

COMING EVENTS

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys

Dr. Richard Webster, Director

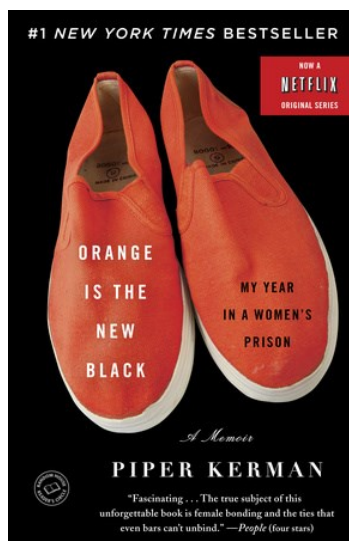


This version of the Lessons & Carols service has been designed by Scott Bosscher, Artistic Director of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys. Guest conductor will be Dr. Richard Webster, the acclaimed Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Episcopal Church, Copley Square, in Boston. Featured will be musical selections from the Advent and Christmas seasons, along with prayers and scripture readings. The Very Rev. Jared C. Cramer, rector of St. John's Episcopal (who also serves on the Board and as the Treasurer for HFP) will assist in the service. There will be a free will offering during the evening for Humanity for Prisoners. St. John's Episcopal Church has great passion for the ministry of Humanity for Prisoners and is looking forward to hosting this event and the reception that will follow.

Friday, December 9, 7 PM
St. John's Episcopal Church
524 Washington
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Piper Kerman

Author, *Orange is the New Black*



Public Lecture
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 - 7 PM
Fountain Street Church
24 Fountain NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Watch for further details

From the desk of Doug: On turning 80 A circuitous route!

When my grandpa turned 80 he was *so old!*

As I face the reality of becoming an octogenarian it really doesn't seem that old at all. But it does bring about a bit of introspection and reflection.

There's no question that I am blessed with a loving wife, four exceptional children, four amazing children-in-law, and nine beautiful grandchildren... the loves of my life!



But after a lackluster educational track record, who could have guessed that this little lad - born to John and Mary Tjapkes on Armistice Day, 1936 - would have three amazing, distinctive, successful and enjoyable careers?

To explore that question a little deeper, who would have guessed that 29 years in the radio broadcasting business and 21 years in the church organ business would merely be preparation for my third career, my calling: loving, tending to, caring for and assisting prison inmates?

Who could possibly have guessed that some of my best friends are not in my church on Sunday, or in my neighborhood, or in my hobby groups? They're behind bars!

Well, there is one. My creator came to me in a quiet moment, causing me to reflect with the Psalmist: *..you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

I am blessed!

HFP MISSION STATEMENT

With compassion for Michigan's imprisoned, Humanity for Prisoners provides, promotes and ensures—with strategic partnerships—personalized, problem-solving services for incarcerated persons in order to alleviate suffering beyond the just administration of their sentences.

A PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT OF HFP SERVICES

HFP is a shining light in the darkness, as most prison 'ministries' operate on the assumption that all a prisoner needs is a Bible in hand and then all will be well. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Humanity for Prisoners knows that the system is broken and that changed inmate hearts will do little good without a changed system. Until that happens, HFP's services stand out in delivering aid to "the least of these," cell-by-cell, one-by-one.

HFP personalized services offer in deed, as well as word, new beginnings for those behind bars. In so doing, they represent transformation for society as a whole.

North Star Ministry Consultants

Prison is no place for the ailing and elderly

Included in a message to HFP from Coldwater Correctional Facility:

We have an elderly man here that, ever since I've been here, has been in a wheelchair. He has recently had heart attacks, been taken downtown, had surgery and other procedures done on him because he can't breathe. He lives in the fricken pole barns, and just in the last few weeks they took his wheelchair and told him he cannot have it because he now has to walk all over the place. I'm afraid he will have another stroke. He is living in deplorable conditions, yet this prison has a housing unit for elderly health situations...it has housing for men who are having issues. Still, he remains housed in this situation. I know this old man (69) does not deserve to be treated this way and felt you would look into this. I'm sure he could use some assistance. I'm sure that they could do way better than make a man that old walk around chow, health care, and to call outs knowing he has just suffered heart ailments. I may be punished for this letter, though I do feel it's the right thing to inform you about how they are treating this guy. He does not have any one to stick up for him out there.

Thankful for the work of HFP?

Many churches take special offerings in their Thanksgiving service for various ministries. There's still time to contact the deacons in your church with a request that a portion of that offering go toward the work of HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS: touching lives behind bars, one at a time.

Be a part of the HFP team!

It's now easier than ever to arrange a regular, monthly, tax-deductible gift to HFP. Make the arrangements with PayPal for an online gift, or with Matt for a simple transfer from your bank account or credit card:
matt@humanityforprisoners.org.