



March 2024 Newsletter

A Note from Pastor Kendall: The God Who Comes Close

Anybody else's kids been getting sick lately? It seems to be that time of year. This week our 2-yearold got hit with the stomach bug one afternoon. It seemed to come out of nowhere and made a great mess. Without getting into any more detail, there were in fact a few instances that made a great mess. We did a lot of laundry very quickly. For Amy and me, we've figured out how to do this together. When one or more kids are sick, one of us needs to stay close to them, provide the care they need, and clean up when necessary. Since Amy had already dealt with that a few nights earlier with another kid, it was my turn to spend the night keeping a close eye on him. So I slept on a mattress on the floor of his room so I was ready for anything at a moment's notice. As you can imagine, it was mostly a sleepless night. Especially when the kids are so young, it's a little heartbreaking to see them scared and sad because the whole experience is simply quite miserable. As he went through this miserable ordeal, he would often forget I was right next to him. He would wake up and cry out as if I were in the other room, then discover that I was right there.

This is much like how God relates to us. Sometimes when we are suffering, we don't realize God has already come so close to us. We cry out, thinking he's still far away, wondering where help and comfort will come from. We may not realize in the misery of the moment that God has been with us the entire time. Especially when God's children are suffering, he comes close to us, cares for us deeply, and helps to pick up the pieces of our broken and hurting lives. He does this most clearly in sending Jesus his Son into our world, to bear up our afflictions, heal our broken hearts, and establish peace in our world. We are not promised that through him we can expect health and wealth. Quite the contrary, we can expect suffering in this world. But it's through him that we know God has overcome the forces of evil. So through him we can suffer with the grace of Jesus in our hearts and upon our lips. As we go through this life, navigating all the challenges and burdens of each day, may we do so knowing that our God comes close to us, cares for us deeply, and is at work cleaning up this world for good.

"The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted

and saves those who are crushed in spirit." --Psalm 34:17–18.

ABOUT SUSSEX CRC

49 Unionville Ave. Sussex, NJ 07461 973-875-5591 sussexcrc.org

<u>STAFF</u>

Senior Pastor: Pastor Kendall Everett

Admin. Assistant: Rachael Klein

March Birthdays

- 1: Casey Sytsema
- 2: Corey Vander Groef
- 3: Simon Valkema
- 5: Karen Bast
- 7: Magnolia Calyer, Jo-
- sie Hicks, Jon Kuperus
- 9: Joshua Jeltema
- 10: Steve Van Ek, Erin Verblaauw
- 11: Maebel Van Ek
- 12: Rich Byma, Taylor
- Vander Ploeg
- 13: Karissa Kuperus,
- Loree LaBar, Mario Ratti
- 14: Elsie Kuperus
- 16: Russ Zuidema
- 17: Lisa Kuperus
- 18: Carol Dekker
- 19: Jeremy Apgar

22: Eden Kuperus, Rey-

- er Van Den Broek
- 23: Leesa Valkema
- 27: Abram Bast, Sonja
- Kuperus

29: Al DeRoo, Skylynn

- Kuperus
- 30: Henry Byma, Caleb

Kuperus, Melinda Stack-

- pole
- 31: Eli Bast, Eleanor

Caton

At Sussex CRC

Council Notes from the February Meeting

- Holy Communion is scheduled for Good Friday, March 29, 2024.
- The Deaconate reported that they are looking into updating the locks & Key pads.
- Updating of the Church's Policy Manual is now complete.
- Pastor Kendall will be starting a new members class on March 9, 2024.
- Pastor John Kuperus has accepted a position to serve as interim pastor for Glenwood Baptist Church in Vernon for 6 months. In order to allow him to be fully invested there, our council is relieving him of his responsibilities here at SCRC during that time. We continue to maintain his ordination credentials and will be regularly checking in on him and his role there. We are very grateful for all his work, especially in his diligence in visiting and pastoral care. To fill that hole, Pastor Kendall and the elders are available and will be doing more of that important work.
- The Council approved a proposal to restructure Church Leadership meetings. Please see Pastor or any Council member for more information.
- The Council has approved a proposal to create a new paid position for "Pastor of Worship and Discipleship." A congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, March 24 to present this proposal to the congregation for full approval. Information on this proposal will be distributed over the next few weeks. Pastor and Council members are available to discuss this proposal, should any member want to discuss.
 - A report was given on the Classis Hudson meeting that occurred on January 18, at the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church. The next Classis meeting is scheduled for May 16.

January 2024 Financial Statement

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	General Fund	d <u>Benevolent</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$60,345.41	\$25,574.73	
Income	\$36,564.84	\$353.00	
Total	\$96,910.25	\$25,927.73	
Disbursed	\$54,450.00	\$684.83	
Ending Balance	\$42,460.25	\$25,242.90	
Monthly Budget Needs			
Amount Needed	\$32,640.90		
Offering Received	\$33,110.46		
Difference	\$469.56		
Previous month deficit	t <u>-</u>	_	
YTD Surplus	\$469.56		

Classical Shares Paid through January 2024 Denominational Shares Paid through January 2024

Special Cause Donations		
Today's Choice	\$544.01	
Christmas-NCS/SCS/VCA	\$50.02	
Griefshare	\$120.01	
Hoving Home	\$50.00	
My Brother's Place	\$25.00	
Teen Challenge	\$50.00	
World Renew	\$50.00	
Capital Improvement	\$150.00	

Special Fund Donations

Benevolent	\$438.02
Missions	\$100.01
Tuition Assistance	\$3,453.31

A Baptism

On February 11, we got to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with Henry & Erica Kuperus in the baptism of their son, Howard Henry.



Missionary Updates Update from the Starkenburgs in Nicaragua

Thank you! We were blown away by your donations for purchasing Bibles! Giving out Bibles is not part of our normal ministry here in Nicaragua, but with the cost of Bibles here (pretty inexpensive), your donation has gone a long way and we will be able to continue buying more in the next month or so. Here are a few places where we were able to distribute Bibles.

House of Hope is the original location that inspired this project! The women there were very grateful to have Bibles. One woman in particular, Marta, often has it with her when I go visit and has commented multiple times how much she loves it because the translation is easier to understand.

Waspam is an area in the far east of Nicaragua, where the majority of the indigenous people speak the Miskito language. This is a remote and rural area that is very difficult to get to, and your donations were used to purchase Miskito Bibles as well as reading glasses to bring to the people in this community.

Mount of Olives Christian School - We were able to give 50 Bibles to a small local Christian school in San Gregorio at the start of their school year. They were very excited to have these for the classrooms. *(Cont'd next page)*









NCA Staff - NCA support staff, such as our gardeners, maintenance, cleaning and security staff, were all given a Bible to keep or to give if they already had one. (photos below)

Teen Moms -24 Bibles were given to a ministry that is working with Teen Moms who live in extreme poverty.

I have also given a few Bibles to our own personal employees, one of whom told me that her 92 year old father was so excited to have a Bible with larger text that he could read, as his was a tiny pocket version. Overall, we have been able to distribute about 250 Bibles, and we haven't finished yet! I plan to go back to the local Bible League next week to get 150 more. We are so grateful for this opportunity and know that God's word changes lives. Pray for each person who has received one, that they might come to know the Lord if they don't, or be encouraged and know Him better.

For the sake of Christian Education, Liam and Jessica Starkenburg Resonate Global Mission Nicaragua Christian Academy



The next newsletter will come out Mar. 29 Stories are due by Mar. 22.

Newsletter articles can promote upcoming or recap recent events, highlight a Bible study, youth program, or small group, or give an update on a missionary or organization we support. If you have any questions about or something for the newsletter, contact the church office.

Who We Support

World Renew - http://worldrenew.net/ Today's Choice - www.friendsoftodayschoice.org Prison Ministry- www.cpministries.org Campus Ministry - Mike Mun, InterVarsity at Drew University

Johnny and Kim Gryglewicz (Resonate-Haiti) Larry and Ruth Spalink (Resonate-Japan) Liam and Jessica Starkenburg (Resonate-Nicaragua) Sussex Help Center and Family Promise





