

Classis Matters

May June 2012

Member Churches

- ◆ 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 for the many summer programs that are being planned to present the gospel message to both young and old.

~pray for God's leading for First Jenison CRC as they search for a new pastor.

~praise for the church family at Ridgewood CRC as they welcome interim pastor Dr. David Dethmers.

~pray for Friendship Chapel and their interim pastor, Rev. Len Troast, who continues his recovery from a serious fall.

Collaborative Relationships, Yes We Can

What is the definition of the word "collaborative," what happens when this word is connected to the word "relationship," and how is this relevant to the ministries in our churches today?

Collaborative Relationships is the second of five values that were adopted by Classis Georgetown at the May 2011 Classis meeting. It was the theme of the May 10, 2012, meeting of Classis Georgetown, when two actors portrayed two old friends who have moved to the same community and unexpectedly meet. They live on opposite ends of the same street and are unaware of each other. They try to plan something where they can get together again, but nothing seems to come together.

Rev. Norm Thomasma, Director of Pastoral Relationships for the Christian Reformed Church, then led the group in an interactive study of ways and methods we can work together as churches. (You can read more about this meeting by checking the Classis Georgetown Minutes of Thursday, May 10, 2012 on our website: www.classisgeorgetown.com).

Rev. Duane VanderBrug, the current chair/facilitator of the Transition Team of Classis Georgetown, has compiled a list of definitions of what collaboration means in order to help us understand how this can be helpful for our churches and in our communities.

Collaboration is:

~the synergistic relationship formed when two or more entities work together to produce something *much greater* than the sum of their individual abilities and contributions.

~the **process** of *shared creation* when two or more individuals/entities with complementary skills interact to create a shared understanding that *none* had previously possessed or could have come to on their own.

~the **outcome** of successful collaboration is something that did not exist before; either the solution to a problem, new ideas, or a new or higher level of products, services, or know-how.

The following list shows some ways in which our churches are collaborating with other organizations or individuals to create a successful outcome. This is only the beginning of the great things God can do in and through His people in Classis Georgetown.

~Fairway CRC — at the recent dedication of their new multipurpose room the Outreach Committee decided to intentionally host a neighborhood event and to use the funds raised for an outside ministry. The money raised for their walk/run event will go to God's Kitchen in Grand Rapids.

~Twelfth Avenue CRC — Hand 2 Hand ministry which in conjunction with Holy Cross Lutheran Church provides food on the weekends for kids through Kids Hope.

~Georgetown CRC — first began a Day Care Program and then decided to add a Pre-school Program since the children were already there.

~Trinity CRC — Stream Team cleans Buck Creek as it passes through their property.

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

Tomorrow's
forecast:
God
reigns
and the
Son shines.

Many Places, Many Plans

Katy Driesenga is not a typical young woman. But in God's plan for her life that doesn't really matter. She knows that when she is open to where God is leading her, that she will be blessed in her life and in her ministry, wherever that may take her.

Katy was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and is the youngest of four children. Her family attended North Blendon Christian Reformed Church until she was in middle school, at which time they transferred to Bauer CRC. After her 2003 graduation from Unity Christian High School in Hudsonville, she joined the Air National Guard as a Medical Technician and ended up moving to Fort Morgan, Colorado.

There was not a CRC in Fort Morgan, but her aunt and uncle lived there and connected her with someone in the local Assembly of God Church. Before long Katy was active in the middle school youth group, which numbered about 20 kids. She developed leadership in this group by showing the love of God to all of the members who came from all sorts of backgrounds. No matter what type of home situation these kids came from, she wanted each one to know that God cared for him/her. Eventually she was able to start a community-wide youth group comprised of many different churches. This group grew to about 150 students.

While youth ministry was something that Katy really enjoyed, there was another passion that was stirring inside of her. When she was four years old, an aunt had given her a gift of a teddy bear dressed in scrubs. When she was in high school she went on several mission trips with Making OurSelves Equipped Servants mission teams. M.O.S.E.S. mission programs have a few adult directors and coaches, but are dependent on Student Leaders to develop the teams, of which she soon involved with. It was at this time that

became a part. It was at this time that she became aware of the needs of the little children. On a mission trip to Mexico, Katy took a picture of a little girl. She strongly felt that she wanted this small child to know about God's love, and her heart was filled with love for this little one.

After high school, Katy went to work for three months for an organization called Omwabini in Kimilili, Kenya. She was able to work with the nurse to set up a medical clinic in a community that previously didn't have access to medical care. She also worked with the orphans attending school, and the groups of widows who came to the center for help. While in Fort Morgan she was able to take a group of four adults and four young people to Omwabini, to work building two houses for families in need. For her this was a dream come true, though different than what she had imagined. She was now a missionary, working with children, and giving others a chance to serve those in need.

Although Katy is a free spirit by nature, after a time in Colorado she began to feel the call to return to the West Michigan area. She applied for different positions in youth ministry and was hired to fill that role at her home church of Bauer. Once again, she felt that God was calling her to this position. While youth ministry in this church was different than it was in Fort Morgan, she could help these youth to know and understand God's love for them.

Katy has been the youth leader at Bauer for three years, and now has felt yet another call to move on. Bauer loves and supports missions. Pastor Tim Holwerda has served Christian Reformed World Missions in the Philippines for several years. He has been an important influence in Katy's life and has helped her work through her thoughts, ideas, and fears about hearing the call to return to work with Omwabini. She has developed an interest in human trafficking and

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hopes to be useful in that area of need.

Katy is a very good example of how God is working in the lives of some of our younger members. She has enjoyed the benefits of a Christian home and family, a Christian school education, and a church and pastor that support her as she explores various areas of ministry. Through the process of hearing and following God's call, she has discovered that He is at work in many ways and with many people.

The youth ministry in Fort Morgan was similar to the youth ministry in Bauer. Although the youth themselves had many differences, they still needed to know the love of Jesus. The children at the orphanage in Kimilili needed to know that Jesus cared for them through people like Katy, and so did the little ones in Mexico.

Katy has also learned that when Christian Reformed churches are not close by, then you need to find another Bible believing church where you can serve. She has also learned that often a person's biggest support group is found in one's home church and pastor. And finally, she has learned the meaning of collaborative relationships, that is "pursuing ministry with others to create new ways of transforming lives and communities."

She will finish up her work in Bauer at the end of the summer, and then Katy will be taking some time off to raise funds for her future ministry. Her plans are to return to the orphanage in Kimilili, Kenya, but she will go wherever God calls her. Our churches can be thankful for all of the "Katys" that continue to be nurtured in our congregations and can praise God for his faithfulness. A favorite verse of hers is Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."



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