

Wespress for February 2010

This edition of Wespress contains information on the following subjects:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Coming Events | 5. CGIT News | 9. Skills Inventory |
| 2. Letter from Michele | 6. Memorial Fund | 10. Books |
| 3. Acknowledgements | 7. Inter. Affairs Ctee. | 11. Wool |
| 4. Pastoral Care | 8. Babelowski Prints | 12. WWJD |

Coming Events

Sunday	28 Feb	3:00 p.m.	Ottawa Welsh Society Hymn Singing Festival conducted by Alan (See details below)
Friday	2 April		Good Friday
Sunday	4 April	6:30 am 7:00 – 8:30 am	Coffee and muffins CAMAC Sunrise Service – Messiah Choruses and Easter Hymns at Woodroffe United Church conducted by Alan. Tickets \$5 available at Leading Note and Book Bazaar
		10:30 a.m.	Easter Service
Sunday	11 April	3:00 p.m.	Westminster Choir's Annual Spring Concert (see details below)

Welsh Society Hymn Singing: Guest organist Deirdre Piper and soloists Shannon Mercer, Soprano, John Griffiths, Tenor and Duncan Schuthe, Baritone. Freewill offering and refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Choir Spring Concert: Guest soloist Gwyndaf Jones, tenor (an international opera singer who was guest soloist with Alan at the North American Welsh Festival in Pittsburgh last September) and Simon Wenzowski, piano solo. Freewill Offering and refreshments. This will be another Glenn McConkey Memorial Concert

My dear Westminster Family,

Happy New Year! By the time you read this I will be in India on my semester abroad, studying and travelling with other students all around the country for eight months. I wanted to write a quick note to my church family back in Westboro to ask for your continued support through prayer, in addition to letting you know what I will be up to in the Bhil field in the months of May-August. Many of you are likely familiar with the relationship that the Presbyterian Church in Canada has had for over a century in the "Bhil Field", an area in central India. I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit the area for a few months and, with the guidance of Pauline Brown, a retired Missionary living in Jobat, get

to know and hopefully participate in the community there. I am excited to see what God will be teaching me through this experience, and hope that through my time there I may become a link between Westminster and the mission there. I am sure that I will return with many stories to share with you all, and hope that through my presence there Westminster may become more aware and involved with the work being conducted in this area. I will miss you all, and I am sure you will keep updated on my adventures through my parents! I pray that you all have a blessed year.

Michelle Ball

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 Thomas and the choir for the special music that means Christmas to all of us;
- the talented team of John Griffiths, Marg and Bruce Quinney, Marg Jones, Shelva Johnston, and Fay Schaler 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; and
- Alan Thomas for organizing another delightful congregation lunch, this time at Capone's.
- Susan Ambrose and Gerry Hogan for organizing a delightful evening of Victorian fashions.
- Marg Jones for so efficiently arranging receptions following funerals and memorial services.
- 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.
- The Finance & Maintenance Team, 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

Many thanks to all who contributed the items and funds which made our Mennonite Kit Bag Project such a success in 2009. Sixty-two (62) Education Kit Bags and 30 Health Kit Bags were sent to Kitchener in time for Christmas.

Judy Banks once again generously provided 20 Health Kit Bags. Thanks also to two special friends who supported this project: Mrs. Jean Harris of Mississauga, who supplied almost all the fabric used in making the bags and Mrs. Meta Grunwell of London, Ontario, who made and filled 2 Health Kit Bags and 3 Education Kit Bags.

Sincere thank you from my family and me for all the kind telephone calls and condolence cards that we received. The loving support of our Westminster friends is much appreciated.

Ruth Cunningham

PASTORAL CARE

An important event during this past year, in regards to the Pastoral Care Team, was the hiring of Reverend Jocelyn Richard Livingston to visit Westminster's shut-ins. Jocelyn was hired on a part time basis, an eight hour week, for a six month trial period. During this time, the feedback from shut-ins visited and Jocelyn indicated to Reverend Ball and the Pastoral Care Team that her work with them was a positive experience for all parties concerned. If you know Jocelyn as we have grown to know her, she was a natural for this position. Because of her personality and kindly disposition, the people with whom she visited wanted her to come back again. Thanks so much, Jocelyn, for the six months you spent with the Pastoral Care Team. Maybe the future will allow you to join us again.

During Jocelyn's latter weeks in this position, she was offered and accepted a full time job elsewhere and has found it necessary to resign from doing future work as a paid employee in the area of pastoral care at Westminster, although, as an active member, she continues to work and assist in other areas of our church life. The positive results of this trial period indicated to all of us that another qualified and competent person must be hired. Therefore, Reverend John Fair has been hired to continue the visiting of Westminster's shut-ins on a part time basis, an eight-hour week, for a six month trial period, duties commencing on February 15, 2010. Reverend Fair is an ordained Presbyterian

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).

minister and has recently moved back to the Ottawa area.

As we now have many individuals listed as shut-ins in the area of Pastoral Care, new team members are required to support Reverend Ball. Contact Ernie Dance at 613-224-6279 for information on becoming a member of Westminster's Pastoral Care Team. The next basic course for The Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program will begin on Monday, March 8, 2010 and will finish on May 10, 2010. It consists of 25 hours of training, one afternoon (1:00 - 3:30) or evening (7:00 - 9:30) per week, for 10 weeks and will be held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 971 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa, K2A 3G9.

Ernie Dance
Pastoral Care Coordinator

CGIT NEWS:

Well...where to begin...we've been busy since November.

We spent November preparing for our annual Candlelight Vesper Service on Sunday Dec. 6th. We had a wonderful time both with the preparations and the presentation of the Service. We wanted to thank everyone who attended and supported us through the freewill offering. All monies raised were sent to the Ontario CGIT Association to help them support all of the groups within the province in all of our activities. We closed our meetings before Christmas with our annual Secret Santa party where we also donated socks filled with personal hygiene items to Centre 507 for street people.

January saw us working on our Mission Study on Refugees. We learned what it was like to be uprooted and have to leave in the middle of the night with basically just the shirt on your back. We studied refugee camps and detention centres and learned the difference between an internally displaced person and a refugee. We were lucky enough to have Anu Bose come for 2 weeks to speak to us and she brought Pacifique and Creed Siryuyumusi with her on the second week. Creed was a huge hit with all the girls and everyone was captivated by Pacifique's story. Thank you everyone for joining us at our meetings and telling us your stories. We also had our Toy'n'Book Sale that raised \$475 to help defray the cost of the trip to Jamboree in Owen Sound in May. Our goal is to be able to have the girls only pay the \$60

registration fee for the weekend. We hope to be able to cover the cost of the coach through fundraising and donations from the Ottawa CGIT Committee

February has brought puppet-making and looking forward we will be making Ukrainian Easter Eggs with Susan Sandziuk.

We are also going to be having our annual Mission Bread Sale on Sunday March 7th where donations of breads, muffins, etc. would gratefully be appreciated. All monies raised from the Bread Sale will be going to PWS&D for use in their missions with refugee children throughout the world but particularly in Afghanistan.

Thank you again for all of your ongoing prayers and support. We really appreciate it!

Sharon

WESTMINSTER CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

The Memorial Fund provides an opportunity to honour the memory of loved ones, and in so doing enrich the life of the congregation.

Donations may be made at any time, and are particularly appropriate at the time of funerals, memorial services, and to celebrate anniversaries or special events. Acknowledgement and tax receipts are provided.

USE The Memorial Fund is used to assist church members and young people to attend Christian education conferences, workshops and camps as well as other projects approved by the Session.

NEW 'A wish list' has been established for things that might be purchased with Memorial Fund monies. If you have any suggestions, please let your elder know.

UPDATE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

The International Affairs Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada met in Port Credit, Ontario from January 15-17/2010 to further discuss and review the document on Climate Change that is to go forward to the General Assembly.

Since then, a second draft of the document has been circulated to members who have all had a chance to comment. Members of the Committee will have a last chance to review and comment on the report on February 24. The report will go for formatting on February 26 and will be submitted to the General Assembly on Monday March 1.

The Revd. Iona Maclean from the Maritimes has stepped down as Convenor of the Committee after having completed her term of office and been replaced by the Revd. Robert (Bob) Smith of Alberta .

For more information, please get in touch with me anubose@rogers.com or catch me at Fellowship time after our service.

Anu

AN HISTORIC OCCASION

In June 2010 history will be made on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids (18-28 June).

A new faith group The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) will be created from a union of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC). (The PCC is a member of WARC). A Uniting General Council (UGC) will meet between June 18-28 to finalise the union.

The two wings of the Reform Christian movement will come together "with enthusiasm for the proclamation of the 'good news' and the pursuit of biblical justice in every realm of God's creation."

In preparation for the Uniting Council meeting, there will be a Women's Forum held at Calvin College between June 14 and 17. All women from both wings of the Reform movement are invited to come to the women's forum.

I am chairing the North America Organising Committee which is responsible for organising the programme for North America Day during the conference. The day will consist of the usual

worship and Bible Study as well as visits with various activists working for social justice in the town of Grand Rapids , Michigan .

I would urge women from our congregation to attend this historic meeting and ensure that our voice is heard when the two wings of the Reformed Movement come together.

For more information, please get in touch with me anubose@rogers.com or catch me at Fellowship time after our service. I will be putting a link on to our website by early March.

Anu

BEN BABELOWSKY PRINTS OF
ERSKINE/PEACE TOWER CHURCH - A FUND
RAISER

Many of you will have seen the Ben Babelowsky print of the Erskine Church hanging on the memorial wall at the entrance to the Christian Education Wing of Westminster. When it was commissioned in 1994, many were purchased by members of the Erskine congregation. The prints are once again available for sale at the price of \$30. per print and anyone wishing to purchase should advise the church office. We expect that most will be bought by the members of the Peace Tower Church, the new congregation who purchased the Bronson Avenue building. On our behalf, David McKay has arranged that all sale proceeds will be divided equally between Westminster and the Peace Tower Congregation.

Laura

WESTMINSTER SKILLS INVENTORY

Several years ago, many members of the congregation completed a questionnaire to indicate their skills and interests for contributing to the life of the congregation. These responses were used to match people to activities/tasks and then computerized to allow for easier access to the information when particular events or tasks needed more volunteers. Since that time, there are many new members of the church family and also new activities underway. Ops Planning has decided to update the questionnaire, has sent it to all Teams to ensure it accurately reflects their needs and will re-circulate it to the congregation soon. All are encouraged to participate in the survey to help us work and celebrate together as a church family.

Laura

BETTER BOOKS WANTED

Anytime is the right time to donate good used books for sale at Westminster's Spring sale and the Autumn Bazaar. Over the past year or so, an emphasis shift has been made, not just for books but in general towards quality and away from quantity.

This, it is hoped, will yield at least as much revenue while reducing the workload on the part of our sale volunteers.

So far as books are concerned, this means that we would respectfully ask that donors not treat our sales as a substitute for their black recycling box. Otherwise, volunteers are put to the extra work of discarding books not of saleable quality.

Following the recent C.G.I.T. sale, a team of volunteers did a rigorous weeding of our existing stock, and what remains is of fairly high quality. So, what do we want? In general, newer books – that is to say, ones published in the present century. Fiction (hard cover or trade paperbacks) is always in strong demand. Please, no elderly books (unless so old and rare as to be collectors' items).

Other unwanted books: books in bad condition: pages missing, yellowed from age, water damaged; text books; cookbooks with recipes that were popular in your mother or grandmother's day; computer, medical or scientific books that are out of date; Reader's Digest abridged books. At our sales, there will be a section for "Bill's Better Books". Books in that display will be priced somewhat higher than the standard price (50 cents for pocket books, \$1 for hard covers and trade paperbacks). For further information or if you require books to be picked up, contact Bill Rankin at 613-761-6292.

WOOL !, WOOL ! WOOL !

Donations of any color of 4-ply wool and /or any amount are needed for the making of scarves/mittens or toques for our out reach programme .

Please contact Audrey Miller @ 613 596 1782 .

An important reminder to those of you who plan regular functions during the winter season. Please communicate with the church office to advise of your space requirements during 2010/2011. Unless you do so, the office may lease the space to outside (paying!) customers. This should be done by 14 April.

c.w.

WWJD:

What Would Jesus Drink? The truth behind the coffee industry and what people of faith can do about it.

One of the biggest challenges we all face as those seeking to be disciples of Christ is in aligning our everyday decisions and lives with the message of Christ; a message of love and good news to the poor. In my own quest to make choices that do not harm my neighbour, the earth, or my brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, I have begun examining the consumer choices I make each day. I have especially been thinking about coffee, as this summer I have been working as a research assistant with a professor from the History Department at the University of Guelph studying the environmental history of coffee. For the past few months I have been researching the history of this particular commodity and two major results have arisen from my work. First of all, I have developed a minor coffee addiction. More importantly, however, I have gained insight into the complications around the growing and trade of food, and have gained a greater appreciation for such movements as the Fair Trade and Organic movements that are revolutionizing the food choices of people like myself.

Have you ever stopped, perhaps at breakfast, to imagine where the food you are eating has come from? We are a part of a world-wide chain of trade and relationships that involve many players, from the producer of a certain product all the way through those who transport it, market it, and sell it to me, the consumer. For instance, my orange juice was made from Florida oranges, my mug made by workers in China, my Rice Krispies came from a rice paddy in Asia, my banana from Costa Rica, and my coffee... well, where has my coffee come from? And what are the lives like of our brothers and sisters who grew my coffee in Brazil, or Costa Rica, or Côte d'Ivoire?

As I have said, these questions have led me to examine the Fair Trade movement that has revolutionized the way people view and buy coffee worldwide. The Fair Trade movement began in the 1970s when people from many different walks of life; people of faith, third-world producers, activists, and others realized that there were major problems in the international trading system, especially for producers in the Global South. The worst of these problems was that the international price of coffee was very low and there was no stability or support

for cooperation or autonomy over production of the coffee growers themselves. Also, the presence of middlemen who control the sale of coffee and thus often cheat revenues from the farmers in these countries presents a big problem. In addition to problems such as forced labour and unsustainable environmental practices, there are obviously significant problems with the current coffee trading system. Even today, small-scale farmers in the Global South find it very difficult to make a living for their family from the proceeds of a coffee plantation. The Fair Trade movement saw these injustices and sought to re-imagine what a fair coffee trading system would look like that would respect and support those who dedicate their lives growing coffee.

There are many criteria that a coffee cooperative must meet for it to become "fair trade certified." The workers receive a fair minimum price, and investment in the community for projects such as schools, hospitals, and other social programs is required. In these cooperatives, farmers are provided with credit and thus have a stable relationship with their buyers that allow their families to have financial stability. Also, fair trade coffee and especially organic certified coffee growers have to agree to uphold environmental growing practices that support the sustainability of coffee production. Most importantly, coffee growers are empowered to have more control over their livelihoods and thus their dignity is respected.

An independent body called „Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International“ visits these cooperatives to ensure that the standards are being met. There are over 632 producers worldwide that are certified under this body, and in 2006-2007 the market for Fair-trade grew by 48%! Many faith groups, businesses, and universities are switching to Fair Trade so that they can support sustainable livelihoods for marginalized coffee producers in the Global South. Indeed it is becoming clearer that the price paid for Fair Trade is closer to the real price of coffee as mainstream coffee prices exploit and underpay coffee farmers.

I'd like to give a quick exam example in dollar terms of the inequality of the present regular coffee market. When Starbucks, a specialty gourmet coffee shop, buys a pound of coffee from coffee farmers in the Kilimanjaro area, the coffee producers receive less than \$1.50. The coffee then ends up selling for more than \$300 (sometimes up to \$5 per latte!). There are certainly additional costs incurred by Starbucks through the process of selling the coffee, but there are doubtless inconsistencies with the way in which coffee is

traded and paid for in the traditional market. Like any fallible human idea, there are problems with the Fair Trade system, but in the end it is the best system that we have right now. Life is still very hard even for those who attain Fair Trade certification. But by choosing to buy Fair Trade, it is a statement to the rest of the world that you acknowledge that the coffee you're drinking out of your mug at home, or at a church "coffee hour," came there through the hard work of a sister or brother in the Global South. The least we can do is support them in paying a price appropriate to the work invested and show through our actions that our money is where our mouths are; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

Michelle is a student at the University of Guelph studying International Development. She is a member of Westminster Presbyterian in Ottawa, has recently travelled to South Africa, and spent the past summer researching for a professor at the University of Guelph on the subject of coffee. She would love to answer any of your questions (ballc@uoguelph.ca).

To see where she got this information, or to learn more about Fair Trade, these are some good books and websites to check out:

- "The Coffee Book: Anatomy of an industry from crop to the last drop." Gregory Dicum and Nina Luttinger. The New Press, New York, 1999.

- "50 Reasons to buy Fair Trade." Miles Litvinoff and John Madeley. Pluto Press, London, 2007.

- "Confessions of an eco-sinner: tracking down the sources of my stuff." Pearce, Fred. Beacon Press, 2008.

- <http://transfair.ca/> or <http://www.equalexchange.coop/index.ph>