

Summer/Fall issue 2021

MIRC

NEWSLETTER

...PART 2

**CHECK OUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING INSIDE
THIS ISSUE!**

Winsome Winners

Shelley and I recently enjoyed a number of evenings watching the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. It's always fun to see the best of the best compete against each other and it's fun to cheer on the home team (I also secretly or maybe not-so-secretly cheer on the Dutch Orange). Best of all, however, is when athletes honor both God and country.



Take Tamyra Mensah-Stock, for example. She won the gold medal in women's free style wrestling at 68 kilograms. After winning, unlike a number of other athletes who used their notoriety to besmirch the U.S., here's what a flag-draped, weeping-with-joy Mensah-Stock had to say. "It's by the grace of God that I'm able to even move my feet. I just leave it in his hands, and I pray that all the practice...pays off, and every single time it does." Then this. "I love representing the US. I love living there. I love it and I'm so happy I get to represent U.S.A!" How refreshing! Go Tamyra!

Sydney McLaughlin also amazed me. She won gold in the women's 400 meter hurdles. Earlier in the year after breaking the the world record for this event, she said on Instagram, "I no longer run for self-recognition, but to reflect His perfect will that is already set in stone. I don't deserve anything. But by grace, through faith, Jesus has given me everything. Records come and go. The glory of God is eternal. Thank you, Father." Wow. Records come and go. How true. Just recently Michael Phelps's 200 meter butterfly world record fell after staying on the board for eighteen years! McLaughlin got it right. The glory of records come and go, but "the glory of God is eternal." Therefore, "They (earthly athletes) do it (train) to get a crown that will not last; but we (Christians) do it to get a crown that will last forever" (I Corinthians 9:25). "The goal of my life," says McLaughlin, "is to glorify (God) in everything that I do and to be more like Him every single day when I wake up." Then this patriotic stand: "I'm just really grateful to represent my country and to have had this opportunity."



In a world battling an ever-growing shift toward secularism and socialism, I'm encouraged by athletes like Mensah-Stock and McLaughlin who hold both God and country dear.

Pastor Mark

FIRE HALL VISIT 2021

It is hard to believe we will begin a new Sunday School year in a few weeks. Meanwhile, we don't want to forget one of the highlights closing out our Sunday school year in the spring when Brian DeMann and Rick Katje took 13 of their Sunday School students to the Martin Fire Hall for a field trip. The kids got to learn about fire safety and about the equipment the fire fighters use. Everyone had a great time!



Back Row: Rick Katje, Adam Smit, Reese Timmer, Andrew Lake, Harold Smit, McKenzie Hulst, Kylie Sheaffer, Brianna Timmer, Colin Kennedy, Brian DeMann.

Front Row: Ezekiel Smit, Talon Kennedy, Rachel Lake, Hermina Lake, Kylie Hulst.

The girls... Rachel Lake, Kylie Sheaffer, Hermina Lake, Brianna Timmer, Kylie Hulst, McKenzie Hulst.



The boys... Talon Kennedy, Ezekiel Smit, Reece Timmer, Andrew Lake, Harold Smit, Colin Kennedy, Adam Smit.



Summer Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Levi Smith (nee Kayla Jager) who were married on August 1.



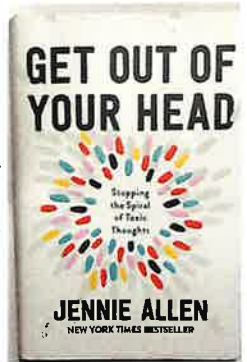
Congratulations as well to Mr. and Mrs. Luke Wolthuis (nee Jenna Decker) who were married on July 23.



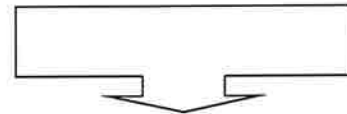
May God bless you as you begin this new chapter in your lives.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MRC's Women's fall 2021 Bible study will be a study by Jennie Allen entitled 'Get Out of Your Head'. This Biblical study is a guide to discover how to submit your mind to Christ because how we think shapes how we live as we surrender every thought to Jesus. The promises of God will flood our lives in profound ways. The group is open to all MRC Women and friends! It is held on bi-weekly Tuesday nights beginning September 21, at 6:30 p.m., in the downstairs MRC Youth Room. If you have any questions you can call or text Nancy DeWolff at 269-808-7844. You will need to pick up a guide from Amazon, Christian books, or any other bookseller that you prefer to use. Or, if you would like me to order you a copy, please let me know and I would be happy to get you a copy. (\$10 each—Sign-up sheet in Narthex.).



~Nancy DeWolff



DON'T Forget God

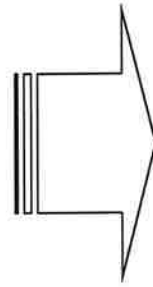
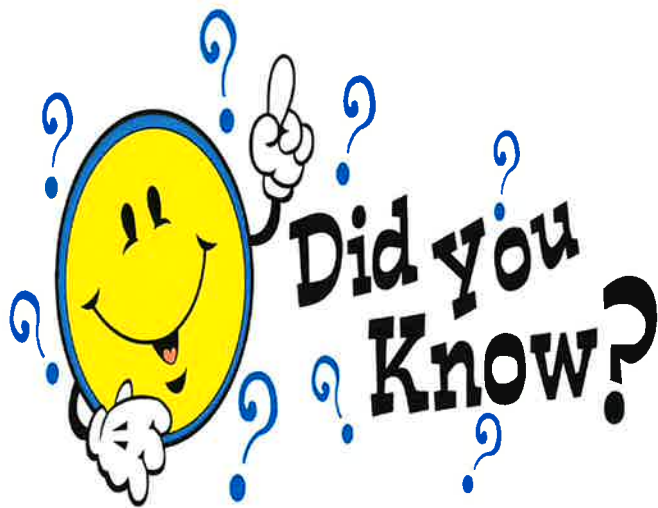
Robert Brault said, "A vacation trip is one-third pleasure, fondly remembered, and two-thirds aggravation, entirely forgotten."

Much of the hassle involved with getting away comes from packing. What do we need? How can we save space? Where are the items we haven't used since the last vacation?

Inevitably we forget something - sunscreen, umbrella, diapers. We miss these items almost immediately and quickly replace them. Do we also often "forget" the Bible at home? Do we leave our prayer and worship routines behind? Do we take a vacation from our faith?

We may not notice those missing "items" as quickly but they're crucial nonetheless. God never schedules a getaway from us. This summer, take a vacation with God, not from God.

Mystery Person: Barb Schipper



Who is our mystery person? Make a guess and find the answer somewhere in this issue.

SPOTLIGHT...

... Geri and Sheri VanElderren

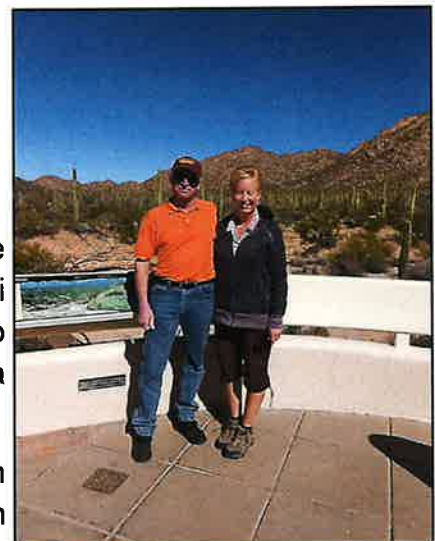
Sheri (VanderMeulen) was born in Plainwell, Michigan and is the oldest of four children. She has two sisters and one brother. Sheri graduated from Kalamazoo Christian High School and went to Dordt College where she got a two year degree. She worked as a bookkeeper at Walker Electric and Wykstra Oil Company.

Geri was born in Modesto, California and is the fifth of seven children, three sisters and three brothers. He also graduated from Kalamazoo Christian High School and went to Calvin College for three years. Geri built pole barns with his brother and was a mink farmer.

Geri and Sheri met at East Martin Christian Reformed Church and were married there on March 26, 1993. They have four children - Rose, Luke, Dean and Lily. They both enjoy traveling, hiking, kayaking, tennis and pickle ball.

They have been coming to Martin Reformed church for four years and are part of the Blue Slugs Group. When asked what they enjoy about our church they said the praise teams, the wonderful preaching, and all the new friends they have made.

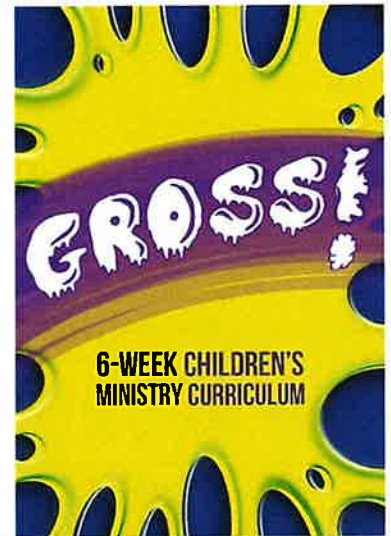
Geri and Sheri, we're so glad you're part of our MRC family!!



BIG d.o.g's (disciples of God)

All kids 4 years old – 5th grade welcome

Messy, slimy, gross tales from the Bible!



Join us as we learn that the Bible is filled with some messy stories – stories, nonetheless, that point us to an amazing, loving God. In this series, we will not only learn some messy, gross stories, but the kids will experience them firsthand through messy games, crafts, and other activities.

We will meet Wednesdays 6-7:30 in the friendship area. The 5 weeks we meet this fall will be September 22nd, 29th (notice this is 2 weeks in a row), October 13th, 27th and November 10



How you can help?

- By volunteering
 - or making/buying treat for the kids.
- See the sign-up sheet on the welcome desk in the narthex.

Questions contact Sarah Broughman

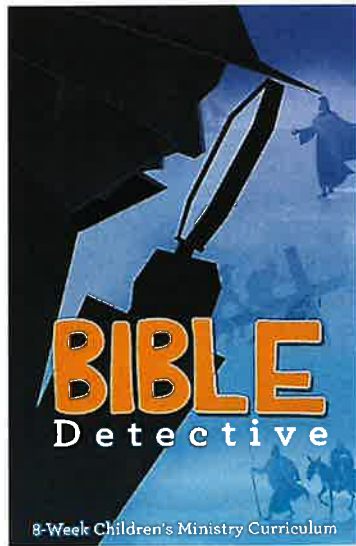
269-760-9232 or email children@martinreformed.org

Kids of Light

(all kids 4 years old thru 1st grade)

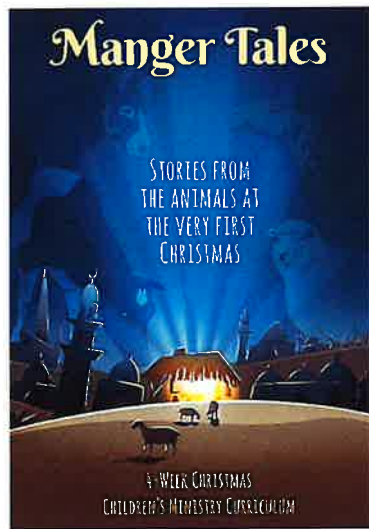
Sunday mornings during the sermon

This fall we will be using the following two curriculums along with crafts, activities, and games to help teach the kids how much God loves them and how special they are.



Bible Detective

The Bible should be more than stories that kids hear about once a week. We want kids to fall in love with the Bible, study it, and allow it to impact their lives. This series we are using will give your kids an understanding of WHY they should study the Bible along with the HOW kids can put it into practice.



Manger Tales

We've all heard the stories of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men, but what about the others who were there when Jesus was born? Manger tales will introduce us to the animals that were there, from the residents of the stable to visitor from afar.

"NATURE IN THE BIBLE" PUZZLE

DID YOU KNOW?

1. What flower did Jesus tell us to look at?
2. What bird did Jesus say we are worth more than?
3. What natural phenomenon contributed to the conversion of the jailer of Philippi?
4. What three acts of nature caused the foolish man's house to fall?
5. What two things did Jesus refer to when He spoke of not having a place to lay His head?
6. What does God scatter like ashes?
7. Jesus said Christians and non-Christians would be divided in the final days as the shepherd divides what two animals?
8. What insect did Solomon advise the lazy man to consider?
9. What two things stood still on a day when the Lord listened to a man?
10. What was the meat upon which John the Baptist fed?
11. What animals on a thousand hills are God's?
12. What did Abraham take with him to the region of Moriah along with Isaac, wood and a knife?
13. What two birds did Noah let go out of the window of the ark?
14. What two things did Jesus calm while He was on a boat with His disciples?
15. What does God spread like wool?
16. What was the craftiest of all the animals that God had made?





MARTIN AREA RESOURCE CENTER Phone: 269-672-5605
P.O. Box 186 Fax: 269-672-7955
1445 S. 10th Street Martinresource.org
Martin, Mi. 49070 MARChere4you@gmail.com

August 30, 2021

Hello friends;

I wanted to give you an update on how we have been keeping busy. It is harvesting time and our garden has kept the Garden Manager as well as Harv and Carol (founders) very busy! We currently have the food/produce wagon going to the roadside every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Every Saturday and the first Tuesday of every month the wagon has a variety of foods including meat, vegetables, cereals, eggs, etc. At this time, Thursdays and the other Tuesdays are just produce. As of today, the wagon has served **553 households this month!** That is not yet counting August 31 and not counting those who have been making appointments and coming into the food bank.

We are counting our blessings which include TWO vacation bible schools this summer. One who donated their money, and the other who gathered enough dish detergent to cover distribution needs for most of this year. Another church has been providing bags and containers for breaking down food. We want to thank you all for upholding us in prayer and the financial support. It has been such a blessing to serve others during these uncertain pandemic times!

What have we learned? We have learned that addressing someone's needs does not end with handing out food or cloths, often it's the prayers, the smiles, the hugs and especially listening with empathy and acceptance. We have learned that many people benefit from and accept extra help if it is offered genuinely, even if they don't identify as being "in need". We have learned that while there are a few people who may 'take advantage' of generosity, there are far more who benefit from and appreciate it. We have learned over and over that many people are just one circumstance shy of losing everything familiar and becoming homeless. While life can be an avalanche of devastation, it can also be a growing ripple of grace and love feeding and preserving the soul. Thank you again for your generosity and prayers as we continue to meet people where they are at and point them to God's love.

Have a blessed day

Amanda,

for the Martin Area Resource Center



**SON-LIFE CAMP
& RETREAT CENTER**

"Changing lives through Christ"

August 9, 2021

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W Allegan St
Martin, MI 49070

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center, I would like to thank you for your \$355 donation. We will be applying your donation toward our Health Office building project. We appreciate your generosity! It is because of the giving hearts of so many that we are able to focus on what we are called to do – "changing lives through Christ".

Your support of our ministry is truly making a difference, and we appreciate you being a part of what God is doing through SON-Life Camp.

We thank you again for your gift and for being a part of what God is doing through SON-Life Camp!

Together serving our Lord,

Hope Wassenaar
Executive Director

This letter serves as your tax receipt. Please keep it for tax purposes. In accordance with IRS regulations, we must inform you that no goods or services were provided in exchange for this tax-deductible gift. Thank you for your support!