

NEWS

NEWS CORRESPONDENTS

For correspondents e-mail address, visit www.thebanner.org

Gayla R. Postma News Editor
E-mail: gpostma@crca.org

Sarah Boonstra
Classes Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone
303-247-0697

Anita Brinkman
Classes Huron, Chatham
519-354-9126

Jenny deGroot
Classes BC North-West, BC South-East
604-888-5505

Paul Delger
Classes Central Plains,
Northcentral Iowa, Lake Superior
641-762-3684

Ruth Moblard DeYoung
Classes Chicago South, Illiana
708-687-2354

Larry Edsall
Classes Arizona, Red Mesa
602-300-4518

Doug Evenhouse
Classes Northern Illinois, Wisconsin
630-241-0735

Karen Gorter
Classes Holland, Zeeland,
Northern Michigan, Muskegon
616-399-6123

Henry Huisjen
Classes Kalamazoo, Lake Erie
517-694-0273

Calvin Hulstein
Classes Atlantic NE, Hackensack, Hudson
860-644-8512

Jonathan J. Kim
Classis Pacific Hanmi
626-616-0411

Sherry Kooiker
Classes Heartland, Lakota, Minnesota
712-725-2033

Rachel deKoning Kraay
Classes Alberta North,
Alberta South & Saskatchewan
403-782-9917

Noah Kruis
Classes Grand Rapids East,
Grand Rapids North
616-558-8166

Amy Rycenga
Classes Muskegon, Northern Michigan
616-402-8881

Ryan Struyk
Classis Thornapple Valley
616-550-6723

Amy Toornstra
Classes Columbia, Pacific Northwest
503-399-9165

Roxanne Van Farowe
Classis Southeast U.S.
919-477-2084

Sophie Vandenberg
Classes Hamilton, Niagara, Toronto
905-796-3063

Brenda Visser
Classes Eastern Canada, Quinte
613-924-1792

Heidi Wicker
Classes California South,
Central California, Greater L.A.,
209-599-3799

Carolyn Koster Yost
Classes Georgetown, Grandville,
Grand Rapids South
616-662-4191

Louis Tamminga
In Memoriam articles
616-949-4539

All I Want for Christmas Is . . .

For Grace Christian Reformed Church in Welland, Ontario, Christmas is a time to raise money for giving, not getting.

During last year's "Gotta Get a Goat" campaign, members decided to try to raise enough money to buy 100 goats for communities in need around the world.

After a local newspaper ran a story about the campaign, Grace CRC raised more than three times the amount of the goal. The animals were purchased through the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee's gift catalogue.



MARYANN FIRTH OF THE WELLAND TRIBUNE

Rev. Ryan Braam and Karin Vermeer pose for the "Gotta Get a Goat" campaign.

Deacon Richard Saari said that an awareness of their own abundance led the church members to bless others.

This year's campaign is "Houses for Haiti." The goal is to provide

one house for a family in Haiti. Saari said that if they can again harness the resources of both the congregation and the community, they hope to exceed that goal.

—Sophie Vandenberg



SHELLEY TRAFORD

Amanda Tuffnail and Becky Doyle check out clothes in My Neighbour's Closet, a clothing exchange at Operation Sharing.

Operation Sharing Helps Parents at Christmas

A Christmas shop where parents can buy new or gently used toys and other items helps people with low incomes provide Christmas gifts for their children without blowing the budget. Staffing the Christmas store with volunteers keeps prices at a minimum. Children can also get help choosing and wrapping gifts for their parents.

The annual Christmas shop is just one part of Operation Sharing, a 46-church ministry network that includes Ingersoll (Ontario) Christian Reformed Church and Maranatha and Covenant CRCs of Woodstock, Ontario.

The ministry also provides specialized food cards redeemable in local stores, cooking classes, budget planning, and more. Those are some of the ways to give people in their community a hand up rather than a handout, according to John Klein-Geltink of Ingersoll CRC.

Klein-Geltink estimates that the mission reaches about 1,000 households. Some, he says, have come to faith through the mission.

"They see how they've been treated here, and they respond to that."

—Anita Brinkman