

## 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

~pray with thanksgiving for our blessings which are too numerous to count.

~pray with thanksgiving for the harvest of crops this past year, and for the ever present difficult issue of hunger.

~pray for safety for those in our church family that are away in the military during the upcoming holiday seasons.

~pray for God's grace and healing for any going through family crises. May each experience God's healing and peace.

## Collaborative Relationships (10:24 Teams) Part 5

10:24 Teams are a very important feature of developing collaborative relationships; one of the five values that were adopted by Classis Georgetown at its September 15, 2011, meeting. In the last issue of Classis Matters, a 10:24 Team member shared some insights into his role on the team. In this issue Rev. Josh Van Drunen, pastor of Zutphen Christian Reformed Church, shares his thoughts about being on the receiving end of a 10:24 Team.

"In April of this year a 10:24 Team composed of Ms. Tricia Bosma and Pastor Dave Den Haan, met at Fairway Christian Reformed Church with three members of Zutphen's council (pastor, vice president and assistant vice president), to discuss Zutphen's upcoming council retreat in May. Zutphen had requested a 10:24 Team to facilitate this meeting.

This pre-meeting, which provided an opportunity to prepare for the retreat, was where the primary questions asked by the 10:24 Team were these two: "What does Zutphen want to talk about? What does Zutphen want to address?" For about an hour the three Zutphen people shared ideas, concerns, and areas of interest while the 10:24 Team listened.

Since a topic was not selected at this meeting, the Zutphen group met briefly on Sunday to narrow down the questions for the retreat to these three: "In what ways does council ensure and promote health at Zutphen? How can council better ensure and promote a healthy Zutphen? What does council do to make or keep Zutphen healthy?" The 10:24 Team organized an agenda around these questions for the retreat.

At this retreat Zutphen's outgoing, incoming, and current council members met for three hours reflecting on God's will for their congregation. The attendees first met in small groups to discuss the fruitful areas in which council spends its time. After sharing with the larger group, the second time of reflection was naming the activities of council that were highly draining or unfruitful. Though difficult at points, this time was highly instructive as an opportunity to name and share the struggles of Zutphen, realizing that these are not the struggles of Zutphen alone.

The third time of discussion tried to settle upon a goal area for council to address throughout the next council year. Two were identified for future discussion and action; the council's visibility and the nomination process.

The Zutphen council will keep in contact with the 10:24 Team as they work through these ideas in the coming year."

As a pastor or church leader you are encouraged to contact Tricia Bosma, the 10:24 Coordinator for Classis Georgetown, at [triciabosma@comcast.net](mailto:triciabosma@comcast.net), either to request a team or to find our more information on being part of a 10:24 Team.

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."  
Hebrews 10:24.*

## 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

Anticipate  
meeting God  
in  
ordinary events.

## Classis Matters

### My Only Comfort . . .

Small children often have hopes and dreams of what they want to be when they grow up. But the path to one's vocation or career often takes many twists and turns.

Such is the story of Marc Van Berkum. Both of his parents are from the Netherlands, but moved to the United States where Marc was born. At the age of three, they returned to the Netherlands for family reasons. Marc's sister was born there. When he was ten they returned to Jenison and he attended Jenison Schools, Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University, receiving a degree in Business Administration.

Marc attended church when he was younger, but never had a personal relationship with Jesus. At WMU he had a friend who invited him to attend a campus meeting of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and continued to do so for over a year. The second year of this friendship they became roommates and the invitations continued. During this time Marc had reached a low point in his life and decided to attend a meeting of IVCF. The testimony of a young man in a tee shirt and jeans cut to his heart and he claimed Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

After college Marc moved to California and did some substitute teaching. He worked part time at Family Christian Stores. From there he transferred back to one of their Grand Rapids stores. After six years with this company, his store closed and he was without work. Shortly after, Marc married his wife, Niki, a co-worker and friend of his sister.

While out of work, Marc considered going back to school even though he had started working for Spartan Stores. After working for a while in the store management training program, he was diverted to a special project of doing efficiency studies for store operations. This project landed him in the middle of the Human Resources department. Ironically, Marc had been considering going back to school for either Human

Resources or a degree in the direction of Management Consulting. So there he was, in the middle of an HR department, hearing and seeing some of the ins and outs of HR, while studying and evaluating the operations of a company, consulting store staff and management.

It was at this point that God was beginning to change the direction of Marc's life. God gave him a glimpse of what he was considering spending a lot of money going back to school for. He discovered that neither career was for him and those doors were closed in an "efficient" manner by God himself.

Over the period of about a year and a half, several people had asked him if he'd ever considered full-time ministry. He didn't give it any serious consideration at first, but the question kept coming back to him and a latent desire for ministry began to emerge.

At this time Marc and Niki were looking for a home church. After visiting several churches in the area, they became members of Fairway Christian Reformed Church. In a conversation with his pastor, the Rev. Dave Den Haan, the subject of ministry came up and Pastor Dave offered to connect him with the Rev. Greg Janke, who worked in admissions at Calvin Seminary. He met with Janke and decided to apply. Soon after he applied, he was accepted and received several scholarships. While he was making the tough and uncertain decision to leave his job at Spartan Stores, his boss told him about a visit he had just made to Oklahoma, where he heard a story about a married man with five children quitting a very good job and beginning seminary. Marc's boss connected him to this man's blog, and in it he read about Abraham, by faith, leaving his country and family behind to follow the Lord. The first person who had challenged Marc to consider the ministry, had used those very words about Abraham's faith. This was further confirmation that he was making the right decision. Now Marc is in his fourth

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and final year at Calvin Seminary.

When Marc lived in the Netherlands, a country known most for its strong Reformed heritage, his family attended a Pentecostal church. After moving back to Michigan they attended a non-denominational charismatic church. His church background was rich and beneficial and now the Lord has graciously given Marc a deep love and respect for the once unfamiliar Reformed tradition, with its solid doctrines and confessions. The Reformed view of God—his sovereign grace and calling—is an anchor for our faith. We are secure in a God who loves us.



Marc also affirms the structure of the CRC. Now that he's seminary trained he affirms the need, if available, for theological training. He values the CRC's view that not just anyone can fill a pulpit. He also believes that a council serving as the authority in the church, rather than a congregational democracy, honors the office of leadership laid out in the Bible. Also, he mentions that synod is a gathering of representative leadership which has been prayerfully nominated and elected by our congregations. This shows that we still believe that Christ, rather than an individual person or group of persons, is our ruler and king.

Marc is excited to see God working in the CRC. He sees his own church, Fairway, encountering the living Christ, not just some wise man from history whose words leave it up to us to try and be better people. He sees Christ affirming in the lives of his people the liberating and comforting truth in the Heidelberg Catechism Answer to Question 1: "That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ." For this he is thankful and full of praise.

Marc and Niki are the parents of almost three year old Alaina, a.k.a. "Spanky," and are expecting another daughter in January. After he graduates from Calvin Seminary he hopes to become a parish pastor.

### Classis Georgetown Transition Team, Members and Staff

Rev. Mark Bennink  
Rev. Dave Den Haan  
Rev. Gerry Koning  
Rev. Marc Nelesen

Rev. Josh Van Druenen  
Ms. Tricia Bosma, 10:24 Coordinator  
Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Classis Asst. Treasurer  
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Mr. Mel Vander Bie, Classis Treasurer  
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