Check out our website at www.woodstockcovenant.ca.

November 3, 2013

**BIRTHDAYS:**
November 3       Alicia VanderSpek
November 5       Christine DeGraaf
November 5       Diana Klingenberg
November 5       Lloyd Wesselson
November 9       Jackson Bray

**CHURCH BUDGET:**
Amount collected to Oct 31/2013   $159,998.91
Amount budgeted to Oct 31/2013    220,455.80

**VOLUNTEERS**—Looking for a place to serve in your community? The Bibles for Missions Thrift Store is accepting applications for Christian volunteers to help out at our store for a few hours a week. MEN & women are needed. Jobs could include picking up or delivering furniture; accepting donations and sorting and pricing items to put in the store, researching the value of unusual or antique items, and enjoying the camaraderie of others. **STUDENTS**—looking for a place to earn your community service hours?! We are a registered ‘not-for-profit’ organization. All of our profit goes to The Bible League of Canada. For more information about us, come visit our local store at 754 Pavey Street, Woodstock, or call Jane Vleuten at 519-533-1685, or email her at janusandsjaan@yahoo.com; or Joanne Streutker at 519-469-8089, or email her at jstreutker@execulinmk.com (A police check is needed to volunteer at our store.)

**THANK YOU FROM MARANATHA!** We would like to thank all those who said “yes” to the various requests for the Reformation Sunday worship service held last weekend. A big thank you to Henry Bruines who led the choir especially for this occasion. Also, we send a big thank you to our friends at Knox Presbyterian who graciously host us every year. We thank our Lord for the community that brings us together in this way!

**DUTCH CHRISTMAS CAROL CHOIR:** The Emmanuel Reformed Church Choir would like to invite anyone who loves to sing to come out and practice for the Dutch Christmas Carol Service to be held on December 8, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. D.V. Choir practices will be held on Monday evenings at 8:00 p.m. at Emmanuel on November 11, 18, 25, and December 2. Come and sing with us!

**GEMS FUNDRAISER:** The gems will be selling cheese again this year as their main fundraiser. Delivery in time for Christmas (GREAT GIFT IDEA). **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES:** It's that time of year again. Before long students will be preparing to write final exams to end their first semester, and what better way to show that we here at Covenant, are thinking about them. Care packages are always received with the same love as they are sent. For some they need that coffee break, for some they need the comfort of knowing that we are praying and thinking about them and for some they just like receiving a package in the mail room. This year there are many ways for us as a congregation to get involved:
1. You can donate money to help purchase the $10 Tim’s Cards
2. We like to send a letter with the Tim’s Card. In the past the Pastor has written the letters, but this year we are looking to the congregation to write words of encouragement to the students. You may sign up on the youth board if you are interested in writing to the students. Simply sign up and indicate how many letters you are willing to write. You will be assigned a student at a later date. The letters will need to be completed by mid November, but please sign-up asap so we know that we have enough members writing letters to all of the students
3. If you are a parent of a student please send their mailing address to Craig @cc.renkema@hotmail.com. Even if it is the same address as previous years please resend it.
4. Keep our students in your prayers all the time as they are away from home and furthering their education. So, there are many ways that everyone can get involved in this Ministry here at Covenant. Every year we always receive such great feedback from the students that receive these packages. If you have any questions please talk to Craig and thanks in advance for your help!

**WOMEN’S MINISTRY:** We are planning a “no shower, shower”, for Jamie and Lisa Schaafsma who were married late this past summer. Due to the fact that they are both in School, it makes it difficult to arrange a shower event at the church so we will be collecting money towards grocery gift cards for these newlyweds. We will be collecting until November 11th. Thank you again for your wonderful support. You may give your donations to Marg Poort, Michelle VanderSpek, Andrea VanRooyen or Shirley Renkema.

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB** is in need of small glass jars aprox. 5 ins. tall or tall baby food jars for a craft on Nov. 20. There is a box in the kitchen behind the door on top of the coffee mugs cupboard. Thanks.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**
**O.A.S.I.S.** Older Adults Sharing In Service meets Thursday, Nov.7 at 11:00 a.m. for coffee and soup at lunch. Presentation by lay worship leader Cheryl Buchner. There are new boxes for operation Christmas Child and we will be receiving the full boxes as well.
FIBRE ARTS GROUP will meet at Covenant on November 9 from 9:30 AM to noon. Everyone is welcome! Our group includes community and church family members who work on any craft they like! Or you can come for a coffee!

SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP CONCERT TOUR: Join the Ambassadors Christian Male Chorus with special guests from Holland – “Hi-Five” a woodwind quintet on Saturday, November 9 at 7:30pm at Knox Presbyterian Church (59 Riddell St, Woodstock) for our Special Friendship Concert Tour. Freewill offering.

YFC/YOUTH UNLIMITED WOODSTOCK invites you to our Fall Fundraising Banquet, “Building for Tomorrow.” Saturday, Nov. 9, 5:30 p.m. Cowan Park Woodstock Soccer Club, 895 Ridgewood Dr. Tickets are $20/person and available at Open Sky Bike Co-op, 405 Dundas St., or reserve a ticket by calling 519-537-8080.

THE CRAZY HAIR TOUR is a Bible-based relationship-building experience for moms and their tween daughters (typically ages 8-12). The two and a half hour event features a fun fashion show that demonstrates modesty, incredible balloon sculptures, bouncing beach ball competitions, mother/daughter conversation time and colourful confetti cannons and comes with a crazy proposal to get crazy. This event will be at Calvary Pentecostal Assembly at 127 Hespeler Rd., Cambridge on Monday, Nov. 18th 2013 beginning at 6:30 p.m. For ticket outlets and all info visit funandfaith.ca.

DUNAMIS CONFERENCE will be held at Guelph Bible Conference Centre in Guelph, Ontario from November 18-21, 2013. The focus is “Growing the Church in the Power of the Holy Spirit”. For more information go to www.dunamisfellowshipcanada.org.

GEMS ONLINE AUCTION: Our GEMS Club is part of a larger, international sisterhood of women and girls seeking to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. And to pursue our mission of bringing girls everywhere into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ—we need your help! GEMS is hosting an online auction on November 22, 2013 to raise support for the overall ministry, and we are collecting items to auction as well as looking for sponsors. If you or your business is interested in getting involved, please contact auction@gemsgc.org.

CROSSROADS ALLIANCE CHURCH wishes to invite your congregation to attend our upcoming Bethlehem Walk - an outdoor multi-media interactive tour. Experience the Christmas story - walk to Bethlehem on the night that Jesus was born. A family tradition the kids will love. Nov. 22, 23, and Nov. 29, 30, with tours departing 6 pm to 9 pm each evening. Crossroads Alliance Church, on Hwy 19 between Ingersoll and Thamesford. Free Admission. Please - in consideration of the many live animals on the trail, no pets are allowed. Visit www.bethlehemwalk.ca or call 519-485-4440 for more information. Hope to see you there!

THE MEN OF PRAISE and Musica Sacra Chorus will present an evening of gospel and Christmas music at Knox Presbyterian Church, Woodstock at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23. All proceeds go to support the programs of Operation Sharing. Plan to share in this great community experience.

VOICE OF LIBERTY will have a concert at Alexandra Presbyterian Church in Brantford, 410 Colborne East Street on November 23, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. To order tickets contact info@libertasvoices.com or phone 905-522-0001. Adults $15, Youth (14 and under) $10.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE: The pastor search committee has had their first meeting and will hold their next meeting Nov. 26, 2013 at 7:00pm.

THE 45TH ANNUAL WOODSTOCK COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT takes place Monday, December 2, 2013 at Knox Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Hunter St. and Riddell St., Woodstock. This year’s program features local performers, guest organist Angus Sinclair and a mass choir of singers from community churches. Admission is free and a free-will offering will assist the work of Operation Sharing. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Please join us for a wonderful evening of Christmas music and Carol singing.

LIGHTHOUSE CENTRE: Come and enjoy a Christmas theme evening celebrating Christ on Dec. 7, at Maranatha CRC in Woodstock, Ont. (735 Frontenac Cres.) beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Men of Praise, The Men of Note and St. Thomas Male Choir will be hosting a benefit concert for The Lighthouse. For information contact Rob at 416-535-6262 or rob@lighthousecentre.ca.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN SONG - Sunday, Dec. 8: Join the Ingersoll Choral Society as we host a community carol sing featuring choir and guest performances. 7:30 pm. at St. James Anglican Church, Ingersoll. Free will offering, with proceeds to the Ingersoll & District Inter-Church Christmas Relief Fund.

ISRAEL 2014!: Join us “Next Year in Jerusalem!” from Feb. 28 - March 10, 2014. Realize the trip of a lifetime! Come, see and learn about the land of the Bible. Walk where Jesus walked! For your itinerary and brochure, contact Pastor John Postuma (905-765-5623 / postumajohn@gmail.com) or Martin Oldengarm (519-749-9866 / mjoldengarm@bell.net). There is the additional option for a stopover in the Netherlands.
The Parents of the Month are Craig & Cara Renkema
If you have switched turns with another person, please contact them.

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<tr>
<th>Service List</th>
<th>November 3</th>
<th>November 10</th>
<th>November 17</th>
<th>November 24</th>
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<tr>
<td>Door Greeters:</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Marg Poort</td>
<td>Case &amp; Marjan Scheltema</td>
<td>Neil &amp; Janet VanderSpek</td>
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<td>Song Leader:</td>
<td>Irene Geerlinks</td>
<td>Shirley Renkema</td>
<td>John Klingenberg</td>
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<td>Accompanist:</td>
<td>Peter Schepers, Marion Dieleman</td>
<td>Praise Team, Marion Dieleman</td>
<td>Faith On Fire</td>
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<td>Ushers:</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Cobie Hanenburg, Stephen &amp; Henry Zylstra</td>
<td>Judi Hanenburg, Deb DeGraaf</td>
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<td>Nursery 1:</td>
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<td>Library:</td>
<td>Janet VanderSpek, Marlene Lynes, Natalie Geerlinks</td>
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<td>Sound system:</td>
<td>Jeff Hanenburg, Chris Broad, Andy Koopman</td>
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<td>Screen:</td>
<td>Katie Balsillie, Craig Renkema, Ray Hoiting</td>
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<td>Coffee Servers:</td>
<td>Jeff &amp; Judi Hanenburg, Kyle &amp; Katie Balsillie, Carl &amp; Barb VanRooyen, Gerald &amp; Diana Klingenberg, Craig &amp; Sara Renkema, Daryl &amp; Tracy Spyksma</td>
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<td>Kindertot Helpers:</td>
<td>Josie Geerlinks, Maria Spyksma, Sydney Spyksma</td>
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Update from Larry & Tracey Luth,

It was a short walk from the temporary place they had been worshiping to their new church building but after years of meeting in cramped, rented facilities the congregation didn’t just walk from the old to the new. The entire congregation formed a parade, complete with marching band, to physically and symbolically move to their new building. Singing songs of praise and thanksgiving to express their joy and excitement both young and old marched together to a celebratory dedication service in their new church building. This congregation’s journey to get to this point was long and the result of much hard work and sacrifice on the part of the entire congregation.

It was a privilege for us to be able to celebrate along with the Jacquet Christian Reformed Church of Port Au Prince a few Sunday’s ago.

This church building was constructed over a number of years through a partnership between the congregation and SON-Beam International and with major funding from Trinity CRC in Goderich Ontario. SON-Beam International is an organization from western Michigan that provides construction design, engineering services and funding to ECRH (the Christian Reformed Church of Haiti) to build or re-build churches. Trinity CRC in Goderich had a faith giving campaign to fund the construction of their own new church building and they tithed 10% to help churches in Zambia, the Dominican Republic and Haiti build as well.

The ECRH has been blessed to build or re-build 8 ECRH churches in the past few years. Churches are provided with funding to purchase property, construction materials and field supervision while the local congregation hires tradesmen and provides food to feed the workers and volunteers. In this way the congregation takes ownership of the construction project and the final building. This coming year, through similar partnerships, we hope to see 5-6 churches constructed. If you feel you would like to support one of the church construction projects write me an email and we can begin a conversation.

Please pray for the church construction projects that are being planned for this year. Pray for good weather and funding sources.

Blessings, Larry and Tracey Luth - CRWM Haiti
November 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

“Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.” – Corrie ten Boom

November 1

The humanitarian community has noticed an upsurge in cholera cases in several localities this fall. While on the whole infection rates have fallen by 46% to a current average of 4,600 reported cases per month, cholera is still a serious threat to the Haitian population. Please pray that efforts to educate people in prevention practices will be successful and that those who need it will have access to medical care they require to survive this deadly disease.

November 2

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.

November 3

Valery Vital-Herne, the Haitian national coordinator for the Strategies of Transformation training in Haiti, is beginning to work with a new group of leaders this month to begin the Strategies of Transformation curriculum. The first few meetings can be difficult for these leaders as entirely new concepts about what the incarnation of Jesus means for our mission to those around us are being discussed. Please pray that this new group will have open hearts and understanding minds to not only grasp the concepts but make them part of their inner theology and then use these concepts in the places God has called them to minister.

November 4

Every year at this time our office submits our annual plan for the next fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2014). These plans include the work that our partners and we hope, by God's grace, to accomplish. Please pray with us that our dreams for these plans will be realized so that the team and our partners will be able to continue the work we feel God has called us to here in Haiti.

November 5

The process of budgeting for the next fiscal year began last month already and the final budget for the Haiti field is due today. The budget represents the needs of keeping missionaries in the field but more importantly the financial needs of the partners and programs World Missions supports. Please pray that the plans we and our partners have made may come to fruition and that the funds required to make these plans a reality will be given.

November 6

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.

November 7

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. Please pray that harvests are bountiful and that other efforts to create food security for the population are successful.

November 8

Every Tuesday World Missions and World Renew staff set aside some time in the morning for group devotions. It is an opportunity for the teams to gather together and spend time singing, praying and studying the Bible. Consider making ours a global prayer this morning by joining us, where ever you are, at 9:15 am as we pray for the team, the work being done here in Haiti.

November 9

One of Larry’s goals is to create a Haitian Youth Leadership Forum where a diverse group of people, representing a diverse group of organizations that are involved in youth leadership development learn from each other, encourage one another, and explore collaborations. Today Larry is meeting with this newly established forum. Please pray for a Haitian leader to feel lead to direct this forum.

November 10

A couple of months ago we asked you to celebrate the graduation of participants in the Strategies of Transformation program. Yesterday these leaders met for spiritual formation training, worship and prayer. These leaders work in very difficult places and need continuous training and opportunities to support each other. Please pray for strength and courage for these leaders as these leaders work in very difficult places.

November 11

Pray for CRWM’s partner the Program for Training Diaconal Organizations (PWOFOD). This organisation works with churches in urban Port-au-Prince neighbourhoods training church deacons to reach out to people in the community and churches starting small-loan programs for business owners, and literacy classes for adults. Please pray for these programs that bring the church into the community.

November 12

Abbel Joseph is a young married Haitian man who has had opportunities through Compassion International sponsorship to complete college in Haiti and also complete his master’s degree in Spiritual Formation at Moody Bible Institute in the US. Abbel has been involved with the Strategies of Transformation program for the past number of years and recently traveled to Honduras with Larry to participate in the LAAC Assembly. Please pray that God will bless Abbel with much strength and wisdom as he spends time in the neighbourhood he grew up in ministering to young people and helping them find purpose in their lives.

November 13

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.

November 14

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). Jacky has a wonderful spirit and a heart for this ministry and was recently ordained as a pastor in his church. Please pray for Jacky as he takes on new responsibilities with his church and continues to provide guidance and vision for PRIHA.
**November 15** Pray for The Church in Haiti that all who claim Jesus as their Saviour will be grace-filled community of believers.

**November 16** *Bruneus Kilick* is the part-time National Youth Coordinator for The Christian Reformed Church of Haiti (ECRH). Kilick serves as a pastor in his father's church and also works as a school teacher in the community he lives. Pray for Kilick as he encourages the regional youth leaders in the work they do and acts as the ambassador for the youth at regional and national assemblies.

**November 17** The Haitian government has chosen January 26th as the date for the long delayed elections for senators. Some political parties are calling for a boycott of these elections and accuse the ruling government of not following the constitution. Please pray for peace in Haiti during this election season and for safe and fair elections in January.

**November 18** One of World Renew's partners SKDE had been trying for years to find good water in the community of Burcy. After some attempts yielded salty water they recently completed 2 fresh water wells bringing drinking water to people in need of water. Give thanks with us for these wells and for the hope this water gives to this community.

**November 19** *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. Edouarus is also a civil engineer who helps coordinate church building projects for ECRH, is on the country coordination team for Timothy Leadership Training and recently starting to study theology. Please pray for this young man and the work he does. Pray that his excitement for the work he is doing and his commitment to being a strong leader in ECRH will inspire other young leaders to the same standard.

**November 20** Today is Universal Children's Day. This date marks the day on which the United Nations Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959 and is a day devoted to promoting the ideals of the welfare of the children of the world. 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.

**November 21** 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 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.

**November 22** Every 3 years World Missions carries out an evaluation of the work of our partners. For the next 5 days an assessment group will be traveling in Haiti evaluating the work of the Christian Reformed church of Haiti. They will visit churches and pastors, and meet with church leadership and in the process create recommendations for ECRH. Please pray for safety in travel and open hearts for both the evaluators and the ECRH leadership team.

**November 23** 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.

**November 24** *Doris-Falante Guano* is the administrator of STRH, the seminary for the Christian Reformed Church in Haiti (ECRH). Doris administers and teaches at the seminary. Participants either travel to Port-au-Prince every few months for classes or are trained by regional pastors in the area they live. Pray for Doris and the work he does with the seminary to raise up the next generation of Haitian pastors and lay-leaders.

**November 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Physical and sexual abuse against women is quite common in Haiti and even though there are laws to protect women, much of the time perpetrators are not brought to justice. Estimates suggest that nearly 1 in 3 Haitian women are victims of sexual abuse. Today please pray for safety and healing for victims of abuse. Pray for justice for their abusers.

**November 26** Today is the last day of the evaluation of the ECRH. Please pray the evaluation team can provide helpful recommendations to ECRH and pray for open minds and hearts within the leadership of ECRH to take these recommendations as ways to build a stronger church and make themselves more able to carry out their mission.

**November 27** Pray for the over 300,000 Haitian children who are living as slaves; that they may see that their lives have value, they deserve freedom and that their government will one day recognize that this horrific human rights abuse must end.

**November 28** Pray for the *Christian Reformed Church of Haiti* (ECRH). Many of the 38 churches are small rural congregations. Pray that these churches will be a beacon of light and have a lasting impact in their communities. Pray for those working and ministering in very difficult areas of Haiti, those marked by absolute poverty and violence.

**November 29** *Regine Orange* has participated in the Strategies of Transformation workshops for the past number of years. She works for Campus Crusade for Christ but has also taken what she learned in the workshops and started a ministry to young children in her poverty stricken neighbourhood. Please pray for strength and courage for Regine in the difficult place she is ministering but also pray for the children she ministers to, that through Regine they may see the light of Christ and the hope He brings.

**November 30** Pray for the judicial system in Haiti. Dismissals and resignations of high-ranking officials undercut efforts to increase the effectiveness of the justice system. Pray for judges and offices with integrity to fight hard to change a justice system long troubled by politicization, corruption, and lack of transparency.