



18 December 2011

**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: The Boring list of Names  
Reading: Matthew 1:1-17

6:00 PM Pastor Jim de Witte  
Message: Christ's Advent- Our Expectation  
Readings: Mark 14: 55-65; Revelation 22:7-21

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

#### Christmas Day Service

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

### OFFERINGS

#### THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – ROAD Workgroup

#### NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church  
2 – WDRW Empty Hands Appeal

#### LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,104.20
Transit	\$1665.10
Compassion	\$735.00



### ROSTERS

#### COFFEE SERVING :

Today: G. Huinink, K. Knol, F & H. Piening.  
Next Week: **No coffee serving**

#### PA & VIDEO :

Today: Jennifer van Neutegem,  
David Cameron  
Next Week: Kevin de Jong, Ian Meenks

#### GREETERS

Today: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud  
Next week: Martin & Coby van Rossen

### From the Pastor's Desk

Today is the last newsletter for 2011. Anita and I would like to thank the congregation for their love, support and encouragement during this past year. 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. Thank you for the prayers, encouragement, support and friendship you have offered us this year. We love you in Christ, and look forward eagerly to what God has in store for us in 2012.

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 want to thank Adrian de Vos for the work he has done in putting together the newsletter week by week for us. 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.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year period, and trust you will have a refreshing time for both body and soul. And particularly as we remember the birth of Jesus our saviour, we pray you will find, in greater and greater way, that your only joy comes from him. May God fill our hearts with his peace and hope as we celebrate this most wonderful event in history- Christmas.



## Outlook Gardens Aged Care Facility Volunteers Wanted

Assistance needed to work with Leisure and Lifestyle programs. Activities include Ladies Groups, Morning and Afternoon Teas, Games, Outings, Shopping Trips, Craft etc. Any assistance would be appreciated. Please phone 9795 7566 and ask for Rosemary.

## OP SHOP HOLIDAYS

The Op Shop will be closing for the holidays, and a well deserved break for all the volunteers. Our last day open this year will be **Friday 16th December 2011**. Please do not bring any donations in after this date as storage will be an issue. We re-open again on **Thursday 2nd February 2012**. A very big thank you to everyone who regularly helps, and especially to those who recently responded to our needs at pack up time. **The Op Shop Team.**



## A CHRISTMAS INVITATION.

We would like to extend an invitation to lunch, to anyone in the congregation who will be alone on Christmas day. Please RSVP to Anita de Witte for catering purposes. Phone: 97010453.

Jim and Anita de Witte.

<b>Christian Reformed Church of Dandenong</b> 255 Outlook Drive, North Dandenong, Vic 3175 Church Office Phone: 03 9795 0576		
<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>	<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>	<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>
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>		

## 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: 7:30 – 9:30 pm. New members welcome to attend. Ph: 9791 2601

### COFFEE BREAK LADIES BIBLE STUDY:

The Coffee Break Ladies Bible Study meets each Tuesday during the school term, starting at 10am. All ladies are very welcome to join us. Helen van Garderen.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:

now meets fortnightly on alternate Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons. For more information please call Mark Meenks on 0411953821.

## New Address

for Debbie van Neutegem  
13 Manor Court,  
Cranbourne East 3977

Ph: 5996 8859.

## Pastoral and Prayer Points

- **Les Barrot** was re-admitted to hospital this week, to treat an infection. It was another setback for Les. Continue to pray for the healing he needs.
- **Peggy Hodgkinson** continues in Monash Hospital and **Mieke Van Daalhuisen** at Caulfield Health. Both are awaiting residential care accommodation. Pray that appropriate places can be found that cater for their needs.
- Pray for God's loving presence and comfort, for all those who will feel the empty place of a

loved one, this Christmas season, as well as those who feel isolated from families and are in need of our encouragement.

- At this time of year we pray that the Lord would grant those who are traveling, his mercies and that those involved in various missions, his blessing. For all of us, may we know times of relaxation and refreshment. May the Lord bless his people wherever they are.

## Holidays

During January both Pastor Jim and Henni Burggraaf will be taking holidays. Henni will be away from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Pastor Jim will be away with the family from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January till Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. For any pastoral matters please contact an Elder or Deacon (as found in the back of the Church Address Book).

## Reformed Theological College

The December issue of the RTC Newsletter is available for reading. Collect a copy today from the information table near the Crèche Church room.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The 30<sup>th</sup> December marks a very special occasion. On that day in 1951 the 'Protocol for the Establishment of the Reformed Church of Melbourne' was signed. This was an historic event that marked the start of the Christian Reformed Church in Victoria. That Melbourne congregation was the mother church of many of the Victorian congregations of today (including Dandenong). We thank God that he put the drive and passion into so many people to make this happen. We pray, too, that God would continue to bless and guide our churches in the years ahead.



### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Doris Weimen	Today	December 18
Corry Blik		December 21
Helana Scheepers		December 21
Tina Meijer		December 24

After a certain number of birthdays, we begin to see the spontaneous beauty of the life God gives us each day, and we appreciate its unique pattern...

After a certain number of birthdays, we marvel at our own original design May this year of your life be blessed by knowing in every moment, in every day, He is shaping you in His loving and perfect design.

### BIRTHDAYS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Auyen Arou	December 27
Geertje (Katie) de Jong	December 28
Doris Kreun	December 28
Mieke van Daalhuizen	December 31
Emke van den Berg	December 31

Gabrial Arou	January 1
2012	
Jeek (Jake)	January 1
Jackline Mut (Nvajouk)	January 1
Mary Arou	January 1
Martha Cholel	January 1
Rebeca 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
Russel Painter	January 13
Ian Scheepers	January 15
Don Mekking	January 17
Kathleen Harrison	January 18
Yvonne Pleiter	January 20
Jesse Meenks	January 20
Adriana Pronk	January 27
Samantha Wylie	January 28

May God look down and bless you Now when your birthday's here And keep you in His loving care Each day throughout the year, And may He grant you

happiness In everything you do-- Today, tomorrow, always, Every day your whole life through!

### Newsletter

I would like to take this opportunity to wish every one a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I also thank those who have encouraged me, and/or supplied various items to be used in the publication of our newsletter, thank you all.

Adrian de Vos Editor

### Today booklets

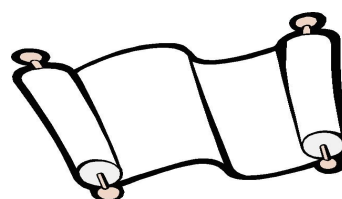
The "Today" booklets subscriptions are due again, standard size print booklets are \$12 per year and the LARGE print booklets are \$17 per year. Any one interested in joining the current distribution list can contact Adrian de Vos, the office staff or Pastor Jim.

**COMPASSIONATE CATALOGUE 2011** contains 16 great opportunities to support ministries in developing countries where God's Word and deeds done in Christ's name come together. When you choose a gift from CC11, you can know your gift is placed with integrity and **NO overheads**. Since our launch last Sunday there's already been an excellent response. CC11 is able to be seen at <http://www.wdrw.crca.org.au/catalogue.html> and on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Compassionate-Catalogue/298949950137920>  
Bert Kuipers - CC11 editor.

### CRISTMAS WISHES

We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Martin and Coby van Rossen





Have you seen a copy of ***RTC FOCUS***? This is the RTC's new newsletter, containing more articles and photographs of College activities and deputations, as well as keeping College members and supporters up to date with the programs being offered and the changes which are occurring.

The current edition of ***RTC FOCUS*** is now also available on the RTC's website ([www.rtc.vic.edu.au](http://www.rtc.vic.edu.au)). However, the College wants to correct the reference in the printed edition to Rev Ben Aldridge being a member of the Greens political party. This is not true and has been deleted from the online version. The Reformed Theological College wishes to apologize sincerely for this mistake and for any embarrassment it may have caused.

We hope you'll enjoy ***RTC FOCUS*** and we encourage you to pray for the RTC and for new students enrolling for the 2012 year. May we, together with your help, continue to "*raise, equip and support a generation of leaders for the advance of the Gospel*".

**Dr Henk DeWaard**  
Editor

#### **BRIEF NOTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING December 2011**

The Church Council meeting was opened in prayer by our Chairman Peter and a brief devotion on Romans 12.

Finance and maintenance matters were reported on and there was some discussion as to how to apply the money realised from the sale of the Boronia property in the long term. A small task group will come with proposals in the light of future directions for the church.

We reflected on the AGM and the relatively small number of people who attended and how this might be improved. It was suggested we make it more of a social event and celebration, with theatre sports or a 'My Generation' type activity, as well as a more engaging way of reporting on church activities. Next

year's AGM tentatively set for third Saturday in October.

There was a report on the Pakenham church planting group, where they are hoping to form a 'launch team' supported by Jack De Vries, our denominational mission worker, and training from the 'Geneva Push', a church planting organisation. There was also a report from the Shawlands workgroup, working hard to prepare for this Saturday's Christmas celebration and hoping to install play equipment for children in the caravan park. We acknowledged the way the Lord has blessed this work and the wonderful support of the Op Shop ministry.

We discussed the pastoral needs of the church and pastoral care in the context of our small group ministry. For 2012 we would hope to form some more small groups and encourage people to receive pastoral care through participation in a small group. We also hope to have some training and support for small group leaders.

We reaffirmed the importance of mentoring in the church and so the mentoring training day will hopefully be held next year. We also discussed ministry development support and the support of our pastoral workers. In the light of Jim declining the Toowoomba call we reconfirmed our appreciation of Jim's work in the congregation and his on-going call here in Dandenong.

As this was the last meeting for the year we concluded with thanksgiving prayer and a time of celebration.

**The Early Bird catches the ..... [Volunteer]**  
Soon you will be thinking about your commitments as to how and where to serve the Lord in 2012. Please consider Transit Soup Kitchen/Drop in Centre – a mission of Narre Warren Christian Church. We will be starting again on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012.

We provide a free 3 course cooked lunch, support and friendship to the disadvantaged of the greater Narre Warren area each Wednesday. Your help is urgently needed, especially for early starters and would be greatly appreciated from 8.30 am onward to 2pm (or part thereof). You could volunteer in any of the following areas

- ✓ Main meal planning
- ✓ Help in the cooking of the soup, main meal and dessert
- ✓ Bread packing for distribution
- ✓ Hall set up and/or clean Up
- ✓ Donation sourcing
- ✓ Donations in the form of goods or money (tax deductible)
- ✓ Chatting with our guests
- ✓ Or even assist with the grant application
- ✓ **Above all, people are needed to keep this Ministry in prayer**

We are sure we can match your talents to one of our needs.

If we find ourselves overwhelmed by your generosity your commitment may only be required twice a month.

Please join us in being serving hands and feet of Jesus in a very practical ministry.

The Lord is giving us many opportunities to show and tell of His love and to bless our special guests.

For further information please call me, Marie

Voogelaar, on 03 9799 0632 and Mention Transit.

### **WD&R's Christmas Appeal.**

Each year all our churches have decided to allocate a special offering to **World Development and Relief** at or near Christmas. Please remember poor and struggling communities that we support in Asia. We use these offerings from CRCA churches only for long term development. Through these great programs, whole communities are transformed - that is a core component of our task . Development always needs ongoing funding over many years and involves lots of hard work, but the results are long lasting and through them the Kingdom is being built. Please give generously to the Christmas Appeal and remember to pray that God would use your gift to bring lasting Gospel blessing to many lives. (Bert Kuipers)

### **Compassionate Catalogue.**

Have you purchased your special compassionate gift yet? Remember there is a new greeting card facility (in the catalogue) that you can use to let a loved one know which gift you chose for them. You can even print out more cards if you download the catalogue. <http://www.wdrw.crca.org.au/catalogue.html> Give

electronically, by cheque or with cash. All the details are on the second last page of the catalogue. (On behalf of SI Mission, Bethesda, G.O.S.P.E.L. and WD&R - Bert Kuipers editor.)

### **Thy Kingdom – Prayer support**

The 2012 *Thy Kingdom* Youth convention is starting only a matter of days from now. On 3 January 2012 around 300 young people from all around the CRCA and beyond will descend on Miginbil Hill, just outside of Uki, Northern NSW. Most of the planning is falling into place, and what hasn't yet, we hope will soon. But aware of Psalm 127:1 – “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain,” – we know that our best planning will be worth nothing unless God's blessing rests on it. And so we are asking our churches to pray. More than anything else, we need your prayers.

#### **Please pray that:**

- God's Spirit would move powerfully as we explore God's Word together
- Jesus would be seen clearly, and that the convention would be characterized by a hungering to know him better
- the Conventioneers will enjoy the time together in safety
- the unseasonably wet weather that is forecast for the area would be held at bay

#### **Please keep these matters in prayer each day:**

- 2 Jan Safety for conventioneers already travelling to Uki  
The last minute rush of the Convention Planning Committee
- 3 Jan The set up of the convention site and the safe arrival of conventioneers  
The Opening Evening Rally – that it might lay a foundation and set the tone for the next 5 days.
- 4 Jan The day's theme is 'Creation' which will be the heart of Matt Jacoby's address at the morning rally and the Vigil in the evening  
Warm hearted fellowship among the conventioneers

- 5 Jan The day's theme is 'The Fall' which Murray Capill will speak on in his morning address and which will also be the theme of the evening Vigil  
Church Youth leaders as they facilitate their small group discussions
- 6 Jan 'Redemption' is today's theme. Matt Jacoby will be speaking on this in the morning rally and we'll be focusing on it again in the evening Vigil  
The CRC Gateway Worship Band as they continue to lead the singing
- 7 Jan Our final day's theme is 'Re-creation'. Murray Capill will be speaking on this today, and we'll be giving attention to the theme in our last evening Vigil.  
The planning committee and their team of workers – for energy to keep going
- 8 Jan Please pray that this morning's closing rally will be able to capture and reiterate the learning, teaching and walking together in God's Word that has happened over the last 4½ days.  
Safety for the Conventioneers' homeward travels

### From the Deacons

We just want to share some of the action that is happening around the place. Some of you may have seen the 20 hampers which the deacons put together at the request of Southern Health (through their social worker for mental health). These hampers were distributed to family groups under Mental Health supervision -units of 5 and the largest being 12. These people struggle to maintain basic life skills. With the help of the Op. Shop contributing their finances towards these hampers we were able to send off the hampers on Thursday- all packed and looking very festive ( thanks to Aafke, Monica, and Cor who shopped and packed and delivered).The attached card reminds the recipients where these generous gifts have come from, and are a reminder of God's lavish love for us all.

The deacons also met last Monday to discuss how we could encourage some of our own people. We focused on those who are isolated from the community of God's people (being country members, or house bound) and who were in need of encouragement, as well as those who have had significant losses or changes in their lives recently, as the criteria. We came up with a list of 30 names; and this week, cards

and small encouragement gifts have been distributed on your behalf , by the deacons or others who happened to be visiting. Thank you for enabling this work of ministry through your generosity.

Finally, the deacons also decided to give a donation to the needs in India through the Compassionate Catalogue of our denomination with a \$900 gift that allows us to support a whole village to educate their children for a year. Also bringing with it a Christian witness into the village. (Adopt a Village for a Year-number 12). It sounds like a great opportunity for village children.

Thank you for enabling this work of ministry through your giving to the deacons offerings.

### Evening Services

Next Sunday (25<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 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 8<sup>th</sup> January- 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Our first evening service here in Dandenong in 2011 will be Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January. We look forward to the contribution of the ministers from the three congregations in leading these services. Casey will NOT be holding an evening service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January, but there will be an evening service in Casey on New Year's Eve (31<sup>st</sup> December) in the Casey church at 7pm to which all are invited.

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.

