

Wespress for November 2015

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Coming Events (Advent Stations: 29 Nov, 6 Dec, 13 Dec and 20 Dec)

Sats Nov 14/21/28	10:00 a.m.	Come Sing Messiah rehearsals at Parkdale United Church
Wednesday 18 Nov	7:30 p.m.	Knox Presbyterian host a "Jesus, Jazz and Hope" concert
Saturday 21 Nov	10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Advent Retreat
Saturday 28 Nov	8:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Congregational Breakfast by Men's Group (see below)* Advent Party
Friday 4 Dec	6:00 p.m. rehearsal 8:00 p.m. performance	Come Sing Messiah at Dominion Chalmers
Wednesday 9 Dec	7:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas
Friday 11 Dec	Noon	Annual Congregational Christmas Lunch at Capone's SOLD OUT
Sunday 13 Dec	10:30 a.m.	Carols and Readings in many languages. Special Choir music
	3:00 p.m.	Welsh Society Carol Service – all welcome – freewill offering and refreshments
Sunday 20 Dec	10:30 a.m.	School Pageant "Happy Birthday Jesus" cake
Monday 21 Dec	Not known	Carolling with Scouts
Thursday 24 Dec	7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service Communion Service

- Breakfast – Everyone welcome (yes ladies also) Discussion of Syrian Refugee Crisis. If you wish to attend, please let Kathy in the Office know.

1. Church Finances

New Envelope Entries,

This is just a reminder of how to use the envelope lines for donations. Our envelopes have three lines, and they might be used thus:

124	JAN 16 2005	124
Westminster Presbyterian Church OTTAWA, ONTARIO		
CURRENT EXPENSES	-----	\$ 80.-
CAPITAL FUND	-----	\$ 40.-
SPECIAL	-----	\$
TOTAL		-----
		\$ 120.-
<i>"All things come of Thee O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee."</i>		

This will donate \$80 to the General Fund, to pay our day to day running expenses. It will also donate \$40 to the Capital Fund, which is used to make improvements and repairs to the structure of the church, as opposed to replacing renewables. We developed a 75 year maintenance plan and items in this plan are covered. This makes sure that we have a fund to cover large item expenses. Annualised and in fixed dollars, the Capital Fund will spend an average of \$21,000 per annum over the 75 years.

The third line of the envelopes is a line that you have to write in a destination for the contribution. The example below is a donation to PWS&D's general fund. This could also be done by not writing anything there, as if the reason is left blank, the donation is allocated to PWS&D.

124	FEB 20 2005	124
Westminster Presbyterian Church OTTAWA, ONTARIO		
CURRENT EXPENSES	-----	\$ 40.-
CAPITAL FUND	-----	\$ 40.-
SPECIAL	----- PWS&D	\$ 40.-
TOTAL		-----
		\$ 120.-
<i>"All things come of Thee O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee."</i>		

The "Special" line can be used for anything associated with General Fund or Capital Fund spending, such as Centre 507, Cheese Sandwich supplies or the Web site costs. It can also be used for specific requests within PWS&D, such as occurred with the Tsunami appeal. Note however that it can only be used to donate to registered charities if you wish your donation to be included on your tax receipt.

If you have any questions, or would like envelopes, feel free to call me (613 825-2337), or e-mail me at ian.firth@sympatico.ca

Ian (Acting Treasurer)

Financial highlights for the period January 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015.

General Fund:	
Income	\$165,709
Expenses	<u>\$217,341</u>
Difference	(\$ 51,632)

Capital Fund:	
Income	\$ 6,435
Requirement	<u>\$17,500</u>
Difference	(\$11,065)

Offerings given for:	
General Fund:	\$117,911
Capital Fund:	\$ 6,435
Presbyterians Sharing:	\$ 3,542
PWS&D:	\$ 3,665

Offerings given and funds raised for:	
Centre 507:	\$ 215
Kenora Fellowship:	\$ 1,844
Education Langhman Province:	\$ 1,362

David

Sanctuary Audio / Visual Update

On some Sundays we have integrated the monitors into our worship. The monitors are part of a four phase plan to install visual and upgrade audio in the Sanctuary. To keep cost down Finance and Maintenance is installing the equipment ourselves (except for electrical), reusing existing equipment

and purchasing refurbished demonstration equipment (when the delta in price warrants).

The four phases with budgetary pricing are:

1. Wiring \$3,000
2. Video \$9,000
3. A/V Station \$2,000
4. Audio \$4,000

Outline of the phases:

Wiring:

Install electrical outlet for the monitors and in the balcony of the A/V Station.

Run Cat6e in conduit from the wiring closet to the balcony termed with BIX on both ends.

Video:

Flush mount to the brick 80 inch monitors on both sides of the front of the sanctuary.

Mount a choir facing 40 inch monitor behind the organist.

A/V Station:

Install a locking server rack in the balcony.

Install computer with software to control the video.

Install hearing impaired transmitter in the station.

Audio:

Install a portable power mixer.

Install isolating headphones for the mixing board.

Move the existing amplifier to the A/V station.

Upgrade speakers.

Install microphones to pickup choir and congregation audio.

Install choir audio monitor.

Status:

Last winter eighty inch monitors were purchased on sale. In the spring members of Finance and Maintenance mounted the monitors in the Sanctuary. During the summer and fall wiring has been run. In the ceiling of the lower hall, if you look closely, you can see a grey conduit. It carries seven CAT6e cables which run from the from the wiring closet down to the kitchen through the lower hall, through the maintenance room and up into the narthex of the Sanctuary (behind the panelling) and then up to the balcony. The congregation facing monitors are wired through three CAT6e cables running under the platform between the lectern and the pulpit.

Currently when the monitors are used they are driven by a laptop computer connected via an

access point in the wiring closet. The next step is to assemble a server rack and terminate the wires so that control may be moved to the balcony making use the church's WIFI.

We do not have a forecast for when all phases will be completed. If you would like to help with the installation please contact

David Wice (613-831-1606).
Chairman Finance and Maintenance

2. Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study has resumed on the 2nd Saturday of the month from November 2015 to June 2016. The Theme for this series is Communication/Conflict. The leader uses a discussion guide from the Serendipity Bible. The group meets from 9:30 to 11:00 am in the Ladies' Parlour.

Dec 12/15 Power of Commitment
Matthew 1-1:18-25 & 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Jan 9/16 Power of Words
2 Samuel 6:1-23 & James 3:1-12

Feb 13/16 Acting on Impulse
Genesis 16:1-16 & James 43:1-12

March 12/16 Dealing with Conflict
Genesis 21:1-21 & Ephesians 4:17-31

April 9/16 Pulling Apart
Genesis 3:1-24 & Philippians 2:1-11

May 14/16 Pulling Together
John 4:7-30 & Ephesians 5:22-6:9

June 11/16 Breakfast together --
Place to be determined

Please join us and bring a friend. For further information contact Debbie Chadsey or church office

Debbie Chadsey

3. Westminster's Prayer Partner Program

The Prayer Partner Program at Westminster links our youth with a mature Christian adult. This adult

makes a one-year commitment to our youth that they will pray for that youth **every day**. That's it!

Fall Sale Coordinators

This is how it works:

We ask our youth in grades 7 to 12 (or up to age 19) if they would like to have an adult in our church pray for them **every day**. It is not a secret. The youth and the adult know about one another – sometimes they even request their own partners. They can chat with one another at our Fellowship Time after church to find out more about one another and be more specific in prayer. The primary goal is that a mature adult commits to the youth for one year to pray for them **every day**.

The response from our youth has been amazing. Having a significant Christian adult in their life not only encourages them in their Christian growth and development but also lets them know that they are a part of and belong to a wonderful Christian community. What a wonderful feeling to know that someone is thinking and praying for you **every day**! A prayer partner brings the power of God into another person's life in ways he or she may never know simply by praying.

If you would like to be a part of this program, please contact: Barb Gibson at bqgibson56@gmail.com or 613-725-1423.

4. BIG ART SALE and BAZAAR

A Retrospective

As the result of many hands working together Westminster held a successful BIG Art Sale and Bazaar on Saturday October 31st. Thank you to those who supported this event through prayer and participation.

Numbers:

- Volunteers enjoying fellowship: More than 40
- Neighbours reached out to: Hundreds
- Monies raised for Missions: \$675.85 (45% more than 2014)
- Monies raised for the General Fund: \$4,298.40 (54% more than 2014)
- Bottom line: We had fun and congratulations to the many hands.

4

With Appreciation,

John Tyler and David Wice

5. Center 507

As you get out your winter clothes, you need to think of those who are less fortunate than us, those who sleep on the streets of Ottawa.

One way that you can help the street people is to supply clean, gently used, warm clothing (jeans, sweaters, coats, mitts, socks, scarves, toques, underwear, backpacks, shoes, boots, etc.)

Westminster people make cheese sandwiches on the third Tuesday every month. Come and join us for the fellowship. If you can, bring a loaf of **white** bread and a package of **thick** cheese. If you cannot come and would like to participate you can give a donation through your church envelope, by marking the Special Line "Cheese Sandwiches" and the money will go to the purchasing of supplies.

The Mission Team again this year is promoting the filling of stockings for the street people and putting the stockings under the tree.

You buy a warm pair of stockings, then stuff them with as many items as possible (toothbrush, toothpaste, gum, comb, soap, shavers, and shaving supplies, hair brush, etc.) please tie the top of the stockings to keep in the items. If the stocking is for a female, tie the top with a pink ribbon and also one part way down the stocking.

Audrey and Bill Miller

6. CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

We've had a wonderful first few months to our Church School year. For the primary and junior children, we've been using the "Backward Design" curriculum that we started last year. This means that we focus on the "big ideas" of a story and spend 2-3 weeks on it at a time. So far this year, we've been working on the life of Moses. When he was a baby, we made his woven basket out of construction paper; we made the burning bush out of foam and we have been starting the 10 Commandments out of foam and paper. The children are learning through various methods: music, touch, craft and listening to the story.

The Nursery continues to grow by leaps and bounds. It is wonderful to see all the little ones heading off every Sunday. This means that in another year or so, our Church School class will be bursting at its seams! I can't wait!

The Youth class is under the wonderful guidance of Maureen Cleary. Maureen stepped in as a helper last year and has taken over from Christine this year. While we miss Christine and thank her for all her years of wonderful work with the Youth, we know they're in excellent hands with Maureen!

We are looking forward to a very active Advent and Christmas Season complete with pageant and a birthday cake for Jesus!

HONEYTHON:

This year marked the 43rd annual Honeython for CGIT Camp Kalalla. Again, the support from the members of our Westminster family was amazing! We sold **\$1156** worth of honey and honey products. It will be ready for pick up during Coffee Hour starting **Sunday Nov. 22nd** Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts!

7. CGIT 100th ANNIVERSARY TEA

A wonderful time was had by all who attended this wonderful event organized by our own Carol Ann Joiner and a group of helpers. It took place on Sat. Oct. 17th in the Gym and was attended by over 100 people, men, ladies, youth and babies! Some came from as far as England to attend! There were alumnae present from throughout Ontario and across Canada. We had women who had been in CGIT from as far back as the 1930s! and every decade onwards was well represented as well. There were a few instances of multi-generational families of alumnae in attendance.

The afternoon started off with a mingling time when people could get settled with their tea/coffee and goodies; they could see some of the memorabilia in the Lower hall and reconnect with long lost friends. Then there was a program of reflection on how CGIT was founded and how it has affected its members through their lives. We had speakers for each decade who did a little speech and then we sang a song from that decade. There was a chance for everyone to offer their own memories which will be collected and put into the Archives. People also

got to recognize their mentors and those that influenced them and helped them grow as the women God would have us be.

The next day, on Sunday Oct. 18th, we had a 100th Anniversary CGIT Service at Westminster that was again attended by many alumnae from far and wide. The reflection on how CGIT influenced our lives was given by Amberlee Gray-Henderson and Gillian Baker. Amberlee is an alumna of Westminster and Kanata and Gillian is an alumna of Woodroffe United. She is also the daughter and mother of CGIT Alumnae so she is part of one of the multi-generational families within the CGIT framework.

Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful event! The memories shared and made this weekend will last a lifetime!

Sharon

8. Worship Team News

The purpose of Westminster's Worship Team is to take a spiritual approach to special liturgical seasons, special services and innovative worship. Our team looks after supporting and planning of some worship services (including the greeters and readers each week), selection of banners, arranging for flowers in the church and preparations for our Communion services. There are currently 8 members on this team including our minister Rev Ball and it is co-chaired by Carol Ann Joiner and BettyJean Bone.

At our first meeting this fall, Rev Ball discussed the nature of worship and how it is like a drama. He asked us the following questions: Who is the audience in worship? Who are the actors in worship? Most would say that the congregation is the audience, and the minister is the actor. The minister is an actor in one way as well as the scripture readers or anyone else who takes some leadership in the service. The organist and the choir are actors and performers in some ways too. But really God is the Actor (capital A) for God is the Source of our worship. We worship only because God gives us ability.

Similarly, the congregation is like an audience in some respects. We listen like an audience and in our sanctuary we are positioned and are seated like an audience. But when we really consider it, isn't God the true Audience in our worship? Our worship is rightly directed when it is to God's great glory, not to our own.

We were asked to consider that God is really both the Actor and the Audience of our worship. We are just caught up in the creative work of God.

As a group we asked ourselves what we value in worship and these were some of our ideas:

- A sacred space
- Quietness (feeling of 'worship') at the beginning of church
- Bible Entry with the Bible open (bringing the word of God into the church) and carrying it in/out *with reverence*
- Message from the Pastor
- Cohesiveness to the service
- Participation i.e. unison prayers, music

We would love to hear what you value in worship too. Let us know 😊

We are considering the upcoming special worship services (Advent & Christmas) and will be focusing on preparing our worship space (sanctuary) visually for these occasions. As we move into the Advent Season, you will notice that we will be adding in a few more visual elements each Sunday starting with decorating the sanctuary at our Advent party on November 28th. Please come and join us as we begin to prepare the church and the sanctuary for the coming of the Christ Child.

Carol Ann Joiner & BettyJean Bone

9. From Faye and Wayne

Faye and Wayne wish to send Greetings from Florida to all their Westminster friends. We think of you often while we are swimming in our backyard pool.

First we would like to apologize for taking summer with us, when we left Ottawa. It is our understanding that the weather has taken a somewhat downward drop and we sympathize greatly in our overbearing 85 degrees weather.

As some of you know, before leaving we did a short video that involved the participation of various members of the Westminster Presbyterian church. This article includes links to the five (5) minute video that you should be able to download and enjoy. A movie highlight, not to be missed, is seeing our William preaching "**Fire and Brimstone**".

The links are for both Windows computers (windows media player) and Macintosh computers (Quicktime). The video is under 5 minutes and the download is quite quick.

For Macintosh computers use the Quicktime version – Cmd + click ☐
https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_GEZmeUmR06ekZ3N05ITFpkeDA

For Windows computers use the WMV version – Ctrl + click ☐
https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_GEZmeUmR06RGpRSzRyY2ZBYzA

On the internet page that appears, you can play the video immediately, although it may take a minute or two to load depending on the speed of your computer.

Oops, Faye is calling me back to the pool. Got to go. See you all early next year.

Once again, thank you for your help with the filming. Enjoy our video '**Cell Phone Obsession**'.

May God Bless You All.

Faye and Wayne Schaler

10. CARDS of ALL KINDS –

I have cards - many cards. So should you know someone from Westminster who is ill or who has missed several Sundays, please let me know. I would love to send them a 'thinking of you' card on behalf of us at Westminster.

bibone03@yahoo.ca; 613-721-5536)

11. Congratulations



Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre Honours James Williams at their 2015 Gala!

James is awarded The Staff of the Summer Award!!

James Williams is currently a university student and his family has lots of history and connections with Gracefield and with Westminster Presbyterian Church. James has been a camper, participated in the LIT program and has held staff positions at Gracefield. This past summer he was hired early in the 2015 season for the Leader in Training Director position. Unfortunately there were no LIT registrations this summer. In honouring its commitment to hiring James, he was willing to be flexible and work as program director assistant and he also filled in the gap as one more male counselor.

James stepped in with **grace, love and respect**. He placed the needs and intent of the camp ministry to the kids, other staff and volunteers as first priority. He did so with a fabulous refreshing dry sense of humor☺

In James' performance review he exceeded his supervisors' expectations in all areas. He demonstrated being a very natural manager. He has a great way of identifying needs and/or concerns and moving in, in a constructive supportive role. If someone did not feel well equipped for the task at hand, he would help equip them. James interacted with ease, managed with excellence and directed others with clarity and a 'matter of fact' attitude. James just kept showing up where there were needs and would quietly and unassumingly take care of them. Gracefield is so very thankful for James!

Congratulations James! From your Westminster family!

12. Marina's Notes

Seniors' Fellowship

The Seniors' Fellowship started on Tuesday September 15th. We have had three meetings. The first two concentrated on fellowship and making a decision on what to call ourselves. We chose the name Seniors' Fellowship—an easy to remember reflection of who we are.

We meet every third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 in the parlour. We meet approximately two hours with a flexible stop time depending on the topic and people's needs.

On November 17th we had Stephanie Burns, the Staff Sergeant in charge of fraud speak to us. She was entertaining and provided us with a number of examples of ongoing fraud and ways to be vigilant.

Lezlie Wood is looking into a Christmas outing for the December meeting.

All seniors (over 55 or feeling like a senior!) welcome!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Sherry Goldsmith for the cookies she bakes for our meeting.

Advent: a time of waiting

Advent Stations will be set up again this year. You can find the station, which changes each week of advent, in the Christian Education wing. The meditations are as follows:

Advent 1: Waiting for Morning (Matthew 25:44)

Advent 2: Vision of Possibility (Isaiah 11:1, 6)

Advent 3: Beginnings of a New Thing (Isaiah 35:1-2)

Advent 4: Ripeness of Time (Matthew 1:20)

There will be an advent station set up for the young children on the third floor in the hallway so that both the Sunday school and preschool children can enjoy it.

There is a prayer pertaining to advent placed on the website for each week in advent.

Personal Preparation for Advent

5 Questions to Ask Yourself

1. Why do I need a savior? Which areas of darkness are in need of light?
2. Why does the world need a savior? Which places of darkness are in need of light?
3. Which areas of my life require patience, waiting, and anticipation...and what can Advent teach me about perseverance in those areas?
4. How can I prepare myself, my home, and my family for the arrival of Jesus?
5. How can I create little pockets of peace during the busy holiday season?

(from <http://rachelheldevans.com/blog/28-ideas-advent>)

Websites or Books that you may find of interest for Advent

http://wp.henrinouwen.org/rgroup_blog/

<http://www.aholyexperience.com/category/christmas/>

<http://rachelheldevans.com/blog/28-ideas-advent>

<http://prayingincolor.com/tag/advent-calendar>

Inner Voice of Love: A Journey through Anguish to Freedom by Henri Nouwen

The Greatest Gift by Ann Voskamp

The Bible: Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2

Blue Christmas

The Blue Christmas is a service for all those who struggle this time of year—with the loss of a loved one through death or a broken relationship, difficulties with employment or illness, depression and any of the many frustrations that seem to magnify at this time of year.

A Blue Christmas service may also be used as a breather, a place and time to experience some peace from the hectic busyness and relentless advertising of the market place.

The Blue Christmas will be on Wednesday December 9th at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will be a time to reflect on the hope of the Christmas story, a time to listen to music, light a candle, share a cup of coffee.

Please invite anyone you know that could benefit from this. There are invitational letters in the back of the sanctuary and on the bulletin board in the back hall. Please take as needed.

There will be a service similar to the Blue Christmas called the **Hope and Light service**, on **January 20th** at 7 p.m. for all who find that their mood darkens as the winter deepens.

If you are looking for further resources for advent or would like to discuss any of the questions above please call or email me. I would love to hear from you.

Marina Dykstra, Spiritual Growth Worker

For the latest PWSDevelopment quarterly newsletter, go to:

<http://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/2015/10/29/pwsdevelopments-2015-issue-4-the-power-of-education/>

