

# The P.C.R.C. Press

"I PRESS ON  
TOWARD THE  
GOAL TO WIN  
THE PRIZE FOR  
WHICH GOD HAS  
CALLED ME  
HEAVENWARD IN  
CHRIST JESUS"

PHOENIX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

October 2011

PHILIPPIANS 3:14

*"Faith, like  
light,  
should al-  
ways be  
simple and  
unbending;  
while love,  
like  
warmth,  
should  
beam forth  
on every  
side and  
bend to  
every neces-  
sity of our  
brethren."*

*- Martin  
Luther*

## Always Reforming

The Latin phrase *Ecclesia semper reformanda est* means "The church is always reforming"; implied is "And that's good!"

Ongoing change and growth are important for individuals, too, but for many of us, change is hard. Use this prayer poem to embrace positive change, safe in the arms of our unchanging God.

**C**radle to grave —  
**H**ow shall my life flow?  
**A**lways the same,  
**N**ever daring to grow? Since  
**G**OD is the same, always faithful and near,  
**I**'m free to move forward in spite of my fear. So ...  
**N**aming the Lord as my Power through strife, I  
**G**o forth braving newness — in faith and in life!



—Heidi Mann

## Beyond Luther

Many reformers had lasting effects on the Christian church. You may want to read more about them to learn about their lives and legacies.

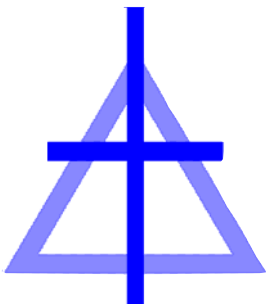
Swiss priest Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) was a father of the Reformed tradition. He taught that people should believe and practice only what's in the Bible.

John Calvin (1509-1564) introduced new forms of liturgy and church government, led the church in Geneva and taught the

doctrine of predestination. His work influenced the Reformed and Presbyterian traditions.

George Fox (1624-1691) founded the Society of Friends (Quakers), emphasized the Inner Light of Christ and took frequent missionary journeys.

John Wesley (1703-1791), the founder of Methodism, taught the Arminian doctrine of free will and emphasized sanctification.



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# COOKIE SMILE

Make these cheerful lollipop cookies to share.

**What you need:**

- An adult to help
- 1 roll of sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Cookie sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Cellophane treat bags
- Ribbon



**What you do:**

1. Freeze the roll of dough.
2. Cut dough into ¼-inch slices.
3. Place slices 2 inches apart on cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for five minutes.
5. Remove cookies from oven and place a stick into the bottom of each cookie (about 1 inch into the dough).
6. Return cookies to the oven until done, three to five more minutes.
7. After cookies are cool, make a “face” on each one, using frosting and sprinkles.
8. Put cookies into bags and tie with a ribbon. Then give away these edible smiles!

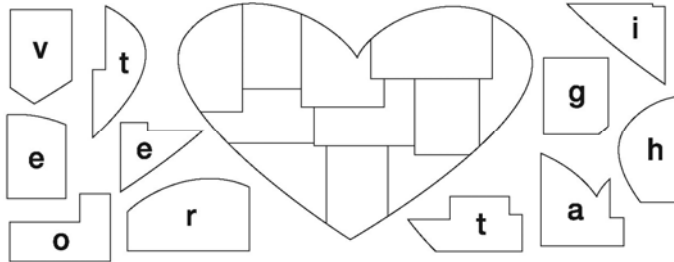
# PUZZLE

## HOW TO GIVE

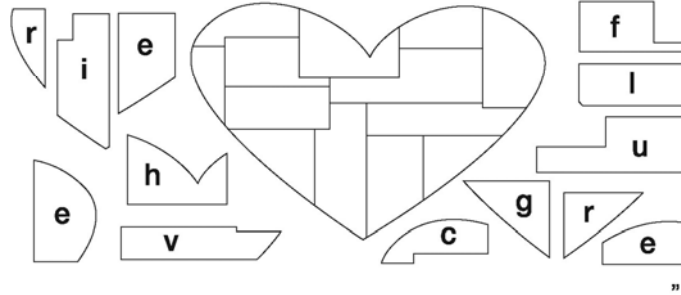
We can give in a variety of ways, including our money, possessions and time. But God says there's only one attitude to have when we give.

Finish the puzzles by matching the pieces and writing out the letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your ...



... not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a ...



Answers: heart to give, cheerful giver

**Man plans his course, but the LORD determines his STEPS.**

**The P.C.R.C. Press**

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The P.C.R.C. Press is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about our P.C.R.C. family.  
P.C.R.C. website: phoenixcrc.org  
For C.R.C. denominational news, visit crna.org

Editor:  
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Deadline for copy: the third Sunday of each month.



From a bulletin in Knoxville, TN

**Welcome to Our Reformatin Service**

This typo probably sparked a proofreading *reformation*.





## The Ingredients of True Community

### Part IV Philippians 2: 19-30

So the Philippians sent Epaphroditus to Paul to encourage him. Now, after he has been with him for a while, Paul is sending Epaphroditus back to the Philippians, likely carrying this letter with him.

What's so interesting about Epaphroditus is the way that Paul introduces him in verse 25. He calls him, "my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier." These are fascinating words. Bible scholars point out that each word in the original Greek language holds deep meaning, each one deeper than the one before it. These descriptions build on each other, and so it appears that Paul is using them intentionally. And each of these words serves as a great picture of how a community of Christ's followers can grow deeper in Him.

The first word that Paul uses to describe Epaphroditus is "brother." It's a favorite word of Paul's. He often describes the people he is connected to as brothers. It was an inclusive word. Today, we would use the term brothers and sisters. A number of modern translations reflect the spirit of Paul's tone here by doing exactly that, replacing "brothers" with "brothers and sisters."

With this word, Paul is letting the Philippian Christians know that he has a connection with them that goes beyond the fact that they just happen to share the same faith in Jesus. They have a heart-connection with each other. They know each other. They have worshiped together and experienced God together.

If you were to put it into today's context, your brothers and sisters are those fellow Christians whom you see regularly. The people you worship with. It may be those in your Small Group. These are the people that make up the community that you are part of. When you think of the people in your church who you spend time with every week in the Presence of God, or those Christians perhaps in other places of the world that you keep in touch with, those are your brothers and sisters.



The second word that Paul uses to describe Epaphroditus is "fellow worker." Here, the connection goes to another level. Now it's not simply about a personal connection on a faith level. This is about serving together. Paul and Epaphroditus didn't just hang out together as friends, they worked together. They have served as partners in the mission that has been powerful for Paul.

Epaphroditus was not content to just watch from the stands, he had to get onto the playing field. He's in the game. And when Paul thinks about Epaphroditus, he can't help but think of all they have accomplished and experienced together as they served God. Together, they have made a dent in the Kingdom of darkness and were used by God to make a difference. There is a sense of rich accomplishment and satisfaction in their relationship. "Epaphroditus, you are my fellow worker, my partner, my teammate."

The final word that Paul uses to describe Epaphroditus is an interesting one: "fellow soldier." Here, Paul borrows some war imagery. He takes the fellow worker analogy and presses it even further. Paul thinks about how they went through the trenches together and how Epaphroditus was willing to sacrifice everything to make ministry happen. Even coming to see Paul was a huge risk, and he almost lost his life in the process.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(The above article is Part IV of a sermon provided by the CRCNA website.  
Part V of Rev. DeRaaf's sermon will appear in the next issue of our newsletter.)*

# CBI Instructor Pastors Prison Church

By Stacy Ladenburger

Ten years ago, Rick Admiraal, then a member of Third CRC in Zeeland, Michigan, became a CBI instructor. Inspired and energized by his experience, he wanted to do even more. He saw Prison Fellowship's Operation Starting Line advertised in a CBI newsletter and promptly got involved. Soon after that, he and his wife were leading services in Muskegon.

In 2006, Rick investigated a career change. "The Spirit was calling me to move into something new," he explains. He began pursuing a Master of Divinity at Calvin Theological Seminary, and before long, he was confident that God was calling him to plant a new prison church.

Early this year, Rick was ordained as a Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, and New Life Prison Church was planted in Iowa's Newton Correctional Facility. Rick, supported by volunteers and churches, pastors the growing prison congregation. "The work is beginning to bear fruit," he reports. "Guys are growing closer to one another and to

Christ. True Christian community is taking root behind bars."

In the prison congregation model, inmates are members and leaders in the church, with a called pastor and volunteers from the outside supporting them. New Life Prison Church is in the early phases of the ministry model, in which relationships are built through weekly prayer groups and Bible studies. The first worship service was held on Maundy Thursday, and the inmate participants responded with gratitude as they received Communion. A second worship service was held this summer.

Rick, who continues serving as a CBI instructor, demonstrates an unmistakable passion for reaching those in prison with God's truth and love as he joyfully leads New Life Prison Church. He comments, "Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the support of the local



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Crossroad Connection/Crossroad Network News  
Crossroad Bible Institute, P O Box 900, Grand Rapids, MI

(Continued on page 6)

## So — you think you know everything?



- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
- The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel fuel.



### October

2nd Deb V, Mandy W & Amanda VH  
 9th Elaine, Mary & Lynola  
 16th Andrea F, Gina & Caitlin  
 23rd Jill, Carol & Breanna  
 30th Barb, Nicole & Rebecca VH

### November

6th Deb V, Mandy A & Breanna  
 13th Sara M, Gina & Nicole  
 20th Sandy, Mandy W & Carol  
 24th Jill, Lynola & Caitlin  
 27th Barb, Andrea F & Mary

### Nursery AM Service

### Little Lambs

#### Preschool

Raquel & Breanna  
 Jenna & Courtney  
 Amanda K & Andrea R  
 Sara M & Kate  
 Caitlin & Amanda VH

### Little Lambs

#### Elementary

Sheila  
 Jenifer  
 Rebekah K  
 Mandy A  
 Mandy W

### Library

Marie  
 Marsha  
 Beth  
 Betty  
 Ruth

Raquel & Sheila  
 Rebekah K & Amanda K  
 Jenna & Andrea R  
 No Little Lambs  
 Mandy A & Courtney

Kate  
 Jenifer  
 Florence  
 No Little Lambs  
 Amanda VH

Florence  
 Marie  
 Marsha  
 Beth

## Community Events/Small Groups/Bible Studies



### Little Lambs:

Little lambs, ages 2 ½ through the completion of Kindergarten, meet during the morning service after offering.

### Children's Sunday School:

Every Sunday at 10:50 a.m. If you have any questions please talk to Kate Steenstra.

### "Crossfire":

Every Sunday after the morning service. This is for students in grades 7-12.

### Adult Sunday School Class:

Every Sunday at 11:00 am. Please contact Ron Vander Ark with questions.

### TnT's (20 & 30 year olds):

Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 4:15 pm for Bible Study and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday or weekend for a social event or activity. Childcare is available during the Bible studies. Questions? See Dan or Jenna Huitink.

### The Tuesday Morning Bible Study:

Meeting 10 a.m in the Library. See Cora Jean for Study materials.

### Tuesday Evening Women's Group (T.E.W.G):

Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm. Contact Linda Shook or Vicky Brummett with questions.

### Happy Hands:

Meet in the Library each Thursday at 10 am. Gerry DeVries hosts the group.

### Prayer Groups:

Sunday morning in the council room at 8:45, and Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Library. Talk to Ron Vander Ark for additional information.

### Sunday Morning Hosts/Greeters:

To volunteer speak with a Deacon.

### Praise Team/Special Music:

Ideas or talent see Mackenzie Voss.

### Vocal & Bell Choir:

Talk to Nathan Groenendyk.

### Nursery/Little Lambs/Sunday School:

Volunteers, helpers and teachers are always needed. See Kate Steenstra.

### Missionary Writers:

Our missionaries love to hear what is happening in Phoenix, and it can be an e-mail. Jill Voss can give you more information.

### Audio Visual:

Help to make our worship services! See Andy Keizer or Paul Winn.

### Library:

Volunteers always appreciated. Talk with Marsha Frieling.

### Crossroad Bible:

Prisoners hear about the Lord through this ministry and you get to help! Talk to Harry Stone.

### Cookies:

See Cora Jean Vander Ploeg if you can help!

### Flowers:

Help keep the front of church beautiful! See Jill Voss if you can help.

### Operations Team:

See Jeff Kraker to Help!!

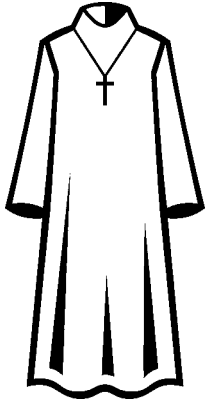
### Worship and Arts Team:

Contact Andy Keizer if you would like to join.

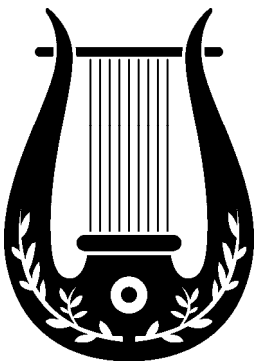
+ Christian Symbols +

**Robe**

A robe, specifically one that's new and white, symbolizes the righteousness we receive through Jesus' death and resurrection. Isaiah 61:10 speaks of "the garments of salvation" and "the robe of righteousness." In Revelation 6:11, faithful martyrs each received a white robe.



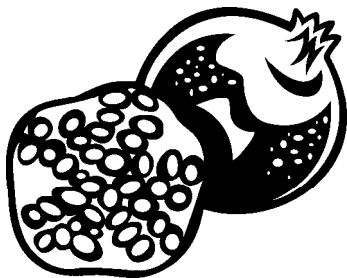
**Harp**



This multi-stringed musical instrument is associated with David, who played to soothe King Saul, and later wrote many psalms. The harp also represents praise music in general, as well as all the instruments people use to glorify God (see Psalm 71:22). The idea that angels play harps comes from Revelation 14:2 ("And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of ... harpists playing on their harps").

**Pomegranate**

Because the pomegranate has an abundance of seeds, the fruit is used to represent hope and future life. It also symbolizes the many believers who are individual members of the universal Christian church.

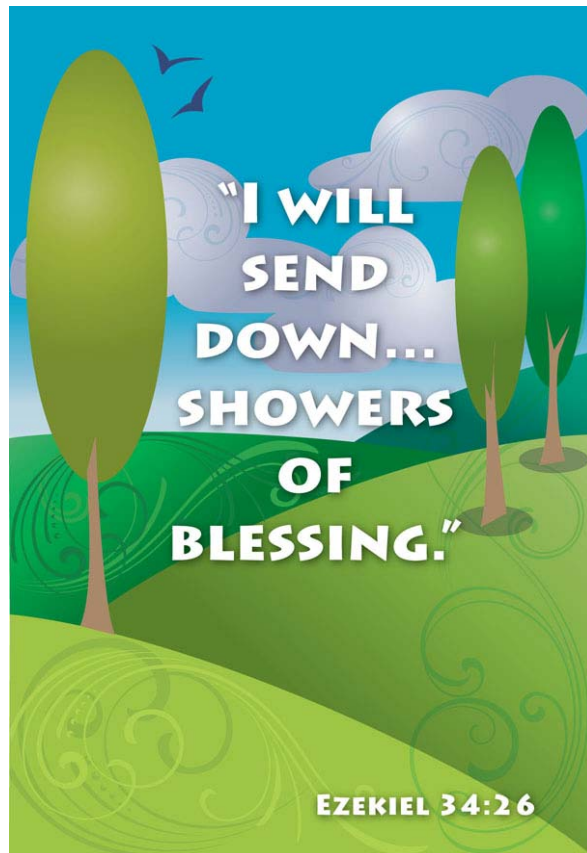


(Continued from page 4) **CBI Instructor...**

church, we hope to eliminate the depressing cycle of incarceration and its ill effects on families and society as a whole."

New Life Prison Church is one of more than fifteen prison congregations planted through Prison Congregations of America (PCA), a nonprofit ministry that establishes denominationally recognized congregations in prisons nationwide.

To learn more about PCA, listen to the archived Crossroad Connection radio interview with Director Mary Mortenson, purchase a recording of her March Continuing Education Seminar or visit [www.prisoncongregations.org](http://www.prisoncongregations.org). Keep up with New Life Prison Church at [www.newlifepisonchurch.blogspot.com](http://www.newlifepisonchurch.blogspot.com).



*"God has given us two hands: one to receive with and the other to give with..."*

*- Billy Graham*

IF YOU HAVE ANY TIDBITS OF INFORMATION, ADDRESS THEM TO THE CHURCH MOUSE & PUT THEM IN THE NEWS-LETTER / C. MOUSE MAIL SLOT (AFTER ALL, I CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.) (The identity of the Church Mouse is a secret.)

People with tact have less to retract. Proverbs 15:28

## Church Mouse reporting for duty...

Woohoo... fall is finally here... well, maybe not temperature wise, but for our church year it sure is! During the summer the mousettes and I miss all of the hustle-bustle that comes during the rest of the year. We are so happy that many of you get to 'get-away' for some R & R and time with your families but we MISS you! We sure are glad that the Wednesday night prayer group and the Happy Hands come around during the week through the summer... we enjoy having them with us!



**Church Mouse**

As always the new schedule started off with a celebration! What a wonderful Sunday it was, too. The 'Crossfire' young people told us about their summer convention and had a fun slideshow of their fun & fellowship... we have GREAT young people and leaders! Then our adorable 'little-people' sang a couple of songs for us... oh, how they love Jesus! Thank you Kate and ALL of the fabulous volunteers that help teach our children about Jesus' love.

After the service everyone made their way to the colorful-patriotically decorated Social Hall for a yummy-scrumptious potluck! Oh, yes, you people know how to cook and share. Thanks to our delightful social committee for another great start-up party!

You know what's coming up fast, don't you??? The highly anticipated, always enjoyed, TRUNK or TREAT on Halloween. I have heard that the stores are full of decorations so

I bet you people are out there buying and trying to out-do what you did last year! Oh, and the candy... we LOVE smelling the candy that you all bring in to share that night and as always, I promise you the mousettes NEVER bother it as they know it's for such a great neighborhood outreach event!



Oh boy, oh boy... the choir started practicing and I hear the bell-ringers are next (thanks Nathan & Dennis); Bible studies and Sunday schools are meeting and the TNT's are off and running with softball games and their own fun events....

WE just LOVE our CHURCH family!!!

—Your Church Mouse

(Continued from page 3) **True Community...**

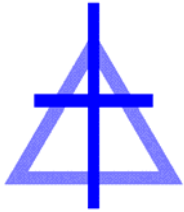
It's interesting to note how Paul even has some fun with Epaphroditus' name at the end of this section. His name is taken from the god, Aphrodite, who was the favorite god of gamblers. In verse 30, Paul says that he almost died, "risking his life to make up for the help you couldn't give." The Greek word for "risk," means literally, "to gamble." You can almost see Paul smiling at his little joke as he talks about Epaphroditus "rolling the dice," taking a long shot, in order to come help his friend in prison.

Epaphroditus' thought was, "Paul needs help, so I'm going to go and help. That's what friends do for each other. I'm going to go, no matter what happens to me. If I don't make it, I don't make it. But if I do, Paul gets blessed and the gospel gets out there." As a fellow soldier, he laid down his life for Paul. It is an amazing illustration of true community.

(Part V, next month)

Phx Christian Reformed Church  
2438 East Earll Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE



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*In addition to our regular services and study groups, mark your calendar for...*



November

Veterans  
Day

Thanks-  
giving  
Day

Psalm 23:1

*“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”*

