

Classis Matters

January February 2014

Member

- ◆ Alive Ministries
- ◆ Baldwin Street CRC
- ◆ Bauer CRC
- ◆ Cottonwood Church
- ◆ EverGreen Ministries
- ◆ Fairway CRC
- ◆ First Hudsonville CRC
- ◆ First Jenison CRC
- ◆ Forest Grove CRC
- ◆ Friendship Chapel
- ◆ Georgetown CRC
- ◆ Hillcrest CRC
- ◆ Immanuel CRC
- ◆ Jamestown CRC
- ◆ Messiah CRC
- ◆ Ridgewood CRC
- ◆ Searchlight Ministries
- ◆ Trinity CRC
- ◆ Twelfth Avenue CRC
- ◆ Zutphen CRC



Praises . . . and Prayer requests

~praise God for the Rev. Len Kuyvenhoven, who has answered the call of the Ridgewood CRC to be their pastor.

~praise God for the Rev. Larry Doornbos, who has answered the call and has returned to EverGreen Ministries..

~pray for the members and staff of the Classis Georgetown Transition Team as they morph into the Vision Team. Help celebrate our story of renewal as we look forward together.

History/Highlights from Classis Georgetown

Classis Georgetown became organized at a meeting held on September 22, 1988, at Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church. Sixteen churches were part of this new classis, which was created from Classis Grandville and Classis Zeeland. The Rev. Ed Tamminga was the chairman of the committee of the two classes that helped make nominations and arrangements for this and chaired the first meeting. The Rev. John Meyer served as clerk for this session only. From the first fourteen pastors that served Classis Georgetown, Rev. Tamminga is the only pastor remaining. He now serves as the Associate Pastor at Fairway CRC, which was not yet in existence.

Two churches were vacant at this time, First Hudsonville and Forest Grove. Five churches have been added since then, Fairway (org. 1989), EverGreen Ministries (org. 1997), Friendship Chapel (org. 1998), Searchlight Ministries (org. 2013), and Alive Ministries, which is planning to organize in 2014. One church, Cornerstone, left the CRC in 1993.

Several issues have recurred throughout this time span. Among them are ministry shares, seating of women and/or deacons at classis meetings, and church growth.

Presently the Rev. Larry Doornbos is the pastor with the longest tenure in Classis. He is followed closely by the Rev. Joel Boot (who left in 2011 to take the position of Executive Director of the CRCNA), the Rev. Robert Huisman, and the Rev. Terry Genzink (who retired in 2013).

All of this will be celebrated at a classis-wide worship service (see article below).

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” Lam. 3:23b

INVITATION TO ATTEND

You are cordially invited to attend the Worship Service to commemorate the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Classis Georgetown on March 9, 2014 at 5:30 PM. This event will take place in the sanctuary of Fair Haven Ministries, located on the corner of 28th Avenue and Baldwin in Jenison, Michigan. The evening will include prayer, music, message, litany, sharing our common faith and our common mission, plus fellowship with our fellow Christians. An offering will be included. This will be a unique opportunity to have representatives from each of our twenty churches worshipping together to praise God for His faithfulness.

Vision Statement Classis Georgetown

Classis Georgetown is a community of Christian Reformed Churches in Eastern Ottawa County who live and minister together, in Christ, to transform lives and communities.

Classis Values

Healthy Leaders

We equip leaders to transform lives and communities.

Collaborative Relationships

We call out the strengths of each church and pursue ministry together to create new ways of transforming lives and communities.

Empowering Worship

We celebrate and are sustained by God's presence as he transforms lives and communities.

Daring Hospitality

We welcome the stranger in ways that transform lives and communities.

Risky Compassion

We extend uncommon generosity to the suffering and work to eliminate the causes of that suffering in order to transform lives and communities.

Church Sign

The

Bread of Life

never gets stale.

Classis Matters

“And what does the Lord require of you?”

Boring is not a word that describes the life of Seminarian Steve Mann. He has lived in many diverse places, worked at many dissimilar positions, and now finds himself on the road to ministry. This is his story.

Steve was born in the state of Tennessee and has a half sister and half brother. When he was thirteen years old, his family moved to Long Island, New York, which was far different than Tennessee. He graduated from high school in Long Island, and took a year off to work on a duck farm, a big industry at that time in that area. Religion was not a part of his family, but there was a church near his home that he started attending, mostly for the youth group experience. It was at this church that he met Nathan Tuttle, the youth pastor, who introduced him to Grace Bible College in Wyoming, Michigan. At Grace he met his future wife, Sherri, who was from Chicago. After two years of college they were married, and he went on to finish the 5 year Ministry Prep program.

After completing this part of his academic life, Steve and his family moved to Anton, Colorado to pastor a church. Anton is a very small town out in the plains east of Denver, yet another big culture change. After three years of pastoring at this church, they decided to return to Grand Rapids. Again he needed employment. While at Grace he had worked part time at Rogers Department Store, so he was able to get a job there again, and worked in various departments. During the next few years he worked in many different occupations, including selling financial plans and insurance, working at a non-

profit low income housing business, pre-paid cellular phone business, and Mel Trotter Ministries as Director of the Men's Program. All the while he had this burden for social issues in the back of his mind. After returning from Colorado, he again felt the call to that type of ministry, but Steve resisted it because it meant that he would have to return to college once more. Providentially, while he was looking for work he came in contact with a good mentor who was helpful in getting him on the road to his goal.

Steve and Sherri live in Wyoming, Michigan, and have been blessed with four sons. The oldest is married and lives in Chicago, the second attends Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois, the third is a junior and the fourth a freshman, both at Calvin Christian High School in Grandville, Michigan.

The next step in his life was to find the right seminary. He had at least four options in this area, but a concern of his was location and not having to move his family. After a visit to Western Seminary in Holland, Michigan, he felt very good about what he experienced and that this would be a good fit for him. At the same time he was looking for employment in the area of Social Justice, which will eventually help him in his ministry, but would also be flexible enough for his college schedule. He then went to the online job directory of Kuyper College (formerly Reformed Bible College), in Grand Rapids and noticed a job posting from Georgetown Christian Reformed Church in Hudson-

Classis Georgetown Transition Team
P.O. Box 31
Hudsonville, MI 49426
Phone: 616.669.5051
Email: classisgt@i2k.com
Website: www.classisgeorgetown.com

ville. He applied for and was hired as Director of Outreach.

For the present time, things seem to have fallen nicely into place. The Mann family can stay at their home in Wyoming, Sherri can keep her position with a prepaid phone company, Steve can go to his position at Georgetown Church, and can go from there to his classis at Western Seminary, from which he hopes to graduate with his MDiv in 2017. This makes for a very busy life, but he is happy that he is now

on the road to achieve his goal.

Steve did not grow up in a religious home, but God has been leading him all along the way. His church background has been in the evangelical Bible-believing churches, the

group with which Grace Bible College is affiliated. Through his work at Georgetown CRC, he is now learning about the Christian Reformed Church. As he learns, he is becoming more and more appreciative of its commitment to living into the life that God has for us in Christ. He is also thankful for its commitment to missions and growing commitment to justice.

These are two of his favorite Bible verses. Micah 6:8, “He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Philippians 1:6, “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry in on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.”

These are his motivation to stay the course set before him.



Classis Georgetown Transition Team, Members and Staff

Rev. Mark Bennink
Rev. Dave Jolman
Rev. Gerry Koning
Rev. Marc Nelesen
Rev. Josh Van Drunen

Ms. Tricia Bosma, 10:24 Coordinator
Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Classis Asst. Treasurer
and Web Keeper
Mr. Mel Vander Bie, Classis Treasurer

Rev. Duane VanderBrug, Chair/Facilitator
Mrs. Dee VanHeuvelen,
Administrative Ass't., Stated Clerk, and
Newsletter Editor