



BETHANY BUGLE



DECEMBER 15, 2013 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 50

Nursery Needs 😊

We are in need of a new change table and a rocking chair for the nursery.

If you have one you are willing to donate or sell at a reasonable cost please talk to Lindsay.

A special thanks to all who helped out to decorate the front of the church sanctuary this year.

It is a gift to us as a church body to celebrate the birth of Christ with such a beautiful display that helps to bring our focus to the true meaning of Christmas. It is our prayer as the worship ministry team and staff, that our advent prayers of hope, peace, love and joy will be answered by our heavenly Father in His time and by His will. Take a moment to read some of the prayers on the trees in the fellowship hall, remember these requests in your own prayers and know that God cares for all His children.

Blessings, The Worship Ministry Team

Blood Donors Needed

Canadian Blood Services has approached us here at Bethany looking for blood donors this Christmas season. Local hospital patients require blood 365 days a year and blood donors are need over the Christmas season to support the "be Someone's Holiday Miracle" Campaign. A special holiday blood donor clinic is being held in Welland on Thursday December 26 at the Riverstone Event Center, 414 River Rd. Welland, 9am-2pm. If you have ever thought about becoming a blood donor now would be a perfect time to start. Call 1 888 2 Donate or visit www.blood.ca to book an appointment or to find out more about eligibility.

Canadian Blood Services has also approached us as a congregation to join their Partners For Life program starting in 2014. This would mean that us as a congregation would commit to donating a certain number of units of blood each year. Members of our congregation would be able to join Bethany's Partners for Life team online and from that point on any donation they make will be counted towards our teams goal. This would be a wonderful way to show our support of local patients in need!

More details to follow in the new year. If you have any questions feel free to contact Ellen de Roos @ 905 892 6571

BEDS NEEDED

Dear Church Community,

We are hosting two international students from Peru for the month of February, and we are still in need of some beds!

A single bed frame and two single bed mattresses would be extremely helpful. If you have one that you are willing to lend or sell, we would be extremely appreciative.

Please call us 905-734-7402 or email awubs@cogeco.ca and let us know!

Thank you kindly (and sweet dreams)

Anne-Marie and Ray Wubs

Dear Brothers and Sisters. Dec 9th marked my parents 58th wedding anniversary!! Almost inconceivable when we consider last fall and Mom's admittance to McNally house. Mom and Dad continue to maintain their condo in Beamsville with virtually no outside assistance, go out for breakfast on Saturdays, enjoy the occasional afternoon drive and Mom is often able to attend afternoon church services. What an incredible gift of time God has given our family. I want to thank each of you for your love, prayers and support for our family as we walked thru that valley and for sharing our joy as we watched her strengthen and return home.

A favorite verse of mine in the past few years is from Jeremiah. "I know the plans that I have for you" declares the Lord "plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans for hope and a future." I especially take comfort in this knowledge as I face the uncertainty of the circumstances in my own life. I ask for your continued prayer for Rudy, myself and our children, Jason, Lindsay and Cameron. My new contact number is 289-686-4025. Thank you! Dorothy Van Amelsvoort

From the Deacons

Reminder to bring in the Faith Giving Forms, please put in a sealed envelope and place in Denise Glasbergen's mailslot.

Pelham Cares distributes Christmas hampers to more than 60 Pelham families. On the cork board by the mail slots is a list of food / gift ideas that would make a Pelham Families Christmas more special. Please place items in the red food containers by the mail slots.

Thank you, The Deacons.

Cadet News

CHRISTMAS

December 19 will be our last meeting this year. The first part of the evening we will have our Christmas party.

All Cadets are requested to bring in a wrapped gift (approx. \$5.00 value) for our gift exchange.

INTERNATIONAL CAMPOREE INFORMATION

At 8:30 we plan on presenting some information about the upcoming International Camporee. We will watch a video and then there will be time to share information about requirements, transportation, costs and fundraising, etc. **Parents are asked to join us for this presentation.**

The congregation of Bethany CRC

Thank you for joining with World Renew in showing God's love and mercy to those hurting from Typhoon Haiyan, which battered central Philippines on November 8. As we respond to the typhoon that displaced 673,000 from their homes, your gift of \$8,879.00 is enabling us to work with the Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines (CRCP) to reach out with hope and help to people coping with the loss of their loved ones, their homes, and their livelihoods. Together with the CRCP, World Renew is providing urgently needed food, water, temporary shelter and hygiene items to 3,000 families left homeless by the typhoon on the islands of Panay, Leyte, and Samar. The second phase of World Renew's activity will provide such things as generators for communities, kitchen kits, hygiene items and the like. Your gift is being used immediately to meet these needs for three months. Following this phase of emergency disaster response, World Renew and our local partners will transition to a community-driven, longer-term recovery and rehabilitation phase.

Other News



Coffee Break: We had a wonderful morning for our Christmas celebration. Laughter, singing, games and great food. There were times to celebrate the birth of our Saviour and time to share. Thanks you to everyone who helped to make the morning work. Thanking Lynne who played the piano, and all who helped with the clean up. We have a wonderful group of ladies who get together every week to learn more about God's Word and to share with each other. We wish all of you a special celebration with your families and friends as we celebrate Christmas. See everyone in 2014

Thank you from Shalom Manor & Gardens

Thank you to everyone who was involved in this year's November Sale! Whether you baked and donated homemade goodies, supported us at the lucky draw table, purchased plants or other food items, had your picture taken with Sinterklaas, enjoyed a boerenkool meal, lekker piece of cake, or croquette, you made a difference! With the help of our community, we raised more than \$11,600! All funds support Resident services such as special events, outings and other programs we would not otherwise be able to offer with the provided Ministry funding. It is truly a blessing to have people who willingly support Shalom Manor & Gardens. THANK YOU!

School News

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Not sure what career is best for you? High school students are invited to take a quick quiz to find the Redeemer University College program that is the best fit for their personality type. Visit www.rucareermatched.ca to try this free application.



Rose City Kids Partners with Promise Keepers (The Fatherless Project)

One of the greatest social needs in Canada is fatherlessness. Statistics will over and over again show the physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits when a father is actively involved in the life of his child. In 2004, Canada had over 1.3 million single parent families – 81% of these families were led by women (source: www.imfcanada.org / Statistics Canada).

Broader North American statistics indicate the impact that occurs in a fatherless child:

63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes

(U.S. Dept of Health/Census) – 5 times the average

70% of youths in state operated institutions come from fatherless homes

(U.S. Dept of Justice)

71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes

(National Principals Association Report)

85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes

(Center for Disease Control)

90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes

(“The Fatherless Generation”)

The Heart of God

"But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless."

(Psalm 10:14)

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."

(Psalm 68:5)

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

(Isaiah 1:17)

We began to ask ourselves, “What can we do? How can we encourage men to step up? To end apathy and take up the cause of their Heavenly Father?”

The Fatherless Project

The goal of The Fatherless Project is to challenge and equip men to be part of the solution to the problem of fatherlessness by mentoring a boy in need.

This begins with Fatherless Project Training Events. There is a 2.5 hour workshop designed to provide information for potential mentors and begin the training. Men that are interested in volunteering then continue the process with local churches and agencies such as Rose city Kids that will screen and train you further before connecting you with a boy to be mentored.

We will be holding a training session on January 29, 2014 from 7:00 pm-9:30 pm @ the Rose City Kids Theatre (99 East Main St. Welland)

Working together to become a mentor to a Fatherless boy Cost early birds \$15 walk ups \$20

If you would like further information about the Rose City Kids training event please contact Sonya Wierenga @ sonya@rosecitykids.com or 905 892 6978 Thank you!!





CRC Denomination

CALVIN COLLEGE - The Hugh & Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors are given annually for research papers on a topic dealing with John Calvin or Calvinism. Awards are payable to student tuition accounts at the following colleges: Calvin, Dordt, King's, Redeemer, Kuyper, and Trinity Christian. 1st Prize is \$2,500 and 2nd Prize is \$1,250. The research topic for 2014 is "John Calvin and the Lord's Supper". Papers must have a January 15, 2014 postmark. For information and research tips and guidelines visit <http://www.calvin.edu/meeter> and click on the Fellowships and Scholarships tab. Or contact the Meeter Center at meeter@calvin.edu or 616-526-7081.

CALVIN SYMPOSIUM ON WORSHIP - You are invited to attend the 27th annual Calvin Symposium on Worship, Jan. 30-Feb. 1, at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. The main worship services will focus on a number of the stories in Exodus. All worship services are free and open to the public. There are excellent rates for students and groups from churches. See worship.calvin.edu for complete information. We are also in need of some more volunteers for the conference, please contact the Worship Institute at worshipsymposium@calvin.edu or 616-526-6088 for more details.

CALVIN COLLEGE - Psalms for Families, by Robert J. Keeley and Laura Keeley, is a devotional series for the entire family de-

signed to help parents explore of the Psalms with their children and teens. The series contains four devotionals on each of the selected psalms (Psalm 1, 23, 63, 136, 13, 145, 51, 103, 22, 133, and 139) as well as notes for adults. This series is published by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and found at worship.calvin.edu.

GROUNDWORK - Angels' Song: The song of the angels as Luke records it on the night of Jesus' birth is by far the shortest of the four songs found in Luke 1 and 2. But what the angels conveyed in this brief chorus to those shepherds that night contains a whole lot of Gospel Good News. This week's Groundwork digs into Luke 2:14. Join the conversation – find a local radio station or listen online at www.GroundworkOnline.com.

KIDS CORNER - Mary's Miracle: Have you ever wondered what Mary thought about the very first Christmas? Was she scared? Excited? Happy? Listen to Mary's Miracle on this week's Kids Corner and then check out www.kidscorner.net for devotions, puzzles and more.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ADAPTIVE CHANGE TEAM - Did you know that . . .The reported monthly church attendance in Canada continues to decline from around 40 percent in the 1970s to less than 20 percent in 2012. During the same time, the percentage of teens who identify with the Protestant faith has declined from 35 percent to 13 percent, while teens who say they have "no faith at all" has increased to 32 percent from 12 percent. Challenges: The relatively high levels of worship attendance and participation by youth in Canadian CRC congregations stand in stark contrast to the rest of the

population. Reaching persons in the larger secular culture is a significant challenge for many congregations. To learn more, visit www.crcna.org/spact

WORLD RENEW DISASTER RESPONSE SERVICES - Volunteers are needed at long-term reconstruction sites in New Jersey (Superstorm Sandy), Alberta (flooding), and North Carolina (Hurricane Irene). The work will be appropriate for the weather. Volunteers are needed to help bring these families back home! If you would like to help rebuild homes for one, two, or three weeks as an individual or couple, please contact World Renew DRS at 800-848-5818 or email drs@worldrenew.net. Thank you!

SEARCH PROCESS FOR A CANADIAN MINISTRIES DIRECTOR - The search process for a new Canadian Ministries Director has begun. A Search Committee has been appointed and it hope to identify a candidate for appointment by the Board of Trustees in May of 2014, for ratification by synod in June of 2014. Please pray for this process and nominate a potential applicant. For more information on the position profile, timeline and the search process go to the website www.crcna.org/CMDsearch. You can send your nomination to the search committee chairperson, Yvonne Schenk, at cmdsearch@crcna.org.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, WORLD MISSIONS AND YOU! - From March 1-10, 2014 you are invited to witness the work of the CRC in the Dominican Republic by participating on an open service & learning team that not only assists local people in the construction of a church, but also builds cross-cultural friendships and strengthens the overall ministry impact of the church. Sign up on your own or with a friend! Contact volunteer@crcna.org

SWAP WITH WORLD RENEW IN HONDURAS! - No, SWAP has nothing to do with switching one thing for another, but has everything to do with Serving With A Purpose! Are you between the ages of 16 - 24 and would love to see how World Renew works on the field? For six weeks this summer, as you meet with various ministry partners, you will learn how to appropriately encounter and respond to poverty issues and their root causes. Your experiences will enable you to gain a new understanding of loving mercy, acting justly, and walking humbly with God. Want to be part of the team that goes to Honduras? Contact volunteer@crcna.org

Bethany Christian Reformed Church

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.bethanycrc.ca