

**Chalmers
Presbyterian
Church**

Youth Spirit

Volume 2, Issue 10

June, 2010

June: Picnic & Presentations

June was a busy month, especially considering that it's the end of the year and there are many outside activities pulling our attention away on Sunday mornings. June started with the Annual Chalmers Picnic and a good time was definitely had by all. A great big thanks has to go to the Social & Communications Committee and especially Heather Reid for leading the games. There were all the old favourites like the

three-legged race, the sack race and the egg race, along with some new games involving pasta, straws and M&Ms. I don't know what all the rules were, but I know that everyone was smiling!



Kenneth, Hailee & Reece, Julie, Yunike & Yunesta, Aly, Tyler, Crissy & Colin, and Abbey P.

Thank you to all of you and especially your parents for making such an effort to be a part of what was going on at Chalmers in 2009-2010.

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Contact me!

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

On June 27th, we presented certificates and gifts to those children & youth who have shown a high level of dedication to attending Chalmers this year. I kept attendance throughout the year, not just of those attending Sunday Morning Youth, but also of those who chose to stay in morning worship. There were 39 Sundays that I recorded. Devoted Attendance gifts were given to Naomi & Josaih, Jacqueline & Joyceline, Torry & Isla, Charleen and Lily. Faithful Attendance was presented to:



(Top: Faithful Attendance.

Bottom: Devoted Attendance—devoted to coming, but not devoted to holding still for a picture!)



From the Editor

Change. Is it good or bad? Obviously there are times when it's definitely good, no dispute. Think of a dirty diaper. A change is definitely good! Think of a fresh coat of paint. It's good.

But there are obviously times when it is just as definitely bad. Losing a loved one. A house fire. Job cuts. And of course, the optimist in me could say that even in those changes, good can be found but at the time they are definitely bad.

So what's my point? Change is good and bad, but change shouldn't be rejected unequivocally simple because it's the 'C' word. Sometimes change just for the sake of change can be good too because it opens our eyes to new things and gives us new opportunities that we didn't even realise we were missing.

I watch my children growing up so quickly before my eyes and sometimes I hate change. I miss the days of babyhood when they were tiny little bundles in my

arms. But I can remember then thinking "if only they could sit up by themselves, life would be so much easier." "If only there were no more diapers to change." "If only they would sleep through the night." "If only..." How I longed for change!

Since having children, my perspective on change has changed (ironic, isn't it!)

I used to be a staunch traditionalist who hated the slightest change to anything I valued. I didn't believe in "changing with the times"; I didn't want the times to change!

Watching my children grow has made me love change. Of course I miss the little bundles they were (although only ever sleeping 4 hours at a time got a bit trying), but each new stage brings with it so much more fun and excitement. Although I miss what they were, what they are now is just as perfect.

Summer is a time of exciting change. Come fall there will be

new classes for everyone, new schools for many and even new towns for our post-secondary bound group!

As you spend the summer planning for the changes that are going to happen come fall, treasure the moments as they happen, cherish the memories already made, and be ready to embrace the changes that are coming.

What a Quote!

- "Listen I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

I Corinthians 15:51-52



Summerside, Compass & Chalmers churches

Vacation Bible Camp

August 16 – 20, 2010

9 am – noon

JK—grade 6

\$15 per child, \$30 per family (3 or more)

Registration forms available at:

<http://www.compasscommunitychurch.ca/>

May Pictures!



Top left: Torry & Hailee blow bubbles at the Retreat.

Top right: Kathryn relaxes at the Retreat.

Centre: Brian & Reece play croquet at the retreat.

Bottom left: Sam & her mom (Barb) sell their stuff at the sale.

Bottom right: Yunesta & Yunike make stepping stones at the retreat.



Grab a Book!



Heart in the Pocket by Laurence Bourguignon

Ages 1 - 5

Joey is a little kangaroo who has a problem. No matter how many wonders Mama shows him – he just wants to stay in her pocket. Mama suggests he should try being a cloud.....but the wind will blow that cloud far away. Maybe a bird.....but a nest is not as soft and warm as mama’s pocket. Mama has to work very hard (and love him very much) to finally get Jo-Jo to experience the outside world. We all have fears..... And we all need a parent (our Father) who loves us in spite of those fears and will always encourage us to be the very best we can be.

Preacher Creature Strikes on Sunday by Mike Thaler

Ages 6 - 9

Mission Trip Impossible

Church Summer Cramp

Wouldn’t these titles just make you want to see what these stories are about? These three books are funny – and are recommended for children ages 6 – 9, but I think older children would enjoy the stories too. The pictures are large and cartoon like. Each book starts with a main character - you never find out his name – going to church, on a mission trip or to camp – and how he imagines this will be, in full living colour! In the last few pages, he actually goes on each trip (and it’s nothing like he imagines). Each story is an affirmation of how good God is – and of His love for His children.

Staying Pure by Stephanie Perry Moore

Ages 15+

This is a book about relationships -- relationships in our teenage years when things can seem larger than life and twice as complicated. Payton Skky is a high school senior and Dakari is her boyfriend, or at least he was until a new girl came on the scene, Starr Love, and now things are just not right any more. Payton keeps up a conversation with God, and she is talking to him constantly ---- but is she listening for His replies? Payton is trying to live her life as she thinks God wants her to live it – but the pressures..... the feelings the way her friends think and feel All keep creeping into her best intensions. Read along Payton, pray along with Payton – see and enjoy how she talks to God as if he is one of her best friends and isn’t that really who He wants to be to each of us.

Once you have read this story there are three more in the series.

All reviewed and enjoyed by Christine Hunter



A Thousand Words!

Please forgive the blatant favouring of my daughter’s photo here but it just seemed a shame not to include it.

When I think of going to church and worshipping God, I wish this were the image that came to mind every time. Isn’t this what we should all look like in the presence of our Heavenly Father?

“When the Spirit of the Lord moves in my soul, like David the poet I praise.

When the Spirit of the Lord moves in my soul, like David the victor I dance.

I praise, I praise, like David the poet I praise.

I dance, I dance, like David the victor I dance.”



JUNIOR & SENIOR YOUTH

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT DURING JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

7 PM at Chalmers Presbyterian Church

25 June

NARNIA
(rated PG)

2 July

BROTHER BEAR
(rated G)

9 July

IRON GIANT
(rated PG)

16 July

PRINCESS BRIDE
(rated PG)

23 July

SPIRIT
(rated G)

30 July

WHALE RIDER
(rated PG)

6 August

HORTON HEARS
A WHO (rated
family)

13 August

PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS (rated
PG)

20 August

BILLY ELLIOTT
(rated PG)

27 August

SUPERMAN
RETURNS (rated
PG13)

More Pictures!



Lots of Smiles at the Annual Chalmers Picnic!

Aly, Torry, Isla, Rick & Reece
Joanne & Joycie, Jacquie & Abbey
Hailee, Kim & Josiah, Jacquie, Abbey, Dan,
Naomi, Tom, Torry, Debbie & Aly



Happy Birthday!

I normally include the birthdays on the monthly calendar, but I decided not to do a calendar for the summer months. I still want to wish everyone a happy birthday, so here they are for July & August:

July 2: Heather M.—Happy 23rd

July 6: Isla—Happy 2nd

July 6: Yunike—Happy 12th

July 12: Aly—Happy 7th

July 13: Sam—Happy 15th

July 18th: Jessy B.—Happy 8th

July 26th: Abby M.—Happy 14th

July 28th: Zack—Happy 16th

August 8th: Cameron A.—Happy 9th

August 9th: Robert—Happy 21st

August 16th: Amber—Happy 14th

August 17th: Brynn—Happy 12th

August 18th: Jacquie N.—Happy 12th

August 19th: Richard—Happy 18th

August 21st: Sydney—Happy 13th

August 28th: Garet—Happy 13th

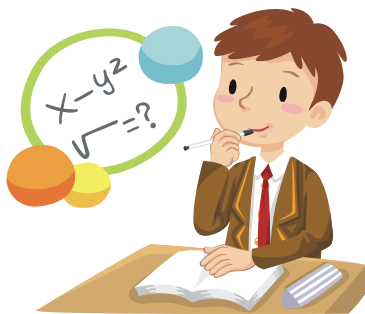
August 29th: Kathryn—Happy 18th



Have a Laugh!

As our teens finish writing their exams, here are some things I hope you DIDN'T write! From Uncle John's Bathroom Reader, page 36 – Student Bloopers: Excerpts from real student essays and quiz answers.

- On April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theatre and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assassinator was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.
- George Washington married Martha Curtis and in due time became the Father of Our Country. The Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the Constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.
- One of the causes of the Revolutionary Wars was the English put tacks in their tea.
- Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miquel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained.



**YOU'RE
MAKING
MY BRAIN
HURT!**



Same book, page 145. Here's some more useless information. At least useless for 99% of us for 99% of our lives. But I've found it useful to fill up this little space in the newsletter. Maybe you'll find a use for it too.

Ask the Experts: Which weighs more, a pound of feathers or a pound of gold?

Surprisingly, a pound of feathers weighs more. Feathers are weighed according to the avoirdupois system, which measures 16 ounces to the pound. Gold is weighed according to the troy system, which measures 12 ounces to the pound. Now, which weighs more, a pound of feathers or a pound of lead? Tempted to say lead? Of course, since they are both weighed according to the same system, a pound of lead weighs exactly the same as a pound of feathers." (From A Book of Curiosities, by Roberta Kramer).

Happy to See You!

This section is normally to recognise all of the children & youth that we have seen during the previous month. Since it is the end of our year, however, I would like to recognise all of the children & youth that we have seen all year: those we see every week and those who visited once.

Our preschool class:		Our Primary Class:		Our Junior Class:		Our Senior Class:	
Naomi	Beatrice	Jessy	Alyson	Cameron A.	Christian	Tom	Jackie
Cooper	Isla	Rieley	Taylor	Crissy	Colin	Alex	Amber
Julie	Lily	Hailee	Josiah	Declan	Brynn	Richard	Tori
Sarah		Madelynn	Morgan	Cyndi	Reece	Sydney	Abby M.
Visitors:		Aly	Hunter	Cameron T.	Sarah	Jessie	Charleen
Quinton	Emma	Torry		Tyler	Kenneth	Spencer	Zack
Julia	Katelyn	Visitors:		Jacqueline	Joycie	Sam	Abbey P.
Jack	Julie	A.J.	Rebecca	Carson	Yunike	Allyson	Yunesta
Marissa	Leah	Ferguson	Mariah	Visitors:		Visitors:	
Joshua				Ben	Maia	Leora	Skye
				Even	Lauren	Emerald	Emily

Statistics:

Here are some interesting statistics about attendance of children & youth at Chalmers (these numbers include children who attend Sunday Morning Youth, and those that stay in the service). There are two main things that I track. The first is how many children/youth we have on average per week and the second is how many different children & youth we have seen over the course of the month. Some of those may have attended 4 times, some only once but it is interesting to know how many children & youth we are reaching overall.

September:

Weekly average: 19
Contact made: 38

October:

Weekly average: 17
Contact made: 31

November:

Weekly average: 20
Contact made: 41

December:

Weekly average: 22
Contact made: 49

January:

Weekly average: 15
Contact made: 31

February:

Weekly average: 20
Contact made: 35

March:

Weekly average: 18
Contact made: 34

April:

Weekly average: 23
Contact made: 42

May:

Weekly average: 17
Contact made: 40

June:

Weekly average: 14
Contact made: 22



Faithful Attendance!

Attendance at church can be a very touchy subject. There are those who think fondly of “the good old days” when church was the highest priority of the family and everyone came every week. I can remember receiving an award every year as a child for “perfect attendance” and I even had a little pin that would get handed back at the end of the year and replaced with a new one stating the number of years that I had achieved “perfect attendance”. In all fairness, I had nothing to do with it. The award should have gone to my parents. In my house, I wasn’t given a choice! However, over the years, life has changed. There are more complicated work schedules, more complicated family structures and a lot more options all competing for attention on a Sunday morning.

All that being said, however, I decided this year that those families who do make a special commitment to Chalmers should be recognised. I kept attendance all year anyway for my own statistical interest so it was easy enough at the end of the year to look back and see who had been here. Or so I thought. It turned out to be a much more delicate process than I had imagined. Firstly, what “here” counts? Here at Sunday Morning Youth or Here at Chalmers. I decided that encouraging children and youth to be involved in church was the greater importance so I included my records of who stayed in the service. Next decision: what standard of attendance is worth recognising? Because of split family homes and working parents, I decided to recognise all children & youth who had been at church more than 50% of the time as being “Devoted Attenders”.

Side note: these statistics are all based on the 39 Sundays of the year when attendance was taken. The summer weeks, Thanksgiving and Victoria Day



weekend were not included.

That gave me a group of eight children and youth to recognise. Six of those eight had actually been at church more than 80% of the time! But it didn’t really feel quite right to celebrate just eight members of our Sunday Morning Youth. Reality is that our classes are made up of children & youth that come once or twice a month, but who are faithful in attending throughout the year. So I included “Faithful Attenders” for those who had been at church at least 15 times between September and June (an average of 1.5 times per month). This group includes 11 more children & youth.

Although I am thrilled to be able to recognise 19 of our children & youth (and their families) for their dedication, immediately after creating the list I began to find flaws with it. Three of our youth are involved with Reach Out. Surely they shouldn’t be marked “absent” on a Sunday when they are singing at another church? What about the teens who attend PYPS weekends throughout the year? That shouldn’t count against them! And those who went to CY and then visited other churches to do presentations.

Unfortunately there was nothing I could do about that this year. Attendance was taken based on presence at Chalmers. I can’t go back and alter it since I only know about those I’m involved with. I know who sang with Reach Out but I don’t know who was at each CY presentation (for example).

But next year! Next year I will propose (and encourage) that parents contact me when their child is absent but attending another church for whatever reason. Next year instead of being recognised for having faithful attendance at Chalmers, children & youth will be recognised for faithful attendance at church.