

April Newsletter

Fruitland Special Needs SERVE 2017: Are you free the week of July 21- 28 and searching for a new experience to be part of this summer? Looking to learn more about the Authentic Community in which we were created to be a part of? We are looking for some youth/young adults (must be 16+) to join us for a week of SN SERVE at Fruitland CRC. Mentors are paired up with a youth that is coming that has a disability – you will be there as a friend, encourager, and as a helping hand as needed to them. To learn more check us out on Facebook ‘Fruitland Special Needs SERVE’ OR check out our blog <https://servefruitland.wordpress.com/>. To register please visit the Youth Unlimited website found at this link www.youthunlimited.org/serve/. If you have any more questions please contact one of the coordinators – Amber Vanderhout amvanderhout@hotmail.com 905-906-3045 OR Erica Howard ehoward1009@gmail.com 647-897-7992.

Encouraging Profession of Faith Free Resources: Learn how pastors, youth leaders, children’s ministry leaders, elders and others can encourage and prepare people to profess their faith. Check out the “Encouraging Profession of Faith” tab in the new Professing Our Faith toolkit. Visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits to access these free resources that Faith Formation Ministries has gathered from CRC churches and other excellent sources.

Encouragement and Support for Families: Mom, author, and blogger Sara Pot will keynote “Resilient Families: Walking Together through Every Generation” on April 29 in Whitby ON. Though Sara and her husband Ralph celebrate the gifts of their four daughters, they are often consumed with the needs of Rachel and Janneke who have an undiagnosed syndrome. Workshops will feature sibling relationships, mutual support, estate planning, supporting one another, and ways churches can come alongside families. See www.crcna.org/disability for registration link. Call Heather at 1-800-730-3490 for information on scholarships for people with disabilities.

Ancaster Day of Encouragement: On a Hiatus for 2017 - After considerable discussion and evaluation, the Day of Encouragement (DOE) committee, along with the Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) board, has decided to put the annual Ancaster DOE on hiatus for at least 1 year. While we recognize and appreciate that the DOE has been a blessing to people for many years, falling attendance along with a general feeling that the event is in need of refreshing, led to this decision. It is our prayer that after a year of re-evaluation, re-focusing and re-visioning, the DOE Ancaster will return better than ever. In the meantime, we encourage you to take advantage of some great alternative conferences which are planned for this year. We would especially recommend Inspire 2017: a conference to connect CRCs for three days of powerful worship, practical workshops, engaging speakers, and conversation. For more information on this and other conferences please check the DOE Ancaster website at <http://dayofencouragement.ca/>

Volunteer for Fort McMurray Home Reconstruction: World Renew is happy to announce that volunteers are welcome from May13-September 2, 2017, to help rebuild homes for families who suffered through last year's wildfire in Fort McMurray, Alberta. For details and to sign up to volunteer, visit worldrenew.net/albertafires or call 800-848-5818.

Getty Concert Tickets! EduDeo Ministries and Campfire! Bible Camp is selling a selection of prime seats for Keith & Kristyn Getty’s “Facing a Task Unfinished” concert on April 27, 2017 at Hamilton Place! Call 905-516-9404 or email gettyconcert2017@gmail.com for your tickets.

Men's Choir Festival of Praise: The Christian Male Chorus Association of Southwest Ontario invites you to their 2017 Festival of Praise, to be held on Saturday, April 29th at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's Congregational Church in Chatham. Each of the five choirs will be presenting their songs and all voices will join together to form the mass choir. Tickets are \$10.00 per person. Proceeds for the evening will support the Chatham Kent Outreach for Hunger and the Shepherd's Way Inn. For advance tickets please call any member of your local Men's Choir or Paul Hoekstra at [519-359-8659](tel:519-359-8659).

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Highlights from the Council Meeting held on April 5, 2017

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. with a devotion on Love in Action and how we must meet the needs of other people in their thirst – whether physically, emotionally or spiritually.

The Chair then welcomed all those in attendance.

Living out our Mission

What can we celebrate?

- a. The enthusiastic interest and participation in the Wednesday Bible Study for women.

How are we doing and what do we need to communicate?

- a. The successful streamlining of the nomination for elder and deacon process and the willingness of members to stand for the vacant positions.
- b. The need for Cadet counsellors with some discussion on updating the program.

Reports were provided by various committees. The Board of Administration was pleased to report that the funds for the sanctuary level washroom and for the manse fence had been approved by the CRC Extension Fund. Work on the fence is already underway. The outside work for the washroom will commence as soon as possible.

The Reach In committee reported on the Fundraising Pancake Breakfast which will be held on Saturday, April 22.

The Transfer of Membership papers for Simon DuToit and Esther Van Eek and family were signed and sent to Ambassador CRC in Windsor. We shall miss this family and all that they did for our church.

There were some discussions on a Ministry Share Promotional campaign as well as on Inspire 2017.

The Delegates for the Classis Chatham meeting to be held on May 23, 2017 were chosen: Elder Ben Schinkel and Deacon Betty Bults will attend along with Pastor Aaron who will be chairing the meeting.

Attention Crafters: We are in the preliminary planning stage for this year's Christmas Bake Sale and Luncheon. Save the date for Saturday December 9 from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm. We are also planning to include a Craft Table and are asking those who craft to donate Christmas crafts and gifts. For more information see Rita.

Try Out the New Banner App: Available for iPhone and Android, this new app gives you quick access to all the latest Banner news and features. You can also use the app to locate churches and browse the latest content on The Network, CRC News, Think Christian, Today daily devotions, and more. Search "CRCNA Banner" in your phone's app store.

Calvin Seminary Preview Day: Come visit Calvin Seminary on April 28 for Preview Day! If you're interested in exploring and learning more about Calvin Seminary, go to www.calvinseminary.edu select Admissions on the left, and click on Visit to fill out the Preview Day form. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, hear from faculty, staff, and students, attend sessions, and have lunch, a tour, and more. Staying at a hotel for Preview Day? Bring along proof of payment and we'll reimburse one night's cost of lodging. For more information or questions, contact Calvin Seminary Admissions at semadmit@calvinseminary.edu

Walk where Jesus Walked: Visit the Holy Land on a learning tour this summer, August 8-18, on a trip where historic Christian sites are paired with today's Christian people. Visit crwm.org/HolyLand for more information or to apply.

Available Free in the Digital Library: "The Best Day Ever: The Story of Easter" is available free to all in the CRC through the Digital Library (crena.org/Library). This newly revised storybook tells the story of Easter (found in John 20:11-18) in simple words a young child can understand, a prayer, and suggestions for learning-through-play activities. This Bible storybook is one of 52 colorful storybooks designed for children ages 2-3.

Sea to Sea announces a Virtual Ride!

Do you want to participate in the Sea to Sea bike tour this summer, but have constraints? Sea to Sea is announcing a virtual ride! If you can't join the ride physically, there are other ways you can participate. Join us to help end the cycle of poverty. To find out how, go to www.seatosea.org/virtualride contact jonathans@partnersworldwide.org or call 616-818-4902.