

## LOOKING BACK AND LOVING FORWARD

By Jan Westra, Charter Member

Today we sit together, each one a caring friend;  
We've seen a mix of 'stewards', that God from start did blend;  
For FIFTY years we've worshiped - with changes felt by all;  
But purpose never wavered, HIS love became OUR call!

First our 'silent prayers' were offered, and bulletins we'd scour,  
The Ten Commands were proffered, then 'long prayer' filled the 'hour'.  
The lemon drops and peppermints, were dug from mother's purse,  
Had organ pre and postlude, and hymns sung, verse by verse!

No longer is there silence, to greet us as we come;  
But sounds of chatter call us - hear asked, "Where are YOU from?"  
Now music led by praise groups, gives church's starting clime;  
With drums and keyboard added, to choruses for worship-time.

White screens are now before us, with videos, ads and more;  
God's glory's yet the purpose, not different than before!  
The seats no longer 'static', as pews in our Calvary place;  
Our seats now form the settings, the needs of groups embrace.

In Baptism and Communion, all ages find their place;  
A 'sprinkle' or immersion, does now one's choice embrace;  
The sermons often flounder from three to seven points;  
Our hands do rise, and bodies sway, as Spirit each anoints!

Yes, 'lottery' chooses council, and women are deacons fine;  
Korean and Chinese churches, God sent by His design!  
All people find love and value, when we God's grace employ;  
Accepting differing backgrounds makes worship 'find new joy'!

We've acres of solar panels and Bluetooths at fingertips,  
Our Bibles 'come down' from iCloud, (daily manna from 'Apple' chips!)  
Yet with such life changes, great woes come through our door!  
Our commitments find new service, God's love to all must pour.

Some changes were 'decisions', but some not ones we'd planned!  
Though either way they're offered, with prayer, by faith we'll stand.  
All change must have true purpose, to "Grow Christ's Kingdom Well!"  
Our BEST to glorify Him- the Bridegroom's message tell!

Our youth will run new 'torches',  
Fresh breath for long-lived goals;  
"Lord, give them true commitment, as they take on our roles."  
So thank you, Lord, for CrossPoint, a church that's Yours to own;  
We're grateful for past FIFTY- for love and grace You've shown!

THIS POEM IS DEDICATED TO THE 80 CHARTER FAMILIES OF  
CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH AND IN MEMORY OF HUBERT SLEGRS,  
WHO ALWAYS HAD A WONDERFUL POEM FOR EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.

*Copies of Charter Member families and extended church history are available at the history display.*

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

1969  2019

CROSSPOINT CHURCH

Loving  
Forward

We will tell the next generation the  
praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.

*Psalm 78:4*

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
OCTOBER 20, 2019

