

## Memories leading up to our 75th Anniversary T. Family

Most of the group left Edmonton after a few severe winters. A diaper was found frozen on a grandchild one cold morning so the story goes. Mom's dad Wiebe V. and one other brother remained on the farm in Edmonton and later moved to a farm in Neerlandia where they changed the name to F. to avoid confusion with the other V.'s there. Several family members went to Lynden Washington, others to Iowa, Oregon and California.

Children born to George and Annie, in Barrhead, were Joan, Douglas, Wayne, Arthur and James. In April of 55 Dad sold the farm on the S ½ of 26 62 R3 and moved the family to the Okanagan Valley, first in Enderby and then to the farm near Armstrong on the back Enderby Road. The year Roy was born in 56, Dad underwent back surgery at the Vernon Jubilee Hospital. The folks paid for his hospital stay in installments over several years. It was a long hot summer the family endured with Dad in a full body cast for 6 months.

Sunday mornings and afternoon picnics at Polson Park were spent with the little congregation who worshipped together in the basement of the little house which would serve as the parsonage. Several of the church family helped us kids with farm chores while both Mom and Dad recovered from surgeries.

After 4 years of dairy farming, Dad longed for more open spaces and returned to Alberta to look at land. He visited the B. family who had moved from Neerlandia to Rocky years before. Dad liked the area. A CRC was established in Rocky and so in the spring of 59, 2 boxcars on the CNR tracks in the middle of Armstrong were loaded with the machinery in one and the horses and cattle in the other. Brother Doug with Ed J. rode the cattle car while Dad, Wayne, and I went with the one ton carrying the household goods. Mom, Jim and Roy rode the passenger train and we all arrived at Leslieville.

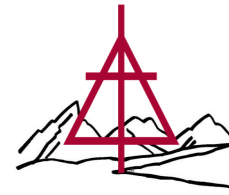
The boxcars were unloaded and the cattle herded down the road 2 miles west to the M. farm which Dad rented for 2 years. My brothers and I attended the school in Leslieville while Joan stayed with her job in Armstrong. When the roads to Rocky and the CRC were impassable, we would sometimes go to the Bethel Union Church in Leslieville on the bank of the Lobstick Creek.

While at the Leslieville area farm the folks purchased the SE 28 and NE 21 in the Oras area but could not relocate there for another year due to a former rental agreement. Dad then rented a farm just east of the Dovercourt road along the Clearwater River. We attended the Cheddarville school just east of the Dovercourt Hall and while living there, our youngest brother Louis was born but died a few days later from complications with Down Syndrome.

April of 62 we herded the cows on horseback to the Oras farm. Much work was needed to make the old farmhouse livable, but we were closer to town and the CRC where many friends were made. After tough times on the farm the folks began work with Calgary Power at the Bighorn Dam.

Joan had married Bob S. by this time and had several businesses in Rocky Mountain House. Doug had married Anne V. and then returned to the Vernon area with the kids. Wayne married Sharyn D. and farmed near Alhambra. Jim married Lucy B. and ran their trucking and backhoe business in the area. Art married Karen B. and they reside on the Oras farm. Roy returned to the Okanagan after school and played in various bands.

George passed in '92 and Annie in 2004. Many are the descendants in Alberta and BC with the majority in the Rocky area. We are thankful and blessed that the folks decided to move close to Rocky and to the good folk here at Rocky First CRC.



## FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

RR3 Site 4 Box 6, Rocky Mountain House, T4T 2A3 403.845.6067

Our **MISSION** is to worship God faithfully, nurture one another to grow in Christ, joyfully tell others about Jesus, develop our gifts to serve and pursue stewardship, justice and peace in every area of life.

**Pastor Ken Douma** – kgdouma@gmail.com 780.728.8148

**Pastor Natasha Specht** - pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca (Monday -Thursday)

**Church Office:** Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm office@rockycrc.ca



### Morning Worship Service

Welcome & prayer

♪ Here I am to Worship

Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We Welcome One Another

♪ Your Name

Call to Confession & Prayer

♪ Just A Closer Walk with Thee

Assurance of Pardon

♪ Jesus, All for Jesus

Mother's Day Poem

Children's Message - Pastor Ken

(Sunday School for Age 3 - Grade 5)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for World Renew - Women of Hope

Offertory

Scripture - John 21:1-19

Message - New Beginnings

♪ My Jesus, I Love Thee

Blessing

♪ Be Glorified

## Welcome to First CRC Rocky

If you are visiting we want to offer a warm welcome!  
We pray you will encounter God today as you worship and bring Him praise!

Nursery is available for infants & small children. Sunday School for age 3 - grade 5 during the service.  
Join us for coffee in the fellowship hall following the service.

[www.firstcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrocky.ca) or [FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse on Facebook](#)

## CHURCH FAMILY

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.  
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18*

† As a ministerial church, each church has been asked to pray for our brothers and sisters in our community, today, we are praying for the **Church of the Nazarene**.

† Congratulations to **Stan O.** who will be celebrating a birthday on May 13!

† Continue to keep **Tonia T. and Marvin W.** in your prayers as they are in the Rocky hospital.

† We pray for those at home: **Sylvia D.** and **Joe & Lena V.**. For those at the local care facilities: **Joan S.** and **Seenie B.**. For all the caregivers: who are able to assist those who require a little extra help and care.

† Please keep **all missionaries** in God's care, wherever they may be serving. Open doors can't be taken for granted. Many missionaries work within cultures and contexts that are in areas that are resistant to the gospel. But open doors include more than just access to nations and people groups. Individuals' hearts also need to be open and receptive to God's truth.

Pray ...

- That God will open doors of ministry, blessing partnerships and friendships.
- That those who serve will be led by the Holy Spirit and recognize open door opportunities.
- That God will lead His people past barriers to hearts ready to receive His Word.

Check out the **Missions bulletin board**, in the social hall, for updates on the missionaries that we support.

If you know of anyone that we should be keeping in our prayers for various reasons,  
Council asks that you please call Pastor Ken, Pastor Natasha, an elder or deacon.

Elders are:

Anthony B., Sheldon B., Alan H., Karl H., Jessica H., Cody L., John M., Alan O., Joel S., Chris T. and Gary V.

Deacons are:

Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Jim D., Justin D., and Mark H.

## Memories leading up to our 75th Anniversary

### T. Family

#### Tall Tales of T.'s

Douwe T., born 1874, and Betje D. born 1875 were married 1893 in Franeker, Friesland. Like many others in the area at that time, they were tempted to emigrate to Edmonton, Alberta by reading Henry K.'s excellent stories of a new land waiting and ready for the plow. Douwe, a dairy farmer, decided the future looked brighter for the family of eight in Canada.

After some correspondence with K., he sent the ten dollars to him and was assured he would meet him at the Edmonton train station wearing an orange ribbon on his chest. After packing their most treasured belongings, they booked passage across the Atlantic. The second class ocean liner turned out to be a third class freighter and after a grueling 10 day voyage they arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia. From there they travelled by train and 4 days later, rolled in to Strathcona, Alberta, arriving on a Sunday morning. The host with the orange ribbon was nowhere in sight but was later found returning from a church service held in a home close by. [the beginning of the Edmonton CRC]

The first night was spent in the immigration hall and from there to a tent in the flat, close to the High Level bridge where the eldest son John found work on the structure spanning the North Saskatchewan River. This dwelling fit in well with the landscape as many teepees were standing on the north bank high above the river.

That winter of 1911, Douwe, his oldest son John, and 12 other Dutchmen decided to look for homestead land northwest of the city. They looked for an area where they could expand and create their own Dutch community where church and school could be established.

After several days and 100 miles from Edmonton along the Klondike Trail, they found suitable land in Townships 61 and 62 Range 3. The survey pins were found amongst the heavy timber and odd swamp for each of the desirable quarter sections.

Seventy years later I drew a SW 26 out of a hat and Aaron purchased a SW 26 in the Oras area. We always thought that was quite a coincidence.

Back to 1912, Douwe and family, along with the M. and O. families, set out for their homesteads in the newly named area called Neerlandia. With a team of oxen pulling a wagon loaded with trunks of clothes, kitchen stove, homesteading tools, groceries, chickens and a milk cow in tow, the pace was slow.

As the roads became trails of mud and water, many trunks and belongings were left along the way with other homesteaders. After 15 days they arrived at the crude shack that had been started the winter before. Many were the hardships at the new bush land where they spent months clearing the trees off the land that was ready for the axe [not the plow].

Many summers were spent there improving the land and then back to their place in Edmonton to work for wages during the winter. George [my dad] was born in 1915 in Neerlandia and this was also the year the T. family along with 17 other families transferred their membership from the Edmonton CRC to the newly formed congregation in Neerlandia where I and siblings were baptized years later.

George married Annie F. in Neerlandia in 1941. Mom's family, the V's, had immigrated from Holland traveling on the next ship that left Elbooz after the Titanic went down, so the story goes. Our great grandparents Jelte and Sjouke arrived in Edmonton with a group of 28 family members, 9 of which were children and the rest grandchildren.

## Upcoming Events

May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17
9:00am Prayer meeting 10:00am Worship Service Sunday School story card #53 7:00pm Mere Christianity Study 7:30pm Youth at Hendri & Deanna H.		Office: Fran 7:30pm Admin	8:30am Prayer Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		9:00am Sunrise Camp Workbee
May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24
9:00am Prayer meeting 10:00am Worship Service No Sunday School 2:00 Bridal Shower for Isabelle D. 7:30pm Youth at Jos & Janneke S.		Office: Cheri-Lynn 7:30pm Elders	8:30am Prayer Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline	Men's Campout - Sign up sheet on bulletin board	Men's Campout 2:00 Isabelle D./ Shaw L. Wedding

All bulletins can be found online [www.firstcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrocky.ca)

Check out our Facebook page (@FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse) or website ([firstcrocky.ca](http://firstcrocky.ca)) for links to sermons.

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Thank you, for all you do!	May 11 Pastor Ken	May 18 Pastor Ken	May 25 Pastor Ken
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Cody L.	Alan O.	Joel S.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Peter B.	Ken B.	Jim D.
<b>Music Team</b>	Lifted Hearts	Six Track	Mosaic
<b>Children's Message</b>	Pastor Ken	Elroy L.	Pastor Natasha
<b>Nursery</b>	Mark & Keanna H., Margo D., Caleb D.	Justin & Courtney D., Alyssa D., Ruth D.	Mark & Jessica H., Kelsey O., Miyah B.
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Dave & Henriett V.	Jim & Margo D.	Bob & Marie A.
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	John & Rina V. Rob & Fran D.	John & Jean B. Justin & Mikala D.	Sheldon & Amber B. John & Nancy O.

## Deacon's Corner ~ Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Jim D., Justin D., Mark H.

### Upcoming Offerings

#### May 11 - World Renew (Women of Hope)

Today we celebrate the love and devotion of mothers around the world. Your gifts to World Renew today will help equip moms to give their babies the best possible start in the first 1,000 days of life and help ensure healthy futures. Please give generously today - with your support, we can share God's love and change countless lives for generation. To learn more or to give online, visit [worldrenew.net/first1000days](http://worldrenew.net/first1000days)

#### May 18 - Local Church Ministries

Local Church Ministries offerings go to cover all our budget commitments: staff, office expenses, power, heat, insurance, children's programs, mission support and ministry shares.

#### Gratefully Received April 27 & May 4

GEMS & Cadets \$1266

Local Church Ministries \$4676

### From the Deacons & Treasurer

There are several ways to give to the church:

**Coupons** - Allow you to give to the weekly offerings, without having to use loose change. They come in \$2, \$5, and \$10 coupons. Coupons can be directly purchased from a Deacon, in the Council room on Sunday mornings.

**Cheque** - To "First Christian Reformed Church of RMH". If you wish to have your cheque allocated to a specific cause approved by the deacons or otherwise announced please indicate that cause on the memo line of your cheque.

**E-transfers** - Send to [treasurer@rockycrc.ca](mailto:treasurer@rockycrc.ca) On the memo please specify the cause you would like money allocated to.

**Pre-Authorized Bank Withdrawals** - Contact Marlene O. to sign up or get a form from the office.

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, May 25** - Worship services at Clearwater Centre (1:15pm) & Westview Lodge (2:30)  
Pastor Natasha is hosting a lunch of soup and buns at her house for those helping with the Clearwater and Lodge services. If you are available to join her at these 2 services to help with singing and would like to join her for lunch, you are welcome to come over to the Parsonage after Church.

**Saturday, May 31** - Church Workbee (8:00am) There are several jobs to complete.  
For more information contact Mark H., Ken B. or Tom S.

## Prayer Ministry

Would you like prayer, but are unsure how or who to ask?  
Our Prayer Ministries would like to make prayer more accessible.

In the pews, there are Prayer Requests envelopes.

On the outside of the envelope, you can select who you would like to pray for you, and inside, there is a card for more details and contact information if needed.

Then, in the foyer, is a prayer request box for submitting prayer requests in.

Whatever you are going through - times of beauty or ones of trouble - we would love to pray with you.

Visit [www.firstcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrocky.ca) (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link)

## 75th Anniversary Upcoming Events

**Church Picnic - July 1**, if you would like to help out with this event, contact Brenda B., Chris T., Rita B. or Joanne T.

**Rocky Parade** - We are putting a float in the parade on **June 7**.

**A Church Campout** - Planning continues for the 75th anniversary campout at the Vandenbrink Ranch on **August 22-24**. Please RSVP by *completing the survey* sent to your email. If you require a paper copy, there are some on the back table in the foyer. Please put your completed survey in mailbox 102. The cost for camping is \$50 for the weekend. If you have any questions contact Cailyn B. or Lydia B.

## Church Announcements

**Bridal Shower** - Ladies please join us as we celebrate with a bridal shower for Isabelle D (bride elect of Shaw L.). We will be gathering **Sunday, May 18 at 2:00pm** in the social hall. If you are able to bring a written recipe to share in a book for the bride that would be greatly appreciated.

**Baby Bottle Campaign** - TODAY (Mother's Day) take a baby bottle from the back table and begin saving your change for the Pregnancy Care Centre. Bring back your bottle on June 15 (Father's Day). One 'bottle' holds \$30, two 'bottles' holds \$60, and three 'bottles' holds \$90. How many 'bottles' will you fill? Gifts of any amount are welcome and appreciated.

**Sonrise Camp Workbee** will take place on the May long weekend. Projects on the agenda are tearing down a shed, tree clean up, bathrooms and the cleaning of the kitchen & buildings. Many hands will make light work. Coffee will be on at 8:30am **Saturday, May 17** and the work will commence after that, lunch will be provided. Hope to see you there!



"If the heart is cleansed by the love of Jesus Christ, and if the heart loves Him, one can resist all tortures."  
~ Rev. Richard Wurmbrand ~

**NIGERIA:** Christians Targeted in Easter Monday Attack/Sources: International Christian Concern

In a devastating attack on April 21st, six people were killed and as many as 30 injured when a truck rammed into a crowd of believers who had been taking part in an Easter procession along the streets of Billiri in Gombe state. Though initially reported as an unfortunate accident, a government-appointed committee has since determined that the incident was a deliberate attack on the Christians participating in this year's Easter celebrations.

As has been their tradition for more than 30 years, Christians in Billiri had gathered for an early morning procession of praise and worship through music and dance. During the celebration, a truck suddenly crashed into the crowd at around 7 a.m. Police initially believed that the vehicle had suffered a brake failure. However, further investigation determined that the driver made no effort to avoid the group of believers nor give them any warning. He also had no difficulties stopping the vehicle after ploughing into the group.

The driver, a 28-year-old man named Usman Muhammed, was arrested at the scene and subsequently charged with "reckless driving" and "dangerous driving causing death"

- ***Prayerfully remember the families and friends of the six slain believers as they mourn their tragic loss, asking that God's peace, comfort and protection will be tangible realities in their lives.***
- ***Pray that the Lord would also minister physical and emotional healing to those of our Nigerian Christian brothers and sisters who were injured and traumatized as a result of the Easter incident.***
- ***May justice be served in this case, with hopes that the truck driver, Usman, will experience genuine heartfelt repentance and miraculous transformation.***

**CHINA:** Young Children Detained for Participating in Bible Lesson/Sources: ChinaAid, Mohabat News

A Bible lesson for young children that had taken place at a private home in Fuyang, Anhui, was raided by police on April 29th. In total, ten children between the ages of five and six, along with five adult teachers, were taken to the police station where they were detained for several hours. Some of the youngsters appeared to suffer severe emotional distress during the detention; and, throughout that time, the police only checked on them once.

The children were eventually released, along with three of the adults. The two others – Christian women by the names of Chen Fangfang and Wang Dandan – were verbally and physically assaulted before being transported to a detention centre. At the time of publishing this report, no further information was received regarding the whereabouts of these two believers.

The religious education of children is strongly opposed by China's governing authorities, who are determined to indoctrinate the minds of youth with Communist ideologies.

- ***Prayerfully ask our "Good Shepherd" to surround these little children with His comforting presence, peace and safety, while also shielding them from any further harassment instigated by the country's governing officials.***
- ***As Chen and Wang await their hopeful clearance of all charges and release from custody, pray that the Lord will divinely protect them from all harm and harassment as well.***
- ***Pray that a radical shift would take place in the hearts and minds of the country's authorities, urging them to ease their repressive restrictions on religious activities so that Christians of all ages may freely learn from God's Word.***

## Reframe Ministries

**Kids Corner** - Rest and Recharge - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Rest and Recharge: Following Jesus' Example in a Digital World" at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Jesus took time to rest, pray, and spend time with his friends, and we should too! Taking breaks from technology helps us feel refreshed, connect with God, and enjoy time with the people we love. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Coloring Packet Collection.

**Groundwork** - Adopt the Mindset of Christ - As Christians, many of us long to make the world a better place. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 22:15-45, 1 Peter 2:21-23, and Matthew 20:24-28 to study the servant mindset Jesus modeled. Together we'll glean biblical wisdom for discerning the relationship between faith and power and we'll discuss the importance of developing Christlikeness. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## World Renew

**Disaster Response Services** - there are several service opportunities in Florida, North Carolina and the Bahamas. Check out the many opportunities to assist people in hurricane and flood stricken areas on the Deacon bulletin board in the social hall.

**World Renew Nicaragua Young Adults Trip** - Young adults (18–30), join us in Nicaragua this August 9–17, 2025! Experience God in another culture while developing a perspective on poverty, missions, and community development. Scholarship available via application! Contact Maria Oliveira at [moliveira@worldrenew.ca](mailto:moliveira@worldrenew.ca) or visit <https://bit.ly/nicaragua2025info> to learn more and register.

## Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Mother's Day - While Mother's Day is not part of the church calendar, it provides a great opportunity to give thanks to God for the people in our lives—whether they be mothers, siblings, aunts, grandmothers, or friends—who nurture, support, love, and encourage us to be all that God created us to be. Consider who has functioned in this way in your life, and take time this week to thank them. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

## The King's University

**40 Days of Prayer for Synod 2025** - It's not too late! Pray-ers from around the denomination and the world began praying for Synod 2025 on May 4, but new pray-ers are always welcome. With prayers contributed by a wide variety of CRC writers, join us as we seek God's guidance and presence for this year's synod. Learn more and sign up for either daily Scripture and prayers OR a week's worth of Scripture and prayers that will be emailed to you. [crcna.org/synod/prayer](http://crcna.org/synod/prayer)

## Church Announcements

**The Lord's Food Bank Annual General Meeting** will held **May 14th 5:30 pm** at the Food Bank. A meal will be provided. New Board Members are needed and new society members are always welcome. Please consider coming out and learning more about the Foodbank and how to support it.

**Calling all Men (High School and up)**, Friday and Saturday (**May 23 and 24**) is a men's campout at the Brouwer campground. Come at 5pm or whenever you are able on Friday and stay until after lunch on Saturday. Chad Vandervalk (former pastor of Woodynook CRC) will be sharing a bit about work as worship on Saturday morning at 10:00am and everyone is encouraged to come and take that in, even if they aren't able to come for the entire campout. More details to come next week. Friends are welcome! All food and drinks provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

**Sonrise Camp** (July 6-11 and July 13-18) has several opportunities to serve including: **cook helpers, male counselors, worship band/musicians, games person, craft person and bus drivers**. If you are interested or want more information please talk to Marie A., Zachary B., Lydia B., Sheldon B., Cody L. or Cheri-Lynn B. or sign up on the bulletin board. Registration forms are available on the back table and the website.

**Vacation Bible Camp** (July 21-24) Ages 5-9 can join us for this 4-day camp as we focus on some amazing real-life encounters with Jesus. Volunteers needed are: **kitchen helpers**. Contact Cailyn B. for more information to volunteer or sign up on the bulletin board. Registration forms are available on the back table and the website.

**Camp Rehoboth** (REALLY) Needs Volunteers! Help us create an unforgettable summer by sharing the love of Jesus at Camp Rehoboth! We're looking for: Head Cook – Youth Week; Nurse & Head Cook – R&R Week; Counselors – All Weeks (especially Adult 2, Independent, and R&R) Be part of something meaningful — serve, connect, and shine His love! Learn more or sign up at [rcmflourish.ca/camp](http://rcmflourish.ca/camp)

**Ascension Day Service** - Jesus says, "Look, I am coming soon." (Rev. 22:7). Join us this Ascension Day, as we together reflect on Jesus' call to "Live with Expectancy." Woody Nook CRC invites all area CRC and Lacombe Ministerial churches to a joint church service, **Thursday, May 29 @ 7:30 PM** - 40104 Rng Rd 281, Lacombe County.

**Rocky Support Services** - 3rd annual Slo-Pitch Tournament - **May 30 to June 1** at the Rocky Ball Diamonds. The proceeds from the tournament will go to support local ball players of all skill levels as well as Rocky Support Services accessible housing and community development projects. Current projects include the demolition and removal of two very old buildings to redevelop affordable and accessible homes along with programs as our community garden initiative supporting independent living and aging in place. Check out the poster on the bulletin board. Call Brittany 403.845.4080 to register your team or for more information.