

# Chalmers' Spirit

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

## Here Comes April!

We're well into Lent and looking towards Palm & Passion Sunday now. I hope that you have found a way to make this special time of year meaningful. Often we look at Lent as a somber time of year, to prepare ourselves for Good Friday and Easter, but I just can't help

celebrating. This time of preparation is serious, but think of what we're preparing for! We are an Easter People and no matter what, that is a cause for celebration. I think that it was wonderful to celebrate Chalmers' anniversary last week, and next week we

will be celebrating baptisms, and on Easter Sunday we have two young people joining the church. Indeed in this time of reflection and preparation, I can't help but reflect on how thankful I am for our many blessings at Chalmers, and I just want to celebrate!

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## Movie Night

Friday, April 4th, 2014. Join us in the upper hall at 6:30 for snacks. The movie will begin at 7pm. Please bring a friend and RSVP on-line at [chalmerslondon.com](http://chalmerslondon.com)

JOIN US TO WATCH A FREE SHOWING OF AMAZING GRACE.

THE STORY OF HOW ONE MAN STOOD AGAINST TYRANNY AND SAVED THE LIVES OF MILLIONS.

DATE: Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
 TIME: 7:00pm (6:30 for snacks)  
 PLACE: Chalmers Church Upper Hall

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

AMAZING GRACE

## Letter from the Editor by Lizz Thibodeau

For many years, the youth of Chalmers have gathered on Good Friday for the Bible-Read-a-thon. This was an all-night event, starting late afternoon or early evening on Good Friday and continuing until breakfast time on Saturday morning. All night long, the youth have taken turns reading the Bible aloud in the sanctuary while the rest of the youth did various activities in the rest of the building to keep themselves awake. These activities have come in many varieties, often the crazier the better! We've square-danced, we've had Easter egg hunts, we've had messy Olympics, we've done African dancing, all in the name of keeping vigil through the night. It was my dad who started the Bible-Read-a-thon at Chalmers some thirty-odd years ago and it holds a very special place in my heart. As a young child, I used to come with my mum to make the supper and the breakfast for the youth, dreaming of the day that I'd be old enough to stay all night. As a teen, I was on the youth executive and each year when we met to plan our events for the year, dad would ask us about the Bible-Read-a-thon. "Of course we're doing that" we would cry, and his response was always the same: "Why?" If we responded with anything close to "because it's tradition" or "because we always do", it would not have continued. We held the Bible-Read-a-thon each year because we saw the value in it. We knew what we were doing and why we were doing it (see Mark 14:32-42 about the Disciples falling asleep when Jesus asked them to keep watch).

Over the past few years, the Bible-Read-a-thon has undergone some changes, based on the decreased number of participants, to the point that last year, we stopped the all night format and ended after midnight communion.

Last year, some of the youth who attended did not come from church families. This was their first time reading the Bible! So to throw them in to a random passage with no introduction and no explanation was not only confusing, it was irresponsible. There are many things in the Bible that need a historical context to understand. Thankfully, one of the youth in that situation came to me with her questions and I was able to explain the context.

When our Youth Ministry Team sat down this year to discuss our plan for the year, we questioned the Bible-Read-a-thon. We realized that if we held it again this year, it would be because it is a Chalmers tradition. It no longer serves the purpose that it once did. We would be continuing because the adults of Chalmers would miss coming to monitor and be disappointed that something that they loved from their youth is no longer available to today's youth. I am one of those adults. It makes me a little sick inside to be a part of the team that ends this great tradition, but I'm also proud that all these years later, I still remember the valuable lesson that my youth leader taught me—we need to grow and change with our group each year and traditions should only be continued if they continue to be valuable.

So this year we will be holding a new event—Good Friday Gathering. We will gather for supper and focus on the Easter story. We believe that this is an exciting new way to support the youth of Chalmers and their friends.

# Photos



Top: Children waiting “patiently” for the anniversary cake to be cut.

Right: Four Chalmer-ites who share their birthday weekend with Chalmers.

Bottom left: Volleyball

Bottom right: March Tasteful Topics with Doug Whitelaw from The Ark.





A chili day for Ball Hockey, but still a fun morning. And what a great meal to warm up to, prepared by Mike & Kim Poser! Join us next month on April 26th from 10:30-12:30.

# CHALMERS BALL HOCKEY



Join us: Saturday, April 26th, 10:30-12:30  
Includes a light lunch. No charge. All are welcome.



## Grab a Book by Christine Hunter

Have you read a story to your child lately? I hope you all have a story time each day (for me and my children, it was at bedtime) when you cuddle up together and read a book, with nice pictures that can be discussed and enjoyed! May I suggest some Easter stories from our library for this time leading up to Easter Sunday? Easter is a hard time for children to understand, but some of these children's books explain it in a way that even the youngest can understand and deal with.



Check out all the Easter stories on the reading table – including:

**Mary's Easter Story** - by Eric C. Bohnet

**The Legend of the Three Trees** – by Tommy Nelson

**The Easter Story** – by Patricia A. Pingry

**The Story of Easter** – by Patricia A. Pingry

**The Best Thing about Easter** – by Christine Harder Tangvald

I hope you all enjoy reading these books, and have a wonderful Easter Sunday because .....***He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!***

Blessings, Christine Hunter, Librarian

## Devotions

Since attending the workshop by John Roberto in the fall, we have been working to make the Chalmers' website more interactive. We don't want a website who's only purpose is to announce upcoming events (although that is also very important!). So now people can also register for the events on-line. But we want even more than that. We have been trying to add more and more elements to help both the congregation and those who visit us on-line to enrich their faith journey. Our latest venture is to include devotionals each week leading up to worship on Sunday. These devotionals reflect on the lectionary reading of the coming Sunday. They are divided into three pages—children, youth, and adult. The children's devotionals usually include some puzzles or games. Sometimes they can learn a song about the Bible verse we're preparing. The youth page addresses the Bible verse from a different perspective, using humour when available. The adult page is a more traditional devotional, sometimes with a different reflection for each day, sometimes with one longer reflection. I really hope that you will take a look at this and give me your feedback on what you enjoy and think. I'd love to know how many people find this helpful and how it's being used so that I can tailor it to make it more valuable.

# Youth News

## Don't Miss:

- Movie Night "Amazing Grace" - Friday, April 4th @ 7pm
- Teens & Twenties Lunch—Sunday, April 6th @ 11:30am
- Good Friday Gathering—Friday, April 18th @ 4pm
- Volleyball—Friday, April 25th @ 7pm at White Oaks School
- Ball Hockey—Saturday, April 26th @ 10:30am
- Canada Youth 2014—July 7-12th, 2014



## Funding for Canada Youth

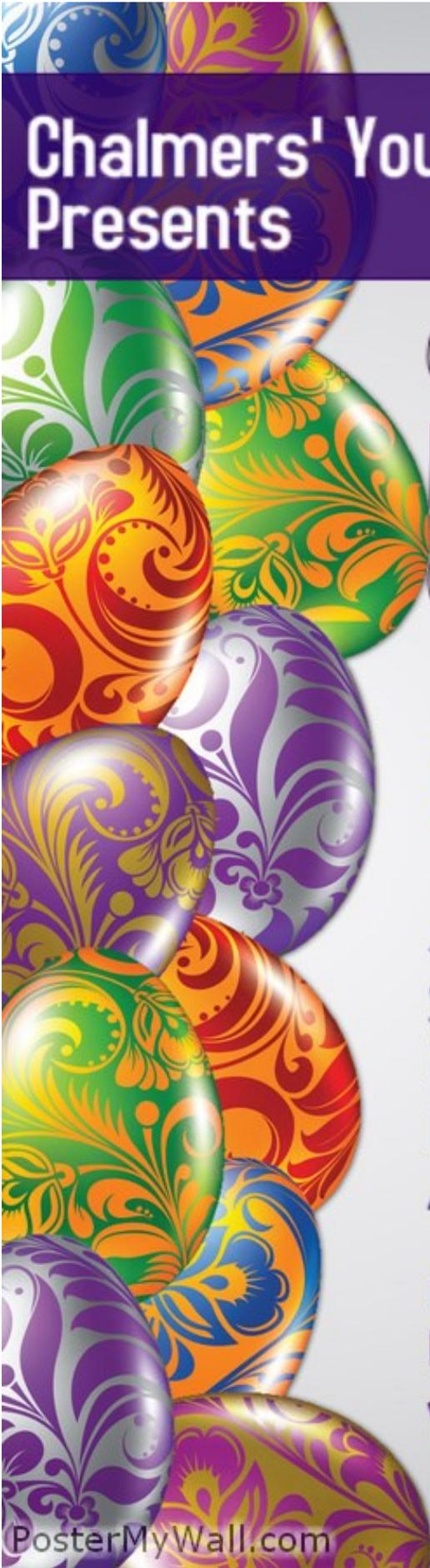
Canada Youth is being held at Brock University from July 7th to 12th, 2014. The cost (including all meals and accommodations) is \$535. We have one more fundraiser planned. Many of the youth are well on their way to paying for their trip through the Mint Smoothie sales, washing dishes at the two Soup'er Sundays, and helping at the Dr. Ott workshop. Our final fundraiser will be selling flowers for Mothers' Day. We did this last year as a fundraiser for our YIM trips and everyone seemed to love the idea so we will arrange it again for this year. If you are interested in selling, please get an order form from me at the end of April.

There is also funding available from Chalmers and from the London Presbytery. If you would like to apply for this funding, please fill out the application forms. The applications to Chalmers will be reviewed by Session. The applications to London Presbytery will be reviewed by the London Presbytery Youth Ministry Team. Both forms are due at the beginning of May. All monies will be disbursed in June.

As of right now, we have 15 people interested in attending Canada Youth 2014. Three are young adults who will probably do the Discipleship track. Six are teens who will be on the Conference Track. Two are leaders who will be attending the Youth Ministry Training Track and four are adults who are interested in being Adult Advisors. What a fabulous showing from Chalmers! As the time draws nearer, plans may have to change because of summer jobs, etc. but it is wonderful that so many people want to be a part of this event!

## Good Friday Gathering

We are planning something completely different for Good Friday this year! Please join us for supper and some really cool activities. There will be an Easter Egg hunt (don't you miss those!), some very special cookies and an edible activity, not to mention supper. And it's all FREE! Please let us know by Wednesday, April 16th if you are or are not able to attend so that we can have the right amount of food! And feel free to bring a friend!



**Chalmers' Youth Ministry Team  
Presents**

# GOOD FRIDAY GATHERING

FRIDAY APRIL 18, 2014  
For Teens & Twenties

4pm to 7pm  
Supper Included  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Easter Cookies &  
Activities

RSVP by Wednesday, April 16th  
[lizzt@rogers.com](mailto:lizzt@rogers.com) or  
[www.chalmerslondon.com](http://www.chalmerslondon.com)

# LET'S TURN UP THE HEAT

## HVAC Fundraising Campaign

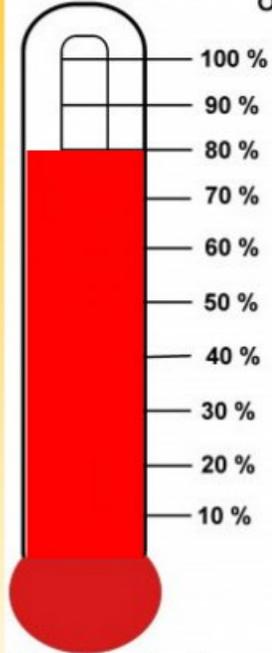
March-September 2014

**Way to go Chalmers!**  
**We're doing great!!**

**Complete a pledge card  
& make a donation!**

**\$30,000**

Our Goal



PosterMyWall.com

**Hosted by Chalmers Church at  
White Oaks Public School**

Friday, March 21st

7-9pm

\$2 per player

All teens & adults welcome!



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
PLAY  
VOLLEYBALL**



PosterMyWall.com

**Chalmers Social Committee  
invite you to**

# **Good Friday Breakfast**

**18th April 9:00a.m - 10:30a.m.**

**\$5.00/person - \$15.00/family  
5yrs and under free**

**Please join us for the  
Church Service at 11.00a.m.**

*Although it is difficult today  
to see beyond the sorrow  
May looking back in memory  
help comfort you tomorrow*

*author unknown*

# April 2014 - Chalmers Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Lent 4</b>  10a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Library Open 11:30a Children's Choir 11:30a ...	<b>30</b> <b>31</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 1:30p <b>Isaiah Bible Study</b> 7p <b>Isaiah Bible Study</b> 7p <b>Stephen Ministry</b>	<b>1</b> 9:30a Pastoral Care 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7:30p Policy & Planning 7:30p CE & Faith Development	<b>2</b> 2p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>4</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre 7p <b>Movie Night</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Lent 5</b>  10a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time 11:15a Library Open 11:30a <b>Teens &amp; Twenties'</b> ...	<b>6</b> <b>7</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 1:30p <b>Isaiah Bible Study</b> 6:30p Mission Cmte 7p <b>Isaiah Bible Study</b>	<b>8</b> 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7:30p Social Committee	<b>9</b> 2p Knitting 6p <b>Stewardship Team</b> 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>11</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre	<b>12</b>
<b>Palm/Passion Sunday</b>  10a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time 11:15a Library Open 11:30a ...	<b>13</b> <b>14</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 1:30p <b>Isaiah Bible Study</b> 7p Worship Committee 7p <b>Isaiah Bible Study</b>	<b>15</b> 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7p Session	<b>16</b> 2p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>18</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre	<b>19</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>  10a Worship 11:15a Coffee Time 11:15a Library Open	<b>20</b> <b>21</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 6:30p Outreach & Comm.	<b>22</b> 10a Y4C Sandwich preparation 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7p <b>Health &amp; Wellness Series</b>	<b>23</b> 2p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal 7:30p Property Management	<b>25</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre	<b>26</b> 10:30a <b>Ball Hockey</b>
 10a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time 11:15a Library Open 11:30a Children's Choir	<b>27</b> <b>28</b> 1:30p Fitness Class	<b>29</b> 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness	<b>30</b> 2p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>2</b> 9a Seniors' Satellite 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre 7p <b>Movie Night</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Congregational Retreat</b>

# Last Laugh!

