

Month	Congregation/Sunday	Team events	Other
<b>September</b>	Sept 7: Rally Sunday Sept 14: S/S starts	Sept 29 10-11 am: weekly Bible study group starts	
<b>October</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>October 12/13</i>	Oct 5: Communion & dedication of Murals Oct 12: All Ages Worship	Oct 6,20,27 10-11am weekly Bible study group Oct 25: ART Show and Bazaar	CGIT HONEY SALES
<b>November</b>	Nov 9: Remembrance Service November 30: Communion	Nov 3,10,17 & 24 10-11 am: weekly Bible study group Nov 5: WesPress Deadline Nov 8: Women's Bible Study Nov 29: advent activity for all	Nov 8, 5:30: <i>Gracefield in the City</i> at Gloucester Presbyterian Church Nov 22: <i>Roots &amp; Wings</i> , Presbytery Conference at Trinity, Kanata
<b>December</b> <i>Christmas</i> <i>(Thursday)</i>	Dec 7: All Ages Active Service Dec 14: Choir church service: Dec 21: Birthday Cake & lunch Dec 24: evening services (7 & 9)	Dec 12: Christmas lunch (Caponos) Dec 13: Women's Bible Study	Dec 14: 3PM Welsh Carol Service
<b>January</b>		Jan 10: Women's Bible Study	Jan 30 - Feb 1: Women's Gracefield weekend
<b>February</b>	Feb 1: Communion Feb 22: AGM	Feb 14: Women's Bible Study  Mid-Feb: WesPress deadline	
<b>March</b> <i>Mar 16-20 March Break</i>	Mar 29: Palm Sunday - all ages active service	Mar 14: Women's Bible Study	Mar 1: 3PM Welsh Hymn Sing
<b>April</b> <i>Easter</i> <i>April 5</i>	Anniversary Sunday Apr 3: Good Fri & Communion Apr 5: Easter & Communion	Apr 11: Women's Bible Study Apr Thurs 2 & Fri 3: Maundy Thurs & Youth Easter Vigil	April 11: evening Spring Concert Choir with young strings
<b>May</b> <i>Mother's Day May 10</i>	May 10: Christian Family Sunday - all ages service May 24: Pentecost	May 9: Women's Bible Study Mid-May: WesPress deadline	May 2: All Saints Westboro interfaith choral festival
<b>June</b> <i>Father's Day</i> <i>June 21</i>	June 7: Communion June 14: end of classes - all ages service June 21: Strawberry shortcake Gracefield fundraiser	June: Spring Sale June 13: Women's Bible Study	
<b>July</b>		Summer cell groups	Gracefield Camps and LIT
<b>August</b>	Aug 23: Gracefield Service	Mid-August: WesPress deadline Aug 21-23: Gracefield Weekend	

# Wespress for November 2014

This edition of Wespress contains information on the following subjects:

1. All ages Advent Party	6. Center 507	11. Men's Breakfast
2. Advent Prayer Stations	7. Care and Share	12. Church School News
3. Blue Christmas Service	8. Women's Bible Study	13. Finances
4. Looking for.....	9. Happy Notes	14. Update (Kenora Fellowship Center)
5. Westminster Christmas Appeal	10. Big Art Sale and Bazaar	15. Acknowledgements

## Coming Events

Saturday	29 Nov	4:00 to 7:00	Advent Party in Lower Hall
Friday	28 Nov	8:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast (date subject to confirmation that it is NOT Saturday as in the past)
Sats	15/22/29 Nov	10:00 a.m.	Come Sing Messiah practices ) If interested see Alan
Sunday	30 Nov	10:30 a.m.	<b>Communion</b>
Friday	5 Dec	evening	Come Sing Messiah performance ) If interested see Alan
Friday	12 Dec	Noon	Congregational Christmas Luncheon at Capone's
Sat/Sun	13/14 Dec		Capital City Chorus ) If interested see Alan
Sunday	14 Dec	10:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Special Choir Music Welsh Society Carols (time subject to confirmation)
Sunday	21 Dec	After service	Pot Luck Luncheon and birthday cake
t.b.a.		Evening	Blue Christmas service
Sunday	22 Feb 15	10:30 a.m.	Congregational General Meeting
Saturday	2 April 15	7:00 p.m.	Choir Concert – details to follow in next Wespress and in bulletins

### 1. All Ages Advent Party

Come one! Come all! Saturday, 29 November - 4:00 – 7:00 Lower Hall, Westminster Church

Please join with family and friends at the Westminster Advent Party. There will be crafts (for adults and children), tree decorating, a potluck dinner, and time to meditate on the season of Advent and all it means to us.

There is a sign-up sheet in the lower hall for those who are able to contribute to the meal to indicate what they would like to bring. Please look for it next Sunday. Thank you!

If you have any questions,  
please phone Robyn Loughrey.



## **2. Advent Prayer Stations**

During the time of Advent there will be intergenerational prayer stations in the church to provide brief times for reflection. The instructions are simple and clearly given in the meditation of the week. The reflections change each week and are titled as follows:

Advent 1: Waiting for Morning  
Advent 2: Vision of Possibility  
Advent 3: Beginnings of a New Thing  
Advent 4: Ripeness of Time

Each station has a short meditation with a scripture verse and reflection. The reflection ends with a question which can be answered on a poster board, moving the experience from an individual to communal experience.

The station on the third floor will have a small table beside it with simple nativity craft for young children.

I will set out three stations which are identical: one in the third floor landing close to the Campbell room, one in the lower hall and one in the foyer of the CE building. The purpose of the three stations is to make reflection time available to the preschool and to those groups which use the lower hall as well as the congregation.

Feel free to use the stations before or after the church service, when you are in church for a meeting or whenever it works for you.

As we begin the new church year I pray that you will experience peace, joy, love and hope during this Advent season.

Marina

## **3. Blue Christmas Service**

We are planning to have a Blue Christmas/Longest Night service at Westminster this year. As the longest night, the 21<sup>st</sup> falls on the Sunday we are having birthday cake for Jesus and a potluck lunch; we are looking at alternate times to hold a Blue Christmas service. Date and time TBA.

The following invitation will be given out. Please invite friends and neighbours.

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved one or it may be a time that has always been difficult. Loved ones may be far away or other worries trouble us deeply.

The constant refrain on radio and television, in stores and shopping malls, even in our churches, can cause us to feel out of sync with the season and even with our friends and loved ones. The reality of lost loves, broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment or worries about one's health – these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the season's festivities and celebrations. We acknowledge that as the nights grow longer, so does the "darkness" we feel within. We need the time – and a safe

space – to acknowledge our sadness and honour our own “story”. We need to know that we are not alone, even when it feels very much so.

For these reasons, Westminster Presbyterian Church offers a special “Longest Night” Christmas service, (also known as a “Blue Christmas” service). We warmly invite you to join us in a time of reflective worship – with music and singing, candle-lighting, prayers and quiet time, and hearing words of hope through the beloved Christmas story.

Allow us to bring some light into your darkness! Everyone, regardless of denominational background (or not), is welcome.

The service will be followed by a time of light refreshment and fellowship. Reverend Ball will be available for individual conversation, should you wish.

#### **4. Looking for...**

-used Christmas cards to use for one of the advent stations. If anyone has any they can put them in the basket on the desk in my office.

-2-3 nativity sets to borrow during advent. They will be placed on small tables in the building as part of advent stations. Therefore it would be best if they are child friendly and will not cause upset if something gets lost or broken (which I don't see happening but the risk is there). They could also be put on my desk.

Thanks,

Marina

#### **5. Westminster Christmas Appeal:**

PWS&D Accepting Donations for Ebola Response:

As the Ebola virus continues to spread through parts of West Africa (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), PWS&D is responding through the ACT Alliance to help bring the disease under control.

Discovered in 1976, this is the first time the Ebola virus has appeared in this part of Africa. As such, the population was not acutely aware of the symptoms, how the virus spread or how to contain it. In many cases, medical personnel were not equipped to deal with Ebola cases and a genuine lack of trust developed between the population and health workers/facilities.

As of October 20, 2014, the World Health Organization reported over 9,216 cases of Ebola (and 4,555 deaths). Given the current rate of infections, what is most troubling is that there is no vaccine and no proven cure at this time.

The only way to stop the spread of Ebola is to prevent it from being transmitted and to treat the symptoms when it is diagnosed early enough.

The ACT Alliance is implementing sensitization and awareness-building activities that are urgently needed to prevent and contain the virus. Your contributions will help:

- Deliver clear messages about how Ebola is spread, how to recognize symptoms, what to do when one is displaying symptoms and how to prevent the transmission of Ebola
- Teach prevention strategies at the community level such as hand washing with soap and water and how to prepare chlorine/bleach water solution to disinfect homes and personal belongings
- Address misinformation related to the Ebola virus and government health facilities. Help build trust between communities and governments
- Support activities aimed at anti-stigmatization; provide educational and psychological support to traumatized communities and survivors.

You can make a donation through Westminster Church on the “Special” Line of your regular offering envelope, or any other envelope, marked PWSD Ebola Response. Be sure to include your envelope number.

## **6. Centre 507**

Christmas Gifts to Centre 507: In Ottawa , we have many people who do not have a place to lay their heads and only find room on the street to sleep. What light or hope do they find at Christmas?

Here is a way that we can help. Bring in your filled pair of socks with hygiene supplies and place it under the tree by Sun, Dec 21st.

Centre 507's Wish List: In addition to financial contributions and ongoing need for hygiene supplies (disposable razors, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, facial tissue) Centre 507's wish list includes:

- backpacks and duffel bags
- cold weather gear (long underwear, thermal shirts, etc.)
- wet weather gear (rain ponchos, rain coats)
- can openers, new or gently used running shoes or winter boots
- men's clothing: work boots, coveralls, tool belts (construction quality). Some of our guys are finding work opportunities but don't have the necessary gear to get started
- socks and underwear
- sleeping bags
- jam (it's a luxury that we just aren't able to offer)
- First Aid Supplies
- flowers and plants to dress up our centre
- bus tickets & Canadian Tire money

We have been celebrating 22 years in the making of cheese sandwiches. When we started we were making approximately 10 loaves of sandwiches a month now we are making 20 to 30 loaves.

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We need thick slices of cheese, margarine, white bread and fold top sandwich bags. It is a great time for fellowship and then we close with a short worship service .

They can use gently used kitchen utensils and as well as bedding for their rooming house program.

Audrey and I are selling calendars and pens; the profits will go to Center 507. Monetary donations can be added to your envelope marked Center 507.

All donation are gratefully received.

Audrey and Bill Miller

**7. Care and Share!**

Donations to the Westboro Region foodbank of non-perishable food such as peanut butter, canned meat or fish, baked beans, canned fruit and vegetables, juice or pasta will be blessed at the 2nd worship service each month and delivered. Donations of money are used to purchase meat, bread, and milk for children. You are invited by Westminster's Mission Team be part of this monthly ministry.

**8. Women's Bible Study**

meets the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9:30 to 11:00 am November to June.

Topic for this year is Discipleship. The leader uses the study guide from the Serendipity Bible.

Please join us in the Ladies Parlour and bring a friend.

Debbie Chadsey

**9. Happy Notes!**

Congratulations to:

Alice Barengayabo (Pacifique's wife ) who received her Master's degree in social work from U of Ottawa. She started a new job at the Montfort hospital about 4 week ago (full time).

Margaret and Bruce Quinney who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary recently.

**10. Big Art Sale and Bazaar**

Thank you to the enthusiastic team who worked so hard to make the event a success. Also thanks to those who contributed items and baking for sale, and to our guest artists - John Benn, Deborah Lyall, Barbara Carlson and Susan Ambrose for their colour and flair. Of course, we especially appreciated the support from all our customers.

The sale raised over \$2700 for the general fund and an additional \$470 to support our mission projects for a drop in centre in Kenora, Ontario and for girls education in Afghanistan.

For those who enjoyed the art show in the new format and those who missed it, we are pleased to announce that the artists will be back next year. Watch for further announcements and hope to see you there next year.

Mary Ann Tyler and Laura Kilgour  
Convenors.

## **11. Men's Breakfast**

Sit down to eat at 8:30 a.m. Friday 28 November  
(per Ian's email but could be a typo error – did he mean Sat 29? C.w.)

After breakfast there will be a discussion on how people would like the breakfasts to evolve.

Here are some items for consideration. Have a think about them and what you would like to get out of the Breakfast meetings.

how often to hold them

weekly for six weeks

bi-weekly for twelve weeks

monthly, except in summer/throughout the year

bi-monthly, except in summer/throughout the year

what time to start them

7:30 a.m. / 8:00 a.m. / 8:30 a.m. / 9:00 a.m. / 9:30 a.m.

Men's breakfast or men and women's breakfast

What topics for the after-breakfast

Slide shows or videos on topics by members of the congregation

Talks by invited speakers on a central theme

Talks by members on the congregation on "my profession" /  
"my hobby"

Talks exploring spirituality or the various religions/belief systems

What is the biggest barrier to your attending

Not interested

Too busy

Wrong format



This is not intended to be a definitive list, anything is on the table for discussion. If you would like to share your thoughts and won't be able to make the 28<sup>th</sup>, feel free to e-mail or phone me.

Ian Firth

12.

**CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:**

Do you ever wonder what your children are doing when they go out to Church School each week?

Well...we've learned about Creation. We even made some of the animals out of Playdoh! We held the world In our hands, just like God did. The children were able to tell the story themselves!

We've also learned about Noah and the flood. We learned the God loves us so much he will always be there for us... no matter how hard life gets. We had fun doing jigsaw puzzles and then colouring them. We also had fun making the sounds that the animals make. Next we're doing Jonah and the great whale and then it's time for Advent!

On top of all this...we've also gathered together as a large group, everyone from Nursery to Youth, for our monthly Worship Week on the first Sunday of every month. We're learning new songs, learning how to make crafts together and getting to know each other as members of God's family.

Whew! I didn't realize how busy we've been! I'm learning along with the children and am looking forward to the rest of the year.

HONEYTHON NEWS:

Great news!!!! Your honey orders are ready for pickup! Please see Sharon during Coffee Time to claim yours.

This year we sold \$971 worth of honey! Way to go! And as always, a huge thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support of CGIT Camp Kalalla.

13. **Church Finances**

Financial highlights for the period January 1, 2014 through October 31, 2014.

Funds:	<u>General</u>	<u>Capital</u>
Income	\$180,432	\$8,038
Expenses	<u>\$200,563</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Difference	(\$ 20,031)	\$8,038

Offerings given for:

General Fund:	\$120,440
Capital Fund:	\$ 8,038
Presbyterians Sharing:	\$ 3,582
PWS&D:	\$ 1,905

Offerings given and funds raised for:

Centre 507:	\$ 215
Kenora Fellowship:	\$ 944
Education Langhman Province:	\$ 1,458

### Finance and Maintenance:

As mandated by Session, the Board of Finance and Maintenance undertakes fiscal management and management of physical property for the congregation.

We are actively looking for four persons to service on the Board in order to bring our complement to twelve. Our most pressing requirement is for a Financial Reports Manager who is accountable for reports to government, Finance and Maintenance, Session and the congregation. The financial workload is carried by six people, but the Reports Manager holds the title of Treasurer.

For further information please contact David Wice or speak to any member.

### Investment Committee Membership:

The Investment Committee administers the funds in Westminster's trust funds. Members service for a 3 year term. Every year there is a vacancy to be filled. If you have a interest in serving on this committee or if you would like more information about it please contact David Wice.

### Memorial Fund:

Westminster's memorial fund is a special fund at our church. You can make a donation to the Memorial Fund to pay tribute to and remember friends and family. Every year, the names of the people who have been remembered are entered into the Memorial Book, which is at the front of our church sanctuary.

These funds are used to support the life of Westminster Church. In recent years the fund has been used to purchase large-print hymn books, provide financial assistance to Westminster youth attending Gracefield Camp, support adults going to Christian conferences, and obtain the beautiful new murals that grace the walls of our building!

If you would like more information about the Memorial Fund, please contact the church office or phone Robyn Loughrey.

## 14. UPDATE

KFC is an emergency shelter/food ministry operating in downtown Kenora, Ontario. The Presbyterian Church in Canada owns the building that houses the Centre. Its Executive Director, Yvonne Bearbull is paid out of the funds allotted in Presbyterian Sharing.



My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations  
Mark 11:17; Isaiah 56:7

In addition to the daytime drop in soup kitchen the Centre also offers legal assistance, detox programs, street patrols and is the only Ministry refuge in Kenora. The majority (approx. 95%) of its patrons are First Nations people and part of Treaty 3. For this reason the Centre provides traditional foods, sharing circles and drumming sessions.

This past June, KFC and Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong employment and training centre teamed up to pay (through wage subsidies) patrons to cook the meals at the Centre for 44 weeks. Treaty 3 off-reserve band members who agree to this would receive training in safe food handling and meet with nutritionists.

In 2013 the Kenora Fellowship Centre served 10,000 meals and 25,000 shelter spaces were filled. In August of this year they received a grant from the federal government for \$64,500 to make accessible privately owned accommodations for those currently in government-owned transitional housing units.

For more information on KFC check out their Facebook page on the Canada Ministries portion of the PCC website. You can also look up the website for the Kenora Daily Miner and News. As always, any members of the Westminster Mission Team can help you with any questions.



## **15. Acknowledgements – We Thank**

Sharon Tinkess and other teachers for continuing to care so well for the children each Sunday.

Betty Jean Bone and Catherine Mackay for organizing the reception for Presbytery when they met at Westminster in October.

Laura Kilgour for organizing and planning this year's bazaar and Mary Ann Tyler for stepping in and arranging all the last minute details. It may have been a bit disappointing from the financial side, due to other events on the same day, but it still brought in more money than most Saturdays do!

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

Bill Miller who, with some help, did his usual excellent job of organizing the set-up and tear-down of the tables, etc. for the Bazaar – and every other event!

Chico Wallis for his ongoing dedication to issuing the *Wespress* in both the electronic and paper versions.

Lynn Carroll for organizing the special event honouring Audrey and Bill Miller for their years of faithful service, in many capacities at Westminster.

Shirley Stubbs  
Operations/Planning

N.B. This is a regular (more or less) feature in *Wespress* to acknowledge, and express appreciation for, special work done for Westminster. Who do you think deserves recognition? Please give me your ideas - Shirley.