Wespress for November 2011

This edition of Wespress contains information on the following subjects:

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1. *Coming Events*

Saturday 3 Dec @ Carlingwood Mall	Noon	A "Flash Mob" performance of the Hallelujah Chorus in the Food Court area. Alan will play seasonal music for 15 minutes beforehand The Come Sing Messiah chorus, the Capital City chorus and some high school choirs have been invited Bring your "Messiah" copy and join in . TV and Youtube coverage planned.
Sunday 4 Dec	7:00 p.m.	CGIT Service (to be confirmed) watch weekly Bulletins
Friday 9 Dec	noon	Christmas Lunch @ Capone's – see Alan for Tickets (if there are any left!)
Sunday 11 Dec	10:30 a.m.	Christmas music during service
	7:00 p.m.	Welsh carol service
Saturday 24 Dec		Watch the Bulletins to determine Christmas Eve services
Sunday 25 Dec	10:30 a.m.	Christmas Service

SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Congratulations to
Ernest and Margot
On their
65th Anniversary

2. *Memorial Fund*

MEMORIAL FUND update. We wish to acknowledge and thank the following who made donations to the Memorial fund to honour HILDA WOOD.

Mrs. Shirley Stubbs
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce and Marg Quinney
Mr. & Mrs. Ernie & Marleen Dance
Mrs. Betty MacLeod
Rev. Ernest & Mrs. Margot Zugor
Mrs. Wendie McCaffrey
Mrs. Betty Jean Bone
Mrs. Stella Saunders
Mrs. Gaye Brittle

Total donation amount to date this year, has been $1,960.00.

This has enabled us to encourage and financially assist a few of our young church leaders to attend christian education conferences.

Our appreciation is extended to Mary Ladoux, daughter of Melvin Jamieson, for her donation to the Memorial Fund, in memory of Mabel Jamieson and her Dad.

A donation has been received in memory of Violet Johnstone,
from: Mr. & Mrs. Herbert & Marjorie McLean

Also, a donation was received in memory of Sally & Jack Smuck,
from: Mrs. Carole MacFarlane

Submitted by: Walter & Nancy Mingie, Memorial Fund Custodians

3. Soup Anyone

Remember the Sunday when William used “soup” in the service? Well here’s a wonderful outcome from that!

Thought you'd like to hear a nice "Soup Story" from Walter Mingie.

At Coffee hour, Nancy suggested getting a jar of soup, and giving it to our next door neighbour. I hesitated, as we hardly ever see her, but finally agreed to pick up a jar, which turned out to be the last one.

Our neighbour is a widow of three years. Her husband and I used to talk frequently while cutting grass, putting out refuse, or shovelling snow. But since his passing, we haven't seen her very much. They were newly-wed immigrants to Canada fifty years ago, learned English and worked to support themselves. We don't have very much in common.

Therefore, I reluctantly rang our neighbour's door bell and was warmly greeted. Her expression was one of surprise and concern. I told her that I had a little gift for her....a jar of soup. She insisted that I come in so that I could tell the Soup Story---- vegetables brought to Church on Thanksgiving Sunday ---
a group preparing the vegetables --- the Minister making the soup --- and then our sharing of it. The small gift brought unbelievable delight. It was wonderful to behold her smile. I guess it was such a surprise to see me and receive a gift. Her thanks was profuse. And I have a feeling that we may talk more often in the future.

Thank you all who brought the vegetables, prepared them, and made the soup, which brought delight and gratitude into one lonely life. As the messenger, it made me feel good too.

I just want to say that the Soup idea and the sharing was great.

Walter

4. *Finance and Maintenance*

<u>Investment Committee Membership:</u> The Investment Committee administers the funds in Westminster's trust funds. Members serve for a 3 year term. Every year there is a vacancy to be filled. If you have an interest in serving on this committee or if you would like more information about it please contact David Wice 613-831-1606.

<u>Treasurer:</u> We thank Ian Firth for his faithful 14 years of service as our church treasurer. Ian is stepping down as treasurer effective December 31st. If you have a interest in serving as treasurer or if you would like more information about it please contact David Wice 613-831-1606.

<u>New Phone System</u>: Finance and Maintenance hired Visioneering Group to install our phone system. The costs were kept down as the phone

equipment was donated by Corush, Sunderland and Wright and the wiring and uninterruptible power supply were donated by John Wice. With the new system we have voicemail and better utilisation of our two phone lines. When using the phone outside the kitchen you dial 9 to get an outside line.

The Heat is On. This fall the firebricks were replaced in both boilers and the system was bled. Boiler maintenance expenses this year total $5,280.50.

David Wice

5. *Church School News*:

It's been a wonderful Fall term in the Church School. We have the Nursery, Youth Group and 2 other classes that are running every week. We have energetic Teachers and Helpers who come out every Sunday.

We have been using the Spark curriculum for the SK-Gr 2 class and have been using the handouts from Spark for the Gr 3-6 class. Due to the number of children we have had attending, we will also be using the full Spark curriculum for the older class as well.

For the month of December, we will be joining all together with the Youth and Nursery to present some special seasonal music to the Congregation.

AND....I can't believe I almost forgot this....we will be having a birthday party for Jesus on Sunday Dec 18th after Church. We will have lunch followed by cake and ice cream for dessert. We will send out notices closer to the date with all the details. (I believe my alter-ego, elf Sharon, is resting up to be ready for the big day!)

Please note, we are always happy to have new people come and join our teaching family, Just talk to myself or Rev. Ball and we will tell you all about how much fun we have.

Thank you for your continuous support and prayers.

6. CGIT *News*:

While we may not have an active group at Westminster this year, it doesn't mean we aren't supporting our girls who are attending the group at Kanata United Church. To that end, I'm very pleased to announce that there will be a Bake Sale after Service on Sun. Nov 27th. As in the past, all donations of baked good would be gratefully accepted. There will be no set prices as everything will be able to be bought by free-will offering with all proceeds going towards defraying the cost fo rthe girls' anticipated trip to Canada's Wonderland in June 2012.

Another big piece of news, we will be having our annual Candlelight Vesper Service on Sunday Dec 5th @ 7:00 p.m. here at Westminster. The Service will be put on by Alumni from Westminster....we will be directed again by Lynn and Bev Carroll. I'm getting really excited about it!! Hope to see everyone there!!

Sharon Tinkess

7. *Acknowledgements*

On Behalf of Westminster Congregation,
We thank:

- The retiring elders for their dedication to Session and to the congregation over the many years of their participation in Session.

They are: Beth Cluff, Ernie Dance, Betty Guinn, Vince Gobuyan, Josiah Kitcher, Audrey Miller, and Ginny Thomson.

They have all contributed greatly to the well-being of Westminster and the ongoing efforts to do God's will here.

– Celia Firth and her convenors and their assistants for their dedication and work to make this year's Bazaar such an attractive and financial success.

– Everyone who contributed to the various tables by supplying goods for sale, by donations, or by attending the Bazaar and buying well. Thanks especially to Marg Jones who did most of the work in making the delicious meat pies which gave a wonderful aroma in the halls on that day.

– Bill Miller, who did his usual excellent job of organizing the set- up and tear-down of the tables, etc. etc.

Shirley

8. *Westminster Mission Team*:

Bill Rankin, Bill Miller, Dave & Heather Mansell, Bruce Thomson, Robyn Loughrey, Jean Lemoine, Sara Gordon, Judy Banks

One of our local mission projects is support of the Westboro Region Food Bank, an agency of the Ottawa Food Bank, located in the All Saints' Anglican Church at Richmond & Churchill. The Food Bank provides three days of emergency provisions once a month to people in need in our community. The service area is bounded by the Ottawa River (north), Dovercourt Avenue (south), Island Park Drive (east) and Broadview Avenue (west). On average, 230 to 250 people are helped.

At the moment, the shelves are fairly well stocked as a result of two recent, very successful food drives. A campaign in the local grocery store resulted in 1,000 items donated. A one day drive in a local high rise condominium gleaned 250 items and approximately $1,000 cash. However the need is rising and more support is always appreciated. Suggestions for you to help are:

Arrange (or provide a contact name) to organize a food donation blitz if you live in a high-rise building.
Donate cash: for purchase of perishable items such as bread. Special thanks are extended from the Food Bank to Bill Rankin who volunteers weekly to purchase these items.

Suggest to your loved ones that in lieu of a Christmas or birthday gift, they make a donation payable to the "All Saints Westboro-Food Bank".
Donate items: more expensive items such as canned fish or meat, peanut butter and canned fruit are requested.

A unique request is for sturdy, good quality can openers (costing more than a dollar!). We were advised that the Richmond Plaza Motel often shelters those in urgent need of housing. The rooms have small fridges and microwaves for preparing food provided by the Food Bank. However, the clients often have no supplies, so can openers are given out.

Non perishable food or can openers can be placed in the baskets located at either front entrance to the Westminster church building on any Sunday or whenever the church building is open.

Westminster's Care & Share Sundays are the 2nd Sunday of each month, when the items are blessed and then delivered to All Saints'.

Judy Banks

ANAMIEWIGUMMIG
Kenora Fellowship Centre

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations
Mark 11.17; Isaiah 56.7

CASH FOR CLOTHES

Clients at AKFC are in need of winter wear. Please remember them in your prayers and your support. Also—check out kenora fellowship centre on youtube (especially "bella singing").

Centre 507 (MacLeod/Stewarton Church). A very active group of people take care of the "street people". They have a new director. Our church members meet on the third Tuesday to make loaves of cheese sandwiches for them. We collect jeans, sweaters, winter jackets, shoes etc. Your help is always needed.

St. John's Anglican Church (Elgin Street). We collect and deliver women's clothing to their church. There is such a great need for this project.

All Saints Anglican Church. They collect children's and women's clothing. There is a great need for this project. Also canned goods are collected.

9. *Note from Audrey*:

I have an abundance of wool - all colours - all different plys for knitting. It is all free for the taking. Come to my house and choose what you would like.

Just recently elder Nancy Morrison led a small group on a" walk for hope" to raise awareness and funds to help the centre in its efforts to reduce their $113,000 shortfall.

Audrey

10. *Gravesites Available*

In 1997, two positions in a four-position gravesite in the St. James (Hull) Cemetery were donated by a member to the Erskine congregation. Lot 27, Section C.

These positions are available to any member wishing to make use of them. Anyone interested should be aware of a number of points before proceeding to seek permission to use them.

The Cemetery has been designated as a Heritage Site and therefore the City of Gatineau has to be consulted and its approval sought.

As at April 2011 the Cemetery appears to be owned or at least administered by the Ottawa Archdiocese of the Anglican Church (michael-herbert@ottawa.anglican.ca). However, the day-to-day supervision of the Cemetery is administered by Mr. Maxom (819-685-1925) who should be in a position to provide details of the procedure for processing a request to make use of the plots. It appears that the Archdiocese is endeavouring to pass "ownership" to the Université du Québec.

It is understood that two of the positions are already "occupied" and that another vertical tombstone will not be permitted, only a ground-level horizontal stone marker. The available positions may not be adjacent but on either side of the other two.

It is likely that there will be some financial cost to cover "perpetual care".

Westminster Trustees

11. *SPRING SALE CO-COORDINATOR*

Westminster needs to find a new co-coordinator for the Spring Sale, which is held in the first Saturday in June. There is a binder with a checklist of activities available so the new co-coordinator will know what is required to be done before and during the event.

If you wish to volunteer or need more information, please contact John Tyler at (613) (729-7854).

12. *House Exchange*

Paul Wieringa and his wife Ann are members of St. Andrews Presbyterian church, Duncan, B.C., which is Rev. Ball's home congregation.

They are looking to do a house exchange with someone in the Ottawa area for the month of July in 2012.

Their house is in British Columbia, on Vancouver Island. It has 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and ocean view.

If you are interested, please contact Ann and Paul at paul.wieringa@shaw.ca for more information.

Sara Wieringa

13. *Report from the Roll Clerk*

New Elders: New Friendships

As you know, seven elders have retired from the Westminster Session. They are: Beth Cluff, Ernie Dance, Vince Gobuyan, Betty Guinn, Josiah Kitcher, Audrey Miller, and Ginny Thomson. We are all grateful for their years of dedicated service to the Session of Westminster. In addition, Lynn Carroll is taking a year's absence from Session.

All this will, of course, require changes in the assignment of elders to members and adherents of Westminster. Therefore, if your elder is any of the above (except Ernie Dance who will continue as a visiting elder), you will not receive the usual Invitation to Communion for November 27, 2011.

The new elders will receive training in December and January or February, and should have their districts assigned before the Easter Sunday Communion. These new elders are: Susan Ambrose, Brenda Chapman, Geoffrey Domey, Carol Ann Joiner, David Kilgour, Robyn Loughrey, and Pacifique Siryuyumasi, who will all have been ordained by the time you are reading this.

Shirley Stubbs, Roll Clerk.

To: The Congregation of Westminster
Re: Transferred Erskine Assets & Distribution of Proceeds from Sale of the Erskine Building

Over many months the Session of elders has been in discussions with the Presbytery of Ottawa regarding the final distribution of transferred Erskine assets and the proceeds of the sale of the Erskine building. We had to take into consideration the plans and dreams of the congregation which were set out in our Mission plan (see attached) developed a few years ago, the expressed desires of the Erskine congregation before amalgamation regarding the uses of these proceeds, the rules and practice of the Presbyterian Church in Canada regarding such proceeds, the Presbytery of Ottawa's desires, and finally the oversight and comment by the P.C.C.'s Committee on the Assets of closed or amalgamated congregations. As you can imagine, this process has taken some time, but the final approvals have been put in place and through the spring the monies distributed. For your information the Erskine assets have been distributed as follows:

Sale of the Erskine Building:
Total value of the invested funds which arose from the sale as of March 31, 2011 is $1,163,534.02.

1. $116,354.00 (10 % of the total) to Presbyterian World Service and Development to support long term development work

2. $174,530.10 (15 % of the total) to the Presbytery of Ottawa to support church extension

3. $200,000 of the total to Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre

4. The remainder, $672,649.92, is given to Westminster so that we might follow up the mission strategy which had been developed and presented to the Presbytery of Ottawa. The value of these Erskine Building funds as of August 30, 2011 is $675,080.54

Other Transferred Erskine Assets:
Erskine transferred to Westminster, in December 2007 and January 2008, $13,394.17 in cash and investments with a market value of $175,997.75. In addition, in 2011, the Presbytery of Ottawa returned $16,290.09, being the balance of the funds which Erskine had provided to Presbytery for the maintenance of their building prior to its sale.

Since 2007, the Session of Westminster has approved certain expenditure from these funds including:

1. Legacy payments committed by Erskine Session:
   a. To School in Ghana for Bibles $3,057.00
   b. To Gloucester in lieu of moving sign $5,000.00

2. Other items:
   a. Pastoral Care services $14,645.60
   b. Expenses for Sunday at Gracefield $ 1,720.31

As of August 30, 2011 the balance in these accounts is $201,504.77

Report from the Session of Westminster

THE WESTMINSTER MISSION PLAN
(*approved November 29, 2009 at a Special Congregational Meeting*)

IT IS TIME TO IMPLEMENT THE VISION FOR THE CONGREGATION

Following the recommendations of the Westminster Development Strategy, the congregation developed and endorsed a Mission statement and encouraged all organizations in the congregation to give prayerful consideration for how their activities could reflect this Mission.

Westminster's Mission Statement
"We invite everyone to celebrate and reflect God's love,
encouraging one another
to grow in relationship with God
and service to others."

Westminster already has a vibrant program base with many dedicated and creative volunteers and leaders all of which needs to be expanded. Our society and the congregation have been changing as the baby boomer generation ages, young families face increasing pressures and new Canadians bring religious enthusiasm to their new country. Starting this fall, Session and the Finance and Maintenance Team will be meeting to discuss steps to start the implementation of this vision.

- **SPIRITUAL GROWTH PRIORITIES**

1. Through the strategy and consultation processes it was agreed that Westminster should focus their **spiritual program priorities for seniors and families** including programming for the adults, children and youth with regular intergenerational activities to encourage the building of the spiritual community ties. A secondary emphasis will be on building small cluster groups around common interests as resources allow.

2. **Pastoral Care** for the entire Westminster community is also a priority with an emphasis on the increasing senior and isolated individual component of both the congregation and the Westboro community.

3. **Outreach and Mission** projects already in progress have great support with a desire to strengthen those activities and increase the knowledge base and passion for action in the congregation and the community.

- **PROPOSED RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS IN SUPPORT OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Staffing/Program: To support the staff and program resources over the next five years for the growth plan to become self sustaining (*56% of the funding).*

1. **Pastoral Care and Program:** the equivalent of one full time staff is required to cover the program areas (seniors, families, adults, youth and pastoral care) with a combination of part-time or one full time staff.

2. **Administrative assistance:** is required support the increasing demands on the ministry and the increased program staff

3. **Custodial/handyman:** Doubling of the present custodial time is required due to the increased use of the building, the access and security challenges of the increasing senior representation in the congregational profile, the additional services required such as increased snow clearance and assistance on Sunday morning, and the ageing of the present volunteer base.

4. **Transportation assistance to allow seniors, the handicapped, youth, recent immigrants and others to participate more in the program:** Hiring transportation services on a regular basis will allow us to bring those who find it difficult to travel to worship and programs. This also recognizes that while Westminster is partly a neighbourhood church it also has a large catchment area.

Program support funding is required to provide supplies and resources to support the implementation of programs.

Physical Infrastructure: While there is some seed funding in the Capital Fund for improvements to the church structure, major resources are required to meet the ministry goals of the Congregation. Also there is an increasing need for life cycle replacements not met by the present donations to the Capital Fund. It was also a strong suggestion that any infrastructure funding consider a "green" approach wherever possible. *(44% of the funding)*

1. Capital Improvements: The most important support from the congregation was for access, safety and security for seniors and those with mobility issues who use the building. A major obstacle to access is the front entrance on Roosevelt Avenue which has a series of steep, narrow staircases both inside and outside the building. This is considered the most important infrastructure needing realignment. Other priorities are: audio visual equipment upgrades to meet the hearing and vision challenges of the ageing congregation coupled with the desire for modern communication resources to support Christian education; an improved front office; improved building security and a more visible sign.

2. Building Life Cycle Replacement: The Finance and Maintenance Team has prepared an excellent life cycle replacement plan for the next 75 years of the building. The present level of giving to the capital fund does not provide adequate funding to meet this maintenance plan. This infrastructure proposal will provide a supplement to the Capital Fund for the next five years to tackle such pressing needs as energy efficient windows and foundation repairs which are identified on the plan.

3. The congregation will be identifying smaller capital needs identified in the consultation process to be addressed by a reinvigoration of the Memorial Fund.