



# Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

*“...tell the next generation...” PSALM 78:4*

APRIL 2014



**CCRTC NEWS**  
**SPRING 2014**  
[www.covenantteacherscollege.com](http://www.covenantteacherscollege.com)

Understanding

- Why do we have to reach people?
- 1 - It is a commandment of God
  - 2 - We love people as our Father loves us
  - 3 - Fulfilling Jesus command to go and advance the Kingdom of God
  - 4 - Muslims turn from darkness to light



## from the PRINCIPAL

CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

How wonderful it is to know that the promises of our Covenant God stand firm always – also when it concerns the annual cycle of seasons. We take note of the gradual return of mourning doves and robins, of Canada geese waddling in pairs seeking a place to nest, and of the unmistakeable hint of the softest green on trees. When we combine this with the fact that the Annual General Meeting of Covenant College is now in the past, with the countdown on the whiteboard in the students' lounge, and with the arrangements for the final practicum in place, we know that the 2013-2014 academic year is almost behind us. Together we may look back on a year filled with blessings received from the Father's hand. Allow me to recount some of them for you:

First, the day-to-day blessings: Since the publication of our last Newsletter, much has happened in and around the College. First and foremost, the daily teaching and learning based on God's Word could continue unhindered, and we are grateful for this. Practicum placements could be completed successfully, partly due to the supportive environments schools and associate teachers offer to our students. We thank you for your welcoming open door policy! Despite the minor interruptions a few snow days offered us, the regular classes could also continue. In addition to listening to their "own" instructors, student learning was scaffolded by the expertise of several guest speakers in a number of courses.

For example, Pastor Megaly, an Egyptian-born Christian, gave an interesting presentation on *Islam and how to discuss the Christian faith with your Muslim neighbour*. Free and open discussions on what it means to live Christianly are treasured by students and faculty alike. Given the restlessness of the world around

us, it is a blessing that we ought not to take for granted. Indeed, the theme of 'freedom to educate' has had its share of attention within and beyond our walls, culminating in the students and faculty watching the "Loyola Case" Supreme

Court proceedings on March 24. We continue to pray that the outcome of this case may be pleasing to God and to the edification of his Church and the coming of his Kingdom.

Second, there are many blessings we may count when we consider the dedication of those who freely give of their time and energy to make the College a reality: Committee and Board members. Especially when we look back at yet another fruitful Annual General Meeting at which member school boards were present in the person of a local governor, we are thankful for the tremendous amount of work that is done by relatively few people. This year, the many reports that were presented and discussed, as well as the decisions taken on a number of significant matters, position the College to move forward steadily as it seeks to implement its vision to be the *definitive source of reformed teacher training*. In particular I think of the challenge of succession planning. We know that every well-run organization busies itself with this important matter, and Covenant College forms no exception. At the Board level, positions need to be filled in a timely fashion, and this also applies at the faculty level in anticipation of the retirement of the three full-time faculty members in close succession starting at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year.

**"Indeed, let's all count our blessings one by one!"**



On a slightly different note, the College is blessed with an accreditation ad hoc committee that strives to move the matter of recognition and accreditation forward. It is wonderful to see that members of this committee are freely sharing of their time and expertise to help us find our way in this complicated process. The affirmation given by the Board makes it possible to continue to take the next steps on this path and we pray for God's blessings on the efforts. Similarly, the support provided by the Board allows us to offer the first online course for practising teachers in the Fall of 2014: *Teaching Science in a Reformed*

*Classroom facilitated by Dave and Randy Dykstra is coming to a computer near your school community!*

Lastly, our blessings include YOU! It is our prayer that with your prayerful and financial support Covenant Teachers College may continue to be experienced as a blessing in reformed Christian church communities and member school communities.

Indeed, let's all count our blessings one by one!

You are cordially invited to the **graduation celebration** of the Class of 2014.

When: June 6, 2014 at 8:15 p.m.

Where: Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church, Hamilton, ON

*Please reserve the date!*



Under construction, the new and improved CCRTC website:  
[www.covenantteacherscollege.com](http://www.covenantteacherscollege.com)  
Visit us soon!

# THANK YOU!

Students and faculty thank all those who behind the scenes have supported the College in different ways. In particular, we thank the WATCH ladies who in their own unique ways form the hub in an ever-turning wheel of local activities in support of the College.

Debbie Johnson (Lynden)  
Stephanie Bareman (Lynden)  
Mary-Anne Vanderstoep (Abbotsford)  
Lisa Vanderven (Aldergrove)  
Rachel Vandersluis (Cloverdale)  
Arlene Leffers (Houston)  
Yvonne Jacobi (Langley-Wiloughby Heights)  
Hetty VanderGaag (Smithers)  
Michelle Faber (Surrey)  
Sherri Harsevoort (Barrhead)  
Cathy Visscher (Edmonton-Immanuel/Providence)  
Angela Blok (Carman-West)  
Sarah Welch (Winnipeg-Grace)  
Melanie Beijes (Winnipeg Redeemer)  
Trix Aasman (Burlington-Fellowship)  
Karen Vanderburgt (Burlington-Waterdown)  
Brenda Bartels (Flamborough)  
Elizabeth Smith (Ottawa)  
Amanda DeBoer (Toronto)  
Diane Feenstra (Attercliffe)  
Annette Kelly (Dunnville)  
JoAnn Van Iperen (Grassie)  
Adria Stulp (Lincoln)  
Mary Alkema (Tintern)  
Beth Stel (Smithville)  
Gertie Vanluik (Brampton)  
Jackie Deboer (Elora)  
Wendy Koster (Fergus North)  
Betsy Kingma (Fergus-Maranatha)  
Erica Nienhuis (Fergus-Maranatha)  
Kim VanErde (Grand Valley)  
Robin Westrik (Guelph)  
Janice Wieske (Guelph-Living Word)  
Glenda Kapteyn (Owen Sound)  
Angela VanDelden (Ancaster)  
Jennifer Vanderveen (Chatham)  
Jessica Aasman (Glanbrook)  
Eleanor Boeringa (Hamilton-Providence)  
Karen VanderLaan (Hamilton-Cornerstone)  
Joanna DeBoer (Kerwood)  
Michelle Temple (London)



## chairman's report FRANK C. LUDWIG

# annual general meeting 2014 – a perspective

Once again the turning of February into March was the timing of another AGM – an annual event that appears to come more rapidly each year!

Some years ago we engaged in an exercise of visioning, which resulted in a visual image of a Greek temple with a base, a roof and five supporting pillars. As in the past, so this year, we work at developing and strengthening those five pillars which support our vision of the College as the definitive source for reformed teacher training.

Over the past year the PPC (Program and Personnel Committee) distributed a survey trying to get a read on the impressions and priorities “out there” regarding the Teachers College. Not

surprisingly, it revealed that the major issue for the College was thought to be the achieving of accreditation. Indeed, an Ad Hoc Committee of the Board has been working on that very topic, progress on which was reported to this AGM.

Another important issue to come forward was the idea of succession, since a chart showing the likely retirement of the current full-time faculty will occur over three successive school years, before 2020 – which is a mere 6 years from now! Planning for that is in the works and has to proceed full-speed ahead.

Distance Education is also seen as a growing necessity, and some developments have occurred over recent months which have set that item on a fast-track, for the benefit of Western schools in particular.

Recruitment of students is a further item which has had our attention, and a plan of action on that was also presented to this AGM. Elsewhere in this issue our principal, Dr. vanHalen, will have elaborated on some of these points. I will limit myself to two items for the rest of this brief article – those being funding and leadership.

As we move forward in our planning, we always have to keep an eye on our budget and financial resources. Succession planning implies new hiring – with its related costs. Seeking accreditation is not only a very difficult undertaking,

but also a very costly one. If we are to operate CCRTC responsibly we must pay attention to the financial resources available to us, which implies the on-going, challenging task of fund-raising. To that end, we spent some time discussing how such fund-raising can be done, and the persistent effort that it requires on the part of the local governors. When they call please be ready to respond *positively*. Remember, they will not be asking for themselves, but for the on-going well-being of our schools and the education delivered there.

Regarding leadership, our Treasurer, despite his term being finished last year, stayed with us until now, but has submitted his resignation for June 30, 2014. The Vice-chairmanship has remained vacant for a period of two years now. With this AGM, the Secretary has also finished an 8-year association with the College, but fortunately she saw to her own replacement, which was endorsed at this meeting. We continue to look for new leadership in a younger demographic – it is time for younger men and women to step forward and carry this organization into the future. If you are approached – please think before you say no....we need your gifts, your energy and your time. With your help, and under God’s blessing, CCRTC will continue to prosper and fulfill its purpose “to supply our schools with teachers who are educated in reformed foundations”.

# TEACHING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



“ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD. –PS 148:13-14, NIV

Ontario's Ministry of Education, for instance, holds that "scientific and technological literacy for all has become the overarching objective of science and technology education throughout the world." (S&T, 2007, p. 3) It elaborates on this with three overarching S&T goals:

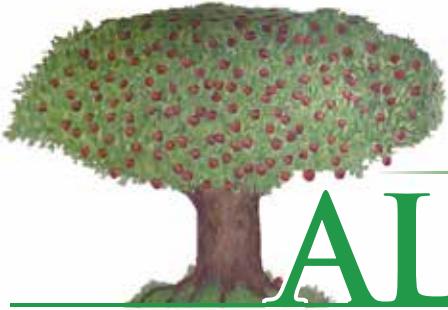
- 1. Relate S&T to society and the environment;**
- 2. Develop skills, strategies, and habits of mind required for scientific inquiry and technological problem solving;**
- 3. Understand the basic concepts of S&T.**

The curriculum guideline also provides suggestions for an effective and high-quality S&T program. Consulting it is valid, because we honour our government, study the same creation, live in the same society, and use the same methodologies. However, worldviews (which consider questions of origin, purpose, ethics, and the future), also affect S&T queries and outcomes. Provincial curricula habitually reflect a naturalist worldview in which chance and evolution are assumed, God and his providence are deliberately absent, and the goal is driven by earthly progress. Conversely, as (future) teachers help prepare students for their office as prophet, priest and king in this society (which may well include a career in S&T), they should boldly echo the call for all and everything to praise their

Covenant Teachers College students learn that, for Science and Technology (S&T) programs, our schools typically consult provincial curriculum guidelines. These curricula often aim to develop some type of responsible, knowledgeable, skilled, caring and contributing citizen in possession of "S&T literacy."

Creator and Redeemer. (Ps 148) The antithetical element implied here does not preclude respectful discernment of possibly objectionable past or current other worldviews: In Lord's Days 32 and 33, gratitude has a humble tone that calls for a godly walk of life.

For CCRTC students, one crucial question is how to ensure a science lesson is reformed. Along with providing quality instruction and curiosity-stimulating content, they will praise their Creator, like Job did in 40:4-5 and 42:2-6, and others in Gen 1, and Ps 8, 19, 104, and 139. They will glory in God's wisdom and mighty works. (Prov 8) They will acknowledge with 1 Cor 1 and 8, Col 1, and Heb 12, that the same Christ through whom all things were created, and who is the mediator of the new covenant, the power of God and the wisdom of God, and our righteousness, holiness and redemption, is also supreme in all the cosmos and holds all things together. They will unceasingly encourage the coming generation to explore God's praiseworthy deeds with increasing wonder and understanding, to delight in the Creator, and to praise Him. A positive experience with S&T in elementary and secondary schools may well encourage some also to pursue a career in the sciences, and so address one of the weaknesses identified in the Cardus report.



# CCRTC ALUMNI NEWS

## how it was and how it is



### **Erica Heerema** (Broekema) CLASS OF 2006

Time flies when you're busy, especially busy teaching. While writing this I realized that I graduated from Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College 6 years ago, in 2008. And yet it still feels like yesterday that I was enjoying a cup of coffee with my fellow teachers-to-be and starting our days together with morning devotions. I will always remember and be impressed with the depth of insight developed in reformed education and the inspiration triggered in Philosophy. I am thankful for my time at the College, as it taught me what it means to be a reformed teacher.

After graduating from CCRTC, I accepted a job at Timothy Christian School in Hamilton. There I thoroughly enjoyed teaching a grade 5 class first, before moving on to grade 6 in the following year. The highlight of my Timothy years was organizing a musical, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, with my fellow colleagues

and student body. I will always have fond memories of my first class at Timothy and also the colleagues who helped guide me through my beginning years.

In 2010, I decided I was ready for an adventure and decided to move to the Netherlands for a year and teach English, Music and Religion in the English Immersion Program at the Gomarus College in Groningen. What started out as one year, quickly turned into three years. During my time at Gomarus, I learned a lot about teaching in a different culture, teaching using CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning), and was inspired and built up greatly by my colleagues (who also became close friends). I also travelled with my students to different European countries, which was also a learning experience. When not at work, I enjoyed volunteering in a sport mission project from the GKV in Groningen Zuid, meeting up with friends for a gezellig cup of coffee, biking through sun/rain/snow (some colleagues and I even challenged ourselves to bike to Paris!), and most of all, getting to know the man I married this past summer, Niels Heerema.

Niels and I decided to move to Canada for our first year of marriage, so that Niels could get to know Canadian life and my family and friends a bit better. So far, we are thoroughly enjoying ourselves. I am currently working at John Calvin Christian School in Burlington teaching grade 7/8 and Niels is working at Walinga Inc. in Guelph. We are intrigued to see what the Lord has planned for us and are thankful for the opportunities He has placed on our path!

### **Menco Wieske**

CLASS OF 2006

When one walks through the hallways at the Teachers College, a number of displays catch the eye. One of them is a quilt that contains fifteen patches representing the graduating class of 2006. My patch is among those fifteen. Now, don't think it is easy to come up with something that represents you and also includes a statement about the impact the Teachers College has had on you. I was faced with a tough decision: what to put on that patch!

Before we go into that, let's go back and see how I ended up at the college in the first place. As an immigrant to Canada, I arrived at the age of 25 and got married to Janice Oosterhoff. Coming from a family of teachers - my father was a teacher, two brothers and one sister are teachers, each of them married a teacher as well – I had always in my mind that perhaps something different would be a good idea. When I settled here in Canada I ended up in a number of different sales positions. This was interesting, and it gave me great satisfaction to work with and help other people. But then something very significant happened: I became a father! After the Lord had blessed our marriage with a number of children we started to become more involved in the school society. As a Dutch immigrant, I had always taken reformed education somewhat for granted because the system in the Netherlands completely integrates faith-based education, and going to a reformed



school was perfectly normal. Once I got involved in the system that we have here in Ontario I realized the tremendous effort and sacrifice it takes to make it all work. I also came to see the significance of reformed education, and the important role it plays in the development of children of the covenant. The Lord stirred in me a desire to become a teacher in this system, and in 2005 I enrolled in the one year program at the Teachers College. So, there I was. 36 years old in a school where the average student is in the early twenties, a family to support, and standing at the beginning of a complete career change. What was I doing?! But the experience was good. We learned how to think about education from a reformed perspective, to plan curriculum, to develop Bible lessons, and our practicums gave us classroom experience. And if I reflect on the impact the Teachers College has had on my life, I would have to say that the opportunity that it has provided is for me the biggest thing. After graduation I became a grade 5/6 teacher in Chatham, ON, and after four years we moved to Guelph where I took up my current position as principal and grade 7 and 8 teacher at Cornerstone Christian School. I love my job, and thank the Lord daily for allowing me to serve Him in this special way.

Now back to that patch in that quilt in the hallway in the Teachers College. I sometimes felt that in taking the step to go back to school was somewhat similar to Julius Caesar making the decision to cross the Rubicon. Maybe not as dramatic but nonetheless a big step; once the decision was made, there was no turning back. Julius is often remembered by his famous idiom: Veni Vidi Vici; I came, I saw, I conquered. Should I put that on the patch? I certainly

felt good about obtaining the Diploma of Education and what the college had done to prepare me for my task as a teacher, but I did not feel like a conqueror. I felt more of a sense of appreciation. And so I decided at that time that my patch would say: Veni, Vidi, Accipio – I came, I saw, I appreciated. Looking back on it now, I still feel the same way. Our Teachers College is a very important spoke in the wheel that makes our reformed schools roll. We can thank the Lord for the great gift we receive in our own Teachers College as it trains and prepares new teachers to help in the task of raising our covenant children in the name of the Lord. Thank you, CCRTC, for all that you do!

## Elizabeth Smith

CLASS OF 2004

I attended Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers' College from 2002-2004. Previously, I had been a Teacher's Assistant working with children with special needs and felt that I needed more training because I wanted to do more. I could choose to go to a secular university, but I was passionate about reformed education and felt that the CCRTC was the best place for me to develop as a reformed teacher.

I have a lot of fond memories as I look back on the two years I attended CCRTC. I loved attending a school where I could learn from, and learn with, my brothers and sisters in Christ. We had so many great teachers and so many fabulous courses that we could take to help us develop in our own skills (ie. English, Music, French, Art, Philosophy etc.) so that we could better teach our future students. All of the courses we took were geared towards developing ourselves and teaching others. I really enjoyed that about the College. We knew

that everyone we were learning with was working towards the same goal: teaching covenant youth. I learned a lot during those two years and was given a lot of valuable tools, such as writing up a formal lesson plan or developing a unit plan, that I still use today in my teaching. However, much of what I learned was not only head, but also heart, knowledge as I grew in faith and in knowledge of who I was as a child of God. Being confident in your abilities as a teacher and in your faith in the Lord is vital to being a good teacher and a Christian leader. While many things have not prepared me for the job of Acting Principal of Ambassadors Christian School in Ottawa, at least I have a heart that desires to serve the Lord in all I do. I have a desire to lead students and colleagues to be prophets, priests and kings in service for the Lord and I know it is only by God working in me that I am able to do this.

Since my years at the college, I have become a wife and a mother. My education at CCRTC comes in handy as I try every day to raise my children to know the Lord. I also have never quit teaching, nor have I ever stopped learning. Whether I was teaching part-time, full-time, substitute teaching, or teaching piano at home, I was able to do it all while raising a family. Life has gotten much busier as I am now teaching full-time... that is at least until baby number 4 makes an appearance this August D.V.!

I am grateful for the training I have received at the CCRTC and for the camaraderie I continue to enjoy with other reformed teachers and principals. I look forward to see what God's plan is for my future as a teacher and for the future of Ambassadors Christian School.



# from the finance committee

ARCHIE BAX

The Lord has blessed us richly by providing us with the means to operate the College.

To this point in the year we are meeting the budget and are able to meet our expenses. We do have a challenge ahead of us in that we have about 62% of the required annual revenue as of the end of February. While this sounds good, and it is, we are usually ahead of this value by this time. December is usually a bigger donation month than we experienced. Perhaps the ice storm and the cold weather in southern Ontario distracted us

**“ ...I would encourage anyone with management skills and some idea of finances to consider serving the College in the Finance Committee...”**

from acting on our donations. If so, could you look at the possibility of making a donation? As part of that consideration would you consider pre-authorized payment on a monthly basis? This would help both of us, in that you would see a smaller amount deducted each month and we would see a more even income stream. A large portion of the costs consists of

salaries. These are paid throughout the year, so if the donations are received monthly this matches our expenses more closely. This is just a thought for your consideration.

Elsewhere you can read about the Annual General Meeting. A number of good responsible decisions were made concerning the College and its sustainability. However, programs such as accreditation, increasing in-service programs, and succession planning will require continued and enhanced financial support to accomplish this. Your local governor will be approaching you for your assistance for these necessary endeavours.

This will be my last article as Treasurer. My term ended last year but I continued on for an additional year. I will be leaving the position as of June 30, 2014. It has been a rewarding experience to be active in the College and I would encourage anyone with management skills and some idea of finances to consider serving the College in the Finance Committee or as Treasurer. To clarify one aspect, this is not a bookkeeping position since we have a Comptroller who keeps the books, writes

the cheques etc. If you have an interest and perhaps some business experience, now would be a good time to contact the Board Chairman and express your interest. You can contact him directly or through the College. Call him today!

God Bless

## Goodbye & Hello!

It behooves us, with the retirement of our Secretary and Treasurer, to say a heartfelt thank you to both for all the time and effort invested in the work and well-being of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College. It sometimes seems as if all of that is simply taken for granted, but be assured, it is both noted and appreciated. We know that both of you, Shirley Broekema and Archie Bax, will continue to invest your time and talents elsewhere in the Lord's vineyard, and we wish you well in those endeavors too. May God bless you as you "retire" from these particular obligations.

At the same time, a quick "welcome" to Mary DeBoer as she takes over from Shirley as Secretary of the Board. We will all soon get to know her better – welcome aboard, Mary!

 Please detach and use the postage paid envelope enclosed or mail to: CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3

### Yes! I would like to support the CCRTC!

- One-Time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (cheque Enclosed)
- Monthly by pre-authorized Automatic withdrawal

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV PC \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawal Form

I hereby authorize Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College to withdraw regular monthly payments from my bank account as indicated below, and agree to accept annual increases set by the Board.

- \$40/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
  - 15th of the month  30th of the month
- \$480/Annually** - Withdrawn on \_\_\_\_\_ each year
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /Month** - Withdrawn on the:
  - 15th of the month  30th of the month

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please ATTACH a blank cheque marked "VOID" to this form.