

Wespress for May 2009

This edition of Wespress contains information on the following subjects:

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|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Coming Events | 5. AGM | 9. School |
| 2. Pastoral Care | 6. Finances | 10. Garage Sale |
| 3. Help! | 7. Acknowledgements | 11. Bazaar |
| 4. Gideons | 8. CGIT | |

Coming Events

Saturday 6 June		Garage Sale
Thursdays July	6-8 p.m.	Summer BBQs (see below)
Sunday 9 August		Deadline for next Wespress
Thursday 10 Sept		CGIT re-opens
Sunday 4 October	3:00 p.m.	Song recital by Aled Wyn Davies accompanied by Alan Tickets \$15 (Students \$5)
Saturday 31 October		Bazaar

During July on Thursdays, starting on the 9th, there will be BBQs at Westminster Church starting at 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship, Study and Devotions, Outreach to the neighbourhood; Bring something for yourself - either BBQ or summer cold plate; Bring salad or desert to share with others. Beverages supplied. Bring lawn chairs, plate and cutlery if you can.

PASTORAL CARE VISITOR

Friends,

It is with thanks to God that Session wishes to announce that the Rev. Jocelyn (Richards-) Livingstone has been chosen to minister among us in the area of Pastoral Care, particularly for our seniors who are isolated, that is, housebound, or in hospital, unable to attend church to enjoy our fellowship in Christ. As was announced earlier, the position is for 8 hours per week, for 6 months. Throughout this period we will be

evaluating the effectiveness of this ministry and at the end of this time will determine future work. We are thankful for the resources brought to the amalgamation of our churches from Erskine which enables this work, outside of our annual budget.

Jocelyn and her husband, John, come to us from a variety of church experiences. She was part of Westminster years ago, with her children and her mother, Bernice. Ordained, both of them, in the United Church of Canada, they ministered most recently in the United Church of Christ, in the U.S.A. John enjoys singing in the choir, while Jocelyn is a leader with Westminster's C.G.I.T. group.

We are still 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

From Session:

Gideon Expressions:

Memorial and Occasion Cards - Give a Card ...
Send the Word ... Change a Life!

In support of the Bible distribution ministry of Gideons International, you are invited to use the Gideons-supplied cards which are available every Sunday at Fellowship Time in the Lower Hall. Self-explanatory, these cards are offered as a means of fundraising for Gideons - and expressions of joy and sympathy for you. Please ask your elder or the minister for further information.

Notes from the AGM

For those who attended the AGM, you will have noted that the budget for 2009 included line items for Centre 507 sandwich making and the Mennonite bags. To make sure that it is clear, these items were added to ensure that your donations to these causes through your envelopes could be tax receipted. We were faced with the choice of not receipting donations or accepting them as worthy causes that deserved support through the General Fund. So for those of you who were supporting them through your envelopes in the past, you are encouraged to continue. We still make the sandwiches, led by the Millers, and we still assemble bags to be distributed through the Mennonite Church, led by Roger and Ruth Cunningham. The only change at the AGM via the budget was recognising these charities as worthy of Westminster's official support.

Ian Firth

Financial Report to the end of April 09

With 4 months gone, the following is a summary of the financial year to date:

Personal Donations to General Fund - \$47,845,
compared with \$49,367 at this time last year
Total Donations to General Fund - \$55,537,
compared with \$61,249 at this time last year

On the expense side:

Salaries are at \$37,668, compared with \$39,612 at this time last year
Building Operations are at \$30,312, compared with \$22,662 at this time last year
Programs are at \$11,237, compared with \$12,108 at this time last year

So our total expenses are at \$79,217, compared with \$74,318 at this time last year

As you can see, we are currently in deficit. More worrying, our personal donations are down over last year. At the AGM, we accepted a budget based on an increase of 5% for personal donations. Although there have been some who have responded by increasing their givings, there haven't been enough of you. Given that the increase was an attempt to reduce significantly the drain on the Capital Fund, which we have been using to offset lower cost maintenance items, the picture does not look rosy.

Two thirds of the year remain, so the Board of Finance and Maintenance would encourage you to review your givings. A 5% increase represents \$1 increase every time you give \$20. At this point in the year a modest increase will go a long way to solving our problems.

Ian

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

The organizers and the participants in the very successful Chili Cook-off on our Anniversary Sunday. Congratulations to Shirley Olsen, the winner of the Ladle for the best chili.

Alan and the Choir for a wonderful concert on April 5.

William and Christine for the activities over Easter weekend which increased our understanding and appreciation of that very special time in the church year..

All those who have worked to improve the appearance of Westminster:

- Carol Ann and Dave Joiner and Lynn Carroll for painting the women's washroom and the hallway on the mezzanine.

– Bill Miller and all his enthusiastic crew who made the Saturday work party so effective – and fun, too! The kitchens and the library are well cleaned and organized, the lower hall (which looks so fresh and clean with the new paint job) has been tidied up, and some of the nooks and crannies in the building have been sorted out.

As Summer approaches, and activities start to wind down (somewhat!), this is a good time to acknowledge the people who provide essential (but sometimes taken for granted) work for the Church every week during the year! So, on behalf of the congregation, we also thank:

Rev. William Ball for giving us such memorable messages every Sunday, and so much caring compassion all the time.

Christine Ball for her many occasions of help and organization, especially in guiding the Youth.

Alan and the Choir for wonderfully inspiring music, some old and some new.

Sharon Tinkess and her assistants for providing flexible teaching arrangements for the children.

Betty Jean Bone for arranging for readers and greeters; Heather McCurdie for ensuring there are people to collect the offering; and those to do all these tasks so essential to the worship service.

John Griffiths, with Bruce Quinney, for preparing the sanctuary for worship; and Debbie McMillan who, with John and Bruce, plans the banner display.

Catherine Mackay for arranging that flowers decorate the sanctuary.

Shirley and Bill Sandziuk who, through the year, have been working on the display walls for both Westminster and Erskine memorabilia

Bill Miller for quietly doing set-up and clean-up at every function, as well as arranging for repairs and maintenance – or doing maintenance himself to keep the church building in good shape..

Marg Jones for so capably arranging post-funeral receptions.

Chico Wallis for collating and publishing the *Wespress*.

Sally and Chico Wallis and their teams for taking care of the kitchens, trying to keep them neat and clean at all times – not easy!

Those who provide refreshments for coffee hour, and Mary Ann Tyler for coordinating this.

John and Mary Ann Tyler for setting out in the Spring, and maintaining, the gardens which so enhance the attractiveness of our church building.

Laura Kilgour and Beth Cluff for faithfully arranging the elements of Communion.

Gerry Hogan for agreeing to take on the important task of handling long term rentals, working with Pat Carey to coordinate all use of Westminster facilities.

Gord Neilson for continuing to update the name tags, which are so important to the fellowship in the congregation.

Carol Ann Joiner, and the other leaders, for another successful year of CGIT.

The Pastoral Care Team for their caring attention to the ailing or housebound of Westminster.

Chris McGoun for sending out get well and sympathy cards; and Phyllis Vaughn for sending out birthday cards to seniors.

Jim Moran for continuing to maintain our website to communicate our activities to the congregation and to others outside Westminster.

Pat Carey (Secretary) and Patrick Parson (Custodian) for their work in keeping the church running smoothly.

Isn't it awesome how many people participate in the tasks so necessary for Westminster? I'm sure there are others who should be mentioned here, and I can only apologize for not including them.

Shirley Stubbs,
Secretary, Operations/Planning

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

Shirley: All of us who carry out these tasks, large and small, greatly appreciate your diligence each issue in noting that the congregation prospers only as long as its members "keep up the good work"

Ed

Thank you to the readers and greeters who have participated in the Sunday services at Westminster.

During the summer, should you be interested/available to read and/or greet at any of the services, I would appreciate hearing from you - 613-721-5536.

Betty Jean Bone
Co-ordinator

CGIT NEWS:

Another successful fun-filled year in Westminster's CGIT group! We finished our year off with our annual family pot-luck banquet and Graduation Service on Thurs. May 7th. This year we also marked another milestone, that of the 60+ years of dedication to CGIT of Curly (Mrs. Audrey Miller). Curly joined our 3 graduates, Rachelle Fawcett, Emily McMahon and Bailie McDowell-Coughtry as all 4 were recognized in a Service in the Sanctuary following dinner. Even after graduating, all girls (and leaders) are welcome back at any time to weekly meetings.

The girls are now looking forward to the Ontario CGIT Wonderland day on Sat. May 30th. This event happens every two years and is a fun way to meet new friends who are members of CGIT across Ontario. We expect that everyone who goes to Wonderland or to Camp Kalalla during the summer will have an awesome time and make memories that will last a lifetime.

The group has also welcomed Jocelyn Richard-Livingstone as a leader in the Intermediate group. She will be leading in September with Chuckles.

We hope everyone has a happy and safe summer and hope to see all girls ages 10-16 in the Lower Hall on Thursday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m.!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

We are winding down in another wonderful year in the Church School. This year has seen a lot of progress made in the Nursery with a roster being drawn up by Beth Cluff. On this roster, we have a group of people who work in pairs, a month at a time, in the Nursery. Thank you Beth for all of your hard work in this area. By having this roster of helpers, the Nursery is always fully staffed on Sunday mornings, making it much easier for me to concentrate on the lessons for the school-age group.

During the Easter season, we had 2 all-ages weeks on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday where all children were together. On Palm Sunday we baked pretzels and on Easter Sunday we baked Resurrection Cookies. These treats were loved by all. Thank you to Christine Ball for organizing these two Sundays!

We only have another 6 more Sundays until we have our year-end wrap-up on Fathers' Day, Sunday, June 21st. During these last 6 weeks we will be looking at how we can help others in our daily lives as well as how we can share our gifts in other ways.

There is one thing that we need everyone in the Congregation to do for us...we have a map of the world on the bulletin board in the Double Classroom in the CE Building, and it is my hope to be able to put a push-pin in the country of origin of all members of our Congregation. The purpose of this exercise is to show the children, and more than likely a lot of the adults in the Congregation, the multi-cultural make-up of Westminster and to also teach the children that God's children are all around the world. Please email me (sharonmcn@rogers.com) as soon as possible if you are originally from a country other than Canada.

Please be aware that all children are always welcome in Westminster's Church School!

Sharon Tinkess

Westminster Gigantic Garage Sale

On **Saturday, June 6**, we will be holding our annual garage sale, which is one of our two annual fund raising events. **To make our goal of \$5,000.00 we need the support of all members of the congregation by:**

Volunteering to assist the table co-ordinators:

Ernie Dance - Miscellaneous household items, treasures and furniture. (Please call the Church Office to arrange for furniture pick-up)

Bill Rankin - Books
Judy Banks - Children's Corner

Shirley Stubbs and Marg Quinney –
Westminster Bake Shop

Wendy MacCaffrey - Coffee and Muffins
Debbie and Margaret Jones - Plants
Bill Miller - set-up and tear-down

Contributing the following items for sale:

All types of miscellaneous household items, furniture, children's toys, puzzles, videos etc., We will also require donations of delectable goodies for the bake shop and also muffins (bake an extra dozen) to be served with the refreshments.

Supporting the Garage Sale in person.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

John Tyler,
Garage Sale Co-ordinator

TARTAN N' TINSEL BAZAAR

Just a brief reminder that in less than 6 months (Sat. October 31) the bazaar will be taking place. The bazaar is the second major fund raiser for Westminster Church. Detailed information will follow in August/September.

If you wish for more information - volunteering or items required - please phone me at 613-729-7854.

Mary Ann Tyler
Convener

