

March 20, 2016

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



Bethany Bugle

Special points of interest:

- Syrian Refugee Crisis
- Merge Fundraisers
- School News
- Classis Update
- Other News
- CRC News

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Youth Director

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"The event Generous Spaciousness Conversation, listed below, was approved by Council as a way for us at Bethany to further learn how to be open with one another in a loving way as we seek to encourage each other to live in God's love in Christ and be strengthened and transformed in His likeness for His glory. That is the goal in all we do. The CRC has a major report going to Synod (our denominational gathering) concerning same sex marriage and the church's ministry. However the realities of same sex attraction (let alone marriage) have not been openly discussed in Bethany in any guided way. And often, when we Christians disagree sharply over an issue, our openness with each other often degenerates into a harsh defensiveness that does not honor the Lord in any way. The Generous Spaciousness Conversation (see below) is intended as an opportunity for us to grow and learn in speaking and ministering to one another here and elsewhere in the context of same sex attraction realities people live with. By hosting this event, the Council is not saying they endorse New Directions Ministries Canada (the presenters). Council simply feels this workshop is of benefit to us in our journey together as a congregation. The Council remains committed to the CRC's biblical position on sexuality and marriage. This is not an endeavor to change those positions but an effort to deepen our compassion and ability to listen and to walk alongside each other in any struggle (not just same sex attraction realities) in humility as our Lord calls us to, with hospitality as He demonstrated, with the justice He desires. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any member of Council. May the Lord guide us as His broken Body in this broken world."

New Direction Ministries
warmly invites you to the...




generous spaciousness

C O N V E R S A T I O N

Need a safe space to ask questions like these?



"Why is there so much division over homosexuality in the church?"

"How do I navigate relationships with people that I deeply disagree with?"



Welcome to generous spaciousness...

Generous spaciousness cultivates a posture of dialogue centered around the core values of humility, hospitality, mutuality and justice. Generous spaciousness is a way of being together that helps followers of Christ navigate contentious issues on which we have diverse perspectives.

Questions around the appropriate path of discipleship for sexual minority persons is one such matter that Christians are divided on - and one that invites us to work together to experience a sense of unity in our diversity.



The introduction of generous spaciousness into these conversations helps us to prioritize our love for one another, our commitment to honour one another's consciences, and our concern for a life-giving witness in our contexts.



shalem
Mental Health Network

CONTACT INFORMATION
Phone: 905-528-0353 or
Toll-free 1-866-347-0041
www.shalemnetwork.org
Confidential congregation-
ally supported counselling.

Address Change

Hermien Korten
417 Villa de Rose Retirement Residence,
370 Hellems Ave. Wel-
land

This will take place Monday April 4, at 7:30 pm at the church here. It is hosted by the Discipleship Team on behalf of Council. Any and all are welcome to attend from Bethany and beyond.

Report on Council Meeting – Monday March 14, 2016

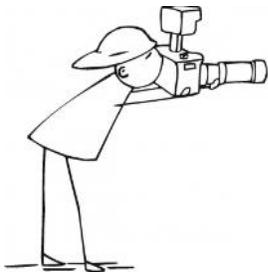
Chairperson George deRoo opened the meeting by reading from Mark 10 and then inviting Council to meditate on our call to serve as Elders and Deacons. We recognize that a life of service is not without struggle however, Scripture assures us that our ultimate reward is eternal life. Council spent some time discussing Bethany's nomination process and is asking members to forward the names of men they believe are gifted in the calling of Elder or Deacon.

Council reviewed and voted in favour of the following recommendation from the Youth Ministry Team:

"We would like to recommend to council that the role of Youth Elder be considered very carefully, and that there would be a separate ballot or slate of names designated to specifically fill the role of Youth Elder. We would like to see potential men who feel lead to fill this role be well aware of what is expected, and accepting the nomination of Youth Elder with a heart that is willing to serve the Youth at Bethany, the Church, and above have a heart to serve the Lord." (Council retains the right to consider currently serving Elders who are gifted and willing to serve as Youth Elder.)

The Minutes of our February 08, 2016 Council Meeting were reviewed and carried. A number of Ministry Team reports were reviewed and Council wishes to thank all those who generously give of their time and talents to advance Christ's Ministry here at Bethany. Council is also grateful to God for all those who continue to make generous financial contributions; because of its many generous contributors, Bethany's financial commitments were met in 2015 and we are able to continue to actively engage in Ministry to support our Mission Statement challenging Bethany to be a "God honouring community witnessing for Christ".

Elder Albert Janssen closed the meeting in prayer.



Picture Directory 2016

Once again Bethany will be creating a Picture Directory profiling all of our ministries and members. We ask for your cooperation and assistance as we once again prepare a directory. The plan is to take family and member pictures outside on the church property beginning the first week in April. Please take the time to work with us so that this process goes as well as possible. Our goal is to have all pictures completed by the end of May. There will be a signup sheet on the table in the fellowship hall for pre-service and post-service picture times.

Additionally, we are creating an opportunity for members and businesses to connect through an advertising spot in the back of the directory. Through this, we can be more aware of all the different businesses that are within our church.

Business card size advertisements will be available for \$50.00 each. If you have any questions about the pictures please connect with Lorraine Wierenga. If you have any questions about the advertising possibilities please connect with Karina Wierenga.

School News

NACE Spring Fundraising Dinner Event: The Niagara Association for Christian Education Board invites you to come out for some **GREAT FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP** with a little **LAUGHTER** on top! Comedian Timmy Boyle will entertain us with his Up Standing Comedy! **Saturday, April 9, 2016** in John Knox Christian School on 795 Highway #8 in Stoney Creek. Doors open @ 6:00 with Dinner @ 6:30. Reserved Seating required, call 905-643-2460 or email jkcs@nace.ca.

Ready, Set, Read Program: Both John Knox Christian School, Stoney Creek and Covenant Christian School, Smithville are now accepting applications for their Ready Set Read program for ages 4 and 5. This program runs the first 4 Tuesdays in April from 8:45 – 11:15 am. If you need another registration form please let either office know (JKCS – jkcs@nace.ca or CCS – ccs@nace.ca).

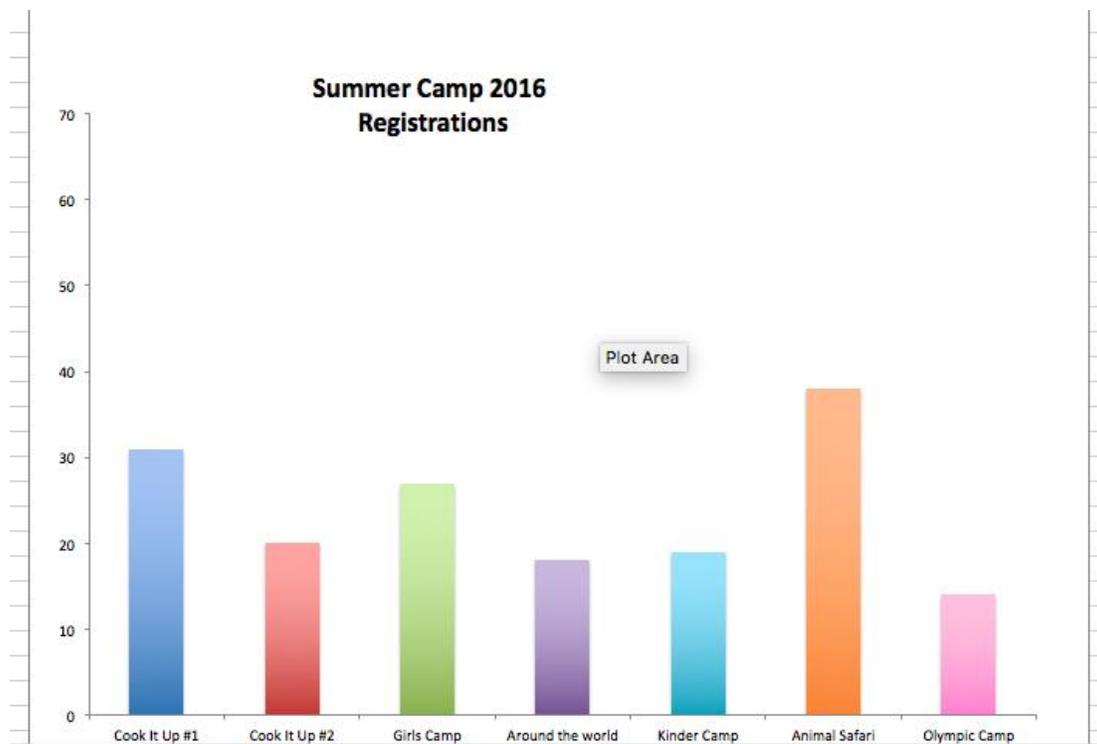
REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Looking to complete an AQ course? Redeemer is offering Special Education Part I and Special Education Part II this spring in a blended on-line and in-class format. For more information or to register, visit www.redeemer.ca/continuing-teacher-education.

This summer, Redeemer is offering two one-week intensive programs for church leaders, teachers and others interested in ministry: "Teaching Scripture and the Christian Faith" (July 4-8, taught by Dr. Syd Hielema), and "Leadership in Ministry," (July 11-15, instructor to be announced). For more information, visit <https://www.redeemer.ca/programs/spring-and-summer-courses/>.

Redeemer is pleased to host its first Music Department Festival Concert on April 1 at 7:30 pm. The concert features the Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Concert Choir, Cantori Vocal Ensemble and individual performances by faculty and senior music students. For tickets, please call the Redeemer Box Office at 905.648.2131 x4211.

Redeemer is accepting applications for a full-time position as Director of Co-operative Education. Visit the Work at Redeemer page at redeemer.ca for more information.



Other News

Coffee Break: This coming Tuesday will be our Easter morning. Things you will need to bring are: some goodies to enjoy, voices for talking and singing, also yourselves of course. Martin and Alice Zwier will be sharing highlights of their Belize trip. An Easter liturgy, special music, and singing and fellowship. So you can see it will be full morning for everyone. We are looking forward to seeing you all here at Grace CRC. We will start at **9:30 am**. See you there. Ladies remember that the following week (29th) is our third annual pancake breakfast at Open Arms. They are looking forward to it already.

ROSE CITY KIDS INVITES YOU!

Rose City Kids Fundraising Banquet: 8 years of changed lives!!!

ROSE CITY KIDS FUNDRAISING BANQUET

When: Saturday April 02, 2016

Where: Riverstone Event Centre (414 River Rd Welland)

When it comes to entertaining and inspiring hundreds of kids on a bi weekly basis, what goes on behind the scenes is almost as exciting as what's on stage! But despite the amazing Saturday Production, Youth, Junior Leadership Training, House visits and the Tutoring Programs – carried out by our 100 volunteers– there are hundreds of children still waiting to be a part of the Rose City Kids experience.

Our annual dinner helps keep those dreams alive!

So mark your calendars! Saturday, **April 02, 2016**. This year, the spotlight shines on our kids and volunteers! Our junior leaders will once again be arriving via limousine! Be sure to meet and greet them!!

Time: Doors open at 5:30 pm

Entertainment: Copper & Iron

Cost: \$50 in advance to reserve your seat

(donations accepted the evening of) **Great Food, Testimonies, Silent Auction, Candy Bar!**

To reserve your seats please contact Barb @ (905 788 9800) or office@rosecitykids.com.

Cash, cheque or credit card accepted. Let's celebrate together and continue to transform Welland, one child at a time!

RADIANT 2016

RADIANT is a conference designed to cultivate, encourage, and boldly call women to live brilliantly for the soul-satisfying sufficiency of Jesus Christ in all areas of their lives. It's easy as Christian women to feel like our shortcomings or failures disqualify us from playing a role in God's redemptive plan. But the Bible tells a different story.

Join us June 10–11 at Harvest Bible Chapel in Oakville for a look at the lives of three Old Testament women whose stories point us to the hope of the gospel. Jen Wilkin, author of *Women in the Word*, joins us this year for a crash course in each woman's story, touching on themes of self-reliance, self-loathing, shame, and more, and how God redeems even our greatest failures and hurts. For more information and to register, visit <http://radiantconference.ca/>



CRC News

DOWN TO THE NERVES - Little Scooter decides that Liz needs a lesson in "Never judge a book by its cover". When Scooter learns that Liz has a dentist visit scheduled, he sets Liz up to learn that lesson from Terrene's newest dentist. Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Find more great resources for kids and parents at kidscorner.net. This month's offer includes an Easter story puppet show craft.

SEEING GOD IN SCIENCE - How do we discuss God's Creation as it is revealed by science? A special series from Think Christian sets a framework for engaging with science from a Biblical standpoint. Subscribe to TC at ThinkChristian.net/Science, and get this new e-book free.

THE PARADOX OF SALVATION - Life is full of natural consequences: Cut your finger? Experience pain and bleeding. Get caught lying or cheating? Experience broken trust. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 53 to discover the paradox of salvation and how the servant disrupts sin's natural consequences to bring us new life. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

2016 FESTIVAL OF FAITH & WRITING - There's still time to register for the 2016 Festival of Faith & Writing: April 14-16, 2016 at Calvin College. Visit festival.calvin.edu for more information and registration, or call 616-526-6770. Featured speakers include Nadia Bolz-Weber, Christian Wiman, Makoto Fujimura, Tobias Wolff, Zadie Smith, and many more!

July 19-21, 2016: Conference on Loving Your Neighbor Today - Jesus tells us to "Love your neighbor as yourself." But what does that mean for us today? Does loving our non-Christian neighbors mean evangelizing them or engaging them in dialogue? How do we love those who are hard to love because they suffer from dementia or trauma? Calvin Seminary invites you to attend a conference that will ask, "What Does 'Love Your Neighbor' Mean Today?" The conference features Dr. Richard Mouw, Professor of Faith and Public Life and President emeritus at Fuller Theological Seminary, as well as many of the newer faculty members at Calvin Seminary. Visit calvinseminary.edu/news for more information and to register.

Home Missions - Next week we will be collecting an offering for Christian Reformed Home Missions. In this coming week, please prayerfully consider supporting Home Missions as they spread the Gospel through funding local missionaries, offering leadership development courses, and supporting new church plants.

Make Cross-Cultural Connections in Mexico! - CRWM missionaries in Mexico City are hosting a trip for young adults from July 9-18. You'll meet college students who the missionaries work with and learn about life and culture in Mexico from their perspective. Visit crwm.org/Mexi-Connection for more information or to apply.

Missionary Retreat Support Volunteer in Turkey - CRWM is in urgent need of two volunteers who will serve the children of our missionaries at the annual missionary retreat from April 12-18. The volunteer will only need to pay for their own airfare, visa, and insurance. All in-country costs are covered by CRWM. For more information or to apply visit crwm.org/Go.

Early Bird Registration for Engage 2016 - Early bird registration for Engage 2016: A Multiethnic Gathering—Building Bridges of Unity in Diversity ends April 15! People from every stripe and walk of life are invited to attend Engage 2016, June 8-10 at Calvin College, to engage in two days of conversations, relationship-building, and worshipping the God who unites us. Engage 2016 will feature worship, workshops, creative interactions and keynote addresses. Please spread the word and register at crcna.org/gatherings.

FIRST NATIONS RECONCILIATION TRIP - The Christian Reformed Church is passionate about working towards reconciliation with our First Nations neighbours and, this summer, is providing an opportunity for CRC young people (18 - 25) to respond to the call of justice while spending the week of July 14 - 21 on the Kithenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) reserve in Northern Ontario. You will be joined by 20 other young people from across Canada who've been invited by the youth of the KI community to live in their homes, experience life as they do and share the hope they have for their future. This amazing experience is part of a new Youth Ambassadors of Reconciliation mentorship and training program launching this Spring! Sound exciting? Want more information? Contact Carol Sybenga csybenga@crcna.org or 800-730-3490

JUSTICE LEADERSHIP TOUR - Are you a young adult passionate about justice issues? Join World Renew and others from across Canada on Parliament Hill from May 1 – 3, to raise awareness about issues around global hunger with government representatives. Applications are due March 21 for this CFGFB sponsored tour. For more details check www.worldrenew.net/justice-leadership-tour or contact ibuisman@worldrenew.net

MEXI-CONNECTION YOUNG ADULT TEAM - Join a team of young adults from the US and Canada to connect with young adults from Mexico this summer. You will live with Mexican young adults and their families, develop relationships with them, and together learn more about the Christian worldview in a global perspective. For more information, visit crwm.org/go or contact volunteer@crcna.org.

JOB OPPORTUNIES ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD BY THE BACK STAIRS

