

## In Praise of New Year's Resolutions

New Year's Resolutions often get a lot of bad press. I'm sure that I've offered some of that myself. After all, a lot of people--including me--have made such resolutions and then proceeded to break them sooner rather than later.

Take the promise to get in shape. Often, come January 1, the workout facilities around North County are suddenly packed with people who have made a resolution to get exercise or lose weight. Regulars, now having to wait in line for a swimming lane or a muscle-building machine, lament in ways reminiscent of Joseph and Mary, "There is no room in the gym." Of course, by the time February rolls around, many people quickly fall off the treadmill, opening up the lanes and machines once again for those with lifetime habits.

But today I speak in praise of New Year's Resolutions. Well, not just New Year's Resolutions, but times that we resolve to do something to improve our lives. Sometimes we all need a deadline, a start date, an inspiration to try something new--the desire to live a healthy, exercising lifestyle included! And if the start of a new calendar year is that inspiration for such a decision and change, don't let any bad press stop you!

Not that such resolutions can't be made today, of course. If you've neglected flossing regularly, maybe tonight would be a good time to begin (note to self). And if you watch a lot of TV, but get little exercise and read few good books, don't wait for New Year's day--turn off the TV and take a nice jog to your local library. And if you haven't disciplined your spending, so that you buy new tools or shoes or toys regularly but don't have a thoughtful gift offer to God in worship, or so that you pay for a lot of immediate "wants" but put away little money for your future savings, don't wait until New Year's to do it. And, to precede all of these, if you scurry around madly, working endless hours or shopping or cleaning or wasting time continually, but have little or no time to be quiet before God in a daily discipline of listening to God's Word and praying leisurely and attentively in the Spirit, don't wait until New Year's; let Christ be born in you anew today.

But if New Year's is the motivation to do such things, go for it. And if you blow it after the first week with sad regrets, renew the resolution that day, or on ML King Jr. Day, or on Washington's birthday. If you know your and others' lives will be blessed through such growth, don't stop working at it until you've learned the new discipline or grown fully in a new lifestyle. And if you're still wrestling with your resolutions come Memorial Day or Columbus Day, seek out someone wise and trusting to get their help to understand why you say but really don't want and will to break bad life habits and grow in good and important ones.

So here's to New Year's Resolutions, or any resolves to grow in new and good ways! These are the very things God renews in us in the Christ-life: "*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me*" (Phil. 2:12). Go for it! We'll all be blessed by it!

(So think about it--What important changes could bless your and other's lives today? Below are some of the most popular resolutions. Are there even better ones for you? God bless your naming and resolving it!)

—Pastor Mark Vermaire



1. Spending more time with family and friends. 2: Fit in Fitness. 3: Tame the Bulge. 4: Quit Smoking. 5: Enjoy life more. 6: Quit drinking. 7: Get out of debt. 8: Learn something new. 9: Help others. 10: Get organized.  
(Source: <http://pittsburgh.about.com/od/holidays/tp/resolutions.htm>)

# january church calendar

Contact the church office for  
Life Groups  
information.

\*Elders Meeting date TBD.\*

## Sunday, January 1

9:30AM **First Service of the New Year**  
Morning Worship Service  
*Life Groups Sign Ups Begin*  
5:00PM Middle School Youth  
NO Green Oak Ranch  
Bible Study

## Wednesday, January 4

7:00PM Administrative Committee  
Singers Rehearsal at Lapka's

## Sunday, January 8

9:30AM Morning Worship Service  
5:30PM Green Oak Ranch Bible Study  
7:00PM High School Youth

## Wednesday, January 11

7:00PM Women's Book Group

## Thursday, January 12

9:30AM Mom's Group

## Saturday, January 14

6:00PM High School Youth

## Sunday, January 15

9:30AM Morning Worship Service  
5:30PM Green Oak Ranch Bible Study

## Monday, January 16

7:00PM Deacons Meeting

## Wednesday, January 18

7:00PM Council Meeting

## Saturday, January 21

7:00PM Middle School Youth

## Sunday, January 22

9:30AM Morning Worship Service  
*Life Groups Begin*  
5:30PM Green Oak Ranch Bible Study  
7:00PM High School Youth

## Wednesday, January 25

7:00PM Women's Book Group

## Thursday, January 26

9:30AM Mom's Group

## Saturday, January 28

12:30PM High School & Middle School  
Youth

## Sunday, January 29

9:30AM Morning Worship Service  
5:30PM Green Oak Ranch Bible Study  
7:00PM High School Youth

## happy birthday

1/03 Katrina Stevens  
1/03 Dan Salzman  
1/03 Heather Zuidema  
1/05 Gary Heading  
1/05 Jim Beezhold  
1/06 Mallory Stevens  
1/07 Ineke Burrie  
1/10 Dan Olson  
1/11 Anita Heading  
1/11 Tony Bons  
1/12 Peter De Baan  
1/12 Jo Henry  
1/13 Thomas Voorkamp  
1/15 Tara Carlson  
1/19 Ella de Jong  
1/21 Kristin Gill  
1/22 Stewart Lanting  
1/24 Sue Van Zante  
1/24 Arie de Jong  
1/24 Kathy Zuidema  
1/25 Brody Geckler  
1/26 Frank Mangiapane  
1/28 Kristin Zuidema  
1/29 Jonathan Vermaire  
1/30 Brynn Jongetjes  
1/31 Trevor Vander Pol

## GREEN OAK RANCH

The Crossroads and Green Oak Ranch Communities join in Bible study on Sunday evenings at 5:30 in the GOR Library/Conference room. Questions should be directed to Trena Boonstra, Doug Kallemeyn or Susie Orsburn. Green Oak Ranch is also looking for one on one tutors for their education program.

This could be helping students with their GED, reading, math, computers, or other areas. The help could be as little as an hour a week or much more if you have time and inclination. Check with Trena Boonstra or Marilyn Faber who can put you in touch with the coordinator at the ranch.

## happy anniversary

1/02 Jim & Cindy Kroon☺  
1/02 Lauren & Amy Jongetjes  
1/27 George & Jo Henry  
1/30 Bill & Dotty Van Iwaarden

☺ = A "Special" Anniversary

## have something to share?

*We welcome and encourage news from the congregation for the newsletter. All submissions are subject to approval by the office staff or the council (as needed). Any items for the newsletter are due the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication the following month.*

## Mom's Group

Are you a mother with young children at home? Do you want a place where you can go to have honest discussions about the joys and challenges of being a mother? Come to the Mothers of Young Children Group! Our meeting on January 12 is a Game Day. Come to enjoy a relaxing morning of chatting and playing games after the holiday craziness is over. On January 26 we will cover *Love and Respect*. Come to join us as we watch this DVD about marriage. Nursery and toddler classes are provided. Talk to Dorissa Radersma and Sarah Verhoeven with any questions.

*We share our facilities with Camino al Cielo, a Spanish speaking congregation led by Pastor Jose Balderas. They use the facilities on Sundays at 12:30PM, Thursdays at 7:00PM, and Saturdays at 6:00AM.*

Stephen Ministers are trained, lay, Christian care givers. We are available to listen to, pray with, and support Crossroads members or friends during times of crisis and difficulty. Stephen Ministers are available for visits at home or in the hospital or care facility. Call Trena Boonstra if you have questions or a need. Fliers explaining SM are also available in the foyer literature rack.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



# january events calendar

## WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group meets this month on **January 11 and January 25** at 7:00PM at Suanne Varvel's home. Car pool from Trena Boonstra's home at 6:45PM. We welcome visitors and new members. Questions about the group may be directed to Trena or Suanne

## crossroads service group

The **Crossroads Service Group** is active every week in a variety of service and outreach ministries in our community. Feel free to join them for any of the following service opportunities this month—more volunteers are always welcome!

- **Thursday, January 6:** Serve breakfast at Interfaith
- **Thursday, January 13:** Serve dinner at Merle's Place

As always, anyone who has suggestions and/or questions for the Service Group, or would like to participate in any of the above service projects, can contact the group leader Pat Medendorp at 760.747.2257.

## cadets

**Cadets Boy's Club** is for all boys in grades 4th-8th. They meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month from 7:00-9:00PM at Church. It's not too late for boys from 4th to 8th grade to join the cadet club!

Head Counselor: Mark Steenstra 760.703.2929

- January 12 meeting at church.
- January 26 meeting at church.

Watch the weekly bulletins for more details!

## gems

**GEMS Girl's Club** is for all girls in grade 3rd-8th. They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 7:00-9:00PM at Church.

Head Counselor: Sue Wagenveld 760.738.0819

- January 12 meeting at church (lesson).
- January 26 meeting at church (lesson/badge).

Watch the weekly bulletins for more details!



The Hilarious New Musical about the Follies and Wonders of Love **January 5-22**  
**The Servant of Two Masters**

It's a hilarious hit! The wily servant, Truffaldino, is just trying to get some dinner while keeping both his masters happy...and both unaware that he is serving the other. Pantalone is trying to get his beautiful but malaprop speaking niece to marry the richest man in Italy, when her former suitor-whom everyone thought was dead-shows up. It's a wild ride through Venice that will have your sides aching from laughter.

For tickets go to [www.lambplayers.org](http://www.lambplayers.org) or call 619.437.6000

## CalvinChristian Connecting Faith & Learning SCHOOL

**Dinner Theater!** Calvin Christian High School presents the murder mystery *The Clock Struck Twelve*. Three young performers caught in a storm take refuge in a seemingly deserted house, but find a murder has taken place there. Mysterious characters begin to appear, the girls realize that people aren't always who they say they are. Come for a nice meal and a fun evening of dinner theater. The courses of the dinner are served between the three acts of the play. There will be three performances, two serving a full dinner, and one serving dessert only.

Thursday, January 12, 2012	6:30PM	Dessert	\$8
Friday, January 13, 2012	6:30PM	Dinner	\$14
Saturday, January 14, 2012	6:30PM	Dinner	\$14

Seating is reserved by table. Each table seats eight. Make your reservations at [www.calvinchristianescandido.org](http://www.calvinchristianescandido.org). You can reserve just one seat or a whole table. Call the school office at 760.489.6430 if you have any questions.

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**Connect,**



**Grow, Serve.**

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LIFE GROUPS SERVICE PROJECT

*Before*



*After*



If you were able to be a part of the service project in November you were able to experience the joy of serving others in need. The service project was a wonderful success as you can see by the pictures. We will share all the pictures during worship later in January. So much work was accomplished and care was given for Susan and Kimberly. The following is a letter we received from Susan and Kimberly thanking our community for our good work.

Dear CRC members,

The kindness and generosity that was given so freely by the Christian Reformed Church has just overwhelmed us! This Church is full of God-fearing people and it has been and continues to be a pleasure to know all of you. So many projects were done in one day that it just boggles my mind to think of all that was accomplished. The organization was amazing. Men, women, and children just went to work in different areas and the landscape started changing right before my eyes!

I just wanted to mention all of the areas that were touched by love:

1. The front gate area was finished with wire and boards and it looks so beautiful. We really appreciated that part especially because it is an issue of safety for us in keeping out unwanted animals and in being able to secure our property at night for our safety.
2. The rose garden...and now it actually looks like a rose garden with all of the weeds gone and the roses pruned so professionally. My daughter and I really love looking at it now and cannot wait for the roses to start blooming again.
3. The trimming of the trees by the driveway - which was so needed and impossible for us to do by ourselves. Those trees look so much better with the dead limbs gone.
4. The front and back yard by the house...even without the lawn put in yet it still looks well manicured, neat and picture perfect. I was amazed at how much there was to do and how many people just dove into the work with such joy. There were so many piles of debris that came out of those two yards and everyone just smiled the entire time. It looks so different now, so much better.
5. The piles of wood and big chunks of wood that needed to be cut and split - this chore was huge and there is no way that Kimberly ever could have done it by herself. I saw so many men out there with chainsaws cutting the big logs into smaller pieces so they could then be split with the log splitter and those wonderful young teenagers who worked that log splitter with precision. Now we have a lot of firewood that can be used.
6. The hedge bushes on the back of the house and on a very steep slope - the job was extremely hard and yet those men, women and kids who tackled it got it done and made it look fabulous.

*(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)*

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**LIFE GROUP SIGN UPS BEGIN JANUARY 1. THE SPRING TERM BEGINS JANUARY 22.  
WATCH FOR INFORMATION IN THE BULLETIN!**



7. Digging up the Pampas Grass - I cannot thank you enough for all the hard work you put into this project. It has been one of the worst things around here and we have dug some of them up and cut off the tops so many times that I cannot count them all! So I know from experience that this job is way harder than it looks. One of those bushes would have taken us hours to dig up and it would have taken me days to recoup from it but in about 3 1/2 hours there were a dozen or so that were taken out...huge thank you!!

8. The cleaning and taking wire off of chicken coops - so many people really gave extra love in this project. It is one of the worst jobs to be done around here and the dust from cleaning is horrible, but they did it anyway and we so appreciate it and the fact that they also took the wire off the sides. Now those coops can be used to store the hay and get it out of the rains of wintertime.

9. Tractor work - first off it was so nice that two men brought their tractors. And on top of that they put them to hard work. I use our tractor around here a lot and I know it may look like an easy job but it is not. It takes a lot of skill to maneuver into places and going back and forth is a lot of work. The fields were flattened down from the piles all around and all of the weeds were taken down. It looks so nice now, not like the junk farm it once did.

10. The area around the barn and the corral of the barn - for one thing, I could barely see the horses because of the weeds and now it looks so neat in the corral that I didn't recognize it at first! There were a lot of piles of stuff around the barn too and all of it was stacked and the weeds and junk were all taken away. It looks like new and neat as it can be.

11. The food and beverage that was brought for all the people who came over - it seems like every thought and detail was put into this project even down to this aspect. It just amazed me to no end as to the details like this one that were so carefully thought out.

12. The huge trash bin, outdoor bathroom facility and log splitter that were brought - I saved this for last because I wanted to tell you what my daughter said later that day about the bin, she said "I didn't think they would fill that up all the way like that." And neither did I! We were so amazed that so much debris was generated in such a short amount of time. That trash bin was hauled away and another one just like it (empty of course) was left in its place. The bathroom facility was cleaned and left also. This is the most generous giving I have ever seen from a business (Diamond Environmental).

The other day my daughter said to me, "I am still so amazed at what they did." We both feel that way every day. It is a daily thing for me now to look around the farm at how nice it looks. It always makes me smile and I think about the day you all were here too. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity, kindness and love that you showed to us. Kindness is knowing what to do and then doing it and your Church is a very kind Church. God bless you all!

With Lots of Love,  
Susan and Kimberly Clark

# Soup Off! Winning Recipes

**From: Lindsey Vander Pol**  
**Sausage, Potato and Kale Soup**

**Ingredients**

- 1 bunch Kale, Cleaned and Chopped into small pieces (be sure to remove the middle stem before chopping)
- 10-12 whole Red Potatoes, Sliced Thin
- 1 whole Onion, Diced
- 1-½ pound Italian Sausage
- ½ teaspoon Red Pepper Flakes (more To Taste)
- 2 cups Low Sodium Chicken Broth
- 2 cups Whole Milk
- 4 cups Half-and-half
- Splash Of Heavy Cream
- ½ teaspoon Fresh Or Dried Oregano
- Salt and Black Pepper To Taste
- 8oz Cream Cheese (optional)

**Preparation Instructions**

Prepare the kale and set it aside.

In a medium pot boil sliced potatoes with a little salt until tender. Drain and set aside.

In a large pot, crumble and brown the Italian sausage with the diced onion. Drain as much of the fat as you can. Stir in the red pepper flakes, oregano, chicken broth, milk, and half-and-half. Simmer for 30 minutes.

Give it a taste and adjust seasonings as needed. Add the potatoes, a splash of heavy cream for richness, then stir in the kale. Simmer an additional 10-15 minutes, then serve.

**From: Sandy Geerdes**  
**Tortellini Soup**

**Ingredients**

- 1 large can tomato sauce
- 1 small can of diced tomatoes
- 1 can of kidney beans (drained)
- 1 can of garbanzo beans (drained)
- 2 zucchini (sliced)
- 2 carrots (sliced)
- 1 small onion (diced)
- 2 cloves of garlic (minced)
- 4-5 links of cooked & diced Italian sausage  
(I used Hot Italian Sausage, but you can use sweet if you don't like things spicy.)
- ¾ cup of heavy cream
- 2-3 cups of chicken broth - based upon desired consistency
- 1 package frozen tortellinis
- 2 tsp basil
- 1 ½ tsp oregano
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper

**Preparation Instructions**

Combine above ingredients and cook on low to medium heat for 2-3 hours.

Connect,



Grow, Serve.

**YOUTH EDITION**

## middle school youth

### Middle School Youth Leaders:

Danae Lapka 760.432.8876  
Dorinda Vander Pol

### Our meetings this month will be:

**January 1:** 5:00-8:00PM

Movie and pizza at church. Bring a snack to share with the group. (Parking lot: Kraus)

**January 21:** 7:00-9:00PM

Meeting at church. Eighth Graders take a snack to share with the group. (Parking lot: Carlson)

**January 28:** 12:45-3:30PM

Playground ministry at Pioneer School with Mision Vida Nueva. Parents and siblings are welcome to join us for this day. Drop-off and pick-up will be at Pioneer School in Escondido. (Bring balls, jump ropes, hula hoops, etc. to use.)



## high school youth

### High School Youth:

Anna Vos 760.317.7034  
Lindsey Vander Pol      Levi Faber

### Our meetings this month will be:

**January 8:** High School youth group meeting at Vos home. Student Leadership should arrive at 6:30pm to go over the lesson and pray. Goodies: Kara and Luke Steenstra

**January 14:** 80s Party

**January 22:** High School youth group meeting at Vos home. Student Leadership should arrive at 6:30PM to go over the lesson and pray.

**January 28 -** Service day at Mision Vida Nueva. Please arrive at Pioneer School at 12:30 to go over the lesson. This event will end at 3:30PM.

**February 24 - 26 -** Winter Retreat at Thousand Pines near Big Bear

The **high school youth** continue to be blessed by their participation at Mision Vida Nueva's food distribution center. It was a great blessing to buy gifts for Project Amor and recognize some of the names of the children we have been ministering to. Project Amor was a huge success! The Crossroads Congregation gave abundantly and it was a huge blessing to the families of Vida Nueva. We are also thankful for our PrayerForce partners. It's nice to know that our prayer requests are taken to heart. Thanks you for your participation in the PrayerForce and your commitment to our youth.



These pictures are from the High School Youth's gift delivery at Mision Vida Nueva. We ended up delivering 78 gifts and four computers. Pastor Juan expressed his thanks and joy for our congregations' kindness to members of his congregation.



# What are Ministry Shares?

## BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



Each month we will be featuring another item that Ministry Shares make possible. We had a two page feature at the beginning of this series about Ministry Shares in general, so in the following months we will continue to explore what Ministry Shares look like. If you ever have any questions, please contact the church office or one of the Deacons.

### Ministry Shares helps fund:

+28 broadcast and discipleship centers.

+Programming on more than 2200 national and international radio outlets.

+Internet and ministries in 10 languages.

+Christian video production in 5 languages on more than 250 outlets worldwide.

+Bible studies in 6 languages, discipling tens of thousands worldwide.

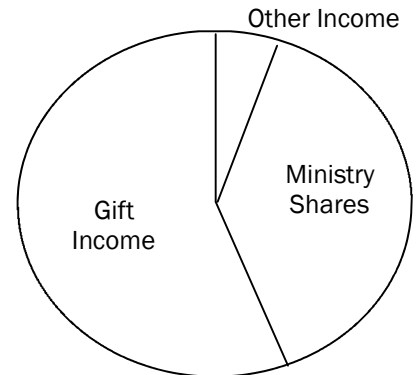
+Millions of daily devotionals distributed in print and through social media.

### New Belief in the Face of Death.

Habib, a 40-year-old teacher in a Middle Eastern country closed to evangelism, became a Christian after hearing Back to God Ministries International's Arabic radio program. But his wife demanded he throw away his Bible and quit listening to the broadcasts. "She threatened to expose my faith to our family and friends," said Habib. "They would have forced me to recant my faith in Christ or face death."

Habib lovingly explained why he couldn't renounce his faith. In time, his wife admitted she'd been secretly listening and reading his Bible. Habib's prayers were answered when she said, "I am ready to follow Christ and, if necessary, die with you."

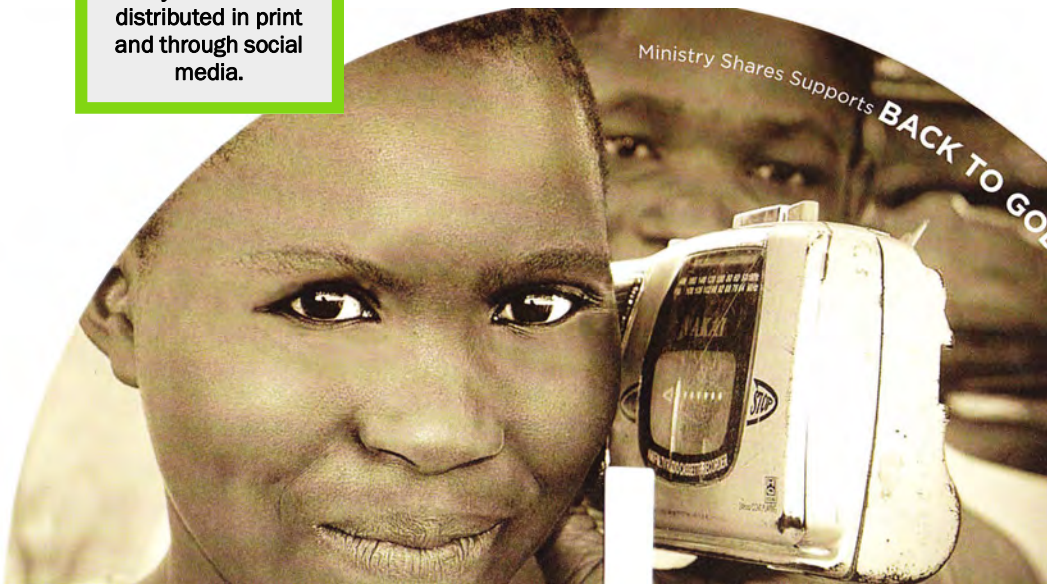
"Jesus conquered her heart," Habib told BTGMI Arabic staff.



**YOU ADD**  
Sending out a  
Message of Hope.

When God's love is spread through all forms of media, people connect with truth. That's when spiritual rebirth happens and communities are transformed. BTGMI is the media ministry of the CRCNA. It proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ through indigenous teams in people's "heart languages" using the Internet, radio, television, print, and other media. It opens doors for salvation and discipleship, broadcasting the gospel in otherwise closed regions.

BTGMI aired its first radio program in 1939. Today, BTGMI is reaching people in almost 200 countries and 10 major languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Portuguese,





## Fanning the flame in the Philippines

2 Timothy 1:6

12 in 2012

Here and back again. . .

David Livingstone, a medical missionary to Africa, once said: "If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?"

As we return to Manila, we count it an honor to serve our Heavenly King through our work with CRWM and ATS.

In 2012, we are hoping 12 more people will also count it an honor to serve our King by partnering monthly with us in helping to develop Christian leaders in the Philippines and beyond.

Would you prayerfully consider being 1 of these 12? If you are willing, please use the enclosed form.



*A joyous Christmas and  
flourishing New Year!  
Bob, Patti, & David*

Our six months of home service have been filled with wonderful opportunities to reconnect with our partnering churches and supporters as well as valued time spent with our family members.

We want to say a BIG *Thank you*, everyone, for your generous hospitality, encouraging conversations, and enthusiastic support!

*Here* has felt like home, even as we've traveled some 15,000 miles stateside. And now, as we anticipate heading *back again*, we look forward to returning home.

Besides some new books, toys, and photos, we are taking home some very good memories! Top on the list: the wedding of our son Tim and his wife Jill.

As we re-engage in our ministry in Manila, please keep these items in your prayers:

- Growth among the One Degree Ministries' pastors and their churches
- Gratitude for Dr. Tim Gener, the new ATS President
- A great semester ahead for David as he returns to Faith Academy
- Time needed for Patti to complete her dissertation

### Supporting and contacting us

Please send support to:

CRWM  
2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49560

Designate for Bob & Patti Harris

Please contact us at:

Bob & Patti Harris  
OCPO Box 12717  
Pasig City, 1605 Philippines

[harrisfam6@hotmail.com](mailto:harrisfam6@hotmail.com)  
616.971.2052 vonage line

# january serving schedule

## Worship Team [Danae Lapka]

January: Singers rehearsal: Wednesday, January 4, at 7:00 PM at Lapkas' house

- January 1: (New Year's Service) Anita Termaat, Paul & Danae Lapka, Megan & Jodi Van Solkema, Ryan Bons  
January 8: (Another Hallelujah) Guitarists, Jacob Stout, Paul Lapka, Jake Bons  
January 15: Vicki Van Essen, Rebecca Ligtenberg, Bill Stout, Denise Van Dyk, Ashley Van Zante, Graeme Koch  
January 22: Anita Termaat, Nichole Beutlich, Cindy Kroon, Paul Lapka, Ryan Bons  
January 29: Vicki Van Essen, Rebecca Ligtenberg, Bill Stout, Megan & Jodi Van Solkema, Jake Bons

## Jr. Trailblazers [Kari Plaisier & Christina Faber]

- January 1: Jayne Kok, Jeremiah Stout, Emma Vander Pol  
January 8: Christina Faber, Jodi Van Solkema, Trevor Vander Pol  
January 15: Sherry Schwab, Dalia Tostado, Eric Tostado  
January 22: Dotti Hejka, Sophie Kraus, Niels de Jong  
January 29: Kari Plaisier, Kara Steenstra, David Gomolka

## TRAILS [Sylvia Bons]

- January 1: BREAK  
January 8: Shelly Katje, Rebecca Ritsema  
January 15: Kristin Brown, Rebecca Ritsema  
January 22: Kristin Brown, Nettie Steenstra  
January 29: Kristin Brown, Nettie Steenstra

## Nursery/Child Care [Erin Cooper & Jenny Varvel] (\*denotes person in charge)

- January 1: Infant: \*Dotti Hejka, Sandy Geerdes, Trevor Vander Pol  
Toddler: Dicky Bons, Steven Katje  
January 8: Infant: \*Kristin Brown, Su Kraus, Kyleigh Fox  
Toddler: Trena Boonstra, Dawn Gomolka, Nicholas Jongetjes  
January 15: Infant: \*Shelly Katje, Sylvia Bons, Kara Steenstra  
Toddler: Josh Van Zante, Gordon Geerdes, Sophie Kraus  
January 22: Infant: \*Amy Jongetjes, Carol Beezhold, Sarah Katje  
Toddler: Denise Cintas, Silva de Jong, Madeline Salzman  
January 29: Infant: \*Anna Vos, Christina Faber, Wesley Salzman  
Toddler: Lyle Gorter, Cindy Kroon, Nanette Steenstra

## Ushers [Marlys Hickox]

- January 1: Gordon Geerdes (D), Adrian Voorkamp (D)  
Lyle Gorter, Eric de Jong, Kevin Vos  
January 8: Linda Van Solkema (D), Brian Verhoeven (D)  
Doug Van Solkema, Frank Zuidema, George te Velde  
January 15: Gordon Geerdes (D), Linda Van Solkema (D)  
Mark Steenstra, Dotti Hejka, Henry Vander Pol  
January 22: Adrian Voorkamp (D), Jayne Kok  
Jeff Hickox, Susie Orsburn, Ken Smith  
January 29: Brian Verhoeven (D), Levi Faber  
Gary Burrie, Ineke Burrie, Joy Jasperse

## Refreshments [Suanne Varvel]

- January 1: (Silva) Sharon Upham, Nichole Beutlich, Jo Henry, Shelly Katje  
January 8: (Anna) Maxine Van Engen, Sylvia Wilgenburg, Dawn Gomolka, Sue te Velde  
January 15: (Dicky) Trena Boonstra, Anna Vos, Lonnie Gorter, Kathy Zuidema  
January 22: (Suanne) Lois Vander Pol, Dorinda Vander Pol, Denise Van Dyk, Pat Medendorp  
January 29: (Diane) Sheri Coffee, Joy Jasperse, Lindsey Vander Pol, Coby Ton

## Opening/Closing [Jeff Hickox]

- 01/01 George Henry  
01/08 Jeff Hickox  
01/15 Tanno Gomolka  
01/22 Gary Burrie  
01/29 George Henry

1st Substitute: Jim Kroon  
2nd Substitute: Tony Bons

## Sunday Greeters [Kathy Zuidema]

### January:

Chuck & Diane Jasa  
Bert & Coby Ton

## Sound Crew [Frank Bons]

- 01/01 Rick De Baan  
01/08 George Tostado  
01/15 Randy Nagel  
01/22 Frank Bons  
01/29 Frank Steidl

## Projection Crew [Marlys Hickox]

- 01/01 Linda Van Solkema  
01/08 Jeremiah Stout/Marlys Hickox  
01/15 Rod Koelewyn  
01/22 Mike Schwab  
01/29 Linda Van Solkema

## Video Crew [Danae Lapka]

- 01/01 Mark Bakker  
01/08 Haley Voorkamp  
01/15 Jacob Stout  
01/22 Sara Wagenveld  
01/29 Niels de Jong

## Prayer of God's People [Office]

01/08 Rich Boonstra

## Open Table [Elsa Stout]

January: Vic & Suanne Varvel

# january offering schedule

- January 1: General Fund & Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid
- January 8: General Fund & Multiplication Network
- January 15: General Fund & Mirtha Villafane (CRHM)
- January 22: General Fund & Benevolence
- January 29: General Fund & Cadets

- The morning offerings are for our **General Fund**. Moneys collected pay for our own church's operating expenses (wages, insurance, utilities, etc.) as well as our denominational Ministry Shares (The Back to God Hour, CR World & Home Missions, Calvin Seminary & College, etc.)  
***Our '11-12 Budget commitment requires an average weekly offering of about \$7,642.77.***
- The January Connections Issue was printed early because of the office holiday schedule and that is why the second offering schedule was not available immediately. The schedule has been updated. If you would like the offering descriptions, please contact the office. Thanks for understanding and Merry Christmas!

## from the deacons

*The Deacons report the following offerings from the past month with thanks:*

November '11 General Fund Offerings:	\$	26,082.90
Year To Date General Fund Offerings:	\$	211,002.57
(Fiscal Year June 2011-May 2012)		

### Other November Offerings

Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid	\$	872.00
Debt Reduction	\$	15,150.00
Rev. Melvin & April Jackson (CRHM)	\$	705.10
Calvin Christian School (Supporting Church Offering)	\$	656.00
Benevolent Fund	\$	451.76
Chaplain Development Fund	\$	417.00
Green Oak Ranch Scholarship	\$	100.00
Interfaith Community Services	\$	300.00
CRWRC	\$	50.00



## Soup Off!

The Soup OFF! was a huge success again; thanks to all of you! This year we added a flare of competition and boy, did it pay off. Every soup was fantastic, but our judges (some shown on the top left) did pick two of their favorites. See the Soup Off! winning recipes on page 6 from Lindsey Vander Pol and Sandy Geerdes. A total of \$792.05 was raised to go towards the High School Youth's Winter Retreat. Thanks again to all who helped with the set up and clean up, participated in the competition, to our judges and to everyone who ate the soup and donated towards our youth.



# The Year 2011 at Crossroads

## 2011 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Lila Rose Varvel



Annie Lynn Schemper



Logan Jonathan Beutlich



McKenzie Anne Cooper



### *Crossroads Worshipping Community*

#### BIRTHS

Lila Rose Varvel—February 2  
Annie Lynn Schemper—February 24  
Ella Grace Vermaire—March 31  
Corbin Matthew Gill—June 22  
Logan Jonathan Beutlich—August 3  
McKenzie Anne Cooper—August 12

#### INFANT BAPTISMS

Lucy Caroline Wilgenburg—January 16  
Kaelyn Grace Plaisier—February 20  
Lila Rose Varvel—April 10  
Annie Lynn Schemper—May 22  
Ella Grace Vermaire—June 19  
Logan Jonathan Beutlich—September 11  
McKenzie Anne Cooper—September 25

#### COVENANT BAPTISMS

Emily, Madeline & Wesley  
Salzman—April 4  
Barry Diehl—April 24  
Jerry Upham—December 18

#### YOUTH

**PROFESSIONS OF FAITH**  
Madeline & Wesley Salzman—April 3  
Rachel Wagenveld—August 7

#### ADULT

**PROFESSIONS OF FAITH**  
Alejandro Moreno—February 13  
Emily Salzman—April 3  
Daniel Stout—August 21  
Barry & Denise Diehl—April 24  
Jerry & Sharon Upham—December 18

#### DEATHS

Jos Gomolka—February 5  
Ann Scholte—December 3

Ella Grace Vermaire



**MARRIAGES**  
Sergio & Laura (te Velde)  
Cardona—May 21

Anthony & Danielle (Gorter)  
Bons—June 18

#### NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Michael & Kari Plaisier Family

Jim & Anne Den Ouden

Arlan & Corrine Vanden Bos

Henry & Lindsey  
Vander Pol Family

John & Denise Van Dyk

Gary & Ineke Burrie

Michael King