

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

Volume 21 Number 13 November 29th 2015 A.D.

WORSHIP SERVICES

BARRHEAD

NEERLANDIA

November 29

Rev. A.B. Roukema
Rev. A.B. Roukema
C.R.W.R.F.

Reading
Reading
M.E.R.F.

December 6

Rev. C. Vanderlinde
Rev. C. Vanderlinde
Food Bank

Rev. W.B. Slomp

Rev. C. Vanderlinde
(780) 284-4080

Br. A. Vanleeuwen
(780) 674-5232

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

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Neerlandia Editors: Br. A. Vanleeuwen, Br. R. VanAssen

Deadline: All ads must be emailed to crcbulletin@hotmail.com or for Barrhead to one of the editors no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before publication.

GENERAL NEWS

ROLLING CALENDAR

General

December 5 Rehoboth Pancake Breakfast

December 6 MERF Program with Rev. Atallah

December 11 Rejoicing Voices Christmas Concert

Barrhead

December 6 Kier Care & Hillcrest Services

December 7 Ladies Christmas Party

December 12 Craft afternoon

December 13 Christmas program

January 9 Grand Opening Program

Neerlandia

December 1 Singing at Kier Care

December 4 Congregational Meeting

THANK YOU FROM THE BARRHEAD CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCH

We want to thank everyone who came out and supported our dinner and auction fundraiser on Nov.20th to raise money for the kitchen. We also want to thank those who helped us make this a successful night, everyone who helped set up, clean up, cook the food, donate desserts, sit at the ticket tables, helpers for the auction and the auctioneers. We are grateful for the time you took out to make this possible. And again all those who donated to the dinner and auction itself, it was all so appreciated. The dinner made \$1964.31, the auction made \$17,221.75, so our grand total for the night was \$19,186.06. We thank God for everything he has made possible.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Rehoboth Christian Ministries invites you to our annual **Pancake Breakfast** (9:00 – 11:30 am), **Christmas Craft Sale & Open House for New To You** (gently used clothing store) on December 5, 2015 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 3920 - 49 Ave. in Stony Plain. Cost for breakfast; \$5.00/adult \$3.00/child. Come check out the selection of great stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts. This year we are pleased to have other vendors join us. As in past years poinsettias will also be available.

MERF PROGRAM WITH REV. ATALLAH - DEC. 6

Rev. Victor Atallah, director of Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) will be presenting a program about MERF at 8:00 PM in the Neerlandia church building on Sunday, December 6 with refreshments to follow. Everyone in Barrhead and Neerlandia is welcome and encouraged to come and hear about the work that MERF is doing. Because he is preaching in Edmonton in the morning, he is not able to preach for our 2:30 PM services, however, he has consented to preach at 5:00 PM for Emmanuel URC, also a supporting congregation of MERF. Rev. Pontier, who has had the privilege of spending two weeks teaching in Cyprus with Rev. Atallah at the MERF study centre, has invited everyone to come worship with them and hear Rev. Atallah preach, provided, he says, "no one skips out on their own congregation's services."

REJOICING VOICES CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Barrhead and Neerlandia congregations are together invited to join the Rejoicing Voices Choir as we together sing praises to God in remembrance of our Saviour's birth. The concert will be held in the Neerlandia Canadian Reformed church building on Friday, December 11 at 8:00 D.V.

PREACHING THE WHOLE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE PERSON

The Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary will be hosting its 6th annual conference on Thursday to Friday, January 14–15, D.V., at the Ebenezer CanRC building, Burlington. This year the conference will focus on the preaching of the *whole* gospel to the *whole* person. The conference will feature 6 speeches and a choice of workshop. Speakers include Rev. Eric B. Watkins, Dr. Lawrence W. Bilkes, Dr. James Visscher and Dr. Arjan de Visser. There will also be plenty of time for questions and discussion. The registration deadline is December 31. Fees are \$50 (\$35 for students), but if you attend only the two evening speeches no registration is required as they are free. The registration form and more information can be found at

www.canadianreformedseminary.ca.

ORLANDO CONFERENCE – STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!

Calling all Christian men and women – do you wonder what Scripture teaches about the roles of women in the church? Are you concerned about certain trends or hopeful for new initiatives? Join us on Feb 8-10 in Orlando, FL to discuss these questions under the theme, "Women in the Teaching Offices" at North America's first ICRC sponsored conference! Speakers include Dr. Richard

Gaffin, Dr. Alan Strange and Dr. Cornel Venema. Check out all the details including registration information at: www.icrconline.com . Hurry, space is limited!

BARRHEAD NEWS

TO AND FROM THE CONGREGATION

The Lord has continued to bless our congregation with numerical growth, to the point that, I believe, we have now eclipsed 330 members. Praise the Lord for He is good! Most recently we welcome into our midst Br. and Sr. **Ed and Elaine Aikema** who've recently moved from Neerlandia into Barrhead, also moving their membership over from the Neerlandia CanRC. We pray that the Lord will bless you as members in this congregation, that even though there exists much familiarity between us already we hope that you will feel warmly received, and that through your involvement and participation we may all experience spiritual growth alongside our growth in number.

Sr. **Arlene Zuidema** could hear good news recently that the hip surgery she has been waiting for has been scheduled for December 8th. We give thanks together with her that this opening has come, and we pray that this surgery may go well and, under the Lord's blessing, give relief from the pains that Arlene has had to endure.

This past Thursday marked **one year since the passing away of Sr. Cathy Peters** of our neighbouring congregation in Neerlandia. We continue to think of those whom she has left behind on this earth, especially those who were nearest to her. In our congregation that includes her son Travis Peters, her mother Helen Jissink, and siblings Marianne Barendregt and Marvin Jissink. May the Lord strengthen you and your families at this time as you continue to grieve in hope that comes through Jesus Christ.

This upcoming week, the Lord willing, our Sr. **Biewwke Vanderveen** may celebrate her 83rd birthday. We thank the Lord for watching over you in the past year of your life. Though life has its challenges, yet we trust that our lives always rest in the caring arms of our Heavenly Father who loves us and poured out his blessings upon us, also in granting many years of life and good health. May your birthday be filled with joy in Him for his goodness to you!

Do take note of a couple of things scheduled for next week Sunday, December 6. On that day it is our turn to lead **Keir Care and Hillcrest services** (see elsewhere in this bulletin for the times). May we have a good representation at these services as we together with the residents there praise God and hear a short message from His Word. On that same night, **Rev. Victor Atallah of Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF)** will be giving a presentation at 8pm in the Neerlandia CanRC building about the work that MERF is busy with. Since we contribute to this work of ministry through regular collections, it is good to have this opportunity to become more familiar with and take a greater interest in what the Lord is doing in the Middle East.

This Sunday is the regular monthly pulpit exchange. We welcome Rev. Roukema to our pulpit to lead our worship services. As for me, I will be in the St. Albert CanRC. May God bless all his servants who bring his Word, here in this country and around the world, also not forgetting the missionaries who labour on the mission-fields. May we all be encouraged and challenged toward greater spiritual growth and understanding in the gospel of grace! Have a blessed Lord's day! CVL

BARRHEAD PREACHING SCHEDULE

November 29 AM – Rev. A.B. Roukema
November 29 PM – Rev. A.B. Roukema

December 6 AM – Rev. C. Vanderlinde
December 6 PM – Rev. C. Vanderlinde

BARRHEAD SCHEDULED COLLECTIONS

November: C.R.W.R.F.
December 6: Food Bank
December: M.E.R.F.
December 25 & 31: Pembina Pro-Life

CATECHISM INSTRUCTION

Reminder for all: please come prepared with a Bible, Book of Praise, binder and a writing utensil. Remember that the Catechism classes will now also take place at our new building, keeping the same scheduled times.

Class Three: For our next class, remember to review the questions at the end of your Lesson 10 worksheet. If you are unable to make it to class, please be courteous and inform me. Thank you. CVL

Pre-confession/Post-confession class: Meets weekly at the manse on Wednesday at 8pm – taught by Rev. Vanderlinde. Hope to see many of you come out again this week as we continue our study through the Belgic Confession. If you are unable to make it to class, please be courteous and inform me. Thank you. CVL

HOST FAMILY

This week's host family is the **Nathan & Stephanie Larson** family.
December 6 – Greg & Claire Larson family.
December 13 – James & Heather Aasman family.
December 20 – Ken & Linda Koopmans family.
December 27 – Rev. Calvin & Jolene Vanderlinde family.

SHORT REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 9, 2015

The chairman, Rev. Vanderlinde, called the meeting to order. We read Psalm, sang Psalm 2:2 and Rev. Vanderlinde opened the meeting in prayer. Br. Steenbergen is absent with notification. Br. Helmus is late with notification. All others were welcomed.

Agenda was adopted.

Memorabilia: We remember Sr. Kinie Selles is still awaiting surgery which may take a few years. We are thankful to hear that Br. John Wemekamp's chemotherapy is having the desired effect. Remember the passing of Br. John Jissink to heavenly glory. With thankfulness, we remember the first service in the new church building. We remember the birth of Jasper Koen to Rev. + Mrs. Vanderlinde, the birth of Kruz Clifford to Br + Sr A Devink, and the birth of Ronan Grey to Br. + Sr. S. VanLeeuwen. Br. Bill Vogelzang was hospitalized with a blood infection. Br. Gerard Veurink sustained his preparatory exam. Case Hamoen celebrated a birthday. Digital Parenting presentation went well.

Incoming Mail: Attestation is received from Canadian Reformed Church in Neerlandia for Nancy Sandink. Attestation is received from Canadian Reformed Church in Neerlandia for Rachel Rutledge. Letter from St. Albert CanRC re: Classis. Letter with the Acts of Classis Oct. 2015 is received. Letter containing the agenda and material for Regional Synod West 2015 is received. Reports to Synod from CCCNA, SCBP, CRCA – Netherlands, PTP, CRCA, CRTS are received. Acts of Regional Synod West 2015 are received. RSW overture to General Synod 2016 is received.

Congregational Matters are remembered and discussed.

Worship Services:

Service	Morning	Afternoon
Nov 15	Rev. Vanderlinde	Rev. Vanderlinde
Nov 22	Rev. Vanderlinde	Rev. Vanderlinde
Nov 29	Exchange	Exchange
Dec 6	Rev. Vanderlinde	Rev. Vanderlinde
Dec 13 Pulpit supply	Reading	Reading
Dec 20	Rev Vanderlinde	Rev Vanderlinde

Deacon Report: November collection is for CRWRF. December collections are for MERF. December 6 collection is for the Food Bank. Christmas Day and New Years collections are for Pro Life. Official and general visits were reported on.

Committee of Administration: C of A proposes that annual budget meeting should take place in the fall. The brothers agree that this would be preferable. The old church building is sold, just waiting for property inspection. Some procedural matters concerning our worship services in the new church building were discussed and relayed to the C of A. The new address for the church is 6105-43 St. Box 4746 T7N 1A6. The phone number for the church is 674-3055.

Performance of Offices: The brothers take a short amount of time to discuss "With Common Consent" by W.W.J. Van Oene as their ongoing study.

Miscellaneous: Nancy Sandink will be placed in Br. Werkman's ward (5). Rachel Rutledge is placed in Br. Hoeksema's ward (8).

Federation of Churches: Classis : Acts of Classis Oct. 27, 2015. Letter from convening church St. Albert for Classis Dec. 8. Delegates: Rev. Vanderlinde and Q. Harthoorn alt.: M. Helmus Acts of RSW received. Overture to General Synod received. General Synod Dunnville 2016 – Reports received and available on canrc.org. Council entertained a round of discussion on the SCBP & CCCNA Reports to General Synod 2016.

Article 73: Christian Censure was thankfully not needed.

Br. Hoeksema closed in prayer.

KEIR CARE & HILLCREST SERVICES

On December 6 it is our turn to lead the services at Keir Care Center (6:30pm) and Hillcrest (7:15pm). Hope to see many come and attend to sing and listen!

CHOIR

We will be practicing four more times before our Christmas concert. Our next practices will be Dec. 1 at 7:45, Dec. 5 at 8:00, Dec. 8 at 7:45 and Dec. 12 at 8:00. Please mark these days on your calendar so that we can all learn our pieces. Make an effort to come.

CHURCH LIFE

Kids ages 3-6 and 7-12 are asked to join us in the sanctuary after the first service to practice our Christmas songs.

Another kids craft afternoon is in the works! Kids ages 3 and up are welcome to join us in the church building from 1-3 on December 12th to do some fun Christmas crafts.

The Christmas program is scheduled for December 13th at 7pm in our church building. If you have any Christ-centred submissions please contact Jolene Vanderlinde to have them added to the program. We are also asking for any of our musically talented youth to provide the pre-program music, so let us know if you'd like to play!

LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ladies Aid is hosting a Christmas party for all ladies (16+) on Monday, Dec 7th, at Louise Steenbergen's home at 7:30pm. Come on out and share a fun and relaxing evening together. Please bring an appetizer to share and a food bank donation. Hope to see you!

PIE BAKE

We are having another pie bake. Ladies have been very busy peeling apples and we're ready to make pies in our new kitchen. Could these ladies join us on Nov. 30 at 7:30? Claudia Wattel, Hetty Stel, Claire Larson, Tara Tiggelaar, Fay Mul, Arlene Vandersluis, Irene Jagersma, Kim Vandermooren, Leanne Vandasselaar, Christine Vandenhoven, Marnie Vanleeuwen and Dana Vanleeuwen. If you are unable to make it, feel free to switch with someone else. Thanks.

GEMS

Hello Gems Girls and Parents, Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, December 2** from **6:30-8:30 PM**. It will be a fun Christmas craft evening. Maddisyn and Ava will bring snacks and drinks. Don't forget to practice for the Christmas concert. The following week, Friday, December 11 we will be having our Christmas party. More details to come! Hope to see you all there Wednesday!

YOUNG PEOPLES BIBLE STUDY

The Young Peoples will meet today after the second service in the church (November 29). We will continue our study through the Beatitudes, based on the study guide by Rev. R.J. Sikkema titled "Living the Faith". Our topic today is "Blessed are the Meek". Hope to see everyone there!

LIVING WATERS

We will meet in the church building at 7:30 on November 29. We will be studying Session 4 of Respectable Sins. Garrick will lead the meeting, Jordan Peters will take care of coffee. New members are always welcome.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This week we are discussing session seven of our book Respectable Sins by Jerry Bridges. Darlene is leading and Anita is babysitting. Please arrive early so we have time to get settled before we begin our session. We will be talking about what to study next at the end of our meeting. See you on Tuesday! New members are always welcome.

BABYSITTING

NOV 29AM (INF) **Jessica P**, Bonnie V, Berenda H (TOD) Dana V, Marny V, Ryley J
PM Irene J, Amy O

NEERLANDIA NEWS

FOR AND FROM THE FLOCK

Another week has come and gone, and we are again gathered as people of God, to worship His holy Name. We give thanks for the evidence of the Spirit's work, as we heed the call of God to be gathered. May He bless the opening of the Word, the songs of praises we sing and the offerings of thanksgiving we bring, with a joyful heart. May the Lord bless the elders as they lead the worship today.

The Council reminds you of the congregational meeting to be held Friday, December 4th, 2015. We encourage you all to attend as we discuss the different aspects of church growth decisions. We pray for full congregational support in this matter, moving forward in unity. May our heavenly Father richly bless these efforts.

As you can read elsewhere in this bulletin, Rev. Attallah, director of MERF, is coming to give a presentation of the work done among believers in the Middle East. This will take place Dec. 6 at 8pm in our church building. We encourage you to attend this informative evening!

This past Saturday, Darren and Katriena Wikkerink were united in holy marriage! We pray that they had a wonderful day of celebration and that the Lord will continue to bless them as they begin married life in His service and among His people, at the Faith United Reformed Church of Telkwa, BC.

May we all have a blessed day of worship and go forward into this new week, strengthened and refreshed, to live for our Lord and King!

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10&11

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS

November 29 AM Reading Br. A. Vanleeuwen
PM Reading: Br. J. Breukelman

December 6 AM Rev. Slomp
PM

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Council wants to inform the congregation that there will be a congregational meeting on Friday, December 4, 2015 at 8 o'clock P.M in the **School Gym**. The purpose of this meeting is to present a proposal to the congregation to resolve the issue of church growth here in Neerlandia. We urge all members to come to this meeting to be informed on how council has come to this decision and we would appreciate everyone's support in this matter.

CHURCH LADIES AID

Our church ladies aid is having its annual sinterclass party on November 30 starting at 8pm at the home of Jane Breukelman. Please bring along a snack, and a \$10 gift. Any women in the church wanting to be a new member of the ladies aid please come join us!!

SINGING AT KIER CARE

It is our turn to sing at Kier Care on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015 from 10:30 -11:30am. We will be singing Christmas songs, so please take you hymnals, or if you have a poem or would like to read a passage from the Bible, take them with you. This will be the last time for 2015, and the next turn will be Jan.5, 2016. Hope to see you all there. Any questions call 780-674-4187. Thank-you, Alice K.

SENIORS COFFEE

Will be at Jerold and Sharon's place on December 2nd at 10:00

YOUNG PEOPLES SOCIETY

We have begun the study of the book *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges. Read and study Chapters 7 and 10 before the next meeting. Please do the *For Personal Study* questions on pages 34-36. This pre-study is really beneficial when it comes to further discussions at our meetings, so please do so! Our next meeting will be held at Dyllan's place at 8:00 pm on December 6, 2015 D.V. Pieter Steenbergen will be opening this meeting. A reminder: the dues for this year are \$20 and are to be paid to our previous treasurer, Caleb Kos, as soon as possible. The cost for the study book (including the textbook) for this year is \$32. This must be paid when you receive your books. Our two new presidents were decided at the first meeting: Levi Wierenga @ 780-284-3739 and Pieter Steenbergen @ 780-284-4060. Feel free to contact them if you have any questions. SVA

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our next meeting will on December 8th, D.V. Coffee at 9:45, with meeting to begin at 10!

Topic: Phil 2: 14-18 from the book *Shining Like Stars*

Leader: Debbie VanAssen Babysitters: Missy A, Angela Vanleeuwen, Benita D Coffee/Baking/Prayer: Rachel T

Reminder: We will be having the Christmas Program and Lunch with the Seniors on Dec 15th, D.V. So if you have any poems, songs, short stories, etc, you like please pass them on to Deanna D or Mrs F Viersen.

Tuesday Morning Story Hour

Would the Moms please help the children learn Hymn 2 :1 and 6, and Hymn 7. They need to know these songs for the senior's lunch.

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

November 29 at 8:00pm at Wes and Gloria Werkman. We are studying 2 Corinthians chapter 5. Outline 7 in the book by L. Sellers. Everyone welcome.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEN SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be December 2, 2015 starting at 8:00 pm DV. We will be studying Acts 5. In a congregation of 600 members, there should be more than 4 or 5 men attending our meetings. If this situation does not improve, we will have to consider cancelling Wednesday evening Men's Society. Let us continue to come together to study God's word and be a hand and a foot to each other.

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our next gathering for bible study will occur on December 5th @8am in the church basement. The chapter we will be studying and focusing on is Hebrews 3. We have an opportunity to open and meditate on God's infallible Word, let's take it. The dues for the season will be \$20. This will help cover the cost for the supplies needed for breakfast.

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 Nelson W. @ 780-305-5099 or Kurt V. @ 780-206-6604. We would love to help you!

HOST FAMILY

Nov 29 Jan & Jen Otten

Dec 6 Richard & Fetti Peters

Dec 13 Trevor & Michelle Peters

BABYSITTING

Toy Cleaning for December 14: Bec P, Christina P, Debra P

Nov. 29 AM Up – **Roseanne O**, Christina P, Jantienna H Down – Debra P, Kym P, Jenessa D, Hailey W

PM Up – **Michelle P**, Frieda R, Alyssa D Down – Francine S, Averil A

Dec. 6 AM Up – **Marie Stad**, Laura St, Autumn VA Down – Marie St, Vanessa T, Tessa VR

PM Up – **Cindy T**, Abigail VA, Leanne J Down – Kathleen T, Andrea VA