

To see a community of God's beloved embracing His invitation to



BE WELL

336 Hall Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

August 2013

Dear family and friends,

We want to update you on what we've been doing here at BE WELL since our newsletter of December 2012.

We continued having a Zumba and a yoga class from February through May with about 25 total attendees. It has been a time of learning for us. We have learned for now not to offer back to back classes so that we can be available after class to talk and not be shooing people out for the next class to begin. We have decided to lower our price for the next session of Zumba in order for our classes to be more accessible for those in the neighborhood. This fall we will offer Zumba again on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. We are excited to have Kristi Buurma back as our instructor. We are also hoping to offer yoga or a combination class later in the fall.

After waiting 6 months which we thought was a reasonable amount of time for processing our application for not for profit status, we contacted the IRS and were told that they are currently 14 months behind. To us it is clear this is out of our hands, but in God's control. We will carry on with what we are able to do (offering classes and meeting people). While waiting is not our favorite, we remain sure of God's invitation to do this work. The IRS has communicated to us that we can begin to keep records as a potential 501(c)3 awaiting approval. While we certainly anticipate receiving approval, it is not guaranteed. We are now functioning as a not for profit and filing appropriate forms.

Related to waiting for our 501(c)3 not for profit status, we were honored to be awarded a Vanden Bosch Gospel Foundation grant. This grant

however is contingent upon official IRS approval. The foundation has shown great patience and asked us to inform them when BE WELL is officially approved.

Also related to waiting, our house on Kissing Rock has not sold as of this time. We are taking this time to get ready by going through closets and cupboards and doing the work of simplifying that needs to be done when it does sell.

We were blessed again this spring by University Christian Outreach when they joined us for a Saturday morning to take down shelves in what was the accounting room. We also cleaned in the building and passed out some fliers in the neighborhood. What a blessing they are to us!



Once the shelves were down, the walls came down. Our son, Matt, did the work. He managed with some assistance to get the very large and weighty heating radiator out. The warehouse space is enlarged for more exercisers and Cal is painting as I write this.



In Him we live and move and have our being – Acts 17:28

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Plans for the fall include a nutrition class that will include having a healthy lunch together, recipe sharing, financial aspects of nutrition and community building. We are very excited about offering this class and seeing how God will use it for His kingdom. It will be taught by Mary Boes and Louise Price, who are both well qualified as a retired nurse and teacher respectively, both having a great love for this neighborhood.

One unexpected thing we were faced with over several months was the problem of an abandoned car on our property. We puzzled long and hard and prayerfully if there was a Godly way of dealing with this situation. The owner of the car had attended our classes previously and we care about her. Over the months the car was not functioning, plowed in by snow for a time, with keys lost. What should we do? In the end, the car was moved without cost to us other than our time and the owner told us “you have been a blessing to me”. What more could we ask for? We want to be God’s hands and feet here.



As we spend more time at the building we find opportunities to share concerns and joys. Some of our neighbors have been here a long time, have great wisdom and have shown great resilience. One recently shared her sorrow at the loss of a grandson, but also her strong faith in a loving God.

Do you note a theme of waiting in our letter? This Scripture has been of comfort and hope:

Psalm 130:5-7 “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.”

Once again, what more could we ask for than unfailing love and full redemption. He truly invites us and blesses us to BE WELL.

Please join with us as **we praise God for:**

- Successful classes and wonderful instructors
- Partners coming alongside
- Expanded space for exercise

Please join with us as **we pray for:**

- 501(c)3 status approval
- Selling our house
- Fall Zumba and nutrition classes
- Good relationships in the neighborhood

If you would like to donate to BE WELL, we would be so grateful. (We cannot guarantee our not for profit status at this time, but we do anticipate IRS approval at some time in the near future.) If you want to contribute, please make checks payable to and send to:

BE WELL Center
336 Hall Street, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Serving Christ together through BE WELL, and many other partnerships and ways,

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