

March 6, 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

## General Contact Information

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### Youth Director

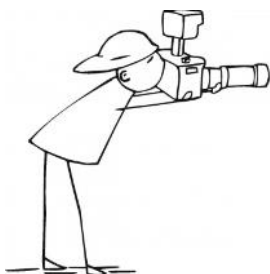
Andrea Veldhuizen  
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**shalem**  
Mental Health Network

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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



## SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS:

### What is the situation?

According to Amnesty International, over half of the population of Syria is currently displaced by the civil war and the aggression of ISIS. Over 220,000 people have been killed in the violence so far. Over 4 million people have been able to get out of the country as refugees entering neighboring countries. Over 12 million are on the run within Syria, trying to keep them and their families alive. The countries nearest the conflict are doing what they can to host this unprecedented flow of refugees. Even Iraq, which has 3 million of its own countryman displaced from their homes, is hosting 250,000 refugees from Syria in an effort to help. They are doing this to save lives.

### What are we as a country doing?

The United Nations goal is to permanently resettle 10% of the refugees in other countries, about 400,000. So far the wealthy countries of Europe and North American have offered resettlement for only 104,000 people. So the global community has a ways to go yet. Canada is second to Germany as we work to resettle 25,000 refugees as permanent new Canadians.

### What can we do?

The Pelham Syrian Refugee Constituent Group (PSRCG) is a town-wide support initiative begun through the churches of Pelham and broadened to include anyone in Pelham (and beyond as some desire) to play a part in the resettlement of a family or families into the greater Niagara region. Our Pelham Mayor has also been in personal support of this initiative. We at Bethany are one of the four formally supporting churches along with Fenwick United Church, Fonthill United Church and Pelham Community Church. Council here has wholeheartedly endorsed this initiative.

*So this is our vehicle at this time to do something to respond to the largest refugee crisis numerically since the horrors of World War II.*

### How far are we in the process?

The Canadian government has put a hold on the Blended Visa Office Referred Initiative (the partner-with-the-government method). They are committing to taking care of those who have already arrived so far under government support alone. So the only way at this time to help a refugee family is by full private sponsorship. The PSRCG leadership has decided to continue moving ahead and pursue a private sponsorship of a family or families (depending on support raised). So far over \$15,000 has been raised through churches, businesses, local schools, community service clubs, and private donations. The word is getting out and more groups are looking into getting involved. Praise the Lord!

### What Can I Do?

#### Collection next week Sunday (March 13)

It's now our turn to add to the financial total as a congregation.

Our second collection next week is for this refugee sponsorship work. **Make cheques out to Bethany CRC and in the memo line or on the giving envelop, put "Deacons: Syrian Refugee Support."** Bethany has about 145 active households in her midst. If each household gave \$50 or more, we would be able to raise over \$7,000. And God has blessed many of us, if not most of us, with greater provision than this. So give in accordance with how you have been blessed (read 2 Corinthians 8!). Of the 4 official supporting churches, we are the largest. So let's demonstrate generosity accordingly and stand together as a part of this town in thankfulness to our Savior giving many others cause to rejoice before the Lord God.

#### Business donations

If you own a business, please consider a business donation to this cause, or perhaps an offer to match employee donations etc. however the Lord might lead you. Contact Wendy Vahrmeyer (905-892-2426) to facilitate that.

#### Get involved personally

Come out tomorrow evening at 7 PM at Fonthill United Church (42 Church Hill, Pelham) to hear more, including, Lord willing, input from recent Syrian arrivals to the Niagara Region. There are other ways to be involved for the very practical and hands-on ways to help newcomers get settled in a new country and town.

#### Pray, pray, pray

Pray for adequate support and a cleared pathway to a family in need that we can then uphold in resettlement here. Pray for our Town of Pelham Council as tomorrow evening they consider a request to endorse, support and facilitate support for this initiative. And pray that we all be the neighbors to each other and all newcomers that Jesus always calls us to be.

*From Pastor Colin, who is coordinator of the Pelham Clergy Fellowship and a Bethany representative to the PSRCG along with Wendy Vahrmeyer, who has been very active in this Group, thank you Wendy!*

## 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 sign-up 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.



# St. Patrick's Pajama Pancake Motion Picture Party!

Thursday, Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>  
Pancake Dinner 5-7 p.m.

Come dressed in your pajamas or your St. Patty's green  
Disney movie "Inside Out" starts at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Adult movie "War Room" starts at 7:15 p.m. in the fireside room, or bring a deck of cards and play with some friends in the fellowship hall.

Free will offering in support of MERGE Serve project.  
Movie Snacks (chocolate bars, chips, other snacks) can be purchased.



## Other News

**Coffee Break:** We will be meeting again this week at Grace CRC for our weekly Coffee Break meeting. We start promptly at 9:30 and coffee, tea and refreshments will be ready for you. We will continue our study of the book of Acts. Gail and Irene will be starting lesson #14.

"Conflict in the Church." In this lesson we will consider the ways of handling conflict with in the Christian community. Read Acts 15: 1-35. Jean and Henny's group will start question #6 of lesson 13, Jane's group will start with question #9 of lesson #12. See you Tuesday morning.

**Rose City Kids Fundraising Banquet**—April 2, 2016, Doors & Silent Auction begins at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6:30pm. Semi-formal, entertainment provided by Copper & Iron. \$50.0 in advance to reserve your sport or invite friends & reserve a table of 8 (\$400). There will also be a free will offering to raise money for Rose City Kids. There will be testimonies, silent auction and candy bar. Location is Riverstone—414 River Road, Welland. RSVP Barb 905-788-9800 or office@rosecitykids.com

### 7th Annual HAMILTON PLACE CONCERT – Mar.26, 2016, DV Hosanna Choir & Mattaniah Christian Male Choir

Tickets are now available for the annual combined concert of the 140 voice Hosanna Choir & 40 voice Mattaniah Christian Male Choir concert which will once again be held, the Lord willing, at Hamilton Place on Saturday, March 26 at 7:30pm. In addition to our regular line-up of musicians of Ryan Vandenberg (Organ), Andre Knevel (Organ), Naomi Van-Manen (Piano), Scott Harrison & Shawn Spicer (trumpets), the concert will also feature Corey Gemmell (Violin), and Jacob Kramer (Baritone from Urk, the Netherlands). Tickets are available at \$17 & \$27. To obtain your tickets, contact a choir member, or contact Wendy den Hollander at 905-628-1211 or email her at hdenhollander@yahoo.com or online at <http://www.hosanna-choir.org/>

**True Woman Conference:** In mid-September there will be a coach bus full of women going to Indianapolis to attend the True Woman Conference on prayer. The theme this year is, "Cry Out". Speakers include Mary Kassian and Nancy Leigh DeMoss. Keith and Kristyn Getty will lead us in worship. The bus is almost full so check with Lorraine about seats. We encourage you to consider joining us at this conference. Perhaps a car or van full would be fun. Driving is about ten hours. Find out more at [www.truewoman16.com](http://www.truewoman16.com) or talk to Wilma, Andrea or Lorraine

### NEW MOVIES IN THE LIBRARY:

#### WAR ROOM:

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. The movie's cast features director Alex Kendrick, Priscilla Shirer, T.C. Stallings, Beth Moore, Michael Jr., and Karen Abercrombie as the unforgettable Miss Clara. Filled with more of the authentic characters loved by millions in previous Kendrick Brothers' films, War Room is a vivid reminder that prayer is a powerful weapon

#### DO YOU BELIEVE:

From the creators of God's Not Dead! When a local pastor is shaken to the core by the visible faith of an elderly street-corner preacher, he's reminded that true belief always requires action. His response ignites a faith-fueled journey that powerfully impacts everybody it touches in ways that only God can orchestrate. Rated PG-13. Dove approved (12+). Closed-captioned. Approx. 120 minutes.

## 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](mailto:jkcs@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](http://www.redeemer.ca/continuing-teacher-education).

This summer, Redeemer is offering two one-week intensive programs for church leaders, teachers and others in 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 Campus Bookstore's Annual Sale** will be held from **Tuesday - Friday, March 8-11**. Stop by to pick up some bargains for your library! Selected books at up to 75% off! We're located in the center of the academic building, right next to the dining halls.

Check out Redeemer at our **March Break Campus Visit Day on March 14**. Have lunch with faculty, get a tour of our campus, sit in on classes, and experience our community. You'll also learn about our academic programs, the application process, and financing your education. If you are able, fully experience our unique townhouse residences by staying overnight in our dorms. Visit [redeemer.ca/visit](http://redeemer.ca/visit) for more information and to register.

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](http://redeemer.ca) for more information.

### Report of Classis Niagara Retreat/Meeting February 26-27, 2016

Classis Niagara is a group of 13 churches that meets together three times a year "to encourage, equip, and empower churches and ministries to engage God's people in mission." This session of Classis was a Retreat/Meeting held at the Centre of Renewal in Stella, New York, and chaired by Rev. Steve deBoer.

- 1. Welcome** to delegates and guests by Rev. Steve deBoer. The theme for the retreat was based on the core value found in Classis Niagara's mission statement "Prayerful Dependence on God." The other values are "Authentic Community", "Disciples making new Disciples", "Leadership Development" and "Covenantal Relationships"
- 2. The Retreat** began on Friday evening and extended through Saturday morning. Rev. Allen Kleine Deters and Ms. Lydia VanHuizen led the participants in worship at various times during the retreat. Rev. Chris deWinter led participants through three different sessions focusing on "The Need for Prayer, John 17," "All My Inmost Being, Psalm 103," and "Prayer and Missional Living, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 3:1-5." In each session, ample time was given for both individual and small group prayer along with lively discussion on the importance of prayer for one's personal life, one's ministry, and the church. Before breakfast on Saturday morning, participants were led in "Praying through the Tabernacle Instruments." Participants were also given a time of solitude to experience God's healing and direction in all the different parts of one's life, ministry, work, family, finances, and any other matters. The retreat ended with Rev. Bob Loerts sharing the work of the implementation team to carry out the recommendations approved by Classis at its last meeting. We thank the Retreat Planning Team, the Worship Team, Rev. Chris deWinter, and Rev. Bob Loerts for their efforts at making this retreat one of spiritual edification and growth.
- 3. Classis Niagara** officially began meeting Saturday after lunch. The credentials were presented and Classis declared constituted. Of particular interest was the update provided by Dr. Roorda on the pilot project for Classis Niagara in the Executive report. Based on a three year initiative, the purpose of the Connections Project is to provide significant regional re-sourcing with three other neighbouring Classes. We look forward to Ms. Lis Van Harten giving an expanded presentation of the Connections Project at the May meeting of Classis.
- 4. The Shalom Chaplaincy Committee** received approval for a joint resolution of Classis Hamilton and Classis Niagara to explore a new model of governance and financial support for the Chaplaincy ministry at Shalom Manor & Gardens.
- 5. The elected minister delegate** to Synod is Rev. Chris deWinter. The alternate delegate is Rev. Fred Vandenberg. Classis is still in need of an elder delegate, a deacon delegate, and either a minister, elder, deacon, or commissioned pastor delegate. Classis Executive was tasked with completing the slate of delegates for Synod. Please pray that God raise up delegates for attending Synod.
- 6. Classis approved** recommendation #1 in the overture of Trinity CRC that affirmed the minority report from the Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance regarding Same-Sex Marriage is more comprehensive in applying the biblical teaching of the CRC on Marriage and Same-Sex activity, but defeated recommendation #2 that asked for a change in Church Order Article 69 that would prohibit ministers from solemnizing civil marriages.
- 7. The protest of Riverside CRC** as per Church Order Article 40 regarding the decision of Classis Niagara on October 27, 2015 to seat non-ordained leaders from emerging churches as voting delegates to Classis was sustained. The previous decision of Classis was overturned and Classis will no longer seat non-ordained leaders as voting delegates to Classis. Classis will continue to seek ways to involve and affirm the leaders of our emerging churches.

- 8. The next Classis meeting** is scheduled for May 18, 2016 in Bethel CRC, Dunnville

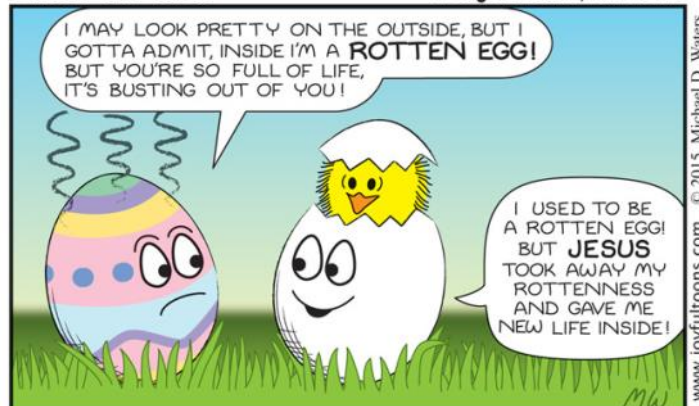


Looking for Knitters and Crocheters to make/donate baby hat, mitts and booties sets. All sets collected will be put in para-

medic kits to be used for babies in transit to the hospital. Due to all the checking that gets done, most of the time an infant is unclothed in the ambulance but there is a need to try and keep their body temperature up. These sets will help do that. Please separate the sets in Ziploc bags. If you have any questions or have a donation please contact Laura Klapwyk 905-892-3036

### EASTER EGGS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- JOHN 20:31 NIV

## CRC News

**A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS** - God remembers his people no matter how far away from him we feel. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 49 to discover what God really wants to give all his covenant people and how, in the light of the servant's mission, we are assured of God's eternal love for us. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**FACING GIANTS** - Liz and Lucille are drawn into a super adventure story with two caped crime fighters. Can the story of a little boy and five stones help everyone to get the job done? Subscribe for free at [getkidscorner.com](http://getkidscorner.com). Find more great resources for kids and parents at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net). This month's offer includes an Easter story puppet show craft.

**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](http://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!

**Live and Learn in Mexico** - Dave and Blanca Gifford, missionaries who serve in Mexico, have a new opportunity for young adults in North America who want to live and learn alongside college students in Mexico this summer—the Mexi-Connection young adult team from July 9-18. Visit [crwm.org/Mexi-Connection](http://crwm.org/Mexi-Connection) for more information or to apply.

**Access to New CRC Digital Library** - Our church is being given access to a digital library of hundreds of Faith Alive products (including Bible studies, curriculum, devotionals, and more) as part of a new pilot program for the CRC. Everyone who attends our church can sign up to get direct access to the library at no cost. Details and signup are at [crcna.org/Library](http://crcna.org/Library)

**PHOTOS** - Do you enjoy taking pictures and have an eye for a great photo? Each Friday, we post a photo with Bible text on the CRCNA Facebook page. We'd love to feature your photos! Landscapes and nature close-ups are especially welcome. We can only use photos that you took, or to which you own the rights, and you need to have the permission of anyone who appears in the photo. Send photos, along with your name and your church name, to [communications@crcna.org](mailto:communications@crcna.org). Thanks!

**Registration Open for Engage 2016: A Multiethnic Gathering** - Registration is now open for Engage 2016: A Multiethnic Gathering. 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 worshiping the God who unites us. Engage 2016 will feature worship, workshops, creative interactions and keynote addresses. Please spread the word and register at [cncna.org/gatherings](http://cncna.org/gatherings).

**InterMission Silent Retreat** - is still available April 1-3, 2016 at Kingfisher Bay, Stony Lake, ON. If you need time to discern; if your inner life has been calling for attention; if you have become distracted from the one thing that matters...Come. Registration (\$325.00 before March 18, \$350.00 after) includes private accommodation, 5 meals, all linens, and individual times with a Spiritual Director to offer the gift of prayerful listening to your faith journey. [www.intermissionsilentretreat.com](http://www.intermissionsilentretreat.com) or Tracey-Ann Van Brenk at [guidepostsministries@gmail.com](mailto:guidepostsministries@gmail.com)

**LIBERTAS MALE CHOIR** - under the direction of Martin Mans and accompanied by Andre Knevel, will present a Spring concert on April 9, 7:30 p.m. at Rehoboth Canadian Reformed Church, 1225 Dundas Street, Burlington, Ont. L7R 3X4. Tickets online at [libertasvoices.com](http://libertasvoices.com), or at the door. Adult \$20, Youth (14 and under) \$10. Children under 10, free. For more information, email [info@libertasvoices.com](mailto:info@libertasvoices.com) or call 905-522-0001.

**Special Needs SERVE July 8 -14, 2016 – OTTAWA, ON - Mentors Needed** - We are seeking youth and young adults who would like to walk alongside a participant who has a special need. Your help is needed to encourage the participants in all areas of their journey. We look forward to some great work sites, worship, and sight seeing! Please contact Ron Hosmar at [youthpastor@calvincrc.ca](mailto:youthpastor@calvincrc.ca) or 613-225-2889 ext. 3 for more information.

**Special Needs SERVE July 9 - 14, 2016 – OTTAWA, ON - A 5-day life-changing spiritual journey for youth aged 14 - 26.** This unique SERVE project is especially for young people with special needs who can not be accommodated on a traditional SERVE program. Participants will spend time serving God through work projects, worship, and prayer. The events of SERVE are tailored to the ability of the individual so that each person can experience the joy that comes from serving God. For information, please contact Joanna Janssen ([jo\\_janssen\\_8@hotmail.com](mailto:jo_janssen_8@hotmail.com)) or Pastor Ron Hosmar ([youthpastor@calvincrc.ca](mailto:youthpastor@calvincrc.ca) or 613-255-7834 ext. #3). [www.ronhosmar.blogspot.ca/2015/07/special-needs-serve-2015-day-1friday.html](http://www.ronhosmar.blogspot.ca/2015/07/special-needs-serve-2015-day-1friday.html) and look in the July 2015 entries.

**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](http://www.worldrenew.net) or [volunteer@crcna.org](mailto:volunteer@crcna.org).

**HIGH ADVENTURE SUMMER CAMP** - Rock climbing, orienteering, rope courses, arts and crafts are some of the activities at this adventure camp high in the Staja mountain region of Romania. Join World Missions as a North American Christian role model and volunteer camp leader, challenging youth in problem solving, facing and conquering fears, team work, compassion and more. More info at [www.crwm.org](http://www.crwm.org) or contact [volunteer@crcna.org](mailto:volunteer@crcna.org).

**Request for Proposals: Sustainable Livelihoods Independent Consultant** - World Renew seeks to engage a technical program specialist to provide consultation to regional teams in designing and planning livelihoods improvement and vulnerability reduction projects as part of our community-based approaches for community transformation. Proposals are due March 14, 2016. Send submissions to Maria Rolim Campos at [mrolimcampos@worldrenew.net](mailto:mrolimcampos@worldrenew.net). For additional information go to <http://worldrenew.net/RFP>

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD BY BACK STAIRS**

