



Fun Facts and Memories of Calvary/CrossPoint Church

Did you know that...

In 1969 a difference of three votes decided the purchase of the Walnut Avenue property as opposed to property on Yorba Avenue (78 votes for Ross and Walnut; 75 for Yorba and Walnut).

First budget approval of pastor's salary was set at \$8,500.

First Vacation Bible School in 1971 was budgeted at \$168.83.

The builder recommended that carpet be installed in the sanctuary, unlike other CRC churches, for reasons such as it's better for sound, and the children in the service will be "more subdued."

Total cost of building the Walnut facility in 1972 was \$514,626.

Total cost of building the Edison facility in 2005 was \$9 million.

CrossPoint Library's current holdings, including books, DVDs, CDs, and magazines is 4,479 titles.

Total items checked out since the library opened on our current campus on September 21, 2008 is 15,957.

The library averages 40 to 60 transactions each Sunday morning.

Two CRC ordained pastors attend CrossPoint as members: Eric Evenhuis and Ray Hommes.

Amount of time Tena Mejan and Mavis Zondervan spent putting the card catalog online for approximately 3,000 titles before the library opened on September 21, 2008—1 year.

Church's first paid nursery staff began in 1992—Maria Haro has served 27 years thus far.

Total years with all the nursery staff: 93 years. Lupe Haro—19 years, Angie Haro—14 years, Hilda Loaiza—17 years, Sonia Herrera—16 years.

Nursery staff has cared for two generations: Dan Jansen and now his kids; Sarah Stuit-Wenger and now her kids; Kyle Jasper and now his baby. The Haro sisters took care of Doug and Lisa Westenbroek's kids and now care for their grandkids when they visit.

Journey to Bethlehem sets were built in 1994 and now reside at a church in Buckeye, Arizona. Pastor Phil DuBois separated the scenes by using hay bales.

Pastor Bruce wrote the Journey to Bethlehem script.

Russ Fuller is a commissioned CRC pastor.

The longest church volunteer in the same program—Randy Mouw with Cadets.

GEMS was called Calvinettes until 1995.

Pastor Al Mulder was the first to remove the traditional pulpit from the stage.

First custodian was John Woltjers.

Church custodian with shortest commute...John Oskam who lived across the street from the Calvary location.

Two generations of custodians—Alan Mulder began in 2007 and his 3 sons began in 2013.

Custodian Alan Mulder is a relative of Pastor Al Mulder.

First church secretary—Trish Harmon with a salary of \$100 per month.

Second church secretary—Betty Mulder.

First two organists, the primary instrument used at beginning of Calvary—Anita Schoonveld and Wilma Offinga.

Calvary's Mission Program began with a grant of \$100,000.

Calvary's Mission Support Program changed to Faith Promise. In later years, Church Missions became part of the church budget.

First supported missionaries:

- First foreign missionary—Bruce Bode of the Faith Hospitality House in Guam.
- First home missionary—John Berends of El Paso, Texas
- First full time evangelist—John Wind. John and Shirley were then supported as missionaries to Mexico. Both John and Shirley had family connections with Calvary.
- John Orkar joined Calvary in the 1970s while in Fuller Seminary, and he occasionally preached.
- Ralph & Harriet Hill: Harriet is a te Velde with strong family ties to Calvary.

In 1977, Coffee Break Ministry began as outreach into the community.

Most under-the-radar servant: Lee Manual and Brenda Graham for organizing bereavement baskets.

Largest current ministries: GEMS with 100+ girls, Cadets with 75 boys, and Oasis with 70+ women.

The only Calvary/CrossPoint pastor with a PhD in addition to seminary degree—Pastor Bruce Ballast.

Eight calls to pastors were extended with Rev. Art Schoonveld finally accepting.

In 1975, Dick Dykstra was appointed choir director.

Purchase of first computer for church work was in 1985—a MacIntosh.

Carol Kuhl was hired as part-time Program Coordinator in 1987, taking over after Sheri Mulder.

In 1988, the parsonage was converted into the Light House allowing space for meetings and classes.

1988-90 Pastors Randal Young and Al Breems established daughter churches in Fontana and Moreno Valley.

In 1993, Carla Vande Steeg, one of the first infants baptized at Calvary, began as the first paid full-time youth director.

In 1995, Calvary Church was redecorated with new carpet and the pews were re-upholstered in a mauve color.

Three pastors were avid cyclists: Don Klop, Tim Spykstra, and Bryan VanderTuig.

Most common international mission trip for groups is to Beautiful Gate in Lesotho.

Some Fun Memories...

Eric Fiske as a dad was told by his wife Kim to volunteer—he did not want to serve, but by the time he left, he was fully engaged with the little kids in the nursery.

At the Calvary location a naked man entered into the church and was found sitting on the organ bench.

In 1981, 32 Cadets with 12 adult leaders went on a hike during a campout in Joshua Tree, and they got lost in mountains.

In 2005, Cadets, when tent camping in local mountains, got snowed on, and they were not prepared!

In 2008, the Cadets went on an International Camporee trip in Canada and had to be evacuated out of camp due to excessive rain of 15 inches. They spent the rest of trip sleeping in a nearby ice rink. Local churches took in the group for showers, dry clothes and cooked steak dinners for the boys.

In 1989 on a local hike, the Cadets lost a boy new to the group. Randy Mouw set out and found the young boy.

Calvinettes had an 8th grade Charms Course learning about how to be a lady. In the 8th grade program, girls learned how to walk in high heel shoes. Tara is remembered for walking the cat walk in heels during a modeling show, when she tripped and fell off the platform to her great embarrassment.

The late Rick Gallagher came to church in the late 1980s through Sports Ministry/Men's Softball. Pastor Don Klop was on the same team. Rick was accustomed to using profanity while expressing his feelings during sport activities, and Pastor Don embraced Rick despite the foul words. Eventually Rick changed his language while playing ball.

When one of the first infants was baptized in 1969 at the Ontario Christian High School gymnasium, after the service, founding church member Hubert Slegers told Don and Nelvah Agema that their son's name, Troy Donald, was "not a very Dutch name."

Pastor Al Mulder enjoyed a good ol' cigar.

Pastor Al Mulder could be seen driving his big Lincoln Town car around town visiting church members.

Pastor Al Mulder encouraged the congregation to shout out "Amen" during his sermon. "Can I get an Amen?"

Hubert Slegers will always be remembered by his poems, direct approach, knowledge of church history, love for people, and his rough hands with crooked fingers as evidence of his hard working life with a strong work ethic.

George Den Hartigh, high school teacher turned Calvary custodian, was always cleaning up after the high school students. He also regularly made a pot of soup for the staff.

Over the years, the most common family name with the largest number of church members at the same time—Bouma, Camping, Slegers, te Velde, Wind.

Most commonplace for kids to play after church service: under the church pews, on the Lighthouse lawn, on the rocks and sometimes even in the fountain.

Kids in Sunday school would get points for attendance, memorizing Bible verses, and bringing a friend. Kids would then receive a new Bible with a note from their Sunday school teacher inside.

Remember during Christmas time when kids in Sunday school received a bag with candy and an orange inside?

Remember when visiting pastor Bill Buursma (during Pastor Bruce's sabbatical) asked the Lamboos, during the baptism of their firstborn, "What is the child's Christian name?"

Pearl Stuit shares that her favorite memory is of Rev. Art Schoonveld preaching.

Since 2010, Pastor Jane has travelled to Kenya about 18 times to build homes for widows. CrossPoint has helped support the building of 3 homes.

Most famous saying from a youth group volunteer leader, "I sell bull semen!!" by Doug Westenbroek.

In 2018, a cow was seen running on church campus and the custodian staff joined in the chase of herding it back where it belonged.

Attended first church service as newly married couple—Gary and Mavis Zondervan. They were married in August 1969, went on their honeymoon, and returned to attend the first service in September 1969.

While church was first meeting at Ontario Christian Elementary campus, a boy from the Sunday School was seen standing next to a bush and peeing instead of using the restroom.

Todd Westra remembers Pastor Al Mulder driving him in his Lincoln car for a steak dinner to discuss Profession of Faith.

Pastor Al was heard calling to Sid Offinga who fell asleep during the sermon.

Most learned pastor of different faiths—Pastor Bruce Ballast.

The Calvary building design of a semi-circle was chosen to achieve a sense of the family of God gathering around His Word in fellowship.

The Calvary Church facility was built with brick walls with the plan that if they needed to expand to more than 150 families, then another church would be started.

The walls without windows were designed to stimulate reverence and contemplation with light coming only from above.

According to the minutes of the first council meeting, it was established that an elder would stand at each door and "observe visitors." Later it was noted the elders should welcome and greet visitors.

When Calvary Church began, the two oldest members were Bill DeGroot and Gary Voorman.

Construction of the Edison facility mishaps: In 2005, there was a total collapse of the trusses in the fellowship hall just after the workers exited the building to meet the catering truck for a snack break. Thankfully, there was only one minor on-the-job injury. Also, the huge cross on top of the building fell to the ground due to the crane's straps breaking.

Volunteers contributing major hours of time to the new construction: Bob Andringa—working with the city and architect; Ed Talen—coordinating building project, Arlan VandenBos—providing support of each committee; Rick Gallagher—project manager; Lisa Lambooy—coordinating interior design; and Anneke DeJong—coordinating establishment of nursery and kitchen.

Most common trip led by pastors—tour of Israel.

Fondest attended Bible study series led by the ‘three amigos’—Ryan Bykerk, Matt Piper, and Keith Blystra.

I Am Thankful For...

The generosity of the community and the love and care we have received at times of need over the past 6+ years we have been attending CrossPoint.

The faithfulness to God's Word.

How the body of Christ rallies around us during the challenging times in our lives.

The wonderful welcome I have received as a new member of CrossPoint.

The people and pastors, and the great fellowship.

Consistent preaching of God's Word and fellowship of the congregation.

God answered a lot of prayers from the Wednesday prayer night. We experienced God’s love through fellowship and service. Mexico Mission Loft House trips.

Various Bible study groups and connection groups, including MOPS, available under Women's Ministry. Without this connection, we probably would not have made the transition to attending CrossPoint and becoming members.

My baptism in June 2010.

Oasis, Coffee Break, Tuesday night Men's Bible Study, house church at Chuck and Janet Zimmerman's led by Wayne and Marty Alberda, being able to: serve in children's ministry, serve on the Mission Development Team, serve with Mexico Loft House Mission Trip & Beautiful Gate Orphanage Mission Trip.

Jesus-centered and gospel-centered worship in ALL that we do!

It was a great church for our whole family, and we were always excited to worship and to be involved in its programs. Also, that we reached out to the community.

We have always been blessed first and foremost by the preaching of the Gospel and the Ministry of Music. We knew from the first Sunday we attended services that this is where God wanted to grow us. We enjoyed the small group Bible Studies (and still do for the past 30 years), Home Fellowship Groups and the Adult Sunday School classes. Calvary Church and CrossPoint have been a vital part of our family's life. Praise God!

God’s faithfulness, revealed over and over again.

The love and fellowship we experienced when we started attending CrossPoint.

The Lord's love exhibited by the congregation.

The consistent focus on God's Word and all the fellowship and friends I have experienced.

God's faithfulness.

People who share their lives and their love with us!

I am forever thankful for how the church body has surrounded us during the most challenging times in our lives. From funerals to illnesses and everything in between, Calvary/CrossPoint has been an enormous blessing as they walked alongside us.

Messages and people (friends) at CrossPoint.

The genuine fellowship and sincere friendship of its members.

Becoming aware of the power of the Holy Spirit! Learning through trials how to lean on Jesus!

King's Kids and VBS.

Participating in Steph's youth meetings and retreats. Attending Celebrate Recovery meetings when I needed to learn how to love without enabling. Being ministered to when Clay Libolt was interim pastor for a year, hearing his wonderful stories and Biblical wisdom, and experiencing his accepting love. For the privilege of being able to do counseling and teaching about pastoral care when I worked for Samaritan Counseling Center, which had a contract with Calvary CRC for a number of years in the 1990s. Lasting friendships, even though we have different ways of looking at the world and Biblical interpretation.

Spiritual growth.

The ministry of pastors and fellow members during the loss of several family members beginning in the early 1970s.

A loving, friendly church that offers something for all ages.

Christ-centered church with the most loving and caring people.

Being given the opportunity and entrusted to serve and love the staff and body of Calvary/CrossPoint for 20 plus years.

Biblical preaching, loving church family.

God's Word/Truth taught.

The sermons and the people.

Faithful preaching of God's Word and the people who were great role models of the Christian faith.

We are thankful for the community of believers who we have the joy of being part of. Our children were raised, loved, supported, and taught by the people of this church. We have always felt a sense of true belonging. Our son, Rick was influenced by the preaching of Pastor Bruce. Terry Mode, a former Youth Director, had the insight early on that Rick had potential that no one else saw. Doug Westenbroek and John Skinner were also great role models for him. Rick had the ability to misbehave and not take things seriously. Today, we are proud to say Rick is a pastor of his own church. We believe that molding and preparation came early on from many people who were involved in his life.

My pregnancy with our youngest son, Matt was very difficult. I really appreciated Marlene Klein who was in charge of meals. She organized so many people who helped us through that hard time. To this day, bringing a meal to someone in need has always been a pleasure.

The worship, music, teaching and fellowship!

I loved the early years on Walnut Avenue. Everything about it!

The youth programs and witnessing our three children making profession of faith, and seeing our two daughters married at Calvary CRC. Participating in Coffee Break and for Dick being the choir director for many years.

The constant support for our family in times of hardship.

I am thankful for the community that invited me in when I didn't know anyone in SoCal.

Being faithful to the Word.

The generations of faithfulness—Calvary/CrossPoint has always been my extended family. The memories are endless!

I attended Calvary CRC during my formative teen years, and I'm grateful for the counsel and guidance from all the mentors I had throughout that time - including Pastor Mulder and Pastor Klop. "How firm a foundation," as the hymn goes.

The wonderful people.

The loving community that was Calvary CRC.

The people here. They are family to me.

A Christ-like loving, supportive community of believers.

Pastor Al taught us about the Holy Spirit; it's why I started attending Calvary.

God's Word is preached every Sunday. CrossPoint is a loving family who is always there for you. That's especially important when you don't have family nearby. Everyone is welcomed with open arms.

I am grateful for all the opportunities I had in serving and teaching. I started the Cadet program, taught non Ontario Christian high school age Sunday School, co-taught adult Sunday School for years and love teaching the searching and new believers of Coffee Break class.

Worship!

Community!

Support through a traumatic time in my life.

The opportunity to grow in faith and build everlasting relationships with fellow believers.

We are so very thankful for the community that feels like family. The prayers and support we have received from the congregation over the years has touched our hearts tremendously.