Wespress for August 2011

This edition of Wespress contains information on the following subjects:

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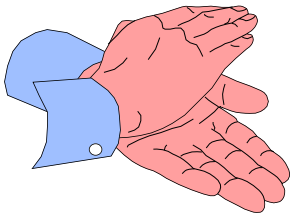
1. *Coming Events*

Sunday 28 Aug	---	Morning service at Gracefield; there will be **NO** service at Westminster.
Saturday 17 Sept	3:00 p.m.	Concert by Shawne Elizabeth, York Davis and Alan Thomas "WW1 Tunes from the Trenches" free will offering to benefit congregational funds. Light refreshments.
Sunday 2 Oct	10:00 a.m. after service	**Communion** Luncheon to mark the 10th anniversary of William's service to our congregation. (See below)

COME CELEBRATE

William's Ten Years at Westminster



When: Sunday 2 October
Where: After Communion

Congregational Lunch
Brief tributes to William and Christine

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From William

Where was William all summer?
Study and Vacation is the short answer.

Christine and I attended a program in Waterloo which was focused upon the Spirituality of Leaders in Churches. It is always a challenge for us as people of faith to put aside all the expectations and busyness of the world around us so that we can really "listen to God." I believe that an essential component of Christian discipleship, and particularly leadership in Christian communities like Westminister, is that of "listening to God." The word that we use to describe that relationship is Spirituality.

I want to be a Spiritually Vibrant Christian. I want this for myself, but I also want to be that kind of leader in the church. It can be a challenge, even for clergy, to keep one's heart and mind focused upon God, and if the leaders of the church, lay and ordained, are Spiritually listless then congregations as a whole can lose their way.

Part of my particular responsibility as the Teaching Elder of the Session is to give thought to these aspects of the church's life and leadership.
Our teacher for the week was the Rev. Dr. N. Graham Standish of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. I encourage you to look up his books:
In God's Presence: Encountering, Experiencing, and Embracing the Holy in Worship: Becoming a

Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence and Power: Discovering the Narrow Path: a Guide to Spiritual Balance

I pray that what I have learned there will deepen my walk with God and make my leadership more effective for Westminster.

Our vacation was good, though driving out to B.C. was long. We enjoyed the many sights we saw through the U.S.A. like the Black Hills of South Dakota, Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park and so on. Visiting parents was good; they are well and will, sometime later this year or early next year, move from their small farm into town and a more manageable home. Thank you to everyone who has expressed interest and concern for them.

The blessings of God Almighty be upon you as we move from summer to autumn and deepen our focus as a congregation upon our relationship with God and one another.

Pray for each other and for those who have agreed to let their names stand for election as Elders at Westminster. I look forward to working with them and with the congregation as a whole

William Ball

3. *Memorial Fund*

Memorial donations have been received from:

Mrs. Wendie McCaffrey, in memory of William Ball's sister, Sandra Wylie

George, Bob, Bill Curzon, in memory of Betty Curzon

and from the following in memory of Violet Johnstone.

1) Dave and Carol Bryan
2)Vera Crockett and family
3) Anne Durant
4) Barb and Bob Grant
5) Lyall and Pat Holmes
6) Rae and Doris Imrie
7) Margaret Johnstone and family
8) H. June Kerr
9) Ray and Maralene Meldrum
10) John and Eleanor Patterson
11) June Waddell
12) Bill Fyfe

Please Note: If any of the names are spelled incorrectly, please let us know, as they will be recorded at the end of the year in the Memorial Book, in the Church's annual report, and on your tax receipt.

The following additional donations to the Church's Memorial Fund are gratefully acknowledged.

In memory of Rev. W. Ball's sister, Sandra.
Donors: Jim and Doreen McDougall

In memory of Violet Johnstone.
Donors: Mrs. Sheila Faraday and the staff of Carleton Lodge

In memory of husband Ernie and parents Dolly and Fred Robbins.
Donor: Mrs Phyllis Vaughan

In memory of Jack Smuck.
Donors: Laura Smuck, Julia, Amy and Phil Smuck

Dorothy and Bill Fyfe
Rev. Rob .Conrad
Tom Blais
Ernie and Marlene Dance
Mrs. Betty MacLeod
Don and Barbara Gamble
Judy Banks
Gail Cosgrove

Income tax receipts are sent to donors at the end of the fiscal year.

Nancy and Walter Mingie, Custodians

4. *Communion Plates*

Following the amalgamation of Westminster and Erskine Presbyterian Churches in 2007, the Following the amalgamation of Westminster and Erskine Presbyterian Churches in 2007, the communion sets of the two churches were combined. Ten wine trays were surplus to our needs. Following a request from Dr. Daniel Tetteh Osabu-Klé, Session agreed in April 2011, that these trays be donated to Grace Presbyterian Church in Teshie, Accra, Ghana.

The trays were originally presented to Westminster by:
Helen Gillies 1929
Mr. and Mrs. G.L. Hall 1929
The Women's Association 1954
The Lowrys 1958
Mr. and Mrs. Bramwell Bailey 1961

Walter & Nancy Mingie, Custodians

5. *Acknowledgements*

As we look forward to a new season – on behalf of Westminster Congregation, we thank:

– All those who work behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly during the year, such as the Church School and Nursery teachers and assistants; Bill Miller and those who help him keep the building and equipment working well and safely; the Pastoral Care Team who care for and visit the ill and shut-in people of our congregation.

– Those who supported the Women's National Weekend fundraisesr, the CGIT Mission muffin/bread sale, the Kenora fundraiser, and the Spring sale.

– Rev. John Fair, Pastoral Visitor, for continually keeping in touch with those in need of a pastoral visit; Pat Carey, the Secretary, for running the office so smoothly and efficiently; and Patrick Pearson, the Custodian, for maintaining so well the cleanliness and order of the Church.

– Alan Thomas, who provides inspiring and uplifting music all year during the worship service and who, among his "other related duties" emcees most activities where needed; – and, of course, the Choir who dedicate their time and talents to bring us that inspiring music and lead us in the singing of it.

– David Wice for the great amount of work he has done to establish the Leading with Care policies and directions.

– Ian Firth, assisted by Heather McCurdie, for so capably keeping in order the funds of Westminster – a difficult task but one they handle with grace and great care.

– The members of the Teams: Christian Education, Mission, Pastoral Care, Operations/Planning, Worship, and Personnel – the Church at work.

– Those who quietly set up parts of the worship service: John Griffiths for arranging the Communion table as well as the banners; Betty Jean Bone for organizing the greeters and readers; Heather McCurdie for the taking up of collection; and Catherine Mackay for keeping flowers in the sanctuary every Sunday.

- Mary Ann and John Tyler for their work in keeping the flower beds and the lawn beautiful to enhance the outside of the building; and John Griffiths for doing this when the Tylers are away.

– Chico Wallis for the unrecognized work he puts into collating and distributing the Wespress; – and Chico and Sally and their teams for keeping the kitchens in as good order as possible given the number of people using the kitchens.

– and last, but most importantly, Rev. William Ball and Christine Ball for the constant caring and effort they give to Westminster.

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 Shirley Stubbs your ideas

A "Thank You" from Margaret and John Stewart

Many thanks to Westminster for all the prayers during John's two year ordeal in hospitals.
Thanks, also, to William for his kind support and to Ian Firth, Bruce Thomson and Ernie Dance for all their help.

Margaret and John.

This note is being sent with sincere thanks to everyone who has read the lessons, and/or greeted at the door – whether at the Christian Education door or the Sanctuary door – in acknowledgement of your commitment to these responsibilities which are important roles in our church life at Westminster. With gratitude and the hope you have had a wonderful and healthy summer,

Betty Jean Bone, Coordinator.

6. *Church School News*:

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

Looking out my window today I found it hard to believe that Church School will be starting again in a mere 5 weeks! That's right folks....Sept 11th is only 5 weeks away! We will be starting off the year as we have in the past few years with our annual Rally Sunday on Sept 11th. This Sunday will be an All-Ages Service followed by a sub lunch in the Gym.

Again this year we will be having a class in the Nursery, a Primary class and a Junior class. The Nursery will be co-ordinated again this year by Beth Cluff and will use the same curriculum of stories that they have been using for the past couple of years. The Primary class will be led by Heather Mansell with help from the helper in the Nursery. They will use the Spark curriculum that includes a Children's Story Bible for each student. If your child(ren) need a Spark Bible, please speak to Sharon ASAP in order to have them ready for the beginning of classes on Sept. 11th. The Junior class will be using the Spark curriculum supplemented with some online activity pages.

In order to accommodate the our age groupings, we are in need of people to volunteer to help in the classrooms on a rotational basis. If we get enough volunteers, it will mean that everyone will have 2 weeks at a time. Please think and pray about this opportunity to guide the youngest members of our church family and let Sharon know ASAP if you feel this is your calling within the life of the Church. There will be training provided throughout the year for all who volunteer.

RALLY SUNDAY:

We will be welcoming everyone back on Sunday Sept 11th with our Rally Sunday. We will be celebrating this occasion with a sub lunch in the Gym. To accomplish this we need volunteers to set up tables and organize food beforehand and then take down the tables after the lunch. Please email Sharon at sharonmcn@rogers.com and advise me where you can help out.

For the entire congregation: we will need your favourite sub sandwich filling, i.e., cheese, meats, veggies, etc. for on the table. Please bring enough to share with the Congregation. Condiments, drinks, buns, breads, and dessert will be provided.
If you or anyone in your family has any food allergies please let us know.

Whew! I think it's going to be one very exciting and active year for the children of Westminster!

Sharon Tinkess

Sharon Tinkess

7. *Mission Projects*

A Message from Your Westminster Mission Team
Mennonite Central Committee - Christmas School Kits 2011

For several years, one of Westminster's Christmas projects has been assembling and donating kits to be distributed worldwide by the Mennonite Central Committee. In December 2010, we contributed over 100 kits.

For 2011, school kits will be centrally purchased and assembled by the Westminster Mission Team. (Health kits will not be done this year). School kits are the Mennonite Central Committee's most requested item. For the year ending March 31, 2011, over 142,000 kits were distributed worldwide, with Afghanistan, Burundi, Jordan, Honduras and Haiti being the top recipients.

The price of each school kit will be $10.00 and consists of a cloth drawstring bag containing:

4 spiral notebooks (80 sheets each)
4 unsharpened #2 (HB) pencils
1 ruler (flexible plastic, showing both 30cm and 12 inches)
1 box of 24 coloured pencils
1 large pencil eraser

Should you wish to make a donation, please include the cash or cheque in your weekly collection envelope, marking on the outside of the envelope the number of school kits and dollars donated. We are able to assemble the kits at this price because we buy at the 'back to school sales' in August and early September, so your early donations are much appreciated!

1 John 2 17/18 : "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

We **urgently** need volunteers to help with the maintenance of the church kitchens. We wish to continue with four teams, so that each team is responsible for one month in four but to do so we must have some new members for the kitchen crews. Please call Sally.

Knitting, etc.

It's not too early to think about the Bazaar. This is for anyone who knits, crochets, or sews. We would like to fill our table this year.

If anyone knows how to make the covered hangers – they are a popular item.

The ladies of the knitting table
Barbara Lamb
Wendie McCaffrey

Next Wespress scheduled for Sunday 13 November

Please try to have any material by the previous Sunday 6 November. Anything received after Tuesday 8 November risks not being included

Shirley

On 20 July a plaque attached to a scope in memory of Shirley Sandziuk was dedicated at Dawson City, Yukon.

This scope is dedicated in memory of a very special lady, Shirley Sandziuk, by her husband and children to the citizens of Dawson.

Shirley was taken tragically in her 73rd years from her husband of 50 years, in July 2009, on this river before us, the Klondike, at Dawson City, Yukon. She died doing something she loved, Shirley enjoyed returning to the North and to the Yukon River and the wilderness environment which gave her the opportunity to participate in her passion, canoeing. Quoting from her daughter, Susan's eulogy – "doing something that she lover, in a place that she loved, with the person she lover more than anyone else in the world, my Dad."

Shirley was a dedicated Christian lady, strong in her faith and active in her church and community. She gave freely of her time and energy particularly to an organization called Canadian Girls in Training or CGIT, where she received a National CGIT Association Life Membership in recognition of long and dedicated service. Too, she was presented with an Ontario Service Award for over 30 years of volunteerism to CGIT.

Her "Life Map" formed as an exercise when Shirley attended a Faith Journey retreat in September of 1996 identified her priorities as family, sewing, gardening, canoe trips and to "Paddle my canoe on the Yukon River". It also notes, and quoting her words, "Christianity gives me strength, peace, tranquillity, a base." Now she rests peacefully with her Saviour, not to be forgotten.

NOMINATION OF ELDERS

The Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church has decided that up to ten new elders shall be elected from the congregation. All professing members of Westminster are eligible for nomination.

The form below may be used. The nomination must be signed by two people who are professing members of the congregation. Please ensure that your nominee is willing to stand for election.

The Book of Forms of the Presbyterian Church in Canada states:

> "132. Election to the eldership is the call of God, through the congregation, for service in Christ's Church. Since the eldership is a spiritual office concerned with the rule and pastoral oversight of the congregation, only suitable men and women should be considered. They should be committed Christians, in regular attendance at public worship, persons of sound judgment and upright character and either knowledgeable or prepared to learn of the government of the church."

Nominations in a sealed envelope, marked "nomination for eldership", may be placed in the box in the narthex, given to an elder, or delivered or mailed to the Church office. Nominations must be received by Sunday, September 24, 2011

We wish to nominate (please print)

....
for eldership in Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Signed:.....

Signed: .....

Additional nomination forms, as well as a list of members eligible for nomination, will be available in the narthex after September 1, 2011.