

PROGRESS 2008

Central Reformed Church: building bridges



photo provided

The Central Reformed Church is located at 815 Second Ave. E., Oskaloosa.

The congregation of the Central Reformed Church in Oskaloosa is reaching out and building bridges to God and the community.

The approximately 470 members of the church range from young to old and many young adult couples are attracted to the church's vibrant, Christ-centered worship. The congregation prides itself on being a friendly church.

The Central Reformed Church, located at 815 Second Ave. E., Oskaloosa, is a member of the Reformed Church in America, a main-line Protestant church that is similar to the Presbyterian Church. Although church honors its Dutch heritage, it is seeking to appeal to a broad spectrum of people.

"We've gone to two morning services," The Rev. Don De Glopper said. "The 8:30 a.m. service has a more traditional format while the 10:45 a.m. service is more casual." The church also features a praise band along with traditional music in the

first service, but it plays exclusively in the second. Between services, the church holds Sunday School classes for all ages.

The church has a strong youth and children's ministry and a strong lay visitation ministry. Participants in the lay visitation ministry visit seniors or those who are ill or have special needs, De Glopper said.

The youth group has between 40 and 60 high school and about 25 junior high students. Lay couples are volunteer sponsors of the group and Director of Lay Development Gloria Nollen oversees them.

This year, the church will hold Vacation Bible School from June 9 to 13 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The church usually has more than 100 children in Bible School and about 55 lay members of the congregation help out.

The Central Reformed Church also has the ALPHA Program, a worldwide program for acquainting people with the Christian faith. The program is held twice a year,

fall and winter/spring, for 10 weeks each where people learn about Christ, Christian fellowship, and how to be or become a Christian.

The church also has a grief support group called Circle of Friends. It is for widows and people who have recently suffered a significant loss.

The Central Reformed Church also embarks on mission work. The church sends two or three mission teams, composed of high school students and/or adults, out per year. They primarily serve in the United States, in places such as Indian reservations and the South to help with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Also, two high school teams have traveled to Mexico.

The church has grown considerably during its 96 years in Oskaloosa. Its original building on South Second Street is now a house, and the current church, which was built in 1952, now can seat more than 500 worshippers.

Maple Ridge serving Oskaloosa seniors since 2004

Maple Ridge is excited to celebrate another year of serving the elderly population of Oskaloosa.

Maple Ridge has been in Oskaloosa since 2004 and has had one expansion to meet the growing needs of affordable assisted living services in our community and is excited to announce yet another addition to our facility.

In the spring we will add fourteen more apartments of assisted living and we will also be adding an eight apart-

ment memory care unit. Maple Ridge offers a home like atmosphere to residents with several services available to meet their individual needs.

Everyone has their own private apartment and decorate to give it their own special touch. Maple Ridge offers an activity program and residents are encouraged to participate in activities to meet their interests. Maple Ridge strives every day to give excellent care to all of the residents and is respectful

of their privacy and dignity. We know that there is "no place like home" but we do our best to give the residents a place they feel safe and have all the necessities to live comfortably.

Maple Ridge invites anyone that would possibly be interested in visiting us to stop in anytime or visit our website www.assistedliving-iowa.com. We have enjoyed serving the seniors of Oskaloosa and look forward to many more successful years.

H&S Feed and Country Store — All about animals

Locally owned and operated by Byron and Cindy Eekhoff, H&S Feed and Country Store is focused on supplies and feed for animals of all sizes. "From companion animals to production livestock we feed them all," Eekhoff said.

The store features departments in Wild Bird, Companion Bird, Small Animal, Dog, Cat, Show Animal, Sheep and Goat, Farm Flock, Equine, and Cattle.

"We're more than just feed," said Byron Eekhoff, owner and manager. "We have a large pet department offering over 140 different formulas of cat and dog food. Quality pet toys and treats are stocked in a wide assortment. In fact, let your pets pick out their own treats. Customers are encouraged to bring their leashed pets into the store."

The feed store has been in Oskaloosa for 29 years. The expanded focus began shortly after Eekhoff purchased H & S Feed in



2004 while working closely with Purina Mills Lifestyle and Companion Animal Group. Oskaloosa's store has 10 employees who are very knowledgeable regarding aspects of animals, feed, and pets and are always happy to answer customers' questions.

Assistant Manager Jann Goodyk added, "We have gifts, greeting cards, candles, jewelry, and a great line of outdoor footwear featuring Muck™ boots. We have bird houses, squirrel proof bird feeders, and feeders for squirrels," Goodyk added. "We also offer educational seminars and workshops on a variety of subjects ranging from equine care to wild bird feeding. Our equine

department is focused on stocking quality tack and hands down the highest value equine nutrition available."

H & S Feed & Country Store is in the middle of "Start Em Right" event which started March 15 and runs through April 1. They will have baby chicks, and bunnies in the store for family enjoyment as well as for sale.

Located on Old Highway 163 (now Highway 432) on the west side of Oskaloosa, H&S Feed and Country Store offers extended store hours: Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed on Sundays. Their phone number is (641) 673-7918.

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