

Wespress for May 2016

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Coming Events

Saturday 4 June	9:00 a.m.	Art and Plant Sale
Sunday 5 June	10:30 a.m.	Last day of Church School
Sunday 12 June	10:30 a.m.	School Recognition Service followed by lunch
Sunday 19 June	After service	Strawberry Social
Sunday 21 August	All day	A Day at Gracefield
Sunday 28 August	10:30 a.m.	Last chance to enjoy Alan's music in our sanctuary

1. **Choir Concert on May 14th**

On May 14th the Choir presented its Annual Concert, with our own Zoë Langlois as soprano soloist, and Karen Donnelly, principal trumpet in the NACO, as our guest artiste. The program was a blend of anthems and solos, and lasted an hour. Over 100 tickets were sold, and, after expenses, we were able to contribute \$580 to the church General Fund.

Many thanks to everyone who helped, by distributing posters, flyers and selling tickets; to our

photographers and DVD team; to the ladies who provided refreshments; to the greeters; to Kathy in the church office for printing tickets and programs, and to John Tyler for preparing the large advertisement poster placed on the wall facing Roosevelt Avenue.

In short, a great success! The choir spent many weeks preparing the anthems, and gave a polished performance. During the summer months the Sunday worship service will include, as usual, an Offering of Praise through Music, when either I or a guest soloist shall sing or play suitable music.

Alan

2. Holy Communion: What, When, How Often and in What Fashion?

Jesus welcomes you into his Presence. He is with us and has given us special means to experience and celebrate his love and grace. From its beginning the Christian church has called its people to meet in one place on the Lord's day to worship God. On the first day of the week they gathered to hear the Scripture read and interpreted and to celebrate the Lord's Supper. This first day of the week, the day of resurrection, became known as "the Lord's day" and was seen as a "little Easter."

Though we are baptized but once, the Lord's Supper is a recurring renewal of God's gracious promises to us in Christ. We have evidence of this in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 which reminds us that we receive a practice and tradition to celebrate Communion in "remembrance" of Jesus. In Acts 2 we hear that the early church "devoted themselves to the Apostle's teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers." Clearly regular and frequent celebration of this holy meal was an important feature of Christian observance.

2000 years of the life of the Church brought about changes to the practice of Communion. At one point only the clergy received both wine and bread. During another period what was seen to be important was that the sacrament took place, officiated by clergy, regardless of the presence of the laity.

As part of the Protestant Reformation which took place in Europe and the British Isles in the 16th century new understandings and practices were developed. Presbyterian churches worldwide look to John Calvin whose leadership and theology influenced a great deal of our thinking, however, not all things were done Calvin's way. This can be seen in the frequency of Communion. Calvin believed that every Lord's Day service should include both Preaching and Communion, and tried to institute this practice in the city of Geneva, Switzerland, where he fled as a Huguenot (Protestant refugee) from his native France. The City Fathers, however, thought that was too much like the (then) Roman Catholic practice and so mandated once a month Communion. Over the years, in some branches of the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition, such as in parts of Scotland, communion became as infrequent as only once a year. To receive communion the

Elders were to judge whether you were morally upright enough to be welcome at the table.

Today there are a wide variety of practices and many of us at Westminster come from a variety of church backgrounds. Many are re-discovering helpful practices of earlier years and like the first Christians, celebrating communion more frequently. Whether we are served while sitting in the pews, coming forward to receive, taking the elements individually or all together, focusing on individual reflection or celebrating the coming together of the community, we are all uplifting the Presence of Christ among us and expressing thanks for his gift Grace.

Communion – communing with God and one another.

Eucharist – literal translation: Thanksgiving.

Lord's Supper – Jesus said that we should do this in remembrance of him.

Lamb's Paschal Feast – a joyful anticipating that time when we shall all be gathered and sit at table in the Kingdom of God.

As Westminster institutes both a more frequent communion (monthly) and doing so in more than one way, we hope to enable a deepening of faith, a broadening of experience, and a welcome to" all those whom the Lord God calls to his table."

Standing with you before our Lord,

Rev. William Ball

3. CENTRE 507

We are continuing to make cheese sandwiches during the summer months. There is such a need to accomplish -" feed the hungry ."

Not only do we make cheese sandwiches but collect gently used clothes for men/women -- summer clothes - such as shirts ,T-shirts, long pants/slacks , shorts ,socks , shoes , etc .

We meet every 3rd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 pm **We need** donations of thick cheese slices, margarine, and white sliced bread. Financial donations can be put into your church envelope.

Mark the special line "Cheese sandwiches" this will give you a taxable deduction.

Bill Miller

4. Church Finances

Financial highlights for the period January 1, 2016 through April 30, 2016.

General Fund:

Income	\$62,535
Expenses	<u>\$90,791</u>
Difference	(\$28,256)

Capital Fund:

Income	\$3,690
Requirement	<u>\$7,000</u>
Difference	(\$3,310)

Offerings given for:

General Fund:	\$40,708
Capital Fund:	\$ 3,690
Presbyterians Sharing:	\$ 1,267
PWS&D:	\$ 995

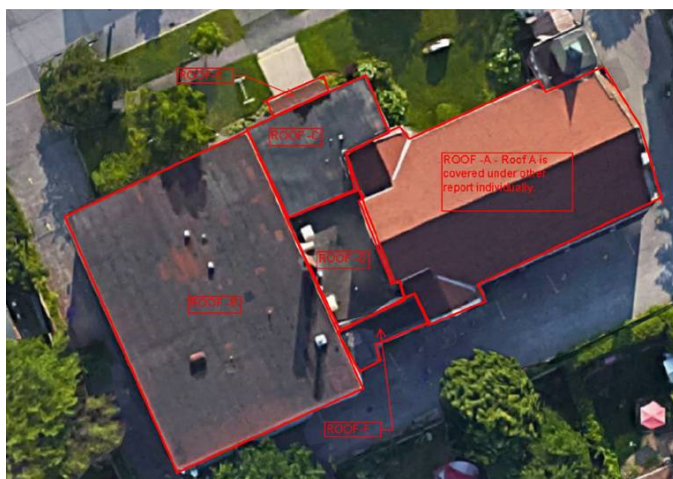
Offerings given and funds raised for:

Centre 507	\$ 10
Kenora Fellowship:	\$ 58
Education Langhman Province:	\$ 70
Missions not yet allocated	\$ 290
Refugee Fund	\$18,485

David Wice

Roof Repairs in the Near Term

Finance and Maintenance contracted Building Technologies Consulting Inc. to conduct a Roof Condition Analysis. The analysis concluded that the Sanctuary roof and Christian Education roof and Boiler Room roof had no remaining service life.



If you would like an enlargement of this picture, please contact David Wice

Finance and Maintenance is proceeding to tender with these three roofs and the Office Roof. The Class D budget estimates for repair is as follows

Sanctuary Roof	\$105,000
Christian Education Roof	\$ 81,000
Boiler Room Roof	\$ 29,000
Office Roof	\$ 4,900

As of the end of 2015, the Capital Fund had \$121,116. Since we do not have enough funds to cover all of the repair, Building Technologies Consulting Inc. recommended proceeding with the Sanctuary Roof first.

5. BIG ART and PLANT SALE in WESTBORO

June 4th, 9 am to 1 pm

Westminster Presbyterian, 470 Roosevelt Ave

(Two blocks south of Richmond Road).

Affordable artwork by Deborah Lyall, Pamela Booth, John Benn and Barbara Carlson, and jewellery by Sara Carlisle, Nancy Sinclair, and Alberto Gee.

Buy plants for your garden, books for a relaxing read, baking for entertaining family and friends, and visit our friendly café. Book sales support Westminster mission projects locally, nationally and internationally.

2. **Spring Sale Book Table.** Time to clean out your bookshelves and those of your friends and family. Good quality fiction and non-fiction books are needed for the book table. Please no magazines, textbooks, dictionaries, encyclopedias, yellowed or damaged books.

Contact the Church Office.

3. **Bake table.** No bake table would be complete without homemade squares, cookies, cakes and pies. All are needed for the bake table. Name of contact to be advised.

Debbie.

6. Greetings From Your Westminster Mission Team!

The missions that the congregation have given generously to have been busy these last three months.

Centre 507 continues to receive 20+ loaves of repacked cheese sandwiches thanks to the efforts of those who meet every third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the parlour. Just recently the Centre was given a flat screen TV for movie night for the patrons as well as a new interior paint job with paint donated by Deluxe and outside volunteers giving of their time. They also said goodbye to Joshua, a young university student, who had been working at the Centre for 5 years.

There have been ups and downs at the Kenora Fellowship Centre. In April they finished roof repair as well as creating a wheelchair accessible shower and washroom. Unfortunately they are having some zoning issues which threaten their emergency shelter service. At this time there is still no resolution to the problem yet they continue to offer the service as long as possible.

A new contract between PWS&D and the Government of Canada for continued work in Afghanistan and Malawi was signed on March 10. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is the largest partner for PWS&D and has assisted them in many projects in many other countries for years. In Afghanistan there will be 6 new facilities for women and children as outpatient services. There will also be programs for awareness for maternal and newborn health including education for reproductive health, hygiene, sanitation and vaccinations for children under 5 years of age. More info on this to come.

The Mission Team would like to thank all who came out and donated at the lunch on May 15th for the Mission projects as well as those who gave in their envelope givings and also to those who helped in the kitchen for preparation. We would also like to thank those who assisted in the setting up and taking down of the chairs and tables. A total of \$330.00 was raised at the lunch itself. Thanks to all!

Don't forget to check out our Books For Mission bookcase in the lower hall. There you will find great books for a great price!

Joel and Rebecca Sherbino are missionaries in Malawi and they are nearing the end of their one year stay in Blantyre (Southern Malawi) after having already served 3 years there from 2004-2007. Joel is an associate pastor there and has a prison ministry as well. They and their three children will be ending their time in Malawi in July. You can follow them on Facebook or read their blogs.

As always your Westminster Mission Team are Don Gibson (chairman), Bill Rankin, Bill Miller, Geoffrey Domey, Bruce Thomson, Debbie Jones, Dave Mansell and William Ball.

7. Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study Group will gather for breakfast for their final meeting this season. The date is Saturday, June 11th. The place/time still to be confirmed so watch the bulletin for details.

Thanks Debbie Chadsey

8. Church School News:

It's been a busy year for the children of Westminster. All age groups have been busy learning about God's love and how much he loves us. But.....the end of the Church School year is drawing near.

The last Sunday for Church School will be June 5th with our year end service of recognition being held Sunday, June 12th. After the Service there will be a Congregational Lunch in the Gym. For the lunch, we ask that everyone who has a last name beginning **A-M bring sandwiches; N-Z bring cheese, crackers, veggies, pickles,etc. DESSERT and drinks will be provided!!**

We will need helpers in the kitchen for this fun event.....please contact the Church Office if you are able to help.

Kidzone will be up and running after June 12th! This summer will see some of the Youth working at Gracefield and we wish them well in their endeavours.

Thank you to everyone who has helped out in, and/or prayed for, the Church School of Westminster! We appreciate it!!

On behalf of everyone in the Church School, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy summer! See you all in September!!

Sharon ☺

9. Gracefield Matters

Erskine Amalgamation Donation Crucial for Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre

One blessing of the amalgamation of Erskine and Westminster Presbyterian churches was their jointly-developed Mission Plan which distributed the proceeds of the sale of the Erskine property to a number of key recipients. Some of you attended the Westminster Gracefield Sunday in August 2011 when an Erskine legacy cheque for \$200,000 was presented to Gracefield Christian Camp "for a meaningful project that honours the legacy of Service and Ministry of the Erskine Congregation". It was expected the funds would support their ministry to help all people experience spiritual discovery, growth and renewal while enjoying His wondrous creation. Little did we know then what God had planned for those funds - they became a lifeline.

Recently, the Gracefield Board advised the Westminster Session that a financial audit of their operating period from 2010 - 2012 was now completed which allowed the Board to finally disclose the important role these funds had played. Soon after the presentation of the 2011 cheque, the camp discovered it was nearing bankruptcy, mainly because of undisclosed mismanagement by an employee. The Gracefield Board used the funds as a bridge loan until reorganization could bring the operation back to fiscal responsibility.

Just less than half of the funds remain and will be designated the "Erskine Legacy Fund". A portion of that fund will be used in 2016 for costs associated with the development of a strategic plan for the camp, resulting in a master plan as envisaged in the original Westminster proposal. The Session told the Gracefield Board that Westminster is pleased

the donation was able to play a key role during such a difficult period and wished the Board well in the preparation of their strategic plans.

A Day at Gracefield Camp - Sunday, Aug 21st

Join us to celebrate the beautiful surroundings and have fun with your Westminster family at Gracefield Christian Camp beside Lac Castor on Sunday, August 21st. Mark your calendar. The camp property and buildings are accessible for all abilities. More than one first-timer last year said, "why did I wait so long ..."

After the chapel service, we gather for lunch followed by your choice of many options: a nature hike; a walk through the Prayer Trail & Labyrinth; canoeing; swimming; or just enjoying the wonderful scenery while relaxing outside White Pine Lodge.

One of the best ways to get there is in the luxury coach which leaves the church at 9 AM sharp for a very easy and comfortable 90 minute trip up the Gatineau. Last year there was lots of room for more passengers so sign up to reserve your space. There will be a bus sign-up poster beside the coffee sign-up sheet in the lower hall. For those who wish can take their car, maps are available.

There will be afternoon tea before the bus departs, arriving back at Westminster by about 5:30 PM. While the bus is provided by Westminster, contributions are appreciated to defray the cost. Those who are able are asked to contribute \$10 per adult and \$7 per child for the picnic lunch.

Hope you can join us on Sunday, Aug.21/16 for our next Gracefield Sunday

Gracefield Sunday Fundraiser Sunday, June 19th

After service on June 19th, join the congregation in the lower hall for a strawberry social fundraiser to help defray the costs of our annual Westminster trip to Gracefield. Enjoy fresh strawberries, cake and cream with your conversation. See you there.

10. *Wespress Editor:*

The Ops/Planning Team would like to again 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 after this issue. We would like to have the Congregation do some prayerful consideration as to whether this 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.

Stop the press, so to speak. (I always wanted to say that!)

I was advised yesterday (Tuesday 17 May) that another member of the congregation has come forward, so I shall be turning over to him my records and providing him with whatever help I can to ensure a smooth transmission to a new producer. I also wish to express my very sincere appreciation for the very kind recognition that was extended to me during a recent service.

Changing hats.....

As the current President of the Choir, may I ask as many of you as possible to attend the service on Sunday 28 August to enjoy the last service that will benefit from the musical expertise of Alan who is retiring.

“Chico”

Refugee Sponsorship Corner

Process

We are now working on the detailed set of forms required by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The government’s timeline for arrival is by the end of 2016 or early 2017.

The Welcome New Friends Planning Team now has an email address. Send your questions and comments to

refugee_sponsorship@mywestminster.ca

Financials

Our sponsorship fund is now over \$18,500. Please keep your pledges /contributions coming. Remember that our new refugees will be in need of almost everything on arrival in Canada. This is a good time to start fundraising efforts.

More details will follow later regarding donations of other goods which we will start collecting in the Fall.