

Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Revelation 21:5a

After years of prayer, work, and trusting in God’s timing, we have moved to our new building. In this issue, we see what the Cadets have been doing, meet new members, and look ahead.

## Cadet Campout – 2021 version

By Jon Yoder, Head Counselor

The Cadets are having a great start to our 2021-2022 season. We welcomed 5 new boys into our club this year; Jackson Boender (2<sup>nd</sup>), Jack Nieuwsma (2<sup>nd</sup>), Davin Rivas (2<sup>nd</sup>), Wyatt Zylstra (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Wyatt De Boef (4<sup>th</sup>). To help teach and mentor our 18 boys, Zach Veenstra has also joined us as a Counselor. Several of the boys have already earned multiple badges this year ranging from Bible Exploration to Individual Sports. The Jr. Cadets even went on a special fishing trip one Wednesday night!



The Cadets had our annual Father/Son campout in September at Whitebreast Youth Campground. We were blessed with good weather and great fellowship. After we all arrived on Friday evening and got our tents setup and the fire started, the boys had fun playing flashlight tag, tug of war, and building a shelter in the woods. Our



Saturday activities this year were archery and orienteering.

For archery, the boys were first taught how to properly handle and shoot a compound bow, and how to safely shoot at a range with others. They then spent the next hour shooting at targets at distances between 5 – 20 yards. Thanks to Wes Veenstra and Will Vande Voort leading this activity and keeping the boys safe.

For orienteering, the boys (and some dads) were first taught how to read and use a compass to find their bearing. Then we counted our steps along a known distance to measure our individual pace. Finally, we broke up into small groups and went out into the woods to test our new skills by orienteering along a dozen markers in a course. They must have had a good teacher (it was me 😊) because no one got lost!

Like the rest of the congregation, the Cadets have been busy packing up and are anxious to move into our new church. While we will miss being in the education house and freely making a mess with tools and projects, we are excited for what the future holds. The Counselors would like to thank

the congregation for their continued support of our ministry.

## Introducing the Beekhuizens

By Ryan Hoekstra



Bernie and Lois Beekhuizen have been worshipping with us for a while. In fact, they've been members since January 2020! I realized I didn't know them very well, so I thought it would be a good time to sit down and get acquainted.

The Beekhuizen family is made up of Bernie, Lois, Eric and Amy. Their son Eric lives in Brandon, South Dakota (near Sioux Falls), and works in landscaping and snow removal. He's 29 and married to Rochelle. They have a son (Asher) and another child on the way.

Amy is 27 and is married to Luke Jipp. She works in Coralville in oncology at the children's hospital that is part of the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics. Both Eric and Amy graduated from Dordt.

Lois is from north of Peoria. She attended Peoria Christian and Pella Christian Grade

School. She worked at Central Park Café in Pella for 16 years. She has done daycare for 20 years. She currently cares for one child, but in the summer, she cares for five kids. She has lived in Pella, and after marrying Bernie, they lived south of Knoxville.

Bernie grew up on his family's farm two miles west of Tracy. He worked for a housebuilder for a couple of years, and then built pole barns. Currently, he owns Beekhuizen Building. Bernie has six sisters (one of whom is Vicky Slings) and one brother.

When asked what they loved about their jobs, Lois said, "I love working with little kids." She and Bernie tag-teamed teaching Sunday school at Faith CRC.

Bernie was a cadet counselor at Faith while Eric was a cadet. They've also attended Tracy CRC.

But it was because Al Boender invited them to attend a worship service at Cornerstone that they became members. They both really

appreciated the openness of our congregation and felt welcomed when they came.



They both love to go camping. They own a camper, and were recently caught in a hailstorm. They enjoy going different places,

and often make a visit to their kids into a camping trip.

Lois has been to 48 states, except for Alaska and South Carolina. She's also been to Holland and to various countries in Europe.

When asked what would be their dream vacation, they came up with four different places to visit: Alaska, Holland, Australia and Switzerland.

At home, however, they enjoy the simple things. They eat a lot of chicken and pork, but Bernie enjoys any type of fish as well, especially catfish and salmon. Lois enjoys making Dutch letters and Christmas candy.

In their spare time, Lois like gardening, canning and scrapbooking. As a tradesman, Bernie enjoys fixing things around the house. But he likes golf, but only goes about once a year – usually an outing with his son and his son’s in-laws.

And now you know the Beekhuizens better too! They’re full of interesting stories, so take the time to get acquainted with them yourself!

## New Things

By Pastor Paul Bradford

Dear Congregation,

By the time you receive this Newsletter, we will have already had our first service in the new building, or we will be having it soon. The scripture that’s on my heart right now, which I will share on our opening Sunday, is Isaiah 43:18-19, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”* When Isaiah wrote this, Israel had long passed its years of glory. People looked back on the days of David and



Solomon, when the nation was unified, when wealth was abundant, when Israel was prominent and honored among the nations. The Lord tells them to not look to the past because he is doing a new thing, a greater thing.

The God who here tells us to “forget” in other places tells us to “remember”. God wants us to remember in order to gain wisdom, to give thanks for what he has done, and to grow in trust as we recall God’s faithfulness over the years. God wants us to rejoice and give thanks for what he’s done for us in the past, but he doesn’t want us to live in that past. When we live in the past, we get stuck and fail to move into the new things that God is doing, new things that will bring renewed life and purpose in our lives, and which will bring God’s blessing to others. Remembering God’s good work in the past gives us confidence in God’s good plan for us in the future. But living in the past robs us of the joys of today and the promises for tomorrow. We must let go and embrace today.

God wants to do a new thing at Cornerstone Church. He wants to do a new thing in your life, and in my life. The new that God does will build on the past things he has done, but it won’t be the same. In fact, when God told Israel, “I am doing a new thing”, his point

was that the new would be greater and more glorious than the past. He was foretelling the coming of Jesus, who would pour out his Spirit on all people, truly “making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland”. God wants to do a new thing in our midst that is greater than anything he’s done in the past. He wants to do a new thing in your life,

whatever your age or life situation. And, as we open our hearts to him, we know that this new thing will be a good thing, for he has promised, “I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

What are the new things you want God to do in your life? A deeper walk with him? A greater fullness of the Spirit in your ministry and in your life? Deeper purity? Growth? A personal relationship strengthened or restored? New purpose?

What are the new things you want God to do at Cornerstone Church? A greater impact in our community? Reaching the lost? Effectively preparing our children and youth to live as courageous, authentic Christ

followers in this world of darkness? Moving in the power of the Spirit? Growing deeper in God’s Word? Becoming a powerful people of prayer?

As you long for God’s “new thing”, be expectant! God is at work!

Now, God’s greater work won’t happen as we sit on the sidelines. We must become a powerful people of prayer, for apart from him we can do nothing. And, like Paul, we must forget what is behind and strain towards what is ahead (Philippians 3:13). But as we faithfully trust in God, seek him, and give him our best, he will be faithful. He will fulfill his promises. And he indeed will do a new thing, a greater thing! Look! It’s springing up all around us! His river of life is flowing!

## Welcome!

Lance and Kristi Beltman with children Kaiden, Tenley and Haisley.

*Pella II Newsletter invites your contribution. Drop a note in the mailbox of any one of our editors.*

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