

Chalmers' Spirit

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

Welcome to May!

Well, by the time this newsletter is published, the photo directory will be upon us, Anniversary Sunday will be days away and we'll be looking towards May, spring and sunny skies!

There's way too much going on in May to highlight it all (check out the calendar), but I would like to mention that the Men's Breakfast will instead be a Congregational Lunch this month. If 8am was a little early for you, or you

didn't want to come without the rest of the family, join us this month as we try out a new format. Remember, none of the great ideas and wonderful leadership can lead to anything without lots of support!

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A fun children's story on Earth Day Sunday had the children adding leaves to the tree and talking about God's creation.

Letter from the Editor by Lizz Thibodeau

At the beginning of April, Kim, Abbey & I attended a youth ministry conference here in London. Our guest speaker was Mark Devries and we were absolutely thrilled because he is the author of one of the books that we have been using to guide our work in youth ministry. We were going to get to meet and speak to the author of our guide book!!! And it was every bit as exciting as we had anticipated! Mark is an incredibly friendly, out-going presenter from Tennessee, and everything's more fun when presented with a Tennessee accent!!!

We learned a lot of really cool things that we're excited to use with our youth here at Chalmers, but way more important than the information we gained was yet another affirmation of what a fabulous church Chalmers is.

Abbey & I had this experience at Canada Youth last year when we met with other youth leaders and again at this conference we were surprised to hear how things are done in other churches. By the end of the conference, Mark Devries had started referring to Chalmers as "The Wacky Church". He didn't mean this in a derogatory sense; it was a huge compliment! Chalmers didn't fit into many of the statistics, categories or definitions that we were discussing because of our unique attitude! We're not perfect—far from it for sure—but think about what Chalmers has done over the past few years! We've added a contemporary service, changed the time of both services, combined the services into one service at another new time, installed screens and a sound booth in the sanctuary, overhauled the youth ministry program, we've even invited a donkey into the sanctuary! At some churches, having a couple of youth involved in leading worship for one week is a huge deal and can create difficulties. Notice that in my list of major events, I didn't even mention that we had one Sunday in the fall lead entirely by youth. That doesn't even count as a "hurdle" at Chalmers.

It's easy for us to look inwardly at Chalmers and see all of the issues that we have. Change never comes without bumps and groans. But there are churches dying away because of their inability to embrace change or even to see that it might possibly perhaps just maybe be necessary or (dare I say it?) good! I'm so pleased that I belong to a church that can try new things. Would you believe that some youth leaders would never dream of bringing a sheep to youth group no matter how great the lesson because their congregation would rake them over the coals? What would they do with a minister who invites a donkey into the sanctuary?



Grab a Book by Christine Hunter



What to read, what to read? We have some really neat books in the library that are just ideal for that time when your child is just starting to read for themselves. These books are short enough for you to read as a bedtime story, and are interesting enough to make your child want to just figure out that next word!

God Made Dinosaurs – by Heno Head Jr ---- tells us about dinosaurs, their size , what they looked like, and what they ate. How do we know anything at all about dinosaurs – after all there are not alive today! This book will explain it all to you, in very easy-to-understand language.

God's World of Plants – by Heno Head Jr ----- another science book that tells usthis time about plants! Do you know why cactus plants are prickly, what you are eating when you eat corn on the cob, and why flowers are such pretty colours? All you ever wanted to know (maybe not quite all) about plants can be found – again in easy to understand language – in this book. The pictures are also enticing to younger children who are not ready to read yet!

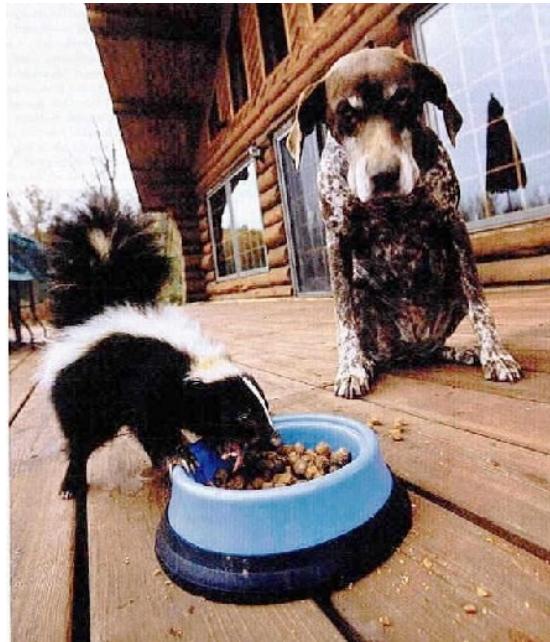
My Friend next Door – by Leone Castell Anderson ----- When a new girl comes to live next door to Emily, they become friends. But when school starts up again after the summer holidays, Emily's school friends are not at all kind or friendly to the new girl. Emily is not sure what to do. She likes Allegra, but doesn't want to lose her other friends.

Emily's birthday is coming up soon – and her school friends say they will not come to her party if Emily invites Allegra! Wow! What a dilemma! Okay – what would you do? What will Emily do? I'm not going to tell! You will have to read this great book for yourself then tell me if you liked it, and if you liked the ending!

Christine Hunter, Librarian

Take Time to Smile!

Two of life's most valuable assets are patience and wisdom. Here is a great example of both!



Chalmers Social & Communications Committee

Let's Eat Out

at

MENU

The Four Seasons
Restaurant

1455 Fanshawe Pk. Rd. West
6.30 p.m.

order off the menu

Saturday 27th April

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Limping Towards Grace by James Jarvis

An Open Letter to the Global Church

I'm so tired but I can't sleep
Standin' on the edge of something much too deep
It's funny how we feel so much but we cannot say a word
We are screaming inside, but we can't be heard

Sarah McLachlan

I just got back from a two-day conference called Inspire Justice, and I'm in that weird space between tired and elated. After spending two days with people who care about social justice in the same way that I do, I feel a little lost. It's hard to see how God's kingdom should be and then to see once again how far we have to travel to reach the Promised Land. But I know this: I really want to do something with God's church that will make a real difference in the world and in my community.

Because, my brothers and sisters, you know we live in a broken world. Never in the history of mankind has there been more affluence, and yet rarely has there been a greater distance between those of us who have so much and our brothers and sisters that have so little.

Right now, I don't have a lot of answers, but I do have some questions. What can we do to make life better in our community? How can we serve God in the land of Mammon? Where do we begin our journey?

This Sunday my church approved a mission statement, a vision statement, and set goals for the next few years. But this is only the beginning, a road map if you will.

And like the maps of old there is a space labeled Here There Be Dragons. Because as my pastor, John, said in his sermon this morning we are sheep amongst the wolves, and we need to be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves. As Christians we are in a struggle against the powers and principalities of this world. It is not an easy struggle, for the path which we are on is narrow, and all around us are the distractions of everyday life.

And so I ask you, my brothers and sisters, to think about where we are going. Because in this broken world, it is only through God's grace that we are saved, but, though it is freely given, grace comes at a price. To paraphrase Dietrich Bonhoeffer, it is a costly grace for, far from dispensing us from good works, it means that we must take the call to discipleship more seriously than ever before.

As Christians we are in a state of constant becoming. As Christians we are not perfect and we never will be.

And that is why I call my blog Limping Towards Grace, because when I am tired I walk with a limp. And for me that is a metaphor for how God's grace works: when I am tired and limping I need to lean on God's grace most of all. So I am asking you, my brothers and sisters, to join me, as I struggle with God's grace and what it means to be a Christian in our broken world.

As Christians we need to come together and discuss where we are going and how we will get there. Sometimes the journey will be easy, but sometimes the journey will leave us tired and limping. That is when we will need each other most of all.

So let us go out into the world and embrace its brokenness and in so doing perhaps we will heal our own brokenness. For it is only in embracing each other in community and service to God that we can embrace our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And in fulfilling the great commandment to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves we will build a New Jerusalem.

"What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:14-17



Congregational Retreat: Peace

Guest Speaker: Rev. Mavis Curry

All Ages
Welcome!

May 4th, 2013

9:30am—7:30pm

**Pearce Williams
Christian Centre**

\$10



May 2013 - Chalmers Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10am Anniversary Sunday Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Children's Choir	29 1:30pm Fellowship & Faith Study 7pm Fellowship & Faith Study 7pm Worship Committee	30 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness	1 2:15pm Knitting 7:30pm Reachout Rehearsal	2 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal	3 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre	4 9am Congregational Retreat @ Pearce Williams
5 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Youth Group 11:30am Children's Choir	6 1:30pm Fellowship & Faith Study 6:30pm Mission Committee 7pm Fellowship & Faith Study 7pm Stephen Ministry	7 9:30am Pastoral Care 10:30am Nurturing Children's Faith @ Kintail 10:30am Session Executive 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness 7:30pm Policy & ...	8 2:15pm Knitting 7pm Reachout @ Caresant Care	9 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal	10 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre	11 Spring Cleanup Day Chalmers' Community Clean-up
12 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Children's Choir	13 1:30pm Fellowship & Faith Study 7pm Fellowship & Faith Study 7:30pm Worship Planning Team	14 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness 7:30pm Social & Communication	15 2:15pm Knitting 7pm Reachout at RoyalCliffe Retirement Residence	16 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal	17 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre 6pm May Camp @ Kintail	18 May Camp @ Kintail
19 10am Worship - Pentecost 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Children's Choir 2:30pm ...	20 6:30pm Evangelism Victoria Day May Camp @ Kintail Victoria Day	21 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness 7:30pm Session	22 2:15pm Knitting 7:30pm Reachout Rehearsal	23 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Property Management	24 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre	25
26 10am Worship - Holy Communion 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee Time 11:15am Library Open 11:30am Children's Choir 11:30am ...	27 1:30pm Fellowship & Faith Study 7pm Fellowship & Faith Study 7:30pm Mary Moffat	28 10am Y4C Sandwich preparation 1pm Care & Share 1pm Seniors' Fitness	29 2:15pm Knitting 7pm Reachout at Chateau Gdns. 7:30pm Reachout Rehearsal	30 6:25pm Praise Team rehearsal 7:30pm Senior Choir rehearsal	31 9am Seniors' Fitness 1pm Seniors' Euchre	1

There is so much going on at Chalmers that it doesn't all fit on this page anymore! For full details, updates and an easier-to-read version please go to the Chalmers webpage. http://www.chalmerslondon.com/church_calendar.htm

Last Laugh!

