

Wespress for May 2008

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Coming Events

27 May 30 May		Conference and Retreat for Presbyterian Women in Leadership. A time away for networking, equipping, restoration and learning strategies for whole person health. Presbyterian College Montreal Contact heartmindsoulmontreal@gmail.com
Sunday 8 June	10:30 a.m.	Communion
Sunday 15 June	2:00 p.m.	Free Concert by students of Shawne Elizabeth

2. **General Assembly**

Get involved by attending, volunteering or supporting . . .

This June your fellow Presbyterians from across Canada will be gathering at Algonquin College in Ottawa for a week to discuss national policies and programs, to network and praise God's work.

a) OPENING WORSHIP

You are invited to attend opening worship, Sunday June 1st at Knox Church on Elgin at 7:30 pm. Parking is ample under City Hall.

b) ASSEMBLY BANQUET

Assembly Banquet: Monday, June 2nd in the Grand Hall of the Museum of Civilization (price \$55). Tickets are on a first come basis; contact Geppy Walton: 613-836-5019 or

gep.walton@sympatico.ca Cheques would need to be made out to the Presbytery of Ottawa.

c) BANQUET HOSPITALITY

As an act of hospitality and welcome, Ottawa congregations are being asked to sponsor banquet attendance for the national commissioners (\$40 per person). To support this event, Session is asking you to contribute through your offering envelopes indicating the amount on the "OTHER LINE" and adding "General Assembly Sponsorship". The combined contributions divided by \$40 will indicate the number of commissioners who will receive a welcome card at the banquet indicating their meal has been provided by Westminster. Your donation will be receipted with your regular givings.

d) VOLUNTEERS – (Many options to be involved; you can set your own limitations)

Transportation: driving commissioners from the airport, both train stations and the bus station to

Algonquin College on May 31st or June 1st, and the return on June 6th.

Registration: Volunteers to register commissioners as they arrive on June 1st, or to staff this table through the week.

Contact Geppy Walton: 613-836-5019 or gep.walton@sympatico.ca

3. Congratulations to Lezlie Wood

who will be awarded a Certificate of Christian Faith and Life at the Spring Convocation of Knox College in Toronto in mid-May. Lezlie successfully completed eight on-line courses which she says were very beneficial to a broadening of her knowledge and appreciation of her faith.

4. Gracefield Camperships

Remember Gracefield Summer Campers on May 11th. All churches in the Presbytery will be requesting special donations during the May 11th Sunday service for camperships to assist young people attend the summer program of Christian camping at Gracefield Presbyterian Camp. There are many interested young people in the area whose families cannot afford the full cost of this wonderful Christian experience. Please add a little extra to your envelope and indicate the amount on the "other line" as "**Gracefield Camperships**".

5. Financial Statement – see last page

6. CGIT NEWS Westminster's CGIT group is getting ready for our family banquet on May 15th that marks the end of another wonderful year! To that end we have been busy doing table decorations, place mats, invitations and are getting ready to put the final touches on our toasts for the evening.

We want to let everyone know that we were able to send over \$500 to PWS&D for women's missions in Guatemala from our bread sale at the beginning of April. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who baked, donated, bought, and supported us through prayers...it's amazing what can happen in just 45 minutes!

Please watch the bulletin in the upcoming weeks for details on the annual work party weekends at Kalalla. These are fun, work-filled weekends that help get the camp ready for campers. Due to the late departure of the snow, the dates are not firm,

for further information concerning the work party please contact Maureen Cleary.

That's all our news for now...thank you again for all of your prayers and support.

7. Thanks from Eileen MacMillan

To Alan and the Choir -- Thanks for the concert. To those who were unable to attend the recent choir concert on Sunday afternoon, April 13, you have my sincere sympathies. I have never made a secret of my admiration for Alan Thomas and our choir, but never in my life do I remember so short an hour. The choir sang a Mass in Latin in LATIN! Imagine the practising that required. I was so moved by it that I think I held my breath through the length of it, and when they were finished, there was this breathless space of time -- that was when we should have shown you our joy, but the guest singers stood up the instant the choir sat down, and the moment was lost! You were robbed! You should have heard thunderous applause -- you deserved it!

I know that there are many choirs that are PROBABLY as good as ours, but I could give you an argument on that score. I want to thank you so much for showing me the pleasure of music and song.

with sincere affection to each of you,
Eileen MacMillan

8. Thanks from Cariboo and Mennonite Mission

Warm greetings from the Cariboo house churches and ministry team. Thanks to your donations our mission has continued another year in the Cariboo. With your support people have felt the love of God through First Nations Ministry, school lunch programs, emergency support services, bible study and prayer groups, the chapel ministry at Lac La Hache, a new house church at Pressy Lake and weekly worship up and down the Cariboo. Our ministers fuel up their trucks and head down the road knowing they are supported by the care and prayers of people like you all over this country, and they are encouraged in their various forms of mission and outreach.

Thanks again for your generosity and love
Shannon Finley, Church Treasurer, Cariboo Presbyterian Church

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your support of Mennonite Central Committee material resource projects over the past fall and winter. MCC's material resources program responds to the material needs of people who are struggling in situations of poverty, or have survived war or disaster. We do this by sharing tangible gifts such as school kits, newborn kits, relief kits, AIDS

care kits, comforters as well as other items and delivering them to people around the world. These gifts are offered in the name of Christ, and are intended to reflect the love of Christ.

Some highlights from the past year include: MCC supported our partner organization Help the Afghan Children with the shipment of 2,500 blankets and 3,000 school kits for distribution in hospitals, clinics and refugee camps. These numbers are items shipped from our Ontario warehouse alone.

Health kits, relief kits and AIDS care kits continue to be in short supply. Many thanks to those who have contributed these hygiene items! Upcoming shipment destinations for these items include Zambia, Chad, Nepal, Iraq, Ukraine and Russia.

Iraq Response: A significant relief response to the needs of Iraqi families displaced by violence in that country involved the distribution of relief kits, blankets, school kits and newborn kits. A report by an MCC partner in Bagdad included a story of a young mother who cried upon receiving a newborn kit, saying that she did not have money to purchase clothes for her two-month old baby.

An MCC worker in Africa has written words of encouragement to be passed on to those who support MCC with material items, and I pass them on to you: "To each one who put together a relief kit, a health kit, a newborn kit, a school kit; who canned the turkey meat; who quilted a blanket; who knitted a hat or gloves; who packaged the goods; who organized; who gave of their time and money, know that your love has been felt and love of God has been shown to many."

Janette Adams, Material Resources, Mennonite Central Committee, Ontario

9. Billets for teachers Teachers (on exchange here in Ontario for one year from other countries - Australia, NZ, England etc.) will be coming to Ottawa for an educational conference. The date for this year's event is from Thurs. May 8th - Sun. May 11th.

I am looking for billets for these teachers and their families. You would be asked only to provide a bed and breakfast for those days. Most will arrive Thursday evening and leave sometime on Sunday. Having billeted exchange teachers for many years, I can tell you that we've made some wonderful friends, many of whom we've kept in touch with over the years.

Please let me know if you (or someone you know) would be able to host a single teacher, a couple or family.

Your help would be most appreciated. You can reach me at 613-761-9805 or email me

lynn.baltzer@ocdsb.ca

Lynn Carroll

10. Westminster Oasis Café during Westfest

What: An outdoor café on our front lawn or in the Vogan gym depending on weather.

When: Saturday, June 14th from 4-7:30 p.m.

Why: To offer a service to Westfest attendees, providing an oasis from the events along Richmond Road and a chance to let neighbours know who we are.

There will be:

Sandwiches to purchase or perhaps a BBQ
A space where people can sit and eat their own food

Musicians / entertainers from the congregation on a wandering minstrel basis

Water and lemonade stands, the Labyrinth, an area for children to make & play musical instruments

Access to use some of our washrooms

All will be done on a free / break even basis BUT donations for camperships would be accepted and camp information made available

Help Wanted on June 14th: To provide music or entertainment (e.g. make balloon animals), set up, serve food, clean up and monitor church washroom use. We also need members to just come and participate, to socialize with neighbours who attend.

Please contact Beth Cluff (613-726-8531) or the church office (613-722-1144). Leave your name and number if you get voice mail and we will get back to you.

Please - if you fill the dishwasher(s), do please turn it/them on before you leave. It isn't fair to ask someone else to come in the next day expecting to unload clean dishes only to find dirty ones. They then have to begin the cycle and return hours later to unload.

If anyone would like a copy of Alan's "ditty" from the 80th Anniversary, just ask - I can provide it.
c.w.

There was a lot of material received for this Westpress. I do hope it was all included - if I missed something, sorry!
c.w.

. YTD is Year To Date

PRED Y/E is Predicted Year End, based on the monthly average rate of income/spending over the last 3 years, with some manual adjustments where the prediction is obviously wrong.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAR

2008

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	MAR	08 YTD	PRED Y/E	07 YTD	BUDGET
Personal Donations - General	14,229	37,044	165,716	26,623	148,200
Use of Facilities	3,370	6,490	25,846	6,889	25,000
Church Group Events	317	3,195	10,000	483	10,000
Other	4	15	51	117	50
GENERAL FUND INCOME	17,920	46,744	201,613	34,112	183,250
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	MAR	08 YTD	PRED Y/E	07 YTD	BUDGET
SALARIES					
Subtotal	10,191	29,434	119,167	28,710	118,453
BUILDING OPERATIONS					
Subtotal	8,841	16,589	54,195	14,960	33,203
PROGRAM COSTS					
Subtotal	5,826	13,315	33,024	7,410	32,618
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	24,858	59,338	206,385	51,080	184,274
GST / PST Recovery					-1,024
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	24,858	59,338	206,385	51,080	183,250
Excess Income - Expense	-6,938	-12,595	-4,772	-16,986	

CAPITAL FUND RECEIPTS	MAR	08 YTD	PRED Y/E	07 YTD	BUDGET
TOTAL CAPITAL FUND INCOME	841	2,195	6,316	1,978	
TOTAL CAPITAL FUND EXPENSES					
Excess Income - Expense	841	2,195	6,316	1,978	

Although the above shows an accumulated deficit in the General Fund of \$12,595 so far in 2008 and a predicted deficit of \$4772 at year end, again caution should be used.

When the General Fund Income is compared to the Budget, the Personal Donations are strongly up over last year, and the Predicted Year End income is expected to be over Budget if we maintain the current trend. This fairly reflects what we see every week in the pews. Our Church numbers have grown, and it is more than just the increase when members from Erskine joined us at the end of October last year.

When the General Fund Expenses are compared to the Budget, the Salaries subtotal is expected to be close, as is the Program Costs subtotal. However, the Building Operations subtotal is up over last year, mainly due to the Maintenance and Repair line item and is expected to stay over until year end. Our bill for snow removal is up, the maintenance on our heating plant is up and we need repairs to the Chimney, the roof and repairs to the interior ceiling. These are reflected in the above projections. Despite these extra costs, the predicted expenses show a manageable deficit of \$4772. However, the Maintenance and Repair line item will be capped to the Budget level and so the Year End will end up with a surplus in the General Fund and a deficit in the Capital Fund. The amount of the adjustment is not yet known as some of the above spending may correctly fall into the Capital Budget if the individual repair cost exceeds \$10,000.

The net forecast? The combined General and Capital Funds will not show a deficit this year, which is certainly an improvement over 2007 and augurs well for the future.