



November/December 2021

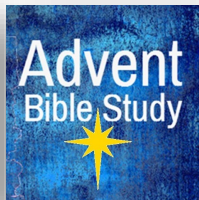
CHALMERS' SPIRIT

A newsletter of Chalmers Presbyterian Church

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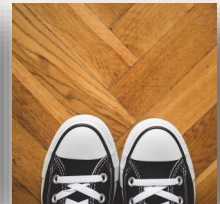
Policy & Planning



Mission Moment

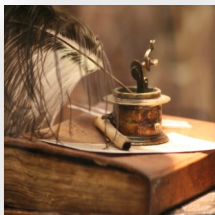


Kettle Drive 2021



Youth Ministry

Advent Reflection



An Advent Reflection from the Moderator

Recently, while reflecting on the Christmas carol, “Away in a manger,” I did a rant in my head about the line – “little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.” My thoughts went like this, “Of course he cried, he was a human baby, human babies cry. Cry to be held, cry to be fed, cry because they are hurt. Crying is part of the normal human experience, nothing sinful about a baby crying.”

Then I was brought up short by this thought – “There comes a point when a hungry baby stops crying.” Images of mothers holding starving, silent infants filled my mind. I was stopped in my tracks and filled with awe – maybe the carol is correct. What if in becoming one of us Jesus was a hungry baby not getting enough food? What if he experienced being a malnourished child? Such sacrifice to identify with humanity, to be with the lowly and the poor, takes my breath away. It drives me to my knees in awe and wonder at the mystery and humility of the Incarnation.

The musician Joan Osborne sang, “What if God was one of us? Just a slob like one of us.” God has come to be one of us, hungry like many in our world, homeless like many in our world, a refugee like many in our world...

Jesus came to be one of us; God with us. God with the hungry and the homeless; God with the hurting and those without hope; God with those who rejoice and those filled with gratitude. In Jesus Christ, God holds us, cares for us, heals us, is with us.

Continued on page 2...

Prayer



God of the universe, when your Son came to be with us, he was not born into comfort and ease, but into poverty and homelessness. He did not come with status and prestige, but in humility and lowliness. We rejoice that he walks with the rejected and gives rest to the weary.

In this season of Advent and Christmas, may we find that Jesus has come for us, come to be with us. Raise holy anticipation in us that we would find our hope renewed in the promise of the Prince of Peace coming to our world.

Bring us in wonder to the manger that we might really see our Saviour, Jesus Christ who was born to set us free. As we seek to take in the awe-filled truth of the Incarnation may our voices burst forth with our hearts' song, "All glory be to you, God on high."

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

The Rev. Peter Bush, Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly

Advent Bible Study



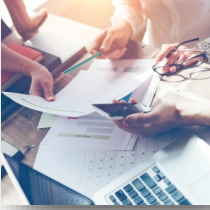
Join us online for a 4 week study of the book, **"Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas"** by Adam Hamilton. We'll gather on Zoom, Mondays, November 29—December 20, 7—8 pm.

How God became human in the Christ child of Bethlehem is a mystery. It is difficult to understand and harder to explain. Adam Hamilton explores the why and to what end questions of the Incarnation: Why would God come to us in Jesus? What was the purpose of the Incarnation? How are we meant to respond to the Incarnation, to God's coming to us in Jesus, today?

Each chapter of the book considers one or more of the names or titles used by the gospel writers as they introduce the story of Jesus: Lord, Messiah, Saviour, Emmanuel, Light of the Word and Word Made Flesh. As Adam Hamilton explores these titles for Jesus, he invites readers to reflect on the significance of Jesus' incarnation to our lives and world today. Written during the COVID-19 pandemic, this book speaks to the experience of contemporary Christians as we reflect on the world-changing significance of the child we celebrate at Christmas.

Adam Hamilton's book is available for \$10, and printed study materials will be provided. RSVP to Rev. John or sign up through the [website](#) and indicate whether you'd like a book.

From the case files of *P.P. Pen*:



Hello out there! My name is PP-Pen (or Policy & Planning Pen for long) and I am a signatory member of the congregation's Policy and Planning team. Have you ever wondered what work this team performs on behalf of the congregation? Yes, we plan things (most notably the budget process) and set policies – yet what policies do we set? What policies do we update and what is their effect on the congregation?

In this series, we will share with readers the various activities of the Policy and Planning team – some potential topics appear below:

1. What does the team really manage on behalf of the congregation? It's more than you might think.
2. What is meant by a "Charitable Donation for Tax Purposes"? Did you know the concepts of charitable donations go back to England's Elizabethan times or that there is no actual laws about charitable giving, it's based on 500+ years of judicial rulings.
3. What are those special funds and what is their purpose? The special funds are all reported on that massive chart of numbers that appears on the last page of the annual report – which most of us may become blurry eyed (or "ink" in my case) about.

What are the budget details – without the numbers. Yes, this one would be a discussion about the various budget items and what they represent, without any numbers. It's been done before!

Hopefully, there will be some guest (or maybe "ghost") writers from time to time. For now though, I had best seek the agreement from the Policy & Planning team before getting into details. C U soon!

Signing off,

PP-Pen

Mission Moment



In this series of newsletters, your mission team will explore the congregation's mission partners.

This month: "**Refuge Ministries Canada**" which provides support for youth as they are transitioning back into the community upon their release from custody. While a number of resources exist for men (and women) who are released from prison terms, there seems to be a "gap" for those in their late teens or a bit older.

The "Refuge Ministries of Canada" is committed to:

- 1) One-on-one mentoring of young men before and after release.
- 2) First contact with referrals to places of support where those released have their identified needs met in London & across Canada.
- 3) Equip churches/individuals interested in this type of work through presentations and a one hour prison ministry training seminar.

Mission Moment Continued on p. 4...

This organization is a relatively new partner to the Chalmers mission family. The team has met with the Rev. Alan Campbell on a couple of occasions and Chalmers has provided donated goods in the past – partly interrupted by the COVID-19 situation in early 2020. Your mission team is working with Rev. Campbell on an advent program this year which we hope will provide much needed contents (mostly sanitary goods such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, and soap) for their “release kits”.



Watch for more on this new relationship in the coming weeks!

Your mission team.

Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign 2021

While Chalmers will not be coordinating a kettle this year, please consider the following communication from the The 2021 London Christmas Kettle TEAM:



Hello Chalmers,

On behalf of the London Christmas Kettle Team we would like to thank you for your past volunteering at our Christmas Kettles.

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN AND HOPE YOU CAN HELP!

Although our lives have continued to be disrupted in profound and unprecedented ways due to the Pandemic, it does not in any way eradicate the needs of our vulnerable population and our obligation to support those individuals.

We are so grateful for our Kettle Volunteers. It is inspiring how many individuals have contacted us wanting to lend a hand already. Volunteers embody what it means to give hope today.

The Christmas Kettle Campaign begins on Thursday, November 18th, and runs until Friday, December 24th

With the cases of Covid-19 in our community we want to be diligent in protecting our clients, volunteers and staff. Appropriate health and safety procedures will be put in place and social distancing will be practiced. This year The Salvation Army also requires that volunteers also provide proof of both vaccinations.

Due to a new policy this year we are asking that all volunteers have their double vaccinations in order to participate with The Kettle Campaign. We are asking that all volunteers electronically send in proof of double vaccinations to londonchristmaskettles@gmail.com. If it is not possible for you to send in proof, then please contact Angela at 519-873-2984, and we will figure out other arrangements to obtain the necessary proof of vaccinations. This information will not be kept on file and emails will be deleted after the appropriate paperwork has been filled out.

Our goal this year is \$550,000.00

The annual Christmas Kettle Campaign has been The Salvation Army's single largest appeal in Canada since 1906. Without this campaign and the thousands of volunteers who make it successful, many people in need would face continuing challenges. Your participation as a bell ringer will help provide hope and dignity to those less fortunate.

This year we will continue to have 2 and 3 hour shifts. Times will vary at some locations.

If you have done your own scheduling online in the past, you can do so again by logging into your account at www.londonchristmaskettles.ca.

If you need assistance with your username and or password please call Angela at 519-873-2984. You can also call this number if you would like to sign up to volunteer over the phone.

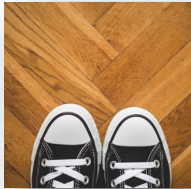
Please remember that if you have a Kettle location that you prefer, to sign up early in order to secure your spot.

We hope you are able to help us out, and if you have a friend, family member or colleague, who would be interested in volunteering, please forward this email or have them call us. Our prayers and thoughts are with all of you and your families during this time. We hope you have been able to keep safe and healthy.

Blessings,

The 2021 London Christmas Kettle TEAM

Youth Ministry



On September 24, 8 youth joined Chris Hardy, Andrew & Lizz Thibodeau, Rev. John and one of the parents for a hilarious **evening of games and campfire songs** in the Thibodeaus backyard! The weather was perfect as we shared silly chants and inspirational Christian songs around the fire!

Pumpkin and Pizza Party on Halloween!

10 Chalmers Youth and 7 adults, with a surprise appearance by Rev. Iron Man, came together for almost 2 hours of fun! We played games, laughed at Halloween themed Icebreaker questions, planned ideas for upcoming events, ate a pizza lunch, and carved some creative pumpkins! We look forward to one or possibly two more activities before Christmas! This marked the first time we had a Youth gathering inside the church in over 20 months. It was a Joy to hear the laughter and enjoyment of all ages!

Chalmers Youth are looking to get together once a month for an uplifting and fun event. Contact the Hardy family or Thibodeau family if you have any questions!



Chalmers News & Events

November & December Birthdays at Chalmers

Happy birthday, and God bless you!



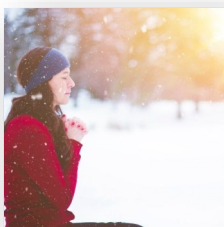
NOVEMBER:

- 1 Heather Bannerman
- 4 Frances Sobieralski
- 6 Loretta Duffin
- 9 Jim Harrett
- 13 Jasmine Nathaniel
- 14 Doris Lamont
- 19 Linda Bone
- 21 Shirley Hall
- 22 Alex Cole
- 23 Charles McCartney
- 24 Susan High-Smith
- 26 Sarah Walker
- 27 Ed Carrier
- 30 Maureen Gaskin

DECEMBER:

- 4 Gary Smith
- 7 Carolyn Walker
- 8 Becky Bolton
Jason McDonald
Emma Hartman-Little
- 9 Spencer McCormick
- 11 Ainsley Marshall
- 16 Bob Taylor
- 17 Ailsa Leitch
- 21 Kathy McCartney
- 25 Holly Williams
- 26 Heather Reid
- 29 John David Biro

Prayer Requests



- For God's healing for **Janet Bruce** as she recovers at home from knee surgery.
- For God's comfort for Sherri Hartman's mother, **Linda Clifford**, who is palliative. May the Lord give strength to Sherri and Kevin as they care for her at home.
- For God's comfort and healing for **Linda Bone** as she recovers from foot surgery.
- For God's care and comfort for **Vivian Pearse**, who is in palliative care.
- For God's healing for **Charles McCartney**, who is recovering at home.
- For God's healing and pain control for **Joyce Yull**.
- For healing and pain control for **Vic Laursen** who is in hospital fighting an infection.
- For God's healing for **Doris Tutt** and a spirit of perseverance as she recovers at home.
- For God's healing for **Leslee Johnston** as she recovers from surgery.
- For God's healing for **Ken Hall** as he convalesces at home. May the Lord give strength to Shirley, as she cares for Ken.
- For God's healing for **Barry May**.
- For God's blessing for **Betty Smedley**, **Linda McPherson**, and **Ross Cole**.
- 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.

We welcome you to join us in worship Sundays at 10 am. Safety protocols are in place: we are maintaining physical distancing, using hand sanitizer and wearing masks. We are pleased to report that the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU) COVID-19 safety guidelines prohibiting singing during in-person Church worship have been revised. The Church received an update on October 26 2021 from the MLHU that we are now **allowed to sing with a masks on!**

Pre-registration is required. Please call the office, email or register through the website by noon on Friday. All are welcome here!

*Built by Faith, Strengthened through Worship,
Bringing Hope to Life's Journey.*



Chalmers Presbyterian Church

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