



Weekly Newsletter of the Christian Reformed Church of Perth Inc.

Welcome

A warm welcome to all 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 that we are encouraged and strengthened in faith. A crèche is available at the back of the building for those who wish to use it for children aged 0-4 years of age. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship after the service.

Contact

Pastor: Reinier Noppers
 Phone: 9356 7490
 Mobile: 0450 926 707
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Christian Wheatbelt Fellowship

Pastor: Geoff van Schie
 6 Booth Street,
 WONGAN HILLS 6603
 Phone: 08 9671 13 49
 Email: gvschie@ozemail.com.au

Worship Services in Perth

9:30 a.m. Pastor Tony van Drimmelen
 Luke 14:7-14
 "Christian Hospitality"

5:30 p.m. Pastor Ben Murphy
 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16
 "Awakened by the Spirit"

Meditation

"Why bother with church membership?"

I get that question a lot. Sometimes it's said with genuine curiosity—"So explain to me what membership is all about." Other times it's said with a tinge of suspicion—"So tell me again, why you think I should become a member?"—as if joining the church automatically signed you up to tithe by direct deposit.

I think for many people membership sounds stiff, something you have at your bank or the country club, but too formal for the church. Even if it's agreed that Christianity is not a lone ranger religion, that we need community and fellowship with other Christians, we still bristle at the thought of officially joining a church. Why all the hoops and classification? Why box the Holy Spirit into member/non-member categories?

Well, believe it or not, membership matters. In addition to some very tangible benefits to membership (for example, only members can hold church office), here's five good reasons why Christians should join a church.

1. In joining a church you make visible your commitment to Christ and his people. Membership is one way to raise the flag of faith. You state before God and others that you are part of this local body of believers. It's easy to talk in glowing terms about the invisible church—the body of all believers near and far, living and dead—but it's in the visible church that God expects you to live out your faith.

Sometimes I think that we wouldn't all be clamoring for community if we had actually experienced it. Real fellowship is

Worship Service Snapshot

A typical service includes a time of singing praise to our God, an opportunity for prayer and a message is given by the Pastor.

There is also a time for us to give financially. If you are not a member or regular attendee of CRC Perth, please don't feel obligated to participate in the offering.

In the morning service, children (4-9 years old) attend church for the first part of the service and leave for Sunday School after a Children's talk.

At the end of the evening service there is a time to ask questions pertaining to faith.

First Offering

For the ministry of the local church

Second Offering

11 Oct Diaconate

18 Oct Solomon Islands Workgroup

25 Oct Christian Wheatbelt Fellowship

Please utilise the church's electronic banking

Banking details:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Christian Reformed Church of Perth
BSB: 066 153 **#:** 1002 5589

Mark as tithe or first offering or the name of the second offering (e.g: Diaconate)

New Link Editor:

Emma Oostryck (email address: e.oostryck@gmail.com)
Forward all material to her by the Thursday 12:00 p.m. prior to the published Sunday date.

hard work, because most people are a lot like us—selfish, petty, and proud. But that's the kind of group God calls us to.

How many of Paul's letters were written to individuals? Only a handful, and these were mostly to pastors. The majority of his letters were written to a local body of believers. We see the same thing in Revelation. Jesus spoke to individual congregations in places like Smyrna, Sardis, and Laodicea. The New Testament knows no Christians floating around in "just me and Jesus" land. Believers belong to churches.

2. Making a Church commitment makes a powerful statement in a low-commitment culture. Most bowling leagues require more of their members than most churches. The church is often a sad reflection of its culture. Ours is a consumer culture where everything is tailored to meet our needs and satisfy our preferences. When those needs aren't met, we can always move on to the next product, or job, or spouse.

Joining a church in such an environment makes a counter-cultural statement. It says "I am committed to this group of people and they are committed to me. I am here to give, more than get."

Even if you will only be in town a few years, it's still not a bad idea to join a church. It lets your home church (if you have one) know that you are being cared for, and it lets us know that you want to be cared for here.

But it's not just about being cared for, it's about making a decision and sticking with it—something my generation, with our oppressive number of choices, finds difficult. We prefer to date the church—have her around for special events, take her out when life feels lonely, and keep her around for a rainy day. Membership is the way to stop dating churches, and marry one.

3. Church membership keeps us accountable to each other. When we join a church we are offering ourselves to one another to be encouraged, rebuked, corrected, and served. We are placing ourselves under leaders and submitting to their authority (Heb. 13:7). We are saying, "I am here to stay. I want to help you grow in godliness. Will you help me to do the same?"

Mark Dever, in his book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, writes, "Church membership is our opportunity to grasp hold of each other in responsibility and love. By identifying ourselves with a particular church, we let the pastors and other members of that local church know that we intend to be committed in attendance, giving, prayer, and service. We allow fellow believers to have great expectations of us in these areas, and we make it known that we are the responsibility of this local church. We assure the church of our commitment to Christ in serving with them, and we call for their commitment to serve and encourage as well."

Birthdays this week

14-Oct Leon Noppers

Bibles for the Persecuted

Each year our congregation partners with the Bible League to make a difference in the lives of persecuted Christians, by taking part in the Bibles for the Persecuted 21 day programme. This enables us to provide encouragement and strength to persecuted believers, through the Bibles provided. Your gifts and prayers will really make a difference. This programme will start today, and run for the next three weeks.

Youth Service Reminder

Greetings from the Australind youth! We would like to remind you of our upcoming fellowship weekend. It's not too late to RSVP!

We invite you to join us for a sleepover on Friday and Saturday night followed by a youth service on the Sunday. Arrive anytime on Friday night between 7:30-9:30pm at the church with all your gear.

Alternatively, if you can't make the Friday you can arrive on Saturday night or even Sunday morning. On Saturday morning we hope to have a car rally, followed by swimming at an indoor pool in the arvo, and then a bonfire at night. So if you would like to join us for fellowship and fun, please RSVP soon (by 16th October). RSVP to Barbara ten Brinke (0429817013) or Shanna de Ridder (0408451707). For more details, please see your youth leaders or Pastor.

We look forward to a great weekend!
Australind Youth.

4. Joining the church will help your pastor and elders be more faithful shepherds. Hebrews 13:7 says "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority." That's your part. Here's ours: "They keep watch over you as men who must give an account." We take seriously our responsibility before God to watch over your souls. At almost every elders' meeting, as per our denomination's Book of Church Order, we "seek to determine whether any members of the congregation are in need of special care regarding their spiritual condition and/or not making faithful use of the means of grace." This is hard enough to do in a church like ours where there is constant turnover, but it's even harder when we don't know who is really a part of this flock.

To give just one example, we are trying to be more diligent in following up with people who haven't been at our church for a while. But if you never became a member, it is difficult to tell if you are really gone, because we might not be sure if you were ever here! It's nearly impossible to shepherd the flock when we don't know who really considers this their flock and really considers us their shepherds.

5. Joining the church gives you an opportunity to make promises. When you become a member here, you make promises to pray, give, serve, attend worship, accept the spiritual guidance of the church, obey its teachings, and seek the things that make for unity, purity, and peace. We ought not to make these promises lightly. They are solemn vows. And we must hold each other to them. If you don't join the church, you may miss an opportunity to publicly make these promises, and in so doing, invite the elders and the rest of the body to hold you to these promises—which would be missing out on great spiritual benefit, for you and for us.

Think about why membership might matter more than you thought. And if you are looking to make a counter-cultural commitment and invite more accountability and responsibility into your life, why not join a church?

-Kevin DeYoung

Pastoral

Once again it is our privilege to welcome Tony van Drimmelen to lead us in worship this morning, and Ben Murphy in the evening service. May God bless you both as you bring God's Word to us today. I will be in Gateway in the morning and Gosnells in the evening as part of our regular monthly preaching swap.

It was good to have Hwei Hwei Tay's parents visiting with us last Sunday, and a big thankyou to Hwei Hwei for all the work she has done with the Link in the past few months. Tai-Ming, Hwei Hwei and Rae have been transferred to Kuala Lumpur for work and would be leaving end of the month. It is a real blessing to have them in our midst, and we wish them God's blessing on this next stage in their life. Emma Oostryck will be taking over the

Youth worker openings

1 The Session of Wonga Park Christian Reformed Church would like to invite applications for the position of youth worker (0.4FTE). This purpose of this position is to facilitate the Christian growth of our young people to attain maturity in the faith.

To enquire please contact Rev. Chris Pretorius on 0423 889 913 or email jobs@wpcrc.org.au. The position description is available on request. All applications must be received by Monday 9th of November 2015. It is envisaged that this position will commence at the start of 2016.

2 The Christian Reformed Church of Casey is looking to employ a part-time youth worker from 27 January 2016. For more information and a job description please email office@caseycrc.org.au Closing date for applications is 31 October 2015.

350-352 Pound Road, Narre Warren South, Victoria
Website: www.caseycrc.org.au

Quiz Night to support Peter Abetz MP.

Peter Abetz, an ordained minister of our Christian Reformed Churches was elected to state parliament in 2008 and has been a vocal advocate for Christian values in our parliament and the corridors of power. Have a fun night and help raise funds to get him re-elected in March 2017.

Date: Friday Oct 30th

Time: 6.30 pm for 7 pm start

Where: Amherst Village Community Centre, Cnr Warton Rd and Holmes St, Southern River.

Cost: \$20 per person

Book your place or a table (10) by emailing petersfunction@gmail.com or phone Peter on 0409 076 155.

compilation of the Link as from this coming week; her email for contributions is: e.oostryck@gmail.com Thank you Emma, for being willing to take up this task.

Nel Schneider was admitted to Armadale Hospital earlier this week; let us pray that Nel will be well cared for and experience God's grace through this time.

Finally, although Evert and Rebekah Grul and family have resigned their membership from this congregation, they are currently worshipping with a local group in Beverley, where they have made their home: so if you happen to be travelling in that area Evert assures us the kettle is always on. ☺

School starts again this week; strength for those who face final exams and papers.

A reminder, Lord's Supper will be held on Sunday 25th October, a week later due to me being away in Korea for the ICRC Regional conference this week. Any visitors who wish to celebrate with us are asked to speak to a session member prior to the service. Also, any urgent pastoral matters please speak to a member of session during the next week. ~RN

Nominations for Elders and

Deacon: Session places before the congregation the following nominations to serve as office bearers in this congregation: for elder, br Sam Assaad, and for deacon, br Paul van der Kooij. If there are no lawful objections, voting will take place after the morning service on Sunday 18 October 2015. Please see a session member if you require an absentee voting slip.

Announcements

Senior Men of Our Churches

Just confirming that we will meet DV, this Tuesday at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 32 Bullcreek Drive, (cnr Fyfe St) Bullcreek at 9.30am. Our guest speaker will be Neville Muir, from Deaf Ministries International.

It will be good to meet with our brothers at WPC again. Please note venue and starting time. All very welcome. ~Jan P.

Wilson Fellowship meets again at Mrs Zuiderma's place Wednesday 14 October 2015, 7:30p.m. We will be studying lesson 8, Book of John. Also read John 17:1-26. All welcome.

CRCA Women's Convention

Dear Sisters in Christ, you are invited to register to attend the Women's Convention from 11-14 March 2016 at Nunyara

SWIM News

Dear friends of the SWIM Mission

Next Sunday, 18th October, in the Redlands Church in Brisbane, our latest missionaries for the Solomon Islands are being commissioned.

Please join the Mission Workgroup in thanking the Lord for his gracious provision of GEOFF HUGHES, and his wife JAN, as Geoff takes up the responsibility of Director for our mission. With their backgrounds in business and education, a variety of leadership roles, and a deep desire to serve the Lord through serving the Christians and churches of the Solomons, Geoff and Jan will be our representatives in this poor but beautiful land. Please pray that, as they decide to put their retirement to a good and new use, God will be their strength.

In the same morning service, the new Mission Workgroup, established by Classis Queensland, will be commissioned for its support and management role. Jack Visser, Gary Vowles, Renee Flynn, Ingeborg de Ruyscher, Mark Flynn, Cor de Ruyscher and Jack de Vries, from various Brisbane churches, will be pleased to receive the wonderful support that the retiring Tasmanian Workgroup has always valued from churches, individuals and families. Praise God! Peter van der Schoor (retiring chairman)

Dog Walker Volunteers Needed

Request from the Deacons – Volunteers are urgently required to walk a dog for approx 30 minutes in the beautiful picturesque surrounds of Wilson. If enough volunteers are found, a roster will be organised. All those interested please contact Garry Simons on 0432 166 432 or 9397 5417.

Many thanks
On behalf of Gosnells CRC deacons
Alice

Convention Centre in Belair. We look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful Adelaide foothills to be challenged spiritually and be radically transformed, and to enjoy fellowship with other Christian women. At present only ONE lady from WA has registered and we do hope a few more may join her in the trek across the Nullabor!!!

Nunyara Convention Centre is quite small and is located in a garden like setting. We would encourage you to register early as there will be limited numbers. We will have day registration available for Saturday and Sunday.

The spiritual theme of the convention will be 'Ready and Radical' and is based on the call to be transformed in Romans 12:1-2. Sherry Harney will lead all our studies and is planning to have 6 sessions titled Radical Love, Radical Conversation, Radical Thinking, Radical Trust, Radical Life and Radical Invitation. We will also worship in song and prayer.

We look forward to seeing you in March 2016 and ask that you continue to pray for our committee and the planning for the convention.

Yours in Christ,
Jo Lammersma (jlammers@adam.com.au)
Convenor of SA Women's Convention Committee



Prayer Points for October

1. 132 received Baptisms in September! 52 believers were baptised in the Nashik cluster. Most of the new believers are day labourers in different cities. May God help our workers to give them proper pastoral care. Rajasthan cluster leader Sunny and our evangelists praise God for 58 new people added to church through baptism. South Gujarat Gospel team evangelists praise God for 22 new believers who acknowledged their faith and took baptism.
2. Elders. South Gujarat team leader and evangelists thank God for the two days elders training program. Nearly 22 church elders participated and blessed through this training. We thank God for their zeal to serve God and part of church planting ministry.
3. Adult Literacy. Central Gujarat cluster leader praise God for two adult literacy centres. Almost 60 people enrolled in two centres. Pray for God's guidance to Merchand and Chandarsing our Adult Literacy teachers to share the gospel to non believers through a literacy program.
4. Tutition Centres. There is to be a teacher training seminar in Oct.
5. Rev. Bert Kuipers and Rev. Philip Scheepers from Australia were able to be resource persons for the annual evangelists' seminar. It was a most blessed time.



What's On This Week

Tuesday	13 October	9:30 a.m.	Senior Men of our Churches @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
Wednesday	14 October	9:30 a.m.	Bread @ the church
		7:30 p.m.	Wilson Fellowship @ Mrs Zuiderma's place

What's Coming Up

Sunday	18 October		Voting for Elder and Deacon
Saturday	31 October	7:30 p.m.	Reformation Day meeting @ Gosnells

Worship Ministry

Date	Duty Elder	Greeters	Data	Sound	Musician	Preacher
11 Oct a.m. p.m.	Steve	Raymond & Yvonne	Evan	Johan Isaak	Rebecca	T. Van Drimmelen B. Murphy
18 Oct a.m. p.m.	Bardi	Steve & Jannet	Johan Luke	Paul Nieuwkerk	Rachel	R. Noppers
25 Oct a.m. p.m.	Henry	Bardi & Eiril	Isaak	Luke	Elsa	R. Noppers G. van Schie
1 Nov a.m. p.m.	Willem	Henry	Paul Nieuwkerk	Paul vdK	Rachel Elsa	R. Noppers

Video: James

Helping Hands **Please arrange your own swap if you are unable to do your duty.**

Date	Coffee Fellowship	Crèche	Sunday School
11 Oct	Janong, Ossevoort	Ilezebel, Jordan, Joshua	School holidays
18 Oct	P&Y vdK, Knoetze	Vanessa, Saara, Nelson	Yvonne & Bethia
25 Oct	De Jager, Jill, Janny	Jacqueline, Bethia, Beslin	Mieke & Vanessa
1 Nov	Noppers	Melody, Eliza, Rebekah	Trudy & Leon

Financial Update

Date	Church \$	2nd Offerings \$	Ministry
6 Sep	2,733.40	254.20	Teen Challenge
13 Sep	3,806.60	363.70	GOSPEL
20 Sep	2,143.95	282.25	Reformed Theological College
27 Sep	3,035.70	237.15	Candidacy Committee
		721.25	Rose Project
Total:	11,719.65		

Total Offerings Budgeted to date: \$36,985.00

Total Offerings Received to date: \$33,644.90

Shortfall to date: \$ 3,340.10

5 Colombo Street, Victoria Park, Western Australia, 6100

Church Website: www.crcperth.org.au