

October Newsletter

Council Highlights

Council met on Wednesday October 4, and the following items were discussed:

- * Council is in the process of updating our Essex CRC pamphlet which will contain information on various ministries and service times.
- * It was reported that GEMS and Cadets have begun their new season. It is important we keep working with the leaders as they are a valuable outreach for our church.
- * We were encouraged to hear that there were 87 people in attendance at our September Movie Night.
- * Council heard a report from Classis which included the Classis minutes.
- * Council continues to encourage everyone to keep Pastor Aaron, Cheryl and family in your prayers as they discern God's will in their lives.
- * During fellowship time, Council challenges each of us to connect with someone we haven't talked with in a while.

Custodian

The Board of Administration is seeking applicants for the position of Custodian for the two-year term January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019. All applications should be submitted no later than Sunday November 19, 2017. For further information please contact Greg or Linda

Attention Crafters

We are planning to include a Craft Table and are asking those who craft to donate Christmas crafts and gifts. Looking for woodworkers, knitters, crocheters, quilters etc. to help us expand our venue. For more information see Rita.

October Food Drive

The deacons would love your help with the upcoming food drive to benefit the Essex Food Bank in October. Each week will have a theme to make it fun!

Please place items in the corner at the church office where notices will be posted.



October 1st – “Share the Bounty!” Please bring in food items for Thanksgiving



October 8th – “It’s a SOUPer Day!” Please bring in non-expired canned, bagged soups



October 15th – “Spread the word! Helping is sweet!” Please bring in jams, jellies, spreads

October 22nd – “See what you CAN give!” Please bring in non-expired cans



October 29th – “Socktober!” Please bring in socks as the weather is turning colder



Movie Night

Make plans to come out for Movie Night, Friday October 27. Doors open at 6:00pm. We will be featuring Monsters, Inc. Invite your friends and neighbours. This is a great opportunity to meet our community neighbours.

World Hunger Sunday

World Renew invites you to join us in changing the story for communities around the world. Through daily devotions and activities, you can gather with your family to learn how God is moving families beyond poverty, hunger, and oppression, and equipping them with skills to succeed. Join us on November 5 for this year's World Hunger Sunday!

Save The Date – Libertas Male Choir presents

Sounds of the Season Christmas concert series with special guests from the Netherlands. Martin Mans, director; Martin Zonnenberg, organist; Barend Wiltjer, tenor. November 29, 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, Woodstock; November 30, 7:30 p.m. at Georgetown CRC, Georgetown; December 2, 7:30 p.m. at Redeemer University College, Ancaster. For more information and tickets go to www.libertasvoices.com e-mail info@libertasvoices.com or call 905.522.0001. Adults: \$20, Youth (10-14) \$10, children under 10 free.

October Newsletter

CLASSIS CHATHAM HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, September 26, 2017 hosted by Destination Church, St. Thomas

- Pastor Beth Fellingner of Destination welcomed all. She and the Destination Praise Team led in opening devotions and a ministry reflection. She also led the delegates and guests in an exercise -- "The Adventure of the Shoe" and a time of personal reflection. Opportunity for prayer was taken throughout the day.
- 26 of the 28 churches of classis were present. Windsor-Ambassador and London-Forest City North offered regrets. 65 delegates were in attendance, including 10 first-time delegates. All first time delegates signed the Covenant for Office Bearers.
- Classis was declared constituted and Rev. Norman Visser of Chatham-Calvary and Rev. Eric Groot-Nibbelink of London-Bethel were seated as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Mr. Ron Middel was seated as the Clerk.
- Chaplains Kelly Sibthorpe of Fanshawe College and Mike Wagenman of Western University reported on their ministries and of the encouraging interactions as well as some of the challenges.
- Mr. Fred Verwoerd Interim President of Redeemer University College addressed us. Redeemer is celebrating their 35th year with 650 students enrolled. They are in the midst of a \$20 million capital campaign and are focused on reducing their debt.
- Dr. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director for the CRCNA reported on the activities that the denomination has been doing through our Canadian office. He also introduced "The Bridge App" which the delegates approved to support and integrate for all of our churches of the course of a minimum of two years. More information and training will be coming to our churches in the near future.
- Mr. Maynard Wiersma of Christian Stewardship Services gave an educational and encouraging presentation on stewardship "Sparking Generosity in Your Congregation".
- Rev. Harold Winter (Tillsonburg) introduced the Church Renewal Lab. "The Church Renewal Lab is a two-year renewal journey for the purpose of developing intentional missional congregations that make more and better disciples who transform lives and communities in Christ." "A Simple Reality... Either a church is on a constant path of renewal or it is on a sure path of decline." Rev. Winter encouraged our congregations to consider and discuss participation in this journey and invited elders, deacons, ministers and church leaders to a lunch at London-Bethel on Wednesday, November 8th.
- Several administrative changes to the Rules of Classis were approved.
- Following recommendations from classis Nominations Committee and Classical Ministries Committee (CMC), classis approved the appointments of:
 - Margriet Linker of St. Thomas-Fellowship as Deacon Member at Large to CMC
 - Barry Wright of Dresden as Elder Member at Large to CMC
 - Rev. Eric Groot-Nibbelink as Synodical Deputy Alternate
- Classical Treasurer Harry Verburg presented the proposed 2018 budget on behalf of the Finance Committee. Classis approved the budget, which amounts to \$61.76 per professing member (this is down from \$64.88 in 2017).
- Classis was blessed to hear Church Counselor and a number of other reports were throughout the day.
- Classis adjourned at 2:10 p.m. to meet again at London-Good News on Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., DV.

-- Questions should be sent to Ron Middel, Stated Clerk

Helpful information for churches can be found on the Classis Chatham website
www.classischatham.ca