



# CROSSROADS

The Newsletter of Georgetown Christian Reformed Church - May/June 2022



## COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Committee or Ministry	Contact Person	Phone #
Baby Basket	Shannon Vandermeer	519 856 1216
Cadets (Boys club)	Randy Ligterink	416 677 7410
Child & Youth Discipleship Committee	Neil VanAndel	416 937 5569
Children's Message	Irene Westerveld	905 703 0268
Children & Youth Discipleship Director	Aviva Rothman-Wielinga	905 691 7483
Coffee Break	Tilly Zomer	905 299 9687
	Janie Visser	905 877 7521
Communications Committee	Pat Woudstra	647 222 8840
Counting Committee	Dick Braam	905 877 9764
Crossroads Editor	Pat Woudstra	647 222 8840
Finance Committee	Anneke Keenleyside	
Friendship Club	Louisa Lamberink-VanWijk	519 853 4846
G.E.M.S. (Girls club)	Elizabeth Nightingale	905 873 4833
Hall Monitors	Berny Menken	905 878 5922
Library Committee	Alice Scheepstra	905 873 4611
Maintenance Committee	Dan Roffel	289 891 9009
Meals Ministry	Erin Vandenberg	647 880 0965
Membership Clerk	Dan Ligterink	905 877 0482
Missions Committee	Aukje Dykstra	905 702 0491
Nursery Coordinator	Vacant	
Prayer Group	Irene Menken	905 878 5922
Projection	Randy Ligterink	416 677 7410
Safe Church Committee	Irene Menken	905 878 5922
Sound	Jeff Sandifer	905 702 0397
Sunday School	Amy Westerveld	905 838 4352
Ushers	Gerda Dorsman	905 483 5758
Video/Livestream	Neil VanAndel	519 872 0858
Worship Committee	Allison Roffel	289 891 9009
Worship Team	Allison Roffel	289 891 9009
Young Adults	Michelle VanderSpek	519 401 0154
Youth on Fire Ministry	Mike Barrera	647 293 2456

# Church

We believe and confess that the 'Church' is not the building. The Bible tells us that the 'Church' is the body of Christ. It's the people. People loved by God. People saved by God. People gathered by God and people sent by God. In Zechariah 8:23 God tells us, *"In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.'"*

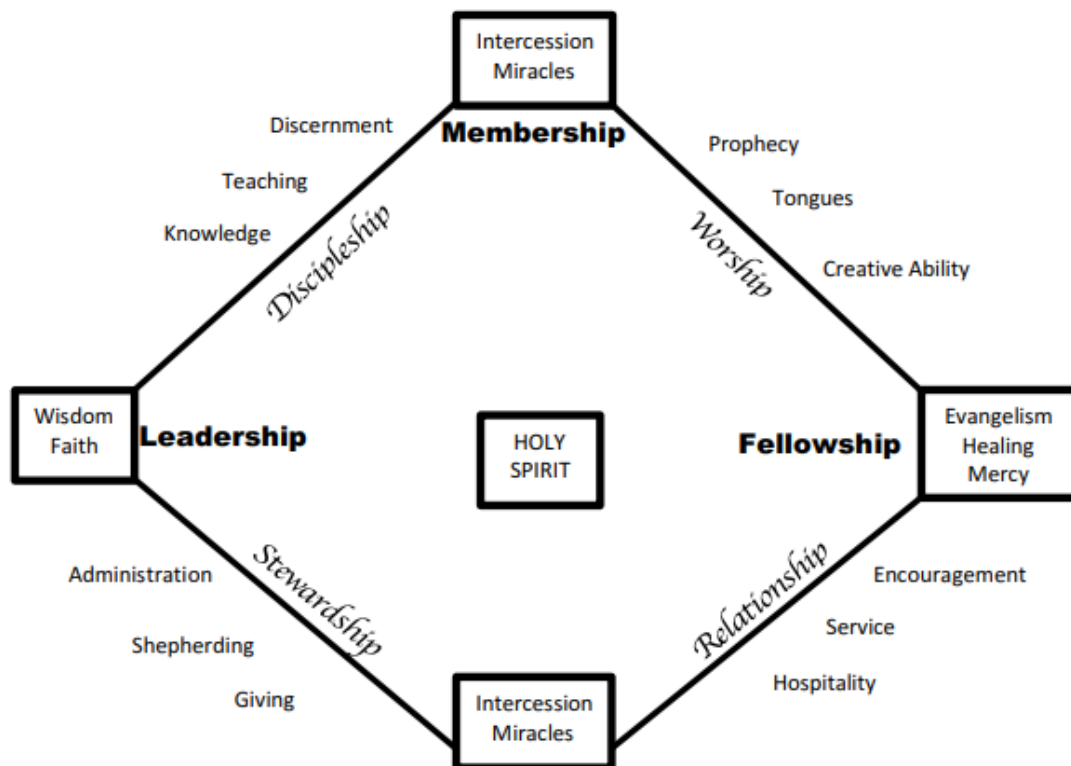
That is God's picture of the Church, the body of Christ that really looks like God. Our goal then is to become conformed to the image of his Son (Rom.8:29).

The graphic below is just one way to visualize what it might look like to be the Church. In Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus tells The Parable of The Talents in which he teaches that the King (himself) expects his followers to do something with the gifts he has given. Being active in the Body of Christ requires we utilize his gifts to help one another conform to him and be his image bearers. Clearly we are to play our part. We are to get into the game.

A Christian couch potato is an oxymoron. It's the person of whom Jesus says, *"Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* (Matt 25:30)

The point of all this is simple. Get in the Game. Use your gift/talent and play along with the rest of the team/Church. Let's get each other and our friends and family and neighbors around the bases. Let's intentionally organize ourselves to move. Play, coach, support, cheer, and show up. But always remember we do this not by power and not by might but by the Spirit of the Lord. You are free to move the gifts to any baseline to get the job done. Play ball!

*Pastor Kasey*





## The Journey with Jesus Year

Who likes to hear a good story? Maybe your grandparents liked to tell you stories of what life was like when they were growing up, the things they experienced, and the people who influenced their lives. I think we all like to hear stories. How about faith stories? How many of us share with others how Christ tugs at our hearts convincing us that he is the LORD of our lives, and how we see God at work in our lives day by day? Can we articulate these stories? Young people who can articulate their own faith stories, who can see God at work in their lives, are more likely to have faith stick with them when they are out from under their parent's roof.

This is why the JWJY is centered around stories - the telling of faith stories based on the [Building Blocks of Faith](#), four spiritual needs that every believer has. For our faith to grow, our deep need for **belonging** must be met. We need God's Spirit and God's people to help us know that we belong to God and that we belong in God's family, the Church. For our faith to grow, each of us must grow in our **knowledge** and understanding of who God is, how God's salvation story is



unfolding over time, and what our part is in that story. For our faith to grow, we need to discern God's **call** and **be equipped** to use our gifts in the service of God and our

neighbor. For our faith to grow, we need to have a confident **hope** through Christ that God will keep his promises and that all things are working together for our salvation so that we might bless others, and that God is making all things new.

This year's JWJY group has met three times over lunch to hear faith stories of congregants as they related to the BBoF Faith. In October we heard from Mike G. and P. Kasey V. about their sense of belonging to Christ and his body, the Church. In February we heard from Aviva about her story of God's calling and equipping her in her profession as a small animal veterinarian and how that connects to God's story in her life. And in April we heard from Linda D. about how God used her and a few others to create a story of hope in the lives of five Eritrean refugees.

In addition, the JWJY pilgrims met three times with P. Kasey and Aviva to explore our Reformed Accent as we talked about The Heidelberg Catechism, The Canons of Dort, and the Apostles Creed, all part of the *I Know* BBoF Faith.

Key to this journey has been the mentor/pilgrim relationships and their monthly faith conversations. As they met monthly they were encouraged to talk about faith using the BBoF Faith as a background, and they were encouraged to explore different faith disciplines.

Finally, each mentor/pilgrim pair was connected to one or two people from the congregation who have been praying for them, lifting them up before the throne of God.

*Growing in faith requires that we interact with other faithing selves and that we share the various ways we strive to be Christian together within our community of faith* (Westerhoff). This is what we have aimed to do through the JWJY.

This year's JWJY pilgrims have all expressed a desire to share their faith story with their congregation by making a Public Profession of their Faith on May 29th. We hope that you will come to hear their faith stories!

I want to say a GIANT THANK YOU to the village of people who have participated in one way or another in this year's JWJY:

**Pilgrims/Mentors:**

Evan Siderius/Dan Roest  
Annalise Zomer/Stephanie Barrera  
Ben DeKleer/Berny Menken  
Jessica Serderius/Aukje Dykstra

**Prayer partners:**

Bob & Trudy DeVries  
Wilma Grin  
Liz Roest  
Michelle Westerveld  
Frank Wielinga  
Mary Anna Wyga  
Paul Zomer

**Lunch hosts:**

Irene Menken  
Frank & Miriam Wielinga

**Faith story tellers:**

Mike Glockner  
Pastor Kasey Vanderveen  
Linda DeBoer

All the parents of these four pilgrims.

And Pastor Kasey as he has worked alongside me (Aviva) brainstorming ideas, preparing/teaching the Reformed Accent meetings, and generally helping me with this year's journey.

Shalom, Aviva Rothman-Wielinga

Westerhoff, John. Will our children have faith: Moorhouse Pub, 2012.

# Refugee Sunday 2022



## A Story of Joy:

Linda Deboer, a member of the Georgetown Christian Reformed Church, is at the hub of this story. It started in April 2017, when Linda received an email from her cousin in Holland whose sons were backpacking in Israel where they met an Eritrean refugee, Ambes. Linda's cousin contacted her about looking for someone to sponsor him.

Linda knew a little about sponsoring refugees, but it seemed too big.

Her son, Trevor, challenged her. "Mom," he asked, "isn't this what we have been talking about? Aren't we, as Christians, supposed to do everything we can to provide a safe place for families who are living in unsafe or unjust communities?" Like Trevor, the members of the Georgetown CRC and the local school felt compelled to help Ambes.

Ambes had an older brother, Kidane, who was also working in Israel. Kidane had escaped from forced labour in the underground mines in Eritrea. He left behind his wife and two boys, still toddlers, to find a better life for his family.

The Georgetown CRC would eventually sponsor and welcome both Ambes and Kidane to Canada, but Kidane's application was approved first, so he arrived ahead of Ambes.

Linda began the sponsorship process by contacting the World Renew Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement team.

Excited to make resettlement a reality for the brothers, the Georgetown CRC community rallied together to raise enough money to make it possible.



The community didn't stop there. They supported the sponsorship of Kidane's wife and boys, now teenagers. And in the summer of 2021 his family was re-united! The whole community embraced them. Beaming with joy as he looked at his wife and sons, Kidane said, "Praise God. Praise God that my family is in Canada."

It's not an easy journey. Kidane, his wife and children are taking language classes and learning English. The cold Canadian weather was new for them. There is a great deal to learn. But they feel safe. They feel welcomed and they are eagerly trying new foods, making new friends and seizing every opportunity to learn how to build a life in Canada.

Please pray for displaced families around the world, that they will find the peace and safety they seek. Pray too, for families hoping to rebuild their lives in a new country that God will open doors so they will find sponsors, their applications will be approved, and the sponsorship process will go smoothly. Thank you for your prayers and your gifts that help bring hope to children, women and men as they journey to rebuild their lives in Canada.

## Our Missionaries



**John & Anne Span**

After a 65<sup>th</sup> birthday for John of almost Biblical proportions over the course of a week, we are now settled into the routine of marking, finalizing the last 4 weeks of the semester, and preparing final exams.

Here are a few highlights of the semester:

- The ah-ah moment when a student sees the wonder of the fact that God the Father has chosen a people of his own before creation, and that Jesus paid for these people. 'P' said, "I always thought we had to get people into the kingdom by force or the power of our persuasion, but now I see that God has already done almost everything. I just must open my mouth to witness the Good News."
- On a day when Anne needed a shot of encouragement, she asked one of the students who is a vocalist to lead in a song. Anne described the singing as if an angel brought her a gift of a needed boost.
- A student wrote a paper on how the offices of Jesus as prophet, priest and king could help him to be a better father and husband. It helps him in the South African context where many fathers leave the spiritual nurture in the home to their wives or female relatives. This shows up in church attendance, as well, where, at times there is scarcely a man to be found.
- Anne is teaching a course on study skills and some of those students need to submit

essays to my classes as well. Their introductions are interesting and pull the reader right into the paper. One started this way: "A pastor sits at his desk early in the week and wonders what to do....."

Besides our work at Mukhanyo, we also interact with people around the world. I am part of the Southgate Fellowship and we, as Reformed missiologists hammered out a statement of 100 Affirmations and Denials regarding the practise of missions. It is available here.

<https://thesouthgatefellowship.org/>. This past week, 10,000 printed copies were distributed at the Together for the Gospel meetings. We pray that this may change the mission landscape from one that is preoccupied with things that are new, fast, appear to be successful, and are trendy.

You can also see the articles that I write for the CRCNA Network, under the titles of "When Are Desires Healthy or Twisted? A Brief Look at the Word Epithymia" under my name. Also check out another recent one called, "Unknown God Altars," "Indigenous Religion", and "Anonymous Christians".

We are always grateful for the faithful support of GCRC and always enjoy hearing from you as well.

Dr. John and Mrs. Anne Span

Lecturers at Mukhanyo Theological College,  
Rustenburg, South Africa



## Crosstowne Update

It's good to be back to "in person" church though we continue to see a good number of people joining in by Facebook live & Zoom.

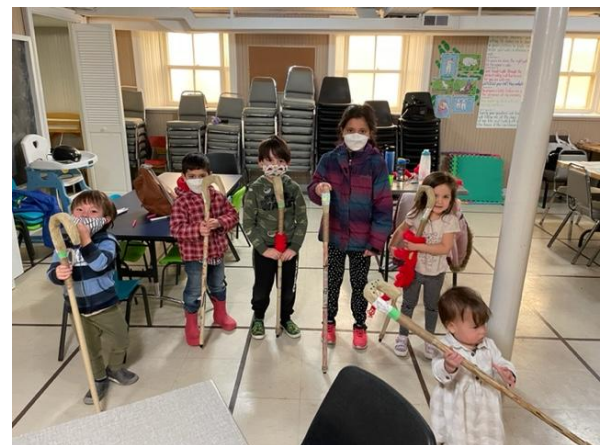
The pictures included are of Crosstowne's Sunday School called "Messy Church" and OFTEN with good reason : )) The kids love the stories and crafts created by "Miss Geraldine". As we have explored Psalm 23 over the Lent season, the pictures below show their delight as they learned about "Your rod and staff, they comfort me"

We continue to plan and look forward to summer BBQ's hopefully back at the Halton Region apartment buildings! In the next few weeks, we will deliver postcards and zinnia seeds to the new homes directly behind the church building that are now occupied. Also, plans are in the making to do a "Clean up Day" in our new neighborhood as well as summer BBQ's in our parking lot as a way to meet our neighbors.

Though there remains uncertainty for all of us, we have these powerful verses to remind us of our faithful God.

"You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Blessings to you from Crosstowne Church!





## Prayer Requests

Praise for the strong relationships that the Nehemiah Center continues to build with the local church in Nicaragua.

Praise for God's faithfulness and provision as we continue to serve the Nehemiah Center from Canada.

Praise that we received a tourist visa for Maynor's mom, Jeannet and that she could visit Canada during the month of February 2022.

Pray for Nicaragua.

Pray for financial, emotional, and spiritual support to be provided daily for our family.



## Financial Support

To support our work financially, send donations to Resonate Global Mission using the address found on page 2.

Please write, Maynor & Alicia Navarrete, in the memo line and make cheques payable to Resonate Global Mission.

Donate on-line by going to [www.resonateglobalmission.org/navarrete](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/navarrete).

Dear Friends and Family,

It has been an exciting and busy 2022 so far for the Nehemiah Center and myself.

In January, I (Alicia) took on added responsibilities with the Nehemiah Center by joining the newly formed Management team. My role has expanded to include a much more intentional and deeper relationship with our International Collaborating organizations. So I also got a revamped job title as Coordinator of Mission Advancement.

The Church Strengthening department has already trained 13 new facilitators in personal finance, and 21 leaders in trauma healing. At the end of April 2022, they will also be hosting a leadership development conference for church leaders and pastors in Managua.

The Holistic Mission department is gearing up to open 6 new Clinics for the Soul which will provide free counseling, trauma healing and conflict resolution in their communities. The team is currently training volunteers to implement and manage these Clinics of the Soul.

Even more exciting is a new innovation pilot project called Churches and Families which is working with 8 vulnerable families in the city of Leon; helping them to understand the importance of the family

unit and how they can strengthen their relationships with each other. Through this pilot project, marriages have been reconciled and spouses are returning to church with their families.

In 2019, the Nehemiah Center had a book written about its ministry and it was titled *To Be Reborn*. At the time, we were placing a lot of hope in the idea that the Nehemiah Center was in the process of being "reborn" after a period of decline. What we didn't anticipate was that it would take another 2 years of labour pains and challenges, before we would fully emerge and be reborn as an organization.

The imagery of childbirth seems an apt way of explaining the last number of years. The labour pains and messiness are akin to the challenges both internally and externally that were experienced.

However, what we are experiencing now, is the joy and hope of new birth; as we see the results of trusting in God, persevering through challenging times and determination to follow the vision in front of us. We rejoice in the ways that God's hand has been over and through all of it.

In Christ,

*Maynor & Alicia,  
Myles and Arianna*

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## The Importance of Creation Care

One Saturday afternoon more than 20 young people came out to clean an area that is quite dirty; the bus terminal in the city of León. They were excited about sweeping, picking up garbage, and helping each other. In the end, through the love and joy with what they were doing, people who were selling or waiting for transportation joined in with the cleaning as well.

This clean-up initiative was the result of two trainings on the topic of Creation Care that was held for young people from different churches in the city of León. The training was hosted by the Nehemiah Center in partnership with the Network of Christian Organizations in Central America (ROCCA). During the training, they designed action plans to develop activities that focused on taking care of God's creation. This resulted in the clean-up of the local bus terminal, plus the creation of promotional videos to raise awareness around Creation Care and making art out of recycled products.

Estela Vallecillo is a member of the Casa de Paz (House of Peace) church in the Sutiaba neighborhood of the city of León. She dedicated herself only to participating in the liturgical activities of her church, but after participating in the Creation Care trainings, she shared her experience with the Nehemiah Center. "Participating in the workshop allowed me to realize that the creation of God not only has to do with focusing on what the human being is, but on everything that God created in nature and all those things that were created by the hand of God", likewise, she expressed that she liked the training so much that "I took on the task of replicating the training", she invited some members of the church and the community, "I could see that many people did not realize how we are neglecting the creation of God. After this, accompanied by other young people from the church, we have given ourselves the task of recycling and making videos, to raise awareness that creation must be taken care of by us, this has motivated us and we are encouraging neighbors, friends and family about what it means to care for nature".

It is impressive to see how young people are passionate about serving not only in the church but also in their communities. Estela is just one testimony of the impact of the two-day training on Creation Care. Two other churches have created promotional videos and hope to raise awareness within their church and community.

This is one more way that the Nehemiah Center is equipping church leaders to transform Nicaragua through the stewardship of God's creation.



**Resonate**  
GLOBAL MISSION

Canada:  
3475 Mainway  
P.O. Box 5070, STN LCD 1  
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8  
1-800-730-3490

United States:  
1700 28th St E  
Grand Rapids, MI 49560-0200  
1-800-346-0075  
[www.resonateglobalmission.org](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org)

## Offering schedule May/June

May 1	Indwell & Crosstowne CRC
May 8	Teen Challenge
May 15	ReFram Ministries
May 22	Resonate Global Mission
May 29	TDChristian High School
June 5	Diaconate & Crosstowne CRC
June 12	Halton Hills Christian School
June 19	Beginnings
June 26	World Renew

### Georgetown Christian Reformed Church

Website: [www.gcrc.on.ca](http://www.gcrc.on.ca)

Member resources sign-in  
password: trafalgar

### Crossroads Deadline for July/August edition

All materials to be submitted by June  
20th to  
[info@gcrc.on.ca](mailto:info@gcrc.on.ca)



## Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn.	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.