

Chalmers' Spirit

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Contact me!

- Comments, new emails? Let me know:
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In December!

Here comes December! The month anticipated with the most excitement and the most dread! I hope that you can find a balance this year to allow you to enjoy the bustle but still find the peace that Christ brings.

There are many opportunities for worship this month: with six Advent services (three contemporary & three more traditional), plus Hark The Glad Sound—an afternoon carol sing, and two Christmas Eve services and then worship on Christmas morning there is no lack of times and styles for everyone. I must say that I'm really looking forward to gathering for worship on Christmas morning! What a per-

fect way to celebrate!

We'll be welcoming Cynthia Breadner to the pulpit on December 4th and Reach Out will be leading worship on December 18th at the 10:30 service.



For the children & youth, there is youth group on December 2nd & 9th and our junior praise band, 4:12, will be leading a time of musical worship with Sunday Morning Youth on December 11th.

And then when it come to

sharing with others, we have the Christmas Kettle every day until December 24th (except Sundays), the "Fill a Bag, Warm a Heart" project for Ark Aid Street Mission, and White Gift Sunday—bring a non-perishable food item for the Care & Share on December 11th (Ark Aid Bags are also to be returned by this Sunday). All of these are wonderful ways to experience and share the important message of the season.

Please get involved this Christmas season in whatever way best allows you and your family to glorify God and remember His precious gift to us!

Little Worship (9:00am) and Preschool (10:30) Assistants

Dec. 4: Marg Ward & Cathy Spooner

Dec. 11: Christine Hunter (9:00) & John Biro Jr. (10:30)

Dec. 18: Robyn MacKeigan (9:00) & Phyllis Johnston (10:30)

Dec. 25: All Ages Christmas Worship



From the Editor

I was out doing yard work this morning (I'm writing this on Monday, November 14th—that's important to note in case the weather changes between now and when you're reading this!) I don't normally do fall yard work. Once summer is done, I pretty much ignore my gardens until spring but this year the weather has stayed so nice that I've been raking leaves just to enjoy being outside!

Now, I am not a talented gardener! I have lots of dirt in my yard in which things tend to grow, but very little of it has anything to do with my skill! My mother and I laugh because we love to go to garden stores and we read all the little labels that tell us whether something needs sun or shade, etc. and then we just plant things wherever we want anyway! We have a friend who calls this technique "Throw & Thrive". In other words, we expect our plants to thrive regardless of where we throw them. (She does the same thing!)

Anyway, as I was raking up my leaves this morning, I started thinking about how much easier clean-up is going to be next spring, how nice it will be to have the first spring buds poking up

through the ground without a layer of rotting leaves on top of them. I even thought about all those people who take the time in the fall to plant bulbs so that they'll have beautiful daffodils and tulips as soon as the first hints of spring come. I'm never that ambitious!



Thinking about the joys of the coming spring with all this prep-work already done made me think about raising children (stay with me here!) We often think about life as starting in the spring, but try this: autumn is like childhood. The gardener works very hard in autumn to prepare the gardens for spring. She does many chores, plants bulbs, and gets things ready for the coming spring. Then there is a long period when she doesn't see any results for all her hard work. The garden is covered with snow and it seems like nothing is hap-

pening, but when spring comes (say, the teenage years) all that hard work pays off with beautiful flowers. There's still weeding to be done, but the ground work has been laid. I'm not a great gardener, so this analogy may have many flaws, but the bottom line is this: It's very tempting to "throw and thrive" with our children—letting them do what they want, not wanting to rock the boat, not wanting to draw any lines, but I love my children much more than I do my flowers. I want to ensure that they will grow into the young adults and adults that God intends them to be. He's made me their gardener and as much as I hate the hard work some days, and parts of it are disgusting (I touched a slug today!!!), it's my job to provide them with all they need to grow into God's beautiful flowers.

"It's very tempting to "throw and thrive" with our children, but I love my children much more than I do my flowers!"



Newsletter Remade!

I'm excited to announce that, with the support and approval of the Christian Education & Faith Development Committee, this newsletter is no longer focused on children & youth. We have had many requests

for a congregational newsletter and we have decided that it would be best to simply expand this newsletter to include all areas of Chalmers' ministry, rather than to have two newsletters. So, for now, I have renamed it "Chalmers' Spirit" (instead of the former "Youth Spirit"). If anyone has any

ideas for a new name, I'm all ears!

I want to assure all of the families who rely on the newsletter for news of upcoming youth events or Sunday Morning Youth plans, that will all still be included! We will simply be expanding to include all of that, plus even more!

Happy Birthday!

I have always included the birthdays of the children and youth in the newsletter. Now that we are expanding it to be a congregational newsletter, I still want to recognize birthdays, but I only have a record of those under the age of 25. So I will do the same as on the birthday chart. I will include the birthdays I have, and you will have to send me birthdays for the upcoming month. Here are the December birthdays—start sending in the ones for January!

Children & Youth

Dec. 5th—Cameron C. is 13
Dec. 5th—Ben M. is 13
Dec. 8th—Spencer M. is 15
Dec. 17th—Ailsa L. is 20
Dec. 18th—Mandy W. is 21
Dec. 25th—Reid H. is 20
Dec. 29th—John B. Jr. is 22
Dec. 30th—Tori G. is 16

Adults

Dec. 26th—Heather Reid



Glad to See You!!!

This is another column that I have always included in the youth newsletter. It's where I recognize the children & youth who attended church in the previous month. It's nice for them to be recognized and it also let's everyone else in the congregation see how many children & youth we really have. Although we have difficulty with consistent attendance, we do have a pretty good number of children and youth.

Isla
Julie
Evalina
Lily
Sarah
Nicole
Jaxson
Sawyer
Colin
William
Elizabeth
Daniel

Naomi
Josiah
Cameron T.
Morgan
Sarah
Aly
Torry
Emily
Brynn
Sydney
Charleen
Zack

Kenneth
Sam
Jackie
Joycie
Yunesta
Yunike
Quinton
Ferguson
Silas
Seth

Great Gatherings!

There were many good times to get together for some fellowship in November. On November 20th there was the Men's Breakfast where Jeff, the CEO of Habitat for Humanity was the guest speaker. Then there was the church potluck where a good time was had by all and there was LOTS of great

food to share! Then to wrap of the month, the ladies gathered for Mary Moffat and learned how to make "frilly scarves". Jackie Harrett and Linda Murray led the way and all 17 of the ladies enjoyed a nice evening of fel-



lowship with the beginnings of a very cute scarf to take home. Keep your eyes peeled around church

and I'm sure you'll see the fruits of our labours!

Photo Time!



In November, we welcomed six new members to Chalmers. From left to right, they are: Robyn & Rod, Ryan & Victoria, Dave and Carolyn. Robyn & Rod bring with them Jaxson & Sawyer, their two sons, and Carolyn brings Lily, Sarah & Nicole, her three daughter.

Welcome!!!

Grab A Book! By Christine Hunter

At this time of year, when we get caught up in the glitter and tinsel of Christmas trappings and commercialism, I think it is good to take the time to read a nice story about the real meaning of Christmas and what it means to us as Christians and especially to our little ones who are soaking up everything they hear and see. Here are some books that I highly recommend as good Christmas reading:

Children:

The Crippled Lamb,
A Night the Stars Danced for Joy,
The Christmas Star,
The Rinky, Dinky Donkey,
Is it Christmas yet, God?
The Best Thing about Christmas,
Born on Christmas Morn,

The Fourth Wise Man,
The Legend of the Candy Cane,
Family Countdown to Christmas

And for older children – how about:

Gifts to make and eat.

For adults, try:

White Christmas Pie,
The Gift of Christmas Present,
The Meaning of Christmas,
One Perfect Day,
In the Days of the Angels,
The Judge who Stole Christmas.

Or non-fiction:

Come to the Manger,
A Treasury of Christmas Miracles

One Incredible Moment,
Advent and Christmas Saints,
Rejoicing in Hope,
The Glory of Christmas.

These are a sampling of the books we have in our library – novels, bible studies and devotions for this time of the year. The children's reading table has a sampling of our Christmas stories for young minds, and the Christmas reading for adults is on a shelf marked as "seasonal" reading. Check it out, then take some time from your busy life to really enjoy this most blessed time of our Christian year. Put Christ back into Christmas!

Blessings, and happy reading.
Christine Hunter, Librarian.

Bellissima! By Debbie Kemp

I thought the Bellissima Ringers were amazing. The four musicians stood in front of tables holding 32 bells ranging from small high soprano bells to large bass bells. They were incredible to watch as they rapidly picked up and played bells so quickly to make a beautiful sound. They played several familiar hymns, and we

were treated to solos, trios and the quartet. But what would actual experienced bell ringers have to say? I brought my parents, who play in a bell group at a United Church in Mitchell. My mom described the group as "very polished" and employing many special bell techniques. My dad marveled at how they could keep their

place in the music while reaching for so many bells. It was obvious that they had practiced together extensively. It is wonderful how God inspires music of so many genres and many instruments. Hearing these gifted musicians was a privilege.

Bellissima! By Torry Thibodeau


We went to see the Bell Ringers. They were very cool and I loved them. I went with mommy, daddy, grandma, nana and papa. I thought it was going to be boring before I went to see them, but when it was over I felt like I loved it. It was funny when they grabbed bells from each other. There were bells

about the size of an inch and some of them were the size of my foot. The bigger they were, the lower they played. And sometimes they played more than one in each hand, and one lady even strung some together. They were really, very super good!



This photo was taken at First St. Andrew's United Church, home of the Bellissima Ringers.





Hark the glad sound
A Musical Celebration for Advent and Christmas
 Sunday, 11 December 2011, 2:30 pm

Carol singing - Fun and fellowship for all ages
 Special Musical Presentations

Location: Chalmers Presbyterian Church, 342 Pond Mills Road, London
www.chalmerslondon.com 519-681-7242

Everything Christmas

Photo by Mallory Clarkson/London
 Community News

Christine Hunter (left), Holly Williams and Anne Webster take a break from the stream of people coming through Chalmers Presbyterian Church Saturday (Nov. 19) to show off some of the few items that hadn't sold during the annual Everything Christmas sale.

Not only did patrons get to shop for Christmas ornaments, but could buy baked goods, candy and meat pies.



YA YA

CHALMERS' YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF
LAURIE PONSFORD-HILL
YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

Christmas 2011



**Can you see the
candle prototype?**

All in all, we have had some great weather this fall as we move into winter! There are days when it is hard to tell that winter approaches and there are days when it feels like winter is already here. Life is a mystery. A mystery with no end and no beginning (Gen 1:2-4) in linear time. After such a busy October, it was nice to slow down a bit. Our visit to Sari Therapeutic Stables was a bit of an ordeal as the GPS did not recognize the road it was located on, so, we circled until we finally landed! The tour was great and we thank Janine Langley, Lead Instructor, for showing us the bit to butt of the business. Sari has been booked for a mission step for One Day Wonder on March 3, 2012 so keep that date free.

The maze has been set up in the church, so, if you would like to give it a try for a prize, see if you know the answers to the questions. The start is right beside the pop can collection box in the narthax.

Dec. 2 and 9 from 7-9 pm we will be making candles! We have had quite a few donations for this project so come out and help make some candles. They make great christmas presents and we will be selling the really impressive ones as a fund raiser for our trip to SYNERGY and CANADA YOUTH! Are YOU interested in participating? Just let me know.

Some good news, some concerning news and some sad news. Scotty is out of the hospital and back at home. Tom Ball is still undergoing medical tests. Charleen and her family are in the midst of family grief over the sudden death of her sister in Nova Scotia. Please keep all of these dear members of our family in your prayers as we progress through our most thoughtful of seasons.

Opportunities missed are opportunities lost! YOUR next opportunity to be part of our Youth (yes, we make a difference) Group at Chalmers is Dec.2. See Ya!

Christmas Worship at Chalmers



Sunday, December 4th – Advent II

- 9:00 am Contemporary Worship
 - 10:30 am More Traditional Worship
- Both services led by Cynthia Breadner

Sunday, December 11th – Advent III White Gift Sunday

- 9:00 am Contemporary Worship
- 10:15 am Carol Sing
- 10:30 am More Traditional Worship
- 2 pm Hark the Glad Sound Carol Sing

Sunday, December 18th – Advent IV

- 9:00 am Contemporary Worship
- 10:15 am Carol Sing
- 10:30 am Worship led by Reach Out

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

- 7:00 pm Family Worship
- 10:00 pm Candle-Light Communion

Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Day

- 10:30 am Carols, Stories & Hymns
Celebration Worship

Christmas Kettle

Please support the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle campaign by signing up in the narthex to volunteer at the kettle in White Oaks Mall near Tim Horton's.



December 2011 - Updated 29 November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
This calendar is updated throughout the month as activities are added or change. Please check it out! http://www.chalmerslondon.com/church_calendar.htm				1 11-8 Christmas Kettle 10am-2pm Care & Share 7 pm Senior Choir	2 11-8 Christmas Kettle 6:30 pm CW practice 7-9 pm Youth Group Candles	3 11-8 Christmas Kettle
4 - Advent II 9 am Contemp. Worship 10:30 am Worship Cynthia Breadner preaching at both services 12 noon Junior Choir 2 pm Reach Out at Royal Cliffe 2:30 pm Book of the Month Gathering 3:30 pm 4:12 practice	5 10 am Session Executive 11-8 Christmas Kettle 1:30 pm Walkfit 7:30 pm Worship Planning Team chez Lizz	6 9:30 am Pastoral Care 10am-2pm Care & Share 11-8 Christmas Kettle 7:30 pm CE & Faith Develop. 7:30 pm Policy & Planning	7 11-8 Christmas Kettle 2:15 pm Knitting Circle 7:30 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Reach Out at Kensington	8 10am-2pm Care & Share 11-8 Christmas Kettle 7 pm Senior Choir	9 11-8 Christmas Kettle 6:30 pm CW practice 7-9 pm Youth Group Candle Making	10 10-11 am Christmas Eve Orchestra Rehearsal 11-8 Christmas Kettle 7:30 pm Reach Out in Glencoe
11 - Advent III White Gift Sunday Please return Ark Aid Bags! 9 am Contemp. Worship 10:00 Coffee Time 10:15 am Carol Singing 10:30 am Worship Joyful Noise with 4:12 12 noon Junior Choir 2:30 pm Hark the Glad Sound - Carol Sing 7 pm Reach Out in Beamsville	12 11-8 Christmas Kettle 1:30 pm Walkfit 6:30 pm Mary Moffat Pot Luck / Christmas Exchange	13 10am-2pm Care & Share 11-8 Christmas Kettle 7:30 pm Social/Communication 7:30 pm Session	14 11-8 Christmas Kettle Last day for Southdale Chaplaincy Food Drive No Knitting Circle 7 pm Mission Committee 7 pm Reach Out at Chateau Gardens	15 10am-2pm Care & Share 11-8 Christmas Kettle No Senior Choir	16 11-8 Christmas Kettle 6:30 pm CW practice	17 11-8 Christmas Kettle 4-5 pm Christmas Eve Orchestra Rehearsal
18 - Advent IV 9 am Contemp. Worship 10:15 am Carol Singing 10:30 am Worship - Reach Out Sings 12 noon Junior Choir 2:00 pm Reach Out at Dearness	19 11-8 Christmas Kettle 1:30 pm Walkfit 6:30 pm Evangelism Committee 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry	20 10am-2pm Care & Share 11-8 Christmas Kettle	21 11-8 Christmas Kettle No Knitting Circle 7:00 pm Reach Out at Ashwood	22 10am-2pm Care & Share 11-8 Christmas Kettle 7:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm Prop. Management	23 11-8 Christmas Kettle No CW practice	24 11-2 Christmas Kettle 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 pm Candle-light Communion Service
25 - Christmas 10:30 am Worship (all ages) Christmas Hymns, Carols & Stories	26 No Activities this week	27	28	29	30	31

Last Laugh!

