

Staffing

During 2009 we have had several vacancies exist throughout our staff at Remembrance. Our staff is one of the primary keys for helping us as a congregation to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Having a complete staff will allow us to better align and balance our elements of Experience, Connect, Grow and Serve. It also relieves the burden of staff members handling additional tasks in order to fill the gaps where a position is vacant. We especially are looking forward to the depth a complete staff can offer allowing them to focus in on their key areas.

This past spring and summer Pastor Steve and the Consistory appointed various search teams in order to seek God's will in completing the hiring process. After much prayer and very hard work by the search teams and many others, we are pleased that God has rewarded us with very talented additions to our staff. Some of our new staff additions have been on board for over a month now, while our two new Pastors have and will be starting in the coming weeks. We are expecting great things from our staff, and also realize that all our new hires will experience a time of transition in getting to know the lay of the land at Remembrance. We strongly encourage all of us to warmly welcome them to our family and make them feel at home. Again, we are very excited to see what God has done and will accomplish in bringing us several new staff additions!

Staff Additions:

Eric Cook, our Discipleship Pastor, will give overall leadership to discipleship (spiritual growth); education, leadership training and development, equipping ministries, and growth/discipleship groups (small groups) at RC. He will also be preaching around a quarter of the time.

Started at Remembrance 9/8/09.

Todd Schmidt, our new Congregational Life Pastor, will give overall leadership to assimilation/membership, caring, community (fellowship), service involvement, and support/recovery group ministries of RC. He will also be preaching around a quarter of the time.

Tentative start at Remembrance 10/5/2009

Jennifer Bakhuyzen and Mary Beth Hendrickson have started as a team in our Children's Ministry position. They both have great gifts and experience and we look forward to seeing all that they will do at Remembrance. *Started at Remembrance 8/3/09*

DJ Olson is our new Church Administrator at Remembrance. This position will give overall leadership to office administration and ministry support personnel, facility management, and financial management.

Started at Remembrance 8/13/09

Please see our new staff member's biographies on the following pages. We are confident God has great things planned for Remembrance and we will continue to follow His will as we move forward.

Your Consistory

Pastor of Discipleship: Eric Cook



Caleb, Eric, Ethan, Jayanne, Jordan and Seth Cook (left-right)

I am excited to join the staff of Remembrance Church and serve as the pastor of discipleship. My passion is to use my gifts of exhortation and shepherding to encourage and help equip the Body of Christ toward a healthy spirituality. I love that God uses the community of faith to minister to each other, as well as reach those who are disconnected or without a church home.

As I make the move to Western Michigan, I bring with me my wife Jayanne and four sons. Jayanne is from Western Pennsylvania and is a labor and delivery nurse. God has blessed her with the gifts of mercy and hospitality and a great sense of humor raising four boys. Jordan (18) is a freshman at Joliet Junior College and loves playing his guitar and being with friends. Caleb (17) is a high school junior and loves playing basketball and eating. Seth (15) is a high school freshman and also plays basketball as well as baseball. Seth also makes a lot of noise drumming. Ethan (12 soon to be 13) is the baby and loves being with his friends skateboarding.

My home is Northeastern Ohio, and I bring with me all the baggage of being a Cleveland sports fan. Enough said about that. I graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary, MS. in 1991. I was ordained in the Reformed Church in America in 1998. I have served Reformed churches in South Holland IL, Lynwood IL, and most recently Peace Community Church in Frankfort, IL.

We thank you for your prayers as we continue in our transition, and I look forward to getting to know you and serving with you.

Pastor of Congregational Life: Todd Schmidt



Annie, Cole, Todd, and Luke Schmidt (left-right)

Greetings from the Schmidt Family! Over the last few months, it has been exciting to get to know some of you at Remembrance Church, and we are looking forward to joining your church family. We are confident that God has been directing this process and are excited to get to know you over the upcoming years.

My wife Annalisa (but you can call her Annie) is an Iowa native and a former third grade teacher. Presently, she loves being at home with our two boys and enjoys photography, scrapbooking, and reading. She does very well putting up with three boys in the house! Our oldest son, Luke, is almost six and has just started kindergarten. He loves playing soccer, legos, and super heroes with his buddies. He has a very tender heart and will quickly make new friends in Michigan. Cole is three and has a passion for trucks and trains—he is all boy! His love for a small backyard sand box will quickly be forgotten when he sees the beaches of Michigan.

Personally, I am very excited to join the staff at Remembrance. I love watching people discover their God-given gifts and putting them into action, and I cannot wait to serve alongside many of you in ministry. Most recently, I have been serving at a church in Colorado (for the last nine years) in the area of Congregational Life and Pastoral Care, but before that I enjoyed a great season in camp ministry. I graduated from Denver Seminary and am presently doing some additional work at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. I love the outdoors, backpacking, fly-fishing, and woodworking. You might even catch me watching an occasional Bronco game. Even though it will be hard to leave the mountains that we have all grown to love, I am excited to explore the beauty of Michigan.

As we transition from Colorado, we appreciate your prayers and look forward to being there as soon as possible.

Children's Ministry co-director Jennifer Bakhuyzen



Audrey, Eric, Kathryn (Kate), and Jennifer Bakhuyzen (left-right)

Hi There! My name is Jennifer Bakhuyzen and I am one of the new co-directors for Remembrance Church Children's Ministry Program. I am so blessed and excited to be in this new role and look forward to doing God's work here at Remembrance and in the community! What awesome things God has planned for us! Praise and Thanksgiving to Him!!

I am married to Eric and we have two wonderful daughters, Audrey is five and Kathryn (Kate) is two and a half. We live in Walker and have been attending Remembrance Church since the first of the year. I grew up in Grand Rapids and attended Grand Rapids Christian High. I graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Psychology and a minor in Child and Family Studies from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. Eric was in the Air Force when we decided to get married and stationed at Hill AFB in Utah. We spent two years in Utah before moving back to Grand Rapids, where Eric served another two years in the Reserves. Eric has traveled to many different places, and I got to see....Utah! Needless to say, it was great to be back in Grand Rapids.

My background is in Social work in the areas of school outreach and foster care, both of which have entailed many different responsibilities working with children and their parents. I also have experience as an Assistant Director at Appletree Christian Learning Center.

I love spending time with my family, being outdoors in God's creation and reading. I enjoy working with children and their families and I am very excited to share the love of Jesus with the future of Remembrance Church. I look forward to getting to know all of the wonderful families here at Remembrance.

Children's Ministry co-director: Marybeth Hendriksen



Marybeth, Don, and crew Hendriksen (left-right)

Marybeth Hendriksen recently joined the staff at Remembrance Church as Co-Director of Children's Ministries. Marybeth is married to Don and they have nine adult children, five of which are married, and six beautiful grandchildren with number seven on the way. That makes for 22 people around the table, on any given Sunday, for dinner.

Good thing Marybeth has event planning skills as well as project management experience, a servant's heart and a genuine love for children. Marybeth possesses a passion to grow up children in Christ and loves to encourage kids along their spiritual path. Along with her staff duties, Marybeth enjoys serving as a spiritual caregiver, prayer partner, small group leader, volunteer at Family Haven, and finds time to teach 2&3 year olds about Jesus at a weekly Community Bible Study.

She also enjoys taking the grandchildren on adventures, playing on Remembrance Church women's softball team, reading, gardening, playing tennis, and basketball. Marybeth has coached girl's volleyball, basketball and tennis. For excitement, Marybeth has zip-lined between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains in British Columbia and just recently went whitewater rafting on the Lower Yough in Ohio, PA (class III & IV) while on the senior high mission trip.

Church Administrator: DJ Olson



D.J. and Evelyn Olson

Growing up, D.J.'s father held ministries in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia. His original life-long dream was to replace Al Kaline when he retired as the Detroit Tigers right fielder.

D.J. married his wife, Evelyn, on October 19, 1974. Their son Matt (33) lives with his wife, Kelley, and their son, Larrs, in Chicago, IL. Their daughter Stacy (28) and her husband, Scott, live in Belmont, MI and are expecting their first child on September 9th.

DJ graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Great Lakes Christian College, located in Lansing, MI, with a minor in Business. He also worked for G.L.C.C. from 1977-88 as their Director of Operations and their Women's Basketball Coach from 1982-88. Prior to moving to Grand Rapids two years ago, D.J. spent twenty years in the Christian Camping ministry, serving as the director at Michiana Christian Service Camp. Michiana is a year-round children's camp located on 66 acres in Niles, Michigan (southwest corner of state).

D.J. became our church administrator on August 13th. He is passionate about serving others and enjoys playing basketball, watching sports, and spending time with his family and friends.