

Classis Matters

January February 2015

Member Churches of Classis Georgetown

- ◆ 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

~ pray with thanksgiving for warmth and shelter from the cold weather.

~ praise God for the beauty of winter.

~ pray for safety in both walking and driving in challenging weather conditions, especially for those that are less abled.

~pray for Jamestown CRC and Messiah CRC as they go through the process of pastoral searches.

Student Fund Committee

The Student Fund committee of Classis Georgetown is asking for your assistance in informing people within our classis of the availability of monies for students who are preparing for the ministry in the Christian Reformed denomination. We desire that you encourage those you may know through personal contacts and by sharing this information. For those in your congregation who desire to enter ministry, this financial assistance could be very beneficial.

College seniors or seminary ready students who are professing members of one of the churches of Classis Georgetown, pursuing ministry in the Christian Reformed Church, and in need of financial assistance are invited to apply for financial aid for the 2015-2016 school year. Please contact Pastor Stan Drenth, 3903 Canterbury Dr, Hudsonville MI, 49426 telephone 616 450-7429. Applications will be accepted until February 28, 2015.

Thank you for communicating this matter to potential ministry students.

For the Classis Georgetown Student Fund Milly Holtvluwer, holtvlum@gvsu.edu, 616 457 3782.

REJOICE! REMEMBER! RENEW!

This is the theme of the 50th Anniversary celebration at Ridgewood CRC in Jenison. Several events are being planned throughout the next year. Printed below is just a partial listing of what is being planned.

MARCH 2015: Former pastors Revs. Leonard Hofman, Milton Doornbos, and Joel Boot will be leading worship.

MARCH 21, 2015: A celebration banquet will be held at the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville.

JUNE 24, 2015: An "Open House" will be held for all members, friends, and the community.

SEPTEMBER 2015: The theme for this month is fifty acts of service.

DECEMBER 5, 2015: A Christmas Open House is planned.

MARCH 2016: A wrap-up celebration service and church potluck are planned.

Please call the church at 457-3850 for more details.

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

One thing
we can't rescue
is
wasted time.

January February 2015

Classis Matters

“Love the Lord your God”

Life has changed a lot for this previously shy young man and it all began back in elementary school.

Brad Diekema was born in Grand Rapids to Jon and Mary Diekema. He has one brother, Steve, who is four years younger. The family attends Friendship Chapel.

Brad grew up in Jenison, where he attended Jenison Christian School. His high school years were spent at Unity Christian High School in Hudsonville. Following his graduation, he enrolled at Kuyper College in Grand Rapids, where he graduated with both Bachelor of Science and Pre-Seminary degrees. From there he went to Calvin Seminary, where he has completed his first semester.

While he was attending Jenison Christian, Brad had an opportunity to become involved in the People to People Ambassador Program. He received a letter from them saying that someone had nominated him to join their organization and he was invited to an organizational meeting. To this day he is not sure who nominated him, but thinks it may have been his 4th grade teacher.

This program was the brainchild of the late President Dwight Eisenhower, and had their first trip in the 1960's. It is designed to “create global citizens,” and “provides students the intentional experiences to increase their global awareness in a truly global society.”

Brad's first trip was in the 4th grade when he went to several national parks on a two week trip. He greatly en-

joyed this experience and the next year, when he was in the 5th grade, he went on a two week trip to Europe, visiting the countries of England and France. In the 6th grade, he went on his third trip, this time for 3 weeks to Italy, Austria, Switzerland and back to France. All of this served to overcome his shyness, helped to expand his group of friends, and an interest in and a love for traveling.

Another experience in Brad's faith journey was when he was in the 10th grade. He attended a retreat sponsored by Teens Encountering Christ, an interdenominational group that was started in the Catholic Church. Up until this time his life revolved mostly around himself, but now he began to move away from that and started to be concerned about others.

When Brad was in elementary school his plan was to be a marine biologist. But because of his experiences through his school years, both in church and in school, that was now changing. A great mentor during his high school years was his youth leader, Mike Heyboer, who planted the seeds for Brad to pursue vocational ministry. His role as a student leader in middle school, a leader in youth group, and a two week trip to Israel with Dr. Dan Kroeze from Kuyper College, all helped him in the discernment of God's call on his life.

Brad has been attending various Chris-

tian Reformed churches in this area. This is helping him to observe how each of them find their place in our communities.

Overall Brad believes that the CRC is doing a great job. The area of most concern to him is the numbers of young adults exiting the church. He feels that diminishing that gap is very critical to the future of the church. While he is convicted that we will always need to be seeking after the Lord, we must also be aware of the



changing demographics.

While he is just beginning his second semester at Calvin Seminary, he is very grateful that the seminary encourages criti-

cal thinking. He appreciates the diversity of theological thoughts that are respected both inside and outside of the classroom.

After a couple more years of education, it will be time for Brad to decide on a particular field of ministry. At the present time, and according to his personality and gifts, he is looking at pastoral ministry. He is thinking that the ideal church would be between 200-500 members. But again, he is totally open to God's will for his life.

The Old Testament book of Deuteronomy chapter 11 begins with these words: “Love the Lord your God.” For Brad, this has become the highest priority in his life, both for now and in the future.

Classis Georgetown Transition Team, Members and Staff

Rev. Mark Bennink
Rev. Larry Doornbos
Rev. Dave Jolman
Rev. Gerry Koning
Rev. Marc Nelesen

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