



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**December 9, 2018**

### CHURCH FAMILY

Henny Schouten had minor surgery this past Monday. Please pray for Henny & Jack as they await results.

We express our Christian sympathy to Rita and Frank Pongracz and family, with the passing away of Rita's father John Lozie on Monday, December 3. A funeral service will be taking place on Friday, December 14 at 11:00 am in New Westminster CRC.

Congratulations to Ann VanDorp who celebrates her 80th birthday on Wednesday, December 12. May God bless you with a great day!

The congregation is invited to an open house in celebration of Ann VanDorp's 80th birthday. Here at Gateway church on Wednesday, December 12 from 1:30—4:00 pm in room 106.

Dear congregation, Thank you for your annual donation and continued partnership. We thank God for the many teachers who "abide in Christ" and live this out in the lives of their students. Join us in prayer for an effective witness. Your partners in mission, Shelia Dykstra & Jonathan Weverink

### 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

Kim & Janet Mogensen      Kathy VanEe      Brian & Alexa Olthuis  
Joyce VanderHoek      Mike & Susan Schindel, Arianna

Can you **pray for one of the youth** in our church? If this is something you can do, please email Pastor Marcel, [marcel@gatewaycrc.org](mailto:marcel@gatewaycrc.org). The goal is to have every youth at Gateway matched up with a prayer partner for January 2019. You will receive the name of the youth you will pray for in January.

#### Council Members

Elder | Carrie Vanderwal      Deacon | Matt Wikkerink

**December Ministries** | Nursery   Ushers   Coffee Teams

**Abbotsford church** | Northview Community Church

### GATEWAY NEWS

**Community Christmas Party** for everyone here at Gateway on Tuesday, December 18 from 7 – 8:30 pm, invite your friends! Continued.....

Can you volunteer for the evening? We're looking for people to help at the cookie decorating and Christmas craft tables. Also needed - fire pits with propane tanks. Please call Carol at the office if you can help, 604-859-5908 or email [office@gatewaycrc.org](mailto:office@gatewaycrc.org).

A huge **thank-you** all those on the creative team and who helped out in design and set-up of our Christmas displays on stage and in the lobby. A true gift!

Final day for **Croquette orders!** Youth will be at the welcome center today! Help support the Mexico Orphanage Outreach Mission Team. Croquettes will be ready for pick up Dec 18 - 21. You will be notified when and where.

**Last Sunday left to bring your Chunky Soup!** In cooperation with the Salvation Army Center of Hope, Gateway deacons are encouraging your **donations of soup (the chunky variety)** to be used in Christmas gift baskets for those in need in our community. Please bring your soup donations to church by Sunday, December 9 and put on the designated tables near the lobby entrances.

**World Renew Uzima gift catalogues** When you choose an item from World Renew's gift catalogue, you create an opportunity for God to turn everyday events into miracles like enough food, good health and community service. Use the instructions in the orange box on page 22 of the catalogue to order. Catalogues are at the Welcome Center.

**The following gifts** were received ending Nov 30, 2018:

Budget	\$ 17,627.44	Debt Reduction	\$ 30.00
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**The following gifts** were received Dec 2, 2018:

Salvation Army	\$ 1,457.00	Budget	\$ 3,849.69
Debt Reducti-on	\$ 45.00	Benevolence	\$ 60.00

**Prayer Ministry** The Prayer Cafe meets on Tuesday evenings, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the prayer room off of the lobby. Come join us, we aim to make this 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 is available.

**Coffee Break Ministry** will be celebrating with a Christmas Social on Wednesday, December 12. Coffee will be ready for 9:30 and we are hoping that any and all women of our church and their friends will be able to celebrate with us.

We extend a special Invitation to the women of the Women's Bible Study.

Our only request is that each bring a small snack to share and your Merry Christmas self. Bring your babies and toddlers, our wonderful volunteers in the Nursery and Story Hour Ministry will take very good care of your loved ones.

We will have a speaker who will bring us a message from the book of James.

- *As a gift, a pair of socks or two would be greatly appreciated for the women of Abbotsford less privileged than ourselves. Thank you.*

Looking forward to seeing you there! Your Coffee Break Leaders.

**In Common Christmas Card** Once again you have the opportunity to "greet" each other via the annual In Common Christmas Card while supporting a worthwhile cause. 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](mailto:office@gatewaycrc.org) or call the office, you can place your donation in Carol Conway's mailbox, be sure to include your name.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

**Kidz Church** for Children age 3 - Grade 3! Visiting? Check your kids in at the ark, parents can pick up a take home sheet there as well.

This week: David values Saul's Life

Next week: David celebrates

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

**GEMS & Cadets GIRLS & BOYS CLUBS** Grades 3—7. Meets Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

### Youth Group

Christmas party this Thursday, December 13! Come on out for some fun times and food! Youth meets from 7:30-9:30 pm in the Heritage wing upstairs.

**Hold on to ALL your refundable items!** Thursday, January 3 the Mexico Orphanage Team will be collecting your refundables as a fundraiser for their ministry experience in Mexico.

## MEETINGS

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

**Choir!** We will meet Tuesday, December 11 at 7:15-8:15. We are in need of people who sing melody, or men who would just like to sing melody. People can still join this week! We will meet again the next Tuesday evening and then the following Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7:00-7:45.

**Board of Stewards** will be meeting on Monday, December 10 at 7:30 in the South Balcony Board Room.

**Search Team** will be meeting on Monday, December 10 at 7:00 in the Prayer Room.

**The Administrative Board** met this past Wednesday night. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Pastor Marcel opened with a brief reflection on Hebrews 11 and with prayer
- Reports were received, reviewed, discussed and approved as needed from Administrative Board, Pastoral Elders, Deacons, Search Team, FUSION, Outreach Team, Personnel Team and the Board of Stewards.
- Written and verbal reports were given by Pastor Marcel, Pastor Bill and Sandra Barthel and Heather Hoogland.
- A letter of thanks was received from Sheila and Jonathan from Nigeria.
- The FUSION Team has been given the mandate to begin the search for our Director of Discipleship: Children's Ministry.
- The Staff reviews that were conducted by Pastor Marcel and the Personnel Team were reviewed.
- Hearts of Hope Ministry has requested that they become a 'ministry of Gateway'. After some discussion the following motion was made and approved: *Hearts of Hope become a ministry of Gateway CRC.*
- Discussion was had regarding length of term for a Council member and back to back terms. This will be discussed in more detail at the Dec 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
- A Congregational meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2019.
- The meeting closed praying for a variety of ministries.

## 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](mailto: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 Pruij 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. Also needed - fire pits with propane tanks. Also help with the clean up would be much appreciated. Please email Carol at the office, [office@gatewaycrc.org](mailto:office@gatewaycrc.org) or call 604-859-5908 if you can help with any of the above. Please call Carol at the office if you can help, 604-859-5908 or email [office@gatewaycrc.org](mailto:office@gatewaycrc.org).

**Extreme Weather Shelter** Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ and show his love in our own neighborhood. 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>. For more information contact Jenny Vanderheide at 604 854 5215 or [jvanderheide@shaw.ca](mailto: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.