

March 1, 2015

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



Bethany Bugle

Special points of interest:

- Events
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- Classis Report

General Contact Information

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Nicole VanHuizen
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Custodians

Clarence & Tracy VanSoelen
cvansoelen@cogeco.ca

Save the date for our Ladies Evening
March 27, 2015 @ 6:30pm at Bethany

\$10 at the door, \$5 for 13-18 yrs old



Invite your neighbour to come & listen to
2 video sessions by Joni Earekson Tada and Mary Kassian!
Enjoy a time of praise, fellowship and dessert!

Rose City Kids



Cadet Calendar

MARCH 5	FATHER AND SON KUB CAR BUILDING NIGHT (SEE FLYER)
MARCH 12	MARCH BREAK NO CADETS
MARCH 28	NIAGARA COUNCIL COUNSELOR BANQUET
APRIL 23	LAST REGULAR CADET CLUB MEETING (this is the final chance to present completed merit badges before the Cadet-A-Ree)
APRIL 25	NIAGARA CADET-A-REE WITH KUB CAR RACING
APRIL 30	FINAL PARENTS & PIZZA NIGHT WITH AWARDS AND KUB CAR RACES



Rose City Kids Fundraising Banquet

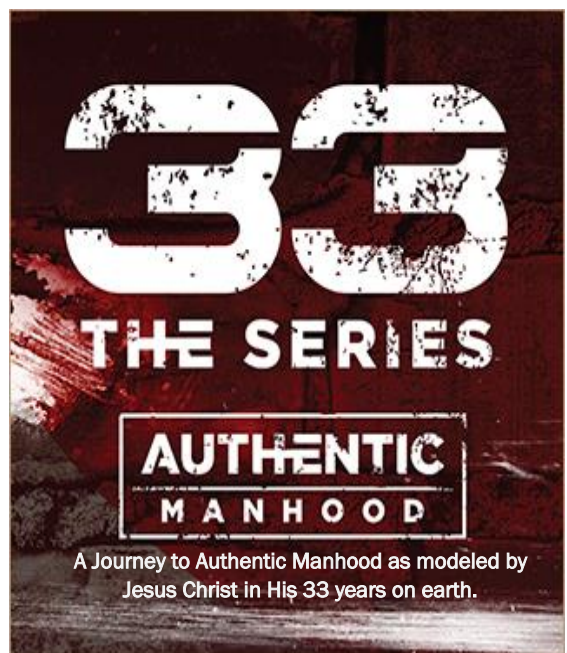
March 21, 2015
Doors open at 6:00 pm
Riverstone Event Centre, Welland
Cost: \$30 pp (free will offering at event)
Testimonies, Silent auction, Candy bar
Semi Formal
If interested in purchasing tickets please contact Sonya
at 905 892 6978

Harvest Kitchen

On February 19th, we served approx. 50 people at the Hope Center. One of Bethany's Bible

Study groups prepared Lasagna's and Desserts as well as came to serve and be part of the Harvest Kitchen experience! I would like to thank Nate and Angela Anjema, Dan and Christine VanGeest, Ryan, Andrea and Kean Veldhuizen, Mike and Brenda Boverhof and Mike and Jessica Dreyer!! It was so wonderful to serve and fellowship with all of you and to get to know each of you! You are an enthusiastic and fantastic group of volunteers....not to mention all the laughs and smiles too J A thanks to Ann Kiers as well for all she does to make this evening happen! I would also like to thank my son Josh Oussoren for all his help too! Behind the scenes, we give a shout out to Leah Vahrmeyer for preparing food for the evening as well. Last month I forgot to mention a couple of lovely ladies who also prepared food for the January Harvest Kitchen, so I want to take a moment to thank Deb Geerlinks and Lynn Janssen as well!! Just a reminder, we will be serving again on Thursday, March 19th this time with the CADETS leading! It's hard to believe that this will be the last "Harvest Kitchen" for the season. Thank you TO ALL for being so enthusiastic about this ministry and for giving so freely of your time! Blessings, Angela Oussoren

Coming March 24th



Other News

Coffee Break: This Tuesday we will be meeting at our regular place and time for our weekly Coffee Break Bible Study. After our devotions and circle time we will grab our coffees and snacks and continue our study of "Decisions". Gail's group will finish lesson 6 and Start lesson 7, "How Does God Speak"? Read John 14: 15 - 27. Jane's group will start Lesson 6, Jean's group will continue with lesson 5. Snacks: Linda R., Wendy L., Sylvia B., Ladies see you Tuesday morning

Zion Free Reformed Church invites you to a speaker evening:

Dr. J. R. Beeke, president of Puritan Reformed Seminary, has agreed to speak on the important subject of How to Do Family Worship on Friday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Zion Free Reformed Church(1075 Boyle Road, Fenwick), He wants to focus on the practical aspects of exactly how to speak with our children during family worship. He will also bring several family oriented books that will be available at steeply discounted prices. Refreshments and fellowship to follow. Don't miss this special opportunity! For more information please contact Jeff or Katherine Bokma @ 905-892-0163 or katherine.bokma@yahoo.ca

The Ballet Magnificat! Placed in the war zone of Dutch Haarlem in 1944, Hiding Place is a portrayal of divinely inspired forgiveness in the midst of desperate and unimaginable circumstances. The Ballet Magnificat! Omega Company taps into the struggle of two sisters, Corrie and Betsie ten Boom, as they search for possibilities to help their life-long Jewish neighbors and friends obtain security, found in a small hiding place built in the wall of their home, only to be discovered and transported to the concentration camp of Ravensbrück to face struggles far exceeding their wildest imagination. Inspired by the true story of the ten Boom family, choreographer Jiri Sebastian Voborsky unveils this heroic story with a great level of drama, passion, pain, yet joy, and ultimately hope, as he brings before the audience the challenge to believe the unbelievable – the power of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. When: March 16, 7:00 pm, Where: Rose City Kids auditorium, Welland. <http://www.arts.brocku.ca/performances/viewperformance.php?rcode=2014&rcode=14R16>

Shalom Manor Long Term Care Home, a Christian long-term care home has openings for Temporary, Part-Time Accounting Clerk, 15-20 hrs per week, Duration: Immediately – September 2015. See website for position description & details. Please submit your resume to Darren DeCaire, 12 Bartlett Ave. Grimsby, ON L3M 4N5, Fax: 905-945-1211, email: info@shalommanor.ca

An Easter Celebration:

Come join us at Mountainview Christian Reformed Church, 290 Main Street East in Grimsby, on Thursday April 2nd, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. for a Musical Celebration of the Easter Season. Performing will be "To the King Male Chorus" under direction of Mendelt D. Hoekstra, joined by Guest Soprano, Suzanne Schaafsma, and accompanied by Pianist Julie Hoff. Proceeds from the evening will benefit McNally House Hospice. Tickets for the event are \$15.00 per person, with children 12 and under free, and are available at the Dutch Shop in Grimsby or at the door.

School News

COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, Smithville, will be putting on their "Get Ready, Get Set, Read!" program on Thursday mornings for 4 weeks, starting April 2nd. This program is meant for children ages 4&5 by December 31st. If you are interested in sending your child please

give Wendy a call at 905-957-7796 and she will send you a registration form.

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Canadian sociologist and scholar Dr. Reginald Bibby will present "The Future of Religion in Canada: What's Needed from Christian Leaders" on Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 pm at Redeemer University College. All are invited to attend this free event. For more information and to register, visit www.redeemer.ca/twaoc.

The Concert and Alumni Choirs of Redeemer University College and the University of Toronto's Concert Choir will present a special concert featuring Mozart's Requiem and Bach's Christ Lag in Todesbanden (BWV 4). The concert will take place on March 20 at 8:00 pm at MacNab Street Presbyterian Church in Hamilton (116 MacNab St. S.). For more information and to order tickets, visit www.redeemer.ca or call the Redeemer Box Office at 905.648.2139 x4211.

Redeemer has an immediate opening for a Marketing Manager. To learn more, visit the Employment Opportunities page at www.redeemer.ca/hr.

CRC Announcements

Special Today Devotional Lent Series - "So, what are you giving up for Lent?" Has anybody ever asked you that question? Lent does involve self-denial, but it's much more. It's a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. The Today Devotional is offering a special devotion series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during the season of Lent. Visit LentDevotionals.com.

DESERVE DEATH BUT RECEIVE LIFE: - When we work we expect to receive what we've earned. But according to Romans 6:23 and Romans 1:18-25, what we deserve is death. Join us as we study these passages to discover how it's possible that we receive life instead. Subscribe for free weekly email notifications at ListenToGroundwork.com or visit GroundworkOnline.com to find a local radio station or listen now.

LIZ MISERABLES: - Liz is having a horrible week when he loses Grandpa's antique coin, fails a surprise test, and gets a cold. Follow the Kids Corner 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.

Today is World Renew DRS Sunday: - Celebrate World Renew volunteers this week as they share the love of Christ with disaster survivors through World Renew DRS, Offering Hope to people in need. Please give generously in today's offering to help families in Alberta, New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida, and beyond. You can also give online at worldrenew.net, call 1-800-730-3490, or mail your cheque (designated "DRS" in the memo line) to World Renew, 3475 Mainway, STN LCD 1, Burlington, ON, L7R 3Y8. Thank you!

Join The Network! - Have you checked out The Network? The site just celebrated 5 years and over 15,000 posts! The site is a great place to engage in discussion, post ministry questions and find resources for over 50 areas of church ministry! Join the fun yourself by creating an account and connecting with others. Visit crcna.org/Network or contact network@crcna.org with any questions.

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN - Campus Ministry at Dalhousie University, a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church, seeks to hire a half-time Campus Chaplain, beginning August 1, 2015. Interested applicants should send a letter of application, resume, three references and a brief vision for campus ministry to: Leonard.Diepeveen@dal.ca. A job description is

available upon request, for more information, please contact Len Diepeveen, Chair of the Search Committee. The competition closes on March 31, 2015. DR Open Youth Team - Join youth/young adults from the Dominican Republic to form a cross-cultural youth missions team in the DR from July 22 to August 3 this summer. If you love sports, drama, music, kids and youth, as well as making new friends, this is for you! Additional details can be found at www.crwmm.org or contact volunteer@crcna.org.

Love web design? - Create and implement a website for World Renew's Haiti partner PWOFOD, and train staff on keeping the material current. This rewarding volunteer opportunity to use your website design and CMS skills includes working from home and a short trip to Haiti. More information available at worldrenew.net/gvp or volunteer@crcna.org.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE LOCATED ON BULLETIN BOARD BY THE BACK STAIRS

We're on the web!
www.bethanycrc.ca

Council Bugle Report

Meeting: Thursday, 19 February 2015

Attendees:

Elders: Rudy Boverhof, Zach Beldman, Albert Janssen, Kevin Twomey, Mark Vahrmeyer, Pastor Colin VanderPloeg, Tim VanHoffen, Ray VanHuizen, Richard VanLochem, Pete Wierenga

Deacons: Nate Anjema, Louis Dam, John Enzlin

Absent with Notice: Peter Bulk, George Gritter, Alfred Kiers, Jerry Kiers, Don Terpstra

- Chairman Tim VanHoffen opened with welcome and greetings. Scripture reading Exodus 33. A time of reflection to gauge how well we are doing in respect to presenting our needs before the Lord. Are we relying on our own strength or are we earnestly seeking God's leading? As we discern God's will are we taking the necessary time to be in prayer over it?

- Minutes from council meeting held 21 January 2015 received. Motion to accept as presented. 2nd. One minor correction. Carried.

- Matters arising from the council meeting minutes.

A. Council for the last while has been wrestling with the matter of Children at the Lord's Supper. Some very constructive and insightful conversations have already taken place as we seek to honour God in the administration of this sacrament. Our current practice has provision for children to partake providing they are minimally around 10 years of age and could acknowledge to the eldership their love and dependency on Christ as their personal Saviour. In order to take this matter to another level of discussion and discernment a motion at council was brought forth that read as follows: "To remove the age 10 requirement for children to partake of communion". This motion was seconded and discussion proceeded. The motion was carried. Council seeks to involve the congregation as we continue to discern God's leading in this matter. A preliminary plan is to facilitate a congregational conversation at the upcoming spring congregational meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 25 March 2015. In addition, council urges members to use available resources from our denomination and other sources to heighten our understanding of the differing viewpoints surrounding children at communion. One such resource can be found at: <http://www.crcna.org/ministries/initiatives/faith-formationcommittee/frequently-asked-questions> Printed resources are available through the church offices as well.

B. Members of the Youth Ministry Team were present with council to continue the discussion regarding staffing in the area of youth ministry. In the fall of 2013 the membership had approved in principle (with an 8 hour per week allotment) the desire to add a staff position to have oversight over our youth ministries and programs. Council at that time made the commitment to explore further what that might look like and return to the membership with the outcome of those discussions. During the process of filling our pastoral vacancy it became clear that we would be wise to involve our new pastor with the process and to glean whatever insights he may have from previous experience(s). Hence the delay. In the meantime some church membership demographic studies have been done that are shedding light on what is on the horizon for Bethany in terms of the numbers of children moving through our faith nurture programs. Also highlighted were the number of single members up to the age of 30 and the challenge of providing ministry opportunities in these particular age brackets. Bethany has been blessed with many children the last number of years that will present unique and challenging opportunities in the near future. Council, with the assistance of the Youth Elder and the Youth Ministry Team, continue to flesh out what staffing may look like, what qualifications and expectations there would be and what level of commitment the membership needs to make for effective ministry to happen. Council has been in prayer about this important matter and solicits the congregation to do the same. Council, with a view of all our ministries, is hesitant to proceed quickly to next steps without persistently and purposefully bringing this before the Lord in prayer. There is a sense that a time of visioning and discernment in regards to all our ministries is at hand and putting this before the Lord is an integral part of the process.

- Minutes of executive meeting (with staff) held 6 February 2015 received. Motion to accept as presented. 2nd. Carried.

- Matters arising from executive meeting minutes.

1. Council endorses the idea of a member gift survey as part of a future worship service. Pastor Colin, with the assistance of the eldership and others, will prepare accordingly.
2. Council has received a letter of intent from Lindsay Janssen, our children's ministry coordinator. Lindsay has indicated her need to step down from this position as of 31 March 2015 due to other employment opportunities. Council is grateful for the contribution that Lindsay has made in this important area of our ministry. Council also wishes Lindsay God's richest blessings in her future endeavors. In light of our deliberations regarding our youth ministry staffing possibilities, council is seeking an individual to take on some of the tasks of the children's ministry in the interim. If you are aware of a member who is gifted in this area, with good organizational skills, that could assist with this important task, please contact a member of council.

- Finance Team Report - received for information. Motion: "To make a single mortgage paydown as of 31 December 2014 in the amount of \$24,000.00" 2nd. Carried.

- Miscellaneous.

1. Council will soon be considering the upcoming election of new office bearers. Council invites members to submit eligible names for consideration to the clerk no later than Thursday, 12 March 2015. Please submit to Pete Wierenga at clerk@bethancycrc.ca
2. Council wishes to thank John TeBrake for going through our church archives and submitting them to our historical committee in Grand Rapids for their records. In the future many of our records will be held in digital format.

- Adjournment 10:45 pm

- Closing prayer Deacon Louis Dam.

Report of Classis Niagara Retreat/Meeting, February 20-21, 2015

Classis Niagara is a group of 13 Christian Reformed Churches (CRC) located in the Niagara Region. Pastor and elder delegates from these churches gather as a Classis three times per year to deliberate church, ministry, and administrative matters that we hold together in common.

This session of Classis Niagara was a combined retreat/meeting held at the Center of Renewal, Stella, NY, chaired by Rev. John Heidinga, pastor of the Dunnville CRC. We praise God for this time that Classis could spend discerning God's will for our Classis and churches:

Rev. Chris deWinter, chair of the Next Steps Team for Classis visioning, welcomed the delegates and guests. Commissioned Pastor Elly Boersma, along with Covenant's praise team and church planter Allen Kliene Dieters, led in a time of worship/prayer. Rev. Chris deWinter spoke to the purpose of the retreat/meeting by reviewing the background, the current reality, and the values and guiding principles fleshed out in the Next Steps Team's report. Rev. deWinter then introduced Ben Vandezande, the facilitator for the retreat session of Classis.

Upon reviewing the mission statement, principles/values, Ben broke Classis into small groups to reflect upon our experience of these values, after which we came together and shared these experiences together in a large group.

Rev. John Heidinga, declared Classis constituted. A motion was made and approved for Classis to adopt the five "values/guiding principles" in the Next Step Team report of January 2015 to serve as a guide for future work done by and in Classis.

Congregational longings and priorities: After Ben introduced this section, Classis broke out into small groups where delegates shared their church's longings and priorities/growth areas. These longing and priorities/growth areas were then shared with the whole group and recorded. The evening was closed with a time of worship and prayer.

"We" as congregations and "We" as Classis: Ben introduced and explored our common connection together as church and Classis, and then took us through a visioning exercise of exploring initiatives for our shared future work and emerging priorities we can act on together.

Developing a Focused Ministry: In this session we focused on possible outcomes and how Classis can provide energy, support, and accountability for these initiatives along with possible launch strategies.

The following were elected delegates to Synod: 1st minister delegate is Rev. Bob Loerts and second minister delegate is Rev. Chris deWinter. 1st elder delegate is Mr. Dan Baarda and second elder delegate is Ms. Elly Boersma.

Classis approved meeting at the All Ontario Youth Convention at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, for its next meeting on May 15, 2015. This will provide Classis opportunity to engage the boarder youth ministry, hear from those in youth leadership, and aligns with the values and guiding principles "to encourage, equip, and empower churches to engage God's people in mission."

Ad-hoc Committee for the Shalom Chaplaincy Review Report: a motion was made and approved to forward a communication to Classis Hamilton requesting a delay in action regarding a withdrawal of financial support for the Shalom chaplaincy ministry at their Feb. meeting.

Our next regular meeting is planned for May 15, 2015 at Wilfrid Laureir University, Waterloo in conjunction with the All Ontario Youth Convention.

For further information about any of the above, please contact your pastor and/or elder delegate to this meeting of Classis Niagara, or e-mail to statedclerk@classisniagara.ca