

**CHURCH BULLETIN OF THE
CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES AT
BARRHEAD AND NEERLANDIA**

Volume 22 Number 29 March 19th 2017 A.D.

WORSHIP SERVICES

BARRHEAD

NEERLANDIA

March 19

Rev. G. Veurink
Rev. T. Wierenga
M.E.R.F

South

Rev. R. Pontier
Reading
Rehoboth

North

Rev. T. Wierenga
Rev. G. Veurink
C.R.W.R.F.

March 26

Rev. C. Vanderlinde
Rev. C. Vanderlinde
Needy

Rev. T. Vandergaag
Rev. G. Veurink
Rehoboth

Rev. G. Veurink
Rev. T. Vandergaag
C.R.W.R.F.

Rev. C. Vanderlinde
(780) 284-4080

Br. R. VanAssen
(780) 674-6710

Rev. G. Veurink
(780) 674-7615

The bulletin is published under the responsibility of the respective consistory.

Barrhead Editors: Rev. C. Vanderlinde: calvinvanderlinde@gmail.com, Br. M. Hoeksema: melhoek@gmail.com

Neerlandia North Editor: Br. A. Vanleeuwen: crcbulletin@hotmail.com

Neerlandia South Editors: Br. R. VanAssen, Br. J. Froma: neersouth@gmail.com

Deadline: All ads must be submitted to your respective editors no later than 6 p.m. on the Wednesday before publication.

GENERAL NEWS

ROLLING CALENDAR

General

March 27 ARPA Barrhead/Neerlandia AGM

April 21-22 St. Albert Volleyball Tournament Fundraiser

April 22 Pro-life Banquet

April 28 Rejoicing Voices Choir Concert 8pm

May 5 Spring Market

May 5-6 Reformed Women's Retreat

Aug 7-11 Summit RYC

Aug 11-14 Denver Family Camp

Aug 17-21 Calgary Study Weekend

Barrhead

March 20 Food Safety Presentation

April 8 Trivia Night

Neerlandia South

March 24 Congregational meeting

Neerlandia North

April 7 Taste of Neerlandia North

APPRECIATION NOTE FROM REHOBOTH CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ANNUAL

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Recently we completed our final tallies in the October Membership Campaign, and we take this opportunity to thank you for making the 2016 campaign a remarkable success! Through your intensive and passionate canvassing efforts in your church congregation, we have grown our membership numbers in the Rehoboth Society to 3,378, an increase of almost 400 from the previous year. Your hard work and the generosity of contributors through memberships and donations raised \$144,985 - a total \$25,000 greater than raised in 2015, despite a sluggish economy. These monies are vital in augmenting the funds received by Rehoboth from the Alberta government to support our individuals in residential, vocational, community access, and respite programs. More importantly, the ability for us to encourage advocacy efforts among our thousands of members is invaluable in sustaining Rehoboth as a leader in the disabilities services sector. Sincerely, Ron Bos, Executive Director.

ARPA BARRHEAD/NEERLANDIA'S AGM

ARPA Barrhead/Neerlandia's AGM is swiftly approaching! Please join us March 27, at 8:00 PM in the Mellowdale Hall. Our speaker this year is Ray Pennings, the Co-founder and Executive Vice President of Cardus. He will be speaking on 2000 years of Christian Social Thought and Canada 2017.

Please note that we are currently looking for new board members. If you are interested or you know of someone who is please call Jacqueline Hamoen at 780-674-6630.

ARPA CANADA - ALBERTA DIRECTOR JOB OPPORTUNITY

By God's grace alone we are excited to share with you a job posting for the new full-time position of Alberta Director. If the Lord provides a suitable candidate, this person will be responsible for bringing ARPA's mission by mobilizing Albertans through effective political action and bringing a solid Christian perspective to the members of the Alberta Legislature. To see the job posting and details on how to apply, visit ARPCanada.ca. Applications are due by March 31.

SPRING MARKET VENDORS WANTED

The Ladies' Aid is having their Spring Market on May 5 from 4-8 pm. At this time we are looking for vendors. The cost per table is \$35 and an additional \$20 if you require an extra one. Please contact Mel Hooimeyer to book your table. Also, please pay her as soon as possible. Cheques can be made payable to Covenant School Ladies' Aid. You will not be able to setup until we have received payment. The deadline for booking is April 28th.

CALENDARS

Just a friendly reminder to those who have not made arrangements to pick up their calendars: Please do so ASAP! Thanks!

Melanie Jagersma (2451), Rachel Tuininga (6266), Joanne DeRuiter (780-666-0298), Marcia Van Grootheest (3507)

WALKING AND TALKING WITH GOD BY DR. JOHN SMITH.

This book contains the 4 lectures that Dr. J. Smith presented to the Australian Churches earlier this year.

1. Excavating Exodus
2. Studying the Psalm as a Book
3. Can we call God our Friend?

4. Vows in the Old Testament

69 pages in total and questions with each section. \$7.00 The book is available from Hetty Stel, 780-674-8801.

CALGARY STUDY WEEKEND

Save the date! The annual Calgary Study Weekend, organized by the Young People's Society of the Canadian Reformed Church at Calgary, will take place DV August 17- 21, 2017. Details regarding our speaker, theme, and registration will be coming soon! If you have any questions, please email us at calgarystudyweekend@gmail.com or visit www.calgarystudyweekend.ca.

BARRHEAD NEWS

barrheadcanrc.ca

TO AND FROM THE CONGREGATION

We welcome the longer daylight and the slightly warmer temperatures these days as signals of God's providence that the winter-season is approaching its end. As the Teacher explained in Ecclesiastes 7:11 "Light is sweet and it pleases the eyes to see the sun." How true! The same writer also described a proper attitude to have toward worship when he said, "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong... God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few" (Eccl. 5:1-2).

In that vein the pastoral column this week is not very lengthy. What we can note is that yesterday our minister-emeritus **Rev. E.J. Tiggelaar** could celebrate another birthday. Congratulations! We thank the Lord for the good health He has provided you in body and mind enabling you to remain active in ministerial work of preaching and teaching in your retirement years. May the Lord grant you and your wife all you need in the coming year to continue in his service in the knowledge and experience of the Lord's faithfulness.

As today I am slated to be in Calgary to fulfil a Classis-arranged pulpit-supply appointment, we welcome two guest ministers to fill our pulpit this Sunday. **Rev. Gerard Veurink** has agreed to lead our morning worship service and the afternoon service will be led by **Rev. Theo Wierenga** of Maranatha CanRC in Fergus ON who has come to visit his family and old 'stomping grounds' as he enjoys a spring-break. We pray that the Lord will bless the proclamation of the gospel of grace wherever his messengers bring it in truth and in power. Have a blessed Lord's day!

CVL

BARRHEAD PREACHING SCHEDULE

March 19 AM – Rev. G. Veurink

March 19 PM – Rev. T. Wierenga

March 26 AM – Rev. C. Vanderlinde

March 26 PM – Rev. C. Vanderlinde

BARRHEAD SCHEDULED COLLECTIONS

March: Middle East Reformed Fellowship

March 26: Needy

April: Mission Aid Brazil

April 30: Needy

CATECHISM INSTRUCTION:

The Catechism classes will meet at their regular times. The Pre-confession class will meet from 7:30-8:30 in the Consistory room. For all: please come prepared with a Bible, Book of Praise, binder and something to write with.

HOST FAMILY

This week's host family is **Gerrit & Mennie Helmus**

March 26 Stuart & Sherri Harsevoort

April 2 Rieks & Janna DeVink

April 9 Rick & Stephanie DeVink

SHORT REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 6, 2017.

The chairman, Rev. Vanderlinde opened the meeting, read from Psalm 139 and requested the singing of Ps 139:10 and led in prayer. Br. F. Miedema was absent with notification.

The agenda was adopted.

Minutes of February 6th 2017 were adopted and signed.

The following members in their individual circumstances were remembered; br. Bert Wierenga's 67th birthday, br Louis Dykstra's 87th birthday and br. Bert Bultena's health concerns. Also the Steenberg families and the Miedema family were remembered in their bereavement. We could also be thankful that the congregational meeting could take place.

Mail

Incoming mail: There was no incoming mail.

Outgoing mail: A congratulatory letter was sent to Redeemer URC in Lacombe regarding their new place of worship. A letter was sent to the decorating committee. A travel attestation was given to sr. H. VanRaalte. A travel attestation was given to Br. and Sr. K. Koopmans. A letter of thanks was sent to the neighbouring congregations who supported the Over 18 presentation.

Congregational matters.

Members in special circumstances were remembered.

General visits were discussed.

Other visits were reported on.

The current membership statistics are:

Communicant 196

Non-communicant 141

Total 337

Preaching arrangements were made for upcoming Sundays.

Not serving at the next Lord's Supper on March 12th are brs. Q. Harthoorn and M. Hoeksema. Brs. D. Barendregt and Q. Harthoorn will be greeting elders.

The deacons presented their monthly report. Visits were made and reported on. The offerings collected for the CRWRF in the month of February amounted to \$2491.00. The offering for the Needy amounted to \$894.00. Offerings for March are scheduled to be for MERF and in April for Mission Aid Brazil. The deacons decided that the offerings collected the last Sunday of each month will be collected for the Needy.

The C of A report was not available since the liaison was not present.

A matter of concern from the C of A was brought to the attention of Council.

The Evangelism Committee report was presented by the liaison. Among other activities, the committee is making preparations for street fest. The committee is planning for an annual Christmas dinner in cooperation with FCSS.

The past month's church financial report was given. The voluntary contributions for January amounted to \$36530.00.

Performance of Office

It was decided to leave the discussion on Articles 57-62 of the church order until the next meeting.

A timeline for the selection of new office bearers for this spring was presented.

Miscellaneous matters were discussed.

Some material from Summer Reformed Youth Conference from the Calgary URC was received and information will be made available to the congregation.

An opportunity was given for question period.

Christian Censure: Article 73 of the Church Order was thankfully not needed.

This month's consistory meeting will be held, the Lord willing, on March 20th, 2017.

Next month's council meeting will be held the Lord willing, on April 3rd, 2017.

Short Report was read and approved.

Br. C. Werkman ended in prayer.

The chairman closed the meeting.

FROM THE C OF A

It has been brought to our attention that items in the church keep getting moved around and have to be returned to their proper place. We ask that everyone respect the work that others do, and leave items where they are. If you need something changed please contact the custodians or cofa.

Thank you, Bhd CofA

INVITATION FROM THE KITCHEN

There will be a mini food safety presentation and kitchen care meeting on Monday, March 20th, IN THE CHURCH KITCHEN, at 8pm. All societies and any volunteer helpers that work in the kitchen, helping at dinners or serving coffee, are welcome and encouraged to attend. See you there! Thanks, Mel

TRIVIA EVENING

It's back!! This year's trivia event will be taking place on **Saturday April 8**, beginning at **7:30 PM** in our church building. All those 16 years of age and older are invited to participate in this exciting event. You are welcome to make a team ahead of time or come and join one when you arrive that evening! Entrance into the event will be by donation, with the proceeds going towards the startup of a Pregnancy Care Center here in Barrhead. Come and join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, laughter, and interesting facts! You may walk away as the winner of a door prize too!!

- Church Life Committee

ESV BIBLES FREE DELIVERY!

To anyone looking to buy a new ESV Bible: I have worked at Christian Book & Record in Edmonton for the past 3 years and am willing to deliver your Bible orders on weekends from our store! The store is owned by members of Providence Canadian Reformed Church, so the support would be greatly appreciated! I will take some samples of different styles of ESV Bibles for

those interested to look at on Sundays. This way you can get an idea of what you might be looking for. You can also look online on our website: christianbookandrecord.ca. If you have any questions, please call/text Mikaela at 780-284-2955 or our store at 780-478-2798.

COMBINED BIBLE STUDY

We hope to have our next meeting on March 22 at 8:00 in the church building. We plan to discuss chapter 2 of the Canons of Dort. Rick will lead the meeting and Hetty will bring the cookies. Hope to see you all there.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We will be studying chapter 3 in our study guide on Daniel by Rev. Souman. Mel is leading. Coffee is on at 9:45 with our meeting beginning at 10:00. Hope to see you there! New members always welcome

LIVING WATERS

We will meet again Sunday, March 19 at 7:30 at Logan and Karina's house. We will be studying Week 4 of The Lamb of God by Nancy Guthrie.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

Once again the Young People's Society would like to offer their services to the elderly of the congregation. If you are in need of help around your home or with yard work the young peoples are more than willing to lend a helping hand. The contact people for those in need of help are Jeremy Hoeksema at [780-284-2343](tel:780-284-2343) and Nicholas Vogelzang at [780-674-7291](tel:780-674-7291).

NEERLANDIA NEWS

UPDATE FROM NEERLANDIA CANRC SOUTH

Due to changes and complications with registering for charitable status, the councils of Neerlandia CanRC and Neerlandia CanRC South along with both C of A's have come to the conclusion that the only option is to have Neerlandia CanRC South operate as a branch of Neerlandia CanRC until all documents have been finalized.

COVENANT OF LOVE YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will be meeting this evening, March 19/17 at 7:30pm DV at the home of Bart & Anita Bikker.

We will be discussing chapters 7 & 8 of *The Beauty of Reformed Liturgy* by G. Van Dooren.

Snacks: Christiena Hoeve.

If you have a child who is 12-15 they are welcome to join us!

Study questions are on the church website under the Societies, Youth Group tab. www.neerlandiacanrc.ca.

WEDNESDAY EVENING WOMEN'S SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be at the Neerlandia Canadian Reformed Church in the basement on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 8:00pm. We are to study the last chapter of our book Messiah, the Holy One of God – Chapter 24 Christ in the Glory of His Messianic Ministry, pages 287-291.

Baking and Prayer – Rachel VandeBurgt

NEERLANDIA SOUTH

FOR AND FROM THE FLOCK

Last week Sunday we had the opportunity to meet with Rev. and Mrs. Vandevelde. Those that were not able to speak to Rev. Vandevelde and his wife can still do so this week. It is important that we convey to him our need for a pastor and teacher. He can be reached at: Phone Number: 1-204-745-9453, Cell: 1-204-750-4191. Email: rev.vandevelde@gmail.com. We pray that the Lord will guide Rev. Vandevelde as he considers the calls he has to deliberate.

This week Tuesday Sr. I. Werkman will celebrate another birthday D.V.. We wish her a happy birthday as she celebrates with family and friends. May our Heavenly Father continue to surround her with His love and care in the coming year.

We extend our condolences to the Steenbergen family with the passing of brother R. Steenbergen's brother in the Netherlands. Br. And Sr. Steenbergen were able to attend the funeral and have returned home safely.

Sr. Lies Hamoen continues to be hospitalized. Earlier this week she suffered an E-coli infection for which she received antibiotics. We commend our sister into the hands of our Father in heaven, and may He continue to watch over her and keep her in His care. We also pray for those that continue to care for all her medical and physical needs.

The time of year has come again for the congregation to submit names for brothers to serve in the office of elder and deacon. Please give this matter your careful consideration. This year the Brs. Bert VandeReit and Jeff VanGrootheest will have completed their term as elder, and Br. Jan Otten as deacon.

The congregation is reminded of the annual meeting of council and congregation this coming Friday Mar. 24th at 8:00 p.m. In the church basement, D.V

Today we welcome Rev. Pointier to our pulpit to lead us in worship for our morning service. Br. A. Veirsen will lead the afternoon service. May God's words be proclaimed in boldness and truth.

Have a blessed Sunday.

JF

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS

March 26 am Rev. Vandergaag pm Rev. Veurink

April 2 am & pm Rev. Kalkman

April 9 am & pm Rev. Kalkman

April 16 am Rev. Veurink pm Reading

April 23 am & pm Rev. Kalkman

April 30 am Rev. Pontier pm Reading

SHORT REPORT OF COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2017

The chairman opens the meeting by requesting that we sing Psalm 108:1 then reads Ephesians 6 and opens in prayer.

Br. J. Froma is absent with notification, and Br. P. Hoeve is late with notification. Br. G. Van Assen will come later on behalf of the calling committee.

The minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting are adopted.

Incoming mail:

1. Over 18 Presentation: Darlene Steenbergen.
2. Redeemer URC: Dedication service invitation
3. Barrhead Chamber of Commerce: invitation

Agenda is adopted

The brothers report on visits made since last meeting.

The C of A reports that the incorporation and Charitable donation status is still in progress.

The deacons report January income as:

- * Needy = \$2,263.40
- * MAF = \$2,809.60
- * Support given = \$500
- * Bank balance = \$32,187.12

Congregational matters:

- * The annual meeting is discussed and prepared for.
- * It is decided to support the Over 18 Presentation in Barrhead and to encourage members to attend.
- * Invitation to attend redeemer URC dedication service-a letter will be sent
- * A letter from Barrhead Chamber of Commerce - taken for info.

Br. G. Van Assen enters the meeting and gives the presentation for the calling committee.

Service arrangements are as follows:

- * Feb.19 Rev. Kalkman 2x
- * Feb.26 Reading 2x
- * Mar. 5 Rev. Kalkman 2x
- * Mar. 12 Rev. Kalkman Lord's Supper
- * Mar. 19 Rev. Pontier am Reading pm
- * Mar. 26 Rev. Vandergaag, Rev. Veurink

Church visitors will be here Monday March 27, D.V.

Matters of church federation:

- * Delegates to classis have their credentials signed and given to them.
- * Financial statements of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary are received and discussed.
- * Acts of synod 2016 are reviewed further.

Mutual instruction is held as well as Christian censure which was held.

March 13, 2017 is set for the next meeting date.

Brother J. Van Assen closes in prayer.

SHORT REPORT OF CONSISTORY MEETING FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Our chairman Br. R. Van Assen requests that we sing Psalm 138:1 and reads Ecclesiastes 8 and opens in prayer.

Br. B. VandeRiet is late with notification.

The minutes of the January 16, 2017 meeting are adopted.

Incoming mail:

1. Letter from Br. Terpsma.
2. Attestation from Siebe Bylsma, from Taber.
3. Attestation from Larissa van Ellenberg, from Calgary.

Outgoing mail:

1. Travel attestation to Sr. Jane Breukelman.

The agenda is adopted.

The brothers report on the visits made since the last meeting as well as visits made to the catechism classes.

Home visits are reported on by the various wards.

Matters of supervision and discipline are reported on and discussed.

* Church attendance is reviewed.

Lord's Supper will be celebrated on March 12, 2017, D.V. Ward 1 will be table attendants.

For congregational matters -- Rev. S Vandervelde's planned visit is discussed.

The letter from Br. S. Viersen is tabled and discussed, a response will be sent.

Br. L Terpsma's letter is tabled, will be responded to.

Mutual instruction is held.

Date for the next meeting is set for March 20, 2017, D.V.

Br. C. Hooimeyer closes in prayer.

SHORT REPORT OF COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 13, 2017

Br. R. Van Assen opens the meeting with the request to sing Hymn 71:1 and reads Proverbs 1:1-19 then leads in prayer.

Br. J. Otten is absent with notification

The minutes of the February 13, 2017 meeting are adopted and signed.

Congregational memorabilia are remembered with various matters of prayer concerns as well as events of thankfulness.

Incoming Mail:

* Thank you letter from the Barrhead Canadian Reformed Church re: Over 18 Presentation.

* Attestations from Siebe Bylsma, Larissa Van Ellenberg, Levi Wierenga and Brittany Fennema.

The agenda is adopted.

The C of A reports progress made with regards to incorporating and all is in place for our congregational meeting.

The home mission committee reports on their recent activities, and plans for future events.

The Deacons report February income as

* \$1,810.10 = Needy

* \$2,263.90 = Anchor Association

* \$32,849.34 = Bank Balance

Congregational matters:

* The Congregational meeting is set for March 24, 2017, D.V. and various preparations are made.

* The Church Visitors will be here on March 27, 2017, D.V.

* For general discussion: a request will be made for names to fill upcoming vacancies for retiring office bearers.

Church Membership:

* Sr. Larissa van Ellenberg is placed in Ward 2.

* Br. Siebe Bylsma is placed in Ward 1.

* Br. Levi Wierenga is placed in Ward 3

* Sr. Brittany Fennema is placed in Ward 3.

Service arrangements:

* March 19 – Rev. Pontier am Reading pm

* March 26 – Rev. Vandergaag am Rev. Veurink pm

* April 2 – Rev. Kalkman am and pm

* April 9 – Rev. Kalkman am and pm

* April 16 – Rev. Veurink am Reading pm

* April 23 – Rev. Kalkman am and pm

* April 30 – Rev. Pontier am Reading pm

Matters of Church Federation:

* The brothers report on the March 7, 2017 Classis meeting.

* Next Classis will be June 13, 2017 with September 19 as alternative.

Date for the next meeting is set for April 10, 2017, D.V.

Press release is read and adopted.

Br. B. VandeRiet closes in prayer.

CHURCH SOCIAL WEBSITE

A few weeks ago you received a letter inviting you to join the Church Social website for our church. Thank you to all who have signed up already! For those already on the website, feel free to upload a picture of your family into the member directory. Also, if you find any errors in your information, you can submit corrections through the website as well.

Those who have not yet joined, please email your information to either Byron or Joanne. We require only your email address, and if you would like your anniversary to show up on the calendar, please include that information in your email. Byron - byrontuininga@hotmail.com Joanne - ejderuiter91@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEN'S SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be on March 22 8:00 at Ron Hamoens shop. Henry Barendregt will lead the meeting on chapter 13 and 14 of "Leadership for Growing Churches."

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our next meeting will be held, D.V., on March 23rd, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.! The discussion will be on Chapter 7, Our Father and his creation! Suggested reading: Genesis 1 and Hebrews 11:1-3.

Leader -- Debbie VA

Babysitter -- Jocelyn VL

Baking/Prayer/Coffee -- Katrina BR

Welcome to the new ladies who have joined us! Thank you to the ladies who join us regularly! We encourage any lady who has not joined a society and would love to have group discussions and fellowship to join us as well as we study "Growing in the Gospel" along with the Bible!

YOUNG PEOPLES SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be held at Bethany VanAssen's at 8 pm on Mar. 19 2017 D.V. Daniel will open this meeting. We are studying Chapter 10 of The Pursuit of Holiness. Please read the chapter and come prepared with a study question. The cost for the study book is \$16 and dues are \$20 which can both be paid to Julian. Contact Jos @ 780-206-0104 or Jamie @ 780-674-0098 if you have any questions.

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

We hope to meet, D.V., on Sunday March 19, 2017, at the home of John and Henrietta Froma's. We will be considering outlines 12 and 13 from "The Words of the Divine Great King" by G. VanRongen --Deuteronomy 27-30. Everyone is welcome.

SERVICE COMMITTEE

To all seniors or disabled members of our congregation: We, as Young Peoples Society, continue to offer our services with chores in and around your home. To make arrangements please call Jos B. @ 780-206-0104 or Jamie T. @ 780-305-1440. We would love to help you!

HOST FAMILY

March 19 Henk & Laura Steenbergen

March 26 Reinder & Tineke Steenbergen

April 2 Grant & Vonessa Van Assen

April 9 Jerold & Sharon Van Assen

BABYSITTING LIST

March 19 AM – Rosanne O, Tessa V, Dana J

PM -- Saakje O, Julia V

March 26 AM – Jenn O, Flaura VDZ, Brooklyn S

PM – Bec P, Mackenzie W

NEERLANDIA NORTH

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Once again we may begin our week by gathering together as God's people to worship our Triune God and to hear the good news of Jesus Christ proclaimed once more. We are thankful for the continued freedom to serve the Lord and pray that we may continue to be blessed with such a rich privilege.

At the time of writing our Sr. Lies Hamoen remains in hospital dealing with an infection. This is certainly not what she or the family had hoped for and so we pray that the LORD would continue to surround them with his care and also give them patience to continue trusting in him during this time of ups and downs.

It doesn't seem that there was a lot that took place this week in terms of special occasions. However, we can be thankful for the regular events that so often take place without a second thought. We can think of the different Bible Study groups, the catechism classes, the home visits and the list goes on. A lot happens from week to week without any special attention being given to it. We are thankful for the different opportunities that God gives us to function within the body of believers!

At our Council meeting this past week, we continued discussing the Acts of Synod, 2016. Once again there was a lot of material to consider. One major issue was our relationship with the Liberated Churches in the Netherlands. As you probably know, there are a number of issues in this federation that are cause for significant concern. As a result, Synod decided that our relationship is now under strain. Part of this also means that rules 4 and 5 of ecclesiastical fellowship have been temporarily suspended, meaning we no longer accept attestations from the Dutch sister churches, nor do we open our pulpits to ministers from the federation. These

are very sad developments and we pray that the Lord in his grace will cause our sister churches to change their direction and return to the firm foundation of the Scriptures.

At this meeting we also dealt with the matter of Bible translation. Synod decided that they could not forbid churches from using the NIV 2011 but they still recommend the use of the ESV, while other approved translations include the NIV1984, the NASB and the NKJV. As a result of this discussion, Council has decided that on September 1, 2017 we will begin to use the ESV in our worship services. More information about this change will be forthcoming.

Another matter that came up was an Overture from Regional Synod West, which would change the way that students of our Theological College are dealt with. Regional Synod West suggested that these students remain in the care of their home congregations and also that the first two examinations also be done in the home classis. However, Synod decided that these overtures were incomplete and so could not be adopted. At our next council meeting, we hope to finish going through these Acts. This morning we welcome Rev. Theo Wierenga to our pulpit. It is wonderful that you could be with us this week to do some visiting among family and friends, and we appreciate that you are willing to lead us in worship this morning as well! May the Lord richly bless the proclamation of the gospel so that we are once again motivated to live in the joy of faith the remainder of this week! Wishing you all a blessed day of rest and worship!

GeV

PREACHING SCHEDULE

March 19: AM: Rev. T. Wierenga

PM: Rev. G. Veurink

March 26: AM: Rev. G. Veurink

PM: Rev. T. Vandergaag

HOST FAMILY

March 19 Pieter & Anna Dejong

March 26 Dyllan DeRuiter

April 2 Jason & Jennifer DeVries

PRESS RELEASE COUNCIL MEETING –MARCH 13, 2017

Opening-Chairman Br A VanLeeuwen calls meeting to order and requests the singing of Psalm 51:3. He then reads 2 Thessalonians 2 and leads in opening prayer.

Welcome- All brothers are present and are welcomed.

Incoming Mail- Provisional agenda from Classis Alberta.

-Letter from Barrhead CanRC.

-Letter from the Gideons.

-Returned travel attestations from Sr Wilma Wierenga, Sr Frieda Roodzant, Br and Sr Dan and Natasha Harink.

Outgoing Mail- Attestation issued to Br Levi Wierenga to the Neerlandia South CanRC.

-Travel attestations issued to Br and Sr Roelof and Theresa Janssen and Br and Sr Jason and Jennifer DeVries.

-Letter to Classis Alberta Re: instructions and credentials.

-Letter to the Lacombe Redeemer URC Re: congratulations on their new building.

Reports- Office bearers report of various contacts they had and visits made since the last meeting.

C of A Report – Income February: \$18925 Balance: \$71345,10 Savings: \$3439,07

-No minutes from the last CofA meeting.

-Neerlandia North and South CofA's discussed the charitable status of the South. Regarding this status it is decided that South continues as an arm of the North, until they receive the status.

Deacons Report-February:

Needy: \$1578,15

Support given: \$3600

Anchor Association: \$2424,85

Book balance: \$16637,01

Home Mission Report-

Congregational Matters- Letter from Barrhead CanRC thanking for financially supporting the Over18 presentation.

-Discussion on the archive procedure. Different options regarding the archiving are discussed, Brs VanDasselaar, A Hamoen and DeJong will further look into this.

-The upcoming church visitation is discussed. (March 27)

-Because of the upcoming retirement of elders Brs A Hamoen, A Doornbos and deacon Br K Kippers, Council requests from the congregation names of brothers to fill these upcoming vacancies.

No cake...

General Discussion- Discussion on dealing with church boundaries and membership.

-First sermon discussion is held.

Service Arrangements- Mar 19 am: Rev VanderGaag pm: Rev Veurink

Mar 26 am: Rev Veurink pm: Rev VanderGaag

Apr 9 am/pm: Reading

Apr 16 Easter. am/pm: Rev Veurink

Mission- Letter from the Gideons is read, a response will be sent.

Matters of Church Federation- Pages 115-139 of the Acts of General Synod Dunnville 2016 were read and are discussed. For the next meeting the pages 140-171.

-After discussion, Council decides to start using the ESV Bible translation per September 1 2017.

Question period- Is made us of.

Christian censure-

Next Meeting- April 3, 2017 DV.

Press Release is read and Br K VanGrootheest leads in closing prayer.

CHURCH ENVELOPES

To those of you who are not yet on web banking and are still receiving the church donation envelopes, the set you received in January had your member number only on the top envelope. Please put your number on the rest of your envelopes. February we had quite a few with no number. If you wrote a cheque we credited to your number but we had a few with cash so no way of telling who donated. If that was you please call Kevin Vangrootheest and give him the amount so he can match it. Sorry for this inconvenience.

TASTE OF NEERLANDIA NORTH FUNDRAISER DINNER (UPDATED)

Sign up deadline is TOMMORROW so this is the last week to sign up! Please help us make this event fun and successful!! We need more people to come join us! On Friday April 7th, please come out for a dinner where we can all enjoy some of our congregations' favorite dishes to get a true taste of Neerlandia North! Those 16 and up, book your \$5 tickets and sign up to bring a dinner item of your choosing. (salad, soup, side dish, casserole, dessert or whatever else you can think of ☺) We are planning on eating buffet style so you don't have to be behind a table to serve your dish, just bring it ready to enjoy! This will also be a fun evening with some entertainment and fellowship. Contact Benita Dejong by **March 20** to sign up: Home 780-801-0889 Cell 780-674-0137

LADIES AID MEETING

There will be a Ladies Aid meeting on March 20 DV. It will be held at the home of Christina Kippers (note the change of Location) at 10 am. New members are always welcome. See you there!

REFORMATION EVENT IN APRIL

Keep your eyes open! Information to follow in the next bulletin.

Evangelism Committee

YOUNG PEOPLE'S

Our next meeting will be held at Peter and Ben Viersen's on March 19th @ 8:00 D.V. We will be studying Proverbs chapter 9. Peter Viersen will open the meeting. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Nelson Wierenga @ 780-305-5099 or Andrew Schouten @ 780-305-8914.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Coffee will be ready at 9:45, meeting starts at 10:00. We will be studying Chapter 3 of the book "Growing in the Gospel" by Prof. VanVliet.

The leader will be Sonja Vanleeuwen. Baking/Prayer: Cynthia VanDasselaar. Babysitters are Christy Kippers and Leanne VanLaar, Helper: Missy Aikema. Kids baking: Cynthia. We look forward to having a good turnout.

SERVICE COMMITTEE

We as Young Peoples would love to help any of the seniors or disabled members who need a helping hand. To make arrangements please call Brett Hamoen @ 780-284-0163 or Hinne Janssen @ 780-284-0364 We would love to help!

BABYSITTING

Mar 19 AM Tamara, Benita, Kira, Danika
PM Judith, Whitney, Rachel

Mar 26 AM Jennifer, Deanna, Raelynn, Amarah
PM Mari H, Tash, Mya