

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 with the congregation of Friendship Chapel as they rejoice in the arrival of their new pastor, Rev. Josh and Ruth Benton and family.

~pray for the congregations of Evergreen Ministries, Messiah CRC and Ridgewood CRC as each goes through the search process for finding a new pastor.

~pray for those who are unemployed or under employed, that each of them may soon find gainful employment.

Daring Hospitality

The most recent regular Classis Georgetown meeting was held at the Guiding Light Mission in downtown Grand Rapids. This venue was chosen to highlight our value of Daring Hospitality. The highlights of this meeting included sharing dinner and stories with the residents and hearing the testimony of Mr. Joey Dow.

But there is another angle to this story. It all began over two years ago when Rick Bouwkamp, a member of Fairway Christian Reformed Church, was helping residents of GLM who were preparing to take the test for a General Education Diploma (G.E.D.). At about the same time Fairway was planning an Outreach Service. Rick began to form the idea of inviting the residents of GLM to Fairway for a morning worship service, followed by a noon lunch in their fellowship hall. All that was needed was transportation for the sixteen residents that responded to the invitation.

Now fast forward to today, as this relationship continues. It began with a group from Fairway going to GLM to pick up the residents for worship, but today the residents drive themselves in the mission's van. Sometimes they will be invited to member homes after worship, or they will share in a meal at church that is being hosted by one of the church's small groups. If they wish to go back to the mission after worship, someone will do this.

Mr. Ed Postma is one of the volunteer drivers. He tells about the difference this has made at Fairway and in his own family. He notes how many more members are aware of welcoming and caring for anyone who enters their church doors for a worship service. When he greets a new visitor he makes sure he stays with them until they have found another person with whom to connect.

Ed has developed a close bond with Mr. Dwight Williams from GLM. Dwight will occasionally spend the day with Ed's family and considers Ed's wife and three children as his special friends.

Dwight can testify to the changes this connection has made in his life. He has been all over the United States and attended many churches, but when he walked through the doors of Fairway, he felt immediately that the people were all very real and it was like he had come home. Even though he has shared his past life with this congregation, no one holds it against him. He has high praise for Pastor Dave Den Haan, who Dwight says, has a great way of putting a sermon together so everyone can learn something.

Dwight admits that he was hanging out with the wrong circle of friends, the kind that allowed him to find trouble. Now he has a new circle of Christian friends who allow him to be himself without any labels.

Some time ago, Ed suggested to Dwight that he should think about handing out candy to the kids at church. Dwight ran with the idea and now is known as the "Candy Man." A member of Fairway has made a cloth bag that says "Candy Man" on the outside. The kids now look for Dwight and have to say who loves them (Jesus), before they can pick out a piece of candy. He thoroughly enjoys his new role, his new home, and his new friends.

A few residents of GLM have now become members of Fairway. This is an unexpected result that can happen when sharing the value of *Daring Hospitality*. We welcome the stranger in ways that transform lives and communities. (Ed Postma and Dwight Williams contributed to this story.)

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

Faith
is a journey,
not a
destination.

Classis Matters

Drawing from a Deeper Well

The story of Cory Nederveld's life is much like many people in this area. He was born the youngest of three siblings and lived his entire life in the Hudsonville area. His family attended church on a regular basis, and Bible reading was an everyday part of his life. His education was in the Hudsonville Public Schools and it was at Hudsonville High school that he met his high school sweetheart and future wife, Jackie.

After his high school graduation, Cory dual enrolled at Grace Bible College (BRE) and Davenport University (BBA). The call to ministry came to him early in his high school years, but this was a call that Cory fought for quite some time. He reasoned that he minister in any work place, but the calling to vocational ministry never full went away. He was hired at Zondervan and worked there for two years starting during his senior year of college.

During this time life began to change in totally unforeseen ways. During a time span of four years, Cory's life was deeply affected by the deaths of five close family members, including his father who died in 2006. Also included was one of his close cousins who was a groomsman at Cory's wedding only weeks before his death. When his cousin suddenly and unexpectedly died in a car accident, Cory began to think about his future and what God's plans really were for his life, and what to do with this persistent thought that God wanted him elsewhere.

The thoughts of entering fulltime ministry once again began to stir within him. At this time Cory made the decision to no longer ignore God's call and to enter youth ministry. It was in 2006 that he applied at several area churches and accepted a position at Cottonwood Church in Jenison.

Over the past few years Cory's role at Cottonwood has changed. While he began in youth ministry, and this is still a passion for him, he now works part time

with high school kids, and the rest of his time is spent in preaching and other ministries.

In May of 2013 Cory was examined by Classis Georgetown for the office of Commissioned Pastor. This allows him to preach and perform the sacraments. This summer he was able to officiate at three weddings and had the tremendous pleasure of baptizing one of Cottonwood's college students who recently came to Christ.

When the idea of the Commissioned Pastor role came about, he gave assurance to Cottonwood that he would continue with his seminary education (a priority to Cottonwood and to Cory). He is totally committed to having a seminary education. To him it is the best of both worlds, learning and doing, classroom and field experience. He appreciates how the denomination has made this position available and allowed him to serve in new and expanded ways, yet he sees his time at Calvin Theological Seminary as highly important. Seminary, in his opinion, is an encouragement to develop gifts and he highly recommends this route. He believes this will help him draw from a deeper well and strengthen his ministry for years to come.

Even though his role has shifted, Cory will always be interested in youth ministry and have a heart for ministering to teenagers. He has a huge concern for not only addressing the issues of the day, but in walking alongside young people to help them see that their identity should be rooted in Christ, not in what the world tells them. Cory has a passion for getting to the root of what it means to be a disciple, not just treating the symptoms. He has made it a priority to work with volunteer leaders and to equip these youth leaders, helping them **be** disciples who by God's grace **make** disciples. Cory also believes that fighting apathy is one of the biggest

concerns of young people today, and he wants to help them realize how profound faith is and the deep joy of being united to Christ. His goal is to help all youth to grow in their faith and walk alongside them to help them further down the road. He believes this done best through strong discipling relationships and programs that foster community and relationships.

The days are very full right now for Cory. He and his wife, Jackie, have two active sons, Logan, age four, and Hunter, age 2, and are expecting their third son this fall. Besides his work load at Cottonwood, he is in his second year at Calvin Seminary, working part time towards his MDiv degree.



His wife, Jackie, is a great support to Cory in both his ministry and his education, and by taking on the role of full time mom, a role she loves and excels at. With Cory's busy schedule, often Jackie will bring the kids to youth group so they can spend time together. The parents both love to see the high school youth at Cottonwood interact with their boys (not to mention give mom and dad a little break). They are also grateful for the community they have at Cottonwood. It has been a tremendous blessing for them to be a part of a church with so many people from different generations gathering together and caring for one another.

One of Cory's favorite verses is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Through any and every circumstance, during busy days in ministry and family life, through seasons of loss and pain, and in seasons of joy and abundance, he takes deep rooted assurance that God will provide. He will sustain him, equip him, and guide him as he seeks to serve Him. Cory finds great joy in his family, pastoral ministry, youth ministry, and seminary education. By God's grace he looks forward to years of serving Him and His church.

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