



JANUARY 2025 | Issue #9

SEA TO SEA

Canadian RP News

Beckwith RPC



Christ In The Psalms:
They're All About Me

p. 4

Interview:
Rev. David Matthes

p. 6

Profile:
Beckwith RPC

p. 14

Profile: Japan
Presbytery (RPCNA)

p. 15

EDITORIAL

I suppose that for many readers, to see that date, A.D. 2025, is quite remarkable. That we find ourselves already a quarter of a century into the 21st century hardly seems possible. When I was a young person, A.D. 2001 (as in “A Space Odyssey”) was the stuff of science fiction imagination. Some prognosticators at that time got some things right, many got many things wrong. As someone once said, “Predictions are always difficult, especially about the future.” But as the years march on, one of the constants that has been, and will be until the end of the present course of human history, is that Christ is building his Church! (Matthew 16:18).

What an encouragement and comfort it is to know this reality. All of the global events, all of the personal experiences, all of the interactions, all of the joys and all of the heartaches, are divinely orchestrated under the sovereign and gracious rule of King Jesus. Last year, as a denomination we witnessed the planting of a new congregation in Beckwith township. Very recently one of our Vancouver congregations welcomed a new pastor in Rev. David Matthes. Soli Deo Gloria.

As we look back over the past year and look ahead into a new one, we can be certain that the Church-building activity of Jesus, by his Spirit, must and will continue. Sometimes congregations close their doors. Often congregations that continue by God’s grace still face losses, discouragements, sorrows, and challenges of various kinds. But the Church consisting of the elect being gathered into one, under Christ, has only ever grown larger. And true believers, by the work of the Holy Spirit, are continually transformed as they together grow up into him who is their Head (2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 4:15ff.) The Church will be built, both in quantity and quality! I’m sure even angels long to look into such things. Do you?



BY REV. MATT KINGSWOOD
Minister of the Russell RPC

CONTENTS

3 NEWS: RPC Canada Annual Men’s Retreat

4 CHRIST IN THE PSALMS: They’re All About Me (Part I)

6 INTERVIEW: Rev. David Matthes

8 NEWS: Beckwith RP Church Organization

10 CONTEMPORARY: Protecting Pregnancy Care Centers

11 BOOK REVIEW: The Cross He Bore (Leahy)

12 BIBLICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: Man and Woman – Fit Helpers

14 PROFILE: Beckwith RPC

15 PROFILE: Japan Presbytery of the RPCNA

General Editor: Rev. Matt Kingswood
Features Editor: Mr. Jim Hughes
News Editor: Mrs. Karin Foster
Layout Editor: Mr. Jordan Dohms

magazine@rpccanada.org

All Bible quotations are from the ESV



NEWS: RPC CANADA ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

During the last weekend of October 2024, men from four congregations of the RPCC—Russell, Ottawa, Almonte, and Beckwith—gathered for a lakeside retreat in beautiful Cobden, Ontario. The focus of our discussions was on biblical masculinity, an essential topic for today's men striving to align their lives with scriptural principles.

Under the insightful guidance of Pastor Scott Wilkinson from New Creation RPC (Kitchener), attendees were treated to three engaging talks that delved into what it means to act like men through a biblical lens. Pastor Wilkinson challenged us to reflect on our roles as providers, protectors and shepherds equipping us all to walk in a manner worthy of this calling.

The retreat offered more than just lectures. Men participated in breakout sessions which fostered meaningful discussions and an opportunity to engage as a big group discussion. The group dialogue provided opportunity for some of the men to ask thought provoking questions and share personal testimonies.

Several of the men gathered on the Friday night around a campfire where we sang praises to God in Psalms. Delicious meals were prepared by the retreat center ensuring that we were nourished both in body and soul. The time we spent dining together provided the perfect backdrop for some great fellowship.

We look forward to coming together again next year, Lord willing.

Eric White
Member of the Ottawa RPC



rpfamilycamp.org
RP 
FAMILY CAMP
September 5-8, 2025
Wesley Acres Campground
Rev. Matt Dyck



CHRIST IN THE PSALMS THEY ARE ALL ABOUT ME

PART I

We begin with a question:

Is Jesus Christ to be found in the Old Testament book of Psalms?

Without any hesitation, we answer, “Yes!”

How can we be confident with this answer? Because this is the answer Jesus gives to the question.

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus drew near to two individuals who were travelling to Emmaus. As a result of the initial conversation he had with them, he gave them the greatest Bible-study ever.

He chastises them as follows:

“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
Luke 24:25-27

Later in the chapter he appears to his disciples and says:

“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything

written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets, **and the Psalms** must be fulfilled.

Simply, he makes the declaration that the whole of the Old Testament was written about him. Therefore, one of the implications concerning the Book of Psalms is that the 150 Psalms testify concerning him.

Certain things follow from this.

1. FOCUS

Jesus seemed especially keen on the Psalms being understood Christo-centrally. Therefore, he is to be our focus as we read, sing, and study the Psalter.

For instance, in Luke 24:27 we read:

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures **the things concerning himself.**

In Luke 24:44 Jesus sharpens the focus still further:

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms** must be fulfilled.”

2. FREQUENCY

Further weight is added to this when we acknowledge, that the Psalter is the Old Testament book most frequently referenced by Jesus, and the most cited in the New Testament.

The evidence for this is that of the 283 New Testament citations of the 39 books of the Old Testament, 116 of them are from one book—the Psalms.

That means, that the New Testament writers, and Jesus, believed the book of Psalms to be about King Jesus, the Son of David.

Consequently, Christ and the gospel writers, along with Peter and Paul, show a deep attachment to the Book of Psalms.

This was not merely because:

- 1) The Psalms seemed to them to cover the full range of human emotions.
- 2) They could find a Psalm for every mood.
- 3) They were sentimentally attached to the Psalter.

Rather, it was because, ultimately, the Psalms are about the Messiah, the Christ of God.

They are an esteemed, prophetic book, about the Messiah himself.

Therefore, one guiding principle in our own reading of the Psalms is that our appreciation of the Psalms will be too narrow and shallow if we think they are mostly about us, or even about David. They are not! They are about David's Son and David's Lord whom David foreshadows.

As one writer has said:

"[W]e are meant to see Jesus standing over the Psalms, casting his shadow upon them in such a way that we see shapes, hints, contours, and glimpses of him everywhere"

When you read the Psalms is this part of your experience? Pray that it would be.

3. FRATERNITY

What we mean by this is that down through history, especially since the days of the early New Testament Church, there has been a steady theme of reading Christ in the Psalms, which to various degrees was shared by Christian authors from various traditions.

If we limit ourselves to Martin Luther, he insisted on reading the Psalms precisely as a Christian because this is what Jesus, and the Apostles taught.

He writes:

"Thus, all of Scripture... is pure Christ, God's and Mary's Son. Everything is focused on this Son, so that we might know him distinctively and in that we see the Father and the Holy Spirit eternally as one God. To him who has the Son, Scripture is an open book."

In applying this to ourselves we need to hear Jesus saying to us:

Get to know me, by reading,

singing (or 'chanting'), and preaching the Psalms.

Therefore, we should regard the teaching about Christ as the proper key to the whole Psalter.

4. FILLING

The regular practice of thoughtful, heartfelt singing of Psalms to one another is an instrument God uses to contribute to a rich fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives and churches.

The singing of Psalms is a corporate activity of the Church and, as such, the Psalms are intimately linked to the filling of the Holy Spirit in the corporate life of the Church.

Paul teaches us:

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart..." (Ephesians 5:18-19)

The reality of being filled with the Spirit is made manifest, not only in the fact that Psalms are sung, but that they are vehicles through which the Holy Spirit speaks to us, and we to one another. Singing is not just singing for singing's sake but, vitally, it concerns relations between believers in fellowship.

Likewise, the Psalms perform a didactic, or teaching, function in the life and worship of God's people:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

5. FORETELLING

The most important fruit of reading the Psalms is the conviction that Christ is at the center. But also, that our reading of them would result in us declaring, as with the two on the road to Emmaus, that our hope is in:

"...Jesus of Nazareth, **a man who was a prophet** mighty in deed and word before God and all the people"

Prophetic speech is made up of the words of God, who cannot lie. Therefore, the Psalms are not simply a record of pious people responding to God, sometimes well, sometimes in error. God, by his Spirit, shaped and guided them to speak and write as they did.

As such the Psalms do not just speak about the immediate circumstances of the Psalmist. They also point to the future and the Coming One. Therefore, prophetic speech in Scripture is tethered to the coming Messiah.

One critical consequence of this is that there is no sinful speech in the Psalms. Each word is breathed out by God (2 Tim. 3:16).

Therefore, the 150 Psalms of necessity, are focused on Christ. They are all about Him.



BY REV. ALLAN MACLEOD
Minister of the Toronto RPC

INTERVIEW

Rev. David Matthes
Minister of Vancouver RPC



Give us a brief life history (where you were born, early family life, etc.)

I was born in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, in 1996. My parents were one of the founding families of Bury St. Edmunds Presbyterian Church. Weeks after my birth, our family emigrated to Pennsylvania in the United States. My father tells the story of the day we went to get my passport photograph taken. It was all they could do to get my eyes open for a photo! I am the 6th child in a family of six boys and one girl. This made for a fun and dynamic childhood.

We have moved between the USA and the UK a few times because of my father's work. This was not always easy for us children, but we learned the value of lasting friendships and tried our best to fit in wherever we were. We have also seen God providing for us in marvellous ways.

What is your current situation (church, location, job, family etc.)?

I was an associate minister alongside Rev. Matthew Jolley at the Bury St. Edmunds Presbyterian Church. I accepted a call in 2024 to be the pastor of Vancouver Reformed Presbyterian Church. I studied for the ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a small

seminary run mostly by men from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales. After being licensed in that denomination, I received a call to pastor the very church I was born into. The same ruling elders are still faithfully serving Christ in this church and have become some of my closest friends in the cause of the gospel.

You may wonder why I have accepted a new calling. I have long been convinced that in corporate worship we should only sing Psalms in our sung praise. I have long hoped that God would call me to a church where I could happily practice and teach this. Although Bury St. Edmunds Presbyterian Church has a very high regard for Psalm singing, and even sings more Psalms than hymns, they are not an exclusive Psalm-singing church. I love this congregation deeply, and I will miss all my dear friends in Bury St. Edmunds. It was there that my internal sense of God's calling upon my life was ratified. It was there that I dated the woman who is now my wife, and there that our child Isaac was born in November 2023. It was in this place that I began to preach the

unsearchable riches of Christ, and I will forever be grateful for the patience and grace this congregation has shown me.

Who has been the greatest influence in your life for Christ?

My dad. I have always admired his faithfulness and patience in leading us in family worship every day, his desire to seek out an education for us that was thoroughly Christian, and his example of tireless devotion to the Church and his family. The Lord led him to pursue training for the ministry at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary. As a young Christian, I longed to follow in his footsteps. His support and advice have been invaluable as I have progressed through seminary and into the pastorate.

How has the Lord provided for you in your journey into the ministry?

Time would fail to tell of all the kind people God brought across

my path to forward my journey into the ministry! A few ought to be mentioned. My good friend, Ian Turnbull, taught me Greek and has ever since been a great encouragement. During my first year at seminary, a dear friend, Dr. Derek Scales, reached out about funding for my training. He was the secretary of the Protestant Reformation Society. Without their help, I could not have funded my training. The elders here in Bury have been an encouragement and support. But perhaps the biggest help was the provision of a helper suitable for me. During my first year of training, Sharon Clarke came to our seminary conference. We were married in June 2022. My family has been a source of encouragement through challenging times!

What advice would you give to someone 10 years younger than you?

Devote the best part of every day to the simple practice of reading and memorising scripture, singing the Psalms, and praying to the Good Shepherd.

If the Lord continues to bless, what would you like to see happen in the RP Church in Canada?

I long to see the West Coast flourishing with a Reformed Presbyterian gospel witness that holds forth Jesus Christ to a sin-sick world as the only beacon of hope. Many men and women in British Columbia live very comfortably, and yet they are bound in the chains of sin. But we have a Saviour who came “to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.” (Luke 4:18)

I hope and pray that the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Canada will always be known for its faith in Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of sinners, its hope in his final coming to judge the living and the dead, its Christ-like love for all the saints, and its longing to fulfil the great commission of making disciples of all the nations.



BY REV. DAVID MATTHEUS
Minister of the Vancouver RPC



The RP Global Alliance website
www.rpglobalalliance.org
is the place to find news, information
and prayer points about the RP
Church around the world.

The RPGA Team also sends out weekly
prayer emails and a monthly newsletter
directly to your inbox.
Scan the QR Code below to subscribe.





NEWS: BECKWITH RP CHURCH ORGANIZATION

On October 30th 2024, vehicles began to stream into the parking lot in front of the Beckwith Township Hall. Warm Christian greetings abounded as many saints from the Ottawa, Russell, and Almonte RP churches (and other visitors) came to celebrate with the Beckwith RP Church members in their organization service.

That night, a vision became a reality. A decade ago, Cory van der Meer and others in the Beckwith Township area discussed their burden for a church plant. As more members of the Ottawa RP Church moved into the area, a core group began forming with a weekly fellowship group.

In September 2023, a special meeting of the elders of the Ottawa RP Church was held

to discuss the need for a church plant. On February 28th 2024, the plan was outlined at the Ottawa RP Church Annual General Meeting. At the May Canadian Presbytery meeting, a petition “for the separation of the Ottawa RPC congregation into two congregations” was presented and approved. Much work and prayer were given to prepare for the start of worship services on September 15th. Leading to the organization service, Mr. Cory van der Meer was elected to the office of Ruling Elder and Mr. Jason Braden and Mr. Vince Giroux were elected as Deacons. Provisional elders, Rev. Vince Ward and Mr. Peter Chan, conducted the elections.

Finally, the night of the Organization Service arrived

with many members of Presbytery in attendance. Rev. Matthew Dyck, Moderator of the Presbytery, presided over the service and brought a message from Matthew 5:11-16 seeking to set the tone and give a blueprint for this new work. The Beckwith RPC members signed their vows with a prayer offered for them by Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley. Rev. Vince Ward prayed for the officers at their installation and pronounced the benediction. A buffet feast followed the service as people shared in Christian fellowship.

As we sang the theme Psalm (67C) of the Beckwith RPC, we pleaded for God to bless us in his grace... “so that the whole world over may truly know his way” (Psalm 67:1-2).



Mr. Cory van der Meer, Elder
and Rev. Vince Ward



Mr. Jason Braden
and Mr. Vince Giroux, Deacons



Rev. Matthew Dyck,
Moderator





CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Protecting Pregnancy Care Centers

Pregnancy care centers in Canada offer vital support to women facing unplanned pregnancies, often serving as lifelines during moments of profound uncertainty. These centers, are typically run by non-profits and funded by Christian and other faith-based communities. They often champion a pro-life ethic. Their primary aim is to encourage women to choose life for their unborn children while providing holistic care and support for the mother during and after pregnancy. Yet, these centers now find themselves under direct scrutiny from the Federal government.

On October 29, 2024, the Canadian government announced new measures targeting pregnancy care centers. They are requiring all such centers to disclose whether they offer abortion services or birth control. Non-compliance could result in these centers losing their charitable status, jeopardizing their ability to serve the communities that rely on them.

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland in a press release said, “[This] is about stopping dishonest organizations from restricting a woman’s access to the reproductive care that is best for her. We are ensuring

This development is not surprising given the government’s long-standing hostility toward pro-life organizations. It reflects a broader societal shift—a culture increasingly focused on advancing what it deems to be

This is about protecting a culture of life in a society increasingly hostile to it.

“reproductive rights” at the expense of life-affirming alternatives. In this worldview, a woman’s right to abortion takes precedence over comprehensive care that supports both the mother and the child. The institutions working to give women real options are now being threatened for their refusal to align with the prevailing pro-abortion narrative.

The irony here is striking. Pregnancy care centers embody genuine care for women, offering practical resources such as counselling, material assistance, and post-birth support. They promote human flourishing by addressing the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of both mother and child. Yet, the government

women have better access to the physical and emotional care they need and deserve when making the most personal of decisions.”

appears to undervalue these contributions, insisting instead that the “full scope of care” must include abortion—a procedure that ends life, not preserving it.

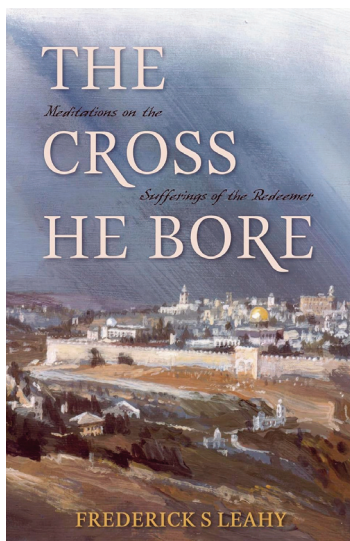
Commit to pray for these centers and the women they serve. Pray for the courage of those working in this ministry to persevere despite opposition. Pray for wisdom and protection as they navigate these new regulations. And pray for the hearts of government officials to recognize the intrinsic value of life and the vital work these organizations do.

This is about protecting a culture of life in a society increasingly hostile to it. Pregnancy Care Centers are on the frontlines, offering hope in the face of despair. They deserve our support and fervent prayers as they continue to uphold life and dignity in Canada.

Note: The Evangelical Presbyterian Church – Reformed Presbyterian Church in Toronto was one of the founding congregations of the PCC in Toronto, and has been actively involved with this PCC for forty years.



BY MR. COLIN POSTMA
Ruling Elder
in Ottawa RPC



REVIEWED

The Cross He Bore by Frederick S. Leahy

BY MS. LEANNE ZUIDERVEEN
Member of the Ottawa RPC

“If our mediation on the cross be meagre, can our love for the Saviour be great?” - Frederick Leahy

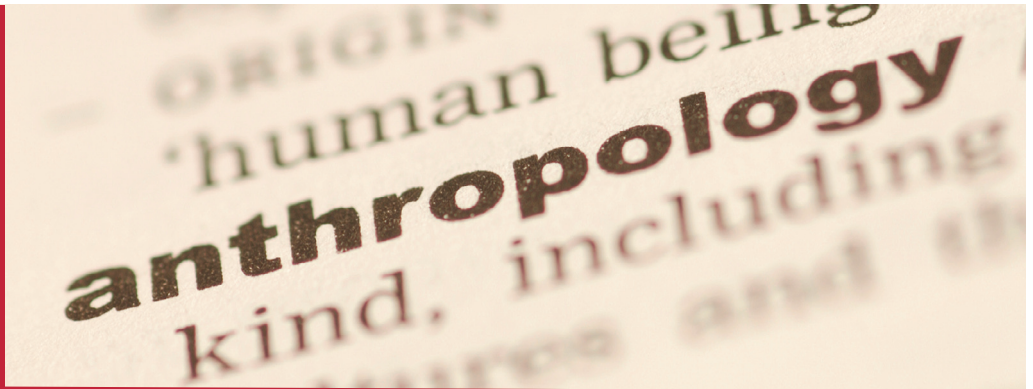
In *The Cross He Bore: Meditations on the Suffering of the Redeemer*, Frederick S. Leahy provides thirteen meditations on Jesus’ sufferings on the cross to encourage believers to fix their eyes upon Christ – the author and perfecter of our faith.

This short 100-page book invites readers to pause, worship, and look upon Christ; seeing both his humanity and deity, his obedient suffering, and his conquering kingship. Drawing from the work of great Puritans, Covenanters, theologians, and reformers, Leahy walks through Christ’s journey to the cross – from his sorrow in the garden to the darkness of his God-forsakenness. Leahy also highlights Christ’s offices as prophet, priest, and king. He demonstrates how Jesus actively and voluntarily exposed himself to the fury of his enemies and the powers of darkness to love and glorify God’s name.

I appreciated how Leahy drew from the Old Testament to illustrate that “...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3). The connections to prophecies, Psalms, and ceremonial laws throughout the Old Testament helped me to see more clearly how these passages bear witness about Christ and to appreciate God’s sovereign plan for Christ to bear our divine judgment.

As Edward Donnelly notes in the foreword, “We are too apt to hurry past the cross, to undervalue, in spite of ourselves, the supreme mystery of the ages by a shallow assumption that we know it all... We need to ‘behold’, to ‘survey’, to ‘stand and stare’”. This brief read will encourage you to pause and wonder at the incredible beauty of our suffering Saviour.

ANTH NUMBER 9 IN THE SERIES ROPO MALE AND FEMALE LOGY



Biblical Anthropology – Man and Woman – Fit Helpers

The animals were brought to Adam so that he could name them and exercise his dominion over them (Genesis 2:19-20). In this process it would have become evident to him that the animals were not the same kind of creature that he was. For example, he would have discovered that he could not

communicate with them as he could with God and that the animals did not have the rational capacities which he had. At this point he might have begun to wonder about his being the only one of his kind and to wish for companionship with one like himself. Even Jesus had a need for companionship (Mark 3:14; Mark 14:33, 34), which shows that this innate need is not sinful. So, at this point, God may have declared to Adam that it was not good for him to be alone (Genesis 2:18), in order to prepare him for the arrival of the woman who would be different from the animals, of his kind, and uniquely suited to meet his relational, and other, needs.

God declared that the creature whom he would make would be a helper for Adam. The word 'helper' (or 'help') has been the standard translation of the Hebrew word since Wycliffe completed his English translation of the Bible around 1390. The English word 'help' may be misinterpreted to mean something like a servant—as in,

“The help will prepare the dinner.” However, it is translated from a Hebrew word that means one who provides aid and support. God uses the word to refer to his role in aiding his people (Exodus 18:4; Psalm 20:2; Psalm 121:1-2; Psalm 124:8), so it clearly cannot be inferred that the help that the woman would provide to the man was in any way demeaning or that the woman was less than the man in terms of her created nature or role. When we considered Mankind's Two Sexes (Genesis 1:26-27) we noted that both sexes were created in the image of God and that both sexes were given dominion over the rest of creation. Only Christianity, among all religions, has a foundation on which to declare the full natural equality of the sexes. However, this does not mean that the sexes have identical roles. The three persons in the Trinity are all equally God, yet they have different roles in creation, providence, and redemption. Thus, having different roles

does not diminish one's essence.

The woman was created to be a helper 'fit' for the man. This, however, is not a one-way street. The Hebrew word that is translated 'fit' can be translated as 'before', 'opposite' or 'corresponding to' in different contexts. It is used in a similar way that John uses the Greek word 'with' or 'before' (John 1:1) to express the relationship between the Father and the Son. The relationship between the man and the woman is bi-directional. Both are suitable partners for the other. They mutually supply what is lacking in the other in terms of relationships, gifts, skills, duties, and attitudes. Neither the man nor the woman is complete without the other; neither can fulfill God's mandate for mankind without the other exercising his or her God-defined role.

The fact that God provided the woman to complement the man demonstrates that homosexual relationships do not accord with the natural order which God has

defined for mankind. Even the basic physiology of men and women proves the point—two men, or two women, cannot be before one another in a mutual physical relationship. The creation of mankind as two complementary sexes also shows that it is not proper for men and women to prefer single-sex friendships over married partnerships, even where they do not have a sexual dimension. For example, men whose primary interest is to play, or watch, sports with the ‘boys’ have a one-dimensional view of human relationships and are living as perpetual children. Similarly, women who don’t want the hassles of living with a husband and only want to spend time in the company of their cats or other women to gossip, shop, or work on a craft are selfish and rebellious against God’s creation mandate—to be a fit helper for a husband. Men and women ordinarily need to come together in a marriage relationship, or they will be incomplete throughout their earthly lives. In our culture, where marriage is increasingly viewed with disdain,

Christians need to stand out as those who believe in marriage as the best support to meet man’s and woman’s needs.

When we enquire into the way in which men and women were intended to be mutual helps, we find it to be a difficult subject because God did not define the respective roles for men and women before sin entered into the world.

Anything that we conclude will be tainted by the fact that we think and act in the context of a post-curse world. For example, some suggest that the man was given the leadership role before they sinned. Paul seems to support this interpretation (1 Corinthians 11:3, 9). However, others take a different view, saying that submission of the woman to the man does not come until after they had sinned (Genesis 3:16). Nevertheless, it seems proper to conclude that by nature men and women have different roles of providing and nurturing. And, together, in marriage, they are to provide to the other, physical, social, psychological, and intellectual support. Clearly

God intended men and women to find physical pleasure in one another. Adam would have marvelled at the beauty of his naked wife when she was brought to him, and Eve would have been thrilled with her handsome husband. They would have enjoyed immensely fulfilling God’s mandate to multiply. But the fact that they were to be a mutual help also means that a husband and wife should be friends who share more than a refrigerator and a bed. They are to complement and encourage one another, care for and love each other, call out the best in each other, and work together as they glorify God while exercising their dominion over the rest of creation.



BY MR. JIM HUGHES
Ruling Elder in the RP
Congregation in Toronto, ON

Subscribe online: rpccanada.org/contact



RP CHURCH OF CANADA www.rpccanada.org

**MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**

A collection of news items from the RP Congregations across Canada



BECKWITH RP CHURCH



When was the congregation organized?

October 30th, 2024.

Who are the Elders/Deacons?

Cory van der Meer as Ruling Elder, Vince Ward as Provisional Pastor, Peter Chan as Provisional Elder.

Jason Braden and Vince Giroux as Deacons.

How many people participate in Morning and in Evening worship?

Average attendance in the morning is approximately 60 people and 50 people in the afternoon.

What is the local community like?

Beckwith Township is a rural community in Lanark County, Ontario bordered by the town of Carleton Place to the north and Smith Falls to the South. The historic village of Franktown, the “Lilac Capital of Ontario,” is where George Buchanan established the RP Church in the region 200 years ago. The Beckwith Park is where families congregate for many sporting activities and where the Township Hall is located, which we use for worship. Beckwith is known for the beauty of God’s creation, which includes farms, woods, wetlands, lakes, and rivers.

What does a typical Lord’s Day look like for the congregation?

A typical Lord’s Day begins with the officers arriving early with their families to help set up the hall for worship at the new Beckwith Township Hall. After the 10 AM worship service, we have a refreshment, followed by a sermon discussion. People often share lunches in

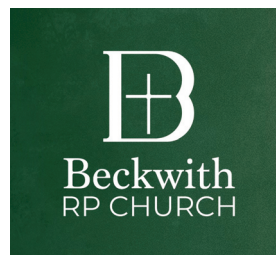
the afternoon, enjoying conversation and rest before returning for the 4 PM service. After both services, people stay to talk while the children play.

What are the other regular weekly congregational activities?

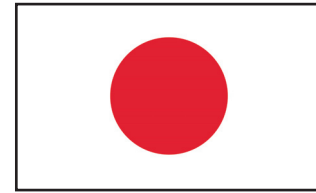
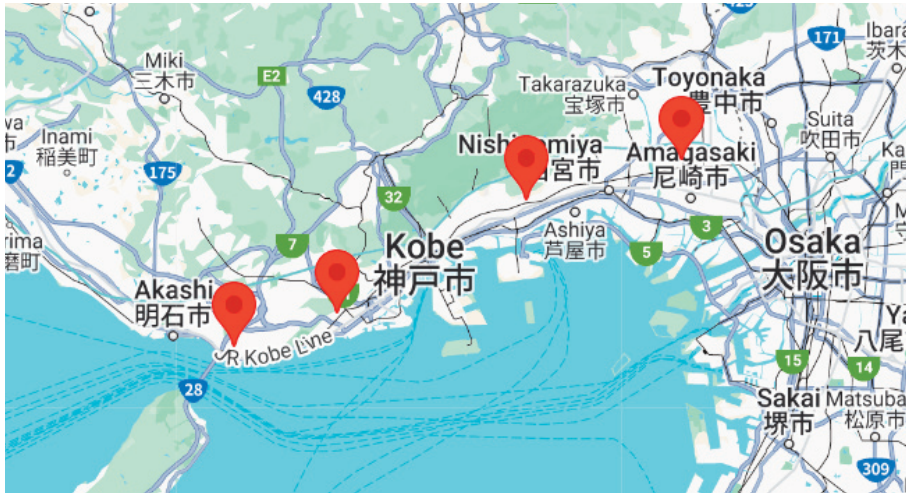
Presently, we have two house groups meeting on Tuesdays for prayer and Bible study. There is a youth doctrine class operating on Wednesdays. The youth gather bi-monthly with others from Almonte and Ottawa every other Friday evening.

What specific challenges are confronting the congregation?

Being in a rural setting and without owning our own church building, we are praying for wisdom in terms of how to make ourselves known in the community and how to be a witness for Jesus Christ and that God would prepare the Beckwith RPC for those he would bring into our midst in his timing.



Current Worship Location



Japan PRESBYTERY

of the RPCNA

The RPCNA work in Japan began in the early 1950's as a new mission field after the work in China was closed due to political and military hostilities.

A Far East Commission was established in 1965, which provided oversight to the mission works in Japan, the name was changed to the Japan Commission in 1970. In 1995 a petition was granted by the Synod that the Japan Presbytery be established. The Presbytery is currently made up of 4 congregations in and around the city of Kobe.

The Presbytery is also responsible for the Covenanter Book Room and Kobe Theological Hall.

Pray for the church in Japan:

- That the Lord would raise up a new generation of leaders in the church.
- That God would provide for the needs of these congregations.
- That the Holy Spirit would guide them as they seek to share the love and grace of Jesus with their neighbors and various spheres of influence.



Kobe Theological Seminary was started in 1996 by the Japan Presbytery. It is a nighttime theological education institution that allows people to study while working. Unlike some seminaries, which only train pastors, Kobe Theological Seminary was established based on the idea of Theological Education Extension (TEE), aiming to have the entire church team, including officers (elders and deacons), share in the study of the Bible.



The Covenanter Book Room was established as a part of the early missionary work in Japan and continues to this day selling Bibles and Christian literature in both English and Japanese in the heart of Kobe. The building that houses the Book Room was destroyed by the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995 but was quickly rebuilt. The space is also used for evangelistic purposes including an English worship service monthly and activities for the youth.

THE RPCC YOUTH EVENT

Winterlude **WEEKEND**

FEBRUARY 7-9, 2025

REV. GARRETT MANN

VITAL TRUTHS FOR SPIRITUAL VITALITY



www.rpccanada.org/winterlude
for details and registration

