



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**October 7, 2018**

### CHURCH FAMILY

Please keep in your prayers those who are dealing with personal and often intensely private struggles with loss and grief linked to personal or other failures, betrayals and disappointments.

Please uphold all the marriages and families in our community of faith.

Congratulations to Henry Groothof who celebrates his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on October 9 and to Mavis Wind who celebrates her 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on October 10. May God bless you both with a great day!

Happy Anniversary to Rich & Marian Vanderwal, as they celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Monday, October 8. We thank God with you for his faithfulness.

Please pray for Monique Lieuwen and Brian Kielstra, who are in the Ukraine as part of Global Aid Network (GAIN)'s Disaster Assistance Response Team. The team will be working with internally displaced people and participating in several construction projects due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Brian will be there Oct 6-19 and Monique will be there Oct 6-Nov 2.

### PRAYER

As a community of believers, we strongly believe in supporting our church family in prayer. Please hold the following up in prayer this week:

#### Gateway Family

Cor & Siny DeRuiter                  Brandon & Christine Gross, Isabelle  
Clayton & Melanie Houweling, Madison, Nicholas, Rylan

#### Council Members

Elder | Annette DeRover    Deacon | Yolanda Verhagen

**October Ministries** | Search Team, Council, Extreme Weather Shelter  
**Abbotsford church** | Trinity Memorial United Church

## GATEWAY NEWS

**Thanksgiving Service** is on Monday, October 8 at 10:00 am.

### Thanksgiving Day offerings

Our regular offering is designated for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (see info below) and additionally there will be an opportunity to bring your 'reverse offering' gifts for the Food Bank. On Thanksgiving Day when the Deacons have come past your row collecting the offering for the Cdn Foodgrains Bank, you are invited to come forward and place your food offering on the tables up front for the Abbotsford Food Bank.



**Canadian Foodgrains Bank** has a funding agreement with the Canadian Government that provides us with 4:1 matching grants up to a maximum of \$25 million a year. Our [goal](#) is a world without hunger.

We work toward this goal by: providing food in times of crisis for hungry people in the developing world; helping people grow more food to better feed themselves and their families; and providing nutritional support to malnourished people with a focus on pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and young children. We also advocate for [public policies](#) that enable families and communities to better feed themselves, and look for ways to [engage and educate](#) Canadians about global hunger. In 2016-17, we helped over 900,000 people in 35 countries. Foodgrains Bank [programs](#) are implemented by our [member agencies](#) in the developing world.

### **Staff**

Pastor Bill Veenstra will be away from October 9 to October 15. If there is a need which needs to be addressed immediately please contact your district elder or the church office.

**The Search team** met last Monday night and brought forward a list of names of potential pastors to fill our vacant position. We ask for prayers for those that should be considering this call, and for discernment in making the right choice. Our next meeting will be October 15 to decide on next steps.

### **Fiscal Year End**

If you have any receipts from your ministry needing reimbursement, please don't hang on to them. Hand them in, with the proper paper work, sooner rather than later. Thank you!

### **Men urgently needed!**

Due to the increased volume in registrations for Cadets we are in need of 3 men who would be willing to help out on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30. Call, text or email Mike Vaandrager if you can help out on Tuesday nights.

### **Prayer Ministry**

The Prayer Cafe meets on Tuesday evenings, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the prayer room off of the lobby. Please be encouraged to join us for prayer, coffee and fellowship. GEMS/Cadets parents are welcome to join us while their kids are at boys and girls club. Come join us, we aim to make this a non-threatening place, a comfortable space to come to pray or be prayed for, to contemplate or chat, be creative or simply be. You can sit quietly, listen to music, finish a project (knitting, needle point, etc) or colour any of the prayer cafe colouring pages. A prayer leader will always be available for personal prayer or to take prayer requests.

**Women's Bible Study** will begin our season this Wednesday, October 10. We meet in the library beginning at 9:30 am.

### **Coffee Break – Women's Bible Study Ministry**

Coffee Break meets upstairs in the Heritage Building on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00 am. We invite you to bring a friend, bring your babies and toddlers. Our loving and caring Volunteers in the Nursery and the Story Hour Ministry will take very good care of your children. We will be studying "James Living on the Edge". Looking forward to seeing you there. Your Coffee Break Leaders Team

**Gateway's Christmas Craft Fair** is happening on November 16 & 17! If you wish to be a vendor at the fair, please go to [www.gatewaycrc.org](http://www.gatewaycrc.org) to download the Vendor Application form, fill it out and drop it off in Christine Gross' mailbox. Make sure you save the date to come by and shop for all your Christmas gift needs!

### **Senior's Ministry | Invitation from the Maple Ridge CRC**

The 35th Annual Senior's Conference will be held at 10:00 AM, Thursday October 18, 2018 at the Maple Ridge Christian Reformed Church, 20245 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge, BC (604-465-4286). Refreshments will be available at 9:30 AM. Our speaker for the conference will be Randy Green, Generational Pastor at Maple Ridge CRC.

**Gateway Seniors** We can car pool or even a bus if we have enough people to justify that option. Please let us know if you are planning to attend this event and if you need a ride. We will gather the numbers and report back to Maple Ridge CRC, we do not want anyone to go hungry. Please contact Rita at 604-852-6296, if you are attending.

**The following gifts were received** on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018:

Budget	\$ 9,007.48
Safe Church	\$ 2,445.00
ACS Tuition Relief	\$ 1,100.00
The Stream	\$ 475.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 295.00
Abbotsford Food Bank	\$ 15.00



**Cookies for Kids** - Cookie Sunday –hosted by Kidz Church  
World Renew World Hunger campaign  
Coming on Sunday, October 28!

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES**

**Sunday morning Kidz Church** for Children age 3 to Grade 3!

Check your kids in at the ark, parents can pick up a take home sheet.

This week's lesson: God is 'I Am'

Next week's lesson: God shows power and sends 10 plagues

Check in this week: Amanda

Check in next week: Amanda

### **GEMS & Cadets GIRLS & BOYS CLUBS**

Club meetings begin this Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00 pm.

#### **Youth grades 8-12:**

Thursday, October 11 from 7:30 – 9:30 pm is 'Church Activity Night'. Come on out to the church for an evening of food, fun and games! Invite your friends to join you. Don't forget to bring your Mexico Orphanage Outreach Missions application forms!

#### **FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN:**

One of the roles I have filled was that of being a Church Visitor for various Classis' in the denomination. In early years it was a great blessing to be paired with experienced pastors with whom I would get to ride from church to church and whose experiences and analyzes I could mine for insights and important perspectives.

According to the Church Order of the CRCNA the role of a church visitor is as follows:

*Article 42 a. The classis shall be responsible for appointing persons to provide counsel and advice to churches. The classis shall appoint church visitors to visit each church in classis on a yearly basis.*

*b. The church visitors shall consist of one or more teams of office-bearers chosen for their experience and counsel. Team composition shall include a minister of the Word and at least one other office-bearer. Their task shall be to ascertain whether the office-bearers of the church faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the Church Order, and promote the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of God's kingdom. Churches are free to call on the church visitors whenever serious challenges arise that would benefit from their advice. The church visitors shall provide classis a written report of their work.*

It so happens that over the last number of years I have served as a Church Visitor for Gateway. I recall the last visit that was made where one of the elders made an honest self-assessment. I paraphrase now what she said but it was roughly as follows: *"For years I resisted attending the Senior's Ministry even though I was a senior. Then I started to attend and I was deeply blessed by doing so and I have come to regret the years I missed."*

I admit that I have also resisted joining even though I now qualify as a senior. But I have attended the last two meetings and I confess that I have been deeply blessed. So I will continue to attend and I invite all eligible seniors here to do so as well.

Be blessed!

Pastor Bill

## **GATEWAY COMMUNITY GROUPS**

**Men's Darts** club will be meeting on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month this season from 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the multipurpose room. Starting up this Thursday, October 4. For more information call Allan Mulder at 604-302-7382.

**Women's Volleyball** meets in the gym from 7:15—8:30 pm on Tuesday evenings. For more info contact Sarah 604-897-5727. No volleyball this week, next time is October 16.

**Men's Drop In Basketball** meets on Monday evenings in the gym from 7:30—9:00 pm. For more information call Matt at 604-835-3089. Start up is Monday, October 15. **A new contact person is needed for this group; if you are interested please call Matt.**

## **MEETINGS**

Ministry season is starting up and the building is filling up! If you are planning a meeting, big or small please contact the office to book your space and time.

**Administrative Elders** meet Wednesday, October 10 at 7:00 pm.

**Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for Monday, October 29 starting at 7:30 pm.

Singer-songwriter Jeremy Benjamin is bringing his **"I Am Not My Own Tour"** to Gateway Community CRC! Join us and invite your friends as Jeremy performs on Saturday, October 20 at 7:00 pm and leads worship on Sunday, October 21 at 10:00 am. The event will take place here at Gateway Community CRC. Proceeds will go to World Renew, The Stream, and Jeremy's worship ministry, so come prepared to give generously! Find out more by calling 800-730-3490 or at [iamnotmyown.org](http://iamnotmyown.org).

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Updated details on volunteer needs for Secret Keeper Girl - Friday, October 19**

Volunteer positions available:

**4 men and 4 women still needed** to load in & set up at 9:30 am and/or take down & load out at 9 pm

**3 Prayer partners** needed still, for prayer with the teens and their moms

If you feel you can fill any of these positions email either Karla (karlakornelious@hotmail.com) or Chantelle ([chantelle\\_arends@hotmail.com](mailto:chantelle_arends@hotmail.com))

### **Extreme Weather Shelter**

Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ and show his love in our own neighbourhood. Gateway is once again hosting an Extreme Weather Shelter for the homeless this winter from November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. We are looking for assistance in the following areas: bringing a meal in a crock pot, bringing three dozen buns with something on them, volunteering from 7:30 to midnight with two other people, or volunteering from midnight to 8:30 am with one or two other people. Ideally if we have enough volunteers this would be a commitment of once every week or once every two weeks when the shelter is open. The shelter is open if there is snow on the ground, and/or the temperature is 0 or below, or if there is a heavy rainfall warning. Last season the shelter was open over 80 nights. We work together with BC Housing, the Salvation Army and Cyrus Center. Thank you for your consideration of this ministry, for more information contact Jenny Vanderheide at 604 854 5215 or by email [jvanderheide@shaw.ca](mailto:jvanderheide@shaw.ca)

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **Fall 2018 Classis Meeting**

Classis BC South East will be meeting on October 16 & 17, 2018 at Trinity CRC in Abbotsford. Please keep your congregation's delegates and those of member churches in your prayers that they be guided by our Lord and Saviour in their deliberations. Along with educational workshops for the delegates, Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries will be leading a Tuesday evening session exploring where God may be leading the Christian Reformed Church after 2020. On Wednesday morning, the delegates will participate in the *Minister of the Word* classical examination of Jenna Fabiano [Veenbas], Willoughby CRC, Langley. Gateway delegates are Pastor Marcel deRegt, Elder Calvin Breukelman (alternate elder: Matt Tinsley).

**Are you a parent of a child with a disability?** Bethesda invites you to their Abbotsford Parent Support Group. The next meeting is Monday, October 22, from 10 am to 11:30 am. at 105 – 2975 Gladwin Road, Abbotsford. For more info contact Joyce at 604-850-6604, ext. 308 or [Joyce.VanderHoek@BethesdaBC.com](mailto:Joyce.VanderHoek@BethesdaBC.com)