

Classis Matters

November/December 2011

Formerly Ministries That Matter

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 for wisdom as the Transition Team makes important decisions during the next year.

~pray for God's leading for First Jenison CRC, Friendship Chapel, and Ridgewood CRC as each searches for a new pastor.

Ministry Opportunity

Georgetown Harmony Homes is seeking a pastor to serve as a spiritual leader for their Board of Directors. Please contact Sheila Roach at pdroach@hotmail.com.

10:24

"The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out." (Proverbs 20:5)

What is true of an individual can also be true of a group. Classis Georgetown is replacing the former declining practice of church visiting with trained teams of listeners called 10:24 teams. Based on Hebrews 10:24 this new approach will be implementing the "best of" listening/coaching practices to encourage the leadership of our various congregations.

Through well-designed questions related to congregational health, mission and vision, the 10:24 teams will help those in leadership to have a positive forum for discovery and decision-making. Initial steps have been taken to prepare teams so that sometime in 2012 congregations will be able to access this effective new resource.

One of the anticipated benefits of these listening experiences is that effective practices/programs being practiced in one congregation might be shared with other congregations to help them in their ministries. The "deep waters" of what the Lord has planted in our churches will be more "drawn out" and our ministries will bear more fruit. *(Contributed by Rev. Brian Bosscher, pastor at Hillcrest Christian Reformed Church, and a member of the Transition Team)*

Work/Service Project

At the meeting of the Transition Team in November, someone mentioned that there was a possibility of the Classis Georgetown churches working together on a Habitat for Humanity House in this area.

Rev. Gerry Koning, a member of the Transition Team and pastor at Trinity Christian Reformed Church, contacted Mr. Dave Stegink, Construction Director for Lakeshore Habitat, who indicated that they are in the planning stages for a house in the Hudsonville area, and that they would be happy to work with us.

The house that is being planned needs to be handicap-accessible and will need a generator and an air conditioner. Ms. Amy Thayer, Homeowner Services Manager for Lakeshore Habitat, is requesting that if there are any HVAC companies in the area that would like to donate a Generac and/or a good A/C unit, they could be the beneficiaries of some great publicity. Her phone contact number is 616.393.8001 x 102.

Continue to watch this newsletter and your church bulletin as more details become available.



Vision Statement

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

Get out of
facebook,
get into
my book,
God.

Classis Matters

Editor's Note: For the past six years Classis Georgetown has published a newsletter called *Ministries That Matter* which contained stories about people who had come into our churches through outreach or evangelism. Twenty four stories were written that encouraged and inspired many of you to reach out to other people that do not yet know the Lord. We are deeply grateful for these stories and for the people that were so gracious in sharing them with us. At this time, Classis Georgetown is going through some transitions and the name of the newsletter has been changed to *Classis Matters*. Beginning with this edition we will for an indefinite time be sharing stories about members that have been in our churches for many years. Our hope and prayer is that these stories will encourage you in your church family and in the Christian Reformed Church, and that you will always be looking for ways to serve the church so that the gospel message may be "preached" through word and action. There are 32,000 people in the Georgetown area that need are not part of any church. With whom will you be sharing the good news?

The View From Here

This story begins in Grand Rapids when Harold Postma was born into a Christian home on the west side. He attended West Side Christian School, Grand Rapids Christian High School and Calvin College. He taught at Unity Christian High School in Hudsonville for twenty-five years before leaving to enter the business world.

When Harold looks back at his life he can see how three people greatly influenced him. One of those people is his paternal grandfather who immigrated from the Netherlands where he worked as a baker, and then continued that vocation in the United States. His relationship with the Lord was very evident to Harold, as well as his value structures. He remembers his grandfather saying that we need to go to church to meet the Lord in the Word and the sacraments and the rest of the service is less important. He would also remind his family that they needed to always give of their best to the Lord. Grandfather was a church organist for many years and finally quit smoking at the age of 87 because he figured "that it really was not good for him."

Harold's mother was another influential person in his life. She dropped out of the 8th grade to take care of her invalid mother. She spent a lot of time in the Bible and often led Bible studies at church without any formal training. She had an appreciation for fine music, like *The Messiah*. She spent many hours supporting West Side Christian School.

The third person that he gives credit to for making him who he is today is Harold's late wife, Barbara. She died just

just short of their 48th wedding anniversary after being treated for cancer for twenty months. Even though their marriage was shortened by illness, he wouldn't trade those years with Barb for anything in the world. Their three children have now added ten grandchildren to the family.

When Harold's father returned from the 1st World War he was at loose ends. It didn't seem like the bakery business was where he needed to be, so he moved to Flint where he started a restaurant business. Eventually he moved back to Grand Rapids and married Harold's mother. In those days, if you were not in church on a regular basis you were disciplined, which is what happened to his dad. However, a highlight in Harold's life was when his father made profession of faith at the age of 60.

After Harold was married he and Barb lived in Wyoming with their young family. Even though they were not looking for it, a very good deal came along on a house in Jenison. They were paying \$40 a month rent and that payment would increase to \$70 a month. Harold's salary as a teacher was not enough to cover the increased cost, but as providence would have it, he was soon offered a position to teach some evening classes at Davenport College. This brought in enough income to cover the increased costs of housing. But it also created other problems. Besides being involved in church, school and now teaching at night, Harold was frequently gone. One night at dinner he had to leave before mealtime was over. As he was walking out the door, his wife said to the kids, "Say good-bye to that man who came to eat with us."

It was her gentle way of letting him know that he needed to spend more time with his family.

Among other things, Harold has been a council member many times, taught catechism, and been to Synod more than once. He served on the Chaplaincy Committee of the Christian Reformed Church for fourteen years, a time he thoroughly enjoyed. He has held the position of Stated Clerk of Classis Georgetown for six years.

Harold is a member of Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church. The church had its first meeting in March, 1965, they joined in September and he has been there ever since.

He loves the Christian Reformed Church and believes that its teachings most clearly reflect Scripture. At the same time Harold feels that there is a lot we can learn from other denominations. He believes that strong leadership is very important in keeping our churches relevant to the times in which we are living.

Harold has a huge spot in his heart for young people. The way to keep them is to get them involved at a young age and then have them take ownership. He feels that kids should have as stable of a life as possible and that if they have emotional needs, we need to provide them with all the help and support that is needed. His heart for young people is reflected in his family as he spends time with his grandkids.

According to Harold, stepping out of the box, adopting other practices that will enrich us, and being willing to help each other will help the CRC continue to grow. He is very encouraged by what he is seeing in Classis Georgetown.

Classis Georgetown Transition Team Members and Staff

Rev. Mark Bennink
Rev. Brian Bosscher
Rev. Dave Den Haan
Rev. Steve Hasper

Rev. Gerry Koning
Rev. Marc Nelesen
Rev. Josh Van Drunen

Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Classis Asst. Treasurer
Mr. Mel Vander Bie, Classis Treasurer
Rev. Duane VanderBrug, Chair
Mrs. Dee VanHeuvelen, Administrative Asst. and Newsletter Editor