



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

December 16, 2018

CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to Sid Jaarsma who celebrates his 85th birthday on Wednesday, December 19 and to Corrie Wagenaar who celebrates her 88th birthday on Thursday, December 20. May God bless you both with a great day!

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

Bryan & Karla Kornelius, Sydney, Berlin, Hudson & Judah
Monique Lieuwen Laura VanderSpoel
John & Alaina Sprietsma, Daniel, Jordan,
Landon & Leah

Thank you to everyone who signed up to pray for a youth – we still need a few more people to sign up so that every youth at Gateway is matched up with someone who will intentionally pray for them. Those signed up will receive a brief profile of your youth in January.

Council Members

Elder | Sophie VanDorp Deacon | Dan Dekker

December Ministries | Nursery Ushers Coffee Teams

Abbotsford church | Northview Community Church

GATEWAY NEWS

Tuesday night, Dec 18 is our Community Christmas Party from 7 – 8:30 pm. Come for hot chocolate around fire pits, face painting for the entire family, Christmas caroling with the Gateway choir, Christmas photo booth and more. This is a community Christmas Party so please invite your neighbours to join you.

Can you help? We're looking for people to help at the cookie decorating and Christmas craft tables. Please call Carol at the office if you can help, 604-859-5908 or email office@gatewaycrc.org

Upcoming Services:

Christmas Day Service is December 25 at 10:00 am; New Year's Eve Service is December 31 at 6:00 pm, Lord willing, we will celebrate Communion together as a church family.

The Council would like to express their deepest thanks, to our Lord and to you, for the faithful and generous financial support to our 2018 fiscal budget. For our 2018 fiscal year we ran a shortfall of \$54,541.00. Council will be meeting on Wednesday, Dec 19 to discern final payments based on this shortfall.

Prayer Ministry will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 8 from 7 – 8 pm.

Coffee Break Women's Bible Study Ministry meets on Wednesdays from 9:30 – 11:00 am. We invite you to bring a friend, bring your babies and toddlers. All are welcome! Our next meeting is after Christmas on January 9.

Story Hour

Our little ones of ages 3 and 4 are in need of a new leader and helper for Story Hour on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00am for our January-April season of Coffee Break. The current routine includes preparing materials for playing with playdough, telling a 10 minute Bible story, making a simple craft, eating a snack, and colouring a picture of the story. There is room for flexibility and your new ideas as well! Safe church requirements will need to be completed before volunteering. Please contact Shena at shenagorter@gmail.com for more information and if you are willing to help out!

Do you want some baby cuddles and time with little ones? Coffee Break is in need of some more volunteers for the nursery on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00am. Your commitment can vary from every week, to once a month or on an as-needed basis. Safe church requirements will need to be completed before volunteering. Contact Shena at shenagorter@gmail.com for more information.

In Common Christmas Card Deadline is Tuesday, December 18 before noon.

This year all proceeds will go to the Telecare Crisis Line. Cost is \$3/person, \$5/couple and \$7 per family, to be paid to your church administrator. All names must be submitted by December 18. Email office@gatewaycrc.org or call the office, you can place your donation in Carol Conway's mailbox, be sure to include your name.

Office Hours:

- December 24: closed at 12:00 noon
- December 25/26: closed
- December 31: closed at 12:00 noon
- January 1: closed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Kidz Church for Children age 3 - Grade 3! **Parents** please pick up your kids from the chapel after church on December 16, on the lower level. Next week Sunday, Dec 23, after you check in your kids bring them to the Parent Room (Room 107).

Kids Grade 4 and up: Pick up an activity sheet from the Welcome Center!

GEMS & Cadets GIRLS & BOYS CLUBS

Christmas party at church this week Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

Youth Group will be joining in at the Christmas party on Tuesday!

Mexico Missions

A huge thank you to everyone who helped support the youth with their fundraising efforts for their Mexico Orphanage Outreach in March 2019. The babysitting day raised \$1,050 and Kroket sales raised \$3,249.00. From the team: Thank you! Only \$13,000 to go!

Our next big fundraiser is our annual bottle drive on Thursday, Jan 3. Please bring all your refundables to the church (lower level) on or before Thursday, Jan 3. Our final fundraiser is the annual Mexico Missions Auction on Saturday, February 9th. Can you donate something? Please let Pastor Marcel know.

Kroket Pick-up will be this Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm, near the Welcome Center! If you have not yet paid, please bring your cheque book or cash.

MEETINGS

If you are planning a meeting, big or small please contact the office, office@gatewaycrc.org, to book your space and time; our building is a busy place!

Choir! We will meet Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm.

Administrative Board will be meeting on Wednesday, Dec 19 at 6:45 pm in the South Balcony Board Room.

Council will be meeting on Wednesday, December 19th at 7:30 pm in room 205/207.

GATEWAY COMMUNITY GROUPS

Gateway Book Club

Our current book is "Philomena" by Martin Sixsmith. A few copies are still available and can be picked up from the Welcome Center on Sunday. Please note our next meeting will be Thursday, January 3rd. For more information contact Jolene Versteeg, jversteeg57@hotmail.com.

Women's Volleyball

Meets in the gym from 7:15-8:30 Tuesday evenings. In the event that the gym is being used for the extreme weather shelter (check the website) there will be no volleyball. Please contact Sarah Pruijm for more information 604-897-5727

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. For more information call Allan Mulder at 604-302-7382. Next Darts is happening on Thursday, December 20.

Men's Drop In Basketball

meets on Monday evenings in the gym from 7:30—9:00 pm. In the event that the gym is being used for the extreme weather shelter (check the website) there will be no basketball. For more information call Matt at 604-835-3089

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Community Christmas Party

We've invited our friends and neighbours to come out on December 18 from 7 – 8:30 for a Christmas party. Now your help is needed: Can you volunteer for the evening? We're looking for people to help at the cookie decorating and Christmas craft tables. Help with

the clean up would be much appreciated. Please email Carol at the office, office@gatewaycrc.org or call 604-859-5908 if you can help with any of the above.

Extreme Weather Shelter Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus and show his love in our own neighborhood. Gateway is once again hosting an Extreme Weather Shelter for the homeless this winter from November 1st to March 31st. For more information contact Jenny Vanderheide at 604 854 5215 or jvanderheide@shaw.ca

COMMUNITY EVENTS/NEWS

During the month of December, Wagner Hills and **Telecare Crisis & Caring Line** are together offering a daily 9am to 9pm Christian Support Line for anyone whose life has been touched by addiction. If people are troubled by issues other than addiction they are still encouraged to call. The month of December can be a lonely, difficult and stressful time for many and compassionate listeners are ready to take calls. 1-888-852-9099 toll free number"

DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP (meets at Living Hope CRC) will not be meeting in December but will meet again at 10 AM, Friday, January 11, 2019. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season.

Hearts of Hope Do you have a child but long for more? Have you lost a baby during pregnancy and are really struggling with the loss? Do you have empty arms and long for a child? Hearts of Hope is a Christian support group and if you answered 'yes' to any of the above questions, you are welcome to join us at our meetings. Please email us at info@heartsofhopesupportgroup.ca if you would like to come to the meeting! Our website has more info - www.heartsofhopesupportgroup.ca.

Telecare Crisis & Caring Line training for new crisis line responders begins on Thursday, January 24, 7pm at New Life Christian Reformed Church, 35270 Delair Road, Abbotsford. Comprehensive training will follow on a wide variety of topics to enable potential volunteers to respond to callers. Please call 604-852-4058, training@telecarebc.com, www.telecarebc.com

Living Hope CRC | 50th Anniversary

With great anticipation, Living Hope CRC in Abbotsford looks forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary! A celebration weekend is planned for March 1-3, 2019, and we would love for you to join us!

March 1 | Celebration Dinner | Tickets are available to purchase from the Living Hope office. Order forms are also online. Deadline is January 13.

March 2 | Community Carnival | A fun celebration with food & games for the whole family.

March 3 | Worship Service | 10am Sunday service giving praise and thanks to God for 50 years of His faithfulness.

Giving thanks for the past. Rejoicing in the present. Preparing for the future. "Jesus Christ is the same *yesterday* and *today* and *forever*." Hebrews 13:8

Full details are provided on the website: livinghopecrc.ca/50th-anniversary