



BETHANY BUGLE



NOVEMBER 24, 2013 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 47

Council Bugle Report

Bethany Christian Reformed Church

Meeting: Monday, 18 November 2013

Attendees:

Elders: Rudy Boverhof, Kevin DeBoer, Kevin Twomey, Mark Vahrmeyer, Tim VanHoffen, Ray VanHuizen, Pete Wierenga

Deacons: Nate Anjema, Peter Bulk, Louis Dam, George Gritter, Staff Liaison: Ed Roorda

Search Team: Jessica Dryer, Harry Hielema, Sarah Janssens, Cor VanSoelen, Anita Wierenga

Absent with Notice: Rob Bouwers, Alfred Kiers, Jerry Kiers, Ken Langendoen

- Chairman Tim VanHoffen opened with welcome and greetings. Scripture reading from 2 Corinthians 4. A discussion and devotional time included a reflection on Pastor Colin's sermon - God's design for church and community that glorifies himself. The inclusion of broken, flawed people, placed purposefully within the body of Christ to reveal God's glory. Time spent in prayers of praises, intercession and thanksgiving.

- Council and members of the search team engaged in a time of sharing and analyzing the time spent with Pastor Colin VanderPloeg and his wife Anita to determine possible next steps. The weekend proved quite beneficial as a means of getting to know Pastor Colin and his wife. The conversation with full council on Saturday afternoon, the town hall meeting with members and the worship service Sunday, allowed for extensive opportunity to explore the important things relating to their ministry and the ministries taking place at Bethany. Motion: "That we present Pastor Colin VanderPloeg to the congregation for a call" 2nd. Discussion. Many positive comments from members of the congregation and a general feeling that God is placing his hand of blessing on this connection between Pastor and congregation. A number of challenging questions were presented to Pastor Colin that allowed for an honest glimpse into his heart on things that matter to Bethany. Through our dialogue it became quite clear that there are many areas where we share important common ground. Included in our time together was opportunity to wonder about what God has in store for the future of Bethany and the ministries that we are a part of. Motion carried. Council senses God's leading in the process to date and particularly Pastor Colin as a strong choice to provide the servant leadership that is needed. Council has determined that voting will take place on Sunday, 24 November 2013. Each elder will call their district members to inform them of the planned voting and answer any inquiries they may have. The search team was thanked for their work to date. Council spent time in prayer for God's blessing on Pastor Colin, his wife and family, and the members of Bethany as we seek God's will in this.

- The search team was thanked once again for their work. A few of the members will be part of Sunday's ballot counting team along with some elders.

- Chairman Tim dismissed the search team members and the council meeting continued.

- Minutes from Council meeting held 16 October 2013 received. Motion to accept as presented. 2nd. Carried.

- Matters arising from the minutes. Discussed format, agenda and presentation of the 2014 Ministry Plan for the upcoming congregational meeting to be held Tuesday, 26 November 2013 @ 8:00 pm. Included in the new plan is one additional staff position (Youth Ministry Coordinator) at 8 hours per week. Council welcomes inquiries and discussion on this item and will be prepared to explain the rationale for this additional position and some of the expectations. There are a number of key areas that bolster the need to make critical investment in the area of youth ministry. Reference to the Hemorrhaging Faith study has reinforced the need to take a proactive approach to youth ministry and make the necessary investment to youth programs for the sake of our youth and young adults. Finding ways to make seamless transitions for our children from GEMS, Cadets, to MERGE and Konnect 20 would be one of the goals of the Youth Ministry Coordinator. In addition council weighed in the sentiments of Pastor Peter Hogeterp who wrote the following in his analysis within the Final Transition Report (Section E, #3); "There is considerable concern for our young people. Without a Youth Advisory Team or any other group especially charged with including our youth into the fabric of the church, we are losing them. This includes our college age young adults. A strategy needs to be developed that ensures incorporating the needs and the gifts of that segment of the church membership."

- Council Executive Report - no report.

- Deacons Report - no report.

- Finance Team Report - Financial reports for 31 October 2013 were reviewed. A concern raised that if we had been compensating a pastor this past year we would be in a slight operating deficit at this time. Council is thankful for faithful giving and for effective ministry that glorifies God as a result.

- Fellowship Team Report - no report.

- Buildings and Grounds Team report received for information. The team has asked for council to provide input on best way to enhance visibility, safety and signage in front of the church property. Motion: "To remove as necessary the trees closest to the road in front of the church property". 2nd. Discussion. Although our tendency to preserve all and any trees is a general feeling, the trees in question are hindering the church's visibility from the road which is problematic especially for visitors. Added to that is the fact that our current signage is ineffective and should be part of the rework. Landscape enhancements including new tree planting is an ongoing part of the property maintenance and at times larger steps need to be taken. Motion called. Carried.

- Safe Church Team Report received for information. Follow up on completed police clearance checks continue to be cumbersome. The safe church team has been asked to provide the names of individuals who are required to have current police clearances in place and have not completed them yet. The elders will enter into discussion with these individuals as our commitment to the culture of a safe church, especially as it relates to children and others who may be vulnerable. Council reiterates that a safe church is everyone's responsibility and is accomplished in many ways including education, awareness, policy, procedures and due diligence including police clearances. An emergency action plan will be developed to provide guidance in the event of an emergency. The preparation of this plan is to be the responsibility of stakeholders such as Ushers, Children's Ministry Coordinator and the Buildings and Grounds Team.

- Bethany Summer Day Camp Report received for information. Many blessings were highlighted following the completion of another successful day camp. Plans for 2014 that include key staffing as well as student hires is currently in the works. Council would like to especially thank Lindsay Janssens for the leadership that she has provided for this important ministry outreach.

- Correspondence Report received for information with appropriate action with incoming and outgoing correspondence.

- Membership. Templeman, Brian, Melanie and Matthew. Received a statement of membership from First CRC, Thunder Bay, Ontario. Council welcomes the Templeman's into our membership. This family is assigned to district #3. Elder Kevin Twomey and Deacon Peter Bulk.

- Transition Process Followup. #3 Mutual Care - Council studied and discussed this portion of the final report with possible steps of action.

- Miscellaneous.

1. Concern was raised regarding children in the sanctuary following the morning service. Many times the children lack parental supervision and are potentially handling expensive musical instruments and sound equipment. Council has determined that the best way to avoid costly, unnecessary repairs and replacement of instruments and equipment is to disallow the children in the sanctuary following the service. The ushers and/or caretakers will close the glass doors following the service. Council is also mindful that often the sanctuary is a place for members to go to for quiet conversation and council continues to encourage these opportunities.

2. The hearing aid system that we currently use has some issues and is frustrating for those who utilize it. A new system with improved technology is part of the 2014 ministry plan. In the mean time, the tech team will look at ways of making our current system function better.

3. The recent Teen Challenge service was discussed. Council received many positive comments and thanks for taking the initiative to have them lead one of our services. The power of the gospel to change lives is what our identity should be about. These young men and their families gave us an amazing glimpse of grace poured out and their stories were a testimony of praise to God.

4. Council discussed ways to improve how members are using their gifts and abilities as an act of worship within Bethany's ministries. A gift survey was floated as a meaningful way for the elders to identify potential areas of service with the members of Bethany. This will be looked at in the future.

5. Council discussed re-establishing an Outreach Ministry Team as a way of seeking out opportunities for the members and empowering us all to be a "God honouring community witnessing for Christ". More work will be done in this area in the upcoming meetings.

- Adjournment 9:55

- Closing prayer: Deacon Nate Anjema

BRA DRIVE

I am collecting used bras. They will be sent overseas to assist girls who have been rescued from the sex trade, girls as young as 8-10 yrs. Apparently used clothing is a big commodity, and the girls can sell them to make a living as they go to school. So check the back of your drawers for used bras and drop them off in the box in the fellowship hall before Nov 30. For additional info : freethegirls.org thanks, Joyce De Roo.

School News

NACE

M&M MEAT SHOPS: It's that time of year again ... 2013 School Shop Days are back! On Wednesday,

December 4, 2013, they are having their annual "School Shop Day." This event will run from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. 10% of the NACE school supporters purchases of products made that day will be donated back to NACE. New for 2013, they are also offering some great one day specials for school supporters. All you need to do is come in on Wednesday, December 4, between the hours of 9am - 8pm and identify yourself as a NACE (John Knox or Covenant) school supporter. Watch for flyer coming home with today's Journey. Share it with your friends and relatives. Grimsby or Niagara M&M Stores only.

NACE Fall Drive

Thanks Be To God!

We have received many responses to the Niagara Association for Christian Education (NACE) Fall Drive letters. We are so grateful to God *and to you* for your willingness to support friends, neighbours and fellow Christians who desire a Christian education for the children God has entrusted to them! Last week many of you received a phone call reminder about our Fall Drive. Next week we will have our second round of calls for any people we missed last week, or those who haven't yet had the chance to indicate if they are able to support our drive. Response cards can be mailed directly to NACE or left in Ryan and Andrea Veldhuizen's mailslot.

Coffee Break: This will be the last session this year for study. Gail and Jean's group will be study Women of the new Testament the lesson is on Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist. Jane's group will finish studying the last lesson in Romans. Join us at 9:30 sharp. As usual there will refreshments. See all you ladies on Tuesday morning here at Grace CRC. SNACKS: Theresa T.

On Dec 3 we will be meeting at the church at 9:00 gift wrapping morning to go to our annual gift wrapping session for Rose City Kids. This year we will wrapping gifts at 935 Farr Road (between Canboro and Foss Roads . closer to Foss). Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided. Please take along tape dispensers, and scissors if you have any. The little one are welcome to come along. This morning is a lot of work but also lots of good times and laughter. See you there.

DEC 10 will be the last meeting for this year. We will be having a Christmas social morning. More details will follow. :)

Shalom Manor & Gardens – November Sale – Saturday, November 30th

On Saturday, November 30th, you are invited to join us for our new and improved November Sale! From 10:00am-2:00pm (please note change in time), you are invited to Shalom (12 Bartlett Avenue in Grimsby) to take in some old and new attractants at the Sale. While we will have the old favourites such as croquettes, plant and flower sale, lucky draw, farm-fresh food items, cake and coffee and a huge vendor marketplace, we

will also be offering new items such as a boerenkool lunch, pictures with Sinterklaas and an 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.)

St. Catharines Right to Life Benefit Concert : Featuring the Mantini Sisters and The Torchmen, Friday, November 29, at 7:30 p.m., Glenridge Bible Church, 310 Scott Street, St. Catharines. All are welcome. Refreshments afterward. A freewill offering will be taken for St. Catharines Right to Life. For more information, visit chooselife.ca, or call the office at 905-684-7505, email: info@chooselife.ca.

The Robert Wood Singers under the direction of Andrew Carruthers are artistically presenting "The Child at Christmas" with just one concert on Sunday, December 8 at 2:30 PM at the Welland Centennial School on Thorold Rd. It promises to be variety of sacred music and a concert for the whole family. The Wood Kids are participating in a memorable concert of music. See the poster in the Fellowship Hall or visit www.robertwoodsingers.com for details. The ticket price is \$ 15 for adults and \$ 8 for children 12 & under. Contact Andy Van Driel (289) 820-6836 or Frank Dam (905) 892-2140 for tickets.

Friendship
MINISTRIES

Friendship
Service

Everyone welcome! Bring a friend and join us on Sunday, December 1 to celebrate with our Friendship friends this Advent season. There will be singing, Christmas songs, a bible story for children to hear, learn about what Friendship has been learning and enjoy hot chocolate and goodies immediately following the 4:30 pm service. See you all there!

Please be advised that there will be nursery provided during the Friendship Service on December 1 @ 4:30.

If you are interested in helping out please talk to Lindsay Janssen.

"A God-glorifying, festive tradition, Arcady's acclaimed Baroque performance of Handel's Messiah is scheduled for 7:30 PM, Saturday, December 7 at the Vineland Free Reformed Church. Proceeds from this year's concert will support Gospel and development efforts in Guatemala. Tickets are \$25 each and family and student rates are available. For tickets or information, please call Michael or Victoria Zwiép at 905-892-9160 or email mzwiép@edudeo.com."

To the King Male Chorus, directed by Mendelt Hoekstra and accompanied by pianist Julie Thompson present, A Christmas Celebration on December 13, 2013, at Central Community Church, St. Catharines. The concert begins at 7:30pm. Children 12 & under are free. \$15/person (13 years and older). Visit www.totheking.ca for more details or email info@totheking.ca.

"Niagara Christian Community of Schools presents "Peace on Earth", a costumed retelling of the nativity story that will remind you of why Jesus is still relevant in today's culture. Interspersed in the drama are some of your favourite Christmas songs presented by our 40 voice choir. This presentation is free and held on Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Riverside Community Church on the NCC campus. Free will offering will be taken to support Salvation Army Fort Erie and the NCC Arts Program".



CRC Denomination

CALVIN SYMPOSIUM ON WORSHIP - Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. This year's theme is based on the book of Exodus. There are excellent rates for students and groups from churches. All worship services are free and open to the public. See worship.calvin.edu/symposium/ for complete information. Over the years, an overwhelming number of comments of appreciation from Worship Symposium attendees have been for the warm hospitality at Calvin. We are grateful for many volunteers who help us with this. If you would be interested in volunteering, please email worshipsymposium@calvin.edu or phone 616-526-6088.

GROUNDWORK - The Unchained Gospel: How do we react when circumstances in our life seem to spin out of control? How did Paul handle difficult circumstances? This week's Groundwork looks at the last few chapters of Acts and helps us understand the providence of God. Join the conversation; find a local radio station or listen anytime at www.GroundworkOnline.com.

KIDS CORNER - Debt Valley: Liz is in huge trouble! He borrowed money from Skink and can't pay him back. Help Liz figure out what to do on this week's Kids Corner. Listen at www.kidscorner.net, and then contact Kids Corner at P.O. Box 5070, Burlington ON L7R3Y8 or email kids@kidscorner.net for your very own Bible study.

TIMOTHY LEADERSHIP TRAINING - will be held in Houston Texas Jan. 20-24, 2014. If you are passionate about outbound mission settings and are linguistically, physically, and culturally adaptable, consider this opportunity. Become a Master Trainer and travel to outbound locations to train indigenous pastors and lay leaders who

are unable to attend formal seminaries. Learn more about Timothy Leadership Training Institute's worldwide mission and register online www.tlti.org or call the home office in Grand Rapids Mich. 616-957-6094.

FACULTY OPENINGS - Calvin Theological Seminary has two faculty openings: one in Pastoral Care (to begin July 1, 2014) and one in the History of Christianity (to begin July 1, 2015). Calvin Seminary wants faculty members who engage students, the church, and the wider culture through teaching, mentoring, preaching, and scholarship. Women and members of ethnic minority groups are especially encouraged to apply. Faculty members must be committed to the confessions and mission of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. For more information, to nominate someone, or to apply, please visit www.calvinseminary.edu/jobopenings. Applications will be reviewed beginning Dec. 1.

FREE WEBINAR - Join us on Dec. 4 for "Today's Lepers in Your Church." How should the church respond to those with a criminal sexual history? Churches must maintain a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment; and churches are called to exemplify God's grace. This webinar explores how churches can navigate between these truths so that the church becomes a safe and healing community. For details and registration for this free, one-hour event visit crcna.org/webinars

THREE CHOIRS HOSTING A BENEFIT CONCERT - Crescendo, Men of Note and Men of Praise are performing together a Christmas Concert at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church 735 Frontenac Crescent, Woodstock on Dec. 7, at 7:30 pm. Come and enjoy an evening of Christmas music with us. There will be a free will offering for The Lighthouse. For more information contact Rob D a t e m a at 416-535-6262 or rob@lighthousecentre.ca.

ISRAEL AND JORDAN TOUR - Last Notice! March 13-24, 2014. Visit the places you've heard about in church since you were little: the familiar sites in Galilee and Jerusalem, and the unfamiliar; Petra, Nebo, and Caesarea Maritima. And, we will visit Qumran and Masada. The hotels are excellent; the bus modern and reliable; the guide and driver experienced and secure. The fellowship will be great. Take advantage of a, relatively stable political climate! Pastor John Veenstra, formerly interim pastor at Ancaster, will do Biblical back-

ground teaching. The tour is limited to 44 participants- the deadline to register Dec. 1. Arrangements through Verstraete Travel. Amsterdam can be added on! Call Pastor John at 807 473-0726 or email him for more info. at cnortenwheeler41@gmail.com

PROGRAM ADVISOR, LAOS - World Renew, an agency of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), has a full time opening for a Program Advisor in Laos. The position will work with the team in Laos and focus on building the capacity of village development committees and support remote and vulnerable communities to advance health, education and agriculture objectives set by villagers. Visit www.worldrenew.net for more information or to complete an online application including resume, a cover letter and a completed application form. Visit www.worldrenew.net/laos for more information. Application deadline is Dec. 4.

WORLD RENEW - God's Church Responding in the Philippines: World Renew is partnering with the Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines (CRCP) to respond to Typhoon Haiyan that killed 4,460 people and damaged more than 1 million homes. All six regional Classes of the CRCP are involved in the response. Those in unaffected regions are raising money, purchasing goods, and preparing them for shipment. Those in affected areas are assessing the situation and identifying those most in need. World Renew is providing funding and oversight. Please join us in being God's hands and feet in this time of tragedy. Together, we can distribute food, water, water filters, tarps, tents and hygiene kits to 20,000 people. We will also stay for the long-term to rebuild homes and livelihoods. Your prayers and financial gifts are vital. Donate online at worldrenew.net/haiyan, call 1-800-730-3490, or send a cheque to World Renew, 3475 Mainway, STN LCD 1, Burlington, ON, L7R 3Y8. Gifts received BEFORE DECEMBER 9 will be matched by the Canadian Government's Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund. Please donate today!

IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT - that you were on a team to bring specialized medical treatments to a poor African community, but the place where you could stay was run down and in need of repair. That is the current situation at the Nkhoma Mission Hospital in Malawi and so World Renew is working with the local community to change that - providing a safe place for staff as they treat those in need. Do you have some construction skills that you're willing to use in these efforts? If so, we would love to hear from you at volunteer@crcna.org

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME UNTO ME! - Yes, that's what Jesus would love for every child - but not all children in this world have an opportunity to know the depth of what that means in their lives. This coming summer Christian Reformed World Missions is providing a 3 week VBS type program in Asia and hoping those with a heart for children and sharing the gospel will join them in that mission. What are YOU doing next summer? For further information please contact volunteer@crcna.org

Bethany Christian Reformed Church

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.bethanycrc.ca