

# connections

April 2011

A monthly publication of Crossroads CRC

## A Surprise Stash—of Giving!

I was engaged in a tedious task. It wasn't quite like searching for a needle in a haystack, but it had that same level of tedium. Needing to find an old receipt, I was searching some manila folders of financial records trying to read some now-almost-invisible dates on fading receipts as I looked for the one I wanted.

Suddenly, in its own folder, I came upon a small, well-used white envelop with no note as to what it was. Opening it—voila!—some miscellaneous dollar bills, probably put there long ago in case we needed some extra cash. Not that it was a huge stash—there wasn't even enough money to celebrate with a couple specialty drinks at Starbucks—still, seeing a bit of spendable cash in the midst of old bills was a great joy.

Something on that order, though of an entirely different order—much larger and more glorious--happened recently when the deacons were doing some accounting of expenses and budgets. In the midst of looking at our expenses they—well, let's back up.

Over the last year the council decided to evaluate the appropriateness of the amount we designate for missionary support each year. A year ago that amount was \$4,000. They recognized that we gave in other ways, too, but they were struck by the fact that we only designated \$4,000 to missionary and justice work around the world. If that was the baseline for such giving, it didn't seem enough for a congregation so blessed by God's salvation and care. So the council determined that we should consider doubling that amount in next year's budget.

But, first they decided they'd do some careful analysis. Deacon Rebecca Ligtenberg went to work on their behalf. Taking last year's giving, she added up all the giving toward the work of God's Kingdom beyond Crossroads: designated missionary support, additional offerings for outside ministries near and far, the portion of

"ministry shares" that specifically support the work of missions and justice ministries around the world, and contributions to send our members in ministry far beyond us (e.g. the High School mission trip to San Francisco).

Voila! Pull together all those offerings and the result is a stunner! The total amount of this giving by Crossroads last year was actually \$60,279.49! That amounts to about 15% of our annual budget! Some churches have as a goal that the church "tithes"—that is, gives 10% of—it's total budget to missions; we praised God that we were inspired and able to give even more!

Through the generosity of God's community here at Crossroads, we were able to participate in the work of

God by blessing countless people: missionaries and the churches in L.A. and TJ and all the way to the Philippines and southern Africa; those who help the poor take classes, start small businesses, and, in crises, receive food and shelter; local ministries that help the recovering alcoholic start life over, restore the down-and-out veteran, encourage the pregnant teenager courageously choosing to give a child up for

adoption, and provide housing for the homeless; our people going far beyond us to minister in the name of Christ. And a whole lot more.

Often people—like me—rejoice when they find a stash of money (however small). But God's people rejoice even more when they find a stash of giving they never fully grasped. In this (among many others) this congregation showed itself to be "generous gift givers" and--through our strong support of others--"bold Jesus proclaimers." For that, God is praised, God's people are built up, and the world is changed.

May such a stash of giving continue to characterize us as a community and as individuals called to be a part of the work of God. Then, more and more, we'll shout a "Voila!" of praise and thanksgiving, not for what we get, but for what we give!

—Pastor Mark Vermaire



# april church calendar

See page 4 for  
Life Group information.

## Sunday, April 3

8:00AM Pancake Fundraiser Breakfast  
9:30AM **4th Sunday of Lent**  
*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*  
Morning Worship Service  
10:45AM Singers Rehearsal  
6:00PM High School Youth

## Wednesday, April 6

7:00PM Administrative Committee  
Women's Book Group

## Saturday, April 9

12:30PM Middle School Youth

## Sunday, April 10

9:30AM **5th Sunday of Lent**  
*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*  
Morning Worship Service  
10:45AM Guitarists Rehearsal

## Wednesday, April 13

7:00PM Council Meeting  
GEM & Cadets

## Thursday, April 14

9:30AM Mothers of Young Children

## Sunday, April 17

9:30AM **Palm Sunday**  
*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*  
Morning Worship Service  
6:00PM High School Youth

## Monday, April 18

7:00PM Deacons Meeting

## Wednesday, April 20

7:00PM Womens Book Group

## Friday, April 22

7:00PM **Good Friday Service**

## Sunday, April 24

TBA Sunrise Service  
9:30AM **Easter**  
Morning Worship Service

## Wednesday, April 27

7:00PM Elders Meeting  
GEMS & Cadets

## Thursday, April 28

9:30AM Mothers of Young Children

## Saturday, April 30

3:30PM Middle School Youth  
Car Hop Fundraiser

### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group usually meets twice a month at Suanne Varvel's home at 7PM. A car pool leaves from Trena Boonstra's home at 6:45. We take turns hosting and always have a wonderful time sharing and laughing as well as discussing books. On April 6 we hope to discuss, *The Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell, and on April 20, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. We welcome visitors and new members at any time for just one book or for a longer period. Check with Suanne or Trena if you have questions.

### Mothers of Young Children 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 meetings for April are on the 14th and the 28th at 9:30AM at church. Nursery and toddler classes are provided. Talk to Dorissa Radersma and Sarah Verhoeven with any questions.

## Walk for Life

Information coming soon!

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH TRI TIP/STROOPWAFEL FUNDRAISER

DETAILS COMING SOON!

### happy birthday

George Tostado	04/01
David Jasperse	04/02
Randy Nagel	04/04
Rick De Baan	04/05
Donna Kallemeyn	04/06 ☺
Sara Wagenveld	04/10
Stephanie Voorkamp	04/11
Nichole Beutlich	04/11
Jakob Mulder	04/12
Dustin Tostado	04/12
Jake Van Dam	04/14
Anna Van Solkema	04/22
Rebecca Ritsema	04/24 ☺
Elizabeth Hickox	04/24
Troy Brown	04/26
Vic Varvel	04/28
Shawna Heading	04/30
Adrian Voorkamp	04/30

☺ = A "Special" Birthday

### happy anniversary

Dwayne & Drea Arendse 04/08 ☺  
Luke & Jenny Varvel 04/16  
Gordon & Sandy Geerdes 04/21 ☺  
Warren & Jonneke Van Dam 04/25

☺ = A "Special" Anniversary

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.

## 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, April 7:** Serve breakfast at Interfaith
- **Thursday, April 14:** 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.

# april events calendar

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE PANCAKES THOUGH...



Crossroads is sending Bibles to China.

Help us get Bibles to China! Help Crossroads send Mike and Michael Wagenveld to courier Bibles into China this June. Come enjoy some pancakes before the service on April 3rd. All donations will be used to get 12,000 Bibles into China this summer. Every breakfast served could get a bible into the hands of a new Christian in China.

Donations will be accepted at the breakfast.

Save the Date!!

 50's Car Hop

A fundraiser for the  
Middle School Youth Group

Saturday, April 30  
5:30-8:00pm

Dinner, Dancing,  
Hula Hoops, Hot Rods, Oldies  
Music and more! (For all ages)

## CROP WALK

Will you walk  
with us?

April 3, 2011  
is the annual  
Escondido  
CROP WALK.

The walk begins at  
3:00PM.

Contact  
Pat Medendorp  
for more info.



Celebrate Easter at  
Crossroads!

At Crossroads we are  
celebrating the joy of Easter  
and the true source of new life:  
Jesus Christ.

**Good Friday Service**  
April 22, 2011; 7:00PM

**Easter Sunrise Service**  
April 24, 2011 TBA

**Easter Morning Service**  
April 24, 2011; 9:30AM

come join us  
this Easter  
and celebrate  
a hope that lasts  
longer than a season!

Connect,



Grow, Serve.

Does your Life Group have their Service Project figured out?

## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT A LIFE GROUP COULD SERVE?

Grow

Connect

Serve

Do you have an idea?

Contact Kim Bakker or the church office with ideas.

This term for our Service Project the different Life Groups will be determining their own projects. Whether it is your neighbor, your grocer or a friend, Crossroads through Life Groups will be serving the community. So, if you know someone that could benefit from some kind of service (whether labor intensive, fundraiser minded, etc.) let a Life Group leader, Kim Bakker or the office know.

Be creative!

Below are the groups that are meeting for the Spring Term. If you have any questions or interest in joining a group, please call the office. 760.744.4673

**If you are already involved in a Life Group,  
Grow, Connect and Serve!**

### 1. Sermon Response-Paul Robb & Rod Koelewyn

See "The True Story of You" description above. Additional devotional resources will be provided.

Place: Crossroads

Time: Sundays/11:00AM

### 2. Hiking-Terry Kok

We will take hikes each Sunday. They will differ slightly in difficulty, although most will be relatively easy. We will have a devotional sometime during the hike each week that will focus on the creation with an emphasis from Psalms.

Place: To Be Announced weekly by email

Time: Sundays/1:00PM

### 3. Photography-Kristin Brown

Come learn some basics to taking better pictures in a small group setting!

Place: Kristin Brown's

Time: Mondays/7:00PM

### 4. Tuesday Morning Bible Study- Nettie Steenstra

See "The True Story of You" description above. Additional devotional resources will be provided.

Place: Nettie Steenstra's

Time: Tuesdays/8:45AM

### 5. Sermon Response – Anna Vos

See "The True Story of You" description above. Additional devotional resources will be provided.

Place: Dave & Kim Bakker's

Time: Tuesdays/7:00PM

### 6. 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 Michael W. Goheen and Craig G. Bartholomew's book *The True Story of the Whole World* to complement the sermon series. Combining this with prayer, Biblical reflection, and friendship, we'll grow in the life of Christ together.

Place: Vic Varvel's

Time: Tuesdays/7:15PM

### 7. Sermon Response-Pastor Mark

See "The True Story of You" description above. Additional devotional resources will be provided.

Place: Crossroads

Time: Wednesdays/1:00PM

### 8. Crossroads Men's Group– Mike Wagenveld

See "The True Story of You" description above. Additional devotional resources will be provided.

Place: Eric de Jong's

Time: Thursdays/7:30PM

Connect,



Grow, Serve.

**YOUTH EDITION**

## middle school youth

### Middle School Youth Leaders:

Danae Lapka 760.432.8876  
Jonathan Vermaire  
Dorinda Vander Pol

### Our meetings this month will be:

#### April 9: 12:30-3:00PM

6th Annual Yuck Day at church. Dress according to the weather since we will be outside, and wear clothes that can get wet or dirty.

#### April 30: 3:00-8:30ish

Car Hop Fundraiser at church. All youth and at least one parent should plan to help with this event; talk to Danae ASAP with any conflicts.



A picture of the Cadet group after their Field Day with their awards. Great job boys!

## high school youth

### High School Youth:

Sue Wagenveld 760.738.0819

### Our meetings this month will be:

#### April 3

Meeting at the Steenstra's home.  
Food and drinks and dessert: Steenstras

#### April 10

TBA

#### April 17

Meeting at the Stouts' home.  
Food: Stouts     Drinks and dessert: TBA



**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH  
TRI TIP/STROOPWAFEL  
FUNDRAISER**

**DETAILS COMING SOON!**

**Funds raised will help subsidize  
the high school mission trip in July.**

## 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.

Head Counselor: Lauren Jongetjes 760.761.4857

- April 13: Meeting at church.
- April 27: 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. Come and learn how the "Feed the Fire!"

Head Counselor: Sue Wagenveld 760.738.0819

- April 13: Meeting at church.
- April 27: Meeting at church.

Watch the weekly bulletins for more details!

# Looking around our World

## Green Oak Ranch and Crossroads

For many years, Crossroads Church and Green Oak Ranch in Vista have had a supportive relationship. Green Oak Ranch is a residential drug and alcohol rehab facility—a rural paradise in the middle of this huge urban area and a spiritual paradise for many who struggle.

Several members of Crossroads regularly volunteer at Green Oak Ranch in a variety of roles to support the residents. Help is provided directly to individual residents in the way of rides, financial support, support in court appearances, counseling, and other ways. Help is also provided in the Thrift Store—where residents may receive needed clothing and toiletries.

Donations of toiletries, clothing, and bedding are always welcome.

A number of residents join us for worship on Sunday mornings. And several have been baptized here. This is a way to extend a personal welcome to members of the Green Oaks community.

On Tuesday evenings a number of Crossroads members and Green Oak Ranch residents join for a Bible Study. Lou Wagenveld is currently leading the group with a survey of the whole Bible.

Please remember the important ministry of Green Oak Ranch in prayer, in greeting residents, and financially.



## **Mobilizing Local Resources for Community Transformation**

Last week CRWRC's Southern Africa Ministry Team (SAMT) held a spiritual retreat. It was a time of spiritual rejuvenation and feeling close to God in a more tangible way. Indeed, our spiritual journeys are more than feelings—they are rooted by what God has written and promised in His infallible Word. I was recharged anew as I left our time of refreshment last week.

As part of the retreat schedule, we visited Chipoka, one of the communities where CRWRC works in the lakeshore area of Malawi. Chipoka is one of two communities that have started a village saving and loan initiative. The Kazibwe Women's Group has 22 female and two male members. Out of this number, 80 percent are Muslims—and yet there is a very strong working relationship with the church and other Christians in the community.

### The initiative has two major components:

The **first** is a social fund. At every meeting, group members are called by name to deposit their contribution. Each member comes to the front of the room, dancing and joyfully making their deposit. The fund is used to meet the member's needs, such as funerals, weddings and the like. The fund also helps create a bond within the group and encourages the members to live together peacefully. The members are thankful to be able to support each other this way.

The **second** initiative is a share fund. With this fund, members can buy shares based on their financial ability and then take loans from the fund to engage in all kinds of activities. Most of these are business initiatives that create additional income, but others use their loans to buy important items for their homes.

It is impressive to see how organized this group is, and how their initiatives promote the accountability and transparency that are essential values for the function and cohesion of the group. Many of the members express hope for a good outcome from their investments, and because they are borrowing their own money, they are able to provide good management for the fund's oversight. Their ownership of the fund is much clearer than if CRWRC had provided "seed money" to get it started. The opportunity for Muslims and Christians to work together has given group members a deeper understanding of Christianity and Christian faith. In this same region, some Muslims have publicly confessed Jesus and accepted Him as Lord.

## **Please Pray**

- That the SAMT will continue to implement the lessons we learned from the spiritual retreat.
- That we continue to attract people to the Kingdom of God by what we do and how we help people so that they see the love of God from our work.
- For staff to be diligent and available at all times to the partners and communities we serve.

# Looking around our Church

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.

## Library & bookstore news

### Recent Additions to the Crossroad Library Collection

Recently more than 50 titles were added to our library collection. Some were purchased, others donated. Here are some of the titles you may find on the right side of the Book Cart in the Foyer. Other titles have been added to the collection in the library room next to the nursery.

*The Devil in Pew Number Seven: a true story* by Rebecca Nichols Alonzo

*Discovering God's Will for Your Life* by Ray Pritchard

*The Empty Chair: handling grief on holidays and special occasions*  
by Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge and Robert C. De Vries

*From Grief to Glory: spiritual journeys of mourning parents* by James W. Bruce III

*Helping Our Children Grow in Faith: how the church can nurture the spiritual development of kids*  
by Robert J. Keeley

*Here I am: now what on earth should I be doing?* by Quentin Schultze

*The Humanness of John Calvin: the reformer as a husband, father, pastor and friend*  
by Richard Stauffer

*The Last Things: hope for this world and the next* by Herman Bavinck

*Living Well with Chronic Illness* by Marcia Van't Land

*Lords of the Earth* (audio book) by Don Richardson

*Losing You Too Soon: finding hope after miscarriage or the loss of a baby*  
by Bernadette Keaggy

*Martin Luther: a life* by Martin Marty

*Meet Jonathan Edwards: an introduction to America's greatest theologian/philosopher*  
by W. Gary Crampton

*My Soul Waits: solace for the lonely in the Psalms* by Marva J. Dawn

*Not for Sale: the return of the global slave trade—and how we can fight it* by David Batstone

*The Secret Providence of God* by John Calvin

*Silent Grief: miscarriage—child loss, finding your way through the darkness* by Clara Hinton

*The Spirit in Public Theology: appropriating the legacy of Abraham Kuyper*  
by Vincent E. Bacote

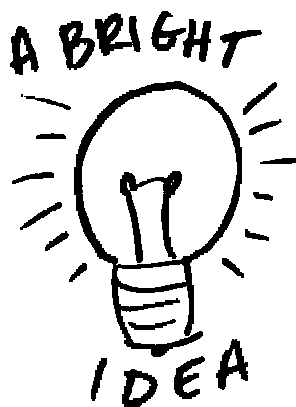
*Sunsets; reflections for life's final journey* by Deborah Howard, RN

*Too Wise to be Mistaken, Too Good to be Unkind: Christian parents contend with autism*  
by Cathy Steere

*Treasures in Darkness: a doctor's personal journey through breast cancer*  
by Taffy A. Anderson, M.D.

*Young, Restless, Reformed: a journalist's journey with the New Calvinists* by Collin Hansen

These books and many others are available on a self help basis from either the Book Cart or the Library room. Books are also for sale on the left side of the Book Cart. Questions about books or procedures should be directed to Trena Boonstra.



Let us know what fun, inexpensive things there are to do around the Escondido, San Marcos and San Diego area! We will share your idea in the May Connections.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



Crossroads is a Stephen Ministry Church. Stephen Ministers are trained, Christian, lay, volunteer care givers. Literature about Stephen Ministry is available on a table in the foyer.

Besides long term one on one care giving, Stephen Ministers at Crossroads are also available for situations such as visiting in the hospital or at home for extended confinements.

Contact Trena Boonstra if either you or someone you know might benefit from the help of a Stephen Minister. Also check with Trena if you have interest in being trained as a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministers are now part of the prayer team after the worship service. Usually an elder and a SM will be waiting at the bottom of the steps on either side of the platform after the service. They are available to listen to joys, concerns and to pray with anyone. It may be difficult to write down a concern so the prayer team members are available to listen and pray. Concerns are only shared with others if permission is given to do so; the prayer concern will not automatically be added to the church e-mail prayer line.

# Volunteer for Interfaith



## Most needed:

### Comfort Food Specialist

Overview: Bring a comforting meal for six individuals, who have overcome homelessness. By providing a meal and a smile, you will restore hope and dignity to the lives of these wonderful individuals. At this time, sharing a meal with the residents is not permissible; however, greeting them is highly encouraged. This shelter has a fully equipped kitchen where assembled meals may be baked or cooked or pre-made meals re-heated.

### Toiletry Bags:

Overview: Hygiene may seem basic, but for those who are unable to take a shower regularly, or cannot afford to purchase toothpaste, it may mean more than cleanliness. Good hygiene can help someone retain their dignity and sense of self-worth. By purchasing and preparing hygiene supplies, you will be supporting individuals and families in need.

### Sack lunch makers:

Overview: Each morning Interfaith provides breakfast for approximately 200 individuals. At the end of the meal, they are also provided a sack lunch for later in the day, all free of charge. By making up to 200 lunches you will be supporting these individuals and families, in their efforts to improve their lives

## Ongoing:

### Merle's Place:

Overview: Share your smile and enthusiasm with more than 50 veterans who reside at Merle's Place, an onsite shelter. Each day this Nutrition Center provides three meals a day to these veterans who are working towards self-sufficiency. By preparing and serving breakfast, lunch, or dinner you will provide them with nutritious meals that will support them throughout the day, as they work toward personal goals regarding employment, housing, and life skills.

### Donor Relations-Pantry:

Overview: Each year community supporters provide Interfaith with food to stock our pantry. Help recognize these fantastic individuals, families, corporations, and other organizations who allow us to continue providing food to those most in need. By providing a friendly face to thank the donors as they deliver food, you will help maintain the support needed to empower those in need throughout North County. \*Contact the church office if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

### Interfaith currently needs donations of:

Hearty soup, canned pasta meals, mac & cheese, boxed baking mixes, blankets, travel size toiletries, diapers size 3,4,5, canned beans (not green), canned chili and jelly/jam.

## Peter Fish Update

### The offering for the Peter Fish will be taken this Sunday, March 27.

Many Crossroads attendees have been collecting money (coins and paper) to fill up their Peter Fish (pictured at right) for the CRWRC World Hunger Campaign. The total from this offering will be announced in the May Connections

Below is a story of how the Vander Pol kids (Trevor, Emma, Jason & Kelly) raised money for their Peter Fish. (Way to go Vander Pol kids!!)

Our kids spent the Monday afternoon that they had off of school selling cookies and golf balls at the golf crossing by the Escondido Country Club. First, they helped make cookies and signs and then went to Grandpa & Grandma's house to pick up all of the golf balls that were hit into their yard this past year. From there, we went to the place where the golf carts cross the road and the kids set up a table with their 4 fish (named Bob, Larry, Shimmer & Hannah), golf balls and freshly baked cookies. They spent the next few hours holding up their signs, trying to attract cars and passers by. People had to choose which fish they wanted to put their money in. The kids made about \$75.00 for their Peter Fish banks and in the process, they had a great time!



Do you have a Peter Fish story?

Share it with the Office and it will be in the May Connections

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# april volunteer schedule

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## Worship Team [Danae Lapka]

April: Singers rehearsal Sunday, April 3 until 11:45AM  
Guitarists rehearsal Sunday, April 10 until 11:45AM

April 3: Vicki Van Essen, Danae Lapka, Rebecca Ligtenberg,  
Dorissa Radersma, Graeme Koch  
April 10: Anita Termaat, Ella de Jong, Paul & Danae Lapka, Ryan Bons  
April 17: Guitarists, Jacob Stout, Nichole Beutlich, Cindy Kroon, Bill Stout,  
Jake Bons  
April 22: (Good Friday) Anita Termaat, Singers TBD  
April 24: (Easter) Vicki Van Essen, Paul & Danae Lapka, Graeme Koch

## Children's Worship [Tami Schemper]

April 3: Sherry Schwab, Megan Van Solkema, Luke Steenstra  
April 10: Christina Faber, Jodi Van Solkema, Niels de Jong  
April 17: Dorissa Radersma, Dalia Tostado, Eric Tostado  
April 24: Dotti Hejka, Sophie Kraus, Mark Bakker

## Nursery/Child Care [Heidi Vermaire & Jenny Varvel]

(\*denotes person in charge)

April 3: Infant: \*Sarah Verhoeven, Cindy Kroon, David Gomolka  
Toddler: Terry Kok, Robert de Jong  
April 10: Infant: \*Kathy Zuidema, Steve Katje, John Steenstra  
Toddler: Mike Schwab, Sophie Kraus  
April 17: Infant: \*Jenny Anderson, Jayne Kok, Kara Steenstra  
Toddler: Dirk Jasperse, Luke Steenstra  
April 22: Infant: \*Serena Carlson, Lois Vander Pol, Emma Vander Pol  
Toddler: Suanne Varvel, Megan Van Solkema  
April 24: Infant: \*Kristin Brown, Gary Radersma, Sara Wagenveld  
Toddler: Hank Kraus, Jodi Van Solkema

## Ushers [Mike Carlson]

April 3: Levi Faber (D), Brian Verhoeven (D), Jim Kroon, Terry Kok,  
Dotti Hejka  
April 10: Rebecca Ligtenberg (D), Lois Vander Pol (D), Mike Carlson,  
Doug Van Solkema, Kevin Vos  
April 17: Luke Varvel (D), Brian Verhoeven (D), Lyle Gorter, Mark Steenstra,  
Warren Van Dam  
April 22: TBA  
April 24: Luke Varvel (D), Josh Vermaire (D), Joy Jasperse, Eric de Jong,  
Frank Zuidema

## Refreshments [Suanne Varvel]

April 3: (Anna) Sharon Upham, Nichole Beutlich, Jo Henry, Shelly Katje  
April 10: (Dicky) Maxine Van Engen, Sylvia Wilgenburg, Dawn Gomolka,  
Sue te Velde  
April 17: (Suanne) Trena Boonstra, Anna Vos, Lonnie Gorter, Kathy Zuidema  
April 24: (Silva) Diane Jasa, Dorinda Vander Pol, Tami Schemper,  
Pat Medendorp

## Opening/Closing [Jeff Hickox]

04/03 Jeff Hickox  
04/10 Brian Duyst  
04/17 Tanno Gomolka  
04/22 Brian Roberson (Good Friday)  
04/24 George Henry  
(Sunrise & Easter morning)

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

## Sunday Greeters [Kathy Zuidema]

April Bert & Coby Ton  
Dirk & Joy Jasperse

## Sound Crew [Frank Bons]

04/03 Frank Bons  
04/10 Frank Steidl  
04/17 George Tostado  
04/22 Rick De Baan (Good Friday)  
04/24 Randy Nagel  
(Sunrise & Easter morning)

## Projection Crew [Marlys Hickox]

04/03 Mike Schwab  
04/10 Linda Van Solkema  
04/17 Rod Koelewyn  
04/22 Rod Koelewyn  
04/24 Dan Stout/Marlys Hickox

## Video Crew [Danae Lapka]

04/03 Jeremiah Stout  
04/10 Trevor Vander Pol  
04/17 Sara Wagenveld  
04/24 Niels de Jong

## Prayer of God's People [Office]

04/03 Pastor Mark Vermaire  
04/10 Elder Tony Bons  
04/17 Trena Boonstra  
04/24 Jeff Hickox

## Open Table [Elsa Stout]

April: Dan & Anna Olson

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# april offering schedule

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<b>April 3:</b>	General Fund & Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid Fund
<b>April 10:</b>	General Fund & CRWRC (Japan Disaster Relief)
<b>April 17:</b>	General Fund & Scott & Marcia Geurink (CRWM)
<b>April 24:</b>	General Fund & Interfaith Community Services

- 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 '10-11 Budget commitment requires an average weekly offering of about \$7,689.81.**
- **Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid** is used to assist families from our church who are unable to pay full tuition. Our commitment for the 2010-2011 school year is \$21,915.48. This number has increased as we have been able to help one more family this year. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this fund throughout the school year.
- **CRWRC (Japan Disaster Relief)** In response to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck the Pacific coast of Japan's northern Honshu Island on March 11, CRWRC has entered into a partnership led by Food for the Hungry with other members of the Global Relief Alliance. Through these organizations, CRWRC is helping provide blankets, rice, clothing, and hand warmers from a relief base set up in hard-hit Sendai, where a million residents were severely affected by the tsunami. CRWRC is supporting the disaster response efforts of several Christian organizations including "Christian Relief, Assistance, Support, and Hope" or CRASH. CRASH is mobilizing ground transportation and volunteers within Sendai and across Japan through local churches to help deliver donations of aid to disaster-affected communities. CRWRC's initial contribution includes a specific allocation for this work. CRWRC is also collaborating with the Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ) Diaconal Action Committee to help engage local Christian churches as witnesses to Christ's love in this disaster response effort. Some funds raised by CRWRC are being kept aside to respond directly to the immediate and longer-term needs of the Reformed Church in Japan and its Diaconal Action Committee—Earthquake Response Headquarters. See [www.crcna.org/japan](http://www.crcna.org/japan) for more information. Please pray [for the people](#) of Japan, the disaster response efforts there, and for all of the people who are involved in it.
- **Scott and Marcia Geurink** have been serving with Christian Reformed World Missions in Tijuana, Mexico since 1993. Their work is primarily in church planting. Scott supervises and assists several churches in eastern Tijuana. He preaches, teaches, and works in evangelism and discipleship. An offering will be received to support their ministry in Tijuana.
- **Interfaith Community Services** is a non-profit organization meeting the needs of individuals with food, shelter and job training. Please remember this ministry in your giving.

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## from the deacons

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

February '11 General Fund Offerings:	\$	31,388.70
Year To Date General Fund Offerings:	\$	302,033.56
(Fiscal Year June 2010-May 2011)		

### Other February Offerings

Calvin Christian Tuition Aid	\$	992.27
World Missions	\$	50.00
Cadets	\$	800.50
Rev. Melvin & April Jackson (CRHM)	\$	425.41
Green Oak Ranch Scholarship	\$	1,187.96

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## special offering

Dear Friends,

Maria had nowhere to turn. Living with a man at age 13, with a child and no husband at age 15, she had no hope. She looked for love everywhere. Trying to fill the void in her life and escape her misery with drugs and alcohol, this young Ecuadorian woman sunk into a deep despair and was on the brink of suicide.

But God in His providence brought a Multiplication Network-trained church planter into Maria's life. Embraced by a community of faith, Maria saw the love of Jesus in the believers that surrounded her and she accepted Him as her Savior; her life was transformed.

Today, Maria is growing in her faith, and her child is being raised in a home that honors God. She is helping other single mothers, girls who are in the conditions similar to Maria's life before Jesus. She helps children in the local school and has started a community garden, providing fresh vegetables to her impoverished community.

God changes lives, families and communities. Your faithful partnership in the work of Multiplication Network in Latin America and China is helping lost people like Maria find hope for today and eternity. Our Multiplication Network team is seeing God open amazing doors for ministry. Your partnership allows us to walk through those doors, taking His love and His Good News into communities like Maria's. Thanks so much for your support!

Sincerely,  
John Wagenveld  
Executive Director