

# CONNECTIONS

December 2011

A monthly publication of Crossroads CRC

## Church Member Appreciation Day: A Thanksgiving

You might not know it, but as a congregation, you recently blessed Lori and me with a gift. In honor of what Christian radio promotes as "Pastor Appreciation Month" the council presented me with a wonderful, sturdy, melodious "Fish Wind Chime." And they said, "This is from the whole church," for which I give you great thanks!

The "Fish" comes from the classic Christian symbol of a fish made out of Greek letters (I X Th U S, the first letters of five Greek words meaning "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior"). The "Wind Chime" was created and crafted by Jerry Upham (though he wouldn't want you to know it--Oops!) in a fascinating process that you'll have to ask him about. The gift is in my study, so ask me to see it; it's from you, and before we bring it home I'd love to show it to you.

While I'm very thankful for this, at the same time, ask the office staff and they'll tell you that I've always suggested that there shouldn't really be a Pastor Appreciation Month. Now, don't get me wrong.

I have been so encouraged, touched, and sometimes humorously blessed by some of the notes, words, gifts, and blessings during the month, just as so many of you have offered in different ways over the years. For that I'm very thankful. (A couple of recent gifts are pictured elsewhere in this Connections for your enjoyment. Can you find them?)

But, I mean, who else gets a month of appreciation? Moms and Dads get a day. Office workers and bosses get a day. So should the pastor get a month?

I once heard a comedian say, after walking on stage and receiving a standing ovation, "Wouldn't it be good if that could happen to everyone! Wouldn't it be good if a janitor walked out on stage here and everyone stood up and cheered for their work?!" Amen!, I say.

So I hereby offer my suggestion that we all ought to have a day! If the Hallmark calendar offers several special ones, let's be the church and recognize all the skills and gifts of each other. How about adding a Farmer's Day, Trucker's Day, a Shelf Stocker's Day, a Cashier's Day, a Student's Day, a School Staff Day, a Custodian's Day, a Civil Servant's Day, a Volunteer's Day, a Church Staff Day, a Kid's Day, and even a We-don't-know-what-they-do-but-we're-thankful-that-they-do-it Day!. Because, the truth is, we are each blessed with gifts and jobs that we rarely appreciate enough.

So let's name this day Church Member Appreciation Day! Because, voicing what others here would say, too, I'm very thankful for all of us here at Crossroads--whether you've blessed us for over a decade with your faithful presence and gifts, or whether you're blessing us as a guest for the first time.

I often talk about Crossroads when I'm elsewhere, and I do so with many wonderful reports. I tell about how the Spirit of God is changing many of our lives in such important ways--I even tell some of your stories. I tell about our staff and leaders and how thankful I am for them. I tell about Life Groups and how God is working through a growing sense of Christian community and growth here. I tell about how faithfully and

sacrificially people are using their gifts and offering their financial blessings and faithfully participating in our life together. And people from other churches often perk up and listen with excitement for what God is doing.

So on this Thanksgiving week, and on this now-named Church Member Appreciation Day, I'll offer this Bible passage on behalf of us all: "*We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ*" (I Thessalonians 1:2-3).

And if you have time, drop in to see and hear the fish, a sign of our mutual appreciation!

**-Pastor Mark Vermaire**



# december church calendar

Contact the church office for  
Life Groups  
information.

## Saturday, December 3

TBA Cadet Field Day  
7:00PM Middle School Youth

## Sunday, December 4

9:30AM **2nd Sunday of Advent**  
Morning Worship Service  
12:30PM High School Youth  
Parent Leadership Meeting  
5:30PM Green Oak Ranch Bible Study  
7:00PM High School Youth

## Wednesday, December 7

7:00PM Administrative Committee

## Thursday, December 8

9:30AM Mom's Group

## Saturday, December 10

8:30AM Middle School Youth  
7:00PM High School Youth

## Sunday, December 11

9:30AM **3rd Sunday of Advent**  
Morning Worship Service  
4:30PM Soup Off! Fundraiser  
5:30PM Middle School Youth  
Green Oak Ranch Bible Study  
6:00PM Christmas Program  
7:00PM High School Youth Meeting

## Wednesday, December 14

7:00PM Elders Meeting  
GEMS & Cadets

## Thursday, December 15

6:30PM Women's Book Group

## Sunday, December 18

9:30AM **4th Sunday of Advent**  
Morning Worship Service  
5:30PM Green Oak Ranch Bible Study

## Monday, December 19

7:00PM Deacons Meeting

## Saturday, December 24

6:00PM Christmas Eve Service

## Sunday, December 25

9:30AM **Christmas Day**  
Morning Worship Service  
——— NO Green Oak Ranch  
Bible Study

## happy birthday

Rodney Geckler	12/01
Emily Salzman	12/02
Asher Vermaire	12/02
Joy Jasperse	12/04
Nettie Steenstra	12/08
Gordon Geerdes	12/08
Rob Janke	12/09
Diane Jasa	12/11
Wilma Anderson	12/13
Paul Lapka	12/16
Nanette Steenstra	12/18
Tylar Arendse	12/18
Eric Anderson	12/18
Jonathan Beutlich	12/22
Maya Geerdes	12/23
Christie Roberson	12/25
Melissa Hickox	12/26
Eleanor Filkins	12/27
Jeff Cooper	12/30
Heidi Vermaire	12/30
Max Lebl	12/30 ☺
Silva de Jong	12/31

☺ = A "Special" Birthday

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.

## WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group meets this month on **Thursday, December 15**, at 6:30PM at Suanne Varvel's home. This will be our annual Christmas feast with everyone sharing both literary and edible delights. Car pool from Trena Boonstra's home at 6:10PM. In January our regular meetings resume on Wednesdays, January 11 and 25; we welcome visitors and new members. Questions about the group may be directed to Trena or Suanne

## happy anniversary

George & Dalia Tostado	12/01 ☺
Rodney & Joanie Geckler	12/01 ☺
Gary & Dorissa Radersma	12/07
Bert & Coby Ton	12/09 ☺
Vic & Suanne Varvel	12/14
Doug & Linda Van Solkema	12/16
Arie & Anneke de Jong	12/18
Brian & Sarah Verhoeven	12/18
Mike & Sue Wagenveld	12/21 ☺
Mel & Kathie Turner	12/22
Dan & Betsy Salzman	12/30

☺ = 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 for December is on the 8th at 9:30AM at church. On December 8th we will make a Christmas craft. We plan on making a craft that will double as cute Christmas gifts. *On December 22nd we will not have a meeting. Merry Christmas!* Nursery and toddler classes are provided. Talk to Dorissa Radersma and Sarah Verhoeven with any questions.

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



# december events calendar



Is that a **Pumpkin Buzz Light Year** in Connections? Yes, yes it is! Why is he here you ask? Well, have you found the other two pictures of recent gifts given to Pastor Mark for October's Pastor Appreciation Month? Still don't know what's going on? Read the Front Page Article by Pastor Mark to find out what this scavenger hunt through Connections is all about!



## First Annual Festival of Trees

The San Marcos Senior Services Foundation is holding its First Annual Festival of Trees. Net proceeds will benefit Interfaith's Senior Services Department. The Festival (November 25, 26, & 27 from 10:00AM-7:00PM) will include a holiday boutique and a gallery of 30 holiday trees alight with unique themes and decorations. For more information, call Catherine at 760.613.1382 or email [alison.driessen@cox.net](mailto:alison.driessen@cox.net)



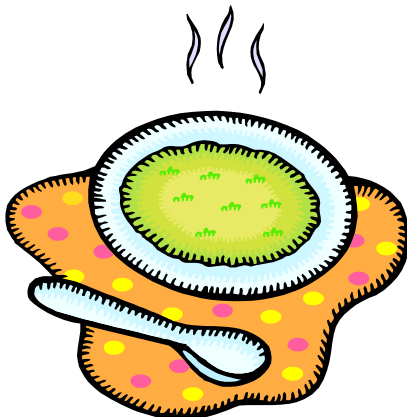
December 24: Holiday Meal at Interfaith Community Services

Volunteers are needed for the 2:30PM–5:00PM shift.

Sign up with Jerry Morgan at 760.489.6380 ext. 236 or [jmorgan@interfaithservices.org](mailto:jmorgan@interfaithservices.org).

## Soup Off!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FUNDRAISER  
FOR THEIR WINTER YOUTH RETREAT.



(PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARDS THE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH (WINTER RETREAT.)

THERE WILL BE A SOUP DINNER WITH ROLLS  
BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11.

THE FOOD WILL BE SERVED FROM 4:30-5:30PM  
BEFORE THE SERVICE.

SO, JOIN US THAT NIGHT AS WE COME TOGETHER TO ENJOY  
THE CROSSROADS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (PUT ON BY THE  
CROSSROADS YOUTH, SEE PAGE 9 ) A LITTLE EARLIER TO  
ENJOY ALL OF THE CROSSROADS FAMILY  
AS WE FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.

**What: Soup Off! Fundraiser Dinner**  
**When: Sunday, December 11 4:30-5:30pm**

**Why: for our High School Youth**

**Cost: Donation**

Connect,



Grow, Serve.



Fall 2011 Term concluded this week. Please complete the Life Groups survey if you participated or not. Surveys will be available online after 11.28.11.



\*\*Complete the Life Group Survey and you will be entered into a drawing for a gift card to Starbucks or Jamba Juice.\*\*

Spring Term 2012 sign ups begin January 1.

Term dates:  
January 22 - April 14

Be watching for more information to follow.

(SEE PAGE 8 FOR A SNEAK PREVIEW OF PICTURES FROM THE LIFE GROUP SERVICE PROJECT.)



You have found number 2 of 3! Have you found all three pictures of recent gifts given to Pastor Mark for October's Pastor Appreciation Month? Read the Front Page Article by Pastor Mark to find out what this scavenger hunt through Connections is all about!

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:

**December 3:** 7:00-9:00PM

Meeting at church to bake cookies and rehearse the Christmas play. Lines should be memorized. (Parking lot: Van Solkema)

**December 10:** 8:30-11:00AM

Christmas play dress rehearsal at church. Bring any props and costumes needed.

**December 11:** 5:30PM

Christmas program at church.  
Remember your props and costumes!



The High School Youth Group recently enjoyed Pizza Night. A brainchild of our young women, Pizza Night was a huge hit. It is truly amazing the amount of pizza high school students can consume!

Saturday, November 26 our high schoolers head to Pioneer School to help with the ministry of Mision Vida Nueva. We will be teaching a Bible story from Luke 17 about the ten lepers.

We are starting to talk about the importance of reading your Bible every day and what it means for our daily walk with Jesus. Thank you for praying for our youth!

## 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

- **December 3** Cadet Field Day
- **December 14** meeting at church. Christmas Party!

Watch the weekly bulletins for more details!

## high school youth

### High School Youth:

Anna Vos 760.317.7034  
Lindsey Vander Pol     Levi Faber

### Our meetings this month will be:

**December 4:** 12:30PM

Parent Leadership Meeting at Vos home. Bring a pot of soup/chili to share.

**December 4:** 7:00-9:00PM

Youth Group Meeting at Vos home. Goodies: Brock Lusky

**December 10:** 7:00PM-9:00PM

Bethlehem Walk at First United Methodist Church.

**December 11:** 7:00-9:00PM

Youth Group Meeting at Vos home. Goodies: Ryan Bons



## 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

- **December 14** meeting at church. Christmas Party!

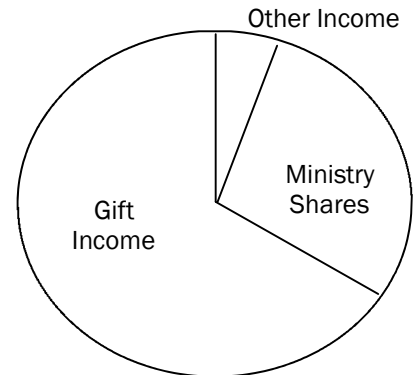
Watch the weekly bulletins for more details!

# What are Ministry Shares?

## CHRISTIAN REFORMED WORLD 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.



### Wasted Lives No More.

The Nehemiah Center is one of Christian Reformed World Missions' Transformational Networks—places that are equipping and connecting church and community leaders.

As Farid grew up in the tough streets of Nicaragua, his life began to go off track. He started skipping school, drinking heavily, and got involved in a gang. But local pastor, Francisco, working with the Nehemiah Center, reached out to Farid and his friends. Francisco befriended and earned the respect of these tough kids, offering them a fresh perspective on God, themselves and their community.

In 2010, Farid and several others committed their lives to Christ. Life is still not easy, but they are earning a new reputation. Now they use their time to make and sell hammocks to raise money so they can help others. They've begun investing in the community by organizing an event for its more than 200 children. Once drifting and without purpose, now they work hard to change the world for the better.

For more than 100 years, Christian Reformed World Missions has been helping CRC members fulfill the Great Commission, primarily through planting churches and sending missionaries around the world. Over the past decade, a shift to strategic partnerships and networking has played a crucial role in expanding our work with unreached peoples and mobilizing local churches. Between our missionaries and partners, the Good News is being preached around the world. Thanks to your support, 200 missionaries serve in more than 20 countries. And because of our strategic partnerships, God is multiplying CRWM's impact and influence to more than 40 nations.



YOU ADD

**BRINGING CHRIST TO THE NATIONS.**

# Fare Thee Well, Good and Faithful Servant

**Blessed be the name of the Lord and blessed be his saints who die in the Lord!**

On October 29, 2011 an extraordinary man of God, Zakka Chomock, was released from his painful journey with liver cancer as God called him back to himself. Since 2000, Zakka served with CRWRC, first as a justice coordinator in West Africa and then for the last three years as the team leader for the Southern Africa Ministry Team. He was married to Habiba and they had one son, Dauda, who is completing his exams for his final year of high school. We ask for continued prayers for them and their extended family.

The power of God's justice was very much a passion and testimony in Zakka's life. One board member recalls him saying, "you did not pay me to be quiet or timid, did you?" Indeed Zakka spoke boldly where restoration needed to happen and where relationships needed to be put right. God's gift of faith and courage drove him to the end of his life, always with a solid hope that God knew what was best and good.

Inspired by God's sense of justice and mercy, he challenged his colleagues often to think more deeply about how justice and mercy could practically achieve God's intentions for communities in poverty. One of his emails to his team members (who he called friends) highlights how he did this with provocative questions:

*I seriously want us to think on what we are doing with our partners along the lines of doing things without outside support. How can they begin to value what they have and take initiatives in using that and not always looking for everything from outside? How can we develop the capacity of partners to access resources both from within and from outside? How do we avoid the temptation of just responding to projects needs as opposed to help partners develop whole communities and see real community transformation?*

*I am thinking deeply on how we can restructure our region to reflect more on skills and gifts approach and to also promote cross country collaborations and support for each other. How can we not be Ivory Tower consultants where we sit in our offices to wait for our partners to come and bring their plans for us to approve but to be with them as much as we can and immerse ourselves in their work context? How can we journey and accompany our partners in a way that they will see us as equals in the business of community transformation? How can we see our partners as God's servants NOT the controllers of resources that we want them to respect or that we want them to swallow with the idea that everything comes from us?*

*I am interested in seeing programmatic themes emerging as a reflection of community needs such as food security, community based health care and the likes and how do we build our competencies to respond to these needs of partners and communities. The key for me is to work in such a way that programs and projects become the outcome of community processes with the communities being the champions.*

As we mourn the loss of Zakka's presence with us every day, we praise God for the many things we learned from his life and walk with God. What do you think Zakka would say at such a time as this..."when the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with the immortal?" Probably the same thing as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:56-58: "Thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

*~ by Ida Kaastra Mutoigo,  
Director, CRWRC-Canada*



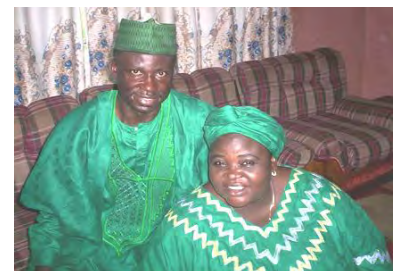
## **PRAYER NEEDS**

- For Zakka's wife, Habiba, to gain the physical and emotional strength she needs to travel back to say 'thank you' to the great people in Zambia who have become family, and to bring back their son Dauda and their remaining belongings.

- For Dauda to continue to experience God's peace and enabling as he brings his series of examinations to a finish.

- For God's clear guidance regarding decisions Habiba will need to make once she is back to Nigeria. Pray for wisdom as the family supports her in this process.

- Finally, for all of us to continue to heal and to not miss any of the things the Lord would have us learn from the time Zakka commenced his battle to the time he gave up the fight and answered the Lord's call home.



*The leaves are falling outside,  
the tears are falling inside  
Zakka is asleep. Zakka is gone.  
The wails are heard in Nigeria,  
hearts squeal with disbelief  
Zakka is loved.  
Zakka is mourned.  
The questions are too many,  
God's timing seems off  
Zakka's too young.  
Zakka's too gifted.  
Yet his comfort and ours is Christ,  
life and death  
belong to God  
Zakka is heaven-bound.  
Zakka is home.*

*(Author unknown)*

**SEE AN ADDITIONAL PIECE ABOUT ZAKKA ON PAGE 9**

# Church Family Info



## SNEAK PREVIEW!!

Here is the sneak preview of pictures from the November 19 Life Groups Service Project Day! Be sure to watch for the full slide show presentation to be shown during a worship service sometime in January.

Thanks for all of your work and service Crossroads Family!



## Crossroads Library and Book Cart

Christmas and Advent books, DVDs and Videos are now available on the Book Cart in the lobby. Feel free to check them out; instructions are posted. As a courtesy to others, please read or view these seasonal items quickly so that others may have a chance to enjoy them as well.

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 Boonstra.

## 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, December 1:** Serve breakfast at Interfaith
- **Thursday, December 8:** 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.

**Merry Christmas!** These are the words that American missionaries will say this month on the mission field as they celebrate God's goodness. It's also another holiday celebrated away from loved ones 'back home.' Thank you for your prayers for strong relationships and fruitful ministry on behalf of your missionaries. Below are their addresses and emails in case you feel led to write them an encouragement note this holiday season.

special  
delivery

**Rev. Melvin & April Jackson**  
1850 W 54<sup>th</sup> St  
Los Angeles, CA 90062  
Melvin: [bchrist4u@aol.com](mailto:bchrist4u@aol.com)

**Mr. Scott & Marcia Geurink**  
*Daniel, Melissa, Karissa*  
PO Box 531276  
San Diego, CA 92153  
[smgeurink@gmail.com](mailto:smgeurink@gmail.com)

**Rev. Bob & Patti Harris**  
*Andrew, David*  
OCPO Box 12712  
Ortigas Center  
1605 Pasig City,  
The Philippines  
[harrisfam6@hotmail.com](mailto:harrisfam6@hotmail.com)

**Habiba Chomock**  
**(wife of Zakka Chomock)**  
Plot 6575 Corner Chainama &  
Kasangula Roads  
Olympia Extension,  
Lusaka, Zambia  
[zcho001@aol.com](mailto:zcho001@aol.com)

# Church Family Events



## Children's Christmas Program

Children ages 4-8th grade

*(Join us for the Soup Off! Fundraiser before. See Page 3 for details.)*

Mrs. Stevens, a Sunday school teacher, wants her fifth and sixth graders to realize that Immanuel is with us all year long, not just at Christmas. Throughout the year, she sends Christmas cards to the children.

Each scene shows some of her group talking about the Christmas cards they received throughout the year.

While the children wonder who would send Christmas cards when it isn't Christmas, they come to realize that each card gives the same reminder: "God is with us." In the final scene, Mrs. Stevens and the children talk about what Immanuel means and conclude that because God is always with us, it's Christmas all year long.

### Join Us for These Special Holiday Services



Advent Sunday Services  
December 4, 11 & 18; 9:30AM

Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 11; 6:00PM

Christmas Eve Service  
Saturday, December 24; 6:00PM

Christmas Day Service  
Sunday, December 25; 9:30AM

On behalf of Zakka's entire family we wish to express our sincere thanks for your support that made the farewell celebration of Zakka's life such a success and a blessing. Many converged on the humble town of Fadan Kagoma to formally say 'good bye' to Zakka and also to give their condolences to Habiba, and the rest of the family.

We believe that for every person who was able to attend Zakka's farewell service, many others could not but still shared in the event through their prayers, phone calls, letters and cards. We say a sincere "THANK YOU" to all.

The physical presence of Andrew Ryskamp, Co-Director Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), Assarh Nkomo, Finance & Admin. Officer, CRWRC (South Africa Team), and Davis Omanyo, Zakka's colleague and Team Leader CRWRC East Africa, ministered to our hearts deeply. The Zambian Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency Alex C. Luhila surprised us with his presence and left us feeling greatly honored. Again, we say 'THANK YOU'.

### Green Oak Ranch and Crossroads

The Crossroads and Green Oak Ranch Communities join in Bible study on Sunday evenings at 5:30PM in the GOR Library/Conference room. During December we will be doing several lessons relating to Advent and Christmas. Feel free to join us there on any Sunday; however, we will not be meeting on December 25 and January 1. 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 help with 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.

# december serving schedule

## Worship Team [Danae Lapka]

- December 4: Vicki Van Essen, Nichole Beutlich, Cindy Kroon, Bill Stout, Megan and Jodi Van Solkema, Graeme Koch  
December 11: Anita Termaat, Paul & Danae Lapka, Jake Bons  
December 18: Jessica Faber, Rebecca Ligtenberg, Bill Stout, Denise Van Dyk, Ashley Van Zante, Ryan Bons  
December 24: (Christmas Eve) Jill Leonard, Paul and Danae Lapka  
December 25: Sarah Verhoeven, Rebecca Ligtenberg, Bill Stout, Denise Van Dyk

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

- December 4: Kari Plaisier, Kara Steenstra, David Gomolka  
December 11: Candy Van Zante, Ashley Van Zante, Mark Bakker  
December 18: Jenny Anderson, Johnny Steenstra, Jacob Stout  
December 25: Levi Faber, Megan Van Solkema, Luke Steenstra

## TRAILS [Sylvia Bons]

- December 4: Shelly Katje, Drea Arendse  
December 11: Shelly Katje, Rebecca Ritsema  
December 18: Break  
December 25: Break

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

- December 4: Infant: \*Erin Spoelstra, Erin Cooper, Sara Wagenveld  
Toddler: Laura te Velde, Mike Schwab, Joshua Bakker  
December 11: 9:30AM Infant: \*Sarah Verhoeven, Lindsay Van Engen, David Gomolka  
Toddler: Nettie Steenstra, Rob Janke, Jodi Van Solkema  
6:00PM Kathie Turner, Sylvia Bons, Robert de Jong, Nicholas Jongetjes  
December 18: Infant: \*Kathy Zuidema, Kelsey Janke, Emma Vander Pol  
Toddler: Jenny Varvel, Lois Vander Pol, Shane Carlson  
December 24: 6:00PM TBA  
December 25: Infant: \*Jenny Anderson, Su Kraus, Ashley Van Zante  
Toddler: Luke Varvel, Sue te Velde, Niels de Jong

## Ushers [Marlys Hickox]

- December 4: Brian Verhoeven (D), Jayne Kok  
Jeff Hickox, Susie Orsburn, Ken Smith  
December 11: 9:30AM Linda Van Solkema (D), Adrian Voorkamp (D)  
Gary Burrie, Ineke Burrie, Joy Jasperse  
6:00PM TBA  
December 18: Gordon Geerdes (D), Linda Van Solkema (D)  
Jim Kroon, Warren Van Dam, Steve Hickox  
December 24: 6:00PM Gordon Geerdes (D), Adrian Voorkamp (D)  
December 25: Brian Verhoeven (D), Levi Faber  
Terry Kok, Steve Katje, Mike Carlson

## Refreshments [Suanne Varvel]

- December 4: (Silva) Anneke de Jong, Pete De Baan, Marilyn Faber, Christina Faber  
December 11: (Dicky) Danae Lapka, Linda Van Solkema, Marlys Hickox,  
Donna Kallemeyn  
December 18: (Anna) Serena Carlson, Kim Bakker, Denise Diehl, Betsy Salzman  
December 25: (Suanne) Anne Den Ouden, Jonneke Van Dam, Kari Plaisier,  
Rebecca Ligtenberg

## Opening/Closing [Jeff Hickox]

- 12/04 George Henry  
12/11 9:30AM Jeff Hickox  
6:00PM Tanno Gomolka  
12/18 Gary Burrie  
12/24 Jeff Hickox  
12/25 George Henry

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

## Sunday Greeters [Kathy Zuidema]

### December:

Tony & Dicky Bons  
Dirk & Joy Jasperse

## Sound Crew [Frank Bons]

- 12/04 Frank Steidl  
12/11 9:30AM Rick De Baan  
6:00PM Frank Bons  
12/18 George Tostado  
12/24 Randy Nagel  
12/25 Frank Steidl

## Projection Crew [Marlys Hickox]

- 12/04 Linda Van Solkema  
12/11 Jeremiah Stout/Marlys Hickox  
12/18 Rod Koelewyn  
12/24 TBA  
12/25 Mike Schwab

## Video Crew [Danae Lapka]

- 12/04 Mark Bakker  
12/11 9:30AM Jacob Stout  
6:00PM Niels de Jong  
12/18 Haley Voorkamp  
12/24 6:00PM Sara Wagenveld  
12/25 Trevor Vander Pol

## Open Table [Elsa Stout]

December: Chuck & Diane Jasa

# december offering schedule

<b>December 4:</b>	General Fund & Project Amor
<b>December 11:</b>	General Fund & Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid
<b>December 18:</b>	General Fund & Christian Reformed Home Missions
<b>December 24:</b>	General Fund & CRWRC
<b>December 25:</b>	General Fund & Benevolence 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.**
- The offering for **Project Amor** is to provide Christmas presents for needy families associated with Mission Vida Nueva. Some of the money collected will be used to update donated computers for these families. All the money will be used as a donation for this Christmas giving.
- **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.
- **Christian Reformed Home Missions:** Homes Missions partners with Christian Reformed communities all across North America to start new churches, establish campus ministries, develop leaders, encourage and support mission-focused churches, and emphasize formation for one single purpose: to communicate the gospel message that we serve a risen Savior!
- **CRWRC responds on your behalf** to the needs of people who suffer from poverty, hunger, disaster, and injustice. CRWRC is your resource for volunteer opportunities, advocacy ideas, and educational materials.
- **Benevolent Fund** collections are used for those in our church or in our community who may have special needs. Please contact a Deacon if you know of a need. This information will be confidential.

## from the deacons

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

October '11 General Fund Offerings:	\$	36,656.28
Year To Date General Fund Offerings:	\$	185,360.82
(Fiscal Year June 2011-May 2012)		

### Other October Offerings

Calvin Christian Tuition Aid Fund	\$	1,344.92
Scott & Marcia Geurink (CRWM)	\$	615.25
Bob & Patti Harris (CRWM)	\$	337.25
Benevolent Fund	\$	30.00
Green Oak Ranch Scholarship Fund	\$	814.60
Debt Reduction	\$	11,077.01



And this makes 3! Did you find all three pictures of recent gifts given to Pastor Mark for October's Pastor Appreciation Month? Read the Front Page Article by Pastor Mark to find out what this scavenger hunt through Connections is all about!