



July 2021

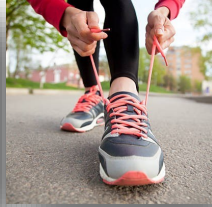
CHALMERS' SPIRIT

A newsletter of Chalmers Presbyterian Church

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Sometimes we need to receive encouragement so that we can continue to serve faithfully.

Last year I received a beautiful e-card that included these words of encouragement: "Hey John, we just wanted to say thank you for all you are doing to hold us all together. We know it is a great challenge but please know that we appreciate it. God bless you."

I thank God for those meaningful words of encouragement and appreciation and the caring folk who sent them.

During the pandemic Laurie and I and her father Sandy, who lives with us, also received homemade cards in the mail with words of care and support. These words and acts of encouragement are much appreciated and give us strength for the faith journey.

When work piles up and we are feeling stressed out we can forget that God is with us day by day. When we face formidable forces that challenge us, even threaten us, we may forget that nothing is impossible with God.

The apostle Paul spoke of the hope we have in Christ, that Jesus died and rose again, that "we will be with the Lord forever." And he added, "Therefore encourage one another with these words."

In 1 Thessalonians 5 Paul reminds us that we are children of light. "For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."

Along with our identity as the people of light, we have a responsibility to one another in the church, the body of Christ, to be present with and for one another in the communion of the Holy Spirit. And that is no small thing.

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A Word from Rev. John, continued...

Paul tells us we are to encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. Even as he directs us to be engaged in this ministry of encouragement Paul is encouraging us with his words of affirmation and with the good news of Christ crucified and risen.

What might this look like in the early days of summer as we look forward to the time when we can gather in person for worship, study, and fellowship? We need to be intentional with our words of encouragement and with actions that encourage others, in the worship and life of the church, at home with our family members, and in life in the wider community.

Look for opportunities that God may be giving you to say an encouraging word to someone:

You can do this my friend.

You are doing amazing work.

I've got your back.

You're not alone.

Don't give up.

You've got this.

Thank-you for sharing your gifts.

Peace be with you.

Words spoken with conviction and sincerity, coupled with actions that follow those good words, can make all the difference.

Make that delicious casserole and deliver it to the front door of your neighbour who is struggling or to the member of our church family who is in need.

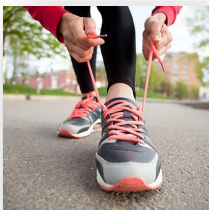
Sit down and write that “thinking of you” card and get it in the mail today. Pick up the phone and call someone who is feeling isolated. And be willing to accept the encouragement of others with grace and gratitude.

As we get our second vaccination shots and as we move closer to the end of the pandemic may we embrace the ministry of encouragement. “Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

May God continue to bless you and care for you.

Rev. John

Walk/Run/Ride for Camp Kintail



Plan on joining us on **Saturday, July 24 at 10 am** for a fundraising **Walk/Run/Ride for Camp Kintail**. A 5K route will begin at Chalmers' parking lot—you can choose to join in by whatever means works best for you, and complete the route either once or twice.

Pledge sheets will be available on our website. Please register and indicate how you'll be doing the route. *Physical distancing and public health practices will be in effect.* Donations are welcome if you cannot participate!

Visit the [Camp Kintail](#) website for more information on this great cause.

Watch for news of a mini tennis tournament in support of Camp Kintail in August!

Midweek Prayer and Worship



Midweek Prayer continues weekly, on Wednesday evenings from 8-8:45pm on Zoom. Join us as we pray for our church, our city and our world. Everyone welcome!

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82106254383>

To join by telephone, dial 1-647-558-0588 and enter the meeting ID: 857 9892 6749

Join us as well on the first Wednesday of the month for **Midweek Worship**, an informal, interactive time of worship on Zoom. Our next worship time will be on **Wednesday, August 4 at 7:00 pm**. All welcome!

More details available on our website www.chalmerslondon.com/News & Events

Online Fellowship



Feeling the need for connection and fellowship? We have just the thing! Join us Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm for a relaxed time of fellowship and lively discussion. We are meeting on ZOOM, meeting ID 350 336 4073 (same each week) and there is no password. Check the Chalmers Ministry Facebook group for details of each week's theme / discussion topic.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3503364073>

Contact Sue Garner with questions.

Mission Moment



In this series of newsletters, your mission team will explore the congregation's mission partners. This month – “Mission Services of London” which provides support to men, women, and families in need of short term accommodations during periods of personal crisis. A component of Mission Services is the Men's Mission - a 146-bed facility that serves men in need. It functions as an emergency hostel for men experiencing homeless age 16 and over, as well as a residence for men who require longer term care and support.

Another component of Mission Services is the Rotholme Family Shelter which works with families (two parent and single parent families, both male and female led). There is accommodation for approximately twenty families. The length of stay varies from one day up to thirty days. Twenty-four hour emergency admission is provided for families who are homeless or in personal crisis and in need of temporary emergency accommodation.

Another component is the Quintin Warner House which is a 10-bed addiction treatment centre providing a four-month live-in program for males 18 years of age and older. It's a safe and secure place where men can work to overcome addictions and address issues such as anger and trauma histories.

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Chalmers supports the “Mission Services of London” financially, through regular updates on their activities, and Sunday evening worship service (non pandemic times) at the Men’s Mission. Some may remember preparing healthy sandwiches and other goodies for those participating in the *service*.



Ministry Feature

Care & Share Food Assistance Program



Throughout the pandemic, Chalmers Church has continued to offer crucial food assistance to our local London community. Residents living in the Glen Cairn, Pond Mills or Westminster Park areas can call the church on Monday morning to request an appointment for food pickup on Wednesday between 12:30 and 1 pm. Families can visit our food bank once a month.

Milk, eggs, and non-perishable foods are offered according to family size, along with fresh fruit and vegetables when available. We are blessed to receive generous food donations from the City of London Foodbank. Though we are currently unable to receive food items from our church community, we thank all those who have continued to support Care & Share financially.

For more information or to volunteer with Care & Share, contact Heather Reid or Liz Gough, co-coordinators.

News & Events



The Session of Chalmers wishes to draw your attention to the **Joint Statement from the Current and Former Moderator Regarding Residential Schools:**

We issue this statement of repentance and commitment to action today, aware of our own responsibility with regard to the sin of colonialism and our operation of residential schools, both of which we recognize today as instruments of a genocide against Indigenous people in what is today called Canada. The devastating revelation of 215 unmarked graves on the grounds of Kamloops Residential School in British Columbia leads the church to a time of listening to learn what is needed to continue its work of reconciliation, and so we have prepared this statement in consultation with the National Indigenous Ministries Council of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. We also offer lament, in humility, for the lives of all the children who were lost; those we already knew, those who were just found, and any more still to be found.

Living Faith reminds us that God is always calling us to seek justice in the world, and that justice is seen when we strive to change customs that oppress and enslave, protect the rights of others and protest anything that destroys human dignity. (8.4.1–3) Justice

requires commitment and action. In 2019, The Presbyterian Church in Canada repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*—major components of colonialism, and in 2016, we committed ourselves to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation. It is in acknowledging these requirements and calls of our faith that the church commits itself to the work and repentance named here.

We have heard The Presbyterian Church in Canada must work to ensure the grounds of the residential schools we ran—and especially Birtle and Cecilia Jeffrey, which we ran the longest—are searched for any unmarked graves. We must also ensure any search is taken in respectful consultation with the Indigenous communities and families impacted; this would include financial support from the church for those searches. **We commit to this work.**

We have heard that any work to address the legacy of Indian Residential Schools must also address the ongoing inequity faced by today's Indigenous children, and we are asked to seek justice through advocacy for the rights of all Indigenous children. **We commit to this work.**

We have heard The Presbyterian Church in Canada must confront and address colonialism and systemic racism against Indigenous people in both the church and Canadian society. This systemic racism and colonialism shape the daily lives of Indigenous people in the church and in society in daily acts many take for granted, such as accessing health care, access to clean drinking water, equity in education, and equitable treatment in court systems. We have seen how this systemic racism has resulted in incidents like how Joyce Echaquan was treated before her death when she sought access to health care, in significantly higher rates of violent encounters with police, and in significantly higher rates of child apprehension into foster care systems, to name just a few examples. As disciples of Christ, the church is called to work for justice by advocating for an end to these and other similar injustices against Indigenous people. **We commit to this work.**

We have heard that it is important to support the recommendations recently issued by the Native Women's Association regarding ending the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as well as continuing to support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the Calls for Justice that stem from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. **We commit to this work.**

Because the residential schools operated for almost nine decades, harming generations of communities, true healing and reconciliation will require a lengthy journey over generations and a great deal of work to heal that harm. The discoveries of unmarked graves continue to lead to unspeakable grief and ongoing harm in communities across our country. Reconciliation is a long road that requires acknowledgement of harm, apology for taking part in that harm, concrete steps to redress the harm, and the rebuilding of broken relationships. We are called as disciples of Christ to reconciliation and to justice; **this is work the church must do and commits to doing.**

—*The Rev. Dr. Daniel Scott*
Moderator of the 2021 General Assembly

—*The Rev. Amanda Currie*
Moderator of the 2019 General Assembly”

** This is only an excerpt. The statement in its entirety can be found on the Presbyterian Church in Canada website, or requested in hard copy through the church office.*

Prayer Requests



- ◆ For God's protection, peace and grace to surround us as we walk through these trying times due to the COVID-19 virus.
- ◆ For God to inspire us to be generous in giving our time, talents and treasure for the ongoing work of the Lord in the world.
- ◆ For the Lord to encourage the staff and campers of **Camp Kintail** and all of our church camps across Canada as they continue to deal with the cancellation of summer, overnight camp programs and the financial implications of the pandemic.

(Personal prayer requests removed for the sake of privacy—these are found in the weekly bulletin)

July Birthdays at Chalmers



July 1	Julie C	July 17	Shirley G
July 2	Andrea B Heather de H	July 18	Harold T
July 6	Isla T	July 19	Bob F Dennis S
July 8	Janet B	July 21	Cathy S
July 11	Joyce K	July 22	Peter L
July 12	Aly L	July 28	Zack McR
July 13	Isaac M	July 29	Plamedi M
July 14	Linda G Jack H		

Happy birthday, and God bless you!

Chalmers Presbyterian Church

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