



The 4th Focus

“Be Still and Know. . . .”

Throughout Scripture, there are particular summary truths or promises that are especially significant for me. One of these significant truths is captured on a print that hangs on the wall of our dining room. It reads, “Be still, and know that I am God...” and is excerpted from Psalm 46:10.

One of the best things about growing up on a farm is the fascination relating to the care and observation of animals. My Dad always had cattle and through the years, we had nearly every color or breed you can imagine. But as I grew up, we also, at one time or another, cared for pigs, horses, rabbits, dogs, cats, buffalo, llamas, ducks, chickens, raccoons, and I’m sure that I am forgetting a few other species at the moment.

One of the most fascinating animals to watch each summer were the ducks as the hens nurtured and protected a nest of eggs and then after the hatch, they would quickly begin leading these cute and helpless wobblers around the yard to eat bugs and get fat. The hen would lead her ducklings into a “land” full of bugs “and honey” and they would frantically zig-zag and scatter through the grass as if nothing else mattered. But, at all times, the mother hen was intensely and persistently on guard for danger and when a cat, dog or anything else became a threat, she would start to squawk, stretch up high with her wings out and gather her careless little ones under her protective wings.

Jesus used this image of a hen gathering her chicks when he grieved over the Jews who had scattered and would not be gathered through the words of the prophets. And even after he had taught and demonstrated his truth and power with great signs, they would still not respond to the hen’s squawking and desire to gather them in (Luke 13:31-35).

Summers in Western Michigan are a time when we, in a sense, zig-zag and scatter through the grass, gorging ourselves on sun, fun, and times away. It can be dangerous scattering when we get away from our God who longs to nurture and protect us through his Word. But this is the time of year now where we should be gathered again under his wings to “be still and know that he is God...”

When we are scattered and gorging ourselves on the things of this world, the good things of this world such as sports, kids and their endless activities, beer with friends, social networking sites, shopping or caring for stuff quickly become ultimate things—the things that we value and look forward to more than we value and love God.

And so now, as fall begins, and we settle into new routines (or ruts), let us make sure that the routine involves being gathered under his wings through loving and digging into his Word and being refreshed in knowing that HE is God so that he is the supreme love and delight of your life. What do you think about, look forward to, devote yourself to more than anything else? Could it be that you look forward to a television show or drinks with friends more than time with God? What do you talk about more with friends? Jesus or _____?




This is our time to be gathered and so let us be faithful to dig into small groups so that we can hear his loving squawks through the study of his Word and work together to gather each other in under his protective wings. Let us be faithful to gather for worship each week and to dig into his Word every day. The more you know him, the more you will love him and will turn away from the dangerous gorging and scattering in these dangerous times.

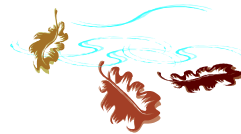
- Pastor Tim

OCTOBER 2009

- 1 - Dave Randall
- 1 - Becky Tubergen
- 2 - Marissa Fles
- 3 - Kintaro Rossiter
- 4 - Julie Gleason
- 6 - Joshua Schalk
- 11 - Sandy Gleason
- 11 - Analie Woods
- 13 - Sue Kriekard
- 15 - Sue Hawkins
- 15 - Jennifer Wammack
- 15 - John Bills
- 17 - Brian Tubergen
- 18 - Richanda Bolt
- 18 - Adam Villalobos
- 20 - Rick Fles
- 22 - Bob Scherpenisse
- 25 - Bob Burggraaf
- 26 - Nancy Aukeman
- 28 - Suzanne Bolt
- 30 - Phyllis Berrevoets
- 30 - Dianne Waterloo

Happy Birthday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 EMS	2	3 Dumpster Day
4	5 GEMS	6	7	8 EMS	9	10
11	12 Just For Moms	13 Consistory	14	15 EMS	16 	17
18 Mission Offering	19 GEMS	20 	21	22 EMS	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 EMS	30	31



New Members

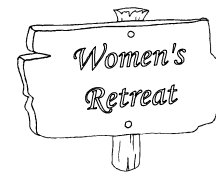
Hopefully you have introduced yourself to Ralph, Lynn and Matt Simone! In case you haven't made the connection yet, Lynn is Barb Blystone's daughter! And yes, they come in from Sparta on Sunday mornings on time! :)

Ralph and Lynn have been married for 21 years. Lynn grew up in Michigan and Ralph comes from Florida. So how did they end up together with so many miles in between? Barb's sister bought a convenience store and deli in Florida and so Ralph actually knew Barb 3 or 4 years before he met Lynn who went there on vacation. In fact their first encounter was Ralph getting something out of the bottom of Lynn's foot and cleaning it with peroxide!! They have a son, Matt, who is an 8th grader at Comstock Park. Lynn works for the Grand Rapids Housing Commission and Ralph is a stay-at-home dad.

Lynn had originally started coming to Fourth with her mother, Barb, for a number of years now but Ralph was resistant in joining her at the beginning. Ralph's mother, who was a pastor at the time, was urging Ralph to go, so with her persistence and the Lord working in his heart, Ralph decided it was time to go back. He had a void but couldn't see it. We are grateful God has led the Simones to be a part of our church family.

They appreciate the people at Fourth and feel right at home. They are both digging right in with Bible studies and helping out with GEMS.

Lynn is also working on finishing her degree by taking classes in the evening at Cornerstone. They enjoy having people over, camping, working with stained glass, Creative Memories and cross-stitching.



**October 9 & 10
Hawkins' Cabin
Pentwater, MI**

Join us over night or come up for the day on Saturday.

**Speaker:
Lynnelle Pierce**

Sign up and spend time with your sisters from Fourth and your heavenly Father!
Questions? See Sue Hawkins.

Three months have gone by quickly and we are back to our fall schedules which includes Christian education! **Thank you** to our teachers this year: **Becky Gebhart** will be enjoying the 3's and 4's, Kindergarten and 1st grade will be under the instruction of **Caren Bills**, 2-4 graders will be joined with **Becky Tubergen**, grades 5-7 will have **Norma Boehm** and **Dave Gleason** will be back with 8th and up.

We follow the*Walk With Me*..... curriculum which is faithful to the Reformed/Presbyterian interpretation of Scripture from the Faith Alive Christian Resources here in Grand Rapids.

The preschoolers will enjoy Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments with a take-home card providing visual reinforcement of the lesson and a tie-in story for families to read to their children during the week. It might be nice to punch holes in these cards and keep them all in a notebook or rings to refer back to them time and time again.

Caren will be starting off the fall quarter with units entitled: *Love and Obey God* (Noah, Naaman, Rahab, Jericho), *God Cares for People* (Ruth, Esther, Joseph), and *God Speaks to Us* (Elijah and Elisha). Look for your child's take-home paper each week so you can review with them and drive home the important points once again.

2-4th graders will reflect on God's greatness through his creation for the first couple of months and talk about how sin spoiled God's beautiful world. Becky will lead discussions centered on the fact that we have hope as the Lord Jesus defeated the power of sin on the cross; with stories of Cain and Abel and the Tower of Babel to reinforce the theme.

Norma will be taking her group through Christian doctrine. You can learn, review with your child and have healthy discussions as they go through important truths found in the catechism. Her beginning units are entitled: *My Only Comfort*, *The Father: God for Me* and *Jesus: God with Me*.

Dave will also be focusing on the Heidelberg Catechism with materials called *Questions Worth Asking* from the Faith Alive Resources. The interactive and "hands-on" approach makes the catechism fresh and relevant for high schoolers. Lessons consistently and creatively relate to the daily lives of our kids.



Update from the Boehms

Thank you Fourth family for your continued support of our lives and ministry! We've been back in Bangkok for two months now, and have some updates for you. . .

- Our **national staff conference** in early August was a refreshing and encouraging week of worship and fellowship with 300 others working with YWAM Thailand.
- Lisa and the kids began the new **home school** year, and so far its going more smoothly than last year with Janae and Tessa studying everything except math and reading together. They have joined a new co-op group in Bangkok and recently enjoyed an ice skating outing!
- The kick-off of our new **ministry leader small groups** in Bangkok this month revealed that the needs of our 30 leaders will be met more fully now. These close-knit groups are replacing more traditional top-down leadership, and we expect they'll prepare us to more effectively grow and face challenges together.
- Jeff enjoyed co-teaching in our local **Discipleship Training School** last week with our National Director, Phil. Their goal was to help the 10 students see the Kingdom's influence on all things (not just salvation of souls), to help students discover their calling, and give them practical tools for walking out their roles in society.

MISSIONS

Interesting Fact: Youth With A Mission (YWAM) was first established in Thailand in 1972. In 1979, YWAM became involved in ministering to the many thousands of refugees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, who were seeking shelter in Thailand. YWAM volunteers assisted refugees through medical care, vocational training, clothing distribution and other ways until 1995. In 1995, the refugee camps for indo-Chinese refugees were closed and the remaining refugees were repatriated to their home countries.

**A PUBLICATION OF
FOURTH
REFORMED CHURCH**



1226 Union Ave. N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Pastor Tim Meendering
Phone: 454-1561
www.fourthchurch.com

Sunday Service
9:30 AM

**Family Fellowship
Lifeline Groups**
5:00 PM

Christian Education
11:15 AM

Our Vision

Seeking to be a joyful,
welcoming
community that is
transformed by the gospel
and nurtured in God's
Word, and led by His
Spirit - to redeem the
city and beyond."

**A COMMUNITY REDEEMED TO
REDEEM OUR COMMUNITY**

GEMS Update



Prayer: No Worries

The GEMS 2009-2010 season begins on October 5. GEMS stands for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior. It is a club for girls from the 1st through 8th grade that meets the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings from October through April. We meet for Bible study, singing, crafts and friendship.

This year our theme is based on Phil. 4:6 "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." When we pray through a situation, we entrust the outcome to God. Surrendering our own will and obeying God is a daily workout. Through daily prayer we can exchange our desire for God's desires for our lives.

We will explore seven methods of praying; journaling, praying the Scripture, prayer walking, praying for our world, praying the names of God, praying in color and group prayer.

With Sharon Van Timmeren at the helm, our GEMS' team includes: Julie Gleason, our music director, Marcia Schuur, Laura O'Brock, Nancy Aukeman, Barb Blystone, Lynne Simone, Ardreen Adair and Amy Adams as class leaders and Nancy Springfield and Dawn Faasse as craft leaders. We praise God for the fresh faces among us and ask for your prayers as we seek to teach and support the girls who attend GEMS this year.

Once again this year, we would love to have a special friend for each girl. Being a special friend means that you would be matched up with a girl to pray and encourage her through the year. Questions regarding special friends can be directed to Sharon Van Timmeren.

- Nancy Aukeman

Kids Hope USA News



We are beginning our eleventh year of partnership with Kent Hills Elementary School with eleven returning mentors. Seven of these mentors, I believe, have been mentoring for all eleven years! Thank you to all of our mentors for their commitment and willingness to share their lives with these children and their families. Thank you also for our prayer partners who are the power behind this ministry and for our four substitute mentors who help out when needed.

We would love to be able to reach out to more students who are struggling academically, socially and/or emotionally. Mentors do not need an educational degree. The only requirements for becoming a Kids Hope USA mentor are that you are at least 16 years old, are regularly attending 4th Church, you agree to a criminal history background check, you have an hour a week during the school day and you can love a child! We will equip and train you and you will have a prayer partner that will be holding you up in prayer! If you meet these requirements, I would love to talk to you about how you might come alongside a child in need! I am at the church Monday through Thursday - so give me a call (454.1561).

- Mary Kay Townley, Director