

A Brief History of the Faithfulness of God In and Through the Tacoma Christian Reformed Community Church from 1958-2008

- 1958** Begins as mission field with Dr. and Mrs. Gerrit Heyns, Lynn and Cass Lougheed and Rev. Paul De Koekoek as the key leaders in this early time.
-23 people were present at the first service held in the YMCA.
- 1962** Pastor Rits and Pearl Tadema and family come to the field as a home missionary in May 1962. Pastor Tadema was sent by the denominational Board of Home Missions.
- Property on 72nd Street is purchased for \$17,500.
- 1963** First service was held on the property (in the little green house) on February 3, 1963 with 81 people present. The parsonage was completed in May of 1963.
- 1964** Funds and loans for the church building were procured.
-Arrival of new staff member Reina Timmer who served from January 1964 to December 1970 as an evangelistic worker.
-First service held in the auditorium on August 23, 1964 with dedication of the church building on November 20, 1970.
- 1968** In January Pastor Rits Tadema was called to active duty in the Air Force.
Organization of church on December 6, 1968 with 55 families and 14 single adults as charter members.
Charter Members who still attend (as of 2008):
Lois Adams
Jim and Mary, Chuck Boogerd
Linda Buck
Steve and Debbie Carlman
Tammy Davenport
Tony and Gert De Kruyf
Mike and Corrie De Vries
Renee Dobelstein
Ron and Helen Fitzroy
Shari Heronema
John E and Grace, John B, and Bob Kamstra
Clara Koster
John Mensonides
Dawn Noteboom
Ted and Tina, George Tel
Dennis and Barb and Cheryl Wichers
Howard and Clarice Wouters

- 1969** Pastor Don and Jo Van Gent and family arrived in August 1968 and served until November 1972.
- 1973** Pastor Rod and Judy Vander Ley and family arrived in September 1973.
- 1979** Dedication of classroom and auditorium enlargement addition.
-Arrival of new staff member, Herb Bauer, who served as assistant in evangelism from July 1979 to April 1990.
- 1983** Two morning services began in September 1983; 8:30 and 11:00 AM.
- 1991** Pastor Gordon and Cheryl Terpstra and family arrived in December 1991 and served as co-pastor until August 1997.
- 1998** Pastor Clay and Naomi Warren and family arrived, and Pastor Clay was installed as Associate Pastor for Student Ministries in May of 1998.

In addition to the key dates and full-time staff listed above, many others have served as part time staff in custodial, secretarial and youth areas for various periods of time. But as with any thriving church, the backbone and heart of ministry and leadership through all these 50 years has come from the dedicated volunteers who have given thousands of hours of faithful service to their Lord and Savior, in the context of the life of this church.

This church began as mission field and its present mission statement: “Glorifying God by gathering the lost, discipling the found in love, joy, compassion and service” summarizes the continuing purpose of the congregation. To reach unchurched and under-churched people and see them transformed through God’s Spirit into faithful members of God’s covenant family—that is our desire. Olympia, Enumclaw and Silverdale were all Christian Reformed churches either daughtered or given encouragement through this church family.

Enlarging God’s family comes about as the Holy Spirit uses the faithful witness of individual members as well as the united effort in various ministries of the church. Some of those ministries through the years have included: Prayer and financial support of various home and world missionaries, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies, 5-Day Clubs, Couples Clubs, Cadets, Calvinettes (GEMS), Junior High and Tricrew, Post High Fellowship, Soccer Teams and other Sports Ministries, Preschool and Coffee Break, Wednesday Night Prayer Meetings, Covenant Sisters, Circles of Care and Prayer, and the last 13 years God has answered our prayers and given us a needed regular contact with our community through KidREACH, a one night a week tutoring partnership with Boze Elementary School.

Many of the above ministries continue, while others have changed or discontinued. During the last 10 years, 5 significant new ministries have greatly impacted this church.

-Our church as participated in the Eastside YFC (Youth for Christ) parenting seminar which began a process of connecting with many families and individuals coming out of addiction. A number of these families and individuals, by God's grace, have been folded into our church. A present the Eastside NA Group (Narcotics Anonymous) fills our fellowship hall each Tuesday evening.

-The annual Mexico Mission Trip has not only blessed the El Sauzal Orphanage, but the lives of team members, both adults and youth, have been impacted for the Lord.

-A 10-week session of Alpha, held each spring and fall, has been a powerful instrument to further inspire and equip both church members and new attendees in the basics of the Christian faith.

-A Visioning Process assisted the church in establishing goals for the future and revamping the organizational structure of this church family.

-Finally, "40 Days of Purpose" provided a church-wide focus where we were reminded that all life and ministry is not about us, but about God. In the fall of 2008 we anticipate "40 Days of Community" providing a similar renewed vision both in the community of the church and for the community where God has placed us as His witnesses.

The church has changed, the community has changed, and our nation has certainly changed, but one thing has remained the same: As Reformed Christians we believe in a sovereign God who desires to bring people into a covenant relationship with Himself through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

With the infallible Word of God as our authority, we so dedicate ourselves until the Lord returns on the clouds of glory. To Him be all the Praise.

The last 10 years.

2009

Pastor Rod Vander Ley led our church for 37 years. He retired but maintained a presence in this church. Primarily it was consultation regarding ministry and leading the High School Sunday School class. He and Judy were honored by the Congregation with a celebration. The Congregation gave them a Grandfather's clock and a cash award. He retired in August 2009.

2010

After about two years, our church called Edwin Neil Culbertson. Neil and Janie-Lou came to us from Guam. Neil had been familiar with our church from his days at Ft. Lewis. He had been a chaplain's assistant at Ft Lewis to a CRC chaplain. He went on to Dordt

College and Calvin Seminary. He was called to a church in Guam where he had a flourishing ministry for many years.

They started their ministry in Tacoma in the late summer of 2010. Neil had a very active ministry and had many plans to lead our church. His enthusiasm was taken away by brain cancer. He was translated on 1-29-2013. He preached until the Sunday of his death. His widow remained in our church.

2011 The Church hired a daughter of our Congregation to be the church Secretary on 8-1-2011. Her name is Kristin Wolters.

2013

Our youth pastor (Pastor Clay Warren) had been prepared by Pastor Neil for interim Senior Pastor. He took on much of the leadership from the pulpit. Pastor Clay was led to become the Senior Pastor. He was formally called as the Senior Pastor on June 4, 2013.

The Church evaluated the needs and gaps in service. This was done in many different ways. The Congregation was part of each of these evaluations.

Jay De Boer started as Administrative Coordinator in 2011, but it was after the Council's "Gap Analysis Study" in 2013 the need for a Church Administrator was raised.

In 2015 this need was filled when Jay became the Church administrator.

2014

Nick Rosas joined us on November of 2014. He has the responsibility for youth and worship. He came to us from Puerto Rico. He allowed Pastor Clay to discontinue Youth Ministry. He also has been able to preach on selected Sundays.

2016

A church-wide campaign was made using the material from Lee Strobel and Bill Hybels called the Contagious Christian. This program met largely in small groups in various homes.

2017

Kathi Taylor came on in November to 2017 as the Children's Ministry Director.

The new entry way to the facility was dedicated on 11-26-2017. This addition to the entrance area gave us ADA bathrooms and a nursery that is assessable to the auditorium. This was a 1 million dollar plus addition and was completely paid for by the time the dedication occurred.

The church used a visioning process which included Christian Reformed Home Missions and Ascending Leaders.

We are trusting that God will continue to prosper this church, bring new members, and provide a loving congregation to all who attend.

In the last 10 years several members went on to meet the Lord. Their loss to the church has been acknowledged with love and memory.