

# Chalmers' Spirit

## Welcome to February!



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How exciting! Yesterday was the Annual General Meeting at Chalmers and it was practically standing room only! A nice lunch was provided by the Policy & Planning committee and then Rev. John and George Leonard led us through the annual report and the budget for 2013. There was good discussion, questions asked and answered, good news shared, and fellowship enjoyed!

Also this month, there is the Ash Wednesday service on **February 13th at 7pm** and the Congregational breakfast

is this coming Sunday, February 17th at 8am. On Saturday, February 23rd, consider joining the Presbytery of London as the "Begin the Conversation" about the future of part-time congregational ministries within our presbytery. And don't miss Soup'er Sunday on February 24th!!! If you like to make soup, please volunteer to bring a pot. If you like to eat soup, then make sure you join us for a delicious lunch!

Looking ahead to March, Junior Youth (grades 6-8) please plan to be a part of One-Day Wonder on March 2nd!!!

### Contact me!

- Comments, new emails? Let me know: [lizzt@rogers.com](mailto:lizzt@rogers.com)

## Photo Time!



**CHILI CHAMP 2013!**

**Chili Night**



## More Photos!

### Youth Group!

"Taste and See that the Lord is Good!"



### Spoiler Alert!

Did you know that the first Sunday in Lent used to be called Piñata Sunday? Come and see!



## Photo Time!



**Congregational Breakfast—January**





## Grab a Book by Christine Hunter

We have a series of books in the library that introduce young readers to some of the more well known stories of the bible – in a language they understand, and with pictures that help them follow and remember the stories better.

By Heather Amery – **Jonah and the Whale**  
**Joseph and His Amazing Coat**  
**Daniel and the Lions**  
**Moses in the Bullrushes**  
**Noah's Ark**  
**The Good Samaritan**  
**The Prodigal Son**

I know you will enjoy reading these books to your little ones – and I know they will enjoy hearing these exciting stories.

**Indian Summer** - by Sandra Byrd

**Ages 8 - 12**

Tess and Rein are best friends and are set for a weekend of fun as they volunteer to help at a Vacation Bible School at a nearby Navajo Reservation. As they face the challenges thrown at them, they grow in ways they never imagined. Erin tests her skills as a leader and Tess takes a huge step of faith – one that has an unexpected impact in her home life. Check out this book – I enjoyed reading it, I'm sure you will too.

## God Will Provide

(The views expressed in this article belong solely to the author (Lizz) and have not been endorsed, encouraged or even discussed with any committee, team or member of Chalmers!)



"Congregational Meeting is adjourned!"

Whew, that's that done for another year, right? Wrong! This year, we passed a very realistic, logical budget. It's only 2% higher than the "actual" from last year. That's a very reasonable rate of growth (in my very humble, and not greatly informed opinion!!!) So now we can relax and sit back and coast through the year. Wait! A 2% increase??? But didn't we struggle to meet the budget at the end of last year? Weren't committees asked to cut back on their spending so that we wouldn't need as much of

the budget from last year? Didn't we once again have our (seemingly traditional) cry in December that we're not going to make it?

And yet once again Chalmers can say, "God will provide!" because once again facing a deficit in December, we managed to pull off a surplus by year end!

Here's my dream: I dream that one year, we will arrive at December on target. One year, we won't have to ask the committees to cut back. One year, we won't need to rely on some very generous end-of-year donations to make it. Could it be this year? Two percent, huh? What does that really look

like? For some, it's impossible, absolutely and I would never want anyone to feel guilty that they can't contribute enough. The church is for everyone and truly God will provide.

But for others, 2% of \$10 is twenty cents. 2% of \$100 is two dollars. Is this an increase that your family can make? Perhaps not and God bless you for considering it. But perhaps. Or perhaps putting \$10.20 in the plate each week seems awkward so once a month, give \$15. Wow! That's way more than a 2% increase, but maybe it's manageable for you.

Or perhaps you offer \$10 each time you come, but

you're only able to come to church twice a month. What about considering our PAR program (Pre-Authorised Remittance). You never have to remember your offering again! Once a month, it is automatically withdrawn from your bank account. And you can change the amount any time you like.

I don't want to come across as pushy—I'm just asking everyone to consider how we can all work together to reach our goal of 2%. Chalmers is a fantastic church with many great ministries to offer. Imagine what more we could do!

"God Will Provide!", but what can we do to help?

## A Word on Evangelism by Debbie Kemp

### How to be an Evangelist? – Love and Serve our Community

“How revolutionary it would be if churches, instead of asking themselves ‘How can we evangelize?’ would ask ‘What is the quality of our community life?’” (John Bowen – Evangelism for Normal People). That is why our outreach to the community is so important. Our community fair in September was an attempt to reach out to the children and parents of our area, offering them good fun for free. We plan to hold this event next year and we have learned a few things about how to do it better and to draw more people. We wanted the community to think of Chalmers as a group that cares for their children. Certainly that was the impression of parents and grandparents that we talked to that day. We as a church community do this in several ways including Sunday Morning Youth, Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) and PD Day camps, and opening up our church to groups like Brownies and Sparks.

We provide space for other community groups for a low cost donation. These groups include Alcoholics Anonymous and Recovery. These meetings can be a lifeline for people with addictions and emotional issues. Greeting them warmly when we see them is the least we can do. The Evangelism Committee is pondering other ways that we can make them feel like a part of our community. Our Care and Share program is another method of serving the community. The Mission Committee does outreach ministry and serving a meal at Men's Mission and there are numerous church services at long term care centres and Parkwood Hospital put on by our minister and other lay people. Our mission teams to Mississippi and New Orleans helped in very tangible ways. This is not an exhaustive list of what Chalmers is doing in the community, I am sure. But I also believe we need to do more.

There are many examples of Jesus' ministry to the poor and hurting in the New Testament. Let's be realistic and remember that it is not all rewarding and 'feel good' work. Remember the story of Jesus healing the 10 lepers and only one returned to say thanks? Serving the community can be a lot of hard work and positive results may not be immediately seen, but we do this work because it is what Jesus would do.

Many people in and outside the church have a strong passion for social justice. I wonder if non-church going people realize that our denomination cares for people with HIV/AIDS, that we are in several impoverished countries serving with local partners, that Presbyterians have a presence in areas of natural disasters and we do great work in inner cities including Winnipeg, that has the highest crime rate in Canada.

A song comes to mind “They know we are Christians by our love” and the scripture from James – “Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them ‘Go in peace, keep warm and well fed’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead” (2: 15-16, 26) Another scripture: ‘When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”’ (Matt 25:38-40)

How do we evangelize our local community? – We serve.

## Take Time to Smile!

Four brothers left home for college, and they became successful doctors and lawyers.

One evening, they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the 95th birthday gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who moved to Florida.

The first said, "You know I had a big house built for Mama."

The second said, "And I had a large theater built in the house."

The third said, "And I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her."

The fourth said, "You know how Mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read anymore because she can't see very well. I met this preacher who told me about a parrot who could recite the entire Bible. It took ten preachers almost 8 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$50,000 a year for five years to the church, but it was worth it Mama only has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it."

The other brothers were impressed. After the celebration Mama sent out her "Thank You" notes.

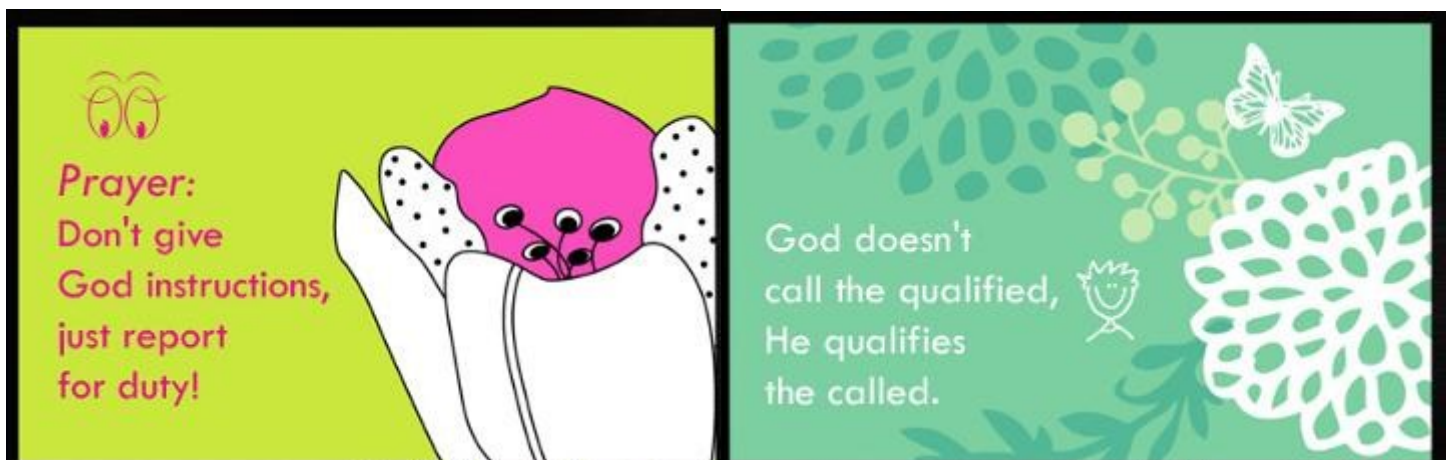
She wrote: Milton, the house you built is so huge that I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway."

"Michael, you gave me an expensive theater with Dolby sound and it can hold 50 people, but all of my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing, and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. Thank you just the same."

"Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home; I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good. Thanks."

"Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you so much."

Love, Mama



# February 2013 - Chalmers Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <b>8am Congregational Breakfast</b> <b>10am Worship - Holy Communion</b> <b>10:15am Sunday School</b> <b>11:15am Coffee Time</b>	<b>28</b> <b>1:30pm Walkfit</b>	<b>29</b> <b>1pm Care &amp; Share</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Fitness</b>	<b>30</b> <b>2:15pm Knitting</b> <b>7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal</b>	<b>31</b> <b>6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal</b> <b>7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal</b>	<b>1</b> <b>9am Seniors' Fitness</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Euchre</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>10am Worship</b> <b>10:15am Sunday School</b> <b>11:15am Coffee Time</b> <b>11:30am Youth Group</b> <b>1pm Youth Ministry Team Meeting</b>	<b>4</b> <b>1:30pm Walkfit</b> <b>1:30pm Bible Study</b> <b>6:30pm Mission Committee</b> <b>7pm Bible Study</b> <b>7pm Stephen Ministry</b>	<b>5</b> <b>9:30am Pastoral Care</b> <b>1pm Care &amp; Share</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Fitness</b> <b>7:30pm Policy &amp; Planning</b> <b>7:30pm Christian Ed &amp; Faith Development</b>	<b>6</b> <b>2:15pm Knitting</b> <b>6pm Stewardship Team</b> <b>7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal</b>	<b>7</b> <b>6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal</b> <b>7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal</b>	<b>8</b> <b>9am Seniors' Fitness</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Euchre</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>10am Worship</b> <b>10:15am Sunday School</b> <b>11:15am Library Open</b> <b>11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting</b> <b>11:30am Children's Choir</b>	<b>11</b> <b>1:30pm Walkfit</b> <b>1:30pm Bible Study</b> <b>6:30pm Worship Planning Team</b> <b>7pm Bible Study</b> <b>7:30pm Worship Committee</b>	<b>12</b> <b>1pm Care &amp; Share</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Fitness</b> <b>7:30pm Social &amp; Communication</b>	<b>13</b> <b>2:15pm Knitting</b> <b>7pm Ash Wednesday Service</b> <b>8pm Reach Out Rehearsal</b>	<b>14</b> <b>6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal</b> <b>7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9am Seniors' Fitness</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Euchre</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>8am Congregational Breakfast</b> <b>10am Worship</b> <b>10:15am Sunday School</b> <b>11:15am Coffee Time</b> <b>11:15am Library Open</b> <b>11:30am Children's Choir</b>	<b>18</b> <b>1:30pm Walkfit</b> <b>6:30pm Evangelism</b> <b>Family Day</b> <b>NO Bible Studies</b>	<b>19</b> <b>1pm Care &amp; Share</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Fitness</b> <b>7:30pm Session</b>	<b>20</b> <b>2:15pm Knitting</b> <b>7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal</b>	<b>21</b> <b>6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal</b> <b>7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9am Seniors' Fitness</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Euchre</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Presbytery of London - Beginning the Conversation</b>
<b>24</b> <b>10am Worship</b> <b>10:15am Sunday School</b> <b>11:15am Coffee Time</b> <b>11:15am Library Open</b> <b>11:30am Soup'er</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>11:30am Children's Choir</b>	<b>25</b> <b>1:30pm Walkfit</b> <b>1:30pm Bible Study</b> <b>7pm Bible Study</b> <b>7pm Stephen Ministry</b>	<b>26</b> <b>10am Y4C Sandwich preparation</b> <b>1pm Care &amp; Share</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Fitness</b>	<b>27</b> <b>2:15pm Knitting</b> <b>7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal</b>	<b>28</b> <b>6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal</b> <b>7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:30pm Property Management</b>	<b>1</b> <b>9am Seniors' Fitness</b> <b>1pm Seniors' Euchre</b> <b>World Day of Prayer</b>	<b>2</b> <b>9:15am One Day Wonder @ North Caradoc for Junior Youth</b> <b>8pm To Kill a Mockingbird</b>

**This calendar is updated throughout the month as activities are added or change.**  
**Please check it out! [http://www.chalmerslondon.com/church\\_calendar.htm](http://www.chalmerslondon.com/church_calendar.htm)**

## Calendar Code

Black—regularly scheduled meetings/activities

Blue—worship

Purple—meetings or activities which need special attention because they do not necessarily happen on a regular schedule

Red—Changes to the regular schedule



**Happening  
This Month!**



## Last Laugh!

