

THE LINK



Weekly Newsletter of the Christian Reformed Church of Perth Inc.
Postal Address: 49 Grace Street, Ferndale, 6148

5 Colombo Street
Victoria Park.
Worship Services
9:30 am and 5.30 pm

Pastor: Reinier Noppers
273 Station Street
EAST CANNINGTON 6107
Phone: 9356 7490.

CHRISTIAN WHEATBELT FELLOWSHIP

Pastor: Geoff Van Schie
6 Booth Street,
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Church Website:
www.crcperth.org.au

Sunday 10th August 2014 AD

Worship Services In Perth

TODAY

9.30 Am	Rev. John de Jongh <u>Readings:</u> Isaiah 42: 1 -7. <u>Text:</u> Acts 26: 12 – 20.
5.30	Rev. Peter Kossen “ <i>Loving God with all our Mind</i> ” <u>Reading & Text:</u> Matthew 22: 34 – 40.

NEXT SUNDAY

9.30 Am	Pastor Reinier Noppers
5.30 Pm	Pastor Reinier Noppers

WELCOME

*A warm welcome to all of you who have come to the services today, and a special welcome to visitors.
May the Lord bless each of us as we worship together: that His Name may be glorified and we
encouraged and strengthened in faith*

Meditation

The Trinity

"Good teachers are big talkers," he said to me. I found this an interesting observation since this was coming from a man who had spent his entire life preparing teachers to teach in elementary schools. "They are people who are effusive ubiquitous in their interaction with people. They 'are everywhere, all the time, talking."

From our experience, and the testimony of

scripture, our God seems to be like that - effusive, loquacious. Think of the Bible as a long story of God's attempted conversation with humanity. We keep rejecting the words of God, turning in another direction, worshipping false gods, attempting to hide, evade, or end the conversation. But God keeps coming back to us. God comes to us in the lives of the patriarchs, in the words of the prophets, in the gift of God's law. Then, stopping at nothing, God comes to us as the Son - as Jesus. Even

when we hung him on a cruel cross, thinking that had probably ended relations between us and God, in three days, God came back to us as the risen Christ. God keeps coming back, again, and even again.

On Pentecost we conclude the church's celebration of the great 50 days of Easter; God's supreme coming back to us in the resurrected Christ. But we end Easter in the confidence that we do not end God's continuing conversation with us. This God is loquacious, effusive,

One way the church has historically attempted to talk about God's effusiveness, God's ubiquitous and loquaciousness is through the Trinity. Don't think of the Trinity as some incomprehensible doctrine of the church, though God's plenitude is often beyond our incomprehension. Think of the Trinity as our earnest, though groping attempt, somehow to put into words what we have experienced of the overflowing love of God.

"We might have been able to say, at some early point, "We all believe in the same God." However, we believe that God came to us as Jesus. We believe that Jesus is God. And after experiencing that, all of our notions of God had to go back to the drawing table. If Jesus Christ is God, then we have a challenge in talking about God.

When God came to us as the Son, Incarnate in Jesus, God did not have to say, "Call me by my proper name, Trinity." God didn't have to. We did. That is, on the basis of our experience of God as complex, ubiquitous, and overflowing with love as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we just naturally started speaking of God as Trinity. We experienced God in these ways. Though it was the same God that we had experienced as the great creator of the world, the Father of Israel, now we also experienced God in the flesh as Son, as the power flowing from God, the Holy Spirit.

There is a modern word for talking about this dynamic structure synergy. Within the Trinity, there is constant movement, interaction, as the Father gives to the Son, and the Son is constantly returning praise and glory

to the Father, and the Father and the Son give to the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit constantly draws everything back to the Father and the Son. There is the beloved, the lover, and the love.

Not long ago, at a party, a friend and I watched a skillful hostess work the room filled with her guests. She moved from one person to the next, introducing people, helping them to meet one another, helping them to make contact, making community out of a group of strangers. "She's a perfect host," I said. She wasn't going to rest until everyone had been brought into the party. She was going to use any means at her disposal to get everyone connected, involved.

God, says the doctrine of the Trinity, is just like that.

William H. Willimon, excerpted with permission from Pulpit Resource, © Logos Productions.

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Once again we extend a warm welcome to **John de Jongh** who will lead us in worship this morning, and **Peter Kossen** who will lead us in worship this evening as part of our regularly monthly Classis exchange. It is good to have you with us and we pray that God will bless you both and bless us through your ministry.

This morning I have the privilege to sit and listen, ☺ and this evening I will be leading worship in Gosnells.

Next Sunday morning we again have the opportunity to celebrate the **Lord's Supper** together. With that in mind it is appropriate for all of us to examine ourselves, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:28. This is not about finding ourselves as good enough, but rather realising we are acceptable only in Christ's sacrifice, and that on that basis we want to live a life that glorifies God and loves and serves our neighbour. Any visitors who would like to

attend with us are asked to approach a member of session before the service next Sunday.

Classis WA meets this Saturday in Australind, please keep the Classis in your prayers that discussions and decisions made may be to the glory of God and the upbuilding of His church and Kingdom.

AGM: Sunday 31st August after the morning service. Please do make the effort to come along, as this too is part of our response of gratitude to the Lord. All of us need to make these decisions together and then commit to meeting the budget we have passed.

Catechism: as usual this Monday afternoon and evening: please let me know if you are unable to make it.

Pastor Reinier

Announcements

- It is with joyful anticipation that we look forward to celebrating **Lord's Supper** next Sunday 17th August in the morning service. If you are a visitor or expect to bring visitors please be aware that we practice a supervised table. If you trust in Jesus alone for your salvation and are a member in good standing in your own church then we'd love to welcome you to the Lord's Supper, but please first make yourself known to one of the elders.
- **Ladies Craft Group** meets again this Wednesday DV 9.30 Am at the church. We'll do some prick & stitch. All welcome. Morning tea – Hetty.
- **Wilson Fellowship Group** meets again DV this Wednesday 7.30 Am at the Zoethout's place. We will be watching a DVD. All welcome.
- The **Annual General Meeting** of the Christian Reformed Church of Perth Inc. will be held the Lord willing after the morning service of **Sunday 31st August**. All documentation will be in your pigeonholes 17th August.
- **Gems** will meet Friday 7 Pm at the Gosnells church. **Supper: Verkerk.**
- **Classis WA** will meet the Lord willing **8.30 Am** at the CRC Australind this coming Saturday.

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Happy Birthday

John O'Sullivan

Tuesday 12th August

Yvonne Herft

Wednesday 13th August

*You're indeed a year older but also a year wiser. May the blessings of our God enrich you from within
We hope that this new year will be filled with the Grace of God as well as peace, happiness and love.*

Financial Church Update

Weekly income required as per budget:

\$2,726.00

To date required 5 weeks: **\$13,630.00**

Income received to date: **\$9,614.65**

Budget shortfall as of today: **\$4,015.35**

BoM

GEMS Helpers Needed!

GEMS have been blessed with a group of 20 girls this year and with only 4 leaders we'd really love some more help! If you are female member of the church and would be able to share 2 hours of your time on a Friday night or if you have a skill that you could teach the girls e.g. knitting, crocheting, painting, etc, then we'd love to hear from you!

If we get enough helpers then you'd only be required for one or two nights during the year. No preparation would be required of you as a helper, just turn up on the night and lend a hand where needed.

A typical night might ask you to help set up supper or crafts in the first hour and then help the girls doing an activity or craft.

GEMS is run fortnightly on a Friday night from 7pm - 9pm at Gosnells CRC and has girls in grades 2 - 8. If you are able to assist or want more information please contact Clarissa Swarts on 0413 900 664.

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NEWS FROM OTHER CHURCHES AUSTRALIND:

- The **Oppelaar family** are grieving the loss of Michael Oppelaar son of the late Rev Pim Oppelaar who was minister of this church 3 times at Brunswick Junction.
- **Rob & Margaret Hemelaar** planning to move back to Perth as Rob has taken early retirement from the Police force.

- Country members **George & Mariette du Preez** have shifted from Newman to Perth.
- **Jude Deighton** underwent surgery in Perth last Tuesday to correct severe kidney reflux.

GOSNELLS:

- **Gerry van der Zouwen** of Manohar Homes was taken to be with his Lord on Saturday after a short fight against an infection that wouldn't respond to antibiotics. A funeral service was held last Friday at Fremantle Cemetery and Gosnells church.
- Congratulations to **Johanna Valom** on her engagement to **Jordon Faletti**.
- **Phil Hondema** has moved to Karatha.

Please uphold our dear brothers and sisters in prayer, many for healing and others for safe travels

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Catalyst magazine for June/July has arrived! You can download it via <http://wp.me/p2yiOn-30> For those not on email, limited copies have been placed on church table. Enjoy the read. *Az.*

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SENIOR MEN OF OUR CHURCHES

We will meet again, Lord willing, on **TUESDAY 19th AUGUST**.

This month we have a joint meeting with the Senior Men of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bull Creek and will meet at the **WPC Bull Creek Church, 32 Bull Creek Drive, BULL CREEK**.

As they start their meeting a little earlier, please arrive by 9.30am.

Also, we have invited **CARL CARMODY** from **CHALLENGE NEWSPAPER** to be our guest speaker.

Should be a great meeting again.

Everyone very welcome!

Jan Peletier

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Peter Abetz will be repeating his presentation from Gosnells on "Human Trafficking and Prostitution Law Reform" which is based on his research over the past 30 years and recent 3 week study tour to France, Sweden and South Korea. This will be held at Mt Pleasant Baptist Church at 7:30pm on August 11.

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Men's Convention

Date: August 30. **Speaker:**

Tim Thorburn (Currently leads a ministry team at UWA).
Topic: Make Your Life Count – living in the light of eternity.

Venue: Woodvale Baptist church. **Standard:** \$45/Conc. \$35/Son \$10 **Register at:** <http://pmc.ccowa.org/>

Should be a great God-honouring day as hundreds of blokes and their sons spend time with other Champions See or text Ron Bergsma for car-pooling on 0488 611 224

Creation Meeting with Dr David Catchpoole and Prof. Stuart Burgess @ Gosnells CRC. Thurs 21st August, 7:30pm.

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uni-ready seminar for parents,

For many parents sending a first child to university is another transition time to navigate. First it was school, and then high school, and now University. And it can be a time of worry, uncertainty, and simply just a change that springs up unexpected. It's strange that we prepare our children for growing up, and when it comes, it can feel like they might be more ready than we are.

The **uni-ready seminar for parents**, is about helping parents know what uni life is like now, so they can continue to support and help their child through this next life change.

The Seminar is run by Christian Union (CU) staff-workers, who spend their days on the university campus working with students. While our work at CU is about helping Christian students navigate life in the university environment, the seminar however, would be good for any parent just wondering about what uni is like now. Anyone is welcome and will benefit from the general advice regardless of their faith or the faith of their child.

Please do contact me if you have any questions or queries. I hope you can make the information available to parents. You can promote the event by

- **Giving out brochures and telling people**
- **Putting a note in a school or church newsletter**
- **Putting a Power-point of the seminar up at church or on an advertising screen**

For more brochures or a ppt slide please contact brad@uni-ready.com

Thanks for your help in supporting this new and helpful venture.

uni-ready seminar for parents

Tuesday 12 AUGUST

7:30pm-9pm,

COST: \$10 per person \$15 per couple

**WHERE: Riverton Baptist Church,
38 Modillion Avenue, Shelley, WA.**

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WD&R.

Our second offering today is for the World Diaconal & Relief. This is a committee in our denomination that oversees our Diaconal and relief work around the globe. As we have several offerings a year for this work it is good to know what the committee does.

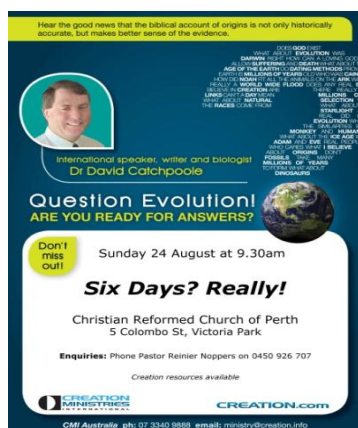
One aspect to their work is disaster relief. This committee is charged with coordinating special appeals, and channelling the funds in a responsible way to help in disaster situations.

Over recent years we've seen a number of appeals including the Haiti Earthquake appeal, India flood appeal, Pakistan flood appeal, Queensland flood appeal, Burma cyclone appeal.

More recently, there was an appeal for Syria. These all add up! One of the difficulties is that the results of all this giving are not tangible. Nevertheless, we can continue to pray that the Lord will use this giving to continue to bless others and bring much Spiritual fruit.

CvE

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Evidence for Design

Evidence for design abounds. Even some ardent atheists acknowledge this, but they deny the need for a *Designer*, attributing it to 'evolution'. Modern science reveals design that 'shouts out' that God created, as the Bible says.

Dr David Catchpoole will present some of this faith-affirming evidence that will astound you in ***Six Days? Really!*** at 9.30am on Sunday 24 August 2014.

This would be a good opportunity to invite some friends or neighbours: a resource display will also be set up to help us be equipped to share with friends and family. Flyers are available on the table to hand out to those you may wish to invite: some smaller ones to pop into letter boxes in your neighbourhood; if there are not enough please see me (RN) for more.

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MERF UPDATE ABOUT IRAQ

Daily there is fresh Middle East news: from Iraq, Syria, Israel, Palestine and other Arab and Muslim lands – more violence and more deaths! Ramadan, the annual Muslim lunar month of fasting, was in July. Arab news reporters observed that it has been the worst Ramadan in centuries – calamities impacted more lives than ever.

For the first time in centuries, an Islamic Caliphate was re-established by Sunni militants who seized parts of Iraq and Syria. They come from every continent and region of the world. A longstanding dream has dawned – an Islamic state, strictly run by Qur'anic teachings and religious edicts (Fatwas) patterned on their prophet Mohammed's 14-century old Arabic desert words and deeds.

Christians, other minorities and women have become the main victims. Tens of thousands of Iraqi Christian families of central and northern Iraq and several thousand of north-eastern Syria have been forced to abandon homes, jobs and everything, running for their lives to parts of the country not yet controlled by the newly-declared Caliph (Successor to Mohammed). They were not allowed to take more than the clothes on their backs, not even prescribed medications for the sick and elderly. The choice was: convert to Islam or leave the newly-declared "Islamic nation" or be executed by sword! Most walked miles in the heat to meet the midday deadline, the elderly and sick being carried on make-shift stretchers. Not unlike what many early Christians faced!

To the alarm of most Muslims, another Fatwa was announced requiring all Muslim women and girls under the age of 46 to undergo traditional female "circumcision." This practice, termed female genital mutilation (FGM), is well-documented to be seriously health and life threatening to women and their babies.

The famous Arab journalist, Farida Shobashi, reacted: "Horrible stuff is imposed on human beings in the 21st century...it cannot be from God, any God...!" She added: "...How can the so-called free world tolerate such injustice to peace-loving, harmless Christians and helpless women who happen to be Muslims?" Thousands of Arabic newspaper articles and Internet blogs agree with her. They have condemned the new Caliph.

There remains comfort in all of this—there is more disenchantment with Islam. It is also an affirmation that the Lord has called us to actively share the liberating Gospel alternative

to the many more ready for new life in Christ. We have been given the vision, commitment, talents and media resources to reach more of them than any previous age since the rise of Islam. Thanks be to God for His promises: "...the sufferings of this present time are not comparable to the glory that is to be revealed...all things work together for good..." (Romans 8:18-30)

WHAT MERF IS DOING

Until two years ago MERF was supporting believers across the Presbyterian Church in Iraq. Tragically, due the instability originally caused by the US invasion of Iraq there ceased to be any reliable contacts with the Presbyterian Church to whom we could channel funds.

Now it is only through Syria and Lebanon that we can help. It is estimated that at least 16,000 Iraqi Christian families have entered Lebanon in the past two weeks alone. Many more are now in Syria. Others have relatives and other contacts and are receiving aid through UN and other secular agencies in the Kurdish controlled northern regions of Iraq.

We will work closely with Lebanon Reformed Fellowship and the brethren in Syria to do what we can to help.

Please uphold this situation in your prayers before our Sovereign Lord,

In His Name,
Victor Atallah

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Prof. Boer: I was wrong — euthanasia has a slippery slope

In 2001, the Netherlands was the first country in the world to legalize euthanasia and, along with it, assisted suicide. Various safeguards were put in place to show who should qualify, and doctors acting in accordance with these safeguards would not be prosecuted.

Because each case is unique, five regional review committees were installed to assess every case and to decide whether it complied with the law. For five years after the law became effective, such physician-induced deaths remained level — and even fell in some

years. In 2007, I wrote that "there doesn't need to be a slippery slope when it comes to euthanasia. A good euthanasia law, in combination with the euthanasia review procedure, provides the warrants for a stable and relatively low number of euthanasia."

Most of my colleagues drew the same conclusion.

But we were wrong — terribly wrong, in fact. In hindsight, the stabilization in the numbers was just a temporary pause. Beginning in 2008, the numbers of these deaths show an increase of 15 per cent annually, year after year. The annual report of the committees for 2012 recorded 4,188 cases (compared with 1,882 in 2002). Last year saw a continuation of this trend, and I expect the 6,000 line to be crossed this year or the next. Euthanasia is on the way to becoming a default mode of dying for cancer patients.

Alongside this escalation, other developments have taken place. Under the name End of Life Clinic, the Dutch Right to Die Society NVVE founded a network of travelling euthanizing doctors. Whereas the law presupposes (but does not require) an established doctor-patient relationship, in which death might be the end of a period of treatment and interaction, doctors of the End of Life Clinic have only two options: administer life-ending drugs or send the patient away. On average, these physicians see a patient three times before administering drugs to end their life.

Hundreds of cases were conducted by the End of Life Clinic. The group shows no signs of being satisfied even with these developments. They will not rest until a lethal pill is made available to anyone over 70 years who wishes to die. Some slopes truly are slippery.

Other developments include a shift in the type of patients who receive these treatments. Whereas in the first years after 2002, hardly any patients with psychiatric illnesses or dementia appear in reports, these numbers are now sharply on the rise. Cases have been reported in which a large part of the suffering

of those given euthanasia or assisted suicide consisted of being aged, lonely or bereaved. Some of these patients could have lived for years or decades.

Whereas the law sees assisted suicide and euthanasia as an exception, public opinion is shifting toward considering them rights, with corresponding duties on doctors to act.

A law that is now in the making obliges doctors who refuse to administer euthanasia to refer their patients to a "willing" colleague. Pressure on doctors to conform to patients' (or in some cases, relatives') wishes can be intense. Pressure from relatives, in combination with a patient's concern for the well-being of his beloved, is in some cases an important factor behind a euthanasia request. Not even the review committees, despite hard and conscientious work, have been able to halt these developments.

I used to be a supporter of legislation. But now, with 12 years of experience, I take a different view. At the very least, wait for an honest and intellectually satisfying analysis of the reasons behind the explosive increase in the numbers. Is it because the law should have had better safeguards? Or is it because the mere existence of such a law is an invitation to see assisted suicide and euthanasia as a normality instead of a last resort?

Before those questions are answered, don't go there.

Once the genie is out of the bottle, it is not likely to ever go back in again.

Theo Boer is professor of ethics at the Protestant Theological University at Groningen, Netherlands. For nine years, he was a member of a regional euthanasia review committee. The views expressed in this article, which was written for Britain's Daily Mail, represent his views as a professional ethicist, not of any institution.

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CROQUETTES

To place your orders, please ring:
Corrie 9398 8340, Gerrie 9394 0494, or Keemie 9398 3658
All funds raised go to Electric Bed Number 4 – Manoah Hostel.

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RTC Preaching Conference 2014

Thursday 25 and Friday 26 September



POWER in weakness

living and preaching
the message of 2 Corinthians

Speakers:

David Jones - Anne St Presbyterian, Brisbane
Murray Capill - RTC Principal
John de Hoog - RTC Lecturer
Martin Williams - RTC Lecturer

www.rtc.edu.au

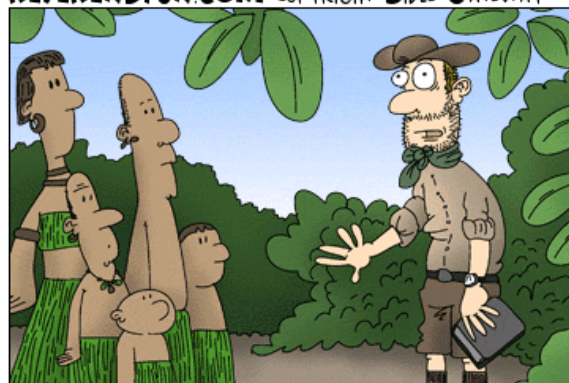
We're thrilled to announce the launch of Dr Murray Capill's latest book, *The Heart is the Target*. The launch will take place as part of the RTC's annual Preaching Conference – this year titled **POWER in weakness: living and preaching the message of 2 Corinthians**.

We'd love for you to come along for the launch and to hear Rev David Jones speak on the themes of 2 Corinthians 10-12.

Further information can be found on the RTC website (www.rtc.edu.au) or by contacting the College office – 03 5244 2955 / admin@rtc.edu.au

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(See Matthew 28:19)

07-13-2012

IT TOOK SO LONG TO GET TO 'ALL THE
WORLD' THAT, ONCE THERE, HE TOTALLY
FORGOT WHAT HE WAS GOING TO SAY

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Please remember the '4 Ps'...

- * **PRAY** for the Spirit to be poured out on us His people
- * **PLANT** fellowship groups and churches in an ongoing way
- * **PREPARE** leaders who will lead such fellowships and churches
- * **PRODUCE** necessary structural reforms in our church.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

MONDAY	3.45 & 7.30 Pm	Instruction Classes – Manse & Church
WEDNESDAY	9.30 Am	Ladies Craft Group – Church
	7.30 Pm	Wilson Fellowship Group – Zoethout's.
FRIDAY	7.00 Pm	Gems – Gosnells Church.
SATURDAY	8.30 Am	Classis WA – CRC Australind.

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SHARE & CARE

About One Another in Christ

Eril Morgan 9258 4566

Mary van der Linden 9478 1394

Second Offerings

Today: World Development & Relief

August 17th: Reformed Theological College

August 24th: Teen Challenge

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WORSHIP MINISTRY

DATE	GREETERS	DATA Am / Pm.	SOUND Am / Pm	Musician/s	VIDEO Am Pm
Today	Arnold & Henry	Evan	Luke	Rebecca	James
17th August	Jill & Evert	Steve	Isaak	Rachel	Henry
24th August	Rob & Raymond	Isaak	Luke	Rachel	Henry

CRECHE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today	Annette, Leon & Nelson	Today	Trudy & Eliza
17th August	Jacqueline, Luke & Beslin	17th August	Mieke & Rebekah
24th August	Vanessa, Saara & Joshua	24th August	Mieke & Emma

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

YOUTH COFFEE

Today	Fams Zoethout, Ossevoort & Jill	Today	De Jongh Gosnells Manse
17th August	Fams Oosttryck & O'Sullivan	17th August	tba
24th August	Fams P v/d Kooij, Morgan & Vanessa	24th August	tba

Please utilize the church's electronic banking

Banking details:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Christian Reformed Church of Perth

BSB: 066 153 **Account:** 1002 5589

Tithing is giving back to God

The best way to save face is to keep the lower half shut!



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