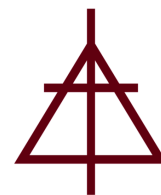




BETHANY BUGLE



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Report of meeting of Classis Niagara, November 12, 2014

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 these churches hold in common.

The latest session of Classis Niagara was held at Fruitland CRC, chaired by Rev. Ryan Braam, pastor of the Grace CRC. We are thankful to God for blessing our **various ministries**:

Rev. Darren Roorda, Director of Canadian Ministries, addressed Classis regarding the importance of working hand in hand with the churches and their ministries. He identified three things essential for leadership in the CRC: the local church, ecumenical work, and collaboration among agencies. He also shared five major streams of the CRCNA Ministry Plan, which deal with (1) congregations connecting with their local contexts providing the message of Christ; (2) the younger generations; (3) an awareness that something is missing with regard to discipleship, spirituality, and being spirit-led; (4) the development of lay and clergy leaders for engaging in challenging and diverse contexts; and (5) congregations will understand and express [the CRCNA's] shared identity in Christ.

Rev. Chris deWinter, chair the Classical Ministry Leadership Team, informed delegates that no new students had requested financial assistance. The team is planning another Seminary Sunday, and encouraged the churches to be involved.

Rev. Rolf Bouman and David Froege, of the Denominational Committee to Provide Guidance re Same-Sex Marriage, spoke to the issue of same-sex marriages that churches are facing and conducted a "listening session" with Classis. The committee will follow a "shepherding" model in preparing its recommendations to Synod 2016, and are holding listening sessions in classes throughout the USA and Canada as part of their process to obtain information.

Classis accepted the motion of the Executive Classical Interim Committee to recommend **Rev. Rich Loerop** as the incoming Stated Clerk to replace John TeBrake.

The Treasurer's report and budget for 2015 was approved. Classical ministry shares for 2015 are budgeted at \$67.83 per member.

Mr. Theo Meester and Mr. Mel Elizinga, the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Review Committee, reported regarding governance, liability, future funding, continuity, and spiritual care of people in long-term facilities. The chaplaincy is a program funded by both Classis Hamilton and Classis Niagara and serves primarily Dutch CRC residents but also people from a range of denominations and backgrounds. The report will go back to the churches for input and further discussion at the May meeting of Classis.

Nominating Committee Report: Classis **APPROVED** the following recommendations:

Ms. Kate Vahrmeyer to Redeemer University College Board of Governors.

Ms Charlene Oudman and Pastor Frank Engelage to Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Committee.

Ms Andrea Veldhuizen to Brock University Chaplaincy Committee,

Rev. Chris deWinter to a second term to the Classical Ministry Leadership Team.

Ms Joyce Koomeet and Ms. Ann Kiers to the Nominating Committee.

Rev. Robert Loerts of Covenant CRC to Executive/Classical Interim Committee.

Our next regular meeting is planned for Feb. 18, 2015 and will be part of the upcoming retreat planned for February.

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

Other News

COFFEE BREAK: Ladies, this Tuesday we will be meeting here at Grace CRC for our weekly Coffee Break Bible study. Jean's group will be studying lesson #9 "Offer Forgiveness" Read John 21, Why is forgiveness difficult to give and receive? The other two groups will be studying Lesson #8. If you are checking your schedules please note there are two weeks for Nov 18, We are ignoring the second one and the ladies for kitchen are, Su D., Tina V.T., and Alice S. Snacks: Irene D., Coby B., and Coreen S., Devotion: Tily S. See you Tuesday morning Coffee will be ready.

Ladies: Please remember the gift wrapping morning Dec 2 for Rose City Kids. More details for that will follow.

Many hands will be needed and it is always a great morning for everyone who comes out.

COME AND ENJOY A CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT --- Crescendo, Men of Note and Men of Praise are performing together and hosting a Christmas Concert at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church 735 Frontenac Crescent, Woodstock on December 6, 2014 at 7:30 pm. Come and enjoy an evening of Christmas music with us. There will be a free will offering to support the work of The Lighthouse. For more information contact Rob Datema at 416-535-6262 or rob@lighthousecentre.ca.

A Christmas favorite, The Messiah by G.F. Handel, will be presented on Sat. Dec. 13 by musicians and ensemble of ARCADY (arcady.ca) under the direction of Ronald Beckett at the Ancaster Christian Reformed Church, 70 Garner Rd East in Ancaster. Concert time is 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 (plus service fee) and can be ordered now by calling 1-877-700-3130 or online at www.ticketwindow.ca. Tickets are also available in person at the Redeemer University College Box Office. For more info call John/Anne VanderLaan at 905-648-3170.

To the King Male Chorus, directed by Mendelt Hoekstra and accompanied by pianist Julie Hoff presents, "A Christmas Celebration" with special guests, Smithville Christian High School Choir, directed by Dawne Warkentin. Join us in old world acoustics for either of two intimate concerts on Friday, December 12 or Saturday, December 13 at St. Thomas' Church, 99 Ontario Street, St. Catharines. The concert begins at 7:30pm. \$15/person (13 years and older). Children 12 years old and under are free (tickets must be presented for children). Seating is limited, so these tickets will be only available online or in advance from a choir member. Visit www.totheking.ca for more details or email tickets@totheking.ca.

Christmas Concert with the 120 voices of the Hosanna Choir, a 30 voice girls choir as well as Musical presentations by students of Calvin Christian School in Hamilton will take place this year at Ancaster CRC, 70 Garner Rd E. in Ancaster on Monday December 1 at 7:45pm. Admission is Free! A freewill offering will take place for the CCS - Music Program. A great evening to bring your friends and neighbours. For info call John at 905-648-3170

Advent and Christmas Concert.

You are invited to attend the annual Advent and Christmas concert at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 323 Simcoe Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday, November 29, at 7:30 p.m. Participating choirs are the St. Andrew's Church Choir, the Cantata Singers under the direction of Dr. Gerzinus E. Hoekstra and the To the King Male Chorus under the direction of Mendelt D. Hoekstra. The evening includes Advent and Christmas anthems, spirituals as well as congregational carol singing, accompanied by organ and brass ensemble. A meaningful beginning to the Advent and Christmas season. There is a free-will offering and refreshments will be served after the concert.

You are invited to be part of "All These Things Are Christmas" a musical performance by The Robert Wood Singers & The Wood Kids under the direction of Andrew Carruthers. The choir will present seasonal & sacred Christmas music at two events. Friday, Dec 5th at Grantham United Church in

St. Catharines starting 7:30 PM and Sunday, Dec 7th at Central United Church in Welland starting 2:30 PM. Tickets available from Frank Dam or Andy Van Driel and at the door. Tickets are \$15 for Adults & \$ 8 for Children 12 & under. Please visit the website for details at www.robertwoodsingers.com

Join us for 'The Many Moods of Christmas'. Performances by Redeemer University College's Concert Choir, student and community orchestral ensemble with a number of guest musicians. Congregational singing of some Christmas favourites and a homily by Pastor Sid Couperus. Join us at Mountainview CRC, 290 Main St. E., Grimsby on Sunday November 30th at 7:00 p.m. A freewill offering will be received for RUC.

Annual Christmas Concert: On Saturday, December 13th, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., Mountainview Christian Reformed Church, 290 Main Street East, Grimsby, ON will be hosting a Concert that will feature the Hosanna Choir with Herman DenHollander directing, Organist André Knevel, Soloist Suzanna Schaafsma, Organist Ryan VanderBerg, and Pianist Joyce Postmus. Tickets for this concert are \$10.00 each or \$25.00 per family and will be available at the Dutch Store and at the door on the evening of the concert. This concert will benefit the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital.

Shalom Manor & Gardens – November Sale – Saturday, November 29th This Saturday, November 29th, you are invited to join us for our Annual November Sale! From 10:00am-2:00pm, you are invited to Shalom Manor & Gardens (12 Bartlett Avenue in Grimsby) to take in some old and new attractants at the Sale. Our Sale was such a success last year that we are doing it again! Come on out to purchase some croquettes, plants and flowers, farm-fresh items and more. While you're here, be sure to take part in our lucky draw, vendor marketplace, boerenkool lunch, pictures with Sinterklaas and our Honour Tree. Mark it on your calendar – a day for both traditional and new enjoyment! (Please be advised that additional parking at Mountainview CRC with shuttle bus service will be provided.)

UPDATE FROM ELISE WIERENGA

Please see the bulletin board at the top of the back stairs for an update on Elise Wierenga and her ministry in Utila, Honduras.

School News

Smithville Christian High School's \$1.4 million In Motion Campaign may have reached its goal, but many people have not yet had an opportunity to be part of this remarkable outpouring of generosity and support. Dozens of volunteers will be taking to the phones this week in a final push to reach every member of our support community. A flyer was recently placed in your mailbox, or more information about the campaign and its goals can be found on the campaign website at www.smithvillechristian.ca. Please prayerfully consider joining this remarkable community event by taking our call on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, or getting in touch with us at tharris@smithvillechristian.ca. We thank God for the amazing support we have received so far and we look forward to getting in touch with you.

Redeemer University College

Redeemer University College invites you to attend and support their Annual Fair Trade Festival. Ten Thousand Villages will be on campus selling amazing and beautiful products from around the world. A portion of this sale will go towards funding mission trips. December 3 and 4 in the Executive Dining Room.

Join Redeemer for The Many Moods of Christmas, a concert celebrating the season. There will be performances by Redeemer's Concert Choir and by Sinfonia, Redeemer's student and community orchestral ensemble. Joining the choir will be a number of guest musicians. Join us on Friday, December 5 at 7:30 pm. To order tickets, visit TicketWindow.ca or call the Redeemer Box Office at 905.648.2139 x4211.

Redeemer's Campus Visit Day Program is an ideal way to get to know Redeemer and all that it has to offer students—and their parents!—as they prepare for university. There is an overnight option for all of our Visit Days, and many have a focus on a particular program or discipline. Visit myredeemer.ca/visit for more information. Want to come but can't make those dates? Contact us for information on other days, or to set up a personalized visit.



CADET BOWLING

Cadets and parents are invited for a night of bowling on Thursday Dec. 4th at the Kingsway Bowling in Welland starting at 7:15 pm. The cost per game will be \$4.25 inc. the shoes. Please meet at church by 6:45 for rides to Welland.

CROQUETTES AND STROOPWAFELS

Once again in time for Christmas our Cadet Club is selling Croquettes and Stroopwafels. Please look for order forms in your mail slots soon. Thank you for your support.

CRC Job Opportunities

POSITION OPENING - Independent Contract Opportunity - IRM Evaluation: World Renew seeks to engage an independent consultant who will evaluate World Renew's International Relief Manager (IRM) Program. The evaluation will assess the IRM Program in its current state, as well as assess where changes or enhancements need to be made. Please submit a letter of interest that includes the stipulations outlined in the Consultancy Requirements at www.worldrenew.net/careers, your current CV/resume, as well as a fee structure outlining your costs on or before Dec. 1, 2014 to World Renew attention: sshaheen@worldrenew.net.

POSITION OPENING - Independent Contract Opportunity – Haiti Evaluation: World Renew seeks to engage an independent consultant who will evaluate World Renew's housing program in Léogâne, Haiti, in response to the January 2010 earthquake. Please submit a letter of interest that includes the stipulations outlined in the Consultancy Requirements at www.worldrenew.net/careers, your current CV/resume, as well as a fee structure outlining your costs on or before Dec. 1, to World Renew attention: sshaheen@worldrenew.net.

POSITION OPENING - The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) has a position opening for an Interim Editor in Chief of The Banner. This position is part-time and anticipated to be a 1 year appointment, summer of 2015 - summer 2016. For additional information or to indicate your interest in being considered for this position please send an email to Rev. Joel Boot at dma@crcna.org by December 1, 2014.



CRC Denomination

GROUNDWORK - The Ten Commandments: We think polytheism is a problem only for those in the Bible or in pagan cultures. But as people define God according to their own taste, we are becoming a society with millions of gods. Our need is identical to Israel's at Sinai. We need to hear who God is and what he demands. Join the Groundwork conversation each week: subscribe for free weekly emails at ListenToGroundwork.com or visit GroundworkOnline.com to find a local radio station or listen now.

KIDS CORNER - The Wedding Gift: Join the KC gang as Liz and Lucille face problem after problem helping Olivia and Roger get married! Liz the wedding planner? Lucille a bridesmaid? Can Liz get the gang working together in time to give the couple a special wedding gift? 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.

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.

FREE WEBINAR - Join us Dec. 3 for "Everybody Serves: The Picture Needs Each Piece" presented by Mark Stephenson and Shellie Power. Too often people with disabilities are viewed only as needing but not giving to others around them. This webinar will teach ways to recognize that every individual, including persons with disabilities, has been created with gifts that are needed by the body of Christ.

FREE ADVENT DEVOTIONS - This Advent season, consider using "Seeking God's Face" to come together in prayer as a church family. A free Advent sampler PDF is available for download and can be posted on your church's website or included as a link in your church bulletin, e-newsletter, or social media. Visit www.FaithAliveResources.org/SGF to download the sampler.

TOUR THE BIBLICAL LANDS OF ISRAEL - March 8-19, 2015. 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 much 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, (780 980-1133) or e-mail: peter.tuininga@gmail.com.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL AND CALENDAR - Starting Nov. 30, World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice will share a devotional series called Reconciliation: Breaking Through, and an Advent calendar with daily ideas for prayer, meditation, and giving for the whole family. Slow down and orient your spirit to the season—discover God's reconciling work in us, through us, and around us. Signing up is easy! Go to crcna.org/adventdevos to receive these daily emails in your inbox for Advent.

WORLD MISSIONS - Service Opportunity in Mexico: God is at work in Mexico and you have the opportunity to take part in that work while serving alongside missionaries in the Yucatan. From March 4-15, 2015 you would disciple children and youth through Vacation Bible School, encourage young and woman through Bible study, and see how God is working through the local church. Go to crwm.org/serve to read more and apply.

WORLD MISSIONS - Teach English in Kyrgyzstan: Students in Kyrgyzstan would love to learn how to speak English and you can help them do so. Make a difference in the lives of international students while living abroad for one year. For further details visit crwm.org/serve.

HEALTH IN AFRICA - Are you interested in HIV/AIDS care and prevention? Do you have some knowledge in health programming? Do you enjoy learning a new language and already speak some French? Come alongside WORLD RENEW staff for 18 months in Senegal and see your BA degree come alive with hands-on experience as you bless others in your role as a volunteer 'health educator'. Details on this substantially funded position can be found at www.worldrenew.net or contact volunteer@crcna.org.

ROMANIA ADVENTURE CAMP - Connect with Romanian youth this summer as they learn what it means to serve as a Christian role model and learn skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, social entrepreneurship and values like compassion, perseverance and leadership. All this in the Staja mountain region near Lupeni, Romania! If you're a young adult (20yrs or older) and interested in further information see www.crwm.org or contact volunteer@crcna.org.

Bethany Christian Reformed Church

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.bethanycrc.ca

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