



BETHANY BUGLE



DECEMBER 22, 2013 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 51

"From Pastor Colin & Anita Vander Ploeg: Peace to you all this Advent season! We praise the Lord with you for His guidance in the calling process. We are excited about coming to Bethany! The Spirit has granted us a good measure of peace with the decision and people here in Living Hope are responding supportively as we get ready to say farewell here. To all those who have emailed us encouragement and all those who pray for us ... the Lord has used you to help us. Thank you! Continue to pray for our preparations. There is much to do here as well as continue on with ministry work here yet. As to time-lines, we are hoping to be able to travel east in February or early March. Perhaps the Lord will grant that we can go earlier, we don't know. We plan to list our house for sale in the beginning of January (latter half of December is just not house selling time here, though we have already begun work with our realtor). Our three sons (Jonathan-24; Derek-22 and Joseph-19) are good with the decision but we do not know yet who will be coming with us or not. Please pray for clarity for them in their decisions as well. May our Emmanuel bless you all.

Your fellow servants in Christ, Pastor Colin & Anita."

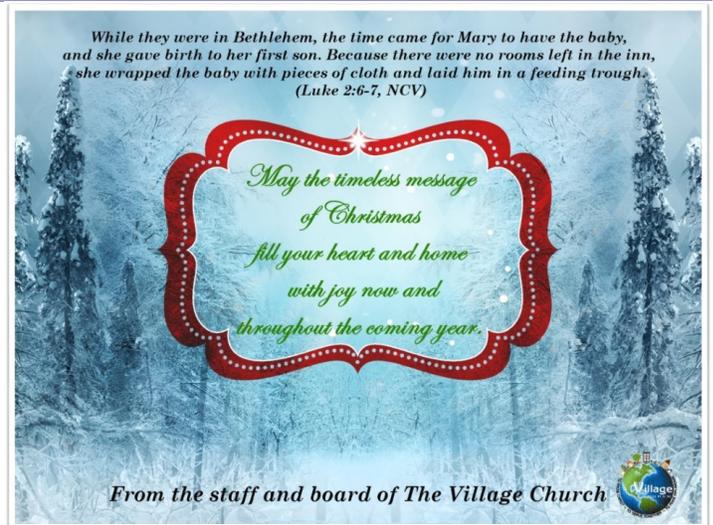
Blood Donors Needed

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

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11





Painters needed

Painting is well underway in the church. We are in need of some volunteers who would be willing to help out with this. If you would be willing to help, please call Dan Scholman at 905-892-6567.

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, an 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

2013 CBC Christmas Sing-In: On Christmas Day this program comes to you from St. Andrew and St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Montréal ~ on your local CBC Radio One at 12:00 noon; and on CBC Radio 2 at 9:00 a.m. This 34th Annual Christmas program, hosted by the Montréal

CBC, again features Organist Jonathan Oldengarm, Conductor Jordan de Souza, the St. Andrew and St. Paul Church Choir, and an excellent brass ensemble. Available online at: <http://music.cbc.ca/#/The-CBC-Christmas-Sing-In>



What Good Comes From Nazareth?

.....

Please Join Us

CHRISTMAS EVE

FOR A CANDELIGHT SERVICE

6:00 PM

1040
Balfour St.
Penwick, ON



BETHANY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

.....

Please Join Us For Our

Christmas Day & Regular Sunday Morning

Service: 10 Am & Worship: 9:30AM

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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

WORLD MISSIONS - Join a VBS team to Asia: Christian Reformed World Missions is seeking volunteers to teach Vacation Bible School to children in Asia this summer. Trip dates are July 9-27, 2014. For more information, email Lisa Sochacki at Isochacki@crcna.org or visit www.crwmm.org/volunteer.

GROUNDWORK - Simeon's Song: The song of the aged Simeon is also known as the Nunc Dimittis, from its opening words in Latin, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace." What would make you able to die in peace? Let's dig into that this week on Groundwork. Join the conversation – find a local radio station or listen online at www.GroundworkOnline.com.

KIDS CORNER - Lucille's New Friend: What does a true friend look like? Help Lucille figure out friendship on this week's Kids Corner. Listen at www.kidscorner.net. Then contact Kids Corner at P.O. Box 5070, Burlington ON L7R3Y8 or email kids@kidscorner.net for great resources for kids and parents.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ADAPTIVE CHANGE TEAM - Did you know that . . . The total membership of the CRCNA has declined since 2000 from around 276,000 to about 251,000 in 2012, while the number of congregations increased from 982 to almost 1,100. In addition, the growth through evangelism experienced in the early 2000s, especially by new church starts, has tapered off. Challenges: The continued decline in membership appears to be more systemic than just having some persons or congregations leave because of theological controversies, and the efforts in starting new churches has not been able to offset the decline. To learn more, visit www.crcna.org/spact

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 hopes 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.

WORLD RENEW invites you to Give it Forward this Christmas - Give a gift of love and light: Help one more family plant a vegetable garden, help one more child receive the literacy books they need, help one more hurricane survivor find shelter and warmth. Donate online at worldrenewgifts.net or call 1-800-730-3490.

SERVICELINK: Join a team to Dominican Republic! - 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.

WORLD RENEW, Cambodia and you! - In May 2014, the Finance Manager on the World Renew team in Cambodia will be going on a 3 month maternity leave and so World Renew is inviting those with finance management experience to come serve with them at that time. If you have a desire to contribute as well as learn how their work impacts 95 rural communities, then we would love to hear from you at volunteer@crcna.org.

Bethany Christian Reformed Church

1040 BALFOUR STREET
P.O. BOX 61 FENWICK, ONTARIO L0S 1C0
Pastor's Church Study: 905-892-7745
Pastor: Vacant
Clerk: Pete Wierenga
Email: clerk@bethanycrc.ca
Administrator: Denise Glasbergen
Email: info@bethanycrc.ca
Children's Coordinator: Lindsay Janssen
Email: Lindsay@bethanycrc.ca
Worship & Life Group Coordinator: Nicole VanHuizen
Email: Nicole@bethanycrc.ca
Custodian: Clarence & Tracy VanSoelen
Email: cvansoelen@cogeco.ca
Office Hours: Thursdays & Fridays 9:00am-3:30pm
Phone: 905-892-8980 Services: Sundays 9:30am

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.bethanycrc.ca