

## 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 all of the volunteer church workers that give countless hours of time to ministry.

~pray for all of the staff members in our twenty churches, that they may stay strong in their commitment to serving.

~the members and staff of the Classis Georgetown Transition Team wish for you a Blessed Christmas and a Joy-filled New Year. We are honored to serve you.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On Sunday evening, **March 9, 2014, at 5:30 PM**, Classis Georgetown will celebrate its 25th Anniversary by holding a very special worship service. All of our twenty churches are invited and encouraged to attend. We are hoping for representation from each of them. This event will be held in the main auditorium of Fair Haven Ministries, located on the corner of 28th and Baldwin in Jenison. The message, based on Hebrews 10:19, 24-25, will be given by the Rev. Joel Boot, formerly the pastor at the Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church in Jenison and currently serving as Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. A praise band of alumni from Unity Christian High School will be leading in worship. Come and be a part of this community of worshippers as unitedly we rejoice in God's blessing on our church community.

## Risky Compassion

While Classis Georgetown is able to act corporately on its Five Values, we are also able to do this as individuals. Mr. Greg Vander Horn, a seminarian in our classis who attends Trinity Christian Reformed Church, has recently begun volunteering with Jabez Ministries. The person that started this organization is Mr. Peter J. Gordon, a former Calvin Seminary with an M.A. in Pastoral Care. He completed an independent study on the theology of disabilities during his seminary days. Gordon is a friend of Vander Horn.

The heart and core of this ministry is directed towards persons with disabilities that are entering college. Since 2012, Gordon has been working with Rev. Harry Lew of Campus Directions, in his ministry at Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC).

Students with disabilities can encounter varying types and degrees of challenges that are daunting at best, insurmountable at worst. With this in mind this campus ministry has a threefold task: Bible study and pastoral care, unique evangelistic opportunities, and building community.

Jabez Ministries has a Mission Statement, a Ministry Purpose, and a Ministry Plan. The ministry plan involves a campus ministry (a ministry of community), a pastoral care ministry (a ministry of counseling and guidance), and a teaching ministry (Gordon will be a consultant to the CRC Disability Concerns). They currently receive some funding from CRC Home Missions.

If you would like more information about Jabez Ministries, please contact Gordon at either [vbede@icloud.com](mailto:vbede@icloud.com) or [Jabez MinistriesGR@gmail.com](mailto:JabezMinistriesGR@gmail.com) or Vander Horn at [gvh57@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:gvh57@calvinseminary.edu).

## 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**

**Will the road**

**you are on**

**bring you home?**

## Classis Matters

### “For by grace you have been saved”

This is the story of another of the seminarians that presently are a part of Classis Georgetown. It is the faith journey of Robert De Graff, who recently became Youth and Outreach Director at Twelfth Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Jenison.

Rob is a native of South Holland, Illinois, just south of Chicago. An older brother, Dan, a younger sister, Rachael, along with mom and dad, Dave and Dawn, complete the family. He began his school years in the Calvin Christian School in South Holland. When his family moved to Lowell, Indiana, he transferred to the nearby DeMotte Christian School, where he finished the 7th and 8th grades. His high school years were at Covenant Christian High School, also in DeMotte. The First Christian Reformed Church in DeMotte is where the family became members, and this is where Rob made his Profession of Faith while a high school student.

In high school Rob was a part of the Chapel Committee and drama program and helped with worship, mainly through leading prayer and playing in a brass ensemble. He was involved with his youth group and was a junior counselor in the Calvinist Cadets program at his church. A service trip to Costa Rica and two short term mission trips to Swaziland, Africa, sparked his interest in intercultural studies, and possibly future ministry. During these years he was mentored by his pastor, the Rev. Jeff Bulthuis. Rob is thankful for the solid foundation of faith that was laid for him through family, friends, schools, and churches during these early years of his life.

After high school he enrolled in Kuyper College in Grand Rapids. He was drawn

by the smaller community on campus and their intercultural studies program. This is where he met his future wife, Rachel, a native of Ada, Michigan. This past summer they celebrated their second anniversary, and now are a family of three with the arrival of their daughter, Rozemarijn, who is four months old.

There have been many factors that have pointed Rob to cross cultural ministry. One of these events was Calvin Seminary's Facing Your Future program. Another highlight was when he attended the Urbana Student Mission Conference in 2009. For him, learning to read the Bible there in a deeper and more complete way was a life changing event that took place. He also participated in a church planting and youth ministry internship in St. Louis with World Impact.

While in Grand Rapids, Rob has spent time working and worshipping at Seventh Reformed Church. He has led Bible studies and has helped with youth ministry in their neighborhood. He has also worked as an intern in Wyoming, Michigan, with the One Wyoming Kingdom Enterprise Zone (KEZ). This is a joint church planting effort between the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church in America. While working with One Wyoming, Rob spent most of his time working closely with Elevation Church, an RCA church plant meeting at Wyoming Park Junior High School. He has been deeply appreciative of the ministry opportunities, learning experiences, and relationships he was able to be a part of in connection with One Wyoming.

Rob recently began to further advance his education by enrolling at Grand Rap-

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ids Theological Seminary. His decision to study there was influenced by both their academic program and a very generous scholarship for which he qualified. At about the same time he joined the staff at Twelfth Avenue CRC. His combined duties with youth and outreach will further expose him to different types of full time ministry.

Rob presently has interests in urban ministry, church planting, and community development. Rob's wife Rachel, has a passion for ministry to Muslims and the Native Americans in South Dakota.



As Rob continues with his education and his new ministry position, and as Rachel shares her passions, together, by God's grace, they will discern where full time ministry in Christ's kingdom will lead them.

Rob's favorite scripture passage is Ephesians 2:8-10: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

On a personal note, Rob is encouraged and thankful for this passage of scripture because of its clear and powerful presentation of the gospel. It has helped him to remember over and over again that it is only the power and grace of Jesus Christ that makes him right with God, or in Rob's words, "not by being a nice person who stays away from bad things."

### Classis Georgetown Transition Team, Members and Staff

Rev. Mark Bennink  
Rev. Dave Den Haan  
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,  
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