

# Chalmers' Spirit

## February Congregational Breakfast with Thom & David McClenaghan



CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST



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## Welcome to March!

Will March come in like a lion this year? No matter what the weather, it will surely go out like "a lamb" since Easter falls on March 31st.

Please watch for all of the Holy Week services and activities in March and join in.

March also brings us World Day of Prayer. We join with several other churches for this event and each church takes a turn hosting. This year the service will be at London First Church of the Nazarene, 179 Wellington Street at 2pm on Friday, March 1st.

One-Day Wonder comes on

Saturday, March 2nd for those junior youth in grades 6-8. If you'd like more information, please contact Linda Adamson or Amy Kemp (or myself).

And don't forget the Social & Communications' trip to see To Kill A Mockingbird at the Palace Theatre on March 3rd as well.

Our next youth lunch is on Sunday, March 3rd and we'll be celebrating Mardi Gras—a little late, but we're okay with that!

Looks like we're going to start March off with a bang!



## Letter from the Editor by Lizz Thibodeau

We had some fun at church on the first Sunday of Lent with a piñata for children's time. The story goes that Marco Polo brought the concept of the pinata back from China and it was adopted by the church as a way to teach the 7 deadly sins (I only highlighted greed with the children). They would use a star-shaped pinata (with 7 points) and then a person would be blindfolded and have to beat the sins (just like we follow faith blindly). When the people fought against the 7 deadly sins, the blessings of God would rain down. This is kind of a cool story, but I think the story to how I found this story is actually even cooler.

Abbey & I sat down with the youth in September and asked for some ideas for lunches. "Tacos," yelled Tom Ball. So, Abbey & I took all of the suggestions and assigned each one to a month. Hallowe'en faces in October, pizza in December, Ice cream in January, tacos in February... There was no real reason given, we just felt that tacos would be fun in February. And if we're going to do tacos, why not do a whole Mexican theme? Decorations, piñatas, games, etc. And we'll do some sort of faith lesson about Mexico. I went out and bought all of the supplies necessary—including two piñatas, just in case one wasn't enough (wouldn't it be a shame if it broke on the first hit and nobody else got to whack it!?!?) I chose a traditional donkey and then grabbed a star-shaped one too.

So in preparation for our February lunch, I sat down to start thinking about the connection between Mexico, piñatas, missions, Christianity and trying to make the links. Struggling a little, I turned to my trusty computer and typed in "youth group, piñata, lessons" and found, from one of my favourite youth ministry sites, an article about the history of the piñata and how it was used by the church in the 14th century to teach about the 7 deadly sins. I almost fell off my chair! Not only was there a real connection between piñatas and the church, but it was used on the first Sunday of Lent (which this year was in February) and they used star-shaped piñatas which I had already bought! I quickly told Rev. John about this discovery and offered to do a pinata story with them on Feb. 17th.

I told the youth the story about the piñata and we talked about the 7 deadly sins and Lent and Easter, but I'm quite sure that the story of how God dropped this information in my lap was much more interesting and exciting for them. I really love God's sense of humour, don't you!

Hope you enjoyed Pinata Sunday this year—I think next year we should let the congregation take part!



### Contact me!

- Comments, new emails? Let me know:  
lizzt@rogers.com

## Fundraising Made Easy by Keith Johnston

Many organizations, including churches, are being challenged to raise funds for an ever increasing number of projects. We at Chalmers meet this challenge with a wide variety of fund raising initiatives. Two of the easiest and ongoing projects have been the collection of empty cans and can tabs. Many of you have been contributing to these two projects for many years but perhaps are not aware of the rest of the story.

### Empty Cans

In an effort to assist the youth of Chalmers with funding for their programs, the collection of empty aluminum cans started in 2005. All of the cans are collected in the narthex and then transported to Zubicks thanks to Rev. John. Our proceeds are dependent upon the current price of aluminum but has netted over \$4,000 with the highest total being \$1,041 in 2006 and averaging \$567/yr.

So you can see how your continued support with your can contributions has benefited our Chalmers youth. Please keep saving those cans, crush them and leave them in the tub by the narthex coat rack. Even if you can't crush the cans, bring them in anyway since every single can helps the cause. Some people are even passionate about picking up cans while out for a walk, which benefits both our environment and our youth.

Great work, all you can collectors.

### Can Tabs

Fewer people may be aware of our can tab collection program. Aurilla Ripley and her husband Charles, from Mossley, spoke at our October, 2011 Men's Breakfast about their long established program "Tabs For Kids Wheels". How special it was to hear these dedicated people sharing their experience of helping children with special mobility needs. Since 1992, Aurilla and Charles have been collecting, magnetically cleaning and selling these aluminum can tabs to purchase wheelchairs for deserving recipients. Over 120 schools, 40 plus churches, Rotary clubs, Girl Guides and others have been actively saving tabs over the last twenty years.

Since the start of the project 31 wheelchairs have been purchased and donated. Thames Valley Children's Hospital selects a child from those on a waiting list. That child is then fitted with a chair to meet his or her specific needs. The last recipient was a 17 year old young man from Chatham, Christian Picard. Our tabs are currently being saved for 12 year old Julia Gower, from Ilderton.

The Ripleys make the rounds, collecting up the tabs from the various collection points. Some are even transported by empty cargo planes from Nunavut in the Arctic. Others come from collectors in Arizona and other US states, while most come from the collectors network right here in the London area.

Some wonder why the entire can isn't collected for the Kids Wheel program. Aurilla explained that there could be problems with the whole can. Often bees, cigarette butts and sticky contents are found inside and also the process of removing the paint from the can causes a reduction in the price per pound.

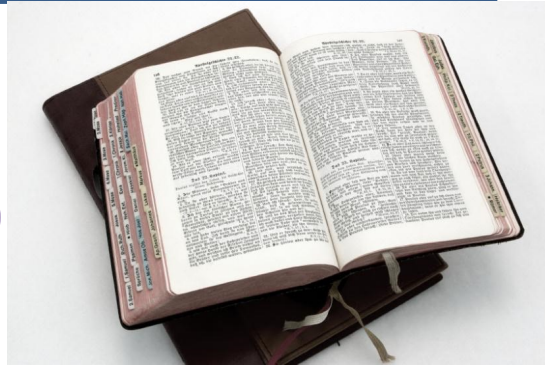
So to those who have been saving your can tabs over the years, keep up the great work. To those who haven't been, please consider saving your tabs in a baggie and dropping them off in the collection can near the narthex mailbox. Aurilla and Charles are so dedicated in helping these children to gain mobility, that this is the very least we can do to assist.

There you have it, the rest of the story behind two very successful fund raising projects here at Chalmers. Now it's your turn to help by bringing in those cans and tabs. **Can we count on you?**

# BIBLE-READ-A-THON

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday  
3:00pm until 12:30 am  
For all High School students

Grade 7 & 8,  
please join us!



All friends welcome!

## ONE DAY WONDER "RURAL ROUTES"

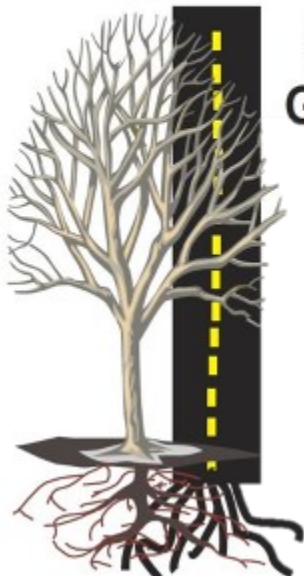
@ North Caradoc-St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

**SAT. MAR. 2nd, 2013**

Starting @ 10:15am

Finishing @ 7:30pm

**Grades 6 to 8**



## Junior & Senior Youth Events in March



**Youth Group Lunch**

**Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**11:30 – 1pm**

**Pancakes & Mardi Gras**



## Photo Directory is Coming!

Can you believe our last photo directory was done in 2007!!! I'll admit that some may not have changed to much in those 6 years, but on the other hand, some have changed a lot! If you look at the picture of my family, it looks like Torry was away that day—just me, Andrew and Isla. Of course, it's actually Isla who is missing, since she hadn't even been born yet, but she looks so like Torry at that age that they're almost interchangeable!

The church directory is such a wonderful tool, but the more people and families that are included in it, the better. Please try to make arrangements to come for photos, it is absolutely free! If you are not able to make it to the church or if you are completely unavailable on those dates, please speak to someone from the Evangelism committee so that we can make alternative arrangements for you.

We will be taking photos on Wednesday, April 24th, through Saturday, April 27th.

## A Taste of Summer

While most of us are shoveling and bundling up and wishing for warmer days, a few of our members have made their way to the sunny south. I thought I would include a photo of Jackie enjoying the Florida sunshine and also an article written by Phyllis Johnston about an experience they had last summer. Maybe if we all think about the summer, we'll hurry the warmer weather on its way! And if the warmer weather doesn't come, at least this story will warm your hearts.



## An Interesting Story by Phyllis Johnston

Keith & I were driving home from Ohio on Aug. 7th after a weekend ball tournament. We took highway #3 for a quiet drive home and stopped at an antique store in Morpeth (near Ridgetown) and talked to a couple of biker girls (bicycles that is). They wondered if we were from the area and where could they get some water. As we talked, we found out they had travelled from Washington and were heading to their home in Rhode Island. They had left June 20th and hoped to be home August 20th. They had been tenting most of the time so we invited them to stay at our home if they made it near St. Thomas. After they travelled in heavy rain they arrived at Fingal - variety store and called us about 7:00. We said we would come and pick them up with both cars as they both had bike trailers as well. They were sisters 28 & 24 and we had a wonderful visit with them. They enjoyed the hot shower and food and comfy bed and great stories exchanged until midnight. The next morning around 10:00 they headed to Niagara Falls.

They said they trusted us and thought we were a good Christian couple. Sometimes just talking and showing that you care is all it takes. We all agreed that there are too many bad things we hear about and it is so nice to hear about the good things.

## A Word on Evangelism by Debbie Kemp

How do we evangelize – We welcome strangers

If our church community is to be an agent of evangelism, we need to be open and welcoming when people come through the doors. I have heard it said that belonging often happens before believing. How do we interact during fellowship times or before the service with newcomers? Would you go down to a coffee hour at a church you have never been to before? I wouldn't unless someone specifically asked me and then I knew I would have someone to talk to. Is there anything that screams being an outsider like standing alone drinking coffee when everyone else is gathered in groups and laughing together?

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13: 2.

In the congregational questionnaire that was used for the visioning process, over and over again people answered the questions "Why do you come to Chalmers?" and "What is great about Chalmers?" with "my friends". How do we draw new folks into our midst? How do we give them a sense of belonging? Think back to when you first came to Chalmers and what made you feel welcome and wanted to come back. Perhaps it was the person who asked if you wanted to sit with them. Was it the people that fussed over your kids? Was it that person who remembered your name the second time you came? Did someone ask you a question about your life and actually listened? Was it being asked to join the choir, to greet at the door or to come to a men's breakfast?

We were all strangers and not sure we belonged at some point. Let's not let anyone leave our church feeling that way.

## Take Time to Smile!

I usually look for some church humour to share in the newsletter, but with everything in life, including church becoming more and more technological all the time, I had to share this poem, written in the style of Dr. Seuss.

### **Dr. Seuss explains why computers crash:**

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,  
And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,  
And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,  
Then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.  
If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,  
And the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,  
And your data is corrupted because the index doesn't hash,  
Then your situation's hopeless, and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house,  
Says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,  
But your packets want to tunnel onto another protocol,  
That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall ~

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,  
So your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse,  
Then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,  
'Cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!  
When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk,  
And the microcode instructions cause unnecessary risk,  
Then you'll have to flash your memory, and you'll want to RAM your ROM.  
Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your mom!

# March 2013 - Chalmers Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>24</b> 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Soup'er <b>Sunday</b> 11:30am Children's Choir	<b>25</b> 1:30pm Walkfit 1:30pm Bible Study 7pm Bible Study 7pm Stephen Ministry	<b>26</b> 10am Y4C Sandwich preparation 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness	<b>27</b> 2:15pm Knitting 7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Property Management	<b>1</b> 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre 2pm World Day of Prayer at Church of the Nazarene on Wellington at Simcoe	<b>2</b> 9:15am One Day Wonder @ North Caradoc for Junior Youth 8pm To Kill a Mockingbird
<b>3</b> 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Youth Group 11:30am Children's Choir	<b>4</b> 1:30pm Walkfit	<b>5</b> 9:30am Pastoral Care 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness 7:30pm Policy & Planning	<b>6</b> 2:15pm Knitting 6pm Stewardship Team 7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>8</b> 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Children's Choir	<b>11</b> 1:30pm Walkfit 7pm Worship Committee	<b>12</b> 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness 7:30pm Social & Communication	<b>13</b> 2:15pm Knitting 7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>15</b> 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 6am Congregational Breakfast 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Children's Choir	<b>18</b> 1:30pm Walkfit 6:30pm Evangelism March Break	<b>19</b> 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness 7:30pm Session	<b>20</b> 2:15pm Knitting 7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>22</b> 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10am Worship - Palm/Passion Sunday 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Children's Choir	<b>25</b> 1:30pm Walkfit 7:30pm Mary Moffat	<b>26</b> 10am Y4C Sandwich preparation 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness	<b>27</b> 2:15pm Knitting 7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7pm Maunday Thursday Service 8pm Property Management 8pm Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>29</b> 9am Good Friday Breakfast 11am Good Friday Worship Bible-Read-a-Thon	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10am Worship - Easter Sunday 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Children's Choir	<b>1</b> 1:30pm Walkfit	<b>2</b> 9:30am Pastoral Care 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness 7:30pm Policy & Planning	<b>3</b> 2:15pm Knitting 7:30pm Reach Out Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>5</b> 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre 7pm Youth Ministry Conference	<b>6</b> 9am Youth Ministry Conference

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!

