

# finance report ANTHONY VIS

On September 23rd, the College community began its anniversary celebrations. It was good to see so many people gathered together

While the College is committed to providing the best training possible, we cannot do this without your support. The 2005-2006 academic year ended with a deficit balance of \$3,700. While the amount is not large, it is considered a mark against us by organizations such as O.S.A.P. (Ontario student loan program). This problem could have been prevented if ten more donations of the recommended \$375.00 had been received. The board has maintained the recommended donation at \$375.00 for the current academic year. As always, donations of any amount are gladly accepted. Please send your donation via your local governor or directly to the college, using the enclosed self-addressed, postage-paid envelope. Please include the information indicated on the form below as this makes it much easier for the distribution of income tax receipts.

As committee, we are always looking for new ways to increase our support base and streamline our administration. We are currently pursuing the option of setting up direct deposit. If you would be interested in participating in such a support program, please contact the college at [covenant@covenantteacherscollege.com](mailto:covenant@covenantteacherscollege.com) or speak with your local governor. If you have any new fund raising ideas, please pass these on in the same way.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the college over the past 25 years, whether by way of financial gift, through prayerful intercession, or via committee work. We are truly thankful to the LORD for his goodness. We would also like to remind you all that by supporting the College today, you are continuing a work that was begun more than 25 years ago.

Revenue & Expenditures - 2006 Actual vs. Budget		
<b>Revenue</b>	374,033	386,590
<b>Expenses</b>		
Remuneration - Teaching	241,824	240,824
Fringe Benefits	38,097	42,421
Prof. Dev. / Princ. Conf.	1,473	1,500
Research Leave	7,500	7,500
Practicum Teaching	11,255	7,000
Graduation/Convocation	1,965	1,500
LCRSS League	117	100
Library	4,352	18,241
Building Expenses	30,066	27,356
Administration	24,695	21,648
Miscellaneous	16,366	18,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>377,710</b>	<b>386,590</b>
<b>Total Revenue less Expenses</b>	<b>(3,677)</b>	

in celebration of the blessings God has given us through Covenant College over these past 25 years. Although we do not know what the LORD has in store for the College for the next 25 years, the Board of Governors and faculty remain committed to providing Reformed training to our future teachers for as long as God allows. We are living in a world of ever-increasing secularism and anti-Christian thought. We are thankful, therefore, that we continue to be able to educate the covenant children God has given us in Reformed elementary and secondary schools. The College continues to play a vital role by providing qualified teachers whose skills have been built on a solid Reformed foundation.

**Want to know more about Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College?**  
**Have Questions? Need Answers? Visit us at:**  
[www.covenantteacherscollege.com](http://www.covenantteacherscollege.com)

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## from the CHAIRMAN PETER VANDERSLUIS

Twenty-five years ago the Teachers College welcomed its first students. At our anniversary celebrations on September 23, I reflected briefly on the words of Christ Jesus recorded in John 15. Here he tells us that he, our Lord, is the vine and we are the branches. Our function is to bear fruit. In order to bear as much fruit as possible, we require pruning. When I read these words, I realized that it was not difficult to use the metaphor for our College. The College then stands for the vine, the students are the branches, and the instruction is the pruning process which, in the end, produces fruit. The LORD has allowed an abundance of fruit over these past 25 years; what a tremendous blessing. A clear illustration of the metaphor can be seen on the walls of the students' lounge. Painted on these walls is an apple tree. On each apple is the name of one of our graduates. In his mercy the LORD has allowed 161 students to graduate and to bear fruit in our Reformed schools across Canada and beyond.

The staff and supporters of Covenant College remain committed to serving the LORD by holding on to the vision of producing teachers who can "tell the next generation." The instruction that goes on within the walls of the College and which extends into the classroom of our schools is Christ-centred. The College's vision

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statement indicates that all training is based on the Word of God and on its summary in the Three Forms of Unity. We thank God that we may have the freedom to operate this institution despite our sinful nature and that of the world in which we live.



Today the College has moved beyond its humble origins. It began under the capable leadership of principal Mr. Tony Vanderven back in 1981 who, along with Mr. Bill Horsman, two part-time lecturers, and six students gathered daily in the Cornerstone Church basement. Today the College has three full-time lecturers who, along with five part-time lecturers, 19 full-time students, and one part-time student, gather in the beautiful facilities of our current building on Crerar Drive. We see this as a testimony to the grace of our LORD.

As in 1981, so today Covenant College faces challenges. It is the desire of the board that we will, at some point, be an accredited facility. We are continually striving toward that end. Board and staff are also seeking ways to improve various aspects of the instruction we give. As education paradigms change, technology develops, and world views continue to resist what we do, the challenges increase. Board and faculty further desire to provide in-service training, and various options are being considered. We gratefully acknowledge that it is God who provides the tools we need to continue with our tasks of governing, teaching, and learning.

My own involvement with the College began in 2001 when I was a board member of Credo Christian School in Woodbridge, ON. The College was seeking representation from as many Canadian Reformed School societies as possible, and so I was appointed. Five years later, the need for involvement remains. I strongly urge all school societies across Canada and beyond that are not currently a member society to become one. Covenant College needs representation from all in order to be able to provide all that we would like to offer in regard to pre- and in-service teacher training. I also advise anyone who is considering a teaching career to seriously consider Covenant College. I assure you that you will be hard pressed to find a Reformed institution in this country that is better equipped to prepare teachers on all aspects of instructing our covenant children.

On September 23 we were able to celebrate and reflect upon what the LORD has granted over the past 25 years. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about these celebrations. You will also find a review on the College's latest publication, *Milestones as Steppingstones*, a wonderful reflection on Reformed education in Canada and on the past 25 years of teacher training at Covenant College. Contact the College for a copy. The Anniversary Committee, staff, and volunteers did a tremendous job preparing the celebrations. On behalf of the Board of Governors, many thanks to them for a fantastic evening. Above all, our thanks go to our God.

## from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN FABER

On Tuesday, September 5, 2006, eighteen students, their instructors, support staff, and a representative from the Board of Governors met together in our spacious library in order to open a new academic year. This year's opening had a special, extra-festive tone, as we marked the beginning of the year of our twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations. With gratitude we look back on the many years of service to Reformed education Covenant College has been able to provide. We give thanks and praise to our faithful God and Father.



This year's opening theme was structured around the concepts of "wisdom and understanding." Taking Job 28 as our starting point, we examined how God's wisdom is an eternal wisdom – a wisdom from before the beginning of this world – and how it is manifested in his work of creation and redemption. We were reminded how in Christ, the Word from the beginning, all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden (Col 2:3). We are to seek after a heavenly wisdom that is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere (James 3). It is our prayer that throughout the year this heavenly wisdom will characterize what is taught/learned here at the College. When we speak about knowledge and understanding, we can do so only in the knowledge that wisdom is found in and through Christ and through the working of the Holy Spirit, through whom we may know the Father.

This year we may welcome Miss Judy Kingma as a full-time faculty member. Miss Kingma has been teaching at the College for many years. Over these years, her position moved from a sessional to a part-time instructor and then to a part-time lecturer with specific additional administrative tasks. At its 2006 Annual Meeting, the Board of Governors appointed Judy as a full-time lecturer. Although not much will change in every-day practice, we are pleased that Miss Kingma's involvement with the College may now continue on a regular full-time basis.

We welcome as full-time students in the *Diploma of Education* program, Ike Alkema, Alisha Dokter, and Nathan Kok. In the *Diploma of Teaching* program we may welcome Sophia Brouwer, Lydia Jongsma, Frank Reinink, Esther van den Berg, Miriam Vanderwoerd, Shelley Van Dijk, and Heidi VanLuik in Year 1, Jessica Broersma, Janna deJong, Diana Forsyth, Jolene Van Dijk, and Amanda Vander Hoeven in Year 2, and Virginia Jager, Patricia Jonker, and Twyla Vanleeuwen in Year 3.

The very first week of the new year was especially exciting for one member of the faculty. Karen Dieleman very ably and successfully defended her dissertation *Women, Worship and Writing: The Religious Poetics of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti and Adelaide Procter*. We congratulate Karen with this milestone event that signals the end of her doctoral studies, and warmly welcome back Dr. Dieleman as our sessional English lecturer.

The matter of accreditation continues to have our attention. We recognize that the process is a slow one, and that it involves a number of different aspects. One important element is the recognition of our courses by accredited post-secondary institutions.

During the past summer, one of our graduates presented the Academic Calendar and specific course syllabi to a local university, and was informed that the work done at Covenant College allowed her a credit transfer of the equivalent of one year of university studies. We are pleased with this news, and would very much like to hear from others who may have gone a similar route.

An important part of the programs offered at Covenant College is the practicum component. Our students spend several weeks each term in a classroom. Under the guiding presence of an associate teacher, teaching skills are developed and honed, and theoretical elements are put into practice. We are grateful that so many schools open their classroom doors to our students. During this year of celebration, the faculty has encouraged also all the schools outside of Ontario to become involved in this process. We look forward to spending time in the various school communities, and are most willing to address society meetings on matters related to Reformed education.

Reformed education is something that touches all of us. As a pre-service teacher education institution, Covenant College looks forward to continuing its service to our schools. We do so in the knowledge that this is possible only by God's grace. May we do our work in humility that comes from wisdom – as together we continue to "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD" (PS. 78:4).

# 25 CELEBRATING YEARS

ON BEHALF OF THE ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE, **GEORGE HOFSTINK** (CLASS OF 1983)

On a beautiful early day of fall, September 23rd, many members of the board, faculty, and alumni of Covenant College came together to celebrate 25 years of Reformed teacher training. They did so at a gala dinner and, within a larger audience of college supporters, at an official celebration evening.

In the early evening of this particular Saturday, about 140 guests gathered for the gala dinner. The alumni, current board members, and members of the faculty mingled with one another over coffee, punch, or a glass of wine. An official welcome was given by Mr. Henry Homan, past board member. He read and reflected upon Psalm 78, focusing on verse four, "... tell the coming generation," which he identified as the underlying purpose of Covenant College.

Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber, principal, addressed the attendees with a theme of Homecoming. She welcomed them to the celebration which was designed to enable members of the College family – some even from out of the province – to revisit their alma mater (Latin for nourishing mother) and to reflect on how the College has impacted their lives. It was noted that two members of the family have been taken from this life to be with our LORD: Mr. Tony Vanderven, founding principal, and Mrs. Peggy Barendregt from the Class of 1988. Christine encouraged all those present to be ambassadors for Covenant College in their local community, and so to promote the College at the grass roots level from which it sprang.

Mr. Ed Slaa, of the Class of 1984 and current principal at Attercliffe Canadian Reformed Elementary School, shared his reflections on college life. He spoke of its small beginning, the first instructors, the building, and the curriculum – outlining what was taught and what was not. Ed thanked the instructors for their continued efforts and encouraged the College and its board to think big. So ended

the formal portion of the dinner. The guests happily returned to mingling, chatting, and catching up on old times. Time flew by and before most realized it, it was time to head down the path to Cornerstone Church for the official celebration program.

For some this program was a continuation, for others a beginning. Mr. Peter Vandersluis, board chairman, opening the evening with warm words of welcome. He read and reflected on Christ's teaching as recorded in John 15, extending the vine and branch metaphor to Covenant College.

Mr. Gerry Nordeman, past chairman and one of the founding fathers of the College, presented a historical overview that reflected on Reformed education in North America during the 1970s, the pre-college days. The desire to establish a teachers college of our own was born out of a feeling of need and frustration. Schools faced the harsh reality of staff shortages. It was difficult to attract people to enter the teaching profession and those who did were soon snatched up as the number of elementary and secondary schools across Canada increased. A resolution was passed by the League of Canadian Reformed Schools in regards to establishing a college, and a committee was appointed. After several years of working behind the scenes, the committee presented a final report recommending the establishment of a Reformed teachers college, and also suggesting that such a college be equally represented by all school boards across Canada. The recommendations were

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adopted and the work of getting the Teachers College off the ground began in earnest. A Board of Directors was formed and a principal hired. On September 8, 1981, the College opened its doors for the first time. All glory be to our Heavenly Father!

These comments led us to the students themselves – specifically to the alumni. Miss Diane Breukelman, from the Class of 1984, spoke on behalf of those who studied at the College when it was located in the church basement. She expressed great thankfulness to the instructors for preparing her for ten rewarding years of teaching. Representing the Mohawk Road days, Mrs. Heather VanWoudenberg (née Berends) and Mrs. Robin Westrik (née VanDriel), both from the Class of 1992, spoke light-heartedly about their years at the college. Mr. Cornelius Broersma, from the Class of 2004, reflected on college life as he had experienced it at its current location. He saw his stay there as becoming a member of a new family – a family of Reformed believers whose love it is to guide and instruct fellow believers in the way of the LORD.

After a musical interlude provided by John Van Iperen (Class of 2000) and his wife Francine (née Homan, Class of 2001), Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber, principal, spoke about the challenges the College faces in the next 25 years. She identified three key challenges: for the faculty, the challenge of maintaining college programs in an ever-changing world; for the board, the challenge of attaining accreditation while holding fast to our Reformed distinctiveness; and for the community, the challenge of upholding the college in prayer and by way of financial contributions. Christine ended her presentation by presenting a copy of the commemorative anniversary booklet, *Milestones as Steppingstones*, to Peter Vandersluis, board chairman. This book is the result of a faculty project and reflects upon Reformed education in North America and the place of Covenant College within it.

Before the evening was officially ended, Mr. Gerrit Bos, vice chairman, unveiled the new College logo. He gave a brief explanation of the logo, emphasizing that a logo is meant to identify, not to explain.

Mr. Bill Horsman, long-time instructor at the college, led in thanksgiving prayer. Those in attendance had opportunity to purchase a personal copy of the anniversary booklet on their way out. Many moved back to the Guido de Brès High School gymnasium where treats of various kinds were available. This made for a “gezellige” way to bring an end to what had been a most enjoyable evening of celebration.





## BOOK REVIEW HENK BERENDS

On my desk I have a copy of a beautiful little book, entitled *Celebrating 25 Years: Milestones as Steppingstones*. Recently published, this well-designed and richly illustrated booklet tells the story of the first twenty-five years of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College.

From the Foreword by the past chairman, Martha DeGelder, we glean something about the purpose of this publication. It is a book of praise to the LORD for the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Teachers College, but it also “seeks to engage you, the reader... to meditate on what God’s Word has to say about the education of our children, to read what our fathers were thinking and doing when they sought to build Reformed schools, to find out about the efforts put forth to establish the College,” and “to ponder the challenges that face us.”

The next contribution is by the Rev. Douwe Agema, who teaches Bible Studies at the College. Rev. Agema starts by considering the objective of the College. Reflecting on Psalm 78, he explains that the joy of biblical teaching is to “tell the next generation” about the deeds of the LORD. This was and continues to be the ultimate aim and purpose of the College.

The remainder of the book is organized around four topics. The chapters are interspersed with “Alumni Voices.” Several alumni reminisce in diverse ways that are both interesting and informative. The publication also introduces a new logo for the College. This is a very attractive addition. I would congratulate Graphic Artist Josh Sieders of Semantic Design with the design of the book and the manner in which the College’s vision and mission are visualized.

Of special interest are the chapters written by the three full-time faculty members. Judy Kingma’s contribution is entitled “Bricks and Mortar and Beyond.” To help us understand the character and

purpose of the College she examines the context in which it came into being. In 1955 the first Canadian Reformed school opened its doors in British Columbia. Since then many more schools started and soon the need for Reformed teacher training was felt. Ultimately this led to the establishment of Covenant College.

The next chapter, written by the Principal, Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber, contains a historical review of the College. It is very informative and provides us with good insight into the challenges that were faced and the solutions that were pursued. Much information can be gleaned from this section, information that makes one thankful to the LORD who has so graciously and generously provided for us.

Allard Gunnink writes the third chapter, entitled “The Nurturing Character of Reformed Education. Where do we go from here?” Mr. Gunnink makes clear how necessary it is that each new generation reflects upon the nature and necessity of Reformed schools. This is again a very informative chapter that will give us ample food for thought and discussion.

The final chapter, again written by Christine van Halen-Faber, seeks to answer the question “Who are our teachers?” Dr. van Halen describes the teacher preparation program offered at Covenant College and identifies the skills and character components that describe a “qualified” teacher for our Reformed schools. She also very clearly describes the programs at Covenant College, and concludes by pointing out that teaching is a relational activity. The doctrine of the covenant therefore has implications for the qualities a Reformed teacher ought to possess. To help develop these qualities in the students is the exciting and responsible task of the instructors at Covenant College.

As will have become clear from the foregoing, I found this an exciting book. In it we are made aware once again of the LORD’s gracious care for his people, evident in the financial resources he has provided, in the work of committees and boards, and not in the last place in the instructors he gave us. In this connection I want to remember especially our late Br. Tony Vanderven, whom the Lord endowed with so many unique and useful gifts, as well as our Br. Bill Horsman. They, as well as the teachers who came later, dared to become a part of this enterprise, utilizing their gifts readily and cheerfully for the benefit and well-being of the other members. You will find information about the present teachers and staff members under the heading “Faculty and Staff.”

To repeat: I very much appreciate this publication. It is part of History. May our God continue to bless the College! I urge you to buy and read, ponder and meditate, and be thankful. Show your gratitude by your financial support and, even more importantly, pray that this small College will continue to do big things to the glory of our covenant God.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW LOGO CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER



In anticipation of commemorating twenty-five years of teacher education at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College, Board and faculty engaged in introspection and reflection. Together we posed questions that helped shape our thinking about the past, the present, and the future of the College. These included the following: Who are we? What is our intent and purpose? How does our faith illumine the path we should go? What is the basic premise of our teaching and learning? How might we radiate this outward into the world in which we live?

These and other aspects were then articulated in the presence of Josh Sieders, our graphic artist, who helped us understand more deeply how the conceptual ideas that shape our existence can be represented in a visual form. The result of our collective introspection and reflection is a new logo for Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College.

**The White Swoosh** is a symbol of a path and it also represents a “C” for the name *Covenant*. The path refers to the tagline of telling the next generation. It symbolizes the imparting of wisdom, the passing on of the promises of the gospel, and the education of our youth in the ways of the LORD.

**The Font** was chosen for its strength and established feel. It has a slightly older, more classic feel, but has been altered to include a youthful “edge”. It is now a mix of serif and sans-serif fonts.



*“...tell the next generation...”*

PSALM 78:4

**The Book** is a symbol of teaching and learning as well as an allusion to the Bible.

**The Letter T** lent itself to the shape of the cross naturally. The letter was altered slightly to make the reference a little stronger.

**The Tagline** is taken from Psalm 78:4 and is the motto of the College. Its presence beneath the logo is to reinforce the perspective and goals of the CCRTC.