

Wespress for August 2014

This edition of Wespress contains information on the following subjects:

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| 1. Memorial Fund | 4 Sandwiches. | 7. Choir Members |
| 2. Obituaries | 5. Church School News | 8. Finances |
| 3. Girls in Afghanistan | 6. Rain Barrels | 9. Marina's Column |

Coming Events

Thursday	4 Sept	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practices resume
Sunday	9 Nov	10:30 a.m.	Remembrance Day Service
Sats	15/22/29 Nov	10:00 a.m.	Come Sing Messiah practices)
Friday	5 Dec		Come Sing Messiah performance) If interested see Alan
Sat/Sun	13/14 Dec		Capital City Chorus)
Sunday	14 Dec	10:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Special Choir Music Welsh Society Carols (time subject to confirmation)
Sunday	22 Feb 15	10:30 a.m.	Congregational General Meeting

1. MEMORIAL FUND

The Westminster Church Memorial Fund provides an opportunity to honour the memory of a loved one and to enrich the life of the congregation. At the front of the sanctuary, you can find the names of those honoured in the Memorial Book.

The funds are used for special purposes at the discretion of Session, and the criteria used by Session are available from the church office. In the recent past, these funds have been used to help youth from our congregation attend Christian camp and to buy large print hymn books.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the memorial fund, please feel free to contact

Robyn Loughrey.

2. OBITUARIES

We remember, with a very large sense of loss, Eileen MacMillan for whom a funeral service was held at the church on 1 August 2014.

The MacMillan Family expressed their gratitude to everyone for their contributions and assistance at the reception following Eileen's service. .

Last Friday was a team effort which should be recognized I am grateful for the food contributions, preparing the plates of sandwiches, fruit, desserts, making coffee and tea, setting up and/or taking down the reception room, washing dishes and putting them away, distributing very few left overs. Thank you: Margaret Jones, Shelva Johnston, Phyllis Vaughn, Wendie McCaffrey, Audrey and Bill Miller, Margaret and Bruce Quinney, Glenn & Lynn Carroll, Debbie Chadsey, Beth Cluff, Ian and Celia Firth, Jean Gard, Heather McCurdie, Ernie and Marlene Dance, Shirley Stubbs, Ginny and Bruce Thomson, Chico Wallis, Angela Romany.

Betty Jean

McKAY, Harold David Hodgins February 26, 1924 - July 5, 2014 Passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family at the Queensway Carleton Hospital on July 5, 2014. He will be missed by the love of his life and best friend, his wife of 61 years, Shirley (nee Myers), his children David (Vicki Larsen), Scott (DJ McDonald), Janet Saunders (Brian) and his pride, joy, and the lifeblood of his existence, his grandchildren, Matthew and Jeffrey McKay, Gillian McDonald, Michael and Brianna Saunders. Harold was retired from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. He was a long-time elder of Erskine Presbyterian Church and sixty years a Freemason with the Builders Lodge. Special thanks for five years of terrific service from Bayshore Health Care Providers and to the staff of Peter D. Clarke for the wonderful care provided in the last six months. Visitation was held at the Pinecrest Visitation Centre, 2500 Baseline Road on Tuesday, July 8. A Funeral Service was held in the Pinecrest Chapel on Wednesday, July 9 at 11 a.m. A Private Burial was held at the Huntley Presbyterian Cemetery. Donations may be made to the University of Ottawa Heart Institute or the Parkinson's Society. (Online condolences may be possible at www.colefuneralservices.com?)

Memories of Doreen McDougall

Carol Ann has kindly provided the full text of her remarks to the congregation concerning her memories of Doreen. Anyone who wishes to have a copy should contact me and I will provide a print-out. Those who receive Wespress electronically should get an attachment with the text.

Chico.

3. **GIRLS' EDUCATION IN AFGHANISTAN**

Girls in Afghanistan dream of becoming doctors, teachers and engineers, but despite having big aspirations for the future, many will never see the inside of a classroom. For far too many girls, attaining an education is considered a privilege and not a right. PWS&D is working with local partner Church World Service – Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) to overcome barriers to girls' education and get more girls into the classroom.

In a country, where 50% of the population are youth and only 18% of girls are literate, investing in education is crucial for the future of Afghanistan. Support for PWS&D's girls' education program provides girls with an opportunity to realize their dreams and learn the skills they need to one day

obtain employment, overcome poverty and contribute to the peaceful development of their country's future. For poor families, the cost of sending their daughters to school is often a challenge. By providing girls with school supplies, education is more accessible and children have the materials they need to succeed in school. Old school buildings, damaged from years of war, have been repaired and barrier walls constructed to ensure safety. Through training workshops, male and female teachers learn about child psychology, child rights, gender and peace education in order to foster a nurturing learning environment for female students. Local partners work to raise awareness about the importance of girls' education among parents, community members and religious leaders (*shura*) to encourage increased enrolment, foster positive social change and create a sense of ownership over the program. Community awareness sessions educate community members about the importance of girl's education, while parent-teacher committees work in the community to actively encourage parents to allow their daughters to go to school. Shanez, a leader of a parent-teacher committee in one of Laghman's schools says, "Before this program, we did not allow our girls to get an education. But now we agree with the need for an education." Liluma, headmistress of Qarghai Girls' School has also noticed the positive impact of the program—enrolment at her school has increased by over 150 girls. "The increase of girls coming to school is because of acquired awareness, and the parent-teacher committees going door-to-door to solve problems that cause restrictions for girls." She adds, "All of this is making a difference in Afghanistan."

Through your generous support of PWS&D, together we are helping girls in Afghanistan receive an education that could one day transform the future of their country. Below are examples of how your gifts are shared:

\$7 provides one girl with a school bag and supplies

\$43 enables a child to attend a 3-day summer camp with a focus on peace building and conflict resolution

\$130 trains one teacher how to improve the quality of education for female students

\$345 teaches *shura* in one community about the importance of girls' education

4. CHEESE SANDWICHES

We are still making cheese sandwiches, after 21 years! We welcome you to join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month between 6:30 & 7:00 p.m. It is a time for good fellowship. We need thick cheese slices, white bread, margarine and/or small sandwich bags. You can also give a financial donation through your envelope. Please mark the special line on your envelope for **cheese sandwiches**.

Center 507 are so very thankful for all our monthly support of the cheese sandwiches, men's and women's good clean clothing (i.e.) coats, pants, sweaters, T-shirts, socks, and underwear.

We also enjoy some more fellowship afterwards at Tim Hortons.

5. CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

As I write this, I'm finding it hard to believe that August is half over! I hope that everyone has been having an amazing relaxing and rejuvenating summer. With the ending of summer it means that school and Church School are just around the corner. Our annual Rally Sunday will be on Sunday, Sept. 7th. We will be having a sub lunch in the Gym after our All Ages Service. In the Service all Leaders and Volunteers from all areas of the life of the Church will be dedicated to service. Please remember to bring your favourite sandwich filling to church on the 7th. We will supply buns, bread, condiments and drinks.

We will be using the Spark Bibles again this year but will be changing the curriculum slightly. We will be using a "backwards learning" curriculum. This means that we will be focussing on one story per month and looking at it in various ways. We will be using crafts, games, music and our Bibles to explore these stories.

Again this year we are blessed to have Debbie Chadsey organizing a wonderful group of volunteers in the Nursery and Christine Ball working with our active Youth Group. We are in need of some volunteers for the primary/junior age groups as, after many years of teaching, Heather Mansell is stepping back from an active role in the primary class. Please pray about this need and if you can join us, please speak with Sharon, Debbie, or Rev. Ball.

The registration form for the families is available online on the church website, mywestminster.ca. Some of the events that are being planned for the year include, Christmas music, drama and crafts; baking; learning some exciting music to be performed in the All-Ages Services throughout the year; and of course, learning about the love our Saviour Jesus Christ has for us through the stories found in the Bible.

One last little reminder: Don't forget the annual Gracefield Service on Sunday, Aug. 24th. The bus will be leaving Westminster at 9:00 a.m. SHARP. There is no charge for the bus, but a freewill offering is suggested to help defray the cost of the lunch that will be provided. After lunch there will be time for various activities. Please plan on being part of this wonderful Service held in a wonderful location.

See you all at Gracefield on the 24th and at Church on the 7th!!

Sharon Tinkess

6. WATER BARRELS

The results are finally in! Our rain barrel, accessories and planter sale raised \$315.00 !!!

Some people scooped up some real bargains. The flower pots we sold for twenty dollars were available locally at a home and garden centre for twenty nine dollars. An immediate savings of nine dollars.

A HUGE "Thank You!" to all who purchased!

- Bill Henderson

7. CHOIR MEMBERS

How many of you can go back 50 years with Westminster? Well, we give thanks to four members of the choir who have been with us for that period of time! Congratulations to the Quinneys (both of them), Ernie Dance and Jean Gard. Our grateful thanks to the four of you for your dedication.

8. CHURCH FINANCES

Financial highlights for period 1 Jan to 30 June, 2014

Funds:	<u>General</u>	<u>Capital</u>
Income	\$116,010	\$5,325
Expenses	129,200	0
Difference	(\$ 13,190)	\$5,325

Offerings given for:

General Fund:	\$76,269
Capital Fund:	\$ 5,325
Presbyterians Sharing:	\$ 1,225
PWS&D:	\$ 1,044

Offerings given and funds raised for:

Centre 507:	\$ 105
Kenora Fellowship:	\$ 435
Education Langhman Province:	\$ 1,044

9. FROM THE DESK OF A SPIRITUAL GROWTH WORKER

It seems I have spent most of my summer pondering about growth and story. Thankfully I have a job where some of that is needed.

In our world today there is an emphasis on story. We are encouraged to listen to the story of another to really understand. We are encouraged to tell and own our stories. There are short stories and there are stories that go back generations. There are church stories, faith stories, spiritual stories, funny stories and very sad stories.

I always thought of my faith story as rather ho-hum. Nothing to write home about, not one to brag about. Surely not one that I would use to evangelize with. Not that I wanted to evangelize anyway. (Which might not be the attitude you want in a spiritual growth worker; we will leave that discussion for another time.)

And yet as I have pondered this summer I realize that stories shape our lives. Here are some of the ways story has been part of my life this summer.

My friends telling me how *The Flying Troutmans* by Miriam Toews made them laugh, cry and think led me to read the book and repeat their story.

A pastor speaking about the grief following the death of his wife helps me to begin to tell of some of the grief (such as walking alongside aging parents) accumulating in my life. "You tell the story," he said. "You tell the story in words, you

speaking it, you write it in a journal, you draw it, and you express it in tears, in rage, in movement. You tell God and you tell people. Sometimes you need to tell the story over and over until it becomes integrated."

Coming across the symbol of the burning bush in Presbyterian literature frequently this summer leads me back to the story of Moses and his experience of standing on holy ground. And I ponder if I have ever stood on holy ground, when and where and did I notice.

The story of the weather is a constant one in my home as weather affects our business. I often hear the words, "Not bad for a rain day!" meaning the forecast was wrong, it didn't rain and we got work done.

My three year old grandson says, "Tell me the story of the man who walked the other way." My husband is surprised when I turn to the story of Jonah. I have read this story so often this summer I have looked at areas in my life where I have walked the other way and the effects that has had.

What stories have happened in your life this summer? What is the story you tell? What is the story you need to tell? How do you want to tell it?

I look to September as the New Year of church. A time of hope for further growth in love for God and church family and the neighbourhood. A time to ponder on the story of faith, the story of Westminster, the story of our walk with God.

Come and join us for a small group, a potluck, a time of prayer in the sanctuary, a time of exploring how we become involved in the neighbourhood. Come and share in the ongoing life of Westminster.

Westminster Fall Art Spectacular and Bazaar

It's fall and time for the Westminster Big Art Sale and Bazaar on Saturday, October 25th 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Getting ready for Christmas or decorating your home: Buy all types of art and decoration, baking for entertaining family and friends, Heather's gift baskets or Lady's Jewellery & Accessories, and sit down in our cafe for a refreshing morning pause and a visit with friends.

There is a change in format this year and the focus of the sale will be a BIG art show. Deborah Lyall, Barbara Carlson and John Benn have come together after years of friendship to showcase their artwork that, while distinct in their styles and media, share two important commonalities: local content and accessibility.

“Our thing is to have art that’s affordable for the everyday person to buy. It’s kind of like recessionizing the way that you sell art, to have it more accessible to people who are on budget,” explained artist Lyall, who creates vintage fashion-inspired graphics working from old Ottawa Citizen catalogues, advertisements and photos.

Carlson spends her time extrapolating fun and whimsical creatures, objects and fashion pieces out the junk she finds on the ground around Ottawa. Objects are scanned into their digital form, where she then works them into animated drawings from her very unique imagination.

Carlson’s husband, John Benn, is perhaps the most traditional of the three, creating ‘plein air’ oil paintings of various landscapes and scenes found in Ottawa South. Plein air painting sounds just like what it is: the artist takes his materials, sits outside in the elements and paints the scene in front of him from start to finish.

We welcome ideas for a new kiosk you might want to organize? Please send your ideas or proposals to Mary Ann Tyler or Laura Kilgour.

Success of this fall event depends on YOU...Please support by contributing, volunteering, publicizing, attending, buying and bringing your friends. **We need contributions of all kinds of baking as well as muffins or other goodies for the cafe and jewellery or ladies accessories for the Boutique.** More information and the names of kiosk coordinators will be coming soon.

Memories of Doreen McDougall - Stepping Forward

Two weeks ago, in Toronto, at the National Women's Gathering for Presbyterian Women, I accepted the Woman of Faith Award on behalf of Doreen McDougall and her family. I was honoured and pleased to be asked to do so. As many of you are aware, Doreen passed away last November just 5 months after her husband Jim. Their 2 children, Rob & Lee-Anne were unable to make the trip themselves as it was the same weekend that they were celebrating Rob's wedding.

A year ago, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Women's Missionary Society and the Order of Diaconal Ministries announced they were establishing a Woman of Faith Award to recognize the courageous and faithful work of women within our churches.

Thirty-two nominations were received from across Canada. Because 2014 is the inaugural of the Award, the committee felt it was appropriate to honour more than one woman. They presented six Awards this year. The six women are:

- Dr. Pauline Brown, India/Canada (missionary originally from St Giles Ottawa)
- Mrs. Helen Macdonald, St. Andrew's Pres. Church Orillia, Ontario
- Rev. Helen Smith, Centennial Pres. Church, Calgary, Alberta
- Dr. Margaret Taylor, St. Andrew's Pres. Church, Kitchener, Ontario

Posthumously:

- Dr. Lois Klempa, Beaconsfield, Quebec
- Mrs. Doreen McDougall, Westminster Pres. Church, Ottawa, Ontario

Like many women of faith in the Presbyterian Church, Doreen has supported people around her with strength, patience, integrity, common sense and compassion. However, Doreen stands out to our congregation because of her remarkable ability to recognize the strengths of others and help them find their way.

Doreen long had a leading role at Erskine church and people trusted her. In fact, they relied on her, and looked to her for guidance. When Erskine began to struggle with declining membership, Doreen was part of a group that wrestled with the question "how does God want this ministry to continue?" The closing of a church building is a painful process, and while Doreen must have been having difficulties herself, she is remembered by all who know her as the one who supported the people of Erskine during their process of letting go and grief.

The members of Erskine were family: they had met and married spouses there; they had raised their children there; they were one another's closest friends. Yet Doreen helped those who moved to another church building recognize that moving is not a negation of what Erskine has been or of what they had accomplished. For the good of the congregation, Doreen focussed the transition plan and amalgamation with Westminster on relationships rather than on buildings.

To her great credit, Doreen joined the Session of Elders at Westminster Church, with the care of the "Erskine people" uppermost in her mind. She was faithful in speaking for those who has recently amalgamated with Westminster, and made sure to look after their needs. As Doreen was so committed to looking after the pastoral concerns of others, she worked hard to make sure that their needs were met, and served as an important guide for the Pastoral Care Team. She was equally sensitive to the needs of people in Westminster, and provided direction throughout the amalgamation

process. In short, she brought two church families together.

Two years ago, due to ill health & aging needs, Doreen & Jim downsized their home and moved to Stittsville to be closer to their family. About a year ago Doreen decided it was more practical for her to move her membership to St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Stittsville as that was where she was attending more regularly. Within the short time that Doreen attended St. Andrews, she became very aware of the needs within the church and started to support this community too! The physical layout of the building was not fully accessible for all and thus denied many from coming together to worship. Doreen told me she witnessed many faithful congregants who would take up to 10-15 mins to walk up the few steps into the church after leaving their walkers at the bottom step. They were so determined to be in community and worship.

There is a \$500 financial gift from the Woman of Faith Award that will be given on behalf of Doreen to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Stittsville to go towards their building fund to make the church accessible for all.

Doreen never stopped caring for & supporting her community. Despite grieving the loss of her beloved husband of 54 years and battling her own cancer, she continued to give and support 'church' wherever she was 😊

Doreen's faith allowed her to approach situations with calm, listen to many perspectives, maintain her own strong convictions, and give selflessly to those around her. Two themes emerge when people are asked about Doreen's ministry to Christ: leadership during the amalgamation of two congregations and pastoral care.

When I first mentioned to Doreen that we wanted to nominate her for the Woman of Faith Award she was very reluctant. I think today she would be honoured and quite humbled to be recognized. She certainly agreed that she was a faithful person and that she had a strong relationship with her God, but she did not believe her life was extraordinary in any way. For her, this was simply the way Christian women led their lives.

As James 1:22 says: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only", Doreen put her faith in ACTION. She was not a Sunday morning Christian. She was faithful 24/7: in her career (working outside the home), in her family life (raising 2 kids, cottage-ing, and on a bowling league) and in her church communities (CGIT Committee, Church life and the Ottawa Presbytery committees). Doreen always responded to the call – to help out wherever & whenever there was a need, especially to teach/support children & youth.

Doreen has been a witness to Christ's gospel all her life. She talks about the wonderful roles models, like Jean Philips, who mentored her as a young woman, and strengthened her commitment to God's work. It was through her own mentors that she has been able to "pay it forward", sharing her gift of leadership and becoming a mentor herself. Through her work within the church, her leadership during church amalgamation and her pastoral care, Doreen has been an inspiration and comfort. She has shown the selflessness that faith demands of us.

In my acceptance speech at the awards ceremony, I started by saying these 8 simple but powerful words: Cherish health Seek truth Know God Serve others

If you recognize these 8 words, then you know about CGIT or better yet you are CGIT alumni. The CGIT program is based on the scripture reading Luke 2:52. As Doreen physically grew into a woman, she also grew faithfully into the woman that God would have her be. Canadian Girls In Training was one of the cornerstones that started Doreen on her faith journey as a young girl and teen. And it is through CGIT and the Presbyterian Church that Doreen's family and our family have had a lifelong

connection.

I also said that night; that I believe, if Doreen were here, she would say this award is not hers alone, but rather it should be shared with those women who nurtured, guided and supported her as she grew. To her own mother, who set such a great and faithful example for her as a young child. For her Sunday school teachers and her CGIT leaders as well as the many other strong and faithful women around her who mentored her.

Doreen might also say this award is for all the women in our church today who continue to lead, teach, inspire and mentor here and within our communities despite the current demands on this generation of working outside the home and raising families. These women make their faith and church life a priority.

And she might even say this award is for all the young children and teens that are watching us today with hopeful eyes and who will be the compassionate leaders within our churches for the tomorrows yet to come.

Doreen told me that she was able to willingly and faithfully give back **only** what had been given to her. And that is why I am able to stand here today, because she has been one of my many mentors. When I think of Doreen, I do not think of the long list of titles she accumulated nor all her accomplishments, rather I think of a woman whose strong faith has brought me along in mine. Doreen was indeed a woman of faith.