



CONNECTION

October 2018



Mr. James Meinen
Principal

FROM THE BOARD

School Board

Chairman: Alex Sikkema
Vice Chair: James Gunnink
Secretary: Lee-Ann Kruisselbrink
Treasurer: Mark Hutten
Maintenance: Andrew Groeneveld

Education Committee

Chair: James Gunnink
Vice Chair: Mitch Bultena
Secretary: Cathy Scheper
Member: Irene Baron
Member: Sarah Bosch

Teaching Staff

Gr. 1-2 - Mrs. J. Vantol
Gr. 3-4 - Miss E. deHaan
Gr. 5-6 & Principal - Mr. J. Meinen
Gr. 7-8 - Miss A. Hutten
Art - Mrs. B. Spanninga
Learning Assistance - Mrs. M. Kruisselbrink

Volunteer Staff

Mrs. J. Antuma (Librarian)
Mrs. R. Sikkema (Admin Assistant to Principal)

Mission Statement:

Our aim is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity, to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.

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School is well underway, and things are going well. The new students have adjusted to their new surroundings very quickly, and it almost seems as though they were always students here. Every new student changes the dynamics at school a bit, and it is our prayer that all students may thrive here at Harvest. We also ask for your continued prayers for our staff that they may have all that is necessary to do their tasks as well.

Although we have only just begun this year, we are already looking and planning for the 2019-2020 school year. The finance committee has prepared a budget for our upcoming membership meeting on Nov 15th. You will be able to see the entire membership meeting package in your church mailbox shortly. The Board has also looked at our SWOT again, and from this have developed a planning chart to help us keep track of objectives and goals the membership wants us to follow through on.

We continue to support our staff with professional development. Recently Mr. Meinen went to Ottawa to attend a National Christian School's Principals' conference. This was a good chance for him to network with other principals and also to see what is working well, and not so well in other Christian schools. Mr. Meinen has also completed a school evaluation for Grace Christian School in Millgrove. While this isn't exactly PD, it is an excellent learning opportunity for him, and he can take some best practices home with him.

Miss Hutten has begun her university courses, and this adds a bit more to her work load, but so far she is managing well. Mrs. Vantol and Miss deHaan attended PD days, the CRTA convention, are taking part in a staff book study "The Leader in Me" by Stephen Covey and are busy developing their respective curriculums to better integrate the reformed markers. All of these things

may seem like small things, but it shows that our staff is committed to excellence in education and focusing on a Christian perspective, which came out strongly in the SWOT.

Our school can look forward to having a few more student teachers over the course of the year. This increases our exposure and involvement in our Christian school community. We have also written a letter to our new mayor for Georgian Bluffs to congratulate him on his new role and also to invite him to our school. Part of membership feedback on the SWOT was to increase our community involvement both locally and in our Christian circles.

Also from the SWOT was long term planning and momentum for the Board, so to address that we will discuss at our fall membership meeting the importance of increasing board terms to 4 years. To aid with this Mark Hutten has generously offered to complete a second term. Our school's theme text this year is Phil 2:4 which says "*not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*" It is a beautiful time to be on the Board, and it is a pleasure for us to serve our community. We feel very blessed here in Owen Sound. Everything seems to be going well: Finances, parental support, positive momentum, student enrolment, excellent staffing. We recognize our Father's hand in all of this, and we give thanks to Him always!

On behalf of the Board, Alex Sikkema

We have a Membership Meeting November 15, 2018 at 7:30pm

Remember: There is a Christian Stewardship Services presentation! 2:00pm & 7:30pm

Please see OS Church Bulletin for more details

TREASURER'S REPORT

Oh what fun it is to enter budget season! On behalf of the finance committee of Rachel Sikkema, Andrew Groeneveld, and myself, I can report with thankfulness that our upcoming school year of 2019/2020 looks positive from a financial perspective. In our current growth state, we only have one sensible budget option to present to you as membership at our upcoming General Meeting. In a nutshell, we're proposing a 1.5% increase to General and Parental

Membership, to remain current with rising costs. Then (here is the exciting part), we're pumped to share with you our long term surplus investment plan into the Harvest Kingdom Builder Deposit, to enable continued and sustainable growth. Come on out to the membership meeting to hear about it!

Mark Hutten

The following school fees are in effect as of July 1, 2018!

\$700.00 - Parental
\$305.00 - General
\$160.00 - Single/Retired
\$50.00 - Student.



FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

James M and I recently attended a League Learning Day focusing on "Attracting and Retaining Career Teachers." The day began with the survey results of high school students and their thoughts on choosing teaching as a career. Much of the day was focused on identifying obstacles that discourage young (and older) people from entering the teaching profession and then coming up with S.M.A.R.T. goals for the League, the Teacher's College and Board's/local schools to address. There is much to share, but I would like highlight two takeaways from the day:

1. **Teaching needs to become a serious career option, not a "fall-back-on" plan.** It came up a number of times the perception that teaching became an option for many "when all else fails". Do we encourage teaching in our children? Do we see these gifts in them and if so does "Teaching" makes the short-

list of career/post-secondary education options? This may apply more to highschool age children, but do parents and teachers collaborate when this aptitude is recognized in their students and children?

2. **Teachers need to be ambassadors of their own profession.** Do teachers demonstrate a passion for their own careers? I am thankful to say that at Harvest there is a real excitement about teaching as was evidenced at the recent Open House. Our staff have some serious fun teaching and the culture in our school exhibits this! As one attendee noted: "If kids have a fun learning experience they will want to work in this fun learning environment." One of the action items for Boards/principals was to "build a vibrant culture to attract students to come back to school as teachers." How are we doing on this front?

Thank you to all who attended the open house! It was a worthwhile "up-beat" evening where we were **tuned** in on the **scale** of our music program. Thank you, teachers, for **drumming** up some great presentations and slide shows (there is more going on at Harvest than building forts!)

Beyond the "routine" work on our agenda we continue to research health/sex ed curriculum. As we do so we are challenged with...

- What topics do we teach?
- What resources are available and appropriate to use?
- What topics are age-appropriate?
- How do we balance the parents' primary responsibility with our mandate to equip our students for life/learning in today's culture?

Please continue to lift up our teachers in prayer!

For the EdCom, James Gunnink

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

The school year is now well under way and it is great to see students digging deep into their respective curriculums and generally enjoying the opportunity to learn about God's wonderful creation. With no staff turnover, and the same core group of volunteers returning to Harvest, the year began very smoothly. This smooth start and stability is something to be very thankful for as it wasn't too long ago that Harvest faced significant staffing challenges and turnover among personnel seemed to be the norm.

We can also be thankful for the freedom we continue to enjoy in being allowed to operate a Christian school. While we can easily take this for granted we see schooling based on the foundation of God's Word coming more and more under attack. Of note, our sister schools in Alberta are facing significant opposition from the provinces NDP government.

Just a few weeks ago, the government returned our sister school's bullying policies highlighting various areas of the policies they took issue with. Issues included calling God's Word infallible, the school telling parents what activities their children are involved in and not celebrating the LGBTQ lifestyle. All our schools had their bullying policies returned with the threat that if the policies were not brought in line with the NDP values, the school would possibly lose funding and accreditation.

I had the opportunity to talk to some

Alberta multid denominational principals at a conference in Ottawa a few weeks ago about this very issue. I was quite troubled most had no issue following the new legislation and in not informing parents what their children are doing. One commented on the fact "we don't tell parents lots of things and besides we are better equipped to handle such sensitive matters." Such comments really underscore how far many schools have moved away from recognizing parental authority.

Thankfully our sister schools in Alberta have decided to stand their ground on both the parental authority piece and on the wording of their bullying policies. Our schools have resubmitted their policies with no changes and are currently waiting to hear back about what consequences they will face. Please remember these schools in your prayers in this difficult time.

Here at Harvest we continue to reach out to our elected politicians and advocate for our schools. A few weeks ago, I had an opportunity to brainstorm with Mr. Matt Bittel (principal of Timothy School in Owen Sound) and come up with an action plan to lobby our politicians about the importance of Christian Education. The plan is to have our MP and MPP visit our school one year and Timothy the other year. Whenever a politician visits one of our schools, Mr. Bittel and I will arrange a short meeting afterward to talk about the importance of

Christian Education and Independent schools in general. It is a real blessing our schools can work together in this regard!

A Busy Fall

A whole host of extra-curricular activities and clubs took place these past two months of school. Every grade enjoyed at least one field trip and some enjoyed multiple trips. Most trips had students out in God's creation, enjoying the incredible ecosystems, plants and animals in this part of the world. Senior students have also been busy with sports and Harvest competed in both Soccer and Cross Country. In both sports we had success. We gave the top team in soccer a real challenge in the semi-finals and placed 5th in cross country out of 11 schools! Harvest also welcomed several special guests these past two months. In early October a Metis speaker visited grade 7/8 to talk about the Metis - a topic grade 7/8 was studying in Social Studies (you can find a few pictures of this below). Grade 3/4 welcomed many seniors from our church as part of our project that looked at the history of the Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church. Finally, the school welcomed Word and Deed into Harvest to present to the students some of the work this organization does across the world. It has been a busy and exciting few months here at Harvest!



Fundraising

Thanks to all those who helped with Campfire clean-up, veggie packs, our work day and chocolate bar sales. These fundraisers went great and we have already met about 2/3 of our fundraising goal for this year! This money will help fund field trips, skating, tournaments, year-end trips and fun days here at school.



Professional Development

Back to school doesn't just mean learning for the students, but the staff have also been busy learning. We have had the opportunity to attend a PD day and some conferences since the year began and these days are great opportunities for us to reflect upon our Reformed worldview and best practices in teaching. However, the busiest staff member on the PD front is without a doubt Ms. Hutten who is working on her undergraduate degree. It is a real blessing to see Ms. Hutten pursue teaching certification and her career in teaching. For anyone who has had the opportunity to watch Ms. Hutten teach it is clear she is in the right profession and we are blessed to have her here at Harvest.



Report Cards

In early November interim report cards will go out. These report cards provide a brief glimpse of how your child fared these first two months of school and a more detailed report card goes out at the end of term 1 (early in the new year). While the report card isn't overly detailed, we hope to go into much more detail about how your child is doing at Parent/Teacher Conferences which are set for November 5th and 6th. These conferences are very valuable in allowing us to share more about your child and in helping us plan how we can work together to see your child fully utilize their God given talents. More information about these conferences will be sent home with the interim report cards.



School Cleaning

Each week of the school a family takes their turn and cleans the school. In the past this was done on a Wednesday afternoon and a Friday afternoon but with the increase in student population there is has been a corresponding increase in dirt and mess accumulating.

A new schedule is being put in place and parents are now asked to clean 3 times per week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. There is a list on the wall in the staff room of the cleaning duties to complete which has been updated to reflect this change.

This is a very important task that we share, an opportunity to teach our children about stewardship, but also as parents this is an opportunity to serve in the educating of your children, a clean school means a healthy school and a better learning environment. Thank you parents for your willingness to help in this way!

Jenn Gunnink and Irene Baron continue to be willing to offer their cleaning services if you are not able to school clean for your assigned week. They are charging \$40 for Tuesday, \$40 for Thursday and \$75 for the Friday cleaning (or \$155/week). Please call either of them in advance if you would like their services.

That's it from the principal desk. Please continue to keep Harvest and the work we do in your thoughts and prayers. Your support is greatly appreciated!

James Meinen

From the Grade 3&4 Classroom:

Grade 3 and 4 has been learning about the church as the body of Christ. As a culminating assignment we invited a number of the original members from the Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church to a little tea party where they shared with us memories of how God has blessed our church over the years. We hope you enjoy these papers about the history of our church here in Owen Sound!

The Canadian Reformed Church of Owen sound was instituted in July 5,1992.The total members of the church were 87: 33 adults and 54 children. Before this church was built the elders and deacons and minister met at Chatsworth St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. It took 7 months to build this Church. There was nothing on this property before Church was built except a grassy lot. During the building process everybody pitched in to help. The first Sunday we only had the afternoon service because the first service was on Christmas day. Some challenges of the Church were to get to know new Christians.

The very first minister was Rev. Feenstra. Our Consistory had 2 elders and 1 deacon. Our services were the same as they are now. We had 3 ministers since this Church was built. Rev. Feenstra served for 16 years here, Rev. Moesker served for 6 years here, and Rev. Pol served for 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ years so far. For 2 years we were vacant.

We have had outreach. In the past we have a Refugee family, Samuel and Laila. Owen Sound has been involved with the ERQ and Rev. Bedard for 16 years. We have been in touch with Church picnics, bible studies, showers and young peoples. The school began in Sept. 1996 and the Church began in 1996 around Christmas. It was always a plan to have the school in the basement. The members of the Church all work together to glorify God. Members of the Church helped when people were sick or they visited each other. My faith has been blessed by the preaching of God's word and through the communion of saints.

By Jenna Kruisselbrink

The church has been blessed over the years in many ways. The church started on July 5 1992. At the beginning of the church there were only 12 families. Before the church was built they worshiped in the Presbyterian Church in Chatsworth. The church took 1 year to build. There was nothing on the property before the church was built. The first consistory only had 1 deacon and 2 elder. Rev. Feenstra served for 15 years here; Rev. Moesker served for 6 years here. Some outreach that our church has been involved in is supporting refugee families and helping the ERQ in Quebec. Members in the church have helped in any way they could. Did you know the school was used before the church? It was always the plan to have a school under the church. We used to have 1 teacher, but now we have 4 teachers.

By Derrick Scheper

The Church has been blessed over the years. The Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church was instituted July 5, 1992. At first members went to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The church took from June 24th to around Christmas to be built. Before the church was built there was nothing on the property. When the church was getting built, a lot of men helped out and the ladies helped out with lunches and drinks. The first Sunday that they could use was on Christmas. We had 3 ministers counting Rev. Pol. Rev. Feenstra served for 15 years Rev. Moesker served for 6 years and Rev. Pol has served for 1 year and ten months. We were vacant for 2 years. Some people listened to radio broad castings. We had a refugee family Samuel and Leila Majuro and there two child. We have been included with ERQ for 20 years. The school was built at the same time as the church. It was always the plan to have the school in the basement.

By Cadence Meinen

God has clearly blessed Owen Sound church over the years. The Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church was instituted in July 5, 1992. There were about 87 members. They met at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Chatsworth. It took 7 months to build the church. There was nothing on the property before the church was built. Everybody in the church helped build the church in different ways.

The first day at the new church was Christmas day. There were some challenges at first. Some of them didn't know the songs and others had to drive a long distance to church. Members of the church got together for picnics and bible studies and winter fun days to get to know each other.

All members worked together because all of them wanted to glorify God in their lives. When anyone was suffering, people would bake meals and visit them. They saw God's goodness to them in giving them ministers to preach God's word and strengthen their faith.

By: Cooper Kruisselbrink

In July 5, 1992 the Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church was instituted. The church began with 87 members in the church. Before the church was built they went to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Building the church took them 7 or 8 months to finish. Mr. B. Kruisselbrink hired everyone to help on Saturdays.

They had baptism and Christmas day on the first Sunday in the new building. Some members left their own church to join the Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church. We met new people. Our very first minister was Rev. Feenstra. In our consistory there was Mr. Wildeboer as a deacon, and Mr. Kruisselbrink and Mr. Kapteyn as elders. We had 3 ministers over the past years.

Members in the church met together for church picnics, Bible studies, pie bakes, and socials. God's faithfulness over the past years can be seen in the close bond among the members. Everyone was involved in all aspects of congregational life, like one big family.

By Tessa Flikweert

God has clearly blessed Owen Sound church over the years. The Canadian reformed church started in July 5, 1992. There were about 90 people when the church started. Before the church was built they went to the Presbyterian Church in Chatsworth .it took 1 whole year to make the church when they began construction of the church there was just grass on the property when they started the church there were a lot of jobs to do but everyone helped out.

The first minister was Rev. Feenstra. He served for 15 years and after him, Rev. Moesker served for 6 years. The church was not really vacant for a long time. Our minister right now is Rev. Pol.

Sam and Layla were our first refugee family and the church was excited to welcome them to Owen Sound. We have also been involved with Rev. Bedard and his work in the ERQ. We are still involved with the ERQ and we are working on getting our second refugee family to Canada.

Sometimes, when members are lonesome, we would help by visiting them. Through births, baptisms, profession of faith and Lord's Supper members can celebrate God's goodness to us.

By: Curtis Gunnink

God has blessed Owen Sound church over the years in many ways. In are church when we started we had only 87 people. Before the church was built, members met in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Chatsworth. Construction started in the summer and ended at Christmas. The minister was Rev. Feenstra. We have had a refugee family in our church. We have been involved with the ERQ for about 20 years. Now we are supporting our 2nd refugee family and we have 313 people in our church.

By Esther Feenstra

For Church History this year Harvest Christian School invited some of the original members of the Canadian Reformed Church. We “interviewed” them and asked about our church. So in 1992 our beloved church was instituted. At first the consistory was about 4 people. The services were the same times as they are now. To start our congregation we had about 50 or 60 people. It took about a year to build our church. Before our church was built, there was an empty grass lot that belonged to the house on the church property. While building the church, Mrs. Werkman helped make ham and cheese buns for the hard at work workers. Mrs. Werkman also does the flower arrangements that stand near the pulpit. She also used to work in the church library. Like Mrs. Werkman, other people have helped each other by cutting other people’s lawns and firewood and picking up people who can’t drive. Mrs. Werkman says that there was (and still is) no special dress code except for “No flipflops. ”

At first the churches back pews roped off because the church looked to empty with a couple of people sitting in the back and the rest of the congregation sitting in the front.

The very first minister was Rev. Peter Feenstra and he stayed for 15 years. After Rev. Feenstra there was here there was 2 years of vacancy. Then Rev. Moesker came. He stayed for 6 years. Our current minister is Rev. Pol.

Our church has had a refugee family before. They had 2 children here (in Ontario) their last name is Manjura

The first organ was struck by lightning, they tried to fix it but it kept malfunctioning. But thankfully now we have a perfect working organ. Once a child pulled the fire alarm while being held by his father!

Enjoy the rest of your week!
By Anya Hutten

God has clearly blessed Owen Sound church over the years. In 1992 the Canadian Reformed Church of Owen Sound was instituted. We think that they had 120 members. They used to go to Chatsworth Presbyterian Church. It took them a year to build Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church. There was nothing on the property before that. Berry’s Construction helped to build the church along with a lot of others who volunteered. The church was finished on Christmas day. It was hard to get to know each other.

Rev. Feenstra was the first minister at our church. There were 3 elders and 2 deacons and the sermons looked the same as they do today. So far we have had 3 ministers: Rev. Feenstra was here for 15 years, Rev. Moesker was 6 years, and Rev. Pol, so far was here for 2 years. We were never vacant for a long time.

We had a refugee family and have been involved with the ERQ for 15 years. We met together for picnics, Christmas dinners, and coffee fellowship. We have helped each other. We cooked and took care of each other in times of need.

By Burke de Gelder

Our Church was instituted in July 1992. All members helped too. Berry’s construction was hired to build the church of Owen Sound. Part of the Dutch community from Holland also helped us out by making a large donation to the school which was built before the church. The first minister was Rev. Feenstra. When someone was sick people would come over and do chores for them. A lot of friendships were made at that time.

By: Noah Spanninga

God has blessed Owen Sound church over the years. When the church began there were 12 families. Members used to meet in Chatsworth. Construction of our church building started in 1996 and it lasted to 1997. Everyone in the church helped with something. Some people even brought a lunch and some snacks for the workers.

By: Madelyn Spanninga

The church has been blessed over the years. The Canadian Reformed church of Owen Sound was instituted in 1992. There were about 120 members in the church. It took about 1 year to build the church. The first service in the new building was on Christmas day. The first minister was Rev. Feenstra. There were 3 elders and 2 deacons. Over the years, members of the church got to know each other through church picnics, coffee socials, and potluck meals. God blessed the church in Owen Sound.

By: Anthony Flikweert

On July 5th 1992 the Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church was instituted. We had 87 members. Before the Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church was made they worshiped at ST. Andrew Presbyterian church. It took Barry's construction and some of the members 7 or 8 months to build the church. There was nothing on the property before the church was made; there was only grass.

On the first Sunday they had baptism and it was Christmas day. Lots of people left deferent church's to come to this church. Their minister was Rev. Feenstra and the people in the consistory were Mr. Wildeboer, Mr. B. Kruisselbrink, and Mr. B. Kapteyn. The services were the same as they are now. They had 3 ministers the first minister was Rev. Feenstra he preached for 15 years. The second minister was Rev. Moesker and he preached for 6 years. The third minister was Rev. Pol, who is still our minister today. They were only ever vacant for 2 years.

They did have a refugee family and their names were Samuel and Laila Manyaro. Samuel and Laila were really excited about coming to Canada. The congregation had church picnics at Chesley Lake, bible studies, pie bakes and socials. Everyone was involved in all aspects of congregational life, like one big family.

By Reid Groeneveld

God uses his people to help and encourage each other. We can see this in many ways in the history of our church. The Canadian Reformed Church was instituted in February 1992; there were about 12 families. Before this church was made they worshiped in a Presbyterian church in Chatsworth. The building took about a year to build. There was nothing on this property before the church was built. About everyone was busy doing something, painting, building, bringing snacks and lunches and many other things.

At first are church had 1 deacon and 2 elders and our first minister. Then there were 2 deacons and 2 elders for a very long time. The services were at the same time as they are now. There have been 3 ministers counting Rev. Pol. Rev. Moesker was preaching for 6 yrs, Rev. Feenstra preached for 15 yrs. The school began right away after the church was built. Our first teacher at our school here was Dianne Jonker. There was no thanksgiving service before and there still isn't. Owen Sound has been involved in outreach over the years by supporting refugee families.

Thank you for looking and finding some information about the church. Hope you found some cool things about our church. We had some help from some people from the church that were alive when the church was getting built. You can see how God has helped us and worked through us.

By Lydia Degelder

The church was instituted July 5, 1992. There were 12 families and 50 or 60 people. We worshiped at a church in Chats Worth. It took them about 1 year to finish building the church. There was nothing on this property except grass before the church was made. Mr. Kruisselbrink hired every one. There were ropes in the back because we weren't allowed to sit there. There were not many challenges in being part of a new church. Rev. P. Feenstra was our first minister. There were 2 elders and 2 deacons. The services are the same as they are now. We were vacant for 2 years. We have had a refugee family. We have been involved in the E.R.Q. and with Rev. Bedard for 20 years.

By: Ava Vis