

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – BOYNE CITY**  
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**For information: Contact Valinda Turner**

**Mission Co-Workers to Ethiopia benefit from community support**



BOYNE CITY – Mission co-workers to Ethiopia, Than and Ruthina Veltman, are the recipients of funds raised from the annual Rummage Sale at First Presbyterian Church. Each year the church and community members donate a variety of items and part of the proceeds are donated to a mission project.

The sale is known for good deals with most items selling for a \$1 and Saturday afternoon giveaways. “It’s great fun for everyone, including the workers who often get into what is sometimes known as a church “swap meet”. We bring our stuff and leave with as much as we brought,” commented one long-time member. “The proceeds always make a difference, and we are thankful for on-going community support,” remarked Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart.

This year’s recipients have a connection to Michigan as Than attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI where his parents currently reside. “I am feeling a bit nostalgic about our upcoming visit to Northern Michigan,” said Than. “We definitely want to visit some of my favorite places and are looking forward to worship at First Presbyterian Church – Boyne City on Sunday, July 28 at 10 a.m.” The worship service will include an informational presentation and special music by a Celtic Trio of Gaeyle Gerrie Boss,

Hannah Harris, and Elizabeth Broschart (the pastor at FPBC). The community is invited to join in worship and a time of conversation during the after worship coffee hour.

Than (Nathaniel) was born in California, but grew up in Canada. He attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, and the University of Pittsburgh for graduate studies. Upon completing graduate school, he served with PCUSA as a mission co-worker in Ethiopia for two years. He returned to receive further theological training and is currently completing his PhD at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is one of eight kids and a PK (his father served with both the Christian Reformed Church of North America and PCUSA for a combined 43 years).

Ruthina was born in Crawfordsville, IN, and grew up 30 miles further south in Greencastle. She attended Cedarville University and after graduating served in China teaching English. Since 2007, she served as marketing project manager for Alpha USA, a Christian non-profit that helps churches facilitate the Alpha course (an evangelistic introduction to Christianity for non-Christians).

Than and Ruthina married in 2012 prior to moving to California to attend Fuller Theological Seminary. They welcomed their daughter Charlotte in 2015.

The Veltmans are joining the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology to equip church leaders in their faithful response in participating in God's mission. At EGST, students are equipped for leading their churches in responding to spiritual and physical needs of those in their communities. Than's teaching contributions focus mainly on the Development Studies Department.

First Presbyterian Church is located at 401 S. Park St., Boyne City. The facilities are handicapped accessible and worship is intergenerational with a nursery available.