

Wespress for February 2016

This edition of Wespress contains information on the following subjects:

<u>1 Church Finances</u>	<u>3 Mission Team Updates</u>	<u>5 Acknowledgments</u>
<u>2 Books for Mission</u>	<u>4 Women's Bible Study</u>	<u>6 Welcome New Friends</u>
<u>Called to Wonder</u>	<u>From William's Desk</u>	<u>Events Calendar</u>

Coming Events

Saturday 27 Feb	08:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sunday 28 Feb	10:30 a.m.	Worship – Lunch – Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday 27 March	10:30 a.m.	Easter Sunday
Saturday 14 May	3:00 p.m.	Choir concert

1. Church Finances

Financial highlights for the period January 1, 2016 through January 31, 2016.

General Fund:

Income	\$12,913
Expenses	<u>\$23,024</u>
Difference	(\$10,112)

Capital Fund:

Income	\$ 750
Requirement	<u>\$1,750</u>
Difference	(\$1,000)

Offerings given for:

General Fund:	\$ 750
Capital Fund:	\$ 6,435
Presbyterians Sharing:	\$ 362
PWS&D:	\$ 230

Offerings given and funds raised for:

Kenora Fellowship:	\$ 0
Education Langhman Province:	\$ 20

David Wice

2. Books for Mission

Welcome to Westminster's "**Books for Mission**", formerly known as the "Kenora Fellowship Centre Booksale", located in the Lower Hall.

Books for Mission is an honour system book sale offering high-quality used books for about 10% of their original price. Fiction and non-fiction books by award-winning authors are added weekly as space permits.

All proceeds go towards Westminster's mission projects. Thanks to everyone who has purchased and donated books.

Book donations, consistent with the quality and condition of the works in the bookcase can be deposited in the box beside the bookcase. Please, no textbooks, magazines or encyclopedias.

Looking for a particular author or book genre, email us at BooksFM@bell.net

Debbie Jones Coordinator

A new Christian book store has come to Ottawa. The **Inspirational Value Centre** is now open in the former location of the Salem Bookstore at 1558 Merivale Road.

A recent conversation with the manager revealed that the **Inspirational Value Centre** opened before Christmas and due to the positive response, has extended the lease hoping that Ottawa will support a Christian book store. The internet is stiff competition.

The store is beautiful, offering the same quality bibles, books, gifts and music that the Salem

Bookstore provided. Also available are the boxes of cards for different occasions. One new feature is a wide assortment of discounted fiction books that are available for \$7.99 instead of the regular price of \$14.99 and higher. Buy 3, you get them for \$20.00.

Check it out soon! You can find them on the web www.inspirationalvaluecentre.com

Debbie Jones

Centre 507

On the third Tuesday of each month we make cheese sandwiches for the street people which go to Center 507 on Bank St. They also appreciate receiving warm gently used clothes such as jackets, pants, sweaters, socks, shoes, boots, mitts and toques etc. Please contact Bill and Audrey Miller and we will gladly receive them. We also appreciate cheques for the center 507. Make the cheques out Westminster church -cheese sandwiches and all that money will go to buying supplies for making the sandwiches in Westminster to be delivered to the center. If you would like to help us make cheese sandwiches; we meet in the lower hall the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

Audrey and Bill Miller

3. Mission Team Updates

KENORA FELLOWSHIP CENTER

The fund raising bookcase for the Center located in the lower hall is getting a new sign above and we hope to expand the size and selection soon. Our thanks to Debbie Jones who has been working on this project. We are also awaiting word from Kenora for more information on the roof repair.

AFGHANISTAN

According to Jeanine Cudmore at PWS&D the Maternal Newborn and Child Health Care project is still in the formative stages for the next phase. Discussions with the government in Afghanistan regarding budgets are being finalized. In her last email she wrote, ***“The girls education project is moving forward and activities are taking place.*”**

Girl students are participating in extracurricular skills based classes (i.e. art classes, embroidery, role playing, writing speeches). Girls in junior high and high school are attending summer camps to learn more about governance, human rights and gender to enable them to be active citizens. Teachers are participating in pedagogical and teaching methods workshops and master trainers are being trained to provide additional mentoring and support to teachers in their schools and to train them in improved teaching methods and participatory learning. Education and awareness-raising is happening in the communities to reach out to parents about the importance of educating their daughters and sons.”

The mission team is planning to have a brunch for the Afghanistan project soon. In addition, Jeanine has just returned from Nepal where she visited the area hit by the earthquake on April 25th, 2015.

The team hopes to have a speaker from PWS&D or International Ministries sometime this year.

CENTRE 507

Bill Miller reported that in 2015 \$325 was donated (in envelopes) in addition to bread, cheese, butter, etc. for the making of cheese sandwiches for the Centre. Many articles of clothing were also donated. Bill says that 507 is strictly a drop in Centre now and employees and services have been reduced due to government cutbacks.

PRESBYTERIAN SHARING

The goal for Presbyterian sharing national wide is \$7 million. Last year Westminster contributed \$24,000 for staff here in Canada and globally.

The Westminster Mission Team continues to support the sponsorship of the Syrian refugees here at our Church. We also have a new chairman. Bill Rankin has stepped down and Don Gibson was the unanimous choice as the new chairman.

4. Women’s Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will continue meeting on the 2nd Saturday of the month in the Ladies Parlour

from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. All women in the congregation are welcome & please feel free to invite a friend.

The topic for this season is Communication/Conflict.

Next meeting March 12, 2016;

Dealing with Conflict
Genesis 21:1-21 & Ephesians 4:17-32.

Meeting on April 9, 2016
Pulling Apart
Genesis 3:1-24 & Philippians 2:1-11.

Meeting on May 14, 2016
Pulling Together
John 4:7-30 & Ephesians 5:22-6:9.

The June 11th meeting will be breakfast at a local restaurant - place to be determined.

Debbie Chadsey

5. Acknowledgements

Greeters & Readers

Sincere appreciation is extended to the members and adherents who greet at the Sanctuary entrance on Sundays and at other services; and thank you Wendie McCaffrey and Krisztina Nagy who extend a warm welcome, every Sunday, to those who enter the Christian Education building.

Also, to those who read the lessons, thank you for participating in the service in this meaningful and relevant role.

B.J. Bone

The Ops/Planning Team would like to take this opportunity to thank Chico Wallis for his many years of dedicated and faithful service both on the Ops

Team and most particularly as editor of Wespress. He will be stepping down as Editor later this year. We would like to have the Congregation do some prayerful consideration as to whether this is a position you would like to pursue. Please take this opportunity to think about this important task—it is the hub of communication within the Congregation. Please contact Sharon Tinkess (sharonmcn@rogers.com) if interested.

Sharon ☺

6. "Welcome New Friends"

Congratulations Westminster! More than 50% of the pledge forms were returned by February 7th and continue to come in. It's not too late if you have yet to return your form. Forms can be returned to the office or placed in the box at the back of the sanctuary.

We are excited with the results and look forward to sharing them with you at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday February 28th.

"Welcome New Friends" Ad-hoc Committee

From the desk of William

Westminster is well into the Season of Lent. Along with the rest of the Church we prepare our hearts for struggles of Holy Week, the pain and suffering of Good Friday and the unlooked for joy of Easter.

Self-examination not easy for us. We often avoid turning the focus of our thought in upon ourselves, asking searching and difficult questions about who we are and what our faith is all about. We often find action more welcome - give us something to do and we'll do it.

In the deep of winter what drives us is the hope of spring. Hope is an important ingredient of Lent. What are your hopes when it comes to faith? What do you long for?

Fredrick Buechner offers the following thoughts on Hope.

"Ministers and congregation both, they came to church year after year, and who is to say how if at all their lives were changed as the result? If you'd stopped and asked them on any given Sunday, I suspect they would have said they weren't changed much. Yet they kept on coming anyway; and beneath all the lesser reasons they had for doing so, so far beneath that they themselves were only half aware of it, I think there was a deep reason, and if I could give only one word to characterize that reason, the word I would give is hope..."

*I think it is hope that lies at our hearts and hope that finally brings us all here. Hope that in spite of all the devastating evidence to the contrary, the ground we stand on is holy ground because Christ walked here and walks here still. Hope that we are known, each one of us, by name, and that out of the burning moments of our lives he will call us by our names to the lives he would have us live and the selves he would have us become. Hope that into the secret grief and pain and bewilderment of each of us and of our world he will come at last to heal and to save." ~ published in *Secrets in the Dark**

The grief and pain which Buechner mentions is connected to Jesus' suffering - his "Passion" - as it is called. But it is also our grief and pain and that of the whole world. It is that grief and pain from which we hid when we avoid self-examination. But we do have hope.

Hope that we are not alone; hope that even we are saved; hope that the Holy Spirit can transform us, change us and bless us. Learning spiritual practices during Lent is all about Hope, for they point us to God being with us and for us in Jesus.

Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus and fill us with your Hope.

Rev. William Ball