

ROSS ROAD

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Helping People Find and Follow Jesus

November 27, 2016

“Light in Our Darkness”

Isaiah 8:22-9:5

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 **Dave Rodda** and the Worship Team.

- Guitar** - Dave Rodda
E. Guitar - Rob Herrett
Bass - Graeme McAllister
- Vocals** - Brigitte Friesen
Vocals - Eleanor Kent
Drums - Holly McLean
- Piano** - Marilyn Herrett
Audio - Bryce Unraw
Media - Elena Unraw

the week

sunday. november. 27

- 8:30 amPrayer Time @ Prayer Room
- 9:00-10:15 amFirst service
“A Christmas Carol” Advent devotional @ Prayer Room
- 10:00-10:45 amCoffee and snacks
@ Common Grounds
- 10:45-12:00 pmSecond service
- 6:30 pm“A Christmas Carol” Advent devotional
@ Prayer Room
- 7:00-10:00 pmYoung Adults @ Fireside Room

monday. november. 28

- 7:00-9:00 pmMiddle School Youth

tuesday. november. 29

- 9:00-11:00 amWomen’s Ministry Bible Study
- 7:00-9:00 pmWomen’s Ministry Bible Study

thursday. december. 01

- 7:00-9:30 pmHigh School Youth

friday. december. 02

- 5:00-12:00 amLadies Chat ’n’ Craft

saturday. december. 03

- 1:30-3:30 pmTea and Tinsel Event

coming up

sunday. december. 04

- Encore Advent Dessert Evening

saturday. december. 10

- Mens Drop-In Hockey

saturday. december. 17

- Mens Drop-In Hockey

sunday. december. 18

- Kids Christmas Program @ 10:00 am
RRCC serving at Tabor Ministries

saturday. december. 24

- Christmas Eve service @ 5:00 pm

sunday. december. 25

- Christmas Day brunch and worship @ 10:00 am

monday-tuesday. december. 26-27

- Church office is closed

friday. december. 30

- Last day the church office is open for 2016
donations

sunday, january. 01

- One service @ 10:00 am

monday, january. 02

- Church office is closed

LAST WEEK AT RRCC			
Church Ministries	Other	Building	Attendance
\$13,064.43	\$2,100.00	\$0.00	345

MESSAGE FROM THE ELDERS

Thank you to all who have shared your personal insights and perspectives to help us better understand how our church can learn from what our recent challenges have revealed.

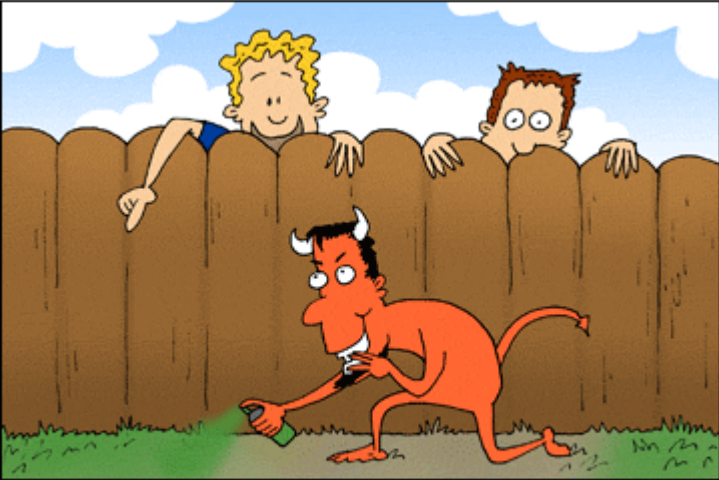



After our last regular meeting October 18th, the Elders have met on Nov. 1st, 10th, and 17th to pray, to listen to each other, and to hear God’s direction going forward. We invited someone to our last meeting who has significant experience in developing agreement where there has been discord. We sought his wisdom to discern if we are on the right path. After our next regular meeting on November 29th, we will meet again December 1st to develop our next steps. Please pray for us to have godly wisdom as we honestly assess our shortcomings and discern how God wants to help us heal and grow.

We believe it’s important to identify and resolve the root causes that have contributed to several seasons of discord in our last 10-15 years. The recent gender role study is one example, but there are others as well. By doing this thoughtfully it will enable us to hear what God wants to teach us about ministry together and allow us to clarify our practices and expectations as a church family. Our desire is for this to be a renewing and stretching process that God uses to shape us as individuals and together as a body. We can set new directions and patterns to minimize distractions that interrupt us. We can refocus more keenly on our mutual desire to be a place of hope and healing in our community. As a church, we want to emerge healthier and more effective in our mission of Helping People Find and Follow Jesus.

We invite you to all prepare your hearts and allow God to teach and apply His reenergizing healing in us personally and as a family. Let’s begin anticipating together how God will bring good out of every experience and use it all to help us love and live more like Jesus.

Your Elder Team

NURSERY CARE	KIDS MINISTRY
<i>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.</i>	<i>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.</i>
sunday. november. 27 9:00 am Vicki Lin Sam Teichrob 10:45 am Rosabelle Birch Karissa Stobbe	Today: Kids Church for ages 2-5 in both services, grades 1-5 @ 9:00am. Countdown to Advent! Check out page 9 in the bulletin for your Advent colouring page!
sunday. december. 04 9:00 am Sarah & Jaben Schalk 10:45 am Danica Neufeldt Betty Lou Hildebrandt	

YOUTH	ENCORE (55 +/-)
<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH - mondays @ 7:00-9:00pm</p> <p>Middle School! Check with interns Holly and Nick for more information on this week's Middle School youth night!</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH - thursdays @ 7:00-9:30pm</p> <p>High School! Check with interns Holly and Nick for more information on this week's High School youth night!</p> <div data-bbox="45 842 760 1457"> <p>REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY</p>  <p>Thanks to Greg Ballos 12-06-2006 HEY LOOK, THE GRASS REALLY IS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE!</p> </div>	<p>ENCORE ADVENT DESSERT NIGHT sunday. december. 04</p> <p>Encore will be hosting an Advent Dessert Evening featuring the Fraser Valley Quartet on Sunday, December 4th at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$8 each and need to be purchased by today from Elisabeth Klassen.</p> <p>WOMEN'S MINISTRY</p> <p>LADIES CHAT 'n' CRAFT - friday. december. 02, 5:00-12:00 am</p> <p>Join us this Friday for Chat 'n' Craft in the Fireside Room. This will be another one-nighter, come for as much or as little of the evening as you can. For more info, contact Ruby Setchay or the church office.</p> <div data-bbox="1320 867 1581 1049">  </div> <p>TEA AND TINSEL - saturday. december. 03 1:30-3:30 pm</p> <p>Kids Zone & Women's Ministry are joining together to bring you an intergenerational Christmas event. Girls from Kids Zone age all the way to girls at heart Encore age! Girls, sisters, daughters, friends, moms, aunts, grandmas, single or married, with children or without, everyone is invited! Please join us for a simple afternoon of fellowship, treats, singing, a craft, and a movie as we celebrate the legacy of our very own women of faith here at Ross Road Church. Tickets on sale now! \$3.00 for one ticket or \$5.00 for two.</p>
<p>LEAD</p> <div data-bbox="12 1589 302 1684">  </div> <p>LEAD is off to a great start but we'd love to have you join us anytime. If you have a desire to grow spiritually, or are willing to invest in mentoring others (in itself a great way to grow), please send an email to lead@rossroadcc.ca -- or you can chat with Karen Stobbe or Clive Russell to get more info.</p>	
<p>MEN'S MINISTRY</p> <p>DROP IN ICE HOCKEY saturday. december. 10 10:30-11:30 pm @ ARC, \$10</p> <p>For more information or to book your spot call/text Will Wall.</p> <div data-bbox="636 2287 794 2449">  </div>	<p>YOUNG ADULTS</p> <p>sunday. november. 27 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room</p> <p>For up-to-date info, check out our Facebook page: RRCC C&C.</p>



ARE YOU PLUGGED IN?

Looking for ways to get connected here at Ross Road? There are several ways to plug in here!

Small Groups - Gatherings of 8-12 people who meet regularly to encourage, learn, pray and share life together. We are looking to set up some more small groups, so if you are interested please contact Bob Regier, Teresa Regier, or the church office.

Serve! - Ever wonder how you can get involved? Do you see areas of ministry that could use an extra hand? We want to make you feel at home here and give you every opportunity to find a place that uses your spiritual gifts and talents. Areas of need right now: ushers, usher coordinator, nursery volunteers, nursery coordinator, grade 2/3 girls Sunday School teacher, Preschool 2 year old and 3 year old teachers, and Common Grounds servers.

We can find something that will match your schedule and time restraints !

CHURCH NEWS & UPDATES



Important Christmas Dates:



Children's Christmas Program - December 18th, 10:00 am
Please note there will only be one service.



Christmas Eve service - December 24th, 5:00 pm

Christmas Day Brunch and service - December 25th, 10:00 am

Church office is closed - December 26th-27th.



Last day the church office is open for 2016 donations - December 30th, until 4:00 pm.



New Year's Day service - January 1st, 10:00 am.

Church office is closed - Monday, January 2nd.



Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is a much loved story that is an amazing Gospel presentation. Beginning today, November 27th, there will be an Advent devotional series of discussions in the Prayer Room Sunday mornings during first service and in the evenings at 6:30 pm. Come and join Carol McLean as we journey back in time to hear the Gospel presented in a different era and the theological, historical and sociological reasons for Dickens' writing this tale of the three spirits that teach the Advent Candles' lessons of Hope, Faith, Peace, Love and Joy. For more info, call Carol McLean.

Light in Our Darkness

Isaiah 8:22 - 9:5

Art Birch

“Maher-shalal-hash-baz” - Quick to the plunder, quick to the spoil!

Deep Darkness - Isaiah 8:21-22

Political Darkness

- Isaiah 1:23 - Rebel Rulers

- Isaiah 6:11-12 - Utter Ruin

Moral Darkness

- Isaiah 2:17 - Arrogance

- Isaiah 3:5 - Cruelty

- Isaiah 3:16 - Sensuality

- Isaiah 5:7 - Assault & Murder

- Isaiah 5:11 - Drunkenness

- Isaiah 5:20 Inverted Values

- Isaiah 5:21-23 - Foolishness, Drunkenness, Injustice

Spiritual Darkness

- Isaiah 1:2 - Rebellion against God
- Isaiah 1:4 - Turned backs on God
- Isaiah 1:15 - Futile Prayers
- Isaiah 2:6 - Occult
- Isaiah 2:22 - Trust in mere humans

Soul Searching Questions

Are we drawn to comforts, conveniences, and luxuries that we don't need more than drawn to sacrifice for the advance of God's kingdom?

Are we arrogant?

Are we wise in our own eyes and clever in our own sight?

Do we make life difficult for the people around us?

Do we stand up for the oppressed, for the person getting dumped on, the person being bullied?

Are we enslaved by destructive habits around alcohol, or drugs, or food, or relationships or ...?

Do we have a godly view of our sexuality or one that is twisted and self-serving?

Do we flirt with the occult?

Do we give others the respect that is their due? Do we respect women, men, our children, our elders, our leaders, our teachers, our employers, our friends, our enemies?

Are you struggling with dark circumstances? A difficult job? A struggling marriage? Impossible family problems? Discouraging health issues? Deep loneliness? Financial pressure? Business stress?

What is our posture towards God?

No darkness is so deep the Light cannot dispel it!

A Great Light - Isaiah 9:1-5

- Matthew 4:12-16
- John 7:52
- John 8:12

For Personal Reflection and Discussion with Friends and Family:

What is the darkness that most troubles you as you look around our world? At your life circumstances? Within yourself? Do you believe that no darkness is so deep the Light cannot dispel it? What challenges this belief? What strengthens it? In what new or renewed way do you think the Light of the World may want to shine in and through you this season?

In Preparation for the Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2016:

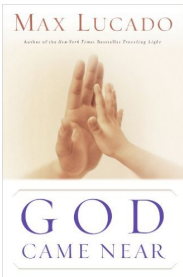
Our key word is "Promise." Of the many wonderful promises, which foretold and identified the Messiah we have chosen Jeremiah 33:14-16. In preparation, read Jeremiah 33 and as much of the context in Jeremiah as you can manage. What do you think this promise meant to Jeremiah who was being held as a prisoner? What might it have meant for spiritually sensitive people who were taking Jeremiah seriously? What might it mean for you?



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FEATURED LIBRARY BOOK



It all happened in a moment -- a most remarkable moment. **God came near.** Travel back in time and relive Christ the Son of God becoming man. Come with **Max Lucado** as he brings to life the most important event in history ... when God came near. And as you catch a vision of this incredible moment, let it mark the beginning of a new life for yourself.

PRAYER REQUEST



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

OUR RRCC MISSIONARIES

Don't forget to check the Missionary bulletin board for the latest update letters from our missionaries!

- Paul & Edna Cairns** – in Chilliwack with Transport for Christ
- Otto & Marjorie Ekk** – in Portugal with MB Mission
- Janice Esau** – in the Dominican with Multi-Nation Missions Foundation
- Cynthia Friesen** – in Thailand with MB Mission
- Rob & Judy Griffioen** – in Abbotsford with Good News International Ministries
- H & E** – in Central Asia with MB Mission
- S & B** – in Central Asia with MB Mission
- Lauren Neudorf** – in Cambodia with Youth With A Mission
- Dwayne & Helen Rainwater** – in Africa with Pioneer Bible Translators
- Beth Scholes** – in Abbotsford with FamilyLife
- Jason & Stephanie Shellborn** (Madison, Hudson, London & Brooklyn) – 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

Otto & Marjorie Ekk – in Portugal with MB Mission

We just want to thank you so much for keeping us in your prayers. Good things are happening in Portugal, not only in our churches but in our social projects also. In the last years we have gotten involved in other areas of life that are getting us as church people more involved in the lives of the Portuguese people around us. I am very involved in the Second Hand Store where we meet people weekly coming into the store to buy clothes, talk with us and even share their joys and hurts in life. We get many opportunities to share God’s love with these people. We even have a teenage girl come in after school to be tutored by our store manager. This girl’s mother with tears in her eyes said she attributed her daughter passing the year because of her coming to the store to study. They have started coming to the church. We see our Second Hand Store as bridging the gap between people walking on the sidewalk and coming into the church. Pray for us in this area!

We also would like you to know that Otto and I are in California at this time. We are currently needing to do some fundraising for the many projects that we are involved in. You may be tired of hearing this but the financial crisis in Europe especially in Portugal has hit the Portuguese people very hard. Our store and the appliance repair shop are small ways of helping our church people stay in Portugal and not migrate to other countries because of jobs.

As of December 1st, Otto and I will be on a much needed sabbatical here in California. We are tired and need time to reflect and plan for the future with the work God has given us in Portugal. Please pray for us during this time that God will restore and renew our vision for the future. You will be hearing more about this in the near future.

Blessings,

Marjorie & Otto

PRAYER & PRAISE

Debbie Bracewell

Gerd Loewen

Walt Letkeman

Please pray for those who are dealing with ongoing struggles in their lives - whether it be illness, spiritual battles, the loss of a loved one, or financial difficulties. Pray that God provides them with comfort, patience, endurance and strength in their daily lives.

PASTORAL TEAM:

Art Birch - Lead Pastor

Curtis Congo - Interim Adult Ministry

Dave Rodda - Worship Ministry

Elaine Regier - Kids Ministry Coordinator

Holly McLean - Student Ministry Intern

Nick Parker - Student Ministry Intern

Darren Petker - Adult Ministry (On leave)

Merri Ellen Giesbrecht - Kids Ministry (On leave)

ELDER TEAM:

Barry Jackson, Moderator

Len Loewen

Vic Martens

Bob Regier

Dale Regier

Al Stobbe

PRAYER CHAIN: Doreen Froese



Find RRCC on:



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