



19 December 2010

THE CHURCH UNDER THE CROSS

**Welcome** *A warm welcome to all who join us today in giving worship and praise to our great God and Saviour. May this be a time of growing in grace and strengthening our relationship with the Lord and with each other. Please join us for a cuppa after the service. If you are visiting today, please sign our visitor's Book. We have an information leaflet explaining our church's ministries and activities, feel free to take one or ask for one.*

### WORSHIP TODAY

9:30 AM Pastor Jim de Witte  
Message: Waiting for Christmas  
Reading: Luke 2:21-40

6:00 PM Pastor Keith Vethaak  
Message: Poor God, Am I Really Created in His Image?  
Readings: Psalm 139

### CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 AM Pastor Jim de Witte  
Message: Christmas is...

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Pastor Jim de Witte  
6:00 PM No evening service

### OFFERINGS

#### THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Lord's Supper, Diaconate.

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

1 – Local Church  
2 – **WDRW** Empty Hands Appeal

#### NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – Reformed Church Youth Comm

### LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges \$2,757.55  
URY \$434.10  
Compassionate \$870.00  
Compassionate (Combined Churches) \$1,388.75

### ROSTERS

#### COFFEE SERVING :

Today: A & Y. Pleiter, D. Cameron.  
Next Week: J. van der Wolde, J. Blik, H. Burggraaf

#### PA & VIDEO :

Today: Phillip & Paul Ellings  
Christmas Day: Kevin de Jong  
Next Week: Matthew Noorbergen, Dave Barrot

#### GREETERS

Today: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud  
Christmas Day: Martin & Coby van Rossen  
Next week: Yke & Anneke Laverman

### From the Pastor's Desk

Today is the last newsletter for 2010. I want to thank Adrian de Vos for the work he has done in putting together the newsletter week by week for us. Anita and I would like to thank the congregation for their

love, support and encouragement during this past year. We really appreciate your prayers and partnership in ministry. We want to wish each person a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, and a wonderful new year as we look forward with anticipation and expectation to what the Lord will do in us and through us.

As I reflect on the past year I cannot but help stand in awe of so many in the congregation who give so much of their time and energy to the life and ministry of the church. Church is always a 'one another' fellowship, where we each minister and support each other and the wider community. As Paul writes, 'From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work' (Ephesians 4:16). Without the tireless effort of these people we would never have been able to achieve what we have. I want to say a huge thank you to each and every person involved in ministry, from those who visited others to those who ran programs; from those who served coffee to those who led services; from those who organised fellowship groups to those who played music; to each person who prayed and worked together. I know that we are a richer, more blessed community because of your work. If it depended on me alone, I and you would be worse for wear.

I am especially thankful for the wonderful work of Henni Burggraaf as our Pastoral Care Worker. Her heart and ministry is huge, and she does it all with boundless energy and compassion. I am grateful for the partnership with her, and the whole Church Council.

With Christmas just a few days away, the Lord greets all of us with these words: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace'. The theme of the service this morning is about waiting for Christmas. What are you waiting for when you think about Christmas. May God fill our hearts with his peace and hope as we celebrate a most wonderful event in history- Christmas.

## Eternity

The latest *Eternity* newspaper (November edition) is now available in the church foyer. Pick it up and have a read. There are a number of interesting articles in there dealing with youth and also death.

## Indescribable Worship event

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January there will be an 'Indescribable Worship Event' at Bridge Church Richmond. Muscian Chris Tomlin (How Great is Our God) will be performing and Louie Giglio (Indescribable DVD) will be speaking. I have a limited number of tickets available for this night at \$40 each. If you are interested please see Jim de Witte soon to secure your ticket.

## Compassion Catalogue

For the past few years we have been able to support needy people around the world by buying useful gifts that meet real needs. This year we are again working with our own World Development Relief Workgroup (WD&R) to show compassion and give support to the suffering people in the areas where we conduct mission work. The WD&R Compassion catalogue is now available. Each gift in the catalogue gives us opportunity to help those in need in India, Solomon Islands and Myanmar. Any purchase you make will be carefully distributed through the networks established in these countries. The needs of these people are urgent and immediate.

The catalogue clearly explains how to respond and what to do. To help you better understand

<p><b>Christian Reformed Church of Dandenong</b>          255 Outlook Drive, North Dandenong, Vic 3175          Church Office Phone: 03 9795 0576</p>		
<p><b>Pastor</b>  <b>Jim de Witte</b>          Church Office 9795 7267          Home: 9701 0453  <a href="mailto:Jim@dcrc.org.au">Jim@dcrc.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>Pastoral Care Worker</b>  <b>Henni Burggraaf</b>          Church Office: 9795 2170  <a href="mailto:Henni@dcrc.org.au">Henni@dcrc.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>CRCA Web site</b> <a href="http://www.crca.org.au">www.crca.org.au</a>  <b>Our Church Web site</b>  <a href="http://www.dcrc.org.au">www.dcrc.org.au</a>  <b>Please visit our web site</b>  <b>Your comments are welcome</b></p>
<p>Newsletter compiled by Adrian de Vos. Email <a href="mailto:newsletter@dcrc.org.au">newsletter@dcrc.org.au</a> Phone 9547 6878 <span style="float: right;">News items dead line is 5 PM Wednesday.</span></p>		

Corey and Helen van Garderen are able to answer any questions and collect your gifts. Unfortunately, because the gifts are being distributed direct to the believers the funds are not able to be channelled through government approved agencies. This means that no receipts can be issued for tax deductibility purposes. When you choose one or more of the items in the catalogue you are drawing alongside people in poverty, and showing them Christian love and mercy. Please respond to the need today.

### **Pastoral and Prayer Points**

- Last weekend **Nan Vander Kruk** was moved from ICU to palliative care in McCulloch House, after coming off all life support systems. This decision was made after scans revealed that significant brain damage had occurred due to post operative complications. On Thursday evening Nan passed away peacefully to be with her Lord, with her family by her side. We ask that you pray for God's enabling strength for Henk, and the family, Ingrid, Wendy, Robyn, Edwin and their families, together with wider family members as they grieve the passing of a wife and mother. Pray that God will be gracious and merciful to the family at his time.
- **Peter Kaka** has returned safely from Sudan and wishes to thank the church for their care for Katherine and the children.
- Pray for **Peggy Hodgkinson** who needs to undergo corrective surgery in the near future for an oesophageal pouch, which is causing her problems. A specialist appointment this week will give Peggy further information.
- We praise God that **Ruth Harris** has come through her reconstructive surgery well. Pray for the needed healing and rehabilitation, which will take time and patience.
- We trust that **Karen and Ben Hamilton** will by now have become proud parents again, as Karen was being induced on the day of writing. May God bless them as a family with their new little one.

As a community we remember those who are isolated and live away from the church community (e.g. in residential care). Remember them as you send your greeting cards. I am sure it will encourage them to receive a card.

### **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

#### **THE GRACE GROW GROUP (Triple G)**

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2.00-3.30 pm. Leader is John Nicholson. Everyone is welcome. Contact on 97956252

#### **OASIS GROWTH GROUP:**

meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month (but not during school holidays) at the Burggraaf's: 7:15 – 9:15 pm. New members welcome to attend. Ph: 9791 2601

#### **COFFEE BREAK LADIES BIBLE STUDY,**

Meet at the church at 10am. All ladies are welcome we have fellowship and study God's Word every Tuesday morning.

#### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesday night Bible Study. For further information about our group contact Mark Meenks on 97045516.

### **Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past months. We thank you for those who visited John in hospital and also those who were able to help John with his meals. Your prayers, cards and support are very appreciated. Love from the Van Neutegem family.

### **Christmas Day Service**

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of December we will be holding a special Christmas Day service. In the service we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and reflect on the greatest gift of love this is for us.

Join us at 9.30am for this service and use this opportunity to invite friends and neighbours to celebrate with us.

### **Holiday Services**

During the month of January (2, 9, 16 & 23) our evening services will be combined services with



Anglesea however there are only approximately 16 beds so if you want to be included in this weekend please let Jannette Van der Jagt know as soon as possible so that she can save a place for you.

We already have 4 people who have indicated their wish to attend so be quick and grab a place for yourself.

Transport can be organized so don't let this be a problem. Only 12 places left.

Ring Jannette on 9767 7110 during the day or 9703 1613 in the evenings.

### **Elder/Deacon Elections**

Last Sunday a short congregational meeting was held to elect two new Elders and a new Deacon, via affirmation. The congregation has supported the call to Harry Burggraaf and Cor Span to the Office of Elder and Colin Harrison to the Office of Deacon. Please pray for these people as they consider and respond to the call of the congregation. The installation service for these people will be held in early February 2011.

### **Evening Services**

Next Sunday (26<sup>th</sup> December) there will be no evening service held in the church. With Christmas Day and many family commitments it was decided to not hold an evening service on the Sunday.

Over the January period the evening services will all be combined services, incorporating Casey, Dandenong and Langwarrin congregations. This year they will be held at 6pm in the Casey CRC (350-352 Pound Rd, Narre Warren South). This covers the services from the 2<sup>nd</sup> January- 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Our first evening service here in Dandenong in 2011 will be Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January. We look forward to the contribution of the ministers from the three congregations in leading these services.

For Village and Hostel residents who find it difficult to travel to Casey, DVDs of church services will be played through the video loop at 6pm on Sunday evenings, and we still have our regular morning services.

### **Holidays**

Pastor Jim and family will be on holidays from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2011 to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Henni Burggraaf will be on holidays from Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January, and another week from 13<sup>th</sup> January, being back at work on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Any matters of pastoral concern during this time can be relayed to any of our Elders or Deacons.



### **WD&R Christmas Appeal**

Every year our churches take up a special offering for WD&R's many development projects that we are supporting. Many of these have been featured in our "Empty Hands" newsletter. Very recently we began a micro finance project in a small village in the Nth East Indian state of Manipur. This program will give small loans of \$75 to \$150 to desperately poor families to grow vegetables such as potato, cabbage, garlic, ginger and chilly and to keep poultry, pigs, fish and bees. Help will be given to market the produce. As well, we are building a community rice mill so that there will be added value to the rice they grow and sell. Next year we plan to add a Literacy Program for children and Health Program for the village.

We would be delighted if you would pray for **Saranamai Village** by name as you give to our Christmas Appeal. It will be very clear that this micro finance enterprise is one that goes with the Gospel of grace. Already there is a Christian witness in that village.

Please also pray for the WD&R committee as this is the first such micro finance scheme we are managing entirely on our own.

To God be the Glory!

Finally, we take this opportunity to express our thanks for the generosity that you have displayed again this year. Thank you for the many times you

have supported WD&R's ministry in Jesus name in 2010. May God grant you a Christmas full of the joy of knowing the Saviour.

Bert Kuipers - for the WD&R committee.

### **Kids Hope**

I spoke with Brad Allen during the past week and he wants to pass on his deep appreciation for each mentor who gives of their time to help a child at Rosewood Downs Primary School. He and the staff speak very highly of each mentor who comes into the school and he regularly encourages other schools to pursue Kids Hope. In the new year he wants to come encourage us to continue this vital work.

I, too, want to say a huge thank you to each and every mentor who stuck it out at Rosewood Downs this year. There were some tough times with children being regularly absent from school but the program continues to have an impact in the lives of those children and the school community. Thank you for your love of the children and your commitment to them and the program through the year. I admit that I haven't been able to give enough time to supporting mentors, so thank you for doing it as self starters. May God continue to bless it in the year ahead.

Pastor Jim

### **Church Council Short Minutes**

Church Council met for the final time in 2010 on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The meeting opened with further discussion stimulated by the book *The Trellis and the Vine*. The focus was on maintaining unity in diversity. Finance and Maintenance tabled a report with news on replacement tables being purchased for the wheeled tables currently used in the hall. The new tables are of commercial quality and have a storage rack with them. F&M were also encouraged to continue discussions with the lease holder of our commercial property with respect to his buying the property. Repairs to the building fascias will be undertaken by Geroge Zomerdyk.

Lynette Pretorius was approved by the Church Council to take up the role as our ChildSafe Coordinator. Church Council is thankful that Lynette

is willing and able to do this. A report of the November Classis meeting was presented by Colin, with discussion on the support needed by the Narre Warren congregation. We also continued discussion on the way to coordinate and support the wonderful children's ministry of the congregation. The possibility of a Children's Ministry coordinator was discussed.

Pastoral visits by Jim, Henni, Elders and deacons were tabled and discussed. The meeting was concluded with prayers of thanks and petition.

### ***Note from G Van Groningen***

During the week I received the following email from Rev. Van Groningen, who is known by some of our older members for his work at the Reformed Theological College in the 1960s. I have reproduced it as I received it.

*Good morning.*

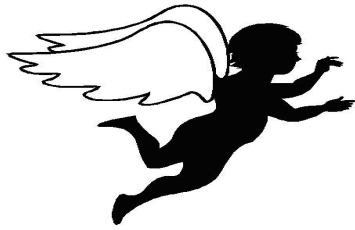
*It is Friday morning. I just came into my study. I have been out shoving (not shovelling) three inches of snow from our sidewalk and driveway. Handling snow is not a common work for you and not too often for an 89 year old as I am.*

*My thoughts often include memories and experiences we last had in the first two or three years of RTC as a full-time theological college. The Lord blessed us and continues to do so. Both you, Harriet and I, jointly express this with joy and full dependence on our sovereign Lord.*

*Soon it will be fifty years since RTC became a full time theological academic institution. I recall the joy and enthusiasm as the realities of the Lord's blessing enriched us.*

*Enjoy your summer holidays. We are enjoying the celebration of the Father's gift to all of us.*

*Dr. G. Van Groningen*



## BIRTHDAYS

26-12-10 to 5-2-2011

Auyen Arou	December 27
Geertje (Katie) de Jong	December 28
Doris Kreun	December 28
Mieke Daalhuizen	December 31
Emke van den Berg	December 31
Gabrial Arou	January 1
Jeek (Jake) Mut	January 1
Jackline Mut (Nyajouk)	January 1
Mary Arou	January 1
Martha Cholel	January 1
Rebecca Arou	January 1
Anok Arou	January 1
Akwai Arou	January 1
Abuk Arou	January 1
Paul Cholel	January 1
Abraham Cholel	January 1
Thea Bonga	January 2
Cor Span	January 4
Johanna Woning	January 5
Shereen Hauke	January 7
Bill Meijer	January 8
Dini Burggraaf	January 10
Russel Painter	January 13
Ian Scheepers	January 15
Don Mekking	January 17
Kathleen Harrison	January 18
Yvonne Pleiter	January 20
Adriana Pronk	January 27
Samantha Wylie	January 28
Maria Smedes	January 30

Chris Pretorius	January 30
Esko Oinonen	January 31
John de Haan	February 2
Noah Hauke	February 3
Sjaan Siepel	February 4
Diana Mut	February 5

Before the first star twinkled, God saw the twinkle in your eye, heard the sound of your voice, and called you by name.

You're one of His favourite creations, and He still rejoices over you.

*Have a Beautiful Birthday*

## Op Shop News

The Op shop has now closed for a well deserved break. We will re-open again on Thursday 3rd February. Thanks to all who have supported us this year with donations, helping set up and pack up, purchasing things or general encouragement. We regret that we cannot receive donations during our holiday break as storage space is an issue. We have financially supported the Shawlands workgroup, Handbrake Turn, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the deacons and Cornerstone. Great job everyone, enjoy the break and see you all back again to serve our great God in 2011.

The Op shop team.

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a safe and healthy 2011.

Also a big thank you too everyone who gave items to be used as fill-ins for the newsletter.

Adrian de Vos editor



TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART...DON'T FOLLOW YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING...IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM... AND HE WILL DIRECT YOUR PATH (PROVERBS 3:5)