

**Chalmers
Presbyterian
Church**

Youth Spirit

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April, 2010

Coming in April: Bible-Read-a-thon

The Bible-Read-a-thon is coming up this month starting on Good Friday, April 2nd and continuing through the night until the morning of Saturday, April 3rd. For those who have been involved before, there is no need to explain what this is all about, but if you've never participated in a BRAT before, it may sound a little odd. Let me explain.

The Bible-Read-a-thon was started about 30 years ago at Chalmers by my dad, Tom

Hunter the youth group leader at that time. The idea behind it is based on the Bible story in Matthew 26: 36-46 when Jesus asked His disciples to "stay awake with me" while He prays. His disciples cannot and they fall asleep. At the Bible-Read-a-thon, we challenge ourselves to stay awake all night with Christ. We take turns reading the Bible continuously all night (15 minutes at a time). Meanwhile, we do all sorts of things to help ourselves stay awake. Some BRATs in the past have featured square dancing, martial arts, pizza or pretzel baking, Easter egg painting, ice

cream feeding games, hockey, etc. etc. etc.

This event is for students in high school (grades 9-12) and starts at 6:00 pm on Good Friday. It ends at 8:00 am Saturday morning and there is **NO SLEEPING**. It is a well-loved event by any who have participated in it in the many past years. It is full of fun but also a night of spiritual discovery. It cost \$10 to help cover the cost of dinner (you've never had a meal like this before!), snacks and breakfast. Please register with Joanne at jdickert@bellnet.ca or call 519-681-7242. Feel free to invite your friends.

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Contact me!

- Ideas, suggestions, comments, new emails? Let me know: lizzt@rogers.com



The Gathering at Sunday Morning Youth.



From the Editor

I was working on an article about youth ministry this past week and it made me stop and think. We (as a church) put a lot of effort into trying to make church “exciting” for youth. We worry that if we’re not interesting enough then youth won’t want to come. We seem to believe that the biggest sin we could commit would be to allow teenagers to be bored with church. And we know from experience that if the youth are bored, we lose the whole family, either to another, more “exciting” church, or to other Sunday-morning activities.

But when did this power transfer to our teens? I don’t remember my parents paying much attention to whether or not I *wanted* to go to church. It was just what we did. I can’t imagine many parents letting their children skip school because their math class isn’t particularly riveting (maybe that should be tech class, get it—”riveting”!) And

household chores can sometimes be a drag, but most of us expect our children to pitch in there too.

The more I thought about this change in culture, the more I developed a metaphor—bare with me here.

Faith development is like getting a puppy. Getting a new puppy is exciting. Puppies are full of fun and boundless energy. Everything it does is attention-grabbing. “Ahh, isn’t he so cute!” Kind of like a Camp Kintail or Canada Youth experience. It’s what is called a “mountaintop” experience. But think about that term “mountaintop”. We don’t expect every day to be a “mountaintop”. And life with a puppy doesn’t stay exciting for long. Sooner or later, someone has to use the scooper, wash the muddy floors, go for walks in the bitter cold, pay the vet’s bills. Do we expect when we get the dog that it’s going to be fun

and games everyday? Most of us realize that the novelty will wear off and the daily grind will set in, as with Everything Else. And yet we also realize that the love we’ll gain from a pet is worth the trouble.

And yet, we don’t want that to happen with church. Why not? What are we teaching our children and youth if we let them go only when they feel like it? And let them miss when something “better” comes along. And let them switch to a different church if it seems more appealing today? How do we teach our children about dedication and commitment? How do we teach our children about their need for a personal relationship with Christ if we try to keep church all about fun and excitement? Who’s going to walk the dog when it’s raining? Maybe we could all walk it together.

Have a Laugh!



Here’s another excerpt from Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader Institute, page 315. These are real-life bumper stickers.

Have you seen the one that says...

- As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools.
- Forget about world peace...visualize using your turn signal!
- Jesus is coming...everyone look busy.
- Out of my mind...back in five minutes.
- VEGETERIAN: Indian word for “lousy hunter”.
- Meandering to a different drummer.
- I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.
- Everyone has a photographic memory, some just don’t have film.
- Why am I the only person on Earth who knows how to drive?
- Don’t like my driving? Then quit watching me.
- I may be slow, but I’m ahead of you.



Chalmers' Youth Presents



April 2-3 from 6pm - 8am

Good Friday

Grades 9 and up

NO NAPPING!

Jesus' disciples couldn't stay awake; can you?

Join us for supper, games, missions, dancing, movies, snacks, and LOTS of fun!

Bring \$10 and don't forget to bring your friends!

Register with Joanne at jdickert@bellnet.ca (519-681-7242)



Recreational Volleyball!

You are invited to Chalmers' recreational volleyball for teens & adults

on Friday, 16 April from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Laurier Secondary School

(450 Millbank Dr., London)

RSVP to Rev. John by calling 519-681-7242 or by email jbannerman@bellnet.ca

And it's free!



Grab a Book!



Honk's Big Adventure by Richard Hays

Ages 2 - 7

This book is part of a series by Richard Hays and we have four of the series in our library, so once you get to know and love the characters you can go ahead and read more about them. Honk is a camel and he does not like to be dirty. When he sees all his friends playing in the water and playing in the mud, he decides to leave Noah's Park and find a new place to live. Honk sets out on a big adventure. He meets lots of animals, but none seems to be quite what he is looking for, and his old friends seem to be more appealing as time goes on. Read on to find out what Honk discovers about himself – and his friends.

This book can be read to children as young as two years old, or can be a “read it myself” for young readers.

Fading Tracks by Kristi Holl

Ages 10 - 12

FaithGirlz - Boarding School Mysteries #1

Jeri McKane wins a scholarship to the prestigious Landmark School, but when her mother can't come for her mid-term visit, Jeri wonders if she really wants to be here. Then when she is still feeling low, a mini-van carrying 6 schoolmates, including her best friend Rosa, goes missing. And the ice at the nearby lake is broken!! The group started home after a field trip – but never arrived back at the school. Jeri gets herself in trouble with the school principle a couple of times for taking matters into her own hands and calling a reporter friend, and e-mailing another group of friends – thinking that the more people who know what has happened, the more chance there is of someone coming forward who saw something! I'm not going to tell you anything more about this story – but I enjoyed it. It is well written – and exciting.

Sliced Heather on Toast by Lissa Halls Johnson

Ages 13+

The China Tate Series #1

This is a fun book. China Tate is the daughter of missionary parents in Guatemala – and she never feels like she fits in. China is back in America, staying with her Aunt Liddy – and is off to camp for a week. Before she even gets to Camp Crazy Bear, she meets the “queen” of the camp, Heather, and her bevy of “ladies-in-waiting”. They immediately see China for what she is – a **scholarship** camper and start treating her like she has no right to even be there. But China is not easily bullied – and she meets a ‘kindred spirit’ in Deedee, the camp director's daughter – and even makes friends with the camp cook, Magda. Heather is the kind of girl that we all would like to see receiving her ‘come-uppance’, but when China finally gets the chance to take Heather down a peg or two, she is surprised at how she reacts to Heathers embarrassment and hurt. How would you handle a girl like Heather? I think you'll enjoy this story – and it is the first of five stories about China Tate.

Reviewed by Christine Hunter

Happy to See You



Our preschool class:

Naomi D.	Julie	Isla
Sarah	Lily	Molly

Our Primary Class:

Jessy	Torry	Morgan
Taylor	Rieleigh	Haillee
Josiah	Aly	

Our Junior Class:

Reece	Cameron T.	Kenneth
Tyler	Sarah	Brynn
Jacqueline	Joycelina	

Our Senior Class:

Sam	Jackie	Amber
Sydney	Abbey P.	Charleen
Spencer	Allyson	

What a Quote!

- “I have never made but one prayer to God, a very short one: ‘O Lord, make my enemies ridiculous.’ And God granted it.” Voltaire
- “It is very easy to break down something. Throw a stone through that window; that is easy. Try fixing it, and that takes longer.” Desmond Tutu

Children & Youth Ministries at Chalmers

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday 6 pm Children's Choir 7 pm Maundy Thursday service	2 Good Friday 9-10:30 Breakfast 11:00am Service 6 pm Bible- Read-a-thon	3
4 Easter 10:30am Easter Sunday 7pm Contemporary Service	5	6	7 7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	8	9	10
11 Happy 12th Birthday Christian 10:30am SMY	12	13	14 7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	15	16 7-9 pm Youth & Adult Volleyball @ Laurier SS	17
18 10:30am SMY 7pm Contemporary Service	19	20 Happy 21st Birthday Simon	21 7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	22 Earth Day	23	24 Happy 7th Birthday Alyson B. Happy 23rd Birthday Adele 2-4 pm Mary Moffat's Daffodil Tea & Silent Auction
25 10:30am SMY Mission Awareness Sunday	26	27	28 7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	29	30	

In May:

- ♣ Sell Your Stuff Sale coming May 8th. Book a table to sell used items or crafts. Small tables are \$15 (4'x2.5'). Large tables are \$20 (6'x2.5')

- ♣ One Day Retreat May 1st. Please put it on the calendar now and plan to attend. Expect a mailing soon with more details.

For a calendar of all Chalmers activities, go to www.chalmerslondon.com/year_calendar.htm