

# Chalmers' Spirit

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## In May!

Wow! What a month we had in April! With Bible-Read-a-thon, Easter, the Retreat and then the 115th Anniversary Sunday with potluck lunch, it was just one exciting event after another! I think we all need to slow down a little in May, take a deep breath and enjoy the early days of spring!

Not that May is going to be a slow month! There's still lots to be involved in.

The youth have May Camp to look forward to on the long weekend. May Camp is a gathering of youth from

across South Western Ontario at Camp Kintail for a wonderful weekend of worship, activities, campfires, friends and a certain amount of craziness! It's organised by the Presby-



terian Youth People's Society (PYPS) and if you'd like more information, I can get it to you. I know that there are already a few youth

who are planning to attend.

There is also a men's breakfast on May 27th, followed by Holy Communion at both services. This is a "visitation communion" so you should be expecting a call/visit from your elder some time during the month of May.

## Contact me!

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



Prayer:  
Don't give  
God instructions,  
just report  
for duty!





“Rejoice evermore! Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of the God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This has always been one of my favourite Bible verses. I like the part about rejoicing, but even more I like the part about praying without ceasing. To me it always meant that God should be so much a part of our life that we talk to Him constantly. That’s a great theory, but unfortunately I have always used that verse as a reason not to set aside time each day for bible reading and prayer. I always admitted that it would be nice, but not really necessary since I “pray without ceasing” just like the Bible tells me to.

This past weekend, at the retreat, Rev. Theresa was our guest presenter on the theme of “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”. Her first activity for us was to help us identify the obstacles in our lives that stop us from spending time in prayer. My first instinct was to blame time. It’s the easiest response to anything people ask of us, isn’t it? “Sorry, I don’t have time.” But when I really thought about it, that’s a complete lie. I have time to watch my favourite TV shows. I have time to play computer games because I feel **entitled** to it. When evening comes and the kids are in bed, I feel that it’s my right to be able to curl up in front of the TV and relax, after all I’ve worked hard all day, right! So if I’m truly honest, it has nothing to

do with time, and everything to do with priorities and my own sense of entitlement!

The Bible may tell us to pray without ceasing, but it also tells us to set aside time to focus on God and it tells us to study His word. Even Jesus spent time alone in prayer

**“Be still and know that I am  
God” Psalm 46:10**

with God, which is probably the best argument I can come up with to make it a priority. If Jesus felt it was important, I should too!

Then Rev. Theresa issued a challenge: she asked us to make it a priority to set aside time with God each day for two weeks. For some people, that would mean finding a time that works each day, for others they’ll need to decide each day when that time is going to be, but whatever it takes do it for two weeks. I decided to accept her challenge, so this week I have been going into our spare bedroom each evening while Torry’s getting ready for bed. That gives me about 20-30 minutes to spend in prayer, reflection and Bible reading.

So what’s happened? Have all the problems in my life vanished as God steps in and solves them all? Do I now dance all day long because I’m so full of joy?

Of course not! But there has been a difference. The biggest difference is actually very ironic. Although I used to argue that I didn’t need quiet time

because I “pray without ceasing”, I have actually found that this week I feel closer to God and He feels more present in my life. What do I mean by that? When problems have arisen this week (and boy was there a doozy!) my first response was to pray about it. Although there was definitely the potential for a reaction of anger, I didn’t feel it! I felt a sense of peace and a feeling of trust that God would see us through this problem no matter what, and that even if His solution isn’t the same as mine, I’m okay with that. Now that is definitely NOT the way I would normally respond to a problem like this.

God didn’t take away the problem, or stop it from happening, but it is the strangest sensation to really feel that it’s not that big a deal. And in a very real sense, I don’t even feel like it’s my problem to deal with—I turned it over to God, so now I can stop worrying about it. So I encourage you—examine your life. Where can you make time for conversation with God? My plan was to dedicate 10 minutes each evening, but I’ve found that I enjoy it so much that I’m spending two or three times that long. And while I still “pray without ceasing”, I’ve discovered that it’s much easier to listen when you’re not dashing from one activity to another!

# Photo Time!



Chalmers' Congregational Retreat

## Grab A Book! By Christine Hunter

### Read Aloud Bible Stories

Ages 3 – 6 years

This is a series of four books. We have them all and they are ordinary everyday bible stories that you have all heard when you were little, told in rhyme (I didn't say it was always good rhyme) but in an understandable way with pictures to help your little one understand.

**Noah and His Ark** tells this story in a way that little ones can relate to – and the picture of the inside of the ark helps you see that this is actually “do-able”!

**Daniel in the Lion's Den** actually makes you feel a little sad for King Darius, who really likes and trusts Daniel, but bows to his `wise` counsel – and then regrets his actions. **We** know the end of the story – but does your child.

**David and Goliath** – also a well known story that we sometimes overlook when reading bible stories to our children. Told in rhyme, this makes you realise how small and insignificant David was – and can give your child a feeling that even a little one can make a big difference in his world!

**Moses in Egypt** tells how Moses was adopted by pharaoh's daughter and brought up in luxury, but he was always upset when he saw the way that `his people` were treated! Again – a familiar story, but one that your child would love to hear read aloud.

Check out these books and continue teaching your children the stories of the bible.

### Camp Club Girls Series

Ages 8 – 12 years

This is a brand new series of books, and if you are in (or near) the above ages – or are reading at that level – and you enjoy a mystery – then these books are for you. I have only read book 1 so far, but I really enjoyed it!

**Book 1 – Camp Club Girls and the Mystery at Discovery Lake** by Renae Brumbaugh

Sydney, Bailey, Elizabeth, Kate, Alexis and McKenzie meet when they are all assigned to bunk together in cabin 12B at Camp Discovery Lake..... and the strange goings on, eerie noises and suspicious behaviours start right on the first page of this book. The girls become firm friends and after seeing one of their councillors digging holes in the mini golf course late at night, and being chased off whenever they try to practice their golf strokes, they decide that something here is not as it should



be – and they will get to the bottom of the mystery. Of course there's a cute little dog named Biscuit in the story too – and his antics will keep you giggling and wondering how long the friends can keep hiding him in their cabin – against camp rules of course! This is a well written story that I enjoyed reading – and I'd love to hear how much you enjoyed it too.

We have three books in the series – and I would love to HAVE to buy some more because they were so popular! How about it girls – let me know and I will be glad to purchase some more of these books. The other two that we have right now are:

**Sydney's DC Discovery - Book 2**  
**McKenzie's Montana Mystery - Book 3**

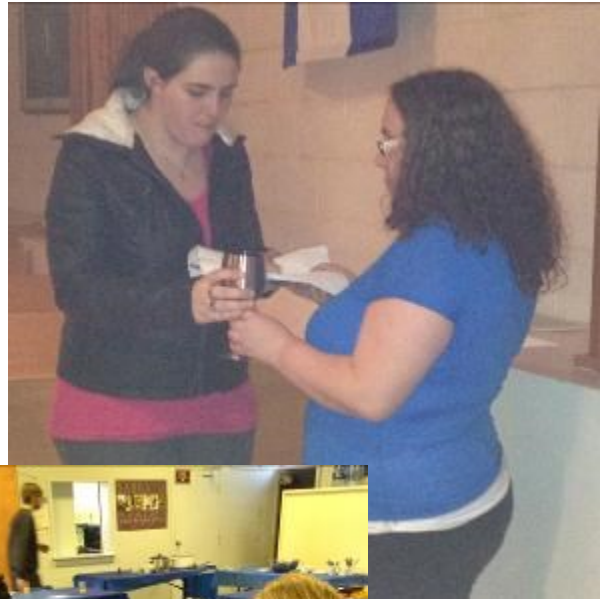
Christine Hunter, Librarian

## Camp Kintail

Registration is now open. Pick up a brochure in the narthex or look on-line at [www.campkintail.ca](http://www.campkintail.ca)



# Photo Time!



Bible-Read-a-thon

## Who's Helping?

	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	May 13 <sup>th</sup>	May 20 <sup>th</sup>	May 27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Little Worship Assistant (9:00 service)</b>	Christine Hunter	Pat MacKay	All Ages	Christine Hunter
<b>Preschool Assistant (10:30 service)</b>	Joyce Kilbourne	Cheri Vlieger	All Ages	Dan Duffin
<b>Coffee Time Volunteers (between services)</b>	Don & Gail Leitch	Brenda & Todd Webster	Shirley & Bill George	
<b>World of Welcome (10:30 service)</b>	Heather Reid Holly Williams Kim Poser Bev Cameron Dennis Smedley Betty Burrows	Mary Taylor Bob Taylor Muriel Bertling Debbie Scott Victoria Thorpe Ryan Thorpe	Marian Weldon Ron Ladd Doris Tutt Linda Powers Irene Thayer Helen Innes	Linda Murray Bill Murray Yvonne Daniel Roy Young
<b>Offering Counters (after 10:30 service)</b>	Brenda & Todd Webster		Roy Young & Carol Goodfellow	Yvonne Daniel & Doris Tutt
<b>Library Volunteers (after 10:30 service)</b>	Shirley Hall	Christine Hunter	Joyce Kilbourne	Margaret Holdsworth

There are a few spots still to be filled this month. This is a perfect opportunity to volunteer. Each of the groups listed here are always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to help, just let me know and I'll connect you to the corresponding co-ordinator. Most volunteers are called upon 3-6 times a year.

## Happy Birthday!

I hope everyone has a wonderful month this May but especially those families who are celebrating birthdays!

Let me know who has a birthday coming up in May.

### Children & Youth

May 10—Heather is 21  
May 15—Tom is 17  
May 25—Joycelina is 12  
May 28—Craig is 23

### Adults

May 11th—Christine Hunter  
May 15th—Lynn Ball  
May 15th—Lindsay Vannus  
May 22nd—Cheri Vlieger



# May 2012 – Updated 4 May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:30 am Pastoral Care  1pm-2pm Care & Share  7:30pm Policy & Planning	<b>2</b> 10 am Session Executive  2:15 pm Knitting circle  7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	<b>3</b>  1pm-2pm Care & Share  7:30 pm Senior Choir	<b>4</b>  6:30 pm CW practice	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9 am Contemp. Worship  10 am Coffee Time  10:30 am Worship  2 pm Book of the Month Gathering	<b>7</b>  1:30 pm Walkfit	<b>8</b>  1pm-2pm Care & Share  7:30 pm Social & Communication	<b>9</b>  2:15 pm Knitting circle  7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	<b>10</b>  1pm-2pm Care & Share  7:30 pm Senior Choir	<b>11</b>  6:30 pm CW practice  7pm "Annie" at Saunders	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9 am Contemp. Worship  10 am Coffee Time  10:30 am Worship	<b>14</b>  1:30 pm Walkfit  7 pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Leading With Care 7:30 pm Worship Planning Team	<b>15</b>  1pm-2pm Care & Share  7:30 pm Session	<b>16</b>  2:15 pm Knitting circle  6pm Mission Committee  7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	<b>17</b>  1pm-2pm Care & Share  7:30 pm Senior Choir	<b>18</b>  PYPS (synod) Youth MAY CAMP  6:30 pm CW practice	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> → 9 am Contemp. Worship  10 am Coffee Time  10:30 am Worship  All Ages Worship	<b>21</b>  1:30 pm Walkfit  6:30 pm Evangelism	<b>22</b>  1pm-2pm Care & Share	<b>23</b>  2:15 Knitting circle  7 pm Reach Out at Kensington	<b>24</b>  1pm-2pm Care & Share  7:30 pm Senior Choir  7:30pm Property Management	<b>25</b>  6:30 pm CW practice	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 7:30 am Congregation Breakfast 9 am Contemp. Worship  10:30 am Worship  Holy Communion will be served at both services  7 pm Stephen Ministry	<b>28</b>  1:30 pm Walkfit  7:30 pm Mary Moffat Women	<b>29</b>  1pm-2pm Care & Share	<b>30</b>  2:15 Knitting circle  7:30 pm Reach Out rehearsal	<b>31</b>  1pm-2pm Care & Share  7:30 pm Senior Choir		

**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)**

Last Laugh!

