

CONNECTIONS

February 2012

A monthly publication of Crossroads CRC



Was I Right or Wrong to Use Such a Psalm?

"That's such churchy language." These words spoken to me were not intended to be a significant comment, just one challenging my language. But it made me realize

how much we are losing in the broader church today.

Let me tell you the short version of the story.

I was meeting with a neighbor of the church, a member of the community who at times considers me to be her pastor. She and her husband who was with her are Christians who attend a mega-church, which, of course, often means that you don't have a known pastor you can actually meet with. So I, being nearby and more accessible, have become hers.

She came to express a lot of deep pain over some terrible events in her life. You would understand if you heard them.

Then she expressed, in tears, frustration with God for not seeming to care, for not attending to her at that very time she was suffering. "Where was GOD?!" Perhaps you can relate.

After we had talked for some time I said to her, "It's kind of like Jesus' own experience: you want to cry out, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?!'"

Suddenly her husband, who had been quiet the whole time, said, "That's such churchy language. No, she's saying God didn't seem to give a rip!". He then walked out, a little miffed that I would use such old, pious language in the midst of her wife's pain.

On the one hand, I understand what he's saying. You want to be as expressive and honest as you can be when voicing such pain and disappointment. But on the other hand, I thought that her husband was losing far more than he was gaining by calling my words "churchy" and rejecting them.

When he said, "No, she's saying God didn't give a rip!", he is saying, "It's about her today! It's about no one else! Let her express what she's feeling in her own way; don't use that outdated religious language!". Perhaps.

But when I suggested that she might cry out with words like, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?!", I was suggesting--contrary to our contemporary culture's perspective--that it wasn't just about her.

In fact, God's people have experienced that kind of pain and despair for over 3,000 years. They expressed it back then in the very words I used from Psalm 22:1 and countless of God's people had prayed those very words in tears and anger ever since. Even more, those words had been the ones that her Savior and Lord, Jesus, God the Son, had himself used to express his excruciating pain and disappointment on the cross 2,000 years ago. So, to use those words was to not only cry out honestly in despair, but it was also to know that this is never the end of the story. Christ was raised from death to life and is seated at the right hand of God. From there, Christ hears our prayers, understands us with full sympathy, and assures us that our suffering is not the end. God's people through all time have affirmed that although we suffer terribly, there is a more true reality that holds us in our suffering.

So, you see, the language that is just about "me" and doesn't connect us with the past story of God's people, leaves us alone and frightened. But the "churchy" language of the Psalms actually blesses us with a much longer, deeper, and richer perspective about our own suffering. It unites us all with God's own suffering, but also with God's endless victory! in Christ.

On that day--contrary to our neighbor's opinion--I gave thanks for the Psalm from which Jesus prayed that prayer. I gave thanks for those who, when I was young, taught me to memorize the Psalms (1, 8, 19, 23, 100, 103, 150, for example). I gave thanks for the church that has preserved and prayed and sung the Psalms for thousands of years--the words God gives us to praise, confess, complain about the political situation, cry out in pain, and so much more.

I also thought how important it would be for us not to fall into the contemporary trap of thinking it's all just about us, how important it would be to lift up the Psalms again in our lives and thereby join ourselves more closely with God's people throughout all the ages.

While I write this, I'm anticipating a conference on worship focused on just that: the Psalms. My goal (along with Danae's who will join in the conference) is to help us at Crossroads pay more attention to the Psalms, "the prayer book of the Bible." When we do, as foreign as some of it might be, I hope you'll realize how important that language of God's people is for your life and all of ours together.

—Pastor Mark Vermaire

february church calendar



Wednesday, February 1

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

Saturday, February 4

9:00AM Introduction to Crossroads Class
5:30PM Middle School Youth
6:30 Ladies Bunco Night

Sunday, February 5

9:30AM Morning Worship Service
7:00PM High School Youth

Wednesday, February 8

7:00PM GEMS & Cadets
Women's Book Group

Thursday, February 9

9:30AM Mom's Group

Sunday, February 12

9:30AM Morning Worship Service
11:00 Guitarists Rehearsal
7:00PM High School Youth

Sunday, February 19

9:30AM Morning Worship Service
7:00PM Middle School Youth
High School Youth

Monday, February 20

7:00PM Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, February 22

7:00PM Elders Meeting
GEMS & Cadets
Women's Book Group

Thursday, February 23

9:30AM Mom's Group

Friday-Sunday, February 26

TBA High School Retreat

Saturday, February 25

12:45PM Middle School Youth

Sunday, February 26

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 Mom's Group! Our meeting on February 9 is a Baby Shower. We are having a joint celebration for Genevieve and Megan's new little blessings! On February 23 we will have a Soup Swap. Join us for one of our most popular meetings! Make a bunch of one soup and go home with a freezer full of different soups for your family! Nursery and toddler classes are provided.

Talk to Dorissa Radersma and Sarah Verhoeven with any questions.

happy anniversary

Dan & Anna Olson 02/03

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Enjoy reading?

Enjoy the company of other women?

Need encouragement

to branch out into other books?

Need encouragement for life?

We are a group of women who have gathered for many years to enjoy good books together, but also to laugh, pray together and to support and encourage each other in our lives.

Although there has been a Women's Book Group at Crossroads for many years, we are not a closed group. Some have been members from the very beginning and another just joined at our last meeting. In between there have been others who were part of the group for a season and then moved on to other places, needs, or responsibilities. We have been blessed and enriched together in many ways.

We usually read novels, but we also have chosen biographies, thoughtful books on Christian living, classic literature, children's literature, and books about historical events. It has been a wide range of authors and topics. We do not necessarily choose specifically Christian literature. We take turns suggesting titles.

We usually meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7:00PM at Suanne Varvel's home. A car pool usually leaves Trena Boonstra's home in north Escondido at 6:45. Call either Suanne or Trena for more information.

happy birthday

Sarah Verhoeven	02/01
Barry Diehl	02/02
Lila Varvel	02/02
Cody Van Engen	02/03
Frank Bons	02/04
Paul Robb	02/06
Connie Lanting	02/06
Nicholas Jongetjes	02/06
Dalia Tostado	02/07
Tanno Gomolka	02/09
Mary Ann Wagenveld	02/10
Dwayne Arendse	02/11
Mark Bakker	02/13
Tami Schemper	02/14
Joe Steidl	02/14
Annalieghe Arendse	02/14
Emma Vander Pol	02/17
Tyler Schemper	02/19
George Henry	02/20
Lori Vermaire	02/20
David Voorkamp	02/20
Molly VanderWeit	02/21
Victoria Katje	02/22
Norine Larson	02/23
Ava Geerdes	02/23
Leticia Nelson	02/24
Amy Jongetjes	02/24
Annie Schemper	02/24
Lou Wagenveld	02/25
Jenna Verhoeven	02/25
Jim Den Ouden	02/26
Cayson Brown	02/26
Brian Verhoeven	02/27
Steve Hickox	02/27

STEPHEN MINISTRY



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.

february events calendar



Save the Date!

Calvin Christian School
Dutch Festival

April 21, 2012

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, February 2:** Serve breakfast at Interfaith
- **Thursday, February 9:** 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

- February 8 meeting at church.
- February 22 meeting at church.

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

- February 8 meeting at church (Valentines party & craft).
- February 22 meeting at church (lesson).

Ladies BUNCO niGHT!

Saturday, February 4
6:30 - 8:30 PM (ish)

Ladies of Crossroads, you are invited to **Bunco Night!** Bunco is a dice game that is easy to learn and fun to play, **AND - there will be PRIZES!!** Join us for a fun evening and get to know some others from Crossroads. You are invited to bring a friend or neighbor to this event!

LOCATION: *Rancho San Marcos Mobile Home Park CLUBHOUSE
971 Borden Rd, San Marcos. The Clubhouse is at the front of the park.*

DETAILS: *Cost is a suggested donation of \$5 which goes towards prizes.
Crossroads ladies, please bring a snack or sweet to share.
Coffee and cold beverages will be provided.*

Please sign up by January 31!
Call the church office at 760-744-4673 to sign up.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Erin Spoelstra 951-347-6149

Denise Van Dyk 760-814-3311

Rebecca Ligtenberg 760-802-2374



Connect,



Grow, Serve.

Spring 2012



The Good Life: Ten Guiding Principles for Christ-Followers

Ahh!, The Good Life! But what exactly is "The Good Life"? Many different voices offer answers: "It is to have enough money and things so that you can enjoy life." "It is to be spiritual in whatever way works for you—that will give you a good life in every circumstance." "It is to be able to laugh a lot with friends and family; everything else is less important."

However people define it, this much is clear: everyone wants to live The Good Life. We all want to be happy, to be at peace with God (or a Higher Power, or the spiritual world), to have a purpose, and to enjoy the blessings of life around us.

However, for those who are followers of Jesus Christ, we learn what The Good Life is from Jesus. His life and words guide us. So for the Spring Life Groups term we will take a look at the rich gift of God's ten guiding principles for The Good Life. These principles, often known as the Ten Commandments, are much more than the Ten Commandments of Old Testament fame. They have been transformed by Jesus Christ in the richest of ways. To understand this, we will ask some questions as we hear God's guide for The Good Life:

- * What are these ten guiding principles for our lives?
- * How does Jesus transform these principles for us who are Christ-followers?

* How will these ten guiding principles direct us to The Good Life?

* How will The Good Life affect not only us, but also our businesses and schools, our homes and neighborhoods, our nation and the world?

Join us on the journey of learning and living! Some Life Groups will discuss these ten guiding principles together, possibly supplementing their study with Edmund Clowney's book, *How Jesus Transforms the Ten Commandments*. Other Life Groups will have their own devotional practices or study guides. Whichever group you join, plan on being transformed by God in wonderful ways with the rest of the church!

-Pastor Mark Vermaire

1. Hiking Group-Bert Ton

The hiking group has been very popular in past years, both for the hikes around San Diego County and for the opportunity to meet new friends. The group will take hikes each Sunday, alternating between shorter and longer hikes/outings. We will have a devotional and prayer time before or during each hike.

Place: At site of each hike (TBA)
Time: Sundays/12:30PM

2. Movie Discussion Group-Rod Koelewyn

Do you have an interest in watching and discussing movies? Consider getting together with others to discuss selected movies, with the intent of gauging and assessing their spiritual and cultural value. Members will watch the selected movies at home and be prepared to discuss them the following Sunday. It would probably be helpful to have a Netflix account. See Rod Koelewyn for more details.

Place: Rod Koelewyn's
Time: Sundays/5:00PM

3. Sermon Response-Trena Boonstra (Coordinator)

Join with residents of Green Oak Ranch for a great time of learning, fellowship, and growth as we attend to the rich meaning of the Ten Commandments for our lives. Green Oak Ranch is a grace-filled Christian community in Vista for those recovering from addictions. (Read "The Good Life" above for more info.)

Place: Green Oak Ranch Library/Conference Room
Time: Sundays/5:30PM

4. Sermon Response-Jim Den Ouden

Join us for a great time of learning, fellowship, and growth as we attend to the rich meaning of the Ten Commandments for our lives. (Read "The Good Life" above for more info.)

Place: Jim Den Ouden's
Time: Mondays/7:00PM

5. Tuesday Morning Group-Nettie Steenstra

Join us for a great time of learning, fellowship, and growth as we attend to the rich meaning of the Ten Commandments for our lives. (Read "The Good Life" above for more info.)

Place: Nettie Steenstra's
Time: Tuesdays/8:30AM

6. Knitting, Crocheting and Crafting Group- Lindsey Vander Pol

Are you a knitter, crocheter, scrapbooker or crafter? Would you like to become one? Bring your latest project along and work on it while fellowshiping with others. We'll be doing a Sermon Response discussion, praying for one another, and having fun visiting while we craft. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, but would like to learn, there may be opportunities for that too. Contact Lindsey Vander Pol with questions.

Place: Lindsey Vander Pol's
Time: Tuesdays/7:00PM

Check with the church office for group availability 760.744.4673.

7. Men's Book Group-Vic Varvel

Men of all ages, come join us for a time to challenge and encourage each other in our Christian lives. Over the months, we'll read and discuss *Hidden Treasures in the Book of Job*, by Hugh Ross. Astrophysicist, and Christian apologist Hugh Ross claims the book of Job is arguably the oldest book in the bible, and thus has a lot to say about the creation of the world. We will probe and discuss this different take on the well know old testament book.

Place: Vic Varvel's
Time: Tuesdays/7:15PM

8. A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place- Jackie Vanden Bos

A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place by Beth Moore provides a personal in-depth Bible study for women. Explore the Old Testament tabernacle, the significance of its intricate design, its pivotal role in God's eternal plan, the grand fulfillment of its purpose by Jesus Christ, and how that speaks to your walk with God today. No Old Testament event so richly prefigures the coming of the true Tabernacle, Jesus Christ, or so dramatically illustrates God's persistent desire to relate to His children as the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness. You will be challenged to prepare your heart, like the holy of holies, to become a home for His love and glory — a dwelling place for the Most High God. The cost for the book is \$15.00. If you are unable to pay the full amount please let the office know as scholarships are available.

Place: Jackie Vanden Bos'
Time: Wednesdays/7:00PM

9. Thursday Afternoon Group-Paul Robb

Join us for a great time of learning, fellowship, and growth as we attend to the rich meaning of the Ten Commandments for our lives. (Read "The Good Life" above for more info.)

Place: Crossroads (in the youth room)
Time: Thursdays/1:00PM



YOUTH EDITION

middle school youth

Middle School Youth Leaders:

Danae Lapka 760.432.8876

Dorinda Vander Pol

Our meetings this month will be:

February 4: 5:30-8:00PM Meeting and dinner with Pastor Mark. Drop-off and pick-up will be at the Vermaire home (3235 Solar Lane, San Marcos).

February 19 (Sunday): 7:00-9:00PM Game Night at Savanna Miller's house. Take a snack to share with the group. Wear clothes to be outside, and take a flashlight. Drop-off and pick-up will be at the Millers' home (936 Vista Ave., Escondido).

February 25: 12:45-3:30PM Playground ministry at Pioneer School with Mision Vida Nueva. Drop-off and pick-up will be at Pioneer School in Escondido.

high school youth

High School Youth:

Anna Vos 760.317.7034

Lindsey Vander Pol Levi Faber

Our meetings this month will be:

February 5:
Whole Group meeting at Vos home from 7:00-9:00PM.

February 12:
Bigger and Better Scavenger Hunt from 7:00-9:00PM.
Meet at church. Bring a video camera if you have one.

February 19:
Whole Group meeting at Vos home from 7:00-9:00PM.

February 24 - 26:
Winter Retreat at Thousand Pines.



The high school youth group is excited about beginning a new year. Our goal for this year is to read the Bible for at least 10 minutes a day. We are using the book "10 Minute Moments" to study the parables of Christ. We had a great time making cookies on Cookie Night. Michael Wagenveld won first place in the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest. Jeremiah Stout was a close second. We are gearing up for the Winter Retreat which takes place at Thousand Pines Camp from February 24 - 26. We can't wait to hear speaker Kondo Imfukwe speak on the theme of Awake! based on Romans 13: 11-12.

WALK ON

Let's Talk about Faith!

Many Christian families don't talk about their faith in any real way. Research shows that some parents and their children hardly talk at all, and when they do talk they say things like "Pass the salt." We can do better than that!

Here are four questions that you can ask at the dinner table, at bedtime, or in the car to help you and your children talk honestly and deeply about the Lord's place in your life.

Name a person from the Bible that you admire, other than Jesus, and tell why.

What does communion mean to you?

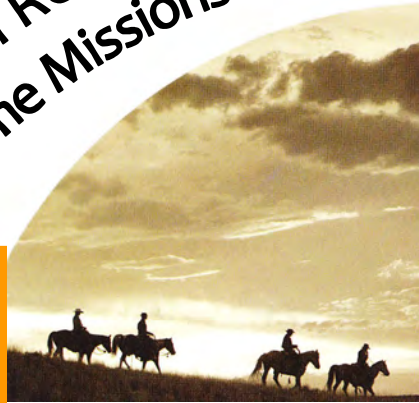
Have you ever given up something for Lent? What did you give up? Why did you do it?

What does your baptism mean to you?

(A resource from crcna.org)

What are Ministry Shares?

Christian Reformed Home Missions



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.

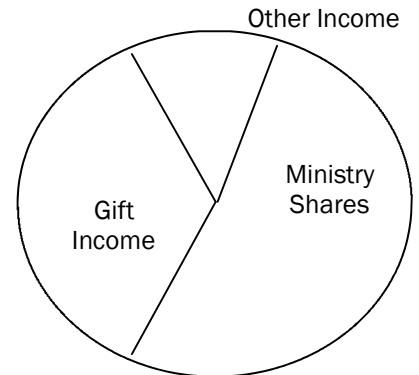
The impact of your contribution:

- +Focuses CRC congregations on God's mission in North America.
- +Helps congregations and classes plant new churches.
- +Supports and encourages campus ministries and mission schools.
- +Provides leadership assistance for evangelism and discipleship to 47 classes and nearly 1,000 CRC churches in Canada and the US.
- +Encourages the development of small groups and local prayer initiatives.

God's Word Travels on Horseback.

In the Navajo Nation's high desert in New Mexico and Arizona, a pastor with spurs can often be more effective than one in a necktie. Thanks to Rev. Stanley Jim, Home Missions Ethnic Leader for Native American Ministries, the gospel is spreading on horseback. Rev. Jim organized a two-day, 60 mile, annual trail ride that is partly about Christian fellowship, "But also a way to introduce people to Christ other than by saying, 'Come to our church,'" noted one rider on the trip.

A native American neighbor saw the riders and asked Rev. Jim what was happening. In the Navajo language, Jim said, "We do this because we enjoy God's creation. We enjoy each other's company. We pray for the land, and for our communities." The man nodded in approval.



YOU ADD Loving Our Neighbors.

Working through regional teams, Christian Reformed Home Missions supports a diverse group of church planters, pastors, campus ministers, and others who are called to renew communities together. We form local partnerships, collaborating formally and through grass roots efforts.

Home Missions teams up with congregations and classes, strengthening educational ministries. They cultivate leaders encourage church planting, bring a mission focus to churches while promoting spiritual growth through prayer and small groups. New churches and campus ministries are multiplied. Existing church bodies are taught how to more actively engage.

The result?
Renewed lives, communities, and culture—all through God's Spirit.



How Can You Serve?



HONDURAS

Justice Ministry Interns

The Association for a More Just Society (AJS) defends and protects the rights of the poor in Honduras. Ministry intern volunteers are currently needed both in the AJS-US office (Grand Rapids, MI) as well as in Tegucigalpa, Honduras to assist with research, communication and other duties in support of the association's work on behalf of the poor. Potential applicants are invited to learn more about the work of AJS (www.ajs-us.org), or to request further information by contacting ServiceLink.



UGANDA/KENYA

HIV/AIDS Discovery Tour (CRWRC)

(APRIL 15-29, 2012 - SPACE LIMITED)

Discover first-hand how CRWRC and its partners are working to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. Open to just six individuals, the 2012 HIV/AIDS Discovery Tour is a popular, hope-filled and life-changing journey that puts a personal face on the people affected by this overwhelming pandemic. Participants will hear from front-line workers, visit health care and education sites, and experience the breath-taking beauty of Africa. To learn more about this powerful journey, please contact ServiceLink or download the brochure from our website.



PHILIPPINES

HIV/AIDS Prevention Educators (CRWM)

(JUNE/JULY, 2012)

Do you have experience in nursing, public health or HIV/AIDS education? CRWM is looking for up to six North American young adult volunteers to promote HIV prevention through workshops in schools and churches throughout the Philippines. You will have the opportunity to build relationships with the community as you live with host families and work alongside Filipino young people for six weeks. To learn more, please contact ServiceLink.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Support the work of the CRC in the DR (CRWM)

La Iglesia Cristiana Reformada en la Republica Dominicana (ICRRD), the CRC in the Dominican Republic, is experiencing tremendous growth and mission opportunities. In conjunction with Christian Reformed World Missions, a wide variety of volunteer opportunities are available ranging in duration from a few weeks to several months. To learn more about volunteer positions in the Dominican Republic, please visit the ServiceLink website or contact us.

ALSO, **Prayer Missions International** (PMI) and CRWM invite you to encourage and strengthen the ministries of missionaries, their partners and staff through an on-site prayer mission trip to the Dominican Republic (Feb. 15-22, 2012). Applications due Jan. 15.



NORTH AMERICA

CRWRC-Disaster Response Services

Deadly tornadoes and severe floods have impacted many locations in the American Northeast, South and Midwest in recent months, resulting in needs in many communities. Contact us for the latest ways you or your group can help - whether in cleanup, needs assessment, or reconstruction - as things are developing and changing rapidly. Please respond by calling 1-800-848-5818 or sending an email to drs@crwrc.org.



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY! Partner with CRWRC and All Ontario Youth Convention. We are recruiting youth leaders and youth for our first mission trip to Nicaragua in March 2012. Spend 10 days working alongside Nicaraguan youth and our partner YMCA finishing a local youth center. For further information contact Ray Heeres (rayheeres@hotmail.com) or Iona Buisman (ibuisman@crwrc.org).



To learn more about these or many other volunteer opportunities, please contact **ServiceLink**

www.crcna.org/servicelink • volunteer@crcna.org

1-800-730-3490 (Canada) • 1-877-279-9994 (USA)

february serving schedule

Worship Team [Danae Lapka]

February: Singers rehearsal: Wednesday, February 1, at 7:00PM at Lapkas' house.
Guitarists rehearsal: Sunday, February 12, after church in sanctuary.

February 5: Anita Termaat, Paul & Danae Lapka, Denise Van Dyk, Graeme Koch

February 12: Vicki Van Essen, Nichole Beutlich, Cindy Kroon, Bill Stout, Ashley Van Zante, Ryan Bons

February 19: Guitarists, Jacob Stout, Rebecca Ligtenberg, Jake Bons

February 26: Anita Termaat, Paul & Danae Lapka, Denise Van Dyk, Megan & Jodi Van Solkema, Graeme Koch

Jr. Trailblazers [Kari Plaisier & Christina Faber]

February 5: Pat Medendorp, Nettie Steenstra

February 12: Pat Medendorp, Drea Arendse

February 19: Pat Medendorp, Drea Arendse

February 26: Shelly Katje, Drea Arendse

TRAILS [Sylvia Bons]

February 5: Candy Van Zante, Ashley Van Zante, Mark Bakker

February 12: Jenny Anderson, Johnny Steenstra, Jacob Stout

February 19: Levi Faber, Megan Van Solkema, Luke Steenstra

February 26: Jayne Kok, Jeremiah Stout, Emma Vander Pol

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

February 5: Infant: *Dorissa Radersma, Suanne Varvel, David Voorkamp
Toddler: Grant Spoelstra, Jeff Cooper, Ashley Van Zante

February 12: Infant: *Kathie Turner, Barry Diehl, Luke Steenstra
Toddler: Lonnie Gorter, Terry Kok, Megan Van Solkema

February 19: Infant: *Sherry Schwab, Sylvia Wilgenburg, Johnny Steenstra
Toddler: Tanno Gomolka, Jeff Hickox, Anna Van Solkema

February 26: Infant: *Dorinda Vander Pol, Nichole Beutlich, Kyleigh Fox
Toddler: Steve Katje, George Tostado, Emma Vander Pol

Ushers [Marlys Hickox]

February 5: Gordon Geerdes (D), Adrian Voorkamp (D)
Jim Kroon, Warren Van Dam, Jeff Hickox

February 12: Linda Van Solkema (D), Brian Verhoeven (D)
Terry Kok, Steve Katje, Mike Carlson

February 19: Gordon Geerdes (D), Levi Faber
Lyle Gorter, Eric de Jong, Kevin Vos

February 26: Adrian Voorkamp (D), Jayne Kok
Doug Van Solkema, Frank Zuidema, George te Velde

Refreshments [Suanne Varvel]

February 5: (Silva) Sandy Geerdes, Susie Orsburn, Anita Termaat, Dotty Van Iwaarden

February 12: (Dicky) Ineke Burrie, Dorissa Radersma, Kathie Turner, Connie Lanting, Amy Jongetjes

February 19: (Anna) Sylvia Bons, Lorraine Koch, Kristin Brown, Jayne Kok

February 26: (Suanne) Christie Roberson, Elsa Stout, Cindy Kroon, Carol Beezhold

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.

Opening/Closing [Jeff Hickox]

02/05 Jeff Hickox
02/12 Tanno Gomolka
02/19 John Van Dyk
02/26 Stewart Lanting

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

Sunday Greeters [Kathy Zuidema]

February:
Arie & Anneke de Jong
Anita Heading

Sound Crew [Frank Bons]

02/05 Rick De Baan
02/12 Rick De Baan
02/19 George Tostado
02/26 George Tostado

Projection Crew [Marlys Hickox]

02/05 Jeremiah Stout/Marlys Hickox
02/12 Rod Koelewyn
02/19 Mike Schwab
02/26 Linda Van Solkema

Video Crew [Danae Lapka]

02/05 David Gomolka
02/12 Trevor Vander Pol
02/19 Mark Bakker
02/26 Jacob Stout

Open Table [Elsa Stout]

February: Bill & Elsa Stout

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 15th of each month for publication the following month.

february offering schedule

- February 5:** General Fund & Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid
February 12: General Fund & Bob & Patti Harris (CRWM)
February 19: General Fund & Race Relations
February 26: General Fund & Green Oak Ranch Scholarship Fund

- 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.
- Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid** is used to assist families from our church who are unable to pay full tuition. Our 2011-2012 school year commitment is \$18,000. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this fund throughout the year.
- CRWM—Bob and Patti Harris:** An offering will be received on February 12 to support the Harris' ministry in the Philippines. (We have committed to support them with \$2,000.00 per year.)
- Race Relations:** The Ministry of Race Relations designs, organizes, and implements programs that will assist the denomination, churches, and members in eliminating the causes and effects of racism within the body of believers and throughout the world.
- Green Oak Ranch** is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Vista that began in 1950. Many people have been part of this ministry and God's redemptive work is evident! Please welcome our brothers and sisters when they worship with us at church! Also, please remember to pray for Green Oak Ranch. The Crossroads family has been in partnership with the family at Green Oak Ranch for many years. Crossroads members have befriended and mentored Ranch residents in a special relationship. Now the **Green Oak Ranch Sponsorship Program** is an opportunity for you to financially help Ranch residents through the program.

GREEN OAK RANCH

The Crossroads and Green Oak Ranch Communities join in Bible study on Sunday evenings at 5:30PM in the GOR Library/Conference room. For the next weeks we are meeting as one of the Life Groups studying the Ten Commandments along with other Life Groups and the Crossroads congregation. Although we are a Life Group, visitors and new attendees are still welcome. Check with Trena

Boonstra or Susie Orsburn for more details.

Green Oak Ranch is also looking for one-on-one tutors for their education program. This could be helping with the 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 or Marilyn Faber who can put you in touch with the coordinator at the ranch.

Crossroads Library and Book Cart

Looking for a devotional book for the new year? A selection is available on the Book Cart in the foyer and even more are available in the library. Some are year long daily devotionals and others are topical books which would likely be read in less time. Either way, feel free to borrow one and use it for an extended time.

Books for purchase on the Book Cart also include a number of devotional books. Several copies of *How Jesus Transforms the Ten Commandments* by Edmund Clowney are available; this book relates to the current sermon series and Life Group topic for many groups. Several inexpensive booklets for study, inspiration, or challenge are also on the Cart. Follow instructions on the envelope in the book for payment.

Many items for adults and children are also available in the library room next to the nursery. Checkout for all materials is on a self-serve basis; instructions are posted. A computer is now set up in the library as a card catalog. Searches can be by title, author, or subject. Directions are posted. However, Trena Boonstra, Rebecca Ligtenberg, or Rick DeBaan will be glad to help you use the system—just ask.

Questions about the library, suggestions for more titles, and concerns about titles should be directed to Trena.

from the deacons

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

December '11 General Fund Offerings: \$	44,121.75
Year To Date General Fund Offerings: \$	261,505.00
(Fiscal Year June 2011-May 2012)	

Other December Offerings

Calvin Christian Tuition Aid	\$	2,805.35
Project Amor	\$	218.00
Benevolence	\$	692.13
High School Youth-Soup Dinner	\$	792.05
CRHM	\$	574.50
CRWRC	\$	1,037.88
Green Oak Ranch Scholarship	\$	300.00
Debt Reduction	\$	236.00

Joint March Event

Join the fun and support the Cadets at the Pinewood Derby!

\$5.00/car in girls division grades 3-8
(GEMS talk with your Counselor)

\$10.00/car for open division
(for all ages, grandpa too)

Cadets will still compete in 3 different age groups:
3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th grades

Contact Jerry Kats for your car kit and further info.
call 760-489-5073 or email katselectricinc@yahoo.com



Pinewood Derby

Location: Escondido URC's Social Hall
Day: Saturday, March 3
Time: Weigh in at 8:30AM

Contact Mark Steenstra for more info or to get a car kit 760.839.0596.

1st - 3rd for Speed and 1st - 3rd for Show!

Car Specs:

Weight - Not to exceed 6.0 ounces on Cadet's scale

(weights will be provided day of the race & adjustments for you do-it-yourselfers)

Overall Height: less than 4 1/4" **Width:** less than 3" **Length:** Front of car to rear axle max. 7 1/2"

Front Height: The front of the car rest against a short starting pin. Therefore, the front bottom of the car, which rests on the pin, is no higher than 1" above the track.

No part of the car body, wheels, or attachments may protrude in front of the starting peg.

Please do not alter the wheels.

The car design may be enhanced by the addition of other stable materials, such as plastic or metal. Any additions must be firmly attached and meet car size requirements.

Car need to be made this year. (Can not use brother's fast car from last year.)