

# February Newsletter

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## Folger's Coffee Cans

If you drink Folger's coffee sold in the plastic containers would you consider donating them to a local farm? Erin Kuipers works at a local horse farm and they use Folger's coffee plastic containers to mix the horses grains. With over 25 horses they need a lot of containers. This is a way to help a local farmer and divert plastic out of the waste management system. Please bring cans to church and give to Erin or Sarah. Thank you for your help.



## Reach Out Committee – Movie Night Director

We wish to thank Katie van Huizen for all her work for Movie Night. She chose Reach Out approved movies, co-ordinated helpers, servers, cleaners and provided support each month. Katie has advised the Committee that her term as Movie Night Director will be completed after the April Movie Night.

The Reach Out Committee is now in search of someone to replace Katie as Movie Night Director. If you are interested please see Florence Jardine or anyone on the Reach Out committee.

## Movie Night

Make plans to come out for Movie Night, Friday February 23, 2018. Doors open at 6:00pm. We will be featuring Disney's A Bug's Life. Invite your friends and neighbours. This is a great opportunity to meet our community neighbours.

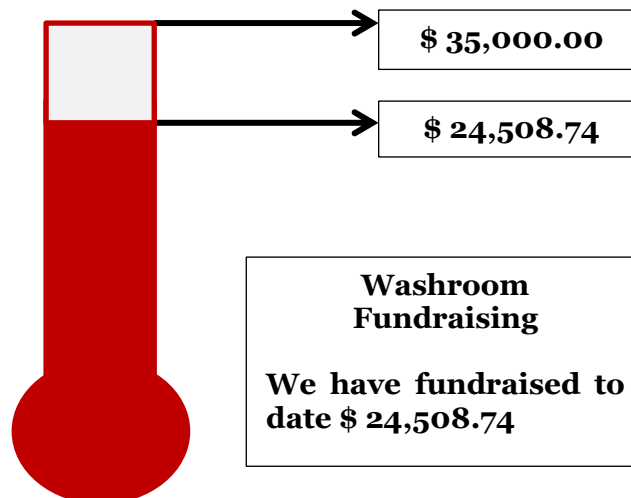
## Council Highlights

Council met on Wednesday February 7, and the following items were discussed:

- \* Council heard several reports from each of our committees.
- \* The Reach In committee welcomes Rebekah Schinkel.
- \* The Search Committee continues to research new Pastors to serve here at Essex CRC.
- \* It is noted that all correspondence from members of the congregation should be directed to the Council Executive to be processed and added to Council agenda. Council Executive meets on the third Wednesday of each month.
- \* Nominations for Elders and Deacon – Council would like to thank the congregation for names submitted for nomination. Council will contact those who have been nominated.
- \* The membership of Pastor Aaron, Cheryl, Phoebe, Vivian and Juliet was transferred to Dixon's Corners CRC.
- \* Classis Chatham report was heard. At Classis a request from Essex to have Mr. Ben Schinkel Sr. able to preside over the Lord's Supper should a visiting Pastor be unable to come due to sickness or inclement weather was approved.

## Training Event on Ministry and Aging

A training event called "Aging: Challenges and Opportunities" will help pastors, elders, deacons, disability advocates, and people in their third third and their loved ones minister within and embrace the life God gives us as we age. Dr. Syd Hielema will keynote this event at Maranatha CRC, Woodstock ON, on Saturday, April 21. Sponsored by Disability Concerns, the keynote and workshop topics will include growing in faith in the third third of life, resources for ministry with older adults, caring for aging parents, and aging and mental health. For more information and to register, see [www.disabilityconference.org](http://www.disabilityconference.org)



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## **CLASSIS CHATHAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**Saturday, February 3, 2018 hosted by Good News CRC, London**

- Rev. Willemina Zwart of Good News welcomed all. She and the Good News Praise Team led in a time of worship and devotions.
- 27 of the 28 churches of classis were present with Windsor-Ambassador offered regrets. 69 delegates were in attendance, including 20 first-time delegates. All first time delegates signed the Covenant for Office Bearers.
- Classis was declared constituted and Rev. Rob Hogendoorn of London-Forest City and Rev. Willemina Zwart of London-Good News were seated as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Mr. Ron Middel was seated as the Clerk.
- We welcomed Rev. Andrew Zomerma, new pastor of Dresden CRC and several other guests.
- Chaplains Kelly Sibthorpe of Fanshawe College, Mike Wagenman of Western University, and Doug Rowley of Ridgetown College reported on their ministries and the lives being affected and changed.
- Chaplain Kelly Sibthorpe announced of his intention to resign as Fanshawe College Chaplain as soon as a replacement can be found. The Chair and delegates thanked Kelly for serving as chaplain and we wish him the Lord's blessing and guidance as he seeks to serve Him.
- Following a nomination and voting process throughout the day, the following were elected to Synod 2018:  
Minister Delegate: Rev. Tim Luimes (Blenheim)  
Minister Alternate: Rev. Greg Fluit (St. Thomas-Fellowship)  
Elder Delegate: Diane Plug (Sarnia-First)  
Elder Alternate: John VanTil (London-Bethel)  
Deacon Delegate: Lynette van de Hoef (Chatham-First)  
Deacon Alternate: John Klein-Geltink (Ingersoll)  
Other Office Bearer Delegate: Rev. David VanBerkel (Sarnia-First)  
Other Office Bearer Alternate: Rev. Michael Wagenman (London Campus Ministry-Western)
- Classis was blessed to hear a report from our classical Church Planting Team. Church Councils were encouraged to spend time at their meetings to provide information to the committee.
- Rev. Al Postma, the CRCNA Classis Renewal Coordinator spent significant time leading classis focusing on how we can look to organize around mission and faith ministry in fresh ways.
- Classis heard that the Classical Ministries Committee continues to discuss the future of our Classis Youth Ministry Team as they reorganize.
- Recommendations from classis Nominations Committee have been approved by the Classical Ministries Committee (CMC) or classis:
  - Rev. Willemina Zwart (London-Good News) nominated to the Calvin College Board of Directors
  - Rev. Mark Verbruggen (Sarnia-Living Hope) to the Fanshawe College Campus Ministry Team
  - Pastor Beth Fellingner (St. Thomas-Destination) to the Council of Delegates
- Classis heard of the exciting opportunity to further the work of God's kingdom in London as Forest City Community Church recently began a second site in east London.
- As the Calvin Worship Symposium is often in conflict with our winter session, classis approved that we begin holding our winter meeting of classis on the first Saturday of February.
- Both Essex and Sarnia-Redeemer CRC's were granted permission for an elder administer the Lord's Supper during their vacancies. This is permitted by the Church Order in the case of need.
- The 2017 yearend Financial Statement was distributed on behalf of the Treasurer and Finance Committee. We are thankful that we reached 101% of our classical ministry shares.
- Classis was blessed to hear Church Counselor, Church Visitor, and a number of other reports throughout the day. We adjourned at 3:00 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., DV, at a location yet to be determined.

*-- Minutes are available through your church or Ron Middel, Stated Clerk*

**Helpful information for churches can be found on the Classis Chatham website**  
**[www.classischatham.ca](http://www.classischatham.ca)**