



Newsletter

16 December 2012

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 Rev Peter Mechielson
Message: "God's grace at work in unexpected ways"
Readings: Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:1-17

6:00 PM Br Chris Pretorius
Message: TBA
Reading: Luke 2:1-21

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Rev Harry Berends
6:00 PM No Service

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – ROAD Workgroup

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Cornerstone

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$1937.75
Transit Ministry	\$300.00
RTC (Combined Service pm)	\$1,289.10
"Compassionate"	\$850.00



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: K & J. de Jong, D & P. Ellings,
B. Elfring, H. Elfring.

Next Week: P & J. de Jong, T & J. Cram,
C & K. Harrison, I. Meenks

30th Dec A. de Vos, C. de Haan,
M & T. Eleveld, B. Bence

6th January D & J. Mekking, S & C. Johnson,
E & I. Poppenbeck

PA & VIDEO :

Today: TBA

Next Week: TBA

GREETERS

Today: George & Lenny Zomerdyk

Next week: Peter & Atie Bruinewoud

Our worship today

Thank you to the two men who come and serve in our midst today, to proclaim God's Word to us. This morning we welcome **Rev. Peter Mechielsen**, from Waurm Ponds, and this evening at 6.00 pm, **Chris Pretorius** from Wonga Park, will lead us in worship.

Chris is a youth worker, who has just completed his theological studies at RTC and is awaiting a vicariate placement in the churches (same as his dad Colin).

May God's Word of hope and grace , challenge, comfort and inspire us, as we seek to live for God in the week ahead.

Reflection - from 'Today'

"Look the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

Jesus is the Lamb of God.

That is why he was born in a stable and not in a palace. He was not placed in a carefully crafted cradle but in a feedbox lined with straw. He was not born to live in luxury but to suffer and die on a cross in your place and mine.

In the Old Testament, on the night of deliverance from slavery in Egypt, each Israelite was instructed to take the blood of a lamb and sprinkle it on the doorpost of their house. So, on that fateful night, when the plague of death took the life of every firstborn son, it **passed over** the homes that were protected by the blood of the lamb. The Israelites were saved from certain death not by any action or work of their own but by the blood of the lamb. (Exodus 12). Jesus is our Passover Lamb, the one who takes away the sins of the world.

Jesus died in our place, by his death we receive life, receive forgiveness, and acceptance with God our father. But the story starts in the manger in Bethlehem, when "God sent his son".

Op Shop

Our Church Op Shop opens on Thursdays from 11:00am – 4:30pm and Fridays from 9:30am – 4:30pm. We raise money for various local mission projects. Donations can be dropped off on those days only.

Why don't you drop in sometime.

The Committee

PLEASE HELP

We are urgently seeking support from Young Or Not so Young on a regular/rostered basis during the Sunday morning worship service for people to use the computer/data projector.

Only basic computer skills are required and full instructions and training are supplied for everyone to use. Speak to Colin Pretorius for further information about Data Projector training.

Elder nominations.

The terms of two elders come to an end in a few months. Combined with the uncertainty as to when Harry Burggraaf will be able to return to his duties, the church council is seeking nominations for at least 2 elders to allow us to continue our work effectively. The congregation is encouraged to put forward nominations in writing to an elder or to council.

URY in 2013 – We Need YOU!

Dear congregation,

At the end of this year, several leaders from URY will be finishing their roles as they move into different church ministry areas. As a result, there is an urgent need for new volunteers to give a little bit of their time on Tuesday nights to help minister to youth from both our church and the local community. Any help that you can offer in 2013 will be greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please contact Lynette on 0423 889 912.

<p>Christian Reformed Church of Dandenong 255 Outlook Drive, North Dandenong, Vic 3175 Church Office Phone: 03 9795 0576</p>		
<p>Church office Tel 9795 0576 Email admin@dcrc.org.au</p>	<p>Pastoral Care Worker Henni Burggraaf Church Office: 9795 2170 Henni@dcrc.org.au</p>	<p>CRCA Web site www.crca.org.au Our Church Web site www.dcrc.org.au Please visit our web site Your comments are welcome</p>
<p>Newsletter compiled by Adrian de Vos. Email newsletter@dcrc.org.au Phone 9547 6878 News items dead line is 5 PM Wednesday.</p>		

Have you made a Compassionate Gift selection?

Please consider your selection prayerfully. If you can't find your hard copy, or don't have one, you can find it on the web.

FB: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Compassionate-Catalogue-2012/298949950137920>

Web: <http://www.wdrw.crea.org.au/catalogue.html>

May God's name be blessed as we serve needy people overseas.

Bert Kuipers - editor.

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- This week we received the sad news that **Sjaan Siepel** died on Sunday evening in hospital, after an earlier fall.
God has graciously called her home at the age of 91. **Pastor Crosbie de Kretser** has been willing to help us, and the family, by leading the service of thanksgiving which will take place here, in our church on Monday 17th December at 1.00pm with a family burial to follow afterwards. Our love and sympathy go to Sjaan's son John and Carol, and their family in their loss. May they know God's comfort and love, and the love of God's people to support them.
- We rejoice with **Colin Pretorius** that he has successfully completed his theological studies, and has been accepted as a candidate for a vicariate position in our churches. Pray for Colin and Maggie as they await the outcome of this process within our denomination.
- Early Tuesday morning **Harry Burggraaf** had a large bleed which required 6 packs of blood. Further interventions revealed serious internal complications that can no longer be fixed. Thursday the family met with ICU and surgical staff, to decide on the way forward for Harry's care. He is at risk of infection, further bleeds, and heart stoppages - any one of these could now take him from us. The family values your prayers for God's peace for Harry and Henni and the children, facing this uncertain time, with trust in God's timing.
- Pray for Church Council and the Search Committee as they process the news of Laven Shunmugam's decision to decline the call to Dandenong and as they reflect prayerfully on the next step forward.

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

The **Oasis Growth Group** invites new members to attend. We meet the first and third Tuesday of each month but not during holidays. (if you are dropping off kids at URY and want to join us we conclude at 9 – 9.30) At the Burggraaf's, 17 Edgewood Road, Dandenong – Tel 9791 2601 Mob 0408 120 159

COFFEE BREAK LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Meets each Tuesday 10am, at the church, during the school terms.

Helen van Garderen.

WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD SMALL GROUP

Anyone who is not currently in a group is welcome to come along and join or just check us out. We have started to study Galatians. All welcome. Any questions can be directed to Harry and Jannette Vanderjagt on 9703 1613 or 0438 872000.

VENTURE BIBLE STUDY

(Young Adults) is on a Monday on a fortnightly basis starting at 7:30 and meeting in the resource room at church. If you want to be part of this group let David Barrot know on 0401 073 954, it would be great to see you there."

To our dear family of God,

For some time now, as you may know, we have been on a journey to expand our family. Discovering that we had infertility issues 5 years ago and also learning that IVF would be the only way for us to conceive a child (outside the Lord's own miracle working) was a journey of its own. Over the years we have had multiple embryo's implanted, and have had glimpses of 'being pregnant'. This October we had our seventh little

embryo implanted, and after weeks of waiting received a positive pregnancy reading. Subsequent tests revealed that the embryo was digging in its heels and the pregnancy progressing. Unfortunately however, last Friday night, bleeding indicated that all was not right in the womb. And this evening at our 7 week ultrasound we did learn that our embryo had died late last week and that the process of miscarriage would indeed continue. For us tonight was a first, not our first 7 week scan, but a first opportunity to see a precious life, no bigger than a blueberry, yet a loved child of God, so small and so intricate.

We continue to have faith that God has amazing plans for us. It's a tough journey at times, with plenty of questions thrown heavenward, but we continue to turn to our Saviour, without whom we would not be able to handle this path we walk.

To you, we wish to say thank you. We are aware that so many of you are praying with us for our miracle. Thank you to others whose eyes well with tears showing that you care. For cards of comfort, words of wisdom and secret gifts, we thank you. But in all this please know that our faith is strong. Our Lord is good, and His love endures forever.

From **Josh and Karissa Esselbrugge**



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Tayla Hamilton	Today	December 16
Hannah Hauke	Today	December 16
Monica Austrums		December 17
Doris Weimen		December 18
Tom Cram		December 20
Corry Blik		December 21
Helana Scheepers		December 21

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!

Dear Church Councils,

It is my pleasure to inform you that Chris Pretorius and Colin Pretorius are available for a Vicariate as of Monday 1 July 2013.

Please find attached a letter inviting CRCA churches to apply to have either Chris or Colin as their vicar.

In addition please find attached a brief profile and some documents relating to a Vicariate.

We will be looking forward to receive your application.

Yours in Christ,

Henriet Vanderstoep

JUBILATE CHOIR –TOUR TO NORTH AMERICA

Our Jubilate Choir is planning a tour to North America, D.V. during September-October 2013.

We have a limited number of places available for others to join this tour. You can either join our group, just to enjoy the tour, or you can join the choir and participate in the singing as well.

A short outline of the tour is as follows:

Departure date: 13 September 2013, from Melbourne to Los Angeles.

Return date: 7 October 2013, From Los Angeles to Melbourne

A short outline of our planned itinerary is as follows:

1. Tour commences in Los Angeles (USA)
2. Travel by air to Chicago (USA)
3. Travel by bus from Chicago to Grand Rapids (USA)
4. Travel by bus from Grand Rapids to Niagara Falls & Toronto (Canada)
5. Travel by air from Toronto to Calgary (Canada)

6. Travel by bus via the Rocky Mountains to Vancouver (Canada)
7. Return to Australia, via Los Angeles

We are in the process of arranging our singing events and outings, etc. This will be made available to all participants in the near future.

If you are interested in joining this tour, please contact Harold Dykstra in the near future for more details and pricing.

Contact details: Phone number: 03-9700-2378.

Email: harold@infoxpert.com.au.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THANKS

The Solomon Islands Mission Committee is very thankful to God- we can announce that DR. SIMON BURGGRAAF from our South Barwon Church in Geelong, has accepted our call to serve as Director of the mission.

Simon and his wife Ana (nee Berends) have a deep love for the Lord, and his people, and after some visits to Honiara (extensive in Ana's case), were convinced that our Christian brothers and sisters there have been helped and blessed by the work of SWIM. They are eager to continue the exciting work in various fields that Kevin and Machi Rietveld led with skill and vision, with commitment and faith for the past fourteen years.

Simon is a research scientist with CSIRO, and has experience as a team leader, communicator, budget planner etc. His involvement in youth work, one to one evangelism, hospitality and sports are a good combination of skills and interests. Working alongside Rev. Eric Maefonea, our Bible teaching missionary, Simon will lead an enthusiastic team of SWIM missionaries, and about twenty local workers.

Ana too, has a great set of skills, with which to serve the Lord, and the Solomon Islanders. As a trained and experienced occupational therapist, she had applied for and been granted an Australian Government grant to teach that subject at the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education, initially for two years. Her connection to Susan Larsen, and our Bethesda Disability Training Centre, will be invaluable. Praise God!

As the Burggraafs finish their current commitments in Geelong, continue to support Simon's mum, and his dad Harry in his very serious illness, and prepare for a late January/early February departure after a Christian Cross Cultural training course, please join the SWIM Committee in praying for them. Praise God for the commitment this young couple is making to follow the call of Jesus.

(Some of you reading this have been faithful supporters in prayer and financial sponsorship of the Rietvelds, right up to their recent retirement. It would be lovely if you would consider continuing this for the Burggraafs, as they need to raise \$18 000 p.a. in sponsorship. And there are others who may want to do this for the first time. Our sponsorship secretary, Mrs Sue Vanderwal, would love to hear from you- email address barryvanderwal@bigpond.com)

Peter van der Schoor, Chairman

Solomon Islands Mission Workgroup, CRCA

Crossroad Bible Institute

For those interested, the CBI December newsletter is available from the table in the foyer.

