

ROSS ROAD

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Helping People Find and Follow Jesus



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Communion & Celebration Sunday

December 20, 2015

Worship Services: 9:00 & 10:45am

Leading Us In Worship
Jaben Schalk & Worship Team

Today's Message:

"God With Us"

1 John 1:1-4

Art Birch

Our Vision...

We envision a Spirit-led church of bold Christ followers, who are experiencing a new freedom in His love and are intentionally leading their friends, neighbours and world to Him.

WELCOME

We are so glad you said 'yes' to God's invitation to be with us today! We'd like to get to know you better! Please take time to fill out one of our **Connect Cards** found in the pews and drop it in the offering bag. *Thank you!*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Join in worship with **Jaben Schalk** and the Worship Team

Guitar - Jaben Schalk

Drums - Sam Stuckey

Media - Jen Bamford

Bass - Nathan Van Rump

Elec. Guitar - Vernon Boschmann

Piano - Lisa Boschmann

the**week**

sunday. december 20

8:30am Prayer Time @ Prayer Room

9:00-10:15am RRCC Worship

10:15-10:30am Hallelujah Chorus practice
@ Fireside room

10:45-12:00pm RRCC Worship

thursday. december. 24

Christmas Eve (Office closes at noon)

4:30-5:45pm Christmas Eve Service

6:00-7:15pm Christmas Eve Service

friday. december. 25

Merry Christmas! (Office is closed)

coming**UP**

sunday. december. 27

One service - 10:00am

monday. december. 28

Church office is closed

thursday. december. 31

Last day to receive donations for 2015

Church office closes at 12:00 noon

friday. january. 01

Church office is closed for New Year's Day

sunday. january. 03

Kids Church and Preschool resumes

sunday. january. 17

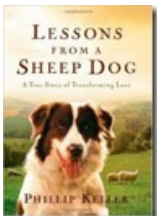
Kids Zone Volunteer Appreciation Dessert Night

LAST WEEK AT RRCC

| Total Nov. & Dec. Income Target | Actual Received | Remaining Target to Meet Total | Attendance |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| \$243,300.00 | \$141,550.00 | (\$101,750.00) | 545 |

All gifts will be received until 12 noon on December 31st, 2015. If you have any questions please contact Phil Giesbrecht (Finance Chairman) or Dale Regier (Finance Liaison).

LIBRARY



In **Lessons from a Sheep Dog**, Phillip Keller presents profound spiritual truth. It is the story of Lass, a worthless animal thought to be untrainable, who becomes a magnificent and valuable sheepdog - not terribly unlike how **God's love can transform our worst characteristics** into blessings that serve to further His Kingdom. Allow yourself to see **Biblical truth in this classic tale** of what can happen when you yield to the Master.

FAMILY NEWS & AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



**Reminder that there will be one service on
December 27th, 2015 at 10:00am.**



Our fiscal year end is quickly approaching! All receipts for 2015 ministry expenses must be turned in to the front office for reimbursement **no later than December 28th, 2015**. Thank you for your co-operation in meeting this deadline.



Christmas Eve - "More Than a Story"

Our Christmas Eve Program this year is entitled "More Than a Story". It will feature a festive blend of music, drama, and inspiring Christmas themes.

Please note that there will be a special offering taken for the Deacon Fund during these services to help those who need it most.

Alone this Christmas?

As family dynamics change it is natural to feel the loss of togetherness particularly during the holidays. If you are in this position, we would like to invite you to join our family to celebrate Christmas Eve after the candlelight service (our doors will be open by 6:00pm so join in after whichever service you attend) for food, games, and time together.

Dan, Alex, Mason, and Claire Schellenberg



Syrian Refugee Response - We would like to move forward in providing help to Syrian refugees. Lord willing, we plan to help through three initiatives:



1. Sponsorship of two refugee families
2. Sending a team to Central Asia next summer to work alongside those who are working with refugees.
3. Providing financial support to support this ongoing need.

In order to move forward, there are two major areas of need - financial resources and human resources. Specifically, at the moment we need people willing to lead the sponsoring team (acting as liaison with MCC, and coordinating volunteers) and the missions team. If you have an interest in serving in either of those capacities, or would like to volunteer in another way, please contact Pastor Art or Dave Rosborough.

KIDS ZONE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Ross Road Kids Zone Appreciation Dessert Night on Sunday, **January 17 at 7:00pm**



Discipleship at Ross Road is key and we are blessed with over 80 volunteers in Kids Zone (Nursery, Preschool, and Juniors) dedicated towards discipling our most impressionable hearts and minds. We want to say, "thank you!"

Please let us know if you can make it by responding to our invite invitation. We'd love to relax together, enjoy some dessert, some fellowship with our teammates and give thanks to God for all that He's doing in and through us. RSVP via your email invite. Didn't get one? Check your junk mail folder or visit www.RossRoadKids.com for the info!

“God With Us”

1 John 1:1-4

Art Birch

Verse 1—Description

Verse 2—Explanation

Verses 3 & 4—Difference

Life

- Personal
- Eternal

That which was from the beginning... (v.1)

...the eternal life... (v. 2)

...which was with the Father... (v. 2)

- Historical

...which we have heard.... (v.1)

...which we have seen with our eyes... (v.1)

...which we have looked at.... (v.1)

...which our hands have touched.... (v.1)

...the life appeared.... (v. 2)

Proclaim

- Testify (v.2)—gets its authority from experience
- Proclaim (vv.2-3)—gets its authority from being authorized

We can know for sure that God became one of us.

Fellowship

Fellowship=Common+Unity=Community

Fellowship=Common+Union=Communion

Difference+Sameness=Community

“At the center of history, over the rubble of failed human community, stands the towering form of the cross. The very shape of the cross suggests the two main transactions that were effected through it.” Gilbert Bilezikian, *Christianity 101*.

God became one of us to invite us into His community.

Joy

4 We write this to make our joy complete.

Joy is made complete in healthy community.

God became one of us to invite us into His community, filling up our joy.

In Preparation for the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015:

How surprising is it that God not only invites us into His community but that the oneness of our community with one another and with Him was and is as central to Jesus' heart as His own relationship with His Father? It's true! Jesus prayed, “Holy Father protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you” (John 17:11, 21). What difference does this realization make to your daily life?

In Preparation for the last Sunday of the year, December 27, 2015:

The birth of Jesus is often celebrated with calm and peaceful recollections of the classic nativity scene, and although that may have been the experience that first Christmas night, the story takes a dramatic and traumatic turn not long after. In preparation for Sunday, December 27th, please read Matthew chapter 2 as we will reflect that morning on Mary and Joseph's refugee experience.

NURSERY CARE

Nursery is available for children from birth to 2 years of age. Our volunteers are police checked and a paging system is provided for your child's safety.

sunday. december. 20

9:00am Ashleigh Esau Angela Rosborough

10:45am Shana Evans Sarah Hayashida

sunday. december. 27

10:00am Rhonda Janzen Larelle Wiebe
Allie Janzen

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Merry Christmas! We're done for 2015 but lots of great stuff awaits in 2016. Be sure to mark **JANUARY 03** on your calendar and bring your friends! Check back here for more info on the next few months of youth.

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Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-25-2009

WELCOME TO THE STABLE ... PLEASE LEAVE ANY KNIVES OR WALKING STICKS WITH THE HORSE, IF YOU SMOKE WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE DO SO OUTSIDE, FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED INSIDE THE MANGER ROOM ...

COLLEGE & CAREER



Merry Christmas to all and we will see you again in the new year when C & C resumes.

For up-to-date info, check out our **Facebook page: RRCC C&C.**

KIDS MINISTRY

Kids Zone exists to partner with our Ross Road parents in the intentional discipleship of our children. We are one big family across many generations.

Today:

- Preschool available @ 9:00am service. (Currently, no 2nd service Preschool.)
- Grade 1-5 in the main gathering with parents for Celebration Sunday / 4th Advent

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Sunday, Dec 27th - Celebration Sunday, one service 10:00am, parent-led preschool
- Sunday, Jan 3rd - Jr. Kids Church, Parent-led Preschool, 2nd service Preschool back on.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

May this season be one of reflection of the sacrifice Christ our Saviour made for all! See you again in 2016! We will kick off the new year on **JANUARY 07**, so mark your calendars.

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Thanks to Allen 12-16-2013

WHILE SHEPHERDS DECKED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

OUR OTHER RRCC MISSIONARIES

Paul & Edna Cairns – in Chilliwack with Transport for Christ

Otto & Marjorie Ekk – in Portugal with MB Mission

Cynthia Friesen – in Thailand with MB Mission

Rob & Judy Griffioen – in Abbotsford with Good News International Ministries

S & B – in Central Asia with MB Mission

Dwayne & Helen Rainwater – in Africa with Pioneer Bible Translators

Jason & Stephanie Shellborn (Madison, Hudson & London) – in Abbotsford with Discipleship International

Al & Karen Stobbe (Karissa & Natasha) – in Abbotsford with MB Mission

Rachael Wiebe – in Winnipeg with MB Mission

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Beth Scholes – in Abbotsford with FamilyLife

FamilyLife has partnered with Breakforth Canada for January 2016. It promises to be a wonderful event with an amazing speaker lineup and theme of extravagant grace. Check breakforthcanada.com for more information.

Beth's Content Role

- The FamilyLife marriage conference season is going well. In November, Beth attended the Whistler conference and took many pages of notes to write into website content.
- The FamilyLife web stats are WAY up; averaging, over 19,000 views per month from 6,000 since launching our new website, just over a year ago.

Prayer:

- FamilyLife's resources reaches those in need, through events and online.
- Beth to identify new authors and engaging topics for original online content.
- Energy, as Beth juggles family, work and school.

Scholes' Family Update

We are grateful for family, friends, and health. Beth, Sam, and Olivia just finished fall semester at our local university. Sophie attends grade 10 and loves horses. Darcy is juggling MB Mission and MB Conference duties. We are busy, healthy and grateful. Christmas brings Darcy's family (even dogs) to our home. We are blessed. The New Year brings back to school for 4 of us and work for all 5.

PRAYER & PRAISE

Shirley Moerike

Please continue to pray for Walt Letkeman, Curtis Albright, and Debbie Bracewell for renewed strength and healing.

PRAYER REQUEST



Please pray for **AK** serving with MB Mission in a restricted area.

PASTORAL TEAM:

Art Birch - Lead Pastor
Associate Pastors
Darren Petker - Adult Ministry
Matt Hildebrand - Student Ministry
Dave Rodda - Worship Ministry
Merri Ellen Giesbrecht - Kids Ministry

ELDER TEAM:

Barry Jackson, Moderator
Michael Blouin **Vic Martens**
Bob Regier **Dale Regier**
Dave Rosborough **Al Stobbe**

PRAYER CHAIN: **Doreen Froese**
Clare Senek
Frieda Neufeld



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