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ARTICLES

Where does the time go?

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

It's a common phrase we use... "Where does the time go?"

Most often, we say it with a sense of frustration, looking at all we hoped to accomplish. Now, the year is gone, and we still have a long list of "I-wish-I-hads."

What's on your "I-wish-I-hads" list?

Spent time with the grandkids,
weeded the garden,
met with an old friend,
remodeled the bathroom,
started exercising,
taken your spouse on a date,
got a bachelor's degree,
bought a car, or
read your Bible...



I have an ever changing to-do list. It contains sermons to write, meeting agendas to

prepare, tasks to complete... Then I have a list of people I want to connect with. I count about 28 people on that list right now. In spite of averaging nearly 60 hours a week of ministry over this past month, many of the to-dos and people end up on my "I-wish-I-hads" list.

While Solomon tells us *"There is a time for everything..."* (Ecclesiastes 3:1), there is not enough time for everything. Solomon also said, *"the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure...."* (Ecclesiastes 8:5 NIV). The NCV Bible says it this way, *"A wise person does the right thing at the right time."* So where do we get wisdom? Solomon's wisdom came from God, and James tells us we simply need to ask for it.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (James 1:5)

I hope you will join me in asking God for his wisdom each day that we might only do what He wants us to do for that day. With that, OUR to-do's and OUR "I-wish-I-hads" will simply take a back seat to God's

"I-want-you-to's".

If you think you're busy, you need to check out "Balancing Life's Demands" with Chip Ingram on RighNow Media. It's a bit dated, but helpful. Signup at www.altoreformedchurch.org/resources.

What's up with our 2020 Task Force?

We met on September 15 and ask for your continued prayers. Here's a couple take-aways from our meeting...

1. We recommended that we hold an informational meeting covering...
 - a. What might happen to the RCA after the 2020 General Synod meeting?
 - b. Why we are staying at least through June?
 - c. Why we might leave? Why we might stay?
 - d. What the process is for leaving and how long it will take?
 - e. What the key issues are in identifying a new denomination?

f. How does all this affect staff and the hiring process?

I met with Larry Mulder and Paul Bruins, Elders on Exec team, and discussed options. With a desire to have as many people present as possible, we decided to focus the annual congregational meeting (Nov. 10) on the business of our Task Force.

2. We also recommended a sermon series on our beliefs. We felt whether we stay or go, unity around our Statement of Faith is essential. While some of you might think this sounds interesting, I'm sure many think otherwise. Don't fret, this will be very practical. I hope to address the significance and relevance of our statement, not just argue for some obscure theological statements.

What's up with staffing plans?

The Executive Team continues to discuss some changes to the current Equipping Adults Pastor job description. We've dug into my (Pastor Kevin's) strengths and weaknesses. We've looked at the needs of the church and the volunteer resources

available to meet those needs. Our goal is to draft a revised job description in the next month and set up a search team by the beginning of the new year. Why is this taking so long some are asking? Well, we want to do what God wants when God wants. Rushing into hiring is like buying a house without ever considering what you want in the house. Please pray for us to discern and move forward in God's time.

What's up with our Classis & the RCA?

Please pray that God would grant wisdom to our Classis, our Task Force, the RCA's Vision 2020 Task Force, The Gospel Alliance, and the 2020 General Synod reps.

1. This month we will elect officers and decide if we will either send the same classis reps to General Synod as requested by the Vision 2020 Task Force or ignore their request and stick with our rotation of elders and pastors.
2. The Vision 2020 Task Force recently posted an update (<https://www.rca.org/news/vision-2020-team-presses-honesty-and->

[hope](#)) on what they have been doing.

OCC Packing Party

By Adrea Daane

As we enter the fall season we have the opportunity to be involved in our annual Operation Christmas Child service event. We will be holding our annual family night packing party on Wednesday, November 6th from 5:30-7:30pm. All are welcome to join us for pizza at 5:30 followed by a chance to help us reach our goal of packing 200 boxes that night. There are donation opportunities available on the Children & Families bulletin board (across from the elevator) as well as coloring sheets you may grab to get ready ahead of time and bring to the party.



Can't make it to the party but still want to get involved? You are free to pack your own boxes at home as well! Boxes and packing information can also be found in the same bulletin board area. A "Shipping Donations" box is also located on the

information table as each box costs \$9 to ship. We ask that these shipping costs are not included in the boxes you pack, but instead put into the designated box. Please write out any checks to Alto Reformed Church as we make out one full check for the total number of boxes packed when we drop them off for pick up.

Shipping costs for the packing party are being raised through the offerings given on Sunday mornings in Sunday School as well. We're excited to have an offering cause for this first semester that goes along with such a great service project. We're hoping that the kids will be extra excited to bring in their offerings as they are reminded how they will be used and in the idea that they will have an active role in preparing them.

If you have any other questions, please look to the Children & Families bulletin board for more information about both our Packing Party as well as information for packing your own boxes at home. Both options are great service opportunities for you or your family as the Christmas season approaches...we are so excited to

see how God is working through this project!

Alto Chase

By Jessa Ter Beest

With the Alto Chase coming up on Monday, October 7th, I've been doing a lot of thinking about Christian persecution around the world and how much faith it must take for those people to keep standing up for what they believe in when death is on the line. The example of this doesn't just come from the time when Christians were being persecuted by Romans - it exists right now with Christians being persecuted around the world.

Do we, in America, stand up for our faith as much as those being persecuted in other countries? Or have we started putting our faith in the god of comfort instead of God, the creator of the universe and the One the Bible teaches us about? Sometimes I think we have. I know that I've fallen into that trap before - not listening to what I know the Holy Spirit is wanting me to do because it makes me uncomfortable.

In the movie God's Not Dead, Professor Radisson tells his students they will fail a third of the course if they won't write "God is dead" on a piece of paper with their signature. All but one student does it. All but ONE. Every other student in that class, whether they believed in God or not, took the way of comfort instead of the way of Christ. And Josh, the one student who did decide to stand up for Christ, was told by his parents, his friends, and his girlfriend, to take the easy way out and just write what the professor wanted.

Who are you going to be? Are you going to be the one that will stand up for God? To take the way of Christ instead of the way of comfort? The Christians being persecuted around the world sure are. They are making the ultimate sacrifice for their faith, just as Jesus did for them. What sacrifices will you make to put Christ before comfort?

The Alto Chase this year, like every year, will be a fun time for the students. We will also be using it to pray for those in the roles we are playing. Students will be praying for the people in the world being

persecuted - that they would have a safe place to hide, that they wouldn't be caught, and that if they are, that they will look to God for strength to choose to stand up for Him. And as adults in the role of the persecutors, we will be praying that God will change the hearts of people persecuting Christians - that they will be changed by seeing the strength of the faith in those they are persecuting and want that same power, love, and faith in their own lives. Please come participate in this time of active prayer with us on Monday, October 7th at 7pm.

Women's Ministries Update

By Peggy Bresser

There are lots of things happening in Women's Ministries – we'd love for you to share in them with us!

We will be starting a Bible Study on Tuesday, October 1 at 6:30. We will be studying 'The Gospel of Mark' by Francis Chan. If you can't make it every week, it's on RightNow Media so you won't have to miss anything. It will run for 5 weeks this fall and finish in the spring. It's not too late if you forgot to sign up; we have a few

extra books and would love to order more!

We will be collecting food during the month of October for the Waupun Food Pantry. According to Terri, items especially needed are cereal, Spaghetios/Ravioli, Hamburger Helper, soup, and rice side dishes. We will also be collecting for a mitten tree in November – more details to follow.

Lastly, on Friday, November 1, we will be having a Ladies Night Out – Bunco with Buddies! Bring a friend for a fun night of Bunco and appetizers. Watch for the sign-up sheet!

Golden Lifers Update

By Julie Medema

We began Golden Lifers this season with a tasty breakfast at Helen's Kitchen. It was good to fellowship together again!

Now, in the coming weeks, we'll try to buckle down to a good study of the book of Romans. Romans is Paul's letter, written about A.D. 57-58, while he was in Corinth, in the home of Gaius, his friend and convert.

Have you read through Romans? With Paul's long sentences and style of writing, it seems rather complicated and difficult to understand. Hopefully, Pastor Ted will be able to clarify some of it for us as we study it together. It is quite different than Paul's other letters because he was not with them and did not begin that church. It's a wonderful book, though, because he emphasizes so much the powerful message of 'saved by grace'. It's the book that prompted Martin Luther to stop trying to find his own way to salvation and to rely on God's grace.

Are you intrigued? It's not too late for any of you to come and join our group Wednesday mornings at 9:30am in the church basement.

MESSAGES

I want to say thank you to all who payed visits, sent cards, brought food, and said prayers on my behalf. God is at work in the hearts and souls of His people. God bless you all.

-Darlene Ter Beest

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,505 to REACH Waupun! When you give to REACH you allow us to bring about positive, lasting change in the lives of Waupun area youth. Your donation will be used to support the growth and improvement of our Mission Backpack program. This program provides our youth who experience food insecurity with weekly food backpacks to take home on the weekends. Thank you for supporting this program!

-REACH Waupun

My special thanks to all who remembered me on my 100th birthday with cards, visits, gifts, and especially the gift of money given to my church and the Gideon Bibles. God bless you all.

-Gladys Kastein

At first when Rick's accident happened I didn't know how bad he was hurt, but I knew he needed prayer. So thankful to have a loving church family that prayed right away without needing to know exactly what for and believing God knew. And He did! So very thankful for all of your love, visits, messages, food, and

prayers. Thanking God for His even abundant protection and healing!

-Rick & Jean Stelsel & Family

EVENTS



Harvest Festival

Center

Harvest Festival
- October 5 at 6-
8pm at the Alto
Community



Road Rally -
October 11 at
7pm



Ladies Night Out
- Bunco with
Buddies -
November 1 at
6pm

NEWS

College Student & Military Addresses

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