

**Chalmers
Presbyterian
Church**

Youth Spirit

Volume 3, Issue 4

December, 2010

Drama in December!

Drama is not for everyone. Some people are good at it, and some are not. But more importantly, some people enjoy it, and some people don't. And that goes for children as well as adults. There are many adults who would not like to come to church if that involved having to perform a drama in front of the entire congregation, and yet this is what is expected of children with the

What a Quote!

"We are made different not in order to be separated. We're made different to know of our need for each other."
Bishop Desmond Tutu

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Christmas pageant. So this year, we are going to have a Christmas Dramatic Presentation on December 12th involving those who enjoy doing such: children, teens and adults. It's going to be a great story told from the perspective of the shepherds. I truly hope that everyone will be able to see the Christmas story from a fresh perspective and enjoy this drama. Just as there are both children and adults who will enjoy performing the drama, the drama is written to be enjoyed by both adults and children, so please join us on December 12th.



Also this month, Reach Out is singing on December 5th. Both of these Sundays will be wonderful opportunities to invite a friend to visit Chalmers for something a little different.

Sometimes it can be intimidating to invite someone to come to church with us, but when there is something special happening like a choral presentation or a drama, that invitation can be a little easier.

December 19th will be the ordination of new elders, so children and youth will have Sunday Morning Youth as normal.

To give our SMY teachers a little break over Christmas, both December 26th and January 2nd will be All Ages Sundays. We had a lot of fun last year celebrating Christmas Around the World, so please join us again this year for some interesting perspectives on Christmas.

Contact me!

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



From the Editor

“So, are you ready for Christmas?” It amazes me how many times I hear this phrase every November/December. But what amazes me more is what this question means. It means “Have you decorated your house? Are your Christmas lights hung? Have you finished your Christmas shopping?” (It’s only November people! I’m quite proud that I’ve **STARTED** my Christmas shopping!) And what I often find when I reply that I’m not done my shopping yet and we don’t decorate until December or whatever, is that really the person asking is ready to commiserate about how busy Christmas is, or ready to boast about how they always finish their shopping before Hallowe’en.

And yet really, I am ready for

Christmas. We haven’t put up our tree yet. There are no decorations around the house. No cookies have been baked. No presents have been wrapped (only a few bought in fact). But December does not loom like some big month of stress and dread. I’m ready for Christmas. I’m ready to celebrate the arrival of that little baby that changed the world. And if that day arrives and there is still no tree or decorations or cookies or presents, that’s okay. Of course, I enjoy all those things, and Christmas would be different

without them, but it would still be Christmas. This may all sound very trite and like a hundred sermons and Christmas songs we’ve all heard before, but think about it. We all get ourselves into a tizzy over trying to get everything done in time for Christmas, or even worse trying to get it done so early that we can show up our friends, but no matter what, Christmas will be here, whether the house and the shopping and the baking are ready or not. So isn’t it more important to make sure that we are ready. To make sure that the commercialism and competition doesn’t steal the essence of the season from us.

So the next time someone asks if I’m ready for Christmas, I’m going to respond with an enthusiastic “YES!” Because even if the baking and the shopping and the decorating aren’t ready, I am!



Grab a Book!

This month we will look at some Christmas books. Yes it’s that special time of year again – and I have set out the Christmas reading in the library for our children. I must confess I have no special Christmas reading for the older children. The teens could enjoy the Christmas books in the adult section of the library – but those tweens – well maybe they would enjoy reading one of these books:

This is the Star by Joyce Dunbar (even that rhymes) and Gary Blithe. This is a lovely little book whose poetry follows the style of “This is the house that Jack built”. It is readable, enjoyable and repetitive – and we all know how **little children** love to hear the same stories over and over again, huh? I loved this one.



The Legend of the Candy Cane by Lori Walburg. I didn’t know that! I’m sure some of you will say that after reading this book. This is suitable for **slightly older children** as it also talks about Christ’s death (the red stripes) – but in a beautiful and affirming way. I enjoyed this story – and loved the pictures.

A Night the Stars Danced for Joy by Bob Hartman. A lovely story about a shepherd family watching their sheep on a hillside outside of Bethlehem on that wonderful night. They see a shooting star and each makes a wish. Will their wishes come true. Well..... All you need to do is sign out this book – and read it for yourself! This book is very suitable for **older children in the 7 – 10 age group**.

Skating Party

(Bike or hockey helmets required)

Saturday, December 11/10

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Farquharson Arena

(411 Tecumseh Ave. E., beside South Secondary School)

\$3 per skater, \$10 per family or donation

All are welcome!



Host is Chalmers Presbyterian Church

For more information please call Chalmers Church at 519-681-7242 or visit www.chalmerspresbyterian.com

Great to See You!

We are so glad to see everyone! It was nice to have a few visitors this month and a few old faces that we've been missing. Thanks for being a part of Children & Youth Ministries at Chalmers!!!

Our preschool class: (JK and younger)

Naomi Isla
Julie Lily
Sarah Avery

Our Primary Class: (SK—Grade 3)

Jessy Allyson
Torry Riele
Taylor Josiah
Morgan Aly
Brock

Our Junior Class: (Grades 4-6)

Colin Cameron A.
Joycie Brynn
Sarah Austin
Mackenzie Cameron T.

Our Senior Class: (Grades 7 and up)

Chrisian Jackie
Crissy Tom
Charleen Abbey P.
Allyson Yunesta
Crissy Jacqueline
Yunike Kenneth
Sydney Zack
Emerald Amber

Volunteers:

A reminder to our Preschool volunteers this month:

December 5th: Pat MacKay

Have a Laugh!

From Uncle John's Bathroom Reader, page 316 –
Looney Laws

Believe it or not, these laws are real.

- In Tusculumbia, Alabama, it is against the law for more than eight rabbits to reside on the same block.
- In Birmingham, Alabama, it is illegal to drive a car while blindfolded.
- In Arizona it is illegal to hunt or shoot a camel.
- In Atlanta it is illegal to make faces at school children while they are studying.
- In Hawaii no one may whistle in a drinking establishment.
- A law in Zion, Illinois, prohibits teaching household pets to smoke cigars.
- According to Kentucky law, women may not appear on the highway in bathing suits unless they carry clubs.
- In Marblehead, Massachusetts, each fire company responding to an alarm must be provided a three-gallon jug of rum.
- It is illegal to fish for whales in any stream,

Youth News

Junior Youth (grades 6-8):

Dec. 10th—(7-9pm) Junior Youth Night

Senior Youth (grades 9-12):

Dec. 3rd—(7-9pm) Senior Youth Night

river or lake in Ohio.

- Undertakers are prohibited from giving away books of matches in Shreveport, LA
- It is unlawful to tie a crocodile to a fire hydrant in Detroit.
- In Minnesota it is illegal to dry both men's and women's underwear on the same clothesline.
- In Natchez, Mississippi, it is unlawful for elephants to drink beer.
- It is illegal for barbers in Waterloo, Nebraska, to eat onions between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- In Yukon, Oklahoma, it is illegal for a patient to pull a dentist's tooth.
- In Portland, Oregon, it is illegal to shake a feather duster in someone's face.
- A South Carolina statute states that butchers may not serve on a jury when a man is being tried for murder.
- In Knoxville, Tennessee, it is illegal to lasso a fish.

Children & Youth Ministries at Chalmers

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6:15 Children's Choir	3 7-9pm Senior Youth	4 Meaning of Christmas Drama
5 Happy 12 th birthday Cameron C! 10:30 SMY 2 nd Sunday of Advent Reach Out Presentation Preschool Assistant: Pat MacKay	6	7	8	9 Happy 14 th birthday Spencer!	10 7-9pm Junior Youth	11 AM Christmas Drama rehearsal 2-3 Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal 3:30-4:30 Skating Party
12 10:30 3 rd Sunday of Advent SMY Christmas Celebration Service White Gift Sunday	13	14	15	16 6:15 Children's Choir	17 Happy 19 th birthday Ailsa!	18 Happy 20 th birthday Mandy! 2-3 Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal
19 10:30 4 th Sunday of Advent Ordination of new elders	20	21	22	23 6:15 Children's Choir	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 All Ages Worship 10:00 Candlelight Communion Service	25 Christmas Day Happy 19 th birthday Reid!
26 10:30 All Ages Service	27	28	29 Happy 21 st birthday John Jr.!	30 Happy 15 th birthday Tori!	31 New Year's Eve	