

# Chalmers' Spirit

*Built by FAITH,  
strengthened through WORSHIP,  
bringing HOPE to life's journey.*

## Here Comes February!

The best way to keep warm is to keep moving—that's how polar bears survive those icy waters! So join us for all the upcoming events in February and spring will be here in no time!

Holy Communion will be held at Chalmers on Sunday,

February 9th at the 10am worship.

Enjoy "The Mission" starring Robert DeNiro at our movie night on Friday, February 7th and warm up at the Chili Night on Saturday, February 22nd.

And make sure you're available on Sunday, February 23rd to stay after worship for a complimentary sandwich lunch and our annual budget & congregational meeting—know what's going on and have your vote on important decisions!

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## Visit us—Online!

Chalmers has had a website (and a very good one too) for many years, but over the past few months, Tom Hunter (my dad) and I have completely re-designed our website and created a more interactive space for people to learn about Chalmers but also for people within and beyond our congregation to continue their faith journey. Now, not only can you check out our constantly updated calendar or find out what programs we offer, but you can also register for upcoming events, read a daily devotional or participate in bible studies and discussions. This new website is being visited over 50 times a day. Have you visited it yet?

## Letter from the Editor by Lizz Thibodeau

In the last newsletter (which was in November), I wrote about what I had learned at the two workshops I had attended, and how excited I was to learn that the number one thing that attracts people to a church is that they feel welcome. On an average Sunday morning, we have over 100 people worshipping at Chalmers so if there are two or three new people, there are literally dozens of people available to make them feel welcome! This is awesome!!! And yet, studies show that the more people there are to do a job, the less likely it is to get done—everyone assumes that someone else will do it. So let me ask you this: how many people have YOU welcomed in the past month?



I was looking for an image to put with my thoughts and I found this one. I love it! It fits so well with the quotation attributed to St. Francis of Assisi “Go and preach the gospel, and if necessary use words.” How can we make others feel welcome? Of course, “Hello” is a great start, but what about offering a seat in our pew, ensuring someone has a bulletin, helping them find coffee hour after worship or making sure that they know about Sunday School and the nursery.

Obviously several of these examples use words (unless you’re incredibly adept at miming), but they don’t require great eloquence, wit or preparation. And yet they are a fabulous way to make someone feel welcome and perhaps start a conversation.

But let’s not limit ourselves to only welcoming newcomers! I have been attending Chalmers for 37 years and there are people in this congregation that I don’t know! Let’s all make an effort to welcome one another, even those who have attended for decades! We are all visitors in God’s house and yet He welcomes us as members of His family. That puts every one of us on equal footing—we are all visitors and yet we are all family, regardless of whether this is your first Sunday at Chalmers or your thousandth!

So this month, watch out for newcomers and climb over one another to welcome them (wouldn’t that be a fun visual!), but also make an effort to meet a member of the Family that’s gone to Chalmers longer than you.

Next month I would love to include some stories (anonymous if you like) about neat conversations you’ve had where you met someone new and learned something funny, fascinating, interesting or exciting!

# Annual Congregational Meeting

for

*Chalmers Church*

on Sunday

23 February 2014

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

(Following morning worship with lunch  
and a children's program provided)

**All are welcome!**



# Everything Christmas



The Mary Moffat held their annual Everything Christmas sale in November, but I didn't do a newsletter in December so you may not have seen the picture yet. Enjoy.



# CREDO Retreat

Many years, Rev. John runs a CREDO program for any youth who are interested in joining the church. This year, we are planning to do this a little differently. We are going to run a CREDO retreat for all of the youth—those ready to join the church and those interested in learning more about church, Christ and being a Christian. We will be holding it at a retreat centre here in London and the accommodations will be provided by the youth ministry team so that all are able to participate. It will start on Friday, February 21st (time to be determined, but around dinner time) and end on Saturday, February 22nd (again not sure of exact time yet, but again around dinner) If you have a young person in your life that you believe would enjoy and benefit from this retreat, please speak to Rev. John or myself (Lizz).



# CONFIRMATION RETREAT

# February 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

**See Lizz or Rev. John for details**





Can You Give One to Three Hours?

Join Us this Christmas Season, Stand at a Kettle and Help Us to Give Hope Today.

**Chalmers' Kettle raised \$11,712 this year. Thanks to all who helped!**

To Find Out More:  
Speak to Andrew Thibodeau  
[www.salvationarmy.ca](http://www.salvationarmy.ca)



## Grab a Book by Christine Hunter

We have a couple of new series of books in the children's library that I would like you to check out. The series I would like to tell you about in the next two newsletters is called "Me Too Books" and tell some bible stories in easy to understand language. Young readers would be able to read these for themselves, but they would also make good bedtime reading.

**Nobody Knew But God** – is the story of the baby Moses and his sister Miriam. Moses was born when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. The Pharaoh decreed that all baby boys were to be killed, so Moses mother made a basket of reeds and put her baby at the edge of the river where he was found by the Princess. What was God's plan for Moses?

**Who Needs a Boat** – tells the story of Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. It talks about Moses seeing the burning bush (a story John told the young children last Sunday), and takes you through the plagues that God sent to the Egyptians.

**Big Enemy, Bigger God** – tells the story of Gideon. Not such a well known story, but Gideon raised an army to fight an invading army. Twice God told him that the army was too big! Twice he sent many men home. Finally with only 300 men he went up against the enemy, and ..... you will have to read it to know what the end of the story is!

**Faith to Win** – tells us about Caleb! Not know who Caleb is? Well this book is just for you! Caleb was a young man in the group of Israelites that Moses was leading out of Egypt to the Promised Land. He was chosen as an advance group to go into the Promised Land and see if they could find fruit to bring back to their people. Again – I suggest that you and your little ones read the rest of the story and find out what happened to Caleb and Joshua!



# Upcoming Events

London Presbytery Youth  
are invited to

## "ONE DAY YOU'LL CY"

THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 30TH  
7:30-9:30PM

*Exam  
Stress  
Busters*



*Ice Cream  
& Brownie  
Buffet*



*Learn more  
about Canada  
Youth 2014*

*Crazy  
Games*

*Held at  
Oakridge  
Presbyterian  
Church*

970 Oxford St. W  
London

Kick start your summer with a  
plan to CY this year!

[www.postermymwall.com](http://www.postermymwall.com)

**Valentines' Day is coming—  
Watch for Mint Smoothies to  
treat someone special! Help  
Chalmers' youth go to Canada  
Youth 2014 (only a limited  
number available and we will  
not be selling them again  
prior to our trip so get them  
while they last!)**



## Tasteful Topics CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST

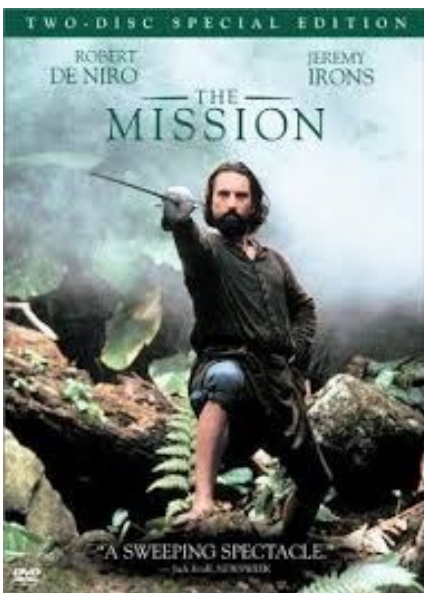
**Sunday, 16 February 2014  
8 - 9:15 am**

**\$7.00 per person**

**Speaker: Gary Smith  
Topic: Meadowlily Part 2**



## Upcoming Events



The Mission, starring Robert De Niro, Jeremy Irons, and Ray McAnally, highlights the story of 18th century Spanish Jesuits who try to protect a remote South American Indian tribe in danger of falling under the rule of pro-slavery Portugal.






Join us at 6:30 for snacks. The movie will begin promptly at 7pm.

This movie won an Oscar for Best Cinematography and was nominated for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Costume Design and Best Music. It also won Golden Globes for Best Screenplay and Best Original Score.

(Information taken from IMDB.com)



# February 2014 - Chalmers Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b>  10a Worship & Sunday School 11:30a Children's Choir 11:30a Soup'er Sunday	<b>27</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 7p Stephen Ministry	<b>28</b> 10a Y4C Sandwich preparation 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness	<b>29</b> 2p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>31</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>  10a Worship & Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time & Library 11:30a Teens & Twenties' Lunch 11:30a Children's Choir	<b>3</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 6:30p Mission Cmte	<b>4</b> 9:30a Pastoral Care 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7:30p Policy & Planning 7:30p CE & Faith Development	<b>5</b> 2p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>7</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre 7p Movie Night	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>  10a Holy Communion 11:15a Coffee Time & Library 11:30a Children's Choir 3:30p Youth service at Meadowpark	<b>10</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 7p Worship Committee	<b>11</b> 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7:30p Social Committee	<b>12</b> 2p Knitting 6p Stewardship Team 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>14</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre 7:30p Children & Youth in Worship Meeting	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  10a Worship & Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time & Library 11:30a Children's Choir Tasteful Topics	<b>17</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 6:30p Outreach & Comm.	<b>18</b> 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7p Session	<b>19</b> 2p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>21</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre 5p CREDO Retreat	<b>22</b> 6p Chili Night
<b>23</b>  10a Worship & Sunday School 11:30a Children's Choir 11:30a Congregational Meeting	<b>24</b> 1:30p Fitness Class	<b>25</b> 10a Y4C Sandwich preparation 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7p Health & Wellness Series	<b>26</b> 2p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal 7:30p Property Management	<b>28</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre 7p Volleyball at White Oaks P.S.	<b>1</b>

I'm absolutely sure that there will be changes to the calendar this month so please keep up to date on the church website:  
[http://www.chalmerslondon.com/church\\_calendar.htm](http://www.chalmerslondon.com/church_calendar.htm)

## Last Laugh!

