

January 3, 2016

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

Pies available

There are still pies for sale!! They are \$8.00 each and they are in the freezer at church. Put the money in Kathleen VanHoffen's mailbox



The Congregational Care Team is looking for a person (s) to look after the meal program. If you would be interested in helping to organize occasional meals for people who may be in need, please call Joyce de Roo at 905 386 6719. This is a loving expression of God's care for his people, and you can be a part of it!

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church, 735 Frontenac Crescent, Woodstock, ON N4V 0B1, Canada

Friday, January 29, 2016 (All day) to Monday, February 1, 2016 (All day)

Join others from Ontario for a weekend retreat on January 29-31, 2016 at Maranatha CRC in Woodstock. The theme is "Grounded: Faith, Scripture, Doctrine" with Steve Kooy guiding our group sessions and Colin Wouda and Ben Voskamp leading us in worship. It will be a weekend full of spiritual encouragement, faith-based discussions, service, fellowship, and funtivities! For more information and to register, visit the Facebook page "Young Adult Winter Retreat" or email ya.retreat.team@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there! Contact Andria Slappendel if you are interested.

General Contact Information

Pastor

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Youth Director

Andrea Veldhuizen
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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

Smithville Sports featuring... Indoor Soccer at the Smithville Christian High School gym...get moving with 8 weeks of indoor soccer training and scrimmaging for only \$30. 30 minutes of training and a 30 minute game every week. When: Saturdays from January-March starting Jan. 16. Ages 5-7 @9-10am Ages 7-9 @ 10-11am. Ages 10-13 @ 11am-12pm. To sign up or if you have any questions contact Sam Iriarte @ 289-228-6399 or sameduardo@yahoo.com. All you need are shin pads and a pair of runners/indoor soccer shoes.



shalem
Mental Health Network

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 905-528-0353 or
Toll-free 1-866-347-0041
www.shalemnetwork.org



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/>

Other News

Coffee Break: Well ladies we are all ready to get back to our regular meeting of Coffee Break. We will continue our study of the book of Acts. Henny's group will be starting Lesson #9 "Saul's Conversion" In this study we will consider God's miraculous work in Saul's conversion and the effect on the whole church. Read Acts 9: 1-31 Janes group will be starting lesson #8. Gail and Irene will continue lesson #8: question # 8. Snacks: Jane S., Marijke V.D., Ginnette B., Anita W. See you at Grace CRC.

Reclaiming Christmas for Abuse Survivors (Part 1): Leaning into Suffering

by Monica Brands, CRC Safe Church Network Guide, posted on The Network (www.network.crcna.org), used by permission.

For the past several Christmases, I have gone back to a Christmas meditation called “St. Linus the Evangelist”. In this piece, Allison Backous-Troy writes beautifully about why A Charlie Brown Christmas has always spoken to her the truth about Christmas in the midst of the chaos and pain of her home life. In the film, Charlie Brown laments not feeling the way he should about Christmas, restlessly searching for something deeper and truer than what he feels inside. This is the lament at the heart of every abuse survivor, as Allison relates: “It was an impulse we could not shake. Even if we never said it aloud, we hoped for something beyond the lists we made, the rituals we gave ourselves. We didn’t feel the way we were supposed to feel—about family, about Christmas, about anything. And I knew that we were supposed to feel something, even if we were in such despair, and even if what I was supposed to feel was unnamable.” Ultimately only Linus is able to speak the simple truth of Christmas, of a glimpse of joy entering the midst of our shattered world.

I am thankful for the lives of those for whom Christmas evokes only memories of joy, but for many (perhaps most) people, the experience of Christmas is a bittersweet longing for hope, a space where the good news of Christmas is a glimpse of joy that enters into the heart of suffering, and where joy is always tinged with remembrance of horrors. For the hope of Christmas is meaningless without understanding the place of suffering Christ entered. This Christmas, can we talk about a Christmas that abuse survivors understand? One that does not avoid or whitewash suffering, but recognizes the joy of the gospel emerges out of the background of darkness and pain? Can we open up our hearts and homes to those longing for a taste of hope?

For my devotional this year, I’ve been using Common Prayer by Shane Claiborne and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Their December meditation begins with this challenge: “Everything in our society teaches us to move away from suffering, to move out of neighborhoods where there is high crime, to move away from people who don’t look like us. But the gospel calls us to something altogether different. We are to laugh at fear, to lean into suffering, to open ourselves to the stranger. Advent is the season when we remember that Jesus put on flesh and moved into the neighborhood...with his coming, we learn that the most dangerous place for Christians to be is in comfort and safety, detached from the suffering of others. Places that are physically safe can be spiritually deadly.” These are prophetic words, and abuse is one of the clearest spheres where avoidance of suffering by those who can hear and who can help does the most harm.

This Christmas, let’s have a less “safe” Christmas, one where we lean into the suffering of both ourselves and others, for it is in this space that the gospel is good news.

CRC News

FAMILY FIRE - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

I WANT TO SEE - Spike’s baseball skills are slipping! He just can’t hit anymore and he’s missing fly balls. But the reality is that Spike is aware of his own problem, and eventually his friends help him face the truth. Follow the adventures of Liz and his pals every week: subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Find more great resources for kids and parents at kidscorner.net.

THE SHEMA: LISTEN AND REMEMBER - In Jewish circles Deuteronomy 6:4-9 are known as “The Shema.” Join Groundwork as we dig into Deuteronomy 6 to discover what The Shema meant to Israel way back when and what it continues to mean for all of us yet today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.

Your Church can Serve in the Dominican Republic - As a service and learning team, your church can assist Dominican congregations and local tradespeople in building small community churches and pastors' homes. For more information, visit crwm.org/DRTeams or contact Bill Thornburg at bthornburg@crcna.org

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 by January 13, 2016. See www.edudeo.com for more information.

TOUR THE BIBLICAL LANDS OF ISRAEL - April 10-21, 2016. Experience a refreshing renewal of your faith, and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible, as you tour the biblical lands with teaching host, Pastor Peter Tuininga and Sindbad Tours of Israel. See many of the biblical places (Jerusalem, Galilee, Caesarea, Jericho and more), and gain spiritual and historical insights which will make the Bible come alive for you. For complete information, cost, and registration, call Peter Tuininga: 905 957-2116 (daytime) or 289 877-8433 (evenings), or email: peter.tuininga@gmail.com.

DISCOVER HONDURAS - Serve on a team with World Renew and its ministry partner Diaconia Nacional on their community improvement projects in Honduras. Work alongside local laborers by building latrines, pilas, general construction etc. More information available at www.worldrenew.net or volunteer@crcna.org.

TEACH BRAILLE AND THEN SOME.... - Light and Salvation Ministry is an outreach to the blind. Teach braille, create promo materials, enjoy theological studies and more - just some of the ways you can be engaged in ministry with World Missions’ partner Seeds of a New Creation. For more information on this and other WM volunteer cohort opportunities in El Salvador, visit www.crwm.org or contact volunteer@crcna.org.