



You may remember a number of months ago when a movie was being filmed at the Church? The film is called **A Dash of Love** and you can watch this full length hallmark film at <https://youtu.be/337nZwVijlc>

Here's what it's about:

When an aspiring chef lands a dream job at her idol's restaurant, she befriends the handsome executive chef. After they are wrongly fired, the duo open their own eatery to prove their food is better.

See if you can recognize our church?



The Outreach Ministry Team met this past week. Here are some of the things they are discussing:

Gateway has completed **Alpha** and we asked ourselves "Where do we go from here?" We had discussions about what worked and what didn't for Alpha. Here are a few of our thoughts:

- Needs to be better organized with a schedule from the start
- The Sanctuary/ Lobby was too big would prefer to use the upstairs kitchen in the future
- Talk with the prayer team to pray for specific people/things at Alpha

Do we continue to do Alpha? In order to continue with Alpha OMT believes that they need 2-3 people who have a heart for the Alpha ministry to take this on.

Homeless Shelter- Heather Postma joined the OMT for the first part of the meeting to share about her meeting with the city and other homeless advocacy groups to learn and see if there's a need Gateway is able to fill with the homeless of Abbotsford.

The City of Abbotsford has extended an invitation to host a **Coffeehouse Discussion** for our church to discuss the homeless situation in Abbotsford and where we could fit in to help. We will be looking to set something up with the City of Abbotsford in April or May where we will discuss possible opportunities for Gateway to help with the homeless.

OMT also discussed the **Extreme Weather Shelter** and what that could look like next year. We started to talk about whether Gateway could run the shelter on our own without 5 and 2 ministries. We want to wait and see if there are people at Gateway who would be passionate about getting involved with the shelter before considering what it would take for us to run it.

OMT discussed different **outreach/in-reach opportunities** for the next 6 months:

- Rick Abma will be coming from Lacombe, AB to talk about rethinking Missional Thinking at our Gateway Vespers in May
- Church Welcome Party for new guests/members
- Talked about the possibility of having a big Fair or block party to kick off our ministries in the fall



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In addition, our Admin Board has agreed to be an official "Tour Partner" to Team Gateway This is a new and exciting twist to this year's Sea to Sea ride; it means that part of the funds raised by the riders goes back to the tour partner to be used for a local poverty related project or ministry. Here's what it looks like: 20% of the funds raised after expenses **up to the required minimum** fundraising goal - \$36,000 in the case of our team - gets returned to the tour partner (that amounts to approx. \$4,200 total), while 50% of funds raised **above the minimum** fundraising goal gets returned to the tour partner.

Here's where you come in! Our Admin Board, in their role as "tour partner," has agreed to hold a door collection on Sunday, April 2, for Sea to Sea 2017. While the 3 riders as individuals have already raised varying amounts of donations towards the tour requirement, we need your help in reaching the minimum amount for each rider and, hopefully, going beyond that amount. Please prayerfully consider how

CONTAGIOUS GENEROSITY

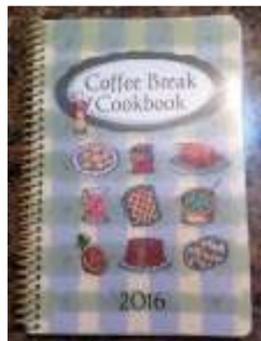
Update on our 2017 budget

Here's how we look so far with our 2017 budget:

- Budget to the end of February: \$337,350
- Received up to February 13, 2017: \$340,070
- Budget surplus: \$2,720
- General Fund: \$130,000
- Construction Account: \$28,678

On behalf of the Leadership of Gateway I would like to express our deepest thanks for your continued faithful generosity to Gateway as we continue to 'Help People Love and Serve Jesus.'

Chris Draaistra
Chair of Council



Coffee Break cookbooks are still available! If you are interested in purchasing one then put your money in an envelope with your name on it, and put it in Fred and Alana Gietema's church mailbox. Then I will put your cookbook or cookbooks in your mailbox. Or they are always available to purchase at Coffee Break Wednesday mornings!

They are \$12 per book. If you have any questions you can email me at alana.mulder@hotmail.com

Sea to Sea 2017 with Team Gateway

Beginning June 26 from a beach in White Rock, and ending on August 31 at a beach near Halifax, NS, a large group of cyclists will be riding over 6000 kms this summer in order to raise money for **World Renew** and **Partners Worldwide**. This is the 4th cross country tour sponsored by our denomination, and the 2nd through Canada (with a slight detour through Michigan under Lake Superior). The theme for this ride, as with the first 3 rides, is "Ending the Cycle of Poverty."

Here's the exciting news and how you can get involved! Six of our members – Team Gateway – will be participating in this venture. Three of our members will be volunteering in a support capacity: **Diane Slofstra, Andy & Jenny Vanderheide**. And three of our members will be riding the full distance: **Brigitte Gietema, Bert Slofstra, Sara Wikkerink**. In order to participate in Sea to Sea 2017 as a rider going the full distance, each rider is required to raise \$12,000 in donations in support of the poverty related ministries of World Renew and Partners Worldwide. Those participating as part of the support team are encouraged to raise funds as well - and all three of our Gateway support team members have done so in varying degrees - but they are not required to do so.



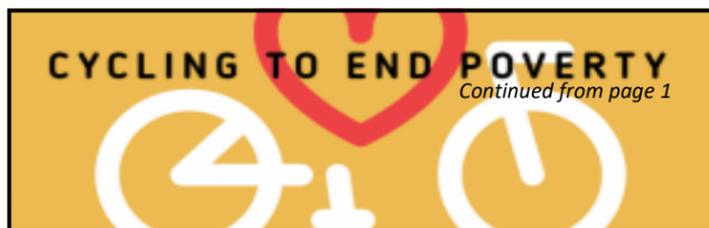
L to R: Diane Slofstra, Bert Slofstra, Brigitte Gietema, Sara Wikkerink, Jenny Vanderheide, Andy Vanderheide

Congregational Meeting Monday, March 27 @ 7:30 pm

Our Leadership

Servant Leaders: Elders and Deacons

In the office-bearers of the church we see the love of Christ for his people. As the Lord of the church he appoints leaders and by his Spirit equips them so that believers may grow in faith, develop disciplined Christian living, serve others in selfless love and share with all the good news of salvation. He taught us the spirit of true leadership when he said, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:26-28).



you can support Team Gateway and help World Renew and Partners Worldwide in their mission of "ending the cycle of poverty."

The best and simplest way to donate towards this door collection - or in advance - is by writing cheques made out to "Sea to Sea 2017," and every donation of \$10 or greater will be eligible for a tax receipt from World Renew. Thank you in advance for your support!

P.S. Both Brigitte and Pastor Bert plan to write a blog each day of the tour, or as often as Wi-Fi connections allow!



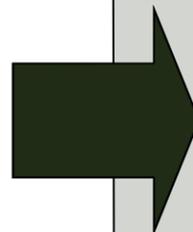
The Search Team continues to meet to prayerfully discern who might fill the role of *Pastor of Preaching and Congregational Care*. We

have placed ads in the Banner, the Christian Courier, the Light Magazine and informed the Reformed Seminaries of our position.

We are currently looking more intently at four possible candidates. Please continue to pray for discernment, unity and wisdom.

If you know of someone who could fill the role please send your name suggestion to Matt Tinsley.

Due to the desire to share about the responsibilities of our Leadership, the explanations of our creeds and confessions will continue in next months Spotlight.



Goal of Position of Administrative Elder:

The Administrative Elders are to facilitate the work of the church and its ministries, through administration and coordination.

Some of the Ministry Role Responsibilities:

1) Administrative:

- Discuss and set the direction and vision of Gateway Community CRC
- Be responsible for all committees and ministries, initiating and approving committee/ministry mandates
- Oversee all staff through reports and meetings.
- Schedule and prepare agendas for all Council and Congregational meetings
- Responsible for all ministries of the church
- Work with the Pastoral Elders and Deacons to nominate people for the office of elder or deacon
- Oversee the corporate responsibility of the church in regards to legal, financial and constitutional matters
- Serve as a Liaison on the Personnel Team,
- Meet with Board of Stewards to approve the proposed budget and building needs
- Signing officers for all legal documents will be the chair and vice chair of the administrative board

2) General responsibilities

- Help serve Communion
- Pray for God's people, the staff and ministries of Gateway

This Spring members of Gateway will need to fill the following positions:

- 1 Administrative Elder**
- 5 Pastoral Elders**
- 1 Youth Elder**
- 2 Deacons**

Please, prayerfully consider the various responsibilities and send your signed nominations to the clerk of the Administrative Board: gwclerk@shaw.ca

Goal of Position of PASTORAL ELDER

"The elders, with the ministers, shall oversee the doctrine and life of the members of the congregation and fellow office bearers, shall exercise admonition and discipline along with pastoral care in the congregation, shall participate in and promote evangelism, and shall defend the faith."

Some of the Ministry Role Responsibilities:

The following are collective responsibilities. It is important to use the different gifts of members to ensure that together all the tasks are accomplished. As an individual, you cannot do it all.

1. Build relationships

- Exercise pastoral care by serving others with the gift of time and attention
- Visit everyone on your district list and 2 or 3 Care Groups one or more times per year
- Connect with people at your church's local events, especially Sunday morning worship
- Respond to opportunities to minister as they arise
- Attend Pastoral Elders meetings once a month to deepen connection with other elders
- Administer all membership transfers in and out
- Support the Pastors in ministry

2. Participate on Sunday Mornings

- meet with Pastors and fellow elders for prayer prior to worship
- function as Serving Elder when scheduled, including leading congregational prayer when there is a visiting pastor
- help serve communion

3. General responsibilities

- Exercise admonition and discipline
- Provide oversight to our worship services

Time Required for Office Bearers:

The Administrative, Pastoral and deacons meet separately once a month for their respective meetings. A few times through out the year, the Pastoral Elders and Deacons will meet together to discuss any spiritual and/or physical needs in their districts. Administrative, Pastoral and Deacons meet as Council up to 4 times a year.

For Pastoral Elders it is suggested that you spend no less than two evenings a month making visits and in addition spend time setting up these meetings and doing any follow up work

For further information about the office of Elder and Deacon please read 1 Timothy 3.

90%

OF HELPING IS JUST SHOWING UP!

Goal of Position of DEACON

Deacons are chosen to give leadership to diaconal ministry. In this ministry, deacons empower members of their own congregation to live lives as Christ's hands and feet, focusing mainly on the following areas: Compassion, benevolence and justice.

Some of the Ministry Role Responsibilities:

In both word and deed, deacons demonstrate the care of the Lord himself and serve by showing mercy to the church and all people. Specifically they: (Edit the information below to suit your church)

1. Handle church finances (benevolence)

- Prepare weekly collection schedule, ensure a balance of local, international and denominational needs are met
- Inform the congregation of needs within the community and for ministries that the local church supports.
- Collect the weekly offerings of God's people (schedules will be made available)
- Count offerings monthly and deposit in bank
- Respond to email regularly and decide on allocation of benevolence funds

2. See to physical well-being of church members

- Become aware of people struggling financially within the church community, visit them and assess their needs and how best to respond
- Meet with people who request benevolence funds, assess their needs and how best to respond
- Become aware of justice issues within the church
- Advocate for those who are less fortunate

3. General responsibilities

- Help serve Communion

Suggested process for selection process 2017:

- February/March: Nominations from Congregation and Council received
- April: Administrative Board finalizes lists of nominations
- May: Congregation affirms nominations
- May/June: Selection Sunday
- September: Ordination of new office bearers
- September 29/30: Council Retreat