



Check out our website at www.woodstockcovenant.ca.
February 2, 2014

BIRTHDAYS:

February 2	Murray Meekel
February 2	Maria Spyksma
February 3	Jannette Hickey
February 4	Martin Bakker
February 6	Clayton Renkema
February 6	Mike VanWyk
February 7	Rick Cordeiro
February 7	Kelly McKay
February 7	Klaas Visbeek

NURSERY PARENTS OF THE MONTH: There will be a short 15 minute meeting for the parents of the month following this morning's service. Only one parent from each family is asked to attend this meeting.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS MEETING: There will be a short 10 minute meeting following the Feb 9 morning service.

COLLECTIVE KITCHEN, January 9 : Thanks to all who helped with this month's collective kitchen! 5 Homestead Christian Care tenants came to work alongside volunteers from Covenant and Maranatha CRC to prepare wholesome, nutritious meals, and they each went home with 25 meals that they can store in their freezers and enjoy eating for the next month. Our next Collective kitchen is planned for **Thursday February 6th** from 4:00-7:00 pm with Woodstock

Fanshawe students as our guests. Many of these students live on limited means and do not have time to cook good meals because of work or family obligations and are excited when in just a few hours, we can work with them to prepare 25-30 meals that they can keep in the freezer for those busy times. Each participant pays \$20.00 and the rest of the expenses are covered by the deacons of Maranatha and Covenant CRC. If you would like to help or if you would like to donate, contact either Ina Sanders or Bernice Huinink-Buiter.

WOODSTOCK SERVE: It's time to start planning for Woodstock SERVE 2014! We are looking to fill a few positions on the Host Team for this year to help organize in different areas and make the week go by as smoothly as possible. We need volunteers to coordinate the following areas: Worksites, Transportation, Prayer Families, and Facilities. If you think you may fit one of those areas, please contact Nicole Zuest for more information via email: mnzuest@live.ca. Thanks!

COUNCIL NEWS:

Nominations for Elders and Deacons

Council has begun the process of nominating members for the office of Elder and Deacon. Any member of Covenant can also make nominations. If you would like to nominate someone that you think would be a blessing to Covenant as an office bearer, please do so by letting your ward elder or the chair of council know by Sunday, Feb 9, 2014.

SPARE BUS DRIVERS: Woodstock Christian School owns its own fleet of buses and presently has openings for Spare Bus Drivers. Have you ever thought about driving a school bus? If you would like to know more about becoming a bus driver, and the potential of driving a bus for Woodstock Christian School, please contact Mrs. Huinink-Buiter at principal@woodstockchristian.ca or call [519-539-1492](tel:519-539-1492).

WELCOME WEDNESDAYS: Welcome Wednesday open house from 9am-noon continues at Woodstock Christian School. Drop by the school to see our classes in session and have a tour of our facility. If Wednesday Mornings are not convenient for you please email admissions@woodstockchristian.ca to set up an appointment!

THE BIBLE LEAGUE: Please pray for Milton and his team in Ecuador as they discern God's will for advancing church planter training opportunities in Latin America. They are praying that God will bring three new countries into partnership this year. Hearts are being stirred. God is at work in Latin America!

DISCOVERY TEAM UPDATE: The team met last Tuesday evening again to discuss the initiatives that have come out of the courageous proposals drawn up by the congregation during the discernment evenings. The team covets the prayers of the congregation as this process continues, for clarity, peace and that God's will be done through all of this. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4 at 7:30pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CHAPEL: Monday February 3rd at 8:30am we are hosting a chapel based on our 2013/14 school theme "Rooted in Love". Please join us in worship and for coffee and a treat following the presentation.

O.A.S.I.S. (Adults over 65) meet Feb. 6 at 11:00 a.m. at Covenant church. We open with a devotional followed with a simple lunch. Soup is supplied. Then enjoy trivia. We invite you to come chase away the winter blows, you're certainly welcome.

INFORMATION AND DESSERT EVENING: Are you considering **London District Christian Secondary School** for your child's secondary education? We invite you to join us **Thursday, February 6th, 2014, at 7p.m.** at London District Christian Secondary School for an **Information and Dessert Evening.**

Tour the school, **Meet** the teachers and **Learn** more about LDCSS. If this date is inconvenient, please feel free to arrange another time to visit. This evening is open to families with students in grades 6-8. For more information please contact Margaret Schmor at mschmor@ldcss.ca

AREA WIDE YOUTH SERVICE: The Talbot Street CRC Youth Group would love for you to join us at our Area Wide Youth Service on February 9, 2014 at 6pm. Our Youth Band will be leading worship, and Gil Clelland will be bringing us the message. Food and fellowship will follow the service. We hope to see you there!

COVENANT BOOK CLUB meets at the home of Irene Geerlinks at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13th. They will be discussing the book "The Lifeboat" by Charlotte Rogan.

LISTEN UP! How is God calling you? From February 14-16, 2014, Maranatha CRC's young adults are hosting a retreat for 20-somethings around this very theme. This weekend retreat will be hosted in Woodstock, Ontario and will include a keynote speaker, breakout small-group sessions, plenty of social time, food and activities! For more information and to download registration forms, visit maranathacrcwoodstock.com or email Stephanie with any questions: linker.stephanie@gmail.com.

BRIAN BELLETH & FRIENDS III: Come on out for an evening of awe-inspiring music & laughter on Friday, February 14, 2014 at Innerkip Presbyterian Church at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50 (partial tax receipt will be issued). Tickets are available online at www.yfcwoodstock.com or call 519-537-8080.

LDCSS CURLING BONSPIEL: Mark February 15, 2014 for the annual London District Christian School curling bonspiel. Cost is \$500.00/team. Come out for a great day of fun and fundraising for LDCSS. Book your team by February 1, 2014 by calling Albert Weesjes @ 519-773-3238 or by email agweesjes@gmail.com Lunch and snacks provided for participants.

MARANATHA CADETS SOUP & BUN NIGHT / KUB CAR RACES: Maranatha Cadets invites you to join us for our annual Cadet event. Mark your calendars for **February 22, 5:00pm at Maranatha** and join us for soup & buns and our kub car races! If you are interested in entering a Kub Car in the race and/or for show, contact Maranatha office (519-539-5301 or office@maranathacrcwoodstock.com) for a kit. Everyone can participate, young & old. Entry fees apply

MUSIC AND PRAISE CONCERT: The Woodstock Branch of the Canadian Bible Society presents their "Community Music & Praise" concert on **Saturday, February 22, 2014**, beginning at 7 pm. This annual event will once again take place at **Covenant Christian Reformed Church**. The evening will include performances on harmonica, piano, and harp, plus several gifted vocalists from the area, including our very own Rachel Hickey! There will be a freewill offering in support of the Canadian Bible Society's Cree translation work. Wonderful fellowship and refreshments are included, and a nursery will be available.

LDCSS SPRING FUNDRAISING DINNER: We invite you to join us for the **LDCSS Spring Fundraising dinner, March 1st, 2014 (DV)**. Enjoy a short **comedy** by senior drama students, **special music** by LDCSS praise team members, great food, and wonderful fellowship. New for this year, we plan to include a **silent auction**. If you have an item or service that you would like to donate please let us know. To more information, or to reserve your spot please contact: Margaret Schmor mschmor@ldcss.ca, or Dennis Goforth 519-273-3936, dennis@gotech.ca.

GEMS OPEN is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for Friday, May 9 and join us at the beautiful Boulder Creek Golf Club in Belmont, Michigan to help us continue to reach girls everywhere with the message of Jesus! Can't make it to the Michigan outing? Golf at a Distance for a discounted rate! Not a golfer? Consider sponsoring the event or donating golf balls, tees, or prizes! For more information contact the GEMS Service Center at (616) 241-5616 ext. 3035 or visit our website (gemsgc.org) and click on the Events link. **Register today!**

Covenant CRC-Concept Minutes- January 21, 2014

1. **Opening** – Alida Poort opened with reading from Philippians 2:1-11 and prayer

2. **Approval of Minutes: Full council Meetings**

- a. **MOTION:** to approve minutes from November 3, 2013 – CARRIED
- b. **MOTION:** to approve minutes from November 12, 2013 – CARRIED
- c. **MOTION:** to approve minutes from November 20, 2013 – CARRIED

3. **Matters from the minutes:**

- a. **MOTION:** To approve dates in question of the 2014 Deacons Offering Schedule pending approval by Ministry board on January 28, 2014. - CARRIED

4. **Executive report:** January 15, 2014

- a. Pastor Dan will be on vacation will be June and July. August he is flexible
- b. **MOTION FROM EXECUTIVE:** to hire a Calvin Seminary Summer Intern for summer 2014. CARRIED

MOTION: to let Executive take care of applying for and hiring the intern. CARRIED

MOTION: to select “Either” on intern application regarding desired gender of intern. (Options were: Male, Female, Either) CARRIED

- c. **MOTION:** to approve the work of Executive – CARRIED

5. **Ministry Board Report:** December 3, 2013

MOTION: to approve the work of the Ministry Board – CARRIED

6. **Congregational meeting minutes** – November 28, 2013

6a. Noted that the electronic version of the new hymnal has been purchased but it will be a period of time before it is used due to production delays.

MOTION: to approve the congregational minutes from November 28, 2013 – CARRIED

7. **Evening Services**

MOTION: to cancel the evening services at Covenant CRC

AMMENDED MOTION: original motion was amended to state the following:

To put forward a recommendation from Council to discontinue the evening services at Covenant CRC. To be discussed and voted on at a congregational meeting. CARRIED

MOTION: to do this vote on a Sunday morning after Church. CARRIED

MOTION: to have 70% of the ballots in favour of discontinuing the evening service in order to move forward CARRIED

MOTION: to have Executive work out the details for this CARRIED

8. **Classis Meeting** – January 25, 2014

- a. Delegates
Elder: Eric VanAndel
Alternate: Marty Geerlinks
Deacons: Carl VanRooyen
Henny Zylstra
Alternate: Hugh DeWit
- b. Credentials:
No questions for Classis at this time

9. **Nomination Committee for 2014**

Chair – Eric VanAndel
Elders: Janet VanderSpek
Bill Poort
Steve Schaafsma
Deacons: Henny Zylstra
Chris Broad

- Noted that Elders and Deacons to discuss if the numbers being replaced are sufficient for their respective offices.

10. **Correspondence**

- a. None from clerk
- b. Report from Pastor Search:
Currently working on the Church profile which will be distributed to full council once completed for approval. Council members are encouraged to read through blank copy to get an understanding of the work that is being done by Executive and committee.

- Comment to Committee that we are not stuck on only choosing from the list that comes from Grand Rapids regarding the list of potential matches. *Committee is aware of this.*

11. **Closing** – Alida led us in a communal prayer.

If you have switched turns with another person, please contact them.

Service List	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Door Greeters:	Bill & Marg Poort	Case & Marjan Scheltema	John & Dianne Klingenberg	Terry & Sheri Beckett
Song Leader:	Irene Geerlinks	Bill Koehler	Shirley Renkema	John Klingenberg
Accompanist:	Peter Schepers (both services)	Praise Team, Marion Dieleman	Faith on Fire	Marion Dieleman
Ushers:	Stephen & Henny Zylstra	Andy & Lucille Koopman	Ellen VanEgdom, Meeke Claus	Deb DeGraaf, Judi Hanenburg
Nursery – Toddlers:	Nursery 1: Kristina Broad, Rachel Haverkamp Nursery 2: Bernice Huinink-Buiter, Maria Spyksma	Nursery 1: Jayne Klingenberg, Sydney Spyksma Nursery 2: Wanda Koehler, Brent VanRooyen	Nursery 1: Lucille Koopman, Erica VanRooyen Nursery 2: Heather Poort, Bailey Clough	Nursery 1: Christine Renkema, Natalie Geerlinks Nursery 2: Shirley Renkema, Josie Geerlinks
Library:	Elaine Wesselson	Natalie Geerlinks	Janet VanderSpek	Marlene Lynes
Sound system:	Joseph Dyk	Ray Hoiting	Andy Koopman	Chris Broad
Screen:	Chris Broad	Craig Renkema	Jeff Hanenburg	Joseph Dyk
Coffee Servers:	John & Dianne Klingenberg, Rick & Alida Cordeiro, Diana Roode	John & Betty Dyk, Ralph & Shirley Renkema	Ellen VanEgdom, Neal Buiter & Bernice Huinnik-Buiter	George & Meeke Claus, John & Joanne Streutker
Kindertot Helpers	Erica VanRooyen	Josie Geerlinks	Maria Spyksma	Sydney Spyksma

February Prayer Guide

As one way to support us here in Haiti, we invite you to pray for the work of CRWM in Haiti, the partner organisations we work with, the country of Haiti as well as for our family personally and the work that Larry is here to do. To assist you, we are pleased to provide a monthly listing of prayer thoughts to guide you.

Larry and Tracey Luth

"Prayer is not so much an act as it is an attitude -- an attitude of dependency, dependency upon God."- Arthur Pink

February 1 Today the first Service and Learning team of the season, from a supporting church of one of my colleagues, is coming to Haiti. Please pray for safety for the team members as they travel and spend time working on the Training Center for our partner MDK and for openness as they learn about Haiti and some of our ministries here.

February 2 Pray for the many churches and missions in Haiti, that all who claim Jesus as their Saviour will be grace-filled community of believers.

February 3 Last week WR sponsored training for the staff of Sous Espwa and our partners to equip facilitators with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for mobilizing the local church to become part of the development of their communities. Please pray that these lessons will become part of the vision of our partners.

February 4 February is generally a dry month and with dry weather come less cases of cholera. Please pray that this time of year will bring relief to those working hard to treat and save the lives of those who are contracting this horrible infection.

February 5 Pray for the organisation *The Center for Transforming Ministries* which CRWM in Haiti partners with. It provides theological training and spiritual formation to grassroots leaders that equip people from all walks of life, to see and celebrate good news in hard places and engage in transformation among the poor.

February 6 Good health care is something most Haitians cannot access and if they can, cannot afford. Because of this, simple medical issues often cause much more suffering and damage than necessary. Pray that health care may become more accessible and affordable. Pray that the government will see that having healthy citizens is one aspect of progress towards a prosperous state.

February 7 At the end of March IMPACT Club training is planned for Haiti. A lot of training material needs to be translated, preparations need to be made and potential leaders invited. Pray that all the pieces will fall into place and God will bless the training.

February 8 Saturday is the day we go to pick up our mail. *Agape Flights* is a ministry based out of Venice Florida that delivers mail and packages to missionaries in Haiti. Please pray this ministry will continue to be a life-line of communication and support to the missionaries they serve.

February 9 Along with his work with the Micah Challenge, and with young Haitian leaders and the work he does with his church, Valery Vital-Herne works part-time for CRWM-Haiti as the national coordinator for the Strategies of Transformation in Haiti. Please pray for strength and wisdom for Valery as he balances these different work obligations and his family life.

February 10 It has been a month now that our youngest son Leyson joined our family. Pray with us for his continued adjustment into our family.

February 11 A recent UN survey indicates that those facing severe food insecurity has dropped to 600,000 and the total number of food insecure people has decreased to 2.4 million. While it is encouraging to see these numbers drop, 25% of the Haitian population still does not have access to an adequate amount of food each day. Soon the dry season will be over and farmers will begin planting their crops. Please pray that this year brings favourable conditions for excellent yields.

February 12 Every other Wednesday morning Larry meets with a Haitian pastor to talk about their ministry, discuss a book together and mentor each other. Pray that these would be encouraging and challenging times.

February 13 Pray for CRWM's partner the *Ministry for Christian Development* (MDK). This organisation is a biblical, practical, community-based, holistic and participatory training institute offering a 3 year program training pastors, deacons, and church and community leaders.

February 14 Pray for the thousands of children in orphanages in Haiti for those who are waiting to be adopted or hoping to return home. Pray that they would be well-cared for and feel valued and loved.

February 15 Strategies now has 2 groups meeting on different Saturdays of the month; one meeting for spiritual formation and one just starting the Strategies of Transformation curriculum. Please pray that these leaders will grow in their understanding of themselves, their relationship with God and their role in the difficult places God has called them to minister in.

February 16 Regine Orange works for Campus Crusade for Christ and has also taken what she learned in Strategies of Transformation and started a ministry to young children in her poverty stricken neighbourhood. Regine recently started a pilot IMPACT Club with these children. Please pray for good helpers and leaders Regine but also pray for the children she ministers to, that through Regine they may see the light of Christ and the hope He brings.

February 17 Estivil Edouarus coordinates the deaconal work of the Christian Reformed Church of Haiti (ECRH) including relief work through World Renew and the micro-credit programs ECRH has throughout the country. We have a number of church construction projects planned and Edouarus' skills as a civil engineer will be in demand. Please pray for strength for Edouarus as he works hard to coordinate the building projects and keep up the other work he is responsible for.

February 18 The number of internally displaced people still left homeless from the earthquake 3 years ago is slowly dropping however at the end of September there were still 172,000 people living in 306 camps. Threats of forced eviction and insecurity persist in camps and poor health and sanitary conditions and the risk of flooding in IDP camps may contribute to the rapid spread of diseases, especially cholera. Please pray that sustainable housing solutions will be found for these people quickly.

February 19 Abbel Joseph is a young married Haitian leader who recently became a father. Abbel works for Compassion International and has been involved with the Strategies of Transformation program for the past number of years and more recently with IMPACT Clubs. Please pray that God will bless Abbel in his ministry and also his young family.

February 20 With a population of 57% under the age of 25, children truly represent the future of Haiti. Please pray with us that the government not only sees the value of investing in its children but takes concrete measurable steps to bring a future that will bring a lasting improvement for all of the citizens of Haiti.

February 21 Bruneus Kilick is the part-time National Youth Coordinator for The Christian Reformed Church of Haiti (ECRH). Please pray for Kilick as he works hard balancing his roles as a pastor in his father's church, a school teacher in the community he lives in and the National Youth Coordinator. Ask God to give Kilick the wisdom he needs as he encourages the regional youth leaders in the work they do and teaches the young people in his own community.

February 22 Pray for CRWM's partner the *Consortium for the Advancement of Christian Education* (CRECH). This coalition of organizations is dedicated to producing sound biblically-based curriculum for church and mission affiliated schools in Haiti. Please pray that through their work teachers will be equipped with the tools they need to teach a sound biblical worldview to their students.

February 23 Jacky Chery is the Director of Perspectives Réformées Internationales Haiti (PRIHA), which is the follow-up call center for Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI). Please join us in thanking God that doors have been opened and now PRIHA's radio broadcasts are being heard in every department (province) in the country.

February 24 Valery Louis is a young Haitian agronomist who works for World Renew. Please pray for strength for Valery as he works hard with a number of our partners teaching and encouraging farmers in good land use practices.

February 25 Every Tuesday morning staff at the office meet together for devotions and prayer. Wherever you are join us this morning at 9:30 as we in Haiti lift up our items of praise and items of concern.

February 26 It is predicted that Haiti will have one of the fastest growing economies in the Caribbean this year. This is good news but only if this economic prosperity leads to jobs and opportunities for many to build a better life for their families. Please pray that fair wage jobs will be created and that the economic growth will benefit all Haitians not just the business elite.

February 27 Made up of mostly small rural congregations, the Christian Reformed Church of Haiti (ECRH) has slowly grown to 45 churches with an additional 19 emerging congregations. Pray for this denomination and the leadership. Most of the pastors support themselves in their work which requires extra time away from their families. Pray for giving churches that will support their pastors in the work they are doing and pray these churches will be salt and light in their communities.

February 28 Politics in Haiti is often unpredictable and never boring. Promised elections are years overdue but with possible elections coming this fall the posturing and rhetoric will unfortunately take the focus away from good governance. Pray that Haitian politicians will put the needs of the citizens first.