



the ANCHOR

Fair Haven Ministries Newsletter

september-october 2011

tears and triumph

Saying “good-bye” is never easy. You would much rather say: “See you later” or “Until we meet again” or “Catch you tomorrow.” I have reflected much on the meaning and message of departure as I move toward my last days as lead pastor at *Fair Haven*. One of my greatest priorities has been to finish well – in a way that honors God, in a way that blesses *Fair Haven*, in a way that affirms my faith and integrity as a Christ follower.

In identifying the best way to share last and lasting words, my thinking and reflection has brought me to three words.

The first two are: Thank you.

- Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor
- Thank you for your prayers and support – even when you wondered where we might be going
- Thank you for taking risks
- Thank you for trusting
- Thank you for loving God and for loving me
- Thank you for being willing to put others above yourself, your needs, your desires, your priorities
- Thank you for having a heart for mission
- Thank you for the input, emails, cards, and letters (even when they weren’t always positive)
- Thank you for taking our Kingdom Assignments seriously – many were blessed
- Thank you for desiring God’s Word and biblically-based messages
- Thank you for letting us launch *Hope Harbor*
- Thank you for supporting *Hand2Hand Ministries* at such a high level
- Thank you for having a heart for our community
- Thank you for being a people of prayer
- Thank you for giving regularly to weekly ministry and above and beyond to help share the gospel locally and globally
- Thank you for the freedom to fail
- Thank you for loving the ministry of *Fair Haven* with such passion
- Thank you for a legacy of cutting edge ministry that has been a catalyst for future ministry and becoming a multi-site congregation, starting *Rock Harbor*, *South Harbor*, and now *HarborLife Church* and *Harbor Chapel*
- Thank you for bringing together such a great staff that I have loved partnering in ministry with as I have loved serving with you



our mission

celebrate Christ authentically,

cultivate life in Christ personally,

care for one another unconditionally,

communicate Christ intentionally

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People are encouraged to call the church office, 616.662.2100, 24 hours/day to address urgent care needs. After work hours, the office phone will direct people to leave a message which immediately goes to the designated person on call for a response.

But with these two words, **I also offer one more word: Please**

- Please don't view yourself as just another West Michigan church, doing church in the same way as everyone else. (The ministry of *Fair Haven* is unique, not only in West Michigan, but throughout North America. Be different!)
- Please continue to have a heart beyond yourselves. (Let those who don't know Jesus Christ take priority and precedence in ministry and resource allocation.)
- Please don't give up on *UnderWay*. (This has been God's voice to us and through us as a congregation – see the vision realized! I feel a little like Moses having to watch as you cross into the Promised Land, but it will be worth the sacrifice and effort.)
- Please continue to focus on the next generation. (Ensure that they will develop and grow to have a greater passion for God than we do.)
- Please give sacrificially. (This is not for the benefit of *Fair Haven*, but for your own spiritual blessing, and for the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ.)
- Please be passionate about serving, volunteering, reaching out, engaging in using your spiritual gifts. (God has blessed you to bless others – this is one of the things I really love about *Fair Haven*!)
- Please think and act differently. (*Fair Haven* is such a unique place; my ongoing prayer is against complacency and traditionalism, and the ongoing embrace of innovative and effective ministry for God's glory.)



- Please follow your next lead pastor with all the love, support, and encouragement that you have given to me. (And maybe even more, and that pastor will not have imagined how blessed they were when God called them to *Fair Haven*!)
- Please continue to surrender the church to God, for God's direction and God's glory. (It's not our church. Jesus is the One who is building *Fair Haven*, and we are called to submit and surrender to our Lord's leading. Through your relinquishing, the future of *Fair Haven* is bright, hopeful, and will continue to praise, honor, and glorify God.)

I pray that the conclusion of my time at *Fair Haven* is more a "see you later," than a conclusive "good-bye."

I have been blessed as your pastor, and believe that our partnership in the Gospel has blessed you and God. Please and Thank You – lasting words that come from the heart and are meant to connect with your heart in love and appreciation.

Together in the Cause,


Tom De Vries



Please join us for a reception for Tom De Vries
Sunday, September 18
after both *Worship Celebrations*
in the *Family Life Center*

Wondering where to start?

Here are some upcoming opportunities:

Jubilation2011 Celebration: Ultimate Block Party! Saturday and Sunday, September 10-11

A church-wide and family event that includes food, music, and fun for all ages! Visit www.fhmin.org/jubilation for all the details!

Fall Kick-Off

Monday, September 12, Hope Harbor

Sunday, September 18, Sunday and weekly programming

A variety of programming for kids, teens, and adults kicks-off on Monday, September 12 at *Hope Harbor* and Sunday, September 18 at *Fair Haven*! A list of programming can be found in the *Ministries Opportunities* book located at the *Connections Kiosk* and online at www.fhmin.org/ministryopportunities.

Wednesday Night Ministries and Supper

Begin Wednesday, September 28

Join us for supper, 5:00-6:15pm in the *Family Life Center* (donations accepted) and stay for a variety of class opportunities!

The Journey

October 9, 16, 23, and 30

The Journey is for those who want to grow more in their faith and is also the first step in seeking membership at *Fair Haven*.
www.fhmin.org/journey

Harbor Lights Homecoming

Join us for an evening of your favorite hymns and gospel songs!

September 11, The Talley Trio, 7:00pm

October 9, The Family of God, 7:00pm

on the move...

by scott pontier, student ministries team leader

Student Ministries is coming off an amazing summer with students! In addition to hiring new staff and adding a full slate of summer programming for students, we also took six different trips with over 100 different participants.

One trip we took was in **West Virginia** for a discipleship experience with high school students. We challenged them physically and spiritually – deepening their walk with the Lord and calling them to live out that calling in their life.

One of the students said this about their experience: *“We learned how to step out of our ‘box’ and reevaluate how we thought about the Bible. We learned to have confidence in living differently. We did a lot of ‘extreme sports’ to challenge us and push us and we had to learn how to trust other people a lot.”* Another student remarked about how much he was struggling with his faith before this trip, that it didn’t seem like it was very real or worthwhile, but that engaging on this trip changed everything for him.

Another trip we took with students was to **Pittsburgh**. As Josh Wall (our Middle School Director) took the lead on our trip he said this:

“Our time spent in Pittsburgh was great! We joined 50 other folks in our week of service and tended to a variety of needs throughout the Pittsburgh area. We cleaned, painted, served food at soup kitchens, and spent time with the elderly in retirement homes. We, in short, did what the body of Christ should always be involved in. We were the hands and feet of

Jesus to those in need. And we were able to discover the palpable joy (and sweat) of serving in that role.

“Additionally, our time in



Pittsburgh was marked by a strong sense of community, both within our group and between the other groups attending. I saw new friendships form, existing friendships deepen, and saw people build relationships that won’t be forgotten. I saw kids who had nothing in common find a sense of commonality in their experience that week and saw people with wet eyes as they left a nursing home. Don’t get me wrong, it was a very hot week, it was a very tiring week; but more than anything, it was a very good week for us, a good time to grow in who we are and realize, in tangible ways, what service looks and feels like.”

We also took a group of students to work in **Belize** this summer. This trip was intense in a lot of different ways. The travel was long and hard; utilizing planes, busses and even boats to get where we needed to be. The food and lodging were far from what we experience in our daily lives and were a challenge to which many of the students had to adjust. The weather was hot and the schedule was big. But the most intense part of the week was how God worked in the lives of students. Many of our students built relationships with new friends in Belize through vacation Bible schools, work projects, and leading worship services. God met students even in the trials they were experiencing back at home. More importantly, God was working with our students to form new bonds amongst our group and igniting a passion for service in their lives.

Please continue to pray for students as they take these experiences and translate them into their everyday lives. Often we can meet God on a mountain top and wonder where He is when we arrive on the ground. These students have had amazing experiences with God, and with God’s people, and they are ready to take those memories into the next steps of their journeys.

the story – extraordinaire

by jennifer pugh, church administrator

Often it is through what seems ordinary that God begins a great work. We don't recognize it at first. But, as time goes by, we marvel at what God is accomplishing. Such is the story of *Fair Haven Ministries*: a church born of hard-working people, dedicated to God, His Word and prayer, strong in the causes of mission and evangelism, and from the beginning, unconventional in practice.

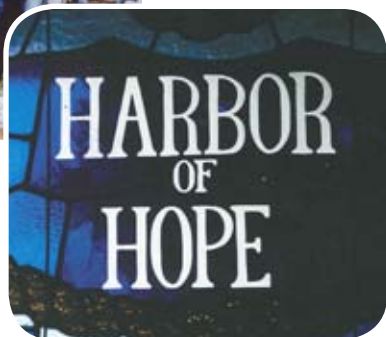
Fair Haven began in 1961, not because a pastor initiated a new church start, but because God used a young woman, Laurie Beukema, to begin conversations that resulted in 81 families gathering in May 1962 at Bauerwood Elementary School for *Fair Haven's* first worship service. The Rev. Dr. Ron Geschwendt, then a seminary student, served as Pastor and upon his graduation, was called to lead the new congregation.

Mrs. Paul Baar suggested the name *Fair Haven* because she reasoned the church should be a haven for the soul and a Harbor of Hope where people who would share the love and compassion of Christ with the world.

By 1962, the congregation decided to build its own home, and construction began on the corner of 20th and Baldwin Streets. In spite of a tremendous September storm that took down the beams of the church, the people met to ask the Lord for provision and on Easter 1963, the congregation entered their new home.

Committed to mission and outreach, *Fair Haven* supported six missionaries by 1963 and made its first mission trip, not to a local area, but to Ethiopia where missionaries needed housing. This was a young church with a big vision.

In 1967, the Lord brought the Rev. Dr. Leonard Weessies to *Fair Haven* as the new Senior Pastor. He was passionate about sharing Christ especially through a camp experience, which became known as Cran Hill Ranch.



In 1972, *Fair Haven* became a staff-led ministry, an unusual model for Reformed Churches at that time. Pastor Donn Bekkering became the Pastor of Evangelism and Parish Life and under his leadership, the Sunday School grew to 700 people. The love for God's Word was a high value then and one that continues today at *Fair Haven*.



Outreach opportunities multiplied with projects in places like Mexico, Oklahoma, and Alabama. The desire to show others the hope they could have in Christ by anchoring their trust in Him was so strong, *Fair Haven* named the anchor their symbol. On a stormy Christmas Eve in 1976, a few *Fair Haven* men obtained an anchor from the US Navy and delivered it to *Fair Haven*: a visual reminder of our hope in Christ and the importance of sharing it with others.

Because of rapid growth, by 1978, *Fair Haven* was listed as one of the fastest growing Reformed Churches in the nation, Soon after, *Fair Haven* was able to assist in the establishment of Rosewood and Hager Park Reformed Churches. By 1983, *Fair Haven* was blessed with over 500 families, was able to support 16 missionaries, and began an annual Thanksgiving offering to provide special project funding.

Pastor Gary Van Koevinger joined *Fair Haven's* staff as Minister of Evangelism and Mission in 1984. He led the congregation to personally invest in local missions such as the Other Way, Servant's Community Church, and West Town Jubilee Housing as well as in far away places such as Guatemala and Mexico.

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The Story – Extraordinaire... *continued from page 5*

Amidst the excitement of doing ministry together, however, *Fair Haven* was grief-stricken in 1985 by the death of Pastor Leonard Weessies. The Rev. George Douma served as interim Pastor and in 1986, the Rev. John Padgett became the Minister of Congregational Care and Discipleship. Pastor John became well-known for his shepherding model of congregational care. In 1988, Rev. Dr. Cecil Martens accepted the call to be *Fair Haven's* Lead Pastor.

By this time, the congregation had outgrown its facility again, and after discussion and prayer, it was decided a new and larger facility was necessary. In 1990, following a prayer walk on the property *Fair Haven* now calls home, the property was purchased and a building plan begun. In 1993, the Rev. Dr. David Breen was installed as Minister of Preaching and Administration. On September 10 and 11, 1994, dedication ceremonies were held at the new site.

Fair Haven Ministries had become known as an unconventional, large church. It was constantly engaged in outreach projects, offered a contemporary worship, dynamic youth ministry, Harbor Lights, Genesis Singers, and Hark Up. It was not the typical church on the corner.

In 2000, the Rev. Dr. Lou Lotz joined the leadership and preaching team. In 2001, the *Learning Ship Christian Preschool* began, followed in 2003 by an addition to the facility to increase the focus

on youth and provide more office space. Also in 2003, Pastor Breen and Pastor Lotz left *Fair Haven* and Pastor Rick Veenstra began a one-year interim in which a new ministry plan was begun.

In 2004, the Rev. Dr. Tom De Vries became the Lead Pastor and began to build a new leadership team. In 2005, the Rev. Mical Pugh joined the staff as Pastor of Care and the Rev. Tom Elenbaas became the Pastor of Cultivation. In 2006, the Rev. Dr. Doug McClintic joined the team as Pastor of Mission and Multiplication.

God continued to bless *Fair Haven* with many significant ministries during this time, including the beginning of *Hope Harbor*, *His Image Ministries*, *Hand2Hand Ministries*, and others. Mission and outreach work continued to grow at home and in far away places including Romania, Guatemala, and Africa, where *Fair Haven* helped to build a hospital in the Sudan. In 2010, *Fair Haven* started *Rock Harbor Church* on site, and *South Harbor Church* in Byron Center. Then in 2011, Olivet Reformed Church became a part of *Fair Haven*, initiating a new community called *Harbor Chapel* and beginning a plan for a church plant called *HarborLife Church*.



This is *Fair Haven's* story: A story that has witnessed 50 years of God's faithfulness to people dedicated to His Word and prayer, and who are passionate about sharing the hope of Christ at home and around the world. It is a story that looks to the future for what God will do!



JUBILATION 2011
50 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



“Today was my
favorite day
of all the year!” First Grader at VBS

vbs recap

by kristin englund, family ministries director

As a church we desire to see the next generation grow to be passionate followers of Christ. We want kids and students to know God and to follow him with all that they are. This summer we spent a week passing on the timeless truths of God to the next generation at *Vacation Bible School*. *Kickin' It Old School VBS* welcomed 517 kids from *Fair Haven* and the community for a week of fun and learning about our great God who doesn't change.

Kids focused on four truths;

God is our Creator,
God is our King,
Jesus is our Savior,
and God is our Rock!

Throughout the week, the VBS kids collected food and money donations for *Hand2Hand Ministries* totaling 4,176 food items. A big thank you goes to the 148 volunteers who invested in these kids and helped them experience God during *Vacation Bible School!*





outdoor baptism

by tom elenbaas, campus pastor at south harbor church

It was one of the hottest days of the summer when about 75 people from *South Harbor Church* drove into 8th Avenue Community Park. The park was packed with people in the water and grilling in the pavilion when the Block Party Mobile was parked and unloaded. Soon, without warning, the group circled up by the waters' edge and began to sing and pray and give testimony to a common faith in Jesus Christ. The words of Amazing Grace, Come Thou Fount, and the Apostles' Creed arose in the public park – giving testimony to the truth and goodness of our God.

It was a beautiful day for baptisms, with Cary Steensma, Ryan Toering, and Amanda Kloostra all making a truly “public” profession of their faith and being immersed in the waters of baptism – signifying their death with Christ, rising with Christ, washing in his blood and forgiveness, and marking of the Holy Spirit on their lives. The day was wrapped up with wonderful time celebrating new life in Christ afterwards with a cook-out and fellowship. May God bless these new commitments of faith!



hand2hand
MINISTRIES

brookwood elementary

submitted by cheri honderd, hand2hand ministries coordinator

Students were lined up and being dismissed for lunch recess on this Friday afternoon. I noticed a student who seemed a bit upset. He had removed himself from his peers and had refused to eat his lunch. With concern, I approached this student to inquire if everything was okay. Without making any eye contact, he simply nodded his head, “yes.”

“Red flag,” I thought... something was bothering this student.

I quietly removed the student from the noisy gym, and we walked around the school. I was doing all the talking while the student just strolled slowly with me in silence. When we approached his locker, he quietly asked if he could get something out of his locker.

Timidly he opened the locker and a smile instantly spread across his face. Again I asked, “Is everything okay?” The student smiled and shouted, “Yes!” He quickly closed the locker and ran to eat his lunch.

Curiously, I returned to the locker to see why there was such a sudden change in the student’s demeanor. When I opened the locker, I noticed nothing in the locker but books and a backpack. I opened the backpack, and it was filled with food. It was at that moment I said a special prayer to God, thanking Him for sending angels to take care of the children. It was the *Hand2Hand* food that the student had been anticipating all morning.

What a difference those meals make in the lives of some of our children. Thank you, Lord, and Princeton CRC.

- Mr. Bradshaw, teacher at Brookwood Elementary

Hand2Hand Ministries now celebrates the partnership of 26 churches with 28 schools in West Michigan!

“Therefore I tell you,
whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it,
and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24

We asked people at *Fair Haven* where they saw God working in their lives.

the POWER of PRAYER

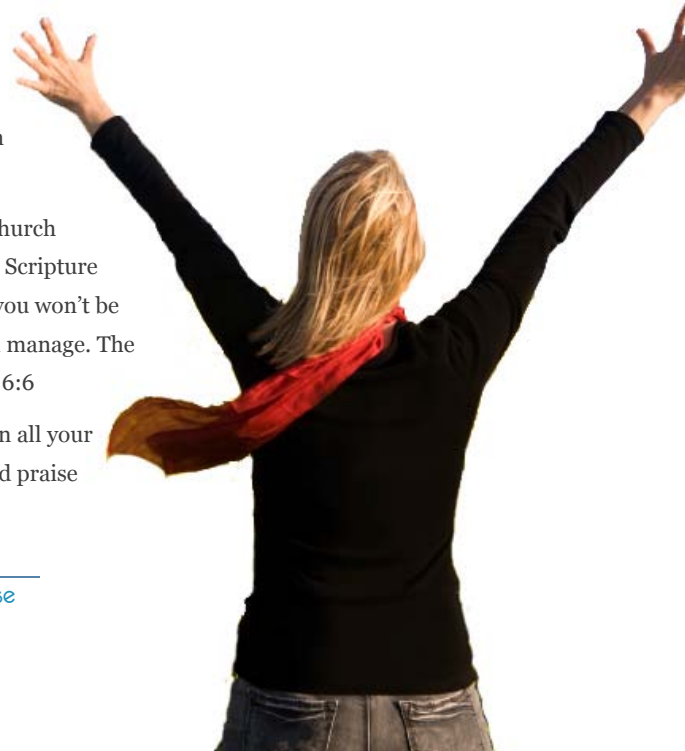
what's God doing in your life?

“When the doctor went to operate on Rol and remove a cancerous tumor (proven with biopsy) - he got in there and found a ‘dead’ tumor. A white milky substance, not a tumor! We praise God for the miracle of healing He gave Rol! In fact there are no words to convey our praise and joy!

“At the same time, we are aware of many in our own family (our own kids) and church family who would love to have a miracle of healing. Please be encouraged by this Scripture from The Message, ‘Here’s what I want you to do, find a quiet secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace.’ Matthew 6:6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths!’ Proverbs 3:5. All glory and praise to Him who is abundantly able and willing.” - Jo Strating

Got an answer to our question, “What’s God Doing in Your Life?” Send your response to jpugh@fhmin.org.



harbor chapel and harborlife church

The Administrative Consistory gave unanimous approval to accept the invitation of Olivet Reformed Church in the partnering of two new worship venues on the site of Olivet’s campus in Grandville.

The acceptance and approval means:

1. *Fair Haven* will receive all property and assets from Olivet Reformed Church.
2. *Fair Haven* will receive the members of Olivet Reformed Church, and they will become members of *Fair Haven*, worshipping at *Fair Haven*, *Rock Harbor*, *South Harbor*, or the new *Harbor Chapel* or *HarborLife Church*, both on the campus of the former Olivet Church.
3. *Fair Haven* began a contemplative and traditional worship expression in the chapel at Olivet on August 7, called *Harbor Chapel*. Fifty people participated in this first Worship Celebration of the newest worship venue of *Fair Haven*.
4. *Fair Haven* will begin a contemporary worship expression in the worship center of Olivet in 2012, called *HarborLife Church*. This new site will focus on the Grandville community around Olivet and East Elementary School, and seek to minister and share the Gospel in culturally relevant ways within this community. Robb Kornoelje

will be the campus pastor, and Brian Boucek will be the associate campus pastor.

5. Dan McIntyre, Administrative Consistory Clerk, and Terry Tromp, Administrative Consistory Treasurer, met with the Olivet Reformed Church Consistory on Thursday, August 18 to share this decision with them, to welcome them into the *Fair Haven* family, and to pray with and encourage them.

This is an unprecedented step of courage on the part of Olivet – to give away their ministry and their facility, as an act of obedience in response to God’s leading. This is an act of compassion and faith on the part of *Fair Haven* – believing that through prayer God’s Spirit has led us to take the next step in living out our UnderWay vision.

As we walk by faith, please be in continued prayer – for the people of Olivet as they transition into the life and ministry of *Fair Haven*, for the Administrative Consistory as they work out the implications of this decision, for *Harbor Chapel* as this new worship site ministers to a new group of people, for Robb and Brian as they lead the effort to launch a new worship venue, *HarborLife Church*, and for the Grandville community into which we will minister, serve, and share the Gospel.



the HARVEST

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

Because of your faithfulness, we continue to reap a harvest of blessings...

- *Hope Harbor* ended their spring session with a block party/cook-out in June. 125 people were in attendance, enjoying the great food and fun!
- One of our seminary students, Ben Shoup, was able to be in Japan this summer for a seminary internship at Yokohama Union Church.
- *His Image Ministries* had a block party on August 18 where about 100 people attended. Several new friends have registered to participate this year.
- We joined Christians in a worldwide prayer movement for Muslims in August. We trust God to move mightily!
- The Pastoral Deacons, along with many volunteers, removed and replaced a roof for a needy family in our community.
- *Fair Haven* received 16 new members at the main campus.
- Eight babies were baptized at the main campus and one at *Rock Harbor*. Two babies and three youth were baptized at *South Harbor*.
- 517 children attended *Vacation Bible School*.
- Over 100 students and leaders participated in youth mission trips this summer.

Happy 75th+ Birthday to...

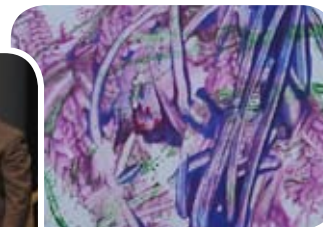
September

LaVerne DeYoung	September 3
Richard Nyenhuis	September 6
Wilma Cronkright	September 7
Jessie Wierenga	September 7
Della DeBoer	September 8
Virginia Timmer	September 12
Rosalie Wilcox*	September 14
Shirley Linscott	September 17
Lynn Siebers	September 27
Mickey Siebers	September 27
Don Cronkright	September 28
Bernice Cunningham	September 29

October

Roger Conant	October 1
Jim VanPortfliet*	October 9
Harris Verkaik	October 10
Alyda VanArk*	October 15
Hazel Wyngarden	October 17
Gerald Foskett	October 18
Kay De Vries	October 23
Lorraine VanderWal	October 25
Ardith Sweers	October 26


*No church mailbox, please mail to home address.



www.fhmin.org/photoarchive
www.southharbor.org/resources



2900 Baldwin Street | Hudsonville MI 49426 | 616.662.2100 | www.fhmin.org
Sunday Worship Celebrations at 9:00am and 10:45am.

-  Rock Harbor Church worships on Sundays at 10:45am | www.myrockharbor.org
-  South Harbor Church worships on Sundays at 10:00am | www.southharbor.org
-  Harbor Chapel worships on Sundays at 10:30am | www.fhmin.org