

# December Newsletter

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## **Under Construction!**

We are about to begin. In the next week or two the inside construction of the washroom will begin.  
Board of Administration

## **Gardener/Groundskeeper**

Ben and Tina Schinkel have graciously offered to look after the flower gardens on the church property beginning in the Spring of 2018. Thank you to Nick and Jean Kuipers for your hard work in looking after the flower gardens for many years.

## **Attention Congregation**

The Search Committee met this past week and has the following people serving on this committee. Ralph de Vries (chair), Ashley Allen (secretary), Betty Bults, Dan DeRaadt, Sarah Kuipers, Gerry Schinkel, Greg Yzerman and John van Huizen (Council rep). As they begin their selection process, the committee invites the congregation to forward any Pastors names for the committee to consider. You can speak to any of the members with your recommendations.

## **Movie Night**

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers who come out to Movie Night each month. We will not have a Movie Night event this month but will continue again on January 26, 2018. See you then!

## **Council Highlights**

Council met on Wednesday December 6 and the following items were discussed:

- Council is preparing to have a summer Intern come to Essex for 10-weeks. More work needs to be completed before the final application is sent to Calvin Seminary.
- Council discussed Pulpit supply during the time we are vacant. Pulpit supply Pastors or Exhorters will be included on the Monthly calendar and on the “How We Serve at Essex CRC” back page of the bulletin.
- A request to have Elder Ben Schinkel Sr be appointed a designated Elder to serve Lord’s Supper while vacant if there is an unexpected need will be submitted to Classis.
- Classis Chatham meeting will be held on February 3, 2018 at Good News CRC, London, ON. Elders John van Huizen, John van Niejenhuis and Deacon Tammy Yzerman will attend the meeting.
- Council heard reports from the Elders, Deacons, Board of Administration, Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out committees.

## **Young Adults!**

Join other wonderful folks aged 18-30ish from across Ontario for the 2018 installment of the Young Adult Winter Retreat on January 26-28th, at Maranatha CRC in Woodstock! This year, we will focus on the theme “Culture” & how we’re to represent Christ to our neighbours around us, with Pastor Mike Collins from Providence CRC as our speaker. It will be a weekend full of spiritual encouragement, faith-based discussions, service, workshops, worship, fellowship, and funtivities!

Be sure to register by January 11th to receive the Early Bird rate of just \$60 for the entire weekend (after that it goes up to \$70). For more info and to register, visit our Facebook page “[Young Adult Winter Retreat](#)” or email [ya.retreat.team@gmail.com](mailto:ya.retreat.team@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!!

## **Calvin Symposium On Worship**

You are invited to register and attend the annual Calvin Symposium on Worship, January 25-27, 2018, at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. The three-day conference brings together a wide audience of artists, musicians, pastors, scholars, students, worship leaders and planners, and other interested worshipers. There are excellent rates for students and groups from churches. All worship services are free and open to the public. For information and to register, go to [worship.calvin.edu/symposium/](http://worship.calvin.edu/symposium/).

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## 2017 CBC Christmas Sing-In

Recorded in mid-December at Montréal's Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, the 38th annual Sing-In will be broadcast on Christmas Day, December 25, across Canada and into Europe. Tune in to your local CBC Radio 2 station at 1:00 p.m. and again to your local CBC Radio One station at 4:00 p.m. Hosted by Katherine Duncan, performers include Organist Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, soloist tenor John Tessier, Conductor Dr. Jean-Sébastien Vallée, the Choir of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, and a brass & percussion ensemble.

## Dominican Republic Church Construction

Join together with the local church in Los Alcarrizos, Dominican Republic to construct a new church building. Their current building is too small, in very poor shape, and has little ventilation. Church members have been gathering materials together and are really hoping for a team to come and help them this year. For more information visit [resonateglobalmission.org/go](http://resonateglobalmission.org/go) or contact Bill Thornburg - [bthornburg@crcna.org](mailto:bthornburg@crcna.org). Deadline for application is January 5, 2018.

## World Renew trip to Haiti

World Renew is organizing an open team to travel to Haiti! Are you passionate about sustainable community development? Deforestation is a serious environmental issue that threatens Haiti. Spend 8 days (March 10-18, 2018) learning about Haiti and participating in reforestation projects. Reforestation helps reduce the impact of mudslides and improves soil quality for increased food security and income for families. Applicants should be able to do physical work in tropical conditions. There may be opportunities for construction work. For more information, please contact Iona Buisman at [ibuisman@worldrenew.net](mailto:ibuisman@worldrenew.net)

## Stand in the Gap with World Renew this Christmas

God's power is made visible in His son Jesus Christ, who stood in the gap to offer us salvation. Give a powerful gift to someone in need this Christmas – one duckling, a flock, or a whole barnyard filled with animals. Find these and other life-changing items at [worldrenewgifts.net](http://worldrenewgifts.net), or call 800-730-3490 to receive your printed catalogue in the mail.

## A Theology of Star Wars

Are you excited about Star Wars: The Last Jedi? Some of the sharpest thinkers on theology and pop culture explore key themes in the preceding films in "A Theology of Star Wars," an ebook from Think Christian. Simply sign up to receive Think Christian articles by email and the ebook is yours! Learn more at [thinkchristian.net/starwars](http://thinkchristian.net/starwars)

## Washroom Fundraising

We have fundraised to date \$ 24,064.04

