

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Matthew 7:24-25

After a short break, the Pella II Newsletter is back with the last edition of 2020. This issue, we take a look and see activities from Cadets, the Bradford family, and building progress.

### Pork Patties and Camping Trips

By Jon Yoder

The Cadets had another successful pork patty BBQ fundraiser in September. While the menu was mostly the same, this year we had the dinner outdoors and offered a drive through to-go service. The Cadets would like thank Brian Van Kooten for the use of PPI's BBQ trailer, the parents who donated delicious desserts and volunteered to help, and everyone for their patience and generosity. The funds raised help pay for our club's activities, supplies, and campouts.



The Cadets had our annual father-son campout in October. After everyone arrived Friday evening and got their tents set up (some with less daylight than others). The

boys had fun exploring the campsite, climbing trees, and playing flashlight tag. For dinner we made pie



iron grilled cheese sandwiches and s'mores later for dessert. Jeff gave the evening

devotional and fittingly spoke about God's creation. We must have tired the boys out because most of them willingly went to bed shortly after 10. After waking up Saturday morning and eating a great breakfast prepared by Shane and Will, the boys had an epic tug of war match. Even some fathers couldn't resist

joining in on the fun! We then left camp to begin the weekend's highlight activity - canoeing on Lake Red Rock. We thank God for good fellowship, fun, safety, and the



great weather he blessed us with over the weekend.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

**Pastor's Pen**

By Pastor Paul Bradford

In the past few articles, I've been writing on "Four Important Practices of an Outward Reaching Congregation." I'll return to those later. This month, I want to pause from that series to reflect on some personal things that have happened recently Tammy's and my lives, and how they relate to our congregation.

In late September, our two sons (David and Stephen), our daughter's fiancé (Joe, now her husband), and I met in Estes Park, Colorado to hike in Rocky Mountain National Park and spend time together as men. We had a wonderful time. One week ago, on Friday, October 16, I walked my daughter, Laura, down the aisle and gave her away to Joe – Laura is our first child to be married. Kind of a big deal. We had another wonderful time. Yesterday, October 22, Tammy and I celebrated our 37<sup>th</sup>

wedding anniversary. For our "anniversary dinner" we took Pizza Ranch "take out" to West Market Park and ate under a pavilion while it poured rain. It is 2020, after all. I'm blessed with an amazing wife. All who truly get to know her love her, and I have the privilege of knowing her better than any

other person on earth. That's marriage. And from our marriage has come our four children – Aleyse, Laura, David, and Stephen – gifts beyond all measure.



Now, marriages, births, and anniversaries are a natural and very common part of the cycle of life. But when it's your wedding, or your anniversary, or your child being born, or your daughter who just got married, well, those are big deals. And they should be. God made marriage and family to be the very heart of creation. In the act of creating man and woman he designed them to be complementary so that they might become one and bear children for his glory. His first command to mankind was, "*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.*" (Genesis 1:28)

Our "little Laura" now has a new name. "Miss Laura Bradford" is now "Mrs. Laura Francis". When Tammy and I were joined in marriage, "Miss Tamara Paul" became "Mrs. Tamara Bradford" (yep, Tammy's last name was the same as my first name!). Together, as a couple, we formed a new identity.

Jesus called the church to be his bride. Every one of us who has put our faith in Jesus has become one with him, we bear his



November-December

# Pella II Newsletter

November 1, 2020

name, and we have a new identity in him. We are Christ's bride, united with him as one. Christ loves his bride. He is working in us to make us *"a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."* (Ephesians 5:27)

We are God's children, we are born of God, loved by our Father, and have become a part of his family. I bear the image of my dad and mom. Our kids bear Tammy's and my image. As God's children, we increasingly bear the image of God.

When God is making a person into something new, he often changes their name. Abram's name become Abraham (*father of many*). Simon's name became Peter (*rock*). The Bible tells us that when we fully enter the new creation on the day of Resurrection, Jesus will give each of us a new name that only you and the Lord will know. It'll be his special personal name just for you. (Revelation 2:17) We will be new, and will have a new name and a new identity. Even now, we are new creation. *"The old has gone, the new has come (2Corinthians 5:17).*

Pella 2<sup>nd</sup> Christian Reformed Church will soon have a new name, *Cornerstone Church*. God wants to do a new thing in us,



he wants to give us a new identity. The past will still have meaning and be part of our identity, just as Laura will always be a Bradford. But the new will define our future.

Soon we will be worshipping in a new building. We celebrate the years of blessing we experienced in our current building. But nothing lasts forever except God and his new creation (which will include us). The majestic mountain forests we hiked in just 4 weeks ago won't last forever, in fact, they are in flames as I write. A portion of those mountain forests will soon be nothing but ashes and bare scorched trees. But they will grow again to be beautiful and lush.

May the glory of our Father shine through us. May we, who are founded on Christ the Cornerstone, be made into his radiant bride. From the ashes of our lives, may the Lord bring forth a new beauty that far transcends the old.

Some things to think about.

## Building a Church

By Steven Talsma

As many of you know we are constructing a new church building. And as many of you may also be wondering, how is that church building coming along anyways?

This year has continued to be busy for the building committee. After a long time of planning and discussing we were able to start executing our plans. While the building committee had been meeting and busy for quite some time the fruits of our labor were not always tangible or easy to see. That all started to change this spring.

The first visible sign of activity was the dirt work. Dirt was hauled in, the retention areas were dug, and the pad for our new church building started to take shape. Next came the foundation. Channels were cut, rebar was laid, and concrete was poured. Then came the floor. A large cement pad sitting on a mound of dirt to some may be underwhelming, but for us it marked progress. This meant our foundation was complete, and we were ready for the building itself to start going up. Once the steel arrived the structure

went up quick, before long our church was not just a cement pad but now was the skeleton of a building. As many of you may have seen driving past, the walls continued to fill in with bracing and the outside started to be enclosed.



The enclosing and insulating process is not finished but continues to move along. Connecting to the sewer has also progressed and is complete. As you may remember connecting to the sewer was more difficult than originally planned. The sewer main was more than 20 ft below ground. If you

happened to drive past the building site, you would have seen a large hole in the northeast corner where crews worked to access and connect to the sewer. The connection has now been made and the hole has been filled in. Along with the sewer being connected the building has water and electricity brought in. Some windows have also been

installed and brick work on the front has begun. All in all, the building continues to move forward. The original goal of having the shell complete by Thanksgiving looks to be obtainable.



As we continue moving forward, we ask for prayers and encouragement for the building committee. We are all excited to reach our next milestone of having the church



enclosed and the shell complete, but this is only a milestone as there will be much more work to do. Once the building is enclosed the work of finishing off the inside spaces begin.

As excited as I am for the new building to be complete, I am more anxiously waiting for when we can all be together again. A building is nice, but the body of Christ is better. Please continue to pray for each other and encourage one another. Reach

out in prayer, letters, phones calls, or whatever you prefer. While progress continues on the church building, we must not neglect the church body. If you are feeling isolated or needing some encouragement please reach out to an elder, deacon, or shepherd. We would love to hear from you and connect. I am looking forward to worshipping *with* each of you more than where. And when we all get together again don't forget your fork, because the best is yet to come.

### Building Construction Photos

View to southwest



View to north



View from south



View from northwest



View from northeast





Education wing interior



Administration wing



East portico



West portico





## Sanctuary



## Welcome

Mason Garrett, born June 16, 2020  
To Jacob and Regina Vaverka

Elsie Marie, born July 4, 2020  
To Zach and Stacia Veenstra

Theo Jay, born July 7, 2020  
To Will and Taylor Vande Voort

David Alexander, born August 21, 2020  
To Dave and Ashley Voss

John and Abigail (nee Gosselink) Vander Werff  
Married August 8, 2020

## In Memory Of

Alberta De Jong



November 3, 1933 - July 12, 2020

Ray Klyn



August 4, 1926 - September 20, 2020

Arietta De Graaf



November 28, 1923 - October 7, 2020

Thank you to the Bradford family for pictures as well as Steven Talsma and Laura Branderhorst for building pictures.