally Koenes celebrated her 80th birthday November 7.

SOUTHWEST, (Grand Rapids)

We express our sympathy to Mr. Walter Griffioen and to Mr. and Mrs. Arie Griffioen in the death of Mrs. Clara Griffioen.

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Erika Marie Schipper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Schipper, and to Trevor Douglas Wassink, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Wassink.

Julia Bult, Jody Dykstra, and Melissa Spaman made public confession of their faith September 8.

The membership of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Fisher and children were transferred to Faith PRC upon their request.

Rev. Herman Veldman celebrated his 60th year in the ministry with a special program September 23.

The membership papers of Mr. Harvin Ver Beek have been received from Lamont CRC.

The membership papers of Miss Cyndi Fisher have been transferred to Faith PRC.

The membership papers of Mr. Eric Smith were received from Grandville Baptist Church.

FAITH, (Jenison)

The membership papers of Mrs. Henrietta Oomkes have been received from First PRC.

At their request the membership papers of Mr. David Hanko were transferred to Hope PRC; Mrs. Brenda (Holstege) Zandstra to Peace, Illinois; and Mr. and Mrs. Kimmy Kooiker to Hull, Iowa.

Mrs. Ruth Hanko and family mourn the death of both of her parents.

Dave and Dawn Bouwkamp rejoice in the birth of Courtney Dawn September 6. Baptism was administered October 20.

The consistory has received the membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. John McGraw and family from Southwest PRC.

PELLA, (Iowa)

The membership papers of Mr. Dick Rolffs were received from 1st Pella CRC.

Marvin and Marcia Gritters were blessed with the birth of Keith Richard October 14.

HULL, (Iowa)

The membership papers of Mr. and Mrs. Kimmy Kooiker were received from Faith PRC.

The father of Mrs. George Hoekstra passed away. We express sympathy to the family.

The membership papers of Mrs. Anita Moore have been received from Bethel CRC.

LOVELAND, (Colorado)

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Wilkerson were blessed with the birth of Brianna Leigh and baptism was administered October 27.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Koole were blessed with the birth of Renae Joy and she was baptized October 27.

Ed and Marge Bruinsma celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Griess also celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Mr. Fritz Schwarz celebrated his 86th birthday October 19.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Micah 5:2

ADVANCE NOTICE!!

The 1992 PROTESTANT REFORMED YOUNG PEOPLE'S 2 - IN - 1 CONVENTION

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WILL BE HELD

JULY 27 - 31, 1992

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- HIGH SCHOOL AGE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE HOUSED AT THE BEAUTIFUL GRAND RAPIDS BAPTIST COLLEGE CAMPUS.

- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND OLDER YOUNG ADULTS WILL BE HOUSED AT THE BEAUTIFUL NEW REFORMED BIBLE COLLEGE CAMPUS TWO MILES AWAY.

- A NUMBER OF SEPARATE ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSIONS ARE PLANNED FOR THE TWO AGE GROUPS.

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