

## Classis Grand Rapids East Church Update for Madison At Ford

Below is a response to three questions regarding current status, goals, and what we've learned so far in ministry as requested from Classis Grand Rapids East and the Elders of Madison Square Church.

### *What are the results of the 2009 Madison at Ford to date?*

1. Nursery Program: The Ford Site provides a nursery program from 4-11 kids each Sunday for infants to 2 years of age. Our nursery coordinator is Michele Williamson. In nursery we have four teams—rotating weekly.
  - a. Courtney Gonzalez, Joanna Bascom, Katie Low
  - b. Joanna or Gabriel DeMoor-Taner, Megan Taylor
  - c. Sarah Veenstra, Jon DeJong
  - d. Michele Williamson, Rebekah Williamson
  
2. Children's Church: This September, we began two classes based on the Faith Alive series "Walk With Me" with weekly rotating teachers. Pre-K classes have had around five kids so far. First through sixth grade classes have had around three kids so far.
  - a. Pre-K leaders
    - i. Julie Deppe and Rachel Quist
    - ii. Anna Signor and Mary Van Poolen
    - iii. Jacqueline Barber-Bay and Sue Hinojosa
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> leaders
    - i. Heidi Baker
    - ii. Arnice Riley
    - iii. Alyssa Massey
    - iv. Sandra Hardy
  
3. Hospitality: we have four volunteers who provide coffee, occasional refreshments, and communion preparation.
  - a. Janice Turnbull
  - b. Betsy Bascom
  - c. Mary Jean Quist
  - d. Valerie Sakala
  
4. Prayer Servants: In addition to providing altar servants, we have members available for prayer before the service. Our Prayer Servants begin our prayer time in the choir room. Deb De Young leads weekly and has the following servants:
  - a. Marcia VanPoolen
  - b. Doug Roede
  - c. Arnice Riley
  - d. Betsy Bascom



New Faces, New Places

5. Set Up Crew: We have a set up crew who comes in early between around 7:30 a.m. who commit to setting up the stage, projection screen, and seating. Our weekly servants are:
  - a. Bill DeJong (lead); Henry Reitsma; Aaron Adema
  - b. Tala Sakala (lead), Robert Birge; Jonathan Bascom
  - c. Ed Van Poolen (lead); Dan Van Poolen; Aaron Terpstra
  - d. Sam Williamson (lead); Doug Roede; David Smith
  
6. Tech Crew: we have a sound and video crew who comes in around 7:30 a.m. to set up computers, sound, projector, and song lyrics and any other tech needs that come Sunday morning. Bill Wiarda and Jeremy Ensley hold these groups accountable.
  - a. Sound
    - i. Ethan Bascom
    - ii. Caleb Conzalez
    - iii. Ed Van Poolen
    - iv. Joel DeJong
  - b. Video
    - i. Ethan Van Andel
    - ii. Henry Reitsma
    - iii. Nathaniel Smith
  
7. Worship: Sunday after Sunday the Lord blesses us with God-centered worship through gifted worship teams. Below are the leaders of those teams.
  - a. Ashleigh Emmerson
  - b. John Eigege
  - c. Maurice Townsend
  - d. Laura Carpenter
  
8. Care Groups: This September we initiated Care Groups at the Ford. Jonathan Bascom is our fearless Care Group leader initiating and encouraging Ford folks to join Care Groups. Below are some leaders for whom groups are beginning to formulate.
  - a. Jason and Julie Botbyl
  - b. John and Deb DeJong
  - c. Ryan and Sarah Veenstra
  
9. Announcing and Coordinators: At the beginning of the worship service, we have Announcers to give important information to the church. Coordinators act as logistical go-to guys/stage managers/pastoral presence during the set up, the pre-service meeting (we call it the holy huddle), and the worship service:
  - a. Announcers:
    - i. Richard France-Coe
    - ii. Eric Taylor
    - iii. Sam Williamson
    - iv. Brad Knetsch
    - v. Sandra Hardy
  
  - b. Coordinators
    - i. Eric Taylor
    - ii. Brad Knetsch
    - iii. Sam Williamson

10. Usher Ministry: Welcoming, offering, and security
  - a. Jud & Elaine Smeelink
  - b. Nate & Emily VanderPlas
  - c. Dick & Kathleen Ammons
  - d. Caleb & Courtney Gonzalez
  
11. Information Table: This September, Richard France-Coe has stepped up to lead our information table as well as catch strangers and welcome them.
  
12. Attendance: During the summer, Madison At Ford consists of around 100 worshippers. During the year, it'll jump to 120 to 140.
  
13. Ford Vision Team (FVT): This team makes specific leadership decision regarding the Ford Site and is held accountable by the Multi-Site Leadership Team (MLT)
  - a. FVT: Alton Hardy, Brad Knetsch, Bill Wiarda
  - b. MLT: Pastor Dave, Anthony Dickerson, Joy Bonnema, Cisco Gonzalez, Alton Hardy, Brad Knetsch
  
14. Rescue Youth Fire Academy: This is a ministry at the school that was birthed from Madison At Ford. It has morphed now into its own non-profit organization (501c3). The board consists of:
  - a. Chairman Chief Dave Peterson
  - b. Vice-President Alton Hardy
  - c. Secretary Rebecca Van Beek
  - d. Treasurer Steve Girard
  - e. John Van Tongeren

*How do these results match your projected goals for the new year?*

1. Care Groups: It has taken quite a bit of effort and patience to get Care Groups off the ground. They didn't form up as quickly as we had originally thought and we've learned a significant amount regarding relationship dynamics and forming groups in a diverse church. This year we are praying and working towards encouraging more of Ford to be a part of Ford Care Groups.
2. Tutoring: Another goal we have is to respond to Principal Armstrong's request to have more tutors during school hours at the Gerald R. Ford Middle School.
3. Newcomers: Tom Mockabee is working with Sam Williamson to provide a quarterly newcomers class for newcomers at Madison At Ford. Bill Wiarda is holding these two accountable and aiding the start of this vital ministry.
4. Men's Ministry: Another goal /dream is to provide a men's ministry this year for men at Madison At Ford. A men's ministry is being planned mainly through Madison At the Square and we may look to adopt a smaller branch of that ministry.

*What have you learned?*

1. GRACE: We've learned that the church is the manifold wisdom of God. Pastor Alton is unwaveringly preaching and bringing to life the Reformed doctrines of grace. Weekly, we celebrate God's grace as a mixed congregation of both young and old. We are learning to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. During the service, Ford members and guests often share words of encouragement, scripture, and prayer.
2. BROKENNESS: Our worship leaders are directing us to open ourselves to the movement of the Holy Spirit, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the will of God. On a number of occasions this year, we've experienced God breaking and molding the Ford to be the people of God that he desires us to be. Whether during the Teen Challenge service, a service in the heat of the summer or praying for various

families, we've sensed that God meets us in our weakness. Madison At the Square may be the "church of the broken wing". We're the church for the other broken wing. ☺

3. WE'RE NEW: Because we're a site and we're quite young in our beginning, things don't always go according to plan. We may mess up in the projection, a video may not be able to get played, the announcer gets a few details incorrect, or we sing off-key. Madison At Ford is not a polished service and we've learned to accept that and let God have his way with us.
5. BABIES: We've learned that something must be in the water at Ford. There are an odd number of families pregnant or who've recently given birth. Praise God for new life!

Shalom,  
Pastor Alton Hardy  
Pastor Brad Knetsch