



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 6, 2019

CHURCH FAMILY

We extend our condolences to Aubrey, Heather, Aaron & Tyler Postma with the passing this past Thursday of Aubrey's mother Riek Postma, at the age of 85, after a two year struggle with Alzheimer Disease and also a recent stroke. Aubrey, Heather and Aaron have traveled to St Catherine's, Ontario to attend the funeral. Tyler was en-route to Liberia with a mission team from Dordt College when his grandmother died and will not be able to join with the family. Please uphold all of them in your prayers.

Kim Mogensen entered Mission hospital this past Tuesday due to severe shortness of breath. It is anticipated that he will remain there for a few days. Please uphold Kim and Janet in your prayers.

A belated Happy Birthday to Wilma Sprietsma who celebrated her 80th birthday on Wednesday, January 2. May God bless you this year!

Eric Boucher, Facilities Manager, will be on vacation from January 9-15. For any facility needs, please call the church office.

January 2019

From The Interim Pastor's Pen

Let me begin by extending to all my best wishes for the New Year. May the God of Peace be with you always and may the Peace of God empower you with confidence for your calling to extend and proclaim his kingdom!

Today is the first Sunday of the New Year and liturgically is the time of Epiphany. In Reformed circles we have not generally paid a lot of attention to it but it is helpful to at least understand the background. Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts but it does not have a uniform emphasis. Eastern Christianity focuses on the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist even though it did not take place, until many years later. In terms of timeline, the focus also lies on the presentation of Jesus, at the Temple, by Joseph and Mary since Jesus was their first born.

In Western Christianity, Roman Catholics and some Protestants use the feast to commemorate, principally, the [visit of the Magi](#) to the [Christ Child](#), and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the [Gentiles](#). The actual date for the feast is January 6 but typically the churches that do acknowledge it employ the first Sunday of the New Year to do so. Since today is both the first Sunday and January 6 it seemed appropriate that we look at the visit of the Magi.

Next Sunday we will embark on something quite different. You may recall that in October 2018, at the request of the Council, we spent a service looking at the historical context of the Synod of Dort on the occasion of its 400th anniversary. (November 1618 to May 1619) It issued one of our Reformed Confessions entitled "The Canons of Dort".

Since then Council has extended my contract to serve Gateway until the end of this June unless we are blessed with the arrival of a new lead pastor before that time. That provides us an opportunity to look not only at the historical context of Dort but also at the content of the Canons themselves.

The Lord willing we have scheduled the following dates, using the acronym of FAITH instead of the more familiar TULIP, to do so: January 13: Fallen Humanity/ January 27: Adopted By God/ February 3: Intentional Atonement/February 17: Transformed by the Holy Spirit and March 3: Held by God.

In preparation you are encouraged to do two things: Pray for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for the preparation, presentation and understanding of the effort and also to take the time to actually read the Canons which can be found beginning on page 926 of the Gray Psalter Hymnal or on CRCNA website or on our church website under "About Us".

Be blessed!
Pastor Bill

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

Bill & Ann Verhagen Aaron Gietema
Kevan & Judy Siggs Wilma Sprietsma
Nathan & Heather Gelderman, Dennica, Carter, Harrison, Scarlet, Willa

Council Members

Elder | Matt Tinsley Deacon | Clayton Houweling

January Ministries

Youth Ministry Search Team Women's Bible Study

Abbotsford church

Grace Evangelical Bible Church

GATEWAY NEWS

Connections Lunch Sunday, January 6; would you like to connect with some others here at Gateway? Join us for lunch after the service Sunday morning.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Mexico Missions bottle drive. Our next major fundraiser is Saturday, Feb 9 with our annual Mexico Missions Auction. We are looking for items to auction for the evening, if you have a service or an item you would like to donate, please email Pastor Marcel @ marcel@gatewaycrc.org

We are still looking for **a few more prayer partners for our youth**. If you are willing to specifically pray for one of our youth for 2019 please email Marcel at marcel@gatewaycrc.org. A small youth profile will be given to all to all our prayer partners in early January.

Women's Bible study meets Wednesday, January 9 in the library at 9:30 am.

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 16.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Kidz Church for Children age 3 - Grade 3!

Sunday, January 6 Kidz Church is for ages 3 & 4 only.

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

GEMS & Cadets GIRLS & BOYS CLUBS will begin meeting again on Tuesday, January 15.

Youth is meeting again this week Thursday night, January 10, at 7:00 (Please note new time). Our study is on the Bible – why and how to read the Bible. Mark down Feb 1-3; this is our Holy Spirit weekend at Camp Hope. Cost \$25 per person. Let your mentor leader know if you are able to make it. It will be a fun weekend together!

From Faith Formation Ministries

Family Faith Formation Tip - It's true that that faith is "caught" just as much as it's "taught." Kids will learn to value Bible reading more if you let them "catch" you reading God's Word on your own—not just in church or during family devotions. Talk with them about what you're reading and how it connects with your daily life. (Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

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!

The Administrative Board will be meeting on Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 in the South Balcony Board Room.

FUSION Team will be meeting on Thursday, January 10 at 7:30 in the South Balcony Board Room.

The Search Team is meeting on Monday, January 14th. If you have a Pastor that you would like to suggest to the team for consideration, please talk to or email Milt Walker, Chair of the Search Team, mrwalker@shaw.ca, prior to the meeting on the 14th.

GATEWAY COMMUNITY GROUPS

Gateway Book Club

Book club meets Thursday, January 3rd, at 7:30 pm in the Prayer Lounge to discuss this month's book "Philomena". We will also be handing out our next book "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" by Neil Gaiman, any extra copies will be available at the Welcome Center on Sunday after the service. 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. Contact Sarah Pruim for more information 604-897-5727. Next volleyball is scheduled for January 15.

Men's Darts club will meet 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, January 17.

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. Next basketball is scheduled for Monday, January 7.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Library is looking for Volunteers to help check in/check out books (training provided) and shelve books on Sunday mornings before and after service. Teenagers are welcome to apply, but must be willing to be at the church by 9:30 am when it is their turn to help out. #1 requirement - MUST LOVE BOOKS. Contact: moniquehuurman@gmail.com if you are interested.

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

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Faith CARE: Learning How to Grow Restorative Churches is a 3-day skill based conference teaching restorative practices. APRIL 11, 12, & 13, 2019 @ Langley Willoughby CRC.

Faith CARE trains and supports churches to:

- transform conflict and become restorative culture congregations,
- implement a restorative, relational framework across congregational life and explicit practices that help to heal relationships and build stronger, more connected congregations,
- use restorative approaches to healing relationships and repairing harm in churches.

To view the brochure, register and learn more info visit www.bcsafechurch.com or call Faye Martin @ 604-850-5137 & Walt Brouwer at 778-344-2999. Register by March 15, 2019. Classis BCSE has encouraged the churches to send and fund at least one member to attend this training.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/NEWS

For those interested in a more in-depth view of what **ministry to seafarers** is all about, do consider attending the seminar at **Missions Fest** being led by Rev. Gary Roosma, our port chaplain. It is entitled "Out of Sight, but in God's Mind," and will take place on Saturday, January 19, in room 14 on level 2 of the Vancouver Trade & Convention Center, beginning at 12:30 pm.

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.