

December 20, 2015

Bethany Christian Reformed Church  
1040 Balfour Street  
P.O. Box 61  
Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0



# Bethany Bugle

## Special points of interest:

- Church News
- Other News
- School News
- CRC News

## General Contact Information

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### Youth Director

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**shalem**  
Mental Health Network

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Toll-free 1-866-347-0041  
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## Council Bugle Report

### Bethany Christian Reformed Church Meeting: Monday, December 14th, 2015

Attendees:

Elders: Zach Beldman, Hans Dam, George DeRoo, Peter Glasbergen, Jerry Kiers, Ed Slappendel, Pastor Colin Vander Ploeg, Ray VanHuizen, Richard VanLochem, Peter Veldhuizen.

Deacons: Leo Devries, George Gritter, Don Terpstra, Frank Vraets

Absent: Rudy Boverhof, Peter Bulk, John Enzlin, Albert Janssen

Chairman George DeRoo opened and welcome with greetings. This was followed with Scripture reading of Luke 2: 8-20 and prayer of blessing, intercession and thanksgiving.

Minutes from council meeting held November 9th 2015 received. Motion to accept as presented. Corrections to minutes: Item 4b to read "In light of the recent fainting incident, the custodians are to ensure that proper ventilation of the sanctuary is maintained. B&G to follow-up with custodians." Corrected spelling in 4f. 2nd. Carried.

Matters arising from the council meeting minutes.

Pastor Colin to arrange for a church fire drill sometime in the spring /summer of 2016.

Vision team update. Candidate names for the team has been approved. Han's Dam and Pastor Colin to request affirmation of candidates in being part of the team.

New Business.

Minutes from the congregation meeting held on November 25, 2015 received. Motion to accept as presented. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.

Deacons have been requested to investigate a CAP equivalent program for Elisha House.

Moving forward, the Youth Elder will have under his care non-professed members of Bethany.

A discussion on creating a Human Resources Team is tabled for the next meeting.

2 Candidates will be contacted to organize a Joint Health and Safety committee.

Spring Camp approval request. Date to be determined. Approved.

Request for council to consider another option for election of office bearers.

Clerk to review past minutes for any decisions on the subject.

Deacons Report - received for information.

Deacons to consider handing out the Faith Pledge forms in early fall moving forward.

Caregiver Team – No report.

Finance Team – No report

Fellowship Team – No report

Buildings and Grounds – Received for information. 2 Names have been approved to fill a vacancy left by a resignation.

Safe Church Team – received for information. Item #3 "The decision was made that if a married couple does Sunday school together they must also have a helper." Problem is the helper will likely be a child. Team should look at the denomination web site to see what information is available as a resource on this subject.

Discipleship Team – No report

Library – No report.

Correspondence

Letter received requesting abandoning the hand shaking during the Worship Service due to health concerns. The request is granted.

Letter from Calvin Theology Seminary – "Facing your Future" program will have a sabbatical for the summer of 2016. Want to revamp the program and reinstate it in 2017.

Letter from Christian Reformed Church – Glenda Bowers will be serving as the new Regional Disability Advocate for Classis Niagara.

Letter received from Christian Reformed Church – Darren Roorda – Is your church Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliant? All churches need to be compliant by January 2016. A candidate to be contacted to undertake this task.

All above named teams should have their reports to the clerk by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 so that the reports can be forwarded to council members for review in advance of the meeting.

Next Council meeting is slated for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Han's Dam closed in Prayer.

## PRAISE AND WORSHIP EVENING!!

Devon van Hoffen is hosting a praise and worship evening with the help of many singers and musicians. This is not a fundraising evening but a time to gather together and worship our God and to hear the work that Devon has been doing this year in Africa.

It will be held at:

ROSE CITY KIDS THEATRE in Welland.

December 28th 2015

Starting at 6 pm.

All ages are welcome. We will have refreshments available throughout the evening.

Come on out and praise God for the work He is doing in your own lives as well as the lives of the most vulnerable in Africa!

**VOUCHERS-Order forms for 2016 have been placed in your mail slot this week. Please note that voucher for 2015 can not be used in the new year so please redeem them in the upcoming collections before the end of the year.**

## School News

### SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL—Open House and Celebration of Learning

Thriving and flourishing are two words you'll hear often these days at Smithville Christian High School. Our spiritual life theme for the year is Thrive, and our new atrium sculpture is called Flourish, and both words speak to the emphasis we are placing on making this a place where teenagers can be what God has called them to be. Want to see how it works? Come to Smithville Christian High School on Jan. 14 for our annual Open House and Celebration of Learning to interact with students and see samples of their work in every subject area. This evening is especially for students in Grades 7 and 8 and their parents -- to see what a Christian high school can offer your family -- but it's also for everyone: parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbours and friends. Information for prospective students from 7-7:30 p.m., followed by the open house from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The students of Smithville Christian High School look forward to welcoming you. We Believe. You Belong Here. [www.smithvillechristian.ca](http://www.smithvillechristian.ca)

## Other News

### WAR ROOM PLAYING JANUARY 09 IN WELLAND

**Rose City Kids Park Theatre will be showing WAR ROOM on Saturday, January 09, 2016 at 7:00 pm.** From the award-winning creators of **Fireproof** and **Courageous** comes **WAR ROOM**, a compelling drama with humor and heart that explores the power

that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of our lives. Tony and Elizabeth Jordan seemingly have it all—great jobs, a beautiful daughter, and their dream house. But appearances can be deceiving. Tony and Elizabeth Jordan's world is actually crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. While Tony basks in his professional success and flirts with temptation, Elizabeth's bitterness only increases. But their lives take an unexpected turn when Elizabeth's newest client, Miss Clara, challenges Elizabeth to establish a prayer "war room" and a battle plan of prayer for her family. As Elizabeth begins to fight for her family, Tony must decide if he will make amends. As Miss Clara wisely says, "Victories don't come by accident!" A #1 movie in theaters, **WAR ROOM** is filled with more of the authentic characters loved by millions in previous Kendrick Brothers' films and a vivid reminder that prayer is a powerful weapon.

Please join us on January 09. Free will offering and refreshments will be sold! For more information please contact Sonya @ [sonya@rosecitykids.com](mailto:sonya@rosecitykids.com) YOU WONT WANT TO MISS IT! Thank you!



## Concerts

Just in time for those of you who were racking your brain on

what your last minute Christmas gifts could be, we are very excited to help you out and to let you all know that tickets went on sale on Friday December 18th for the Chris Tomlin Canadian Tour. Get your tickets at [www.uniteinworship.com](http://www.uniteinworship.com). The Perfect gift for anyone!



**True Women Conference:** On September 22-24, 2016 (Thursday-Saturday) there will be a women's conference at the *Indianapolis Convention Center* in Indianapolis, Indiana. Speakers include Nancy Leigh DeMoss and Mary Kassian. Keith and Kristyn Getty will be the worship leaders.

There are a number of women who plan to attend so we are looking into hiring a coach bus. This is early but we need to confirm the bus in January because these buses are used for "Fall Colour" tours. If you are interested in attending this conference and going by coach bus, please let Lorraine Wierenga know asap. Seating is limited to 56 people. If enough show interested another bus may be hired. Payment will hold your seat. The bus will be approximately \$90 return. For more information about the conference go to:

<http://www.truewoman16.com/>

## STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS ... LONGING IN THE MIDST OF A WORLD OF CONFLICT

Well, we didn't line up too many hours ahead of the opening night, but we did brave the crowds to see the latest instalment of the Star Wars saga. It seems to be on track to be the largest money making movie of all time ... and the merchandizing is over the top (anyone for a Star Wars bag of oranges?). All in all, it was a well done movie and a nice family outing for us science fiction fans. But why the palatable sense of anticipation and longing to see it, heard in so many sound bites on radio, tv and internet interviews?

One reason may be that in our culture today, in the midst of all the turmoil of Middle Eastern and African conflicts, terrorist fears and attacks, economic worries and environmental warnings, people are primed for some larger story of how things might actually be and how the good wins out in the end. The movie is entitled, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. The force represents the powers of good or of evil (both are part of the one force) and its awaking in this next step in the Star Wars story line is an awakening toward hope in the midst of what seems to be all conquering evil in the world. And does that not resonate with what we long for in today's world?

Do not people long for some hope in some power that can overcome ISIS or Boko Haram or Al Qaeda or just the plain hatred of people against other people? Throngs in the tens of thousands seek refuge away from destruction and meet with fear, ridicule, resentment, as they try to find a new home. Illness, economic loss, family breakdown, personal failures and disappointments, all this longs for some hope that the good will overcome the evil. *Star Wars* offers a mythic story of hope persisting. There are heroes still who can turn the tide, and for a few hours, we can lose ourselves in the larger story that seems so much greater than our own.

Is this not connected to a deeper longing built into each and every image bearer of the Creator? John Calvin wrote many centuries ago that we all have some sense of the reality of God, as twisted by sin as that may be (see Romans 1:18-20). In this case, I think *Star Wars* taps into that longing for something greater than ourselves that has some sway over our present and future; something that can give us hope for victory over evil and brokenness so that evil does not have the last word.

Yes, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is a movie offered for entertainment, but its draw is more than simply that. It resonates with our broken human longing for victory, for salvation from sin and evil, ours and the whole world's. And to answer that longing, the movie invites us into a story greater than ourselves, a story attempting to draw us into its hopefulness. But for all its efforts, the movie falls short ... not as a movie really, but as answer to such fundamental longing.

For the definitive battle against evil has already been won on a cross over 2000 years ago. And the written account of that true saga invites us all into its account greater than ourselves, which is not fiction at all. And there, in the Scriptures, we find a Victor who is not a tragic character, nor a by-the-skin-of-his-teeth winner. Satan, our sin, and the evil of this world threw everything they could at the Christ. Yet on Easter morning, there sat mighty heavenly beings commented on what the followers of Jesus saw, and empty tomb with grave clothes calmly folded up. Jesus arose with undefeatable power and authority. Life awoke from the grave. Jesus Christ has won and He is coming again to finish the impact of his victory once and for all. Our longing finds its answer in Christ Jesus. And the real power to give us hope is His Holy Spirit, for He is the Lord and giver of life now and forever. So not, "may the Force be with you", but may the Lord be with you. For His is real life victory.

**May your Christmas and New Year's celebrations be blessed by the Lord of Life whose Bethlehem awakening gives us hope.**

**Pastor Colin & Anita, Jonathan, Derek, Joseph**

# CRC News

## From Back to God Ministries International

**MARY'S MIRACLE** - The birth of Christ is the incarnation of God in human history. Kids Corner presents this dramatic presentation of the miracle of Jesus as seen through the eyes of Mary. Find more great resources for kids and parents at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net).

**Special Advent Devotional Series** - Looking for more meaning in the midst of a busy Christmas season? Let us help! This Advent, ReFrame Media offers a special e-mail series just for you. With daily devotions and encouragements from Today, Family Fire, Groundwork, and the fun of Kids Corner, it's designed to help you and your family experience the wonder of Christmas. Sign up at [ReFrameMedia.com/Advent](http://ReFrameMedia.com/Advent).

**WAITING WITH JOY** - Joy may seem hard to find when life's demands get overwhelming or in times when we experience grief and sadness. Yet joy is always possible. Join Groundwork in studying Isaiah 35 and John 16 to discuss how we live with joy in all of life's seasons and to discover the ultimate joy for which we long. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## From Other

**2016 Gathering in Canada** - The CRC in Canada is Gathering on May 6-8, 2016 at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. We are looking for a diverse cross-section of representatives from CRCs across Canada and are seeking nominations for one leader from each church (12 per classis). You need not be ordained, just "plugged in" to your local church, together with a healthy desire to see the CRC grow in Canada. If that sounds like you, please contact your clerk of council. The weekend will be a time of inspiring celebration, of sharing and worship. Visit <https://www.crcna.org/gatherings/canadian-gathering-2016> for more information.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY** - EduDeo Ministries is looking for a part-time Bookkeeper (20-25 hours/week). Applicants are requested to email their resume and cover letter to [careers@edudeo.com](mailto:careers@edudeo.com) by January 13, 2016. See [www.edudeo.com](http://www.edudeo.com) for more information.

[www.crcna.org/Canada](http://www.crcna.org/Canada) - Check out the new Ministry in Canada website for the Christian Reformed Church in Canada. If you want to understand and be resourced for ministry in Canada, check out [www.crcna.org/Canada](http://www.crcna.org/Canada). You'll find audio and video content such as webinars to inform and coach your ministry leaders; ministry tools for a range of social justice issues including refugees; uniquely Canadian content run through the Canadian Aboriginal Ministries Committee and Centre for Public Dialogue; a Canadian CRC ministry directory; and links to partners of the Christian Reformed Church across Canada.

## From ServiceLink

**URGENT - Homeschool Teacher** - Remember the days of the one-room school house? Taste the missionary life in Uganda as the homeschooling teacher for 4 of a missionary family's 6 children, beginning in the new year. Additional details for this 6-month partially-funded volunteer opportunity can be found at [www.crwmm.org](http://www.crwmm.org) or contact [volunteer@crcna.org](mailto:volunteer@crcna.org).

## From World Renew

**Christmas Blessings from World Renew!** - Christmas blessings from World Renew. Through your Gift Catalog gifts and Christmas offerings to World Renew, you share the empowering love of Christ with people suffering because of poverty, hunger, and disaster. As a result, people around the world are improving their livelihoods, rebuilding their homes, growing more food, improving their health, and overcoming poverty for the long-term. Thank you! To learn more, visit [worldrenew.net](http://worldrenew.net).

**Do a World of Good:** - You can Do a World of Good with World Renew this Christmas. God's power became visible in His son, Jesus Christ, at Christmas. Give a powerful gift to someone in need this Christmas through something as small as a baby rabbit or as big as clean water for a whole community. Find these and other empowering items in the World Renew gift catalog online at [worldrenewgifts.net](http://worldrenewgifts.net) or by calling 800-333-8300.

**Refugee Volunteer Assistant** - Needed urgently! World Renew Canada is in need of a volunteer to assist with general administration duties for their Refugee Office in Burlington, Ontario. The applicant must have excellent verbal communication skills as they will be helping to provide follow-up calls and emails in response to the growing interest of churches wishing to support refugees. For more information, please contact Iona Buisman, Global Volunteer Program Coordinator, [ibuisman@worldrenew.net](mailto:ibuisman@worldrenew.net).



We're on the web!  
[www.bethanycrc.ca](http://www.bethanycrc.ca)