

Wespress for February 2009

This edition of Wespress contains information on the following subjects:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Coming Events | 4. Acknowledgements | 7. Budget thoughts |
| 2. William's notes | 5. CGIT News | 8. Letter from Michelle |
| 3. Help Wanted (two!) | 6. Church School News | 9. Oberammergau |

Coming Events

Sunday 15 February	1:00 p.m.	Youth lunch & skating on Canal
Friday 20 February		CGIT swim-a-thon see CGIT report later in Wespress
Saturday 21 February	6:00 p.m.	Youth Volleyball in church gym
Thursday 26 February		CGIT Badge Presentation Night
Saturday 28 February	10:00 a.m.	Synod Junior High Grade 6-9 at St. Andrew's, Arnprior
Sat/Sun 28/1	Overnight	CGIT sleepover at Westminster
Sunday 1 March	After service	CGIT Mission Bread Sale (donations will be much appreciated)
Sunday 1 March	3:00 p.m.	Welsh Society Hymn Sing – Freewill offering – refreshments
Sat/Sun 7/8 March		Daylight saving begins overnight – don't forget your clocks!
Sunday 29 March	Not known	Youth host chili challenge fundraiser for CY and Camp
Sunday 5 April	3:00 p.m.	Choir Concert – Maunder's Olivet to Calvary – freewill offering - refreshments
Thursday 9 April	Overnight	Youth Easter vigil
Friday 10 April		Good Friday service – watch weekly bulletins for time
Sunday 12 April		Easter – watch weekly bulletins for schedule

A little something for Wespress from William
 TWELVE REASONS WHY I STOPPED
 ATTENDING SPORTS EVENTS

- ~ Every time I went, they asked me for money.
- ~ The people with whom I had to sit by didn't seem very friendly.
- ~ The seats were too hard and not comfortable at all.
- ~ The coach never came to call on me.
- ~ The referee made a decision with which I could not agree.
- ~ I was sitting with some hypocrites -- they came only to see what others were wearing.
- ~ Some games went into overtime, and I was late getting home.
- ~ The band played some numbers that I had never heard before.

~ The games are scheduled when I want to do other things.

~ My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.

~ Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches anyhow.

~ I don't want to take my children, because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

Baptism and Membership:

If anyone is interested in Baptism or becoming a member of Westminster Congregation, please contact Rev. Ball as soon as possible.

From the Article: Welcoming Children to Worship

Hints for other adults in the congregation

- recognize your role as models for children in worship
- express your appreciation for children, and their presence in church, through your facial expressions and body language
- greet the children around you, just as you would greet adults; ask them about their week or how they are
- bend down to their eye-level as you speak to children
- help children feel included by getting to know them by name
- make sure that children have copies of the worship bulletins
- invite children to sit with you, and help them find the hymns and scripture readings
- pass the offering plate to children
- listen to what children have to say; ask them what they enjoy about worship

Above all, express your gladness at having children in worship. Free yourself from worrying about their behaviour and be open to receive their ministry.

HELP WANTED!

Wendie McCaffrey has very generously given of her time on Sunday mornings to greet at the Christian Education door. There are infrequent times when she is not available; I am hoping that two or three people will offer to be substitutes for Wendie. I look forward to hearing from you.

Betty Jean Bone, Greeter Coordinator
613-721-5536 or bjbone03@yahoo.ca

IMPORTANT

Our congregation benefits by over \$25,000 each year through renting out our facilities. All of our tenants who make use of the facilities on an ongoing basis enter into a contractual agreement with us. We have an urgent need for a volunteer to look after these contracts. Below is a general description of the responsibilities of such a person.

In most cases, there are existing contracts with our tenants; however, they are prepared on an annual basis and may require some annual revision. Each spring, the existing contracts are reviewed. Our representative then contacts the tenants to advise them of whether or not we will agree to renew, including any change in terms/rental, and to determine whether or not they wish to continue.

From time to time, new requests may be received in which case our representative will communicate with the prospective client and if it is determined that an agreement is in order, (s)he will draw up a contract based on existing contracts.

Please give this important responsibility your prayerful consideration and if you think you can fill the position, contact the Church Office, the Minister or your Elder.

Job Description – Rental Co-ordinator

The Co-ordinator reports to the Operations Planning Team, hereinafter referred to as “the Team” and is responsible for contracts and agreements for the use of Church space and facilities which contracts are expected to extend beyond three months (shorter term contracts are managed by the Church Office). Any new long-term renter must be approved by the Team.

All enquiries for long-term use of the space and facilities, and any subsequent business, are to be directed to the Co-ordinator.

The Co-ordinator will maintain regular contact with the Church Office to ensure that (s)he is aware of all existing use of the premises and facilities. The register maintained in the Church Office of such usage is the final arbiter.

The Co-ordinator will agree to show the premises to potential Clients at which time (s)he will make clear the following conditions:

- A contract will be prepared for the signature of the individual or an officer of an organization.

- If the requested usage is not covered by a then current schedule of costs, the rental costs will have to be agreed to by the Team.
- A damage deposit will be required, also to be agreed to by the Team.
- The Client is required to carry adequate insurance coverage, a copy of which will be requested for the Church's records.
- As there is limited space in the building, should the potential Client indicate a wish to store materials, it must be made clear that space is very limited and that the agreement of the Team is required in advance.
- All parking signs must be adhered to. This is for safety reasons to provide acceptable access to ParaTranspo, Ambulance, and other like vehicles.
- Access keys to the premises are strictly controlled; a deposit for each is required – the Church will require the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all persons to whom keys are allocated. A list of such persons will be attached to the contract.

The Co-ordinator will review the standard contract with the potential Client. Any significant change must be submitted to the Team before any binding agreement is given.

As soon as it is apparent that the potential Client is serious about entering into an agreement, the Co-ordinator will provide the Team with all pertinent details of the potential Client's needs and request instruction as to the rental and deposit to be charged.

The Co-ordinator will contact the Church Office to ensure that there is no conflict with events or other use of the space and facilities in which the Client is interested. The Co-ordinator will make known to the Client all "one-time" events of the Church that will require his/her/their giving up use for that one occasion and that the Church will endeavour to provide alternative accommodation but cannot guarantee to do so.

The Client must provide full details of at least two contact persons. This must include name, telephone numbers (home/office/cell) e-mail if applicable and postal address.

If the premises are to be used by minor persons, the Client must guarantee that at least two adults will be in attendance at all times and a clause to that effect will be a part of the contract.

The Co-ordinator will maintain a copy of all contracts and will provide the Church Office with a copy.

We are in need of some more volunteers to help keep the kitchens clean and tidy. Helpers are asked to be part of a team, each team being "on duty" for one month in four. Please call Sally and "Chico" Wallis
271-7492

***On Behalf of Westminster Congregation,
We thank:***

All those who worked to make the Christmas season a moving and spiritual time for the congregation.

- William for giving us such inspiring and meaningful worship services and, with Christine, guiding all the special activities;
- Alan and the choir for the special music that means Christmas to all of us;
- the talented team of John Griffiths, Marg and Bruce Quinney, Shirley Sandziuk, Mary Lambert, and Marg Jones who decorated the sanctuary, including the tree, so beautifully;
- the CGIT girls who presented an always-moving Vesper service, and also filled socks for the street people of Ottawa;

Ruth Cunningham for preparing and organizing the bags to go to children around the world through the Mennonite church;

- The many people who managed, coordinated by Sally & Chico Wallis, to keep the kitchens in good order despite all the activities during the past few months.

We also thank the Finance & Maintenance Committee, especially the Treasurer, for their work in the difficult task of providing a reasonable budget to the Annual General Meeting, and in maintaining control of that budget throughout the year.

Shirley Stubbs,
Secretary, Operations/Planning

N.B. This box is a regular feature in *Wespress* to acknowledge, and express appreciation for, special work done for Westminster. Who do you think deserves recognition? Please give me your ideas (613 224-4537).

A big thank you to all who made the Christmas Mennonite Kit project a success again in 2008. Seventy Education Kits and 40 Health Kits were delivered to the Ottawa Mennonite Church for transport to Kitchener.

Special thankyous to Teri McDougall of London, Ontario (Kirsten's Mother) and to Jean Harris of Mississauga (a project supporter) for their generous donations of fabrics, and to Judy Banks for her 20 complete Health Kits.

Thanks, too, to the Girls and Leaders of the CGIT who took on the task of adding the contents to 55 Education Kit bags.

Ruth Cunningham, Westminster's 'Bag Lady'

CGIT NEWS:

The Westminster CGIT group has had a very busy winter season thus far. On Dec. 7th, we presented our annual Candlelight Vesper Service in the sanctuary and were able to raise \$725 for the Ontario CGIT Association through a freewill offering during the service. We closed off December with our annual Christmas party on the 13th in the Ladies' Parlour. At our Christmas party we exchanged gifts with our secret Santas and also brought in our stockings full of toiletries for the street people served by Centre 507. This year we made 20 stockings.

We started back to our weekly meetings on Thursday Jan 8th with a fun week and then we started our Mission Study which is a part of our annual program. This year's mission study is "Taking Care of God's Creation-an environmental focus" and the material is found in the Partners publication from PWS&D. So far we have had three guest speakers come in to talk to us, Anu Bose, Michelle Richardson and Mark from a store called "ARBOUR" in the Glebe. All three speakers brought a different focus and outlook to our group on how to live with and respect God's wonderful creation and gift to us, Earth. We will finish our Mission Study with the Badge presentation night on Feb. 26th and everyone is invited to this evening.

In the middle of our mission study, we took time on Sat. Jan. 24th for our annual Toy'n'Book sale that normally helps us raise funds for our annual winter camping weekend, however, this year, the funds raised (over \$600) are being used for the provincial

trip to Canada's Wonderland on May 30th. We are not going to be going winter camping but will be having a fun-filled sleepover at the Church on the weekend of Feb. 28th-Mar. 1st.

Looking forward, we have our Camp Kalalla Swim-a-thon at Carleton University on Friday Feb. 20th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome to come out and swim or just come and count laps and support us in that way. The weekend after, Feb.28-Mar.1 will be our sleepover at the Church and our Mission Study Bread Sale is on Sunday Mar. 1st during Coffee Time after Service. All donations of breads/muffins will gratefully be accepted and all funds raised will be going to support PWS&D in their mission endeavours.

Whew!! What a busy and fun time we've been having! We want to thank everyone for all of their support and want to say that it's been greatly appreciated. On a closing note, we'd love to see more girls ages 10-16 come join us in the Lower Hall on Thursday nights 7:00-8:30 p.m. See you there!!!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

It's been a busy couple of months for the children of Westminster. We practiced like crazy and were able to present our Christmas pageant, Michael Mouse to the congregation during the service on Dec. 21st. After Service, we celebrated Jesus' birthday with a party complete with birthday cake!! During the Family Service on Christmas Eve, those children who were present were encouraged to dress up in animal costumes and take part in the presentation during the service. For both of these events, we were blessed to have two of our youngest members take the lead role of Baby Jesus. For the 21st, the honour went to Michaela Connors with her uncle, Jason, taking on the role of Joseph; and for Christmas Eve, it was Violet Webster as baby Jesus and her parents, Kim and John as Mary and Joseph. Thank you to everyone who took part in these events for all of your hard work.

The New Year brought some changes to the staffing of the Church School. After many years of teaching and supporting the children in various ways, Norm Dimock has stepped down and is taking a well-deserved and earned break. In light of this, we have been blessed that Mr. Bill Miller has volunteered to reprise his role in the Nursery until we can get a roster up and running for helpers. We

also need helpers for the older children (SK-gr. 7) in the Church School in order to comply with the Leading with Care policy as set forth by the national office of the PCC. If you feel that you can help out in this fashion, please let me know ASAP as I am doing up a roster of helpers for both the Nursery and the Church School. For the Nursery, the story and craft will be set out in the morning before service and the juice and cookies will be on the counter in the story time area. All the helpers will have to do is tell the story, do a simple craft and have juice and cookies with the children. For the older children, the helper(s) will just be required to be a presence in the classroom as the story is being told and the craft is being made. Both roles are quite simple and very rewarding! So...again, please let me know ASAP if you can help in any way, my email is sharonmcn@rogers.com or you can let Rev. Ball know and he will pass on your information to me.

For those who have already expressed an interest in helping in the Nursery, thank you and the first draft of the roster should be winging itself to your email boxes by the time you see this issue of Wespress. Please check it over and if any changes have to be made, please let me know before I print it out.

Thanking you for all of your ongoing support and prayers,

Sharon

A Personal Note: I just wanted to include a weight-loss update for all those who have been encouraging me throughout the last 18 months through prayers and kind words. I weighed in on Mon Feb 2nd and had lost another 7 lbs of body fat that had been changed into water weight. This is a good thing and means that I have lost over 105 lbs of body fat since beginning my journey. Thank you for all of your encouragement and love, Sharon

Budget thoughts

The budget of our church is more than a set of figures or a list of expenditures. It is actually the program of the church.

It is the pastor preaching, visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, winning the lost.

It is the Sunday School teaching the Word of God to the multitudes.

It is the organ playing and the choir singing to the glory of God.

It is the church building, standing as a lighthouse in the midst of a dark world.

It is missionaries sent to foreign lands to preach the good news of Jesus Christ.

It is Christian literature in the hands of a child.

It is schools, hospitals, and children's homes, ministering to those in need.

Most of all, perhaps, the budget of our church is the total expression of our love for Christ, our compassion for a lost world, and our realization that God will hold each of us accountable for our stewardship.

For current financial statements, see the Annual Report or check our website.

Hello all people who are dear to me,

Just wanted to share an exciting thing in my life this week; Home Street Home *where I'm living now* was in the newspaper yesterday!

Liane, the author, lived with us this January and was an intern at the newspaper. As her last column she wrote about our house in response to an article earlier in the week that student houses with lots of people would detract from the neighbourhood. Its pretty exciting to see how our house is already being used to positively impact the community, if even in small ways.

Love you all,
Michelle

A positive community presence
February 03, 2009
Liane Fisher
Mercury Staff

Maybe it's because I'm new to Guelph, but last week's story of neighbours upset over a proposed lodging house on Hands Drive baffled me.

Scott Tracey reported on Wednesday that residents of the area were giving Ward 5 city councillor Leanne Piper an earful about the prospect of up to 10 students sharing the house.

No one wants loud parties and burning couches on the lawn across the street. I get that. But things can go right sometimes, more often than wrong I'd wager.

After having spent a month in Guelph this winter, I've already got an example. When I found out I would be spending January in this fair city as a Mercury intern, I needed a place to stay. My brother, who is a student here, introduced me to a group of his friends who live together.

Why they live together is the key part here. Cheaper rent is part of it I'm sure, but as one of the house's founders, Jenn McIntyre, told me, she wanted a community, not just a roof over her head.

She and a group of friends were inspired by reading Shane Claiborne's *The Irresistible Revolution*. Claiborne is a founding member of the Potter Street Community, a Christian activist group in Philadelphia with a focus on communal living. While I haven't read the book, I'm impressed by what this group of University of Guelph students have made from its message.

When McIntyre and six others moved in last spring, they had their work cut out for them. The house they found, a short walk from downtown, had previously been lived in by an anarchist group. The walls were covered with graffiti and the lawn with broken glass, she explained.

Evidence of the house's former life now remains only in the basement. The new residents have painted, put down a new kitchen floor and added a bench covered in positive messages to the lawn so people waiting for the bus can have a seat.

Over the months since they first moved in, housemates have come and gone. Several have

left on student exchange programs, others have moved in to take their places and still others are frequent visitors to the living room couches.

A month later, as I head back to my home in London, I'm still not quite sure of the head count on any given day. The only real rule is that once a week, housemates must spend an evening together, share a meal, and talk about their plans and concerns. The weekly "family dinner nights" often include prayer for the surrounding neighbourhood and for former housemates now overseas.

They wanted to be a positive presence in the community, McIntyre said. Although plans to help neighbours shovel snow and to host a cookie exchange party haven't quite come together yet, I get the sense that they are exactly that.

Of course there's no way to ensure that a houseful of students will be committed to building a community among themselves and a relationship with the wider neighbourhood. Residents of Hands Drive and the nearby streets will have to take their chances.

But if they take the time to meet the students who move in, to include them in neighbourhood events and to discuss concerns calmly as they come up, they're likely to be pleasantly surprised.

They might even learn a thing or two about community.

Liane Fisher was a recent intern reporter at the Mercury.

.....

In the summer of 2010 the world renown Passion Play returns to Oberammergau, in Southern Germany. It comes around only once every 10 years. The performance is the fulfilment of a covenant made with God by the town elders in 1633 for deliverance from the black plague. It is based on the four Gospels and depicts the events of Jesus' last week beginning with his entry into Jerusalem and affirms the Cross as the source of salvation and hope.

Rev. Cedric Pettigrew and his wife Elizabeth (together with Rostad Tours of Calgary) are presently organizing a group to attend the play. The tour will also include visits to several places in Southern Germany, Austria and Northern Italy, ending with two days in Rome.

The tour is presently 50% subscribed. For more information contact the Pettigrews at 613-843-1446.