

# Chalmers' Spirit

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

## Here Comes November!

There was so much to be thankful for in October as we celebrated Thanksgiving. Among these, certainly, is the Chalmers community. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church with all of its many ministries. A few of these ministries have

new names as of October. Our young people didn't really have a name but they are now the "Teens & Twenties". Our Evangelism & Church Growth Committee has adopted the name Outreach & Communications, and our

Social & Communications Committee are now simply Social.

Perhaps titles are not important, the work that's being done is the real ministry, but a good title helps direct people to the right place.

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On Thanksgiving weekend, the Teens & Twenties had our second annual Turkey Trek. Another great event! Lots of fun!



## Letter from the Editor by Lizz Thibodeau

Youth Ministry is an exciting ministry to be involved in. There is always something going on, you get to spend time with teenagers and young adults, and you get to participate in fun activities like Turkey Treks and Canada Youth. But there's a lot more to youth ministry than just providing a fun place for youth to connect with the church. At the very root, our goal is not really for the youth to connect with the church, but for the youth to connect with Jesus and to choose to accept Him as their saviour. All of the goofy things that we do are simply ways to provide opportunities for the youth to feel comfortable at church, in the hopes that the more often they come to church, whether for worship or activities or youth events, the more times they'll hear about Jesus and God's love and the more likely they are to make that choice.

In December, Chalmers has joined with several other churches in the Presbytery of London to offer a joint Confirmation class or Communicants' class; a class for those young people who are interested in joining the church and professing their faith. This is an exciting step in the faith journey of these youth and young adults.

The classes will be offered on Sunday afternoons from 1pm until 2:30pm right here at Chalmers (the other churches involved felt that we were the most centrally located). The classes will be every other Sunday starting December 1st and continuing until Easter.

For some youth, joining the church is an obvious "next step". It's something that they've been anticipating and looking forward to for several years. It feels like a rite of passage for them—not just a step on their faith journey, but also a step towards adulthood. For other youth, I've found myself trying to explain why they might want to take this step. See, I was one of that first group of youth, the ones who just knew they would one day stand at the front of the church and profess their faith. There was no "why" to it for me. But as a youth leader, I need to think about this more deeply. Why do we do this? After some thought, I decided it's kind of like getting married. Why do we do that? Plenty of people don't bother with the formality and just move in together. What's the importance of the ceremony? Well, it's an opportunity for two people who love each other to stand in front of those closest to them and declare that love and their desire to be together. They declare before God that this is their choice. Isn't confirmation basically the same thing? It's an opportunity to stand before your faith community and declare your love for Jesus, your desire to follow Him and the fact that this is your choice alone, not that of your parents (as was your Baptism).

What a thing to celebrate! I hope that by April, we will have several youth who have made this choice. And I think we should do something really goofy and throw a party to celebrate, but maybe that's just youth ministry getting to me!

# Photos—God's People Together



God's People Together was held on Saturday, October 19th—a time for those who are not normally able to come to worship to join together in worship and fellowship. The Pastoral Care committee provides a nice lunch, worship, communion and fellowship. Special thanks to Shirley Hall for being our photographer.



# Photos—God's People Together



## Grab a Book by Christine Hunter

Do you like to read a series of books? I do – I like to get to know the people involved and then hear more about their life and adventures in another one or two (or more) books! I know that Children enjoy this – as well as the same stories over and over again, huh? So I will feature some of the series in our library for children, young people, and older teens to college age students.

### Children:

What about the **Fergie Series** by Nancy Cocks?

Fergie is a frog who has all kinds of adventures, and in his adventures he learns how to deal with difficult situations and life in general.

We have 9 books in this series starting with **Fearless Fergie**, and moving on to **Fergie goes Moose Hunting**, **Fergie Goes to Grandma's**, and **Fergie Frog Scout**.

Have a browse – I can help you find this series, and I'm sure you will enjoy reading them.

**Older children** who like to read for themselves (but also like to be read to sometimes) might enjoy:

**A Sweet Seasons Novel** by Debbie Viguie

We have four on these books: **The Summer of Cotton Candy**, **The Fall of Candy Corn**, **The Winter of Candy Cane**, and **The Spring of Candy Apples**.

Candace Thompson (also known as Candy) works at the amusement park called The Zone. Candace is not really happy that her parents expect her to work at all, far less stand out in the sun all day (in the first book) selling ice cream and candy apples to children who leave a lot to be desired when it comes to manners! These four stories tell of Candace's feelings, hopes and desires, and how her life changes as she comes to grips with the "real" world.

Well worth reading!

To be continued next month...

Christine Hunter, Librarian



# KNOX WATERLOO PRESENTS



## **Making Disciples: The Future of Christian Education** With Special Guest Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

9:30 am – noon  
Saturday, November 2  
Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo

Everyone seems to agree that Christian education is important – that we want to teach and nurture a vibrant and resilient faith in Jesus Christ in our children, youth, young adults, and adults. More and more, however, Christian education leaders are wondering if we are doing things the right way. The mantra: "But we've always done it this way" is no longer enough of a rationale and increasingly, many congregations are struggling with how they do Christian education.

In this interactive workshop, Rodger will describe both the challenges we are facing and identify some emerging practices that are leading and transforming the Church's educational ministry with and for children, youth, young adults and adults.

Rodger is an inspirational speaker, educator, and specialist in ministry with youth and young adults. He teaches at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, in the area of practical theology and Christian Education.

Join us at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo for this workshop designed for Sunday school teachers, youth ministry leaders, and congregational leadership of all ages. Refreshments including coffee, tea and muffins will be served.

Tickets are \$10 and are available by contacting Ruth Song at (519) 886-4150, ext. 222 or [rsong@golden.net](mailto:rsong@golden.net)

**Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo**  
50 Erb Street West  
Waterloo, ON N2L 1T1



Celebrating our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1888-2013

Presented by: Spencer Edwards, Regional Staff for Youth & Family Ministry,  
Synod of Southwestern Ontario, Presbyterian Church in Canada

# Faith Formation

in the 21st century

with John Roberto



using technology to create  
faith formation networks

Friday, Nov. 1st at Erskine Presbyterian Church, Hamilton  
Saturday, Nov. 2nd at Chalmers Presbyterian Church, London

Please register at:  
[youthandfamilyministry.ca](http://youthandfamilyministry.ca)



- 9am - 3pm (lunch 12-1, not provided)
- No Charge!

**Join us!**

[www.postermywall.com](http://www.postermywall.com)

## Rodger Nishioka & John Roberto

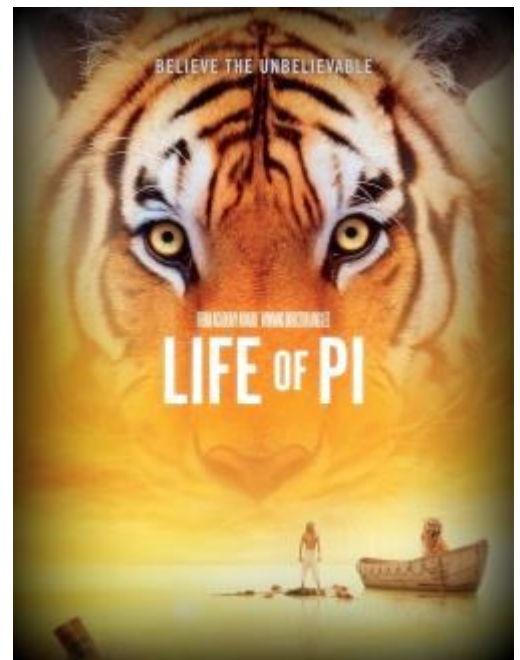


It is a terrible tragedy, but you have two fantastic speakers to choose from on ONE day. Rodger Nishioka has been a mentor of mine for a few years now. I will be heading to Kitchener to hear him for the 4th time on Saturday, November 2nd. My parents will also be coming and they have each heard him twice as well. He is just such a fabulous speaker and leaves you feeling inspired to take on the world! Unfortunately, that is the only day that Spence Edwards was able to have John

Roberto come to Chalmers to speak. I have not personally heard John before, but Spence is a dear friend of mine and he is so excited about the fact that he has managed to get John to come to our area, that my dad and I are going to drive to Hamilton on Friday, November 1st so that we can hear John at Spence's church. If you are unable to do that, and can therefore only choose one presentation to attend on Saturday, November 2nd, let me help your decision with a brief synopsis of both speakers. Both are interested with Christian Education—how do we encourage the faith of others. Rodger's focus is particularly on sharing the faith with children & youth, but also young adults and adults, and on how our methods have changed (or should be changing). John Roberto focuses specifically on the methods that we should be using to share our faith with people of all ages. Hmmmm, not sounding terribly distinct is it. I can say that I know John Roberto will be dealing a lot with the use of technology. Whichever one you choose, both will be very worthwhile. There is a group of 7 of us who are heading to Waterloo to hear Rodger and I hope that there will also be a very strong representation of Chalmers-ites at John's presentation. Let's share our notes afterwards!

## Life of Pi

Saw the movie and want to discuss it? Or are you more of a book person? Read the book and join in the discussions on Mondays. There are two options to choose from: 1:30pm or 7pm. Talk to John Goodwin for more information.





# November 2013 - Chalmers Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b>  10a Worship & Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time & Library 11:30a Children's Choir Senior High Retreat at Kintail	<b>28</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 1:30p Life of PI Study Group 7p Mary Moffat 7p Life of PI Study Group 7p Worship Planning Team	<b>29</b> 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness Fitness	<b>30</b> 2:15p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>1</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>  10a Worship & Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time & Library 11:30a Young People's Lunch 11:30a Children's Choir	<b>4</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 6:30p Mission Cmte	<b>5</b> 9:30a Pastoral Care 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7:30p Policy & Planning 7:30p CE & Faith Development	<b>6</b> 2:15p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>8</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>  10a Worship & Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time & Library 11:30a Children's Choir	<b>11</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 1:30p Life of PI Study Group 7p Worship Committee 7p Life of PI Study Group	<b>12</b> 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7:30p Social	<b>13</b> 2:15p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>15</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8a Congregational Breakfast  10a Worship & Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time & Library 11:30a Children's Choir	<b>18</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 6:30p Outreach & Comm.	<b>19</b> 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness 7p Session	<b>20</b> 2:15p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>22</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre 7p Volleyball at White Oaks P.S.	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  10a Worship & Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Time & Library 11:30a Children's Choir	<b>25</b> 1:30p Fitness Class 1:30p Life of PI Study Group 7p Life of PI Study Group	<b>26</b> 10a Y4C Sandwich preparation 1p Care & Share 1p Seniors' Fitness	<b>27</b> 2:15p Knitting 7:30p Reachout Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 6:25p Praise Team rehearsal 7:30p Senior Choir rehearsal 7:30p Property Management	<b>29</b> 9a Seniors' Fitness 1p Seniors' Euchre	<b>30</b>

There is so much going on at Chalmers that it barely fits on this page! For full details, updates and an easier-to-read version please go to the Chalmers webpage.  
[http://www.chalmerslondon.com/church\\_calendar.htm](http://www.chalmerslondon.com/church_calendar.htm)

# Last Laugh!

