

# JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>MOSAIC SUNDAY</b> Prayer Time 10:00 am Worship Service & Beginnings 10:30 am	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am	9	10	11 Shift (Youth) 7:00 pm Bible Study (Foyer) 7:30 pm	12	13	14
15 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am	16	17	18 Shift (Youth) 7:00 pm Bible Study (Foyer) 7:30 pm	19	20	21
22 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am	23	24	25 Shift (Youth) 7:00 pm Bible Study (Foyer) 7:30 pm	26	27	28
29 <b>MOSAIC SUNDAY</b> Prayer Time 10:00 am Worship Service & Beginnings 10:30 am	30	31				

## Weekly Group & Events

Mondays	Café Drop In 10:00 am-1:00 pm <i>(begins Jan 9)</i>	Sewing/Knitting/Crocheting Class 10:00 am-11:30 pm <i>(begins Jan 9)</i>	ESL Conversation Class 7:00-8:30 pm <i>(begins Jan 9)</i>
Tuesdays	Dancing Drop In 7:00-8:30 pm <i>(begins Jan 10)</i>		
Wednesday	Café Drop In 10:00 am-1:00 pm <i>(begins Jan 11)</i>	ESL Bible Study 10:00 am-11:00 pm <i>(begins Jan 11)</i>	International Cooking Club/Begineer Sewing Class 11:00 am-12:30 pm <i>(begins Jan 11)</i>

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:30pm  
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# TRAIL MIX

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2017

## *It's a New Year!*

With each New Year, there's always a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of the "pause" that the December to January transition affords us. Whether it be a long weekend break, or a quiet hour on Christmas Day or New Years, I've often found that Jesus invites me to leverage the short lull in activity to take up some time with Him, and reflect on where He's been at work in the past year and is desiring to lead in the year to come.



As for me personally, I've been thinking about how 2016 affected us as a church, and how it's affected me personally. It was a year marked with a deep-felt struggle on Rockyview as a local church as we've done ministry without our church basement in operation, and within our congregation, there have been numerous families looking to weather one of Alberta's most difficult recessions. Job markets are tougher, leaner living at home is required for so many people. As I think back on this year, I cannot think of a season in my life where I have personally known, prayed with and for, or been able to help as many people through Rockyview in practical ways as we have this past year.

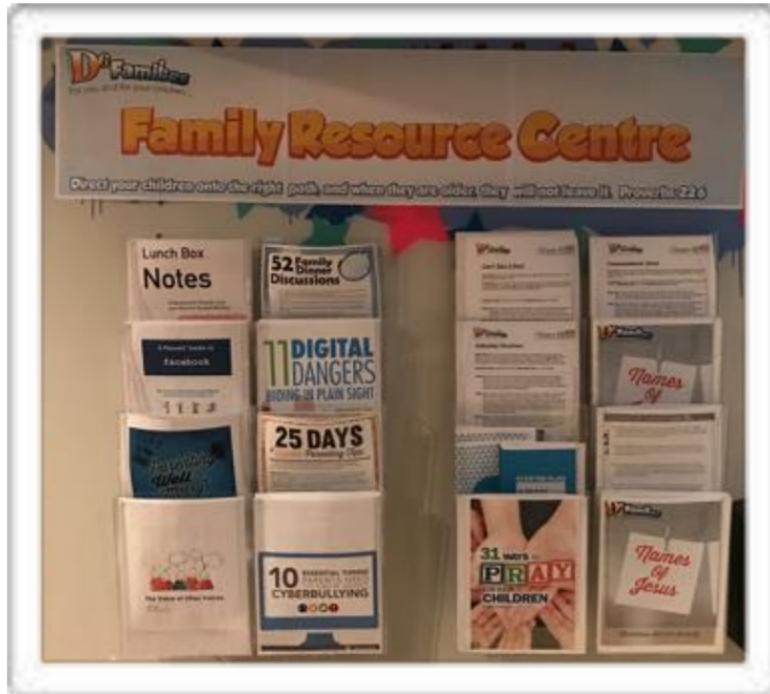
As a result, this year has changed me and humbled me. I have become more dependent on God to provide what we need in our family as well as in our church family, and God has been teaching me (with slow and limited success, I confess) that I must learn a little bit of what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote of having learned to be content in all circumstances. How is this possible? Well, remember the key to contentment that Paul points us to? He said, *"Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything through Christ who gives me strength"*. Staying connected to Jesus is the only way to stay the course through all things, and I thank Jesus that he never disconnects from us! He's always there: faithfully, gently guiding and leading.

But then...mixed with reflection comes this question: what does 2017 bring for us as a church – and what does Jesus have in mind for you and your family this New Year? His answer to me? He's reminded me His instructions and promise in Isaiah 43, *"Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands."* I love that passage – first because I don't believe that God is telling us to pretend that what's happened doesn't matter, it's more that God doesn't want us to get stuck in the past! Remember the past year, honor it, cherish the lessons learned, grieve any losses, but then...move forward into what God has prepared next!

Second then, because that simple reminder to *"be alert, be present"*, is so important – it reminds us that God is acting right now in our midst! Stay alert, stay ready, stay available for God – because it's a New Year and God has new things ahead! In John 5, Jesus says *"My Father is always working, and so am I."* and so, as this New Year hits, I'm watching and waiting on God for the new things that He will do this year.

I love the New Year in that sense – it's a time for reflection, and reorientation to the things of God. Perhaps this is why in the Christian tradition, Advent literally marks the beginning of the New Year. Jesus, as God's gift to us is God's way of saying, *"I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it! There it is..."* So this New Year, may you and I have the eyes to see the new things that Jesus has in mind to do, and continue to press on and press into Him!

*Shawn Vickar*  
Lead Pastor



## PARENTS RESOURCE CENTRE

January is usually the time of year when we take inventory of our life. That inventory can list the good and bad things, it can list things we want to do better, or differently. It usually includes some kind of action steps, or a plan that we hope will lead to the change we want to see.

My problem with these types of resolutions, is that if I do not have the resources, or the help I need then they just stay as ideas on paper.

One of my ongoing goals is to continue to have faith talks and devotions with my kids. To continue to look for moments to bring Jesus into our every day life. While we do like using devotional books, and different kids bible's, we also like to use resources that specifically tie into life events that are happening in our family. As a Family Ministries Pastor I have all kinds of resources coming across my desk and into my email every week. That makes it easier for me to intentionally plan time to have faith talks with my kids, but I want to also share these resources with those of you who are parents as well.

That is one of the reasons that there is a D6 Families resource centre in the church house. There are two sets of resources: one for parents of teenagers that is located in the church house entrance, and one for elementary and younger aged children located in the church house basement. Throughout the year I will be changing the resources that are added, but I wanted to highlight a couple of resources specifically that you can look for.

### • For Parents of Teenagers: CPYU Parent Page

The CPYU Parent Page is a monthly newsletter designed by the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding to help keep parents informed about the latest happenings and trends in the world of youth culture. Each month there will be a new issue, that will give you rest insight as you parent your teenager. You can also go to the CPYU website ([cpyu.org](http://cpyu.org)) for all kinds of articles and resources to help you understand today's youth culture. This website is my go to place just about every week, and their weekly youth culture email is something that I always find time to read through.

### • For Parents of Elementary Kids: It Starts at Home

I came across a website that has a lot of resources for faith talks (they call them Family Night Activities.) The website is [www.itstartsathome.org](http://www.itstartsathome.org)

We used one of these Family Night Activities in November. We were some communication issues in our house, where words were being spoken without thinking of the consequences or truthfulness of the words. One of the devotions from [www.itstartsathome.org](http://www.itstartsathome.org) is called Can't Take it Back. Because I had just printed it out for the parent centre in the church house I remembered it, found it and we did it as a family. The activity was a really fun one for our family to do, and led to some great conversations that have continued even though we did this a month ago. The faith talk uses a tube of toothpaste to illustrate our words: how they are easy to come out, but very difficult to put back in. Then we looked in James 3:3-12 where we were reminded that we are responsible for the words that we speak-the good and bad words.

There are a number of devotions from this website that I have put into the parent resource centre in the church house, or you can head to [www.itstartsathome.org](http://www.itstartsathome.org), clicking on family night activities to find them for yourself.

Next time you are dropping your kids or teenagers off in the church house, take a moment to look at the resources in the new D6 Families Resource Centre.

*For you, and for your family  
Russ Clugston  
Family Ministries Pastor*

## Rockyview Family Updates

### January Birthdays

02 Teresa Frentz  
03 Jennifer Howden  
06 Carol McNair  
06 Zoe Clugston  
07 Isabelle Watson  
09 Kezia Frentz (M)  
10 Gagan Batura  
13 Randy Howden

14 Aiden Seymour  
14 Deborah Dormer  
16 Alex Sieppert  
21 Emma Beal  
23 Amelia Kurian  
23 Priscilla Little  
27 Richard Semenyna  
28 Teresia Mungai

### January Anniversaries

06 HIRSCH, Ben & Doris

## Birth Announcements



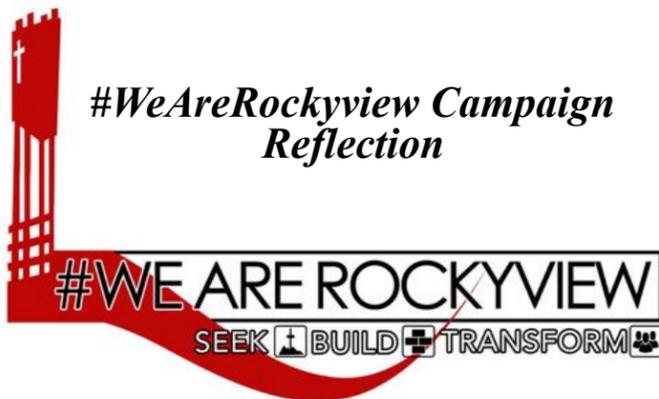
Ben & Marisa Cowie are proud parents to a healthy baby boy,

**THOMAS JAMES COWIE**

He was born Dec 19th, 2016 weighing 6 lbs and 13oz. Congratulations!!!

(M) Denotes an international worker and/or their family members. If you want to be included on this page or would like to be removed, please submit your name and information to the office.

You're now able to download the latest Trail Mix, the current Sunday Bulletin, and Messages as well as keep up-to-date with news and events from our website at:  
[www.rockyviewalliance.com](http://www.rockyviewalliance.com)



The last six months have been a whirlwind of activity for me, since agreeing to lead the campaign at Rockyview. As the main part of the campaign has wrapped up, I wanted to take some time to reflect and share some of my thoughts about these last few months.

The first thing I need to do is thank the great group of people who were a part of this campaign. Right from the beginning, we had people who joined whole heartedly. Our steering committee sessions were filled with prayer, thoughtful discussion and much encouragement and laughter. At our last meeting, Pastor Shawn shared the following from II Corinthians 8 v 2-5, that captures the actions of our many volunteers.

<sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. <sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

While this campaign was precipitated by the flood and damage to the basement, it is about so much more. We have a facility that is being utilized almost every day of the week. People's lives are being changed by God in and through this building! This campaign is about restoring what was lost and securing a building that is forty years old for the next forty years of ministry. It is to see our children back in the basement, learning about Jesus with their friends. It is to see more and more new Canadians and other members of our neighbourhood finding friendship, support and most importantly Jesus. It is about a place where community can happen. It is also about having seed money available for the next stage of ministry. This may be sending out the next family of Rockyview missionaries or expanding what we are doing with recent immigrants and refugees.

This campaign was now, because God brought it to us now. When we are insecure and fearful about our future, it brings us to our knees before God. He is teaching us lessons which we may not have been open to if this had happened in a time of plenty.

At the time of writing this article we have about 63% of our goal pledged. There is still a way to go and we trust that God will bring us what we need over the next three years. To help put it in context, the pledged amount instantly pays off our current mortgage and gives us a start on our costs to fix the building. It also sets us up with about \$63,000 for future ministry expansion. For those of us on the Board of Elders, these goals were far beyond what we ever expected.

For each of you who committed to this process and made pledges, I am thankful for your sacrifice. I appreciate your partnership and ownership in Rockyview Alliance Church. I ask that you continue the conversations with your friends, in your small groups and with Staff and the Board about how we can keep working to fulfill God's call for us.

For those of you who were not able to make pledges, I want to say that we are one family. I don't want anyone to feel left out or upset because of this process. Each of us has a different situation and not making a pledge does not make you any less of a member of this community. I ask that you continue to walk with God and keep your ears and heart open to what he may be calling you to.

The formal campaign work has now concluded. Over the next 36 months (Jan 2017 - Dec 2019), you will receive periodic updates on building construction and remediation, as well as progress of pledges being realized as donations. We will continue to discuss the vision and the steps we are taking to realize it.

We will need your prayers more than anything. Since we have just concluded the Christmas season, let us remember why we do what we do: we do it in service of a Baby that was born for us, Jesus the Son of God who grew up to be a man, was crucified and was raised to life. He has ascended to Heaven and rules as the King of all. Most of all, He has loved us with a love greater than any other, and we need to show people the way to this great love. That is the mission.

*God bless you and the new year ahead of you.*

*Arun Kurian*

*#WeAreRockyview Campaign Chair and Board of Elders Vice Chair*



Looking back at the last year we have just come through, I can't say it has been an easy year, or a year filled with great mountain top experiences. In fact, I would say almost the exact opposite, this past year has been tough, it has been emotional, long, and exhausting. We have experienced a variety of crisis type events that took place over the last year and a bit that had us holding on for the ride and only by God's grace have we kept our heads above water. There were certainly times during this past year that it felt as though I was breathing through a snorkel.

All that said, I am not going to reminisce any more on things that we have come through in the last year, instead I am going to express thanksgiving and gratitude. Gratitude to God, for never once leaving our side, for never once being nervous about our church budget or campaign plans, or lack of volunteers etc. God has been our constant rock and encouragement throughout the last year. I want to express thankfulness to all the amazing leaders and volunteers we do have a RAC, who committed themselves above and beyond to help serve throughout this tough ministry season. I am deeply thankful for the staff and board at Rockyview for working together as a team, and seeking God's face during this time.

I believe that God is bringing us through the fire, He is doing a deep refining work in the church and in the people of Rockyview Alliance. Look no further than this great and very present reality that we are in. It is a great analogy for what God is doing in the life of our church. Physically our building has had its basement ripped out, and will have its foundation and walls fixed and rebuilt over the next year. God is doing the same thing in the lives of the people of Rockyview Alliance. We have come through a very hard ministry season, but God has taught us a lot, and still is teaching us. We have a long journey forward, but I think it will be the most rewarding season of ministry that this church has ever faced.

God is calling all of us to the deeper life, He is calling us as leaders, as board members and as church attendees at Rockyview, to seek Him deeper and to seek the filling of the Holy Spirit. As a church, as a community of believers, gone are the days to be going through the motions, and gone are the days to be doing church, to make church better, and to have our desires met. Jesus is calling us to make disciples, to live out this mission in our church community and in the neighbourhoods where we live and serve. Ask yourself this question: When was the last time you invited a friend, a neighbour, or a work colleague to church and had them actually come with you or show up?

I believe deep at the heart of living out the great commission, comes lives that are turned toward Jesus, surrendered to His will and plan for our lives. It calls for sacrifice, and selfless service, it calls for deeper contentment with what we have, and a deeper sense of giving more than receiving. It calls for living on point and on mission to reach the lost for Jesus.

Jesus is leading us into a season of cleaning out the basement of our souls. It is only in this place, and only if you are willing to journey with Jesus in the deeper life, that you will find great healing, and see great reward in your life. And together as a group of believers we will start seeing God move and grow and lead us into greater things. We will see lives changed, people healed emotionally and physically, hearts turned away from sin, and lives burning with excitement for where Jesus is taking our church. We will meet new friends who have never been to church who will call Rockyview their church home, and Jesus their Saviour and forever friend.

Friends are you willing to join us on this journey into the deeper life? Are you willing to set aside all preconceived notions of what "church" should be like, and instead adopt an attitude of reckless abandonment of the old things and journey with us into the new place Jesus is taking our church? It is a new frontier.

Blessings, to you all and a Happy New Year!

*Dan Nel*

*Associate Pastor*

# Serving CHRIST This Christmas

For three hours, the church was filled with hundreds of people and dozens of volunteers on Dec. 18 as the Rockyview Church family and other volunteers packed Christmas food hampers sponsored by the Mustard Seed Ministry for about 250 families in our neighbourhood.

We welcomed more than 700 people through our church doors as entire families—some long-time neighbourhood residents and some from the Middle East, South America, Africa and Asia who have only been here months or even weeks—came to collect hampers filled with about one week’s worth of food and enjoy some hospitality.

The Rockyview family stepped up to help make this happen in extraordinary ways with more than 50 people volunteering. Organizers from the Mustard Seed Ministry said in all their food hamper distributions, they had never seen so many church members get involved and volunteer from a church our size.



They also reported Rockyview was their busiest location packed with families, carollers, children crowded around the craft and cookie decorating tables and adults enjoying complimentary treats and coffee in our café. We were able to give away two Christmas trees and a beautiful wreath and invite everyone to the Christmas Eve service at Rockyview as well.

What an amazing way to bless the community, serve Jesus together and build connections with our community. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed from those who donating cookies and baking and Christmas trees to those who sang, swept, served coffee, wrestled with frozen chickens (this is a story for another day) and carried out hundreds of boxes.

### Do you want to dabke?

Every Tuesday night in January from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. we will be presenting Arabic dancing workshops for men and women at Rockyview Church. No need to register. The classes are free and childcare is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Our teacher will be a Syrian newcomer named Rita Khanchet Kallas, a remarkable woman who is already a successful entrepreneur and the recipient of the 2016 People’s Choice Peace and Human Rights Award. (See sidebar for more on Rita and this award.) Rita has generously agreed to provide dance instruction motivated by her desire to give back to her new country and serve Jesus by loving others.

### So why are we dancing?

Rockyview Alliance Church is assembling a multicultural performance flash mob to promote unity, create connections in our community and to honour one of our key objectives as a church, which is “Love One Another.”

Rockyview Alliance Church was recently honoured to be selected by the Government of Canada and the Calgary Foundation to receive a grant to allow us to purchase the sound equipment, to pay qualified dance instructors and to pay childcare workers and purchase marketing materials to make this vision a reality. This initiative was made possible by the Community Fund for Canada’s 150th, a collaboration between Calgary Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada, the Government of Canada, and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast to coast.



Rockyview Alliance Church will be hosting multicultural dance workshops in 2016/17 in preparation for a multicultural flash mob which perform in the spring and summer of 2017 at festivals across the city in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary representing our church, our community, our country and our desire to love one another!

### WHEN:

- November 2016: LATIN DANCE workshops Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- January 2017: ARABIC DABKE workshops Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- February 2017: PUNJABI BHANGRA workshops Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- March 2017: AFRICAN DANCE workshops Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

*Flash Mob rehearsals will begin in April 2017 and will run for two months until performances begin.*

### WHO:

All are invited to join us between the ages of 10 and 100. We are welcoming dancers of all abilities and ethnicities and from all religious and cultural backgrounds to participate. You do not have to participate in the dance workshops to join the flash mob but it is encouraged.

### WHERE:

All rehearsals will take place in Rockyview Alliance Church in the café area.

### WHY:

Because as a church, we believe we must follow Jesus’ command to “Love One Another” and this is a way to do that by building unity, community and connection learning about each other, laughing together and promoting cross-cultural understanding while celebrating and honouring the 150th anniversary of this beautiful nation. We are thrilled to welcome Rita Kanchet Kallas as our Arabic dance instructor this January. Rita is a Syrian newcomer and was the recipient of the 2016 People’s Choice Peace and Human Rights Award. This is an excerpt from her biography at <http://peaceandhumanrights.weebly.com/>:



### MEET RITA:

*Rita started a small catering company called ‘Syrian Cuisine Made with Love’ which did not just introduce Syrian cuisine in Calgary but paved the way for many Syrian newcomers especially women to be business entrepreneurs making Rita the first Syrian newcomer to hold a business license from the City of Calgary.*

*If this wasn’t enough, her leadership hit new heights when she mobilized Calgary’s Syrian newcomers to help the victims of Fort McMurray’s wildfire. Her family along with another fellow newcomer and the Syrian Refugee Support Group, was able to raise money from the Syrian newcomers all over Calgary. These newcomers had so little to start with but gave back tremendously seeing this leadership initiative and understanding and relating to what Fort McMurray residents went through. This experience was very similar to their experience*

*of losing everything to ashes and rubble and having to leave their home.*

*A deep compassion for others is quite literally in Rita’s DNA. Her father, a volunteer with the Syrian Red Cross, was killed during a mortar attack in 2012 in Syria while he was running to help the injured. Rita’s dauntless spirit and passion for human rights make her a most deserving recipient of this year’s People’s Choice Award.*

*Shannon Smith  
Community Support Assistant*