

**Chalmers
Presbyterian
Church**

Youth Spirit

Volume 2, Issue 4

December, 2009

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November in a Nutshell

We've got donkeys, we've got sheep, we've got shepherds and wisemen too. It must be time for the Christmas pageant! This year, rather than having the pageant in the afternoon or evening, it has been combined with the regular Sunday Morning Worship. The nativity story from the point of view of the innkeeper and his family brings a new perspective to what was going on. How would you react if your house was full of guests, your backyard was full of tents and as a last resort you let a couple stay in your barn, only to be awakened in the middle of the night to angels and

shepherds coming and going? This angle helps us to see these events from our own perspective—that of the every day common people.

The children, youth and adults have been working very hard on this presentation throughout November so please come out on Sunday, December 6th at 10:30am to support their efforts and look at the Christmas story from a new perspective.

November also saw two very special celebration Sundays. We celebrated two baptisms and our four grade three boys received their Bibles.

Name That Christmas Carol!

1. Quadruped with crimson proboscis
2. 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. without noise
3. Miniscule hamlet in the far east
4. Ancient benevolent despot
5. Adorn the vestibule
6. Exuberance directed to the planet
7. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing
8. Monarchical trio
9. Assemble, everyone who believes
10. Hallowed post meridian
11. Fantasies of a colorless December 25th
12. Tin tintinnabulums
13. A dozen 24-hour Yule periods
14. Befell during the transparent bewitching hour
15. I merely desire a pair of incisors
16. I spied my maternal parent osculating a fat man in red
17. Perambulating through a December solstice fantasy

Answers on page 2.



Contact me!

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



From the Editor

Ah, the traditions of Christmas. The tree decorating, the baking, the visiting, the cards, the movies. The list goes on and on. There is no other time of the year that includes so many traditions as Christmas. And kids LOVE these traditions. Go ahead, I dare you. Try to skip one of your family traditions and see what happens. There would have been a full-fledged riot if my parents had ever tried to come home from cutting down our tree (from the same forest every year) without stopping for hot chocolate (at the same little coffee shop every year). Traditions are good. They give us a sense of belonging. They make us feel like we're a part of something bigger than just ourselves. They make us feel special.



So why do many of us regard "tradition" in other areas as anti-youth? In order to involve youth, we believe that we need to change things, make them different. I'm not an advocate of clinging to tradition for no reason, but I'm also not an advocate of change for the sake of change. Sometimes change is good. Some traditions are bad and need to be changed. However, we need to be careful not to assume that anything "traditional" can't include youth.

One area where there seems to be a constant conflict between the traditional and the modern is in music, and never has this been so visible as at the Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing in November. A well-attended event, there was an obvious lack of youth and young families.

There is something about music that wraps itself around your soul like nothing else. In times of hardship or joy, it is so often music that offers an

outlet. For many people, the hymns of their childhood never leave them and offer them comfort for years to come. When singing in nursing homes, it is common to see the light of recognition in seniors' eyes when an old hymn is sung, even when the names of their family members are no longer remembered. That's the power of music! Here is one area where old and new should grow firmly together and be used as a bridge between generations. Too often we see worship as an "either/or" scenario. We can have a traditional service or a contemporary one. We can sing traditional hymns or contemporary ones. But we need to blend. The young of the church



need to be with the elders to learn from them. Those in more advanced years need the presence of the youth to add enthusiasm and energy. We need to accept tradition and change, together for without tradition, there would be no change and without change, traditions would lose

their importance. In the words of one hymn, "And it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you." There are times when it is important to listen to the youth and make changes to help them feel connected and involved. There are other times when it is important to keep the traditions and teach the youth to be a part of them.

Name That Christmas Carol! Answers

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer | 11. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas |
| 2. Silent Night | 12. Silver Bells |
| 3. O Little Town of Bethlehem | 13. The Twelve Days of Christmas |
| 4. Good King Wenceslas | 14. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear |
| 5. Deck the Halls | 15. All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth |
| 6. Joy to the World | 16. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus |
| 7. Hark the Herald Angels Sing | 17. Walking in a Winter Wonderland |
| 8. We Three Kings | |
| 9. Oh Come All Ye Faithful | |
| 10. O Holy Night | |



What a Quote!

- "So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter."
2 Thess 2:15

Welcome to the Family

The reformed tradition (of which Presbyterians are a part) recognises only two sacraments: the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) and Baptism. According to *Living Faith*, "Baptism is a sign and seal of our union with Christ and with His church. In Baptism, water is administered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The water signifies the washing away of sin, the start of new life in Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the sacrament not of what we do but of what God has done for us in Christ. Baptism is also an act of friendship that requires commitment and looks towards growth in Christ..."



Congregations and those baptized must strive to nurture life in Christ. Baptism assures us that we belong to God. In life and in death our greatest comfort is that we belong to our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ." Baptisms are indeed something special

and a time to celebrate. In November, we welcomed Aly (above) and Beatrice (right) into the family of God and the community of Chalmers. Hallelujah!

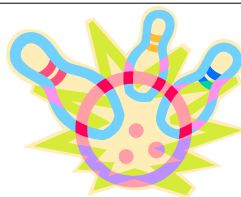
Let us also remember that Baptism is a commitment. We, the congregation, promise to "guide and nurture this child and her parents by example and counsel, with love and in prayer, encouraging them to follow the way of Christ and to be faithful members of His church." What a promise! If each one of us takes that promise to heart and prays daily for all the families of Chalmers (parents and children alike), and if we support &

encourage one another daily, weekly, monthly to live in Christ we will indeed be seeing heaven on earth!



Want to Help?

- The Salvation Army Christmas Kettle needs volunteers every Monday through Saturday until December 24th.
- Popcans are still being collected to support youth ministry. Empty them, crush them, and bring them in!
- Several committees are looking for new members. Interested in computers? Join the Information Technology Subcommittee. Want to help encourage new members to Chalmers? Join the Evangelism & Growth Committee. Interested in youth ministry? Join the Youth Ministry Team. Enthusiastic about helping people share their gifts? Join the Stewardship Team. Whatever your interest, there's a place where you can serve! Youth, young adults & adults welcome.
- We are continuing to collect Pennies for Presbyterians Sharing until Dec. 31st. Drop a few in the jug or give your rolls to Doris Tutt.



Junior Youth Bowling, Pizza & Worship

Who: Junior Youth (grades 5-8)

When: Sunday, December 20th

Time: 4:30pm – 8:00pm

Where: Begins at Chalmers

Meet at the church, go bowling, munch on pizza, stay for youth-focused Contemporary worship.

Worship open to all.

Friends always welcome!

Grab a Book!

Is it Christmas yet, God? By Elspeth Campbell Murphyages 2 - 6

This is the story of a family's wait for Christmas to come. In reading it to your child, you'll find bible verses for you to tuck down into the recesses of your mind and mull over as the time passes – oh so slowly towards Christmas. Some of the pages are funny, some are thought provoking, one (for me) was catch in your throat, butterflies in your tummy, and tear in your eye beautiful. This is a book that you can enjoy reading to your child – and taking the message to heart yourself!

The Peanut Butter Burglar by Becky Freeman.....ages 7 – 10

Ten year old twins, Jake and Joy live at a Christian youth camp and life is filled with adventure, excitement and fun. This is one book in a series – and we have three of this series in our library. Although they are separate stories, it is best to read this one first – get to know the characters.

First, food starts disappearing from Miss Nellie's café. Then lumber walks away from Mr. Henley's hardware store. Always ready to solve a mystery, the Two Amigos Detectives, set out to catch the odd thief. It appears to be an open-and-shut case. All the clues point to Mr. Klem, whose large family is poor by most standards. But they seem like such a happy family – could they possibly be the thieves?

Even though it's a long time since I fitted into this age category – I enjoyed this book. It is interesting, exciting

and you have to giggle a bit at the name of the camp – Camp Wanna Banana – that alone made me “wanna” read it.



The Summer of Cotton Candy by Debbie Viguieages - teen-read

A Sweet Season's Book #1

This is the first book in a series of 4 – and they should be read in order. At the moment we have numbers 1, 2 and 4 – but I will get the other book as soon as I can. Candace Thompson is 16 years old, best friend of Tamara Wilcox, and they love to hang out together at the mall and shop, but this summer, Candace's father has given her an ultimatum! Get a job! There are no more handouts, freebies or allowances. If she wants to have money, she must earn it. So Candace very grudgingly gets a job selling cotton candy at the Zone – the local amusement park. This is an amusing story, but Candace also has to make some difficult decisions and learn some hard truths. Why would someone dislike her so much that they try to get her into trouble? Like serious trouble?

Start with the Summer of Cotton Candy – and I'm sure you'll want to carry on and read more of Candace's exploits at The Zone.

Reviewed by Christine Hunter
Librarian

Happy to See You

It was great to see everyone at Sunday Morning Youth in November. Congratulations to our six “Four-Star Attendees” this month. We had an average attendance of 20 children & youth per week and we saw 41 individual children & youth over the course of the month. We appreciate the effort this takes and feel privileged to play a role in your family's spiritual growth.

Our preschool class:

Naomi	Beatrice
Cooper	Isla
Lily	Julie

Our Primary Class:

Jessy B.	Haillee
Josiah	Madelyn
Morgan	Aly
Torry	

Our Junior Class:

Cameron A.	Christian
Colin	Crissy
Reece	Sarah
Tyler	Kenneth
Jacqueline	Joycelina
Yunika	Cameron T.
Maia	Kennedy
Evan	Dane
Landon	Brady

Our Senior Class:

Tom	Abby M.
Jessie M.	Charleen
Sam	Abbey P.
Yunesta	Dak
Amber	Allyson



Above: Cameron T., Cameron A., Colin & Reece receive their Bibles on grade 3 Bible Sunday.

Children & Youth Ministries at Chalmers

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 6:15pm Children's Choir	4	5 10:00am SMY pageant practice 6:30pm CY'09 at Oakridge
6 ADVENT 2 10:30am SMY Pageant Service 12:00pm Budget meeting 7pm Contemporary Service	7	8	9	10	11	12 1:00pm Orchestra rehearsal 7:00pm Christmas concert
13 ADVENT 3 10:30am SMY & Reachout sings White gift Sunday	14	15	16 7:30pm Reach Out practice	17 6:15pm Children's Choir	18	19
20 ADVENT 4 10:30am Family worship 12:00pm Orchestra rehearsal 4:30pm Jr. Youth bowling 7:00pm Contemporary Service	21	22	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Service 10:00pm Candlelight Communion Service	25 For unto us a child is born!	26
27 10:30 Family worship	28	29	30	31		

Other Notes

Sunday Morning Youth Pageant—rehearsal Sat., Dec. 5th at 10:30am. Pageant Service on Sun., Dec. 6th at 10:30am.

Christmas Eve Orchestra—for all those who can play an instrument. Rehearsals Sat., Dec.

12th and Sun., Dec. 20th. Perform at 7:00pm service on Christmas Eve.

Family Worship—Sundays December 20th & 27th. All children to remain in the service.

Saturday, Dec. 12th at 7pm—

Christmas Concert with Mary Smith (vocalist) and Agnes-Marie Henderson (pianist & songwriter)

Sunday, Dec. 20th at 4:30—Jr. youth bowling, pizza & worship

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