

TELL US YOUR STORY:

(incorporating stories told on the Blog: ccrcstories.blogspot.com as of June 2009)

KIDS

When we used to run around the church and everyone would yell at us.

I like the youth retreat. No matter where we go, we have a BLAST!

Something that's special to me about this church is how one Saturday night, when I heard the message taught to me that I wanted to be a part of asking God to come into my heart. I wanted to share in showing Jesus I love him by taking bread and wine. My mom let me and I had the most amazing feeling inside. It felt special and I think it was God telling me he was happy I did that because I made a special promise.

I remember the first time I went to GEMS and I had a really fun time.

I enjoy cookies in Sunday school. I like cake after church. I like buns.

2000's

God led me here to a joyful community: joyful in welcome, joyful in praise, joyful in heart. I really needed renewed joy in my life. I have found it here. Thanks be to God.

Raymond Ares

We came in 2002 in our 50's and were looking for a community that would embrace us if we should need that. We praise God for finding such a community. *Don Miedema*

I remember in youth at the retreat I was running in the bush and tripped and I did a whole flip. It hurt. I still had fun. *Jared Stutski*

I was very touched when numerous members of the church attended my masters piano recitals as well as many other events. I've been invited in. *Trisha Booy*

I remember when I was a baby and I came to this church and this world! *Leah Hillhouse*

Two of my friends and I broke into Pastor Ken's office. *X*

I met my husband in this church. *Catherine Booy*

I remember when Mr. Medgyes gave me candy in Sunday School. *Kyle*

I remember all the good times I've had at the Friday Youth! So many insiders, a great time! *Adrianna*

The 100th Anniversary weekend was wonderful.

When we started Tuesday night Youth at Ken's place. *Daniel*

Youth retreat '08. Canoeing to this little 3 foot long rock in the middle of the lake and standing on it. Then the boys stole the canoe and I sat on the little rock for an hour before someone realized what happened. Good times. *Nicole Reenders*

In November, 2005, my brother Micah Joe was getting baptized and I, being 15, was doing profession of faith. It occurred on the same Sunday. My parents promising to raise Micah in the Lord and I proclaiming to the church that I was a follower of Christ. It was an amazing and emotional day, one for the Lord and His! Glory, *Lindsay Kiers*

Performing the play "The Lord's Prayer", for the church with my Dad. ☺ *Adrianna S*

Lets do this more often. A great lunch and great idea. *L Vannus, Marcel, Richard V*, (plus two signatures I can't make out).

Coming to Coffee House in 2006. *Daniel*

Broke my arm at church. *Ashley L*

2003: I started GEMS. *Alyssa H*

Our belief in the Lord Jesus Christ has grown stronger. It may have started when Harry VanderWees introduced the Alpha course approximately 11 years ago, after Sunday morning services and perhaps earlier when I married my dear wife of 52 years. At the start of the Alpha course, we were all asked why and what brought us there. When it was my turn, I said that I thought I lived a Christian life. I attended church every Sunday, paid my dues and helped out some times. But there was something missing, my life was not complete. We followed many Alpha courses, completed some and left some half finished due to emergency trips to our son Mark and his family in Ottawa. These trips also helped, in me wanting to have a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Our son Mark is a Christian. I had many hour long discussions with him about this subject, in persona nd on the phone. I'm sure the discussions after men's breakfast did their bit to open my eyes to what God is able to do. Then Harry asked for volunteers to help clean-up the dishes for Super Tuesdays. Others and I volunteered. When the dishes were done, I sat in on some of the courses and one picks up something, most of the time. Then also my weekly meetings for the last 10+ years, at Tim Horton's with a friend and fellow Christian and talks with other Christians, helped me along the way. We are children of God. Praise the Lord.

The best memory is when Carter is playing with Emily and Micah Joe.

I remember when I went to Ken's cabin for the first time and did the polar swim. I didn't know how cold it was so I couldn't breath. But after 15 seconds, I could. Thanks Ken for letting us go to your cabin every year. *Trevor Dalmaijer, 2003*

Youth Group! *Dirk Nyhof, 2009*

When we sniffed ginger up our noses, *Trevor Dalmaijer*

Mr Harris' children messages (with or without kittens) are so much fun!

I remember having a great time with lots of the youth going to the Billy Graham festival!
The concerts were awesome! *Adrianna*

Washing cars at Love Winnipeg, forgetting sunscreen, becoming burnt to a crisp and somewhat resembling a lobster. Then having water bottle wars and being drenched. So much fun, *Nicole R*

Singing the "Hallelujah" chorus and getting it! Fabulous! ☺

I remember when I first went to GEMS here at my church!

My memories of this church will be how "when God makes a promise, I know that he is a man of his word." I can count on him for everything in my life. When I became a widow, I had no idea what to do, and my pastor at the time told me not to worry, God will take care of the children and me. I remember thinking, this guy has lost his marbles, when really, he knew he spoke the truth as words of wisdom. I however didn't find this of any comfort. As I grew in my faith, I found my journey in life brought me to Winnipeg, to this church. I didn't know why I was coming here but knew from much prayer and debating that I needed to follow through on the plan God had. We have lived here 3 years now and all I can say is this church is a perfect example of love, giving, supporting, friendships, family, prayer and happiness. I am a widow and today I know God has provided me with a family that will always be here for us through God's love. The message spoken that day that had no comfort have now shone through here at Covenant. It has strengthened my faith, encouraged me to listen to the Holy Spirit and know that God answered prayer and keeps his word and he will meet all my needs as promised.

Serve 2007, Downs, Kansas. We helped people redo their homes and painted them in Osborn County, stayed in a local school for a week and helped the people of the community. We had worship in the evenings and this is one of the first big God moments in my life! *Jonathan VanLeeuwen*

I have been at this church ever since I was three years old. I have had lots of fun at summer camp, with my friends, and my brother Aaron. Thank you to all of the Sunday school teachers including my mom. On July 10, our family will be moving to Ottawa, ON, and we will truly miss this church. Love, *Grace Holleman, May 24, 2009.*

At bible camp in 2007, a bunch of the guys snuck into an abandoned cabin XXX

2001-2009. This church has taught me a lot of God's words and messages. Went to the bible camp 3 years in a row and had a blast meeting new people and games. I haven't

made any long term friends, but this church has critically touched my spiritual and emotional life. I will remember this church as I am moving to Ottawa, ON in the next month or so. Thank you for the memories and wish this church a valuable future! *Aaron Holleman.*

A humbling and changing experience was when I had a vision of Jesus during the day time.

The Saturday Night Service is always fun. *Trevor Dalmaijer*

Ken dressing up as a woman for youth group in my mom's dress!!

Going to Cadets run by Mr. Booy and Ray Houle doing crafts, carving pumpkins and going on a wilderness canoe trip. *Jonathan VanLeeuwen.* "John 14:15, If you love me, you will keep my commandments".

It is without a doubt, our second son's wedding at CCRC that is etched in our memory. Someone (reliable sources say it was his best friend and best man in the wedding party), had put the word HELP on the sole of the groom's left shoe and the word ME! on the right sole of his shoe. When the bride and groom were asked to kneel the words HELP ME! stared at us pleadingly. Giggles and repressed laughter were audible all around.

It's the practical and funny joke you play on your friend! We had our laugh and so did the groom. But there is a pleading in those two words that can't be ignored in real life when someone voices them. Many people at CCRC sensed that something was not right at Covenant. And many felt that we needed help to fix what was broken. We prayed; God heard and He acted by sending us Pastor Peter. We are so thankful that God has heard our HELP US to bring us to the current stage in Covenant's life. We believe that CCRC is on a healing journey that will re-energize us as a "living organism" (for that's what the church must be!) destined for great works to the glory of God. May He bless us as we enjoy the healing journey.

I remember when I came to the GEMS club here! I came in grade two! I was 7 when I came! (I still go there!) *Leah Hillhouse*

I remember when I went to the GEMS club at this church (I still go there!) I was 8 when I came. I was in grade 3. *Alena Reenders*

I have difficulty with writing one particular story as outstanding. For me, I discover more and more that the church is so much part of my life that if for health reasons I am not able to attend, I really miss it. Worship to praise our Creator, the singing, the preaching and of course the togetherness with all the other members at coffee time. We hope and pray that the Lord will allow us to do this yet for a long time to come.

Steel-Toed Boots

The best memory I have was when I was 8 and I went up for the evening service. The pastor wanted me to read the bible. He showed me the page, it was written in Jewish. I looked up at him and said, "I don't speak Hebrew!"

A Special Place: I have been part of this congregation my whole life, first in Kildonan CRC, and now in Covenant. I have always known that this is a special place, with special people, but I didn't fully appreciate this until I was diagnosed with breast cancer in November, 2004.

As the news spread that I had cancer, the outpouring of love and concern was overwhelming! In the months following my diagnosis, I had surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. Throughout it all, I received cards, baking, and meals, not only from my closest friends and family, but also from people I hardly know!

It was amazing to see God use the people of this congregation to care for our family during a very difficult time. I consider it a gift to be part of this church. Thank you for being there, for our family! *Carol VanderKooy*

The Honduras mission trip in 2001 had a huge impact on my life. I thank Len VerBeek for encouraging me to join the team. Members of the team became family. We were all blessed by the community that we worked with. The following trips to El Salvador and Guatemala were also an amazing experience. I look forward to having the opportunity to do more mission trips in the future. *Bev VanHeyst*.

I remember CRC camp when I was a kid. I remember my 1st year at camp. It was very hot! So they cancelled evening sports and went swimming. That was awesome! I also remember the big waves. *Daniel Vandenberg*

When Dirk & Brenda had their house fire, the concern from the Covenant congregation was wonderful. Then when Lionel had his accident in the house fire of Feb 9 '07, again the congregation surrounded our family with love and compassion. Who knows how far reaching these actions will be. Praise God!

Without biological extended family here, I feel very at home. I know I have family that love and care for me. I am very thankful for that! *Katie Dalmaijer*

2008!! I feel very thankful for having the opportunity to be involved with the worship team and share my talents with the church. *Bryann Matthews*

Having grown up in the church; both difficulties and joys have helped me grow in faith. Defending my beliefs has helped me define my beliefs and deepen my relationship with God.

As Covenant's Sea to Sea representative in 2005, after biking from Vancouver to Winnipeg. We rode to the church as a group and we were so wonderfully welcomed by the church members who lined the streets cheering us. The congregation's support for the tour was overwhelming and I still get emotional thinking about it.

One of my stories: God has used the church (universal) but in particular Covenant to help me grow in my faith. It's been a journey often with one event preparing me for the next. I have been blessed by the ministry of Coffee Break. There was always good fellowship, support at difficult times in our family and wonderful times of bible study.

What brought us to Covenant CRC. It was the Alpha program hearing Nikki Gumbel. Brought me to a closer walk with my Lord. Also the 1st Holy Spirit weekend encountering His healing presence. Changing me. Super Tuesday was a place where we found the love of Christ being evident and saw lives changed and people healed. I am His and He is mine. Glory be to Jesus.

Many significant memories. 2000's part of a small group. Very close, very meaningful. Supported each other not just in bible study or social get together but a group that could hold each other up to the Lord. One time a member of our group was in a lot of pain and depression after a procedure. She felt free to call us. Our group dropped every thing to go to her family and lift her up in prayer. The closeness in spirit and in love was very meaningful.

I was blessed by the Lord through His leading Elaine and I to Covenant church and the Alpha course. It was an excellent course and a great opportunity for me to learn and grow spiritually along with other people who were seeking the Lord. After finishing Alpha, I was fortunate that Covenant was providing other Christian courses that I attended so I was able to grow and develop relationships with other Christians, both young and old. Through Alpha, other programs, Sunday School, reading the bible, praying and being with other Christians, I have been blessed and have developed a strong relationship with the Lord.

Our first visit to CCRC was for the baptism of Christy Scheeres. I recall Pastor Bill telling all the children to turn around, that the congregation was also their family. We were so welcomed that we returned to CCRC after we moved to Winnipeg a couple of years later.

I have so enjoyed the last 5 years or so at this church. Through some difficult and stressful times there have been so many wonderful people around me, helping me grow and learn. A highlight has to be when Elaine took me under her wing and got me into worship leading. I have endless thanks for all those around me in the worship community. Music has always been something I enjoyed, but now it has passion and purpose behind it.

Also, I have to give a HUGE SHOUT-OUT TO THE YOUTH!!! Thank you so much for letting me learn, teach and have SO MUCH FUN with your guys!

Overall, I LOVE the people around me here and hope to enjoy many more years with them! *Amanda VandenBerg*

The best memory was eating the icing off the cake and leaving the rest.

Summer Camp. *Wil Lozie*

Deepening friendships with fellow Christians who all strive to live ways pleasing to God.

Willow Creek, 2001-2003. Alpha 2001- present

I went to camp since grade 2 and it was a blast!

When I first moved here, I knew that in order to make a place home, I needed to become involved in something. I felt called to help with GEMS. When I went to pick up materials from another leader, I was invited in for supper. I felt welcomed and it was the start of many good things here.

I really enjoyed the humour and the singing at Alpha. It was stupendous.

This morning I elbowed my dad during communion and he spilled his juice all over his pants. It was a pretty good laugh for the whole Wyenberg family.

I remember when I got my first dog, Ziggy. *Alena Reenders*

Today's sermon reminded me of a new season for Alpha where we were asked what we (each) hoped to accomplish or expected to happen in the next session. I said I had not anything except that I expected God to lead and guide me. The months after that God revealed himself to me in a powerful way!

I came to this church in 2000 while seeking a church in the area. I found the people so friendly and I met and got to know so many through Alpha, bible studies, etc. I praise God for this church and his word. Also, I believe Pastor Peter has been a real blessing to us.

In the month of March, 2004, God saw fit to suddenly take my wife Evelyn, to be with Him in heaven. After a happy married life of over fifty years, this was a devastating experience. Our large family was grown and dispersed across the country. Several of the family still live around Winnipeg and they certainly did everything they could to fill the void in my life. The family members from elsewhere also stayed in touch and visited regularly. However, at the end of the day, when the doors are shut, life takes on an empty feeling.

Sometime in early 2007, I talked to Peggy Loewen for a few minutes. Some of the conversation was about leading a very quiet life when living alone. Peggy mentioned that her mother felt that way also at times. I remarked that I would like to meet her mother. A short time later, on a Sunday morning Peggy's mother, Trudy Smith, came to church. No doubt the events and people involved were God's means of bringing us together. About a year later, we were married in Covenant church. Both Trudy and I are very happy, and we're grateful to God for bringing us together. *John Harris*

I was at the front of the church during a song, looking over the congregation and I felt very strongly that God impressed on me that this was where He was calling me to serve.

I can only say it was a peace that He gave me when I needed His direction. It's been 6.5 years since then and has had it's challenges, but it has been a joy to be able to serve in this congregation. God has certainly been at work in me and also among us as a church. Highlights includes SERVE trips, camps and retreats, many serious and light hearted conversations with people of various ages. I have to mention the first serve trip to Missouri and the rude and wet wake-up the young people got as they slept on some grass outside a Walmart in Sioux Falls. Moments like that are truly priceless. *Ken Douma*

1990's

My trip to Central America was a great blessing to me. This church was so generous in providing funds to build homes. Thanks be to God. 1990

Returning to Covenant after having been away for 12 years and being welcomed and then becoming a Stephen Minister. What a blessing to share God's love and my faith and to strengthen my walk with the Lord in relationships. Also participating in 3 trips to Central America and having relationships there. How God loves His people. 1997

We are going the same way with worship as Europe; less and less time for the Lord. So be on your toes!

Rainbow: Pastor Gary's touching "Rainbow" story in the Centennial book, pg 87 tells it all. "This is my (God's) church, I will build it, I will take care of it", says it all! Interestingly, the Holy Spirit told me the same thing on seeing rainbows over CCRC. Are you also hearing, feeling, sensing this?! *Ray*

A Christian all my life know-it-all, until I was invited to a Alpha course. Then the Holy Spirit came in my heart and I really know what it means to be a happy and joyful Christian. I love this church. Praise the Lord he will never leave us. 1997

Being a camp leader for many years.

I always enjoyed the church picnics as a kid. I especially enjoyed the games we played out at Bird's Hill.

Good Friday, 1996, moving Kildonan church to Knowles Ave. Many people helping to get the new church ready.

Fundraising dinners and auctions

I remember Gary Lissenberg (my grandpa) playing organ. He would sway in time to the music and smile the whole time. Though we worship differently now, he is my inspiration for passionate worship.

I enjoyed catechism class with Mr. Harris. He was a great teacher!

The last babies to be baptized at College Ave church were Andrea & Melanie Vanheyst, 1992.

Being on council during the combining of our churches.

Being asked to help out in the library and as an usher, I got to meet many people and when I was asked to join the prayer group, I learned to think of others instead of my own needs. I am a prayer warrior now. It has saved my life and made me God centered and strong. *Alyce Baardman*

Sitting in a joint council meeting at the GMU building and hearing the “M” word for the first time.

I was born.

Getting a roll of quarters to use for the games at “Family Fun Night”.

The wonderful memories of serving at bible camp for over 20 years. *Anne Mushumanski, Hennie Slikker*

1980's

May long weekend, spring youth rally, Emo, ON. I went with the Kildonan church young peoples to the rally. On a farm, we had a hayride and there I met John VanLeeuwen from College Ave Young Peoples! Together 25 years later! *Veronica (Terwisscha) VanLeeuwen*

I enjoyed retreats with College & Careers in the 1980's.

I remember Mr Beens would drive up by the front door in his brown car at College Ave Church. All the kids would come running up to the car and he would hand out peppermints. He was referred to as the Candy Man.

We moved to Winnipeg in the late 80's joining Kildonan CRC. Transitions are difficult and it certainly was for us. It took some time but it certainly was good to be here. We became involved, our kids became involved, and being part of a community became “real” and “true”. Good friends were made and the blessings of being God's people was made true!

I can still remember trying not to be heard while sneaking around the balcony at College Ave. church.

Young peoples rallies were great fun! I met my wife in Emo. We were both from Winnipeg.

The love and support from Kildonan families when Jason was born with his heart difficulties, *Wil & Caroline Lozie*, 1982

Carol, Dorothy & Tammy singing; Victor Anderson playing piano and got us to say Amen or “suffer” a longer sermon.

Jason Lozie baptism, 1982

Cassandra Lozie baptism, 1984

I remember having a Calvinette’s party (mom & daughter rally) where we had to stand in a line and have our smiles “measured”. Who can help but crack up over that?! Mrs. Zandstra and Nelly were the mom & daughter pair that won! *Joan*

On my first exploratory trip to Winnipeg, I was very warmly welcomed at the Kildonan CRC, after the Sunday am service. My rental car, a Lincoln Continental, was parked illegally at the bus stop. *John VanderKooy*, early July, 1981

My Faith-forming events:

Catechism classes with Shawn Sikkema and Bill Pasveer.

All those interns from seminary: Shawn Sikkema, Jeff Weima, Victor Anderson.

Joan

When Coffee Break began at Covenant in the 80’s, I committed to reading the bible and praying in personal devotions every day. That brought about many life changes. Instead of God being a character in a book, he took up residence in my heart. I thank God for friends that encourage and correct. And I want everyone; young and old, to know how much they need God and how much he is willing.

I have been a member of Covenant church for 35 years. God had brought me closer to him by bible study at Coffee Break; by being a member of the prayer group; by serving as a deacon and elder; and also through worshipping with fellow believers. *Jenny Bronk*

The start of Coffee Break and the wonderful study and fellowship based on studying God’s word as a guide for Christian living.

My years as a GEMS leadership trainer and a GEMS councillor was a wonderful time of growing spiritually and of fellowship. The camping trips with the girls in Camp Morden & Bird’s Hill park was great and rewarding.

GEMS Counsellor: great learning, great fun, great program, great girls!!

Painful time when College Ave split. My husband left the church.

Two years after I came to Canada from the USA, my mother died. The night I got the call, Pastor Bishop came on a surprise visit that showed me God is real.

1970's

Combined Cadets with Kildonan. Blake Tuba, Hank Haaksma & Tom Vannus were councillors. We had camping trips and badge work. Lots of fun!

I remember when Rev VanDyk would drive his big motorbike to church with his leather jacket on. I don't think some of the older people appreciated it, but I thought it was sooo cool!!!

I remember as young teenagers we used to sit in the front row of the balcony at Kildonan and hang our hands over the balcony and point at our watches during the sermon. We tried to be very subtle to not attract too much attention, yet to "help" the minister keep the sermon to an appropriate time. One time when we were "helping" the minister, he stopped and informed the kids in the balcony that he was very aware of the time, much to our embarrassment when he singled us out and stopped the sermon.

My daughter (18 years old), wrote a letter to counsel, asking why Kildonan church has no church for children like "you guys". She is still waiting for the answer. 1975

When our first child was born, I was invited to join the Ladies Bible Study called Hosanna Club. Hosanna had a long history in our church. It was like a right of passage for newly married woman. We had many, many great times together for many years. We made friends for life. *Carla Visser*. 1971

Christian friends, and lots of Sunday School teaching kept also me focussed on learning.

All those acronyms! CCRC, CCRCC, CCs. All those "c"s, all very significant. CCRC, everyone knows. CCRCC, Council of CRC's Canada, a "VanEEK" project of 1970's. CCS, Calvin Christian School. The church provided the energy, drive. C, Christ our Saviour reconciler to God!

I remember when Shawn Sikkema was interning at Kildonan Church and he and Diane were junior high youth leaders. They were such wonderful, warm and real people who had a big impact on me. They were so open and caring and really made Christianity come alive. This was so important at the time in life where the "big" questions were coming to mind.

Stepping out in Faith: "The vision seldom follows the money. But the money always follows the vision." It was summertime, somewhere in the 70's. College Ave CRC was buzzing with activity for two weeks solid! Every year, a large group of old and young members of the church would go out into the neighbourhood to let people know that we were holding a two week Vacation Bible School.

And they would come, boy did they come. We'd see well over 200 kids at the front door of the church. In those two weeks they would consume copious amounts of chips, drinks and bible stories. It was an exiting time.

At the end of each VBS, “graduation” day would come and then the rest of the summer...., nothing...., we’d simply go dormant.

As a member of the College Ave evangelism committee, I attended an evangelism conference held by the combined Winnipeg CRC churches. When I asked about what others did about follow up during the rest of the year, the answer was...., “nothing”.

The chairman then challenged me and said “but what are you doing?”, and that is how Hope Centre was born. We had no official name then and simply called it the Midway House project. I had the privilege of meeting with the different councils and literally hundreds of people to plead my case. The reaction was anywhere from, “exciting” to “you are crazy!”

You see, we were what you would term “poor immigrant churches”, and struggled to meet the church’s budget, which usually came up short. As well, we could barely make our commitment to the Christian school. So were did I think the money would come from?

I asked that each council appoint two members to the board of Hope Centre. And we were ready to sail. Man o man, did we have some real exciting time, lots of hard work though and meetings coming out of our ears. We prepared a five year budget, asking the Winnipeg CRC members to commit themselves to a specific amount each year. Each congregation in individual votes passed the plan and the budget. Even though there was no money yet, we felt confident that the Lord would provide and so one of my fellow board members and myself signed as guarantors for a two story house on Alfred Ave, in the North End, and we were on our way.

Here is the fantastic thing; that year, each of the participating churches saw a remarkable increase in giving, over and above the funds committed for Hope Centre, resulting in a much healthier year end. In addition, the Christian school also received more money to meet their expenses! This held true for subsequent years.

Truly a case were many of our members stepped out in faith and the money followed the vision. *Nicolaas H*

Book falling off the balcony at Kildonan CRC woke me up.

I remember vividly our pastor, Rev C Tuininga preaching an afternoon sermon. All of a sudden he would stop preaching and would ask the person in the last bench, third from the end, to wake up. From then on, I was always worried about falling asleep in church. PS: he didn’t call me.

When I think of “my church story” the things I remember most have a thread of music running through them. My earliest memory is singing “Ere zij God”, sitting in the front pew of College Ave. I finally could sing all the words with great feeling like all the adults! My Opa was an elder sitting in the front “elder” pews and gave me a big smile and made a friendly comment to me on his way out of church. Singing that song every Christmas brings back memories of my Opa and a church singing its heart out.

My next memory is of being a young girl maybe 8, practicing with Calvinettes in the College Ave library. We were all encouraged to sing louder, well, almost all of us. One of the leaders asked me in front of everyone to please sing quietly! That was a very embarrassing moment when I realized I could not carry a tune very well and has made me

very self conscious of singing in smaller groups up until this day. The next memory is this same group of girls singing their Calvinette songs in the middle of winter in our parkas out on the church steps as we were not allowed to sing in front of church in those days.

Garry Lissenberg playing the organ was a highlight for me as a child. He would suck on his peppermint and sway to the music as he played the hymns from his heart. His offertories were a great melody of hymns. The older ones and the newer all kind of blended from one to another. The “Koene” sisters singing at special events was also something I enjoyed, the 3 sisters standing close together sharing their music and swaying slightly to the music, obvious that they were really enjoying it. I was always a little concerned as a child that one day they might hit each other’s head as they swayed! But it never happened.

Begging my older cousin to allow us girls to attend Young Peoples at 15 instead of 16 years. We loved YP and went every Friday or Saturday on an event and then met Sunday evening after supper. The singing with the guitars each Sunday evening was great as most everyone sang. The listening to long debates between some of the older guys (on the bible lesson) was not always appreciated as we were eager to drive to church members’ homes for coffee and snacks. Singing with a large group of Young Peoples around camp fires in Birds Hill Park on cool autumn evenings.....

My brother’s death in his 20’s and coming to church that Sunday morning and singing “When Peace like a River” will still bring tears to my eyes almost 30 years later when we sing it. His funeral when the choir sang “Jerusalem” and my cousin-in-law jumping up and running to the piano to accompany the organ as the whole congregation supported us in song. The church has always been a part of my life and today I love sitting in front of senior members who sing with great feeling the great hymns from memory. Those hymns have been threaded throughout so much of the fabric of their lives and they also must have many memories associated with them. To me, that is a very spiritual moment when their voices are raised in worship of our God who has been faithful throughout the ages. *Caroline*

1960’s

The great times we experience with the Cadets, camping and meetings at Kildonan CRC basement, where Jasper was swinging on the rafters like a monkey.

Sitting on the floor in a classroom at Calvin Christian School when Kildonan CRC began services. There were not enough chairs for the 50-60 people who attended that first service.

Young People’s Society was a real vibrant group. I loved going there on Saturday evenings, social activities and Sunday evening bible studies. The rallies were a great experience too.

While sitting in the 3rd pew from the back of College CRC when all of a sudden I felt something tickling in my back. A guy behind me was putting a screw through the bench!

Camp at Cache Island (a YFC camp) and my first communal prayer; the incredible feeling of the Holy Spirit in that dark room.

Winnipeg became home (again) in 1963 when, as a student I started attending Kildonan CRC, worshipping in Calvin CS. The Jongsma, Reenders, Ryzebol, Wyenberg families stood out for a welcoming spirit. Eisses family (my R&B) were great too! Rev J Hellinga had a series on Ruth. The KCRC facility was planned, built and opened with great fanfare. Later, it even had an organ, followed by a number of great creative festival events. KCRC was known as the “liberal” church and extensive involvement in Hope, IFC and other initiatives during the VanEek years! Soli Deo Gloria, *Ray*

Cadet Camp. I had the pleasure to be a Jr Counsellor and spent 5 days in the “wild” eating food prepared over open fires, being rained out (everything soaked) and every boy wanting to stay. It was a fun time!

1950's

The pastor was visiting at our house and when he saw me he said, hey you are old enough to attend catechism classes. I was sorry I showed my face but it was a life changing experience.

During the ministry of Rev J Rubingh, the president of Synod at the time told me “John Rubingh is the prince of the CRC”. Indeed, he was. As fieldman at the time, we worked well together. We met every Monday morning to discuss issues arising out of our respective ministries. Many times I found him busy working on a car for an immigrant who could not afford the cost of repairs. He was indeed a mechanic of the soul and car. *Tom Polet, former member.*

We got married during the winter of 1956 with family and friends in my parents house by Dominee Rubingh. There was no money for a hall, but all had a god time at our wedding. One of our sons had planned their wedding for Nov 8, 1986 but it did not happen till the next day due to a big snowstorm on their wedding day and all the streets were closed in Winnipeg. The next day, the wedding was held in their basement with family and friends by Rev Bishop and he and some of us came to the ceremony by snow mobile.

When I came in 1955 to Canada, I didn't know the language but to go to church was my highlight of the week. To worship the Lord in song, hear melodies we knew and the Dutch words. I still come to praise and worship the Lord; that is my meditation. Praise the Lord.

Rev Disselkoen would lead a Sunday morning service in Homewood and then some of us would go in his car to Pilot Mound where he would do an afternoon service and then bring us back to Homewood.

Worshipping in the Elmwood building, setting up chairs before and cleanup after.

In the late fifties, we went fishing at Pine Falls. When someone caught a sturgeon, I must see the fish. I ran over to see, but slid on the very slippery rocks. I cried for help, but no one heard me! My life was hanging on my fingernails. I worked myself up to a safer height and got up. How strong I felt!! Years later, I knew that it was not my strength but the help of God that made me able to write this today. Thanks be to God forever. *Anton*

1940's

When I was 8 and attending Sunday school, the teacher broke his ruler over my head, for whatever reason. It made a lasting impression.

We came to Canada in 1949 on the Tabinta, from Quebec to Winnipeg. I remember going to the little church on Newton Ave. in 1952. We moved to Ontario and my Mom and Dad were founders of the Emo CRC.

I met and married my husband in 1942. I was a Presbyterian, so transferred to the CRC when my husband came back from the war. We had 5 sons. I was a nurse.

In the summer of 1947, two Dutch immigrant families arrived from Holland. For many of us younger people, these two families were the first real live immigrants we had ever seen. All the other Dutch people had come before the Second World War and before the Depression. This was a remarkable event for a tiny church with about 26 families. Little did we know that the following year would begin an avalanche of new faces! Exciting times were about to begin in the Christian Reformed Church in Winnipeg!

In God's good time, several congregations developed, as well as Hope Centre, the Indian Family Centre and Calvin Christian School. It is wonderful to look back and see how God's hand has been mightily at work in the Winnipeg area. *John Harris*

1930's

I was one of the old timers. Born 1932, baptized, confession of faith, married in the church, I have always felt at home here, with friendly and caring people, and good preaching. A big change came in 1947-78 with the immigration of so many people to Canada and our church. It was an exciting time as a young person to have so many young people in youth group, and that is where I met my wife as well. We have been blessed in this church and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to bless this church.