

**Chalmers
Presbyterian
Church**

Youth Spirit

Volume 2, Issue 3

November, 2009

October's Occurrences

October seemed to really fly by at SMY. Because of Thanksgiving, there were only three Sundays with regular programming for the children & youth. On Thanksgiving Sunday, the younger children were invited to watch a video about using the gifts God gave us while those 7 and older remained in the service with their families.

I want to take a moment to mention the retreat here. Leading up to the weekend of the retreat, there was some question about whether the retreat would have to be cancelled because there weren't many people registered. In the end, it was not cancelled but changed to a one-day event, and

what an event it was!!! There were about 25 of us who gathered at Pearce Williams Christian Centre (about 20 minutes from London). We gathered at 9:30 am and stayed until about 8:00 pm. Jeff Crawford was our guest "speaker" for the day but he did more dancing, cheering, and game-leading, than talking. His message was basically to encourage God's people to have fun in His presence. The weather wasn't perfect, but we still managed to have a campfire, albeit indoors. The food was tasty, the fellowship wonderful and the day uplifting. All in all, a great way to spend a Saturday!

On the third Sunday of October, the youth from across the city who attended Canada Youth '09 led the service.

Although I was not able to witness the entire service personally, I enjoyed what I was present for and have heard wonderful reports about the incredibly well-done and emotional drama "Separated from Christ".

Our primary and junior classes wrapped up their unit on Jacob & Esau this month with some role-playing and hand modeling.

In the spirit of Jeff's "Have Fun in God's Presence" message, SMY has added a monthly "Gathering", a time for all of the children and youth to come together for team-building games and activities. Thanks to Andrew Thibodeau for taking the lead!

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November

In November, the number of children who have been regularly participating in the primary / junior class is going to allow us to divide them for this unit. The junior class will be working on Christmas Around the World (including piñatas!), while the primary class will focus on advent preparation.



Doris & Torry bonding during some quiet time. Memories to last a lifetime!

Contact me!

- Ideas, suggestions, comments, new emails? Let me know: lizzt@rogers.com



From the Editor

I Corinthians 12 talks about the gifts from God. We are all members of one body but each part plays a different role. If you're anything like me, you've heard or read that scripture hundreds of times. Every time I heard it, I automatically thought about the gift of music. God gave me the ability to sing and play instruments and so I should use those gifts to His glory. That's all fine and dandy but after 30 years, I've started to think that maybe there's more. I love to sing, no doubt, but isn't there anything else I can do? When Chalmers began looking for a new youth leader, I paused. Perhaps this was it. I taught high school for six years and enjoyed working with that age group. Before teaching, I ran the youth group for several years and loved it. However, the more I prayed and reflected, the fit didn't seem right at this point in time. God has given me two beautiful young girls and I feel called to be with them during these early years.

The more I reflected and thought about what I truly love to do, the more I kept coming back to organising. It may seem like a strange passion to some (okay, many), but I love to organise. Not events, but life! From where I'm sitting at my desk I can see no less than six calendars. One calendar has all the activities of the family for the month, two calendars came from Torry's school with class activities and home activities, then there's my household routines calendar (what chores need to get done on each day), and finally my weekly wipe-off calendar with to-do lists for each day. Wait, that's only five.

"What's the sixth one?" I can hear you all wondering. The sixth one is something new.



Rev. John and I met in September after I had figured out that my passion is organisation and with that, communication (although not by phone!). We pondered how I could use these gifts to God's glory and the benefit of Chalmers. And thus was born the position of Children and Youth Ministries Liaison. With a church the size of Chalmers there are always many events going on and sometimes things get overlooked, overbooked, or mis-communicated. My new role will be to keep in contact with Sunday Morning Youth, the youth groups, Rev. John, and any other committee that is or should be including people under the age of 25 in their programming. I will then maintain the newsletter, the webpage and a monthly calendar to help ensure that everyone knows what is going on (that's the sixth one!). You can't begin to believe how excited I am about this—not because of the position itself, but because I truly feel that God has shown me how to use the gifts He gave me.

What a Quote!

- As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Josh 24:15

Each of us has gifts to share. Sometimes we get stuck in a rut. The gifts God gave us as a child may not be the same ones we have as an adult; neither gift is more or less valuable, nor does one have to erase the other. Sometimes we have gifts that no one has "asked" us to share yet and so they remain hidden. God knows what our true gifts are and how they can best be used; we need to listen to Him. I think many of us try to fit into pre-cut roles but God's gifts are not "one-size fits all". God gave me a gift for music, but that doesn't mean that I should volunteer if the church needs a tuba player. No one would appreciate that! Sometimes we have to offer our gifts as they are, not how we think others want them. Perhaps you can not see how your gifts can be used, but maybe someone else can.

When we use the gifts God gave us to serve God, life is joy-filled (not without problems, but still filled with joy). My husband, Andrew, is a great example of this. He didn't intend to become a motivational speaker, but he let God lead him there and now each day of work is a day of serving God. I have never heard him complain about having to go to work. He is using God's gift to change lives—what can be better than that!

The church didn't ask for a "Children & Youth Ministries Liaison" and yet that is where God led me. I encourage all of you, adults & children, to spend some time reflecting on each other's gifts, praising God for them, and asking how He would have you use them. The results can be Awesome!

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30am SMY 7pm Contemporary Service	2	3	4 7:30 pm Reachout Practice	5 6:15pm Children's Choir	6 6pm Volleyball	7 Camp Kintail—An Especially Special Night
8 10:30am SMY/Baptism	9	10	11 7:30 pm Reachout Practice	12 6:15pm Children's Choir	13	14 9am-noon Everything Christmas Sale 7pm Old Fashioned Hymn Sing
15 10:30am SMY 7pm Contemporary Service	16	17	18 7:30 pm Reachout Practice	19 6:15pm Children's Choir	20	21 1-4pm Sounds of Music @ Chalmers
22 10:30am Gr. 3 Bible Sunday & SMY 10:30 CY'09 presenting at North Caradoc	23	24	25 7:30 pm Reachout Practice	26 6:15pm Children's Choir	27	28 6pm Congregational Potluck
29 ADVENT 1 10:30am SMY	30					

Other Notes

Oct 25th - Nov. 15th:
Operation Christmas Child.
Please fill a shoebox to send to a
child.

Nov. 7th - Evening at Kintail for
alumni. Visit www.campkintail.ca
for more info.

Nov. 14th - Everything
Christmas Sale. Come buy gifts,
ornaments, baked goods and
enjoy the tea room.

Nov. 14th - Old Fashioned Hymn
Sing. Intergenerational evening to
enjoy your favourite hymns. Make
advanced requests in the narthex.

Nov. 21st - Share the Sound of
Music. Enjoy an afternoon of
musical selections from our local
school choirs.

Nov. 28th - Come enjoy the
fellowship and food. Bring a dish
to share.

December

5th @ 6:30 pm - CY'09
presenting at Oakridge
contemporary service

6th @ 10:30 - Pageant Sunday—
please mark your calendars now!

13th @ 10:30 - Reach Out
singing

24th @ 7:00 & 10:00 -
Christmas Eve Services

For a calendar of all Chalmers activities, go to
www.chalmerslondon.com/year_calendar.htm



Whooooo will come?

**An Invitation to all Junior and Senior
Youth**

Cooooome prepare to be spooooked!
A **costume** party with looads of fun, foood
and fellowship

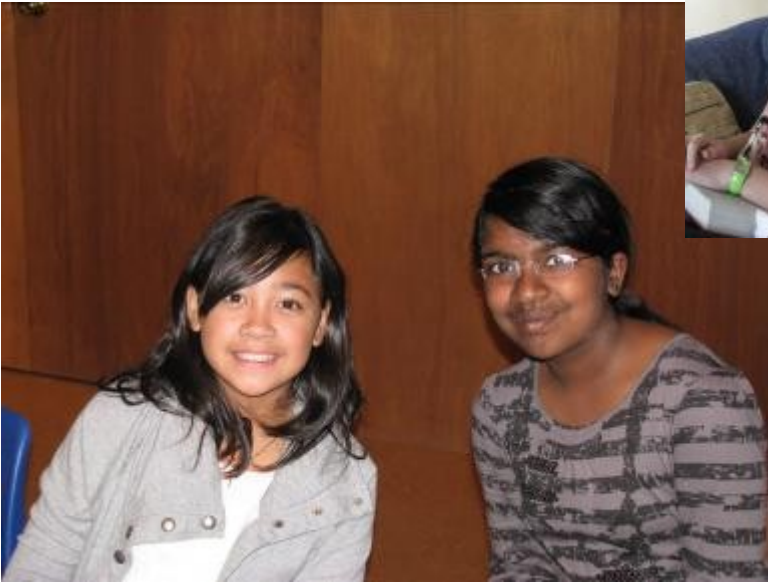
Chalmers Presbyterian Church Saturday,
October 31st, 2009
3-6 pm

(Bring \$2 and we will feed you pizza!)

Bring a friend toooooooooo!



Fave Photos



Above: Yunike & Jaquie

Upper right: Charlene, Yuneste & Allyson

Lower right: Rieley, Morgan & Taylor



Grab a Book!

Our/Your Church Library

I want to encourage you to visit the church library and have a look at the new and exciting books we have there. There are books for all ages from board books to read to your little ones, to books to read to your older children – or encourage them to read them for themselves, to books aimed at our teenagers that deal with real life situations.

Children's books - are in the folding bookcase, with some on the reading table.

Youth (ages about 7 to about 12) – are in the bookcase in front of the blue curtain and have a yellow sticker on the back with a recommended age.

Youth (ages 13 and up) – are in the bookcase with the other youth books, but have a green sticker on the spine.

These are only recommended ages – children read at different levels and usually parents will make the final choice in the younger years. These books are wholesome, Christian books which deal with some thought provoking (conversation provoking?) situations geared to the ages of the children.

Look out for reviews of specific books in future newsletters.

Christine Hunter

Librarian



Happy to See You

Last month, I listed everyone who had been at SMY during the month of September. I've decided that this gives a better picture of what Sunday Morning Youth really looks like, rather than just including those who are there every week. I will continue to highlight those with perfect attendance because I think that's something we should celebrate, but we're happy to see everyone, regardless of how often.

Our preschool class:

Naomi Duffin

Isla Thibodeau

Lily Walker

Our Primary Class:

Rieleigh Carnegie

Taylor Carnegie

Maia Dobie

Josiah Duffin

Hailee Krumpeck

Morgan LeTissier

Aly Munro

Torry Thibodeau

Our Junior Class:

Cameron Abrams

Christian Abrams

Christina Ball

Colin Ball

Jessie Batchelor

Cyndi Cote

Reece Daniel

Jacqueline Nathaniel

Joycelina Nathaniel

Yunike Soedarmasto

Our Senior Class:

Tom Ball

Jackie Bannerman

Keela Clifford

Sydney LeTissier

Abby MacPherson

Charleen McCartney

Spencer McCormick

Abbey Poser

Allyson Steward

Yuneste Soedarmasto



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**CHALMERS
PRESBYTERIAN**

Growing in Grace.

We're on the Web!
Chalmerslondon.com



I just had a nap in a broom closet!

At the Retreat



Holy Motion!



Peep!