



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

JULY 2018

"...tell the next generation..." PSALM 78:4



CCRTC NEWS
SUMMER 2018
www.covenantteacherscollege.com

from the principal **CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER**

It is hard to believe that another year of teaching and learning has passed at CCRTC!

All of our students have written exams and completed final papers, five of them have graduated and are preparing for a new task, and most of them have started summer jobs.

Faculty members have completed marking exams and assignments, reviewing courses, and are now engaging in summer course activities and preparing for a new academic year that will see Mr. Menco Wieske join CCRTC as a full-time faculty member.

Final preparations for submitting the accreditation application are in full swing, and the administrative staff will continue to do the invaluable work of finalizing the electronic files this summer.

All in all, we may look back on a wonderful year under God's rich blessings. As we do so, we also look forward to enjoying a refreshing break, and then to the start of a new year on September 4 - knowing that the beautiful task of "...telling the next generation" is not yet completed.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!





GRADUATION 2018 BETH STEL

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”

— PSALM 105:1

On Friday, May 25, 2018, family and friends of the five graduating students of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College and supporters of CCRTC gathered together to celebrate the annual graduation ceremony held at Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church in Hamilton.

The chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Richard Feenstra, opened the evening with words of welcome, Scripture reading, and prayer. He also spoke a few words concerning the role of teacher as gardener, nurturing the students in their classroom as young trees to grow and bear fruit pleasing to the LORD, helping them to establish roots. Thinning, watering, and pruning are all essential to ensure a rich harvest.

Mr. Feenstra then introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Jason Heemskerk, who is currently the coordinator for the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies. His address was entitled, “*And we have scamps...! Good teaching is the art of loving the monsters under your wings...to the end that they may serve their God.*” To focus on who we are as people, Mr. Heemskerk used two definitions of “monster” as given by Merriam-Webster

as “one who deviates from the normal or accepted behaviour” and “a powerful person or thing that cannot be controlled and that causes many problems.” He connected these definitions to the confession of Article 14 of the Belgic Confession, “man became wicked and perverse, corrupt in all his ways.”

A classroom is a room full of sinners, as emphasized in Romans 7:19, “For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing.” Teachers need to remember that students are broken people who are doing what they can to use the gifts that they have been given. Teachers must be careful not to make children fit a preconceived mold at the expense of erasing character. A teacher has the choice to prune a character until it is the image of perfection or to use the natural shape of the character and hone it so that the student may learn to use his/her talents appropriately. Students need to see that the teacher knows who they are, accepts who they are, and that while a teacher will prune and shape them, the teacher will not stunt them nor make them into something they are not. The teacher will image the way God loves each one of His broken people, to show the students the love of Christ and show them what it means to belong to their Saviour in safety.

In her principal’s address, Dr. Christine van Halen emphasized that Christian education at all levels is a treasure, to be appreciated and safeguarded but also to be acted upon

and used. She took some time to speak to the graduands about their new role as treasure-keepers. She challenged them “to safeguard the treasure called Reformed education, to actively work with it, to explore it, to deepen your understanding of it and to truly make it your own.” She also highlighted two firsts of this graduating class: Robin Vanderwoude is the first graduate of the two-year program and Rhonda Kelly is the first to complete the three-year program while also being a wife and mother.

At this point, the registrar, principal, and chairman conferred the diplomas on the graduands. The Diploma of Education was granted to Robin Vanderwoude and the Diploma of Teaching to Brandi Boersema, Erica DeBoer, Christina Feenstra, and Rhonda Kelly. With thankfulness, it could be noted that each has been appointed to a teaching position. Brandi Boersema and Rhonda Kelly then gave their valedictory address, giving the audience a little glimpse into their school years.

W.A.T.C.H. made their annual presentation, presenting a cheque for \$8000 and heartfelt thanks was extended to all contributors. Several faculty milestones were remembered; see *Marking and Celebrating Milestones* for details. As the evening concluded, we could be thankful for another year of instruction at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College and another year in which its work could serve some part of making known among the nations what God has done!

MARKING AND CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Typically, graduation is a milestone in the life of a student. It marks the end of a period of study and signals the beginning of a new period – one of further studies or work. CCRTC’s graduation was not any different for the five students who received their diplomas on May 25.

However, the evening marked other milestones as well. Together with guests we could mark the fact that it was 30 years ago that Eleanor joined the college as library technician. Under her watch, the library expanded from the humble beginnings as a “library in the closet” in the Cornerstone church basement, to what it is today: An inviting space containing more than 16,000 holdings. Eleanor has seen many changes in her role ranging from typing cards for the catalogue, to guiding the purchase of electronic data bases, and providing instruction to students regarding the use of the library’s resources.

We thank Eleanor for what she brings to the college, and we hope she will be able to serve the college for many more years under God’s blessings.

Another milestone was marked at the graduation: 2018 marks the silver anniversary of Dr. Christine van Halen’s employment at the college. Twenty-five years go by very quickly when you are engaged in the work you love. With deep gratitude she looks back over these years in which the LORD’s blessings over all aspects of CCRTC’s developments are so clearly visible. In trust, she looks forward to the time ahead as she continues to serve the important cause of Reformed education.

An extra special milestone was commemorated in marking not only the retirement of Allard Gunnink as full-time lecturer, but

also the contributions he made during the 45 years in which he was involved in Reformed education. Having obtained his teaching credentials from the Albertus Zijlstra Pedagogische Academie in Groningen, The Netherlands, Allard started his teaching career in Hardewijk. It did not take long before he and his wife Joanne made the courageous decision to immigrate to Canada where Allard joined the staff at John Calvin School in Smithville. Over the years, their journey continued: From Smithville to Fergus, to Langley, to Winnipeg, and eventually to Hamilton where Allard joined the full-time faculty in 2004. Indeed, at the occasion of retiring from active teaching, Allard can look back on a rich career experience in which he touched hundreds of students at the elementary and secondary school levels, and lastly in the teacher education setting. During the past 14 years, Allard taught a variety of courses ranging from the practical applications in teaching studies, to educational psychology, ethics, and social studies. In addition to his teaching, Allard served the college as the practicum coordinator. As our ways part, we express our appreciation for the many contributions Allard made to CCRTC, its students, and its faculty. We pray that the LORD will continue to give Allard and Joanne good health and strength to enjoy many years together in retirement – putting their hope and trust in God, praising and serving him in whatever place he has ordained for them.

And so, we may look back on these milestones in thankfulness and humility: Every milestone is merely a stepping stone along the path that the LORD has decreed for each one of us. May we continue to walk his ways in faith and obedience.



W.a.t.c.h. Report

“ It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. For you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord; I sing for joy at the works of your hands.” — PSALM 92:1-4

THE WONDERFUL MAGAZINE RACK PURCHASED FOR THE LIBRARY WITH W.A.T.C.H. DONATIONS.

Greetings from W.A.T.C.H.! We sing praise in thankfulness to God that he has once again blessed our efforts with our annual spring fundraiser. We would like to express our gratitude to our representatives who take the time to collect from their local congregations. Also thanks to those of you who contribute to our yearly collections! Across the country we were able to collect enough to present a cheque to Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College at graduation totalling \$8000. Wow! We are looking forward to seeing how this will be used for the benefit of the college in the

coming year. As a committee, we are very grateful that we have this opportunity to assist CCRTC in the task of preparing teachers to educate our precious covenant children. We ask that you remember the college especially, as well as our committee, in your prayers...that the Lord may bless the work we do.

The W.A.T.C.H. committee,
Janet Van Vliet (Convener)
Chandra Vanderboom (Treasurer)
JoAnn Van Iperen (Secretary)
Beth Stel (Member-at-Large)
Eleanor Boeringa (CCRTC Liaison)

from the treasurer NATHAN HELDER

As we move to the last quarter of our fiscal year we are seeing donation revenues follow their typical seasonal pattern of trending lower. As always, we remain very thankful for the continued support that we receive from the broader community. However, in order to end our fiscal year with a positive balance, we will need to see an increase

in donation revenue. Please consider the many blessings that the LORD has given and support Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College with your planned donations. To help with this we also encourage the use of PAPs. Not only do they make donating easier for you the donor, but they also help provide a consistent revenue stream throughout the entire school year. Finally, we wish everyone a safe summer.

✂ Please detach and mail to: CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3

Yes! I would like to support CCRTC!

- One-Time gift of \$ _____ (cheque enclosed)
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Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawal Form

I want to be a regular donor to Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College and allow automatic donations from my bank account as indicated below. I agree with the conditions in the application and can terminate this agreement at any time.

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- \$_____/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
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Please ATTACH a blank cheque marked "VOID" to this form.