

The Church Mouse

The Newsletter of Oxford Presbytery in the United Church of Canada

October 08, 2008

Volume 27, Issue 8

OPERATION SHARING

Sunday, September 28, the people and friends of Operation Sharing left their meeting place at the church of the Epiphany, walked all the way to College Ave. United Church. Here the paper chain was cut to officially open the new Meeting Place Home a long with the administration offices of Operation Sharing. They were welcomed by Rev. David Duncan, pastor at College Ave. There were tours of the new space and food, best wishes from the city and other friends for success in this place. The Soup Kitchen will remain at First Baptist. In Out of the Cold will stay at Old St. Pauls. Coats for Kids at Epiphany and the Christmas Place at Dundas St. John and Thelma Hiuser from St. Andrews, Brooksdale joined in the march.

Bill and Karen Butt are on their way home from Mozambique for the month of October. They may very well be at Presbytery when we meet at St. Andrews in Brooksdale, October 8.. We are to be learning about the Mozambique Gardens, likely with Don Hilborn who visited in Mozambique this summer along with nine other persons from London Conference. We welcome them back to Oxford and they will be speaking at Faith United October 19.

Rev. Dr. Eloi Gunn along with Ray and Karen Perry are back from Togo. You can read about their adventures in the Sentinel-Review, Friday, Sept. 26 or the Ayr News, Wed. Oct 1. It sounds like they had a very exciting time and accomplished much!

**IN CONCERT AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
88 BIDWELL ST. TILLSONBURG
SUN. NOV. 2, 2008 7:00 PM
GOOD WILL OFFERING* NET PROCEEDS
TO CAMP TRILLIUM**

Sponsored by St. Paul's AOTS (AS ONE THAT SERVES) Men's Club

Contacts Grant McDonald-519-842-3336

Harley Jackson-----519-842-8419

THIS UNITED CHURCH OF OURS

A great way to learn the history of the United Church of Canada... and laugh at the same time.

Westminster United Church, in celebration of their 70th anniversary, will be presenting

"Maybe One: A Dramatic History of the United Church of Canada"

by Scott Douglas

on **Sunday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

Westminster Hall

115 George St., Thamesford

Offering will be collected.

Many of you may remember this play being staged at a London Conference Annual Meeting - it is funny, educational and very entertaining. Come take a look at a local rendition or see it for the first time. Any questions, contact the church at (519) 285-3212.

EASTWOOD UNITED is celebrating their 142nd Anniversary, October 19 at 11am. Rev. Maya Landell will be preaching and special music by Eastwood and Innerkip Choirs. Refreshments and time for fellowship following the service.

Come and check us out.

RURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Tavistock Community Centre
Wednesday, Oct. 22 ***2 pm to 8 pm
35 manned booths 5 - ½ hr interactive
info- 519-539-9800 ext3493 Presentations
Refreshments

A favourite hymn of all ages, but focused on young children. Here is a new version for us who are no longer young children.

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME..
YES, JESUS LOVES ME FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
'Have no fear, for I am near.'

(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love

(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

(CHORUS)

By way of the internet.

Alive and Kicking Workshop went very well. As usual the organizers had hoped for a few more people, but we had an excellent group. Jim Wenzell attended along with the minister from Courtland. Two ladies came from Middlesex Presbytery along with the lady looking after the books, which were on hand for purchasing.

The "Alive and Kicking" resource book is available by email (in PDF format). Contact Judy Sullivan by email at cecm@united-church.ca to request an electronic copy. For those with dial-up connection, it would take forever to download. Going to the library and making contact from there would make it go much faster.

For those who do not have internet access: a hardcopy of the report can be mailed to you this fall. Contact Judy Sullivan at 1-800-268-3781 ext. 4151 to request a copy.

The resource is written by Marvin L. Anderson, Ph. D. The Contents Include: 7 Lenses for Congregational Assessment

- * Lens 1: Purpose & Identity
- * Lens 2: Context.
- * Lens 3: Worship
- * Lens 4: Caring and Generosity
- * Lens 5: Learning
- * Lens 6: Healing & Transformation.
- * Lens 7: Sustainability
- * Group Process Suggestions
- * Questions for Reflection
- * Resources

Eric Skillings used this resource to preach a series of ten sermons, which he felt worked very well. Using the lectionary, there was always at least one reading that would fit each Sunday.

The Innerkip ladies fed us very well and the Eastwood ladies provided the home made pies. No one asked for their money back.

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Tap into people's dignity and they will do anything for you. Ignore it, and they won't lift a finger. Thomas Friedman in The New York Times.

Without enough sleep, we all become tall two-year-olds. Jojo Jensen, Dirt Farmer Wisdom (Red Wheel)

Our Moderator Dr. David Giuliano is coming to Oxford Presbytery, Saturday, Nov. 8. He will be meeting with Oxford Youth in the afternoon and for supper at St. David's United. In the evening it is open house for everyone. Come and make our Moderator welcome in Oxford!

WELCOME

To Rev. Stan Stanhope as he moves his membership back to Oxford Presbytery. We have enjoyed having him attend Presbytery when he can and rejoice that he has regained his health.

To Rev. Judith Gilliland, new intentional Interim Minister at Faith United Church.

To Rev. Walter Hubbard who is ministering at Avondale-Zion United Church in Tillsonburg.

Oxford Centre-Curries are looking forward to having their new minister Barbara Dawson, who will be at their Beef Supper next week.

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### FIVE OAKS

- Gifts we hold as stewards & trustees Oct 6**
- Preparing for Sabbatical Oct 6**
- Day Away for Care-taking Grandparents Oct 7**
- Circle of Trust: Courage to lead retreat Oct 8-10**
- Licensed Lay Leaders/ Lay Preachers Program Oct 17-19**
- Guided Silent retreat Oct 19-21**
- Challenging Empire: A call to Community Oct 29**
- The First Christmas & the Last Week Oct 31-Nov 2**
- Talking through the tough stuff: Transform Conflict Nov 3-5**
- Experiencing Taize Nov 12-13**
- Christianity for the Rest of Us: A transformative Pilgrimage Nov 14-16**
- Youth Group Retreat Nov 21-23**
- Journey to Bethlehem Nov 30 setup, Dec 2-3**
- Find out more by calling 519-442-3212, or look up web page [www.fiveoaks.on.ca](http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca)**

## AVEL ONTARIO

Consultant: **Jackie Childerhose**  
Grand River Spiritual & Educational Resources  
P.O. Box 553,  
Paris, ON N3L 3E7  
Phone: 519.442.3366  
**Toll free 1.888.668.0871**  
Fax: 519.442.3444  
Email: [avel\\_booksandvideos@on.aibn.com](mailto:avel_booksandvideos@on.aibn.com)  
Web: [www.avelgrandriver.com](http://www.avelgrandriver.com)

This is the place to contact for resources both printed and audio-visual. The cost is only in returning the DVD or whatever you rented. Some material available for the study on EMPIRE which goes until June 2009.

### CHALLENGING EMPIRE - A Call to Community

#### Gospel Value

#### COUNTERING PHARAOH'S PRODUCTION CONSUMPTION SOCIETY TODAY

5 sessions Living the Questions Production  
Featuring Walter Brueggemann, this a small group, DVD-based study that can be conducted over four to five one-hour sessions. The program includes a DVD with two hours of content and a CD-Rom containing reproducible written materials. There are warm-up questions on the DVD which can be used for starting each session.

- Session 1: The Way Out
- Session 2: The Decalogue
- Session 3: Countering Caesar
- Session 4: An Act of Imagination
- Session 5: On Not Doing God Any Favours

November is the month of or for PEACE. Some resources  
**ADVOCATING PEACE IN A TIME OF WAR: Spirit Connection Special**

In this 30-minute program, guests join Royal Orr to discuss the United church's theology and efforts to nurture a culture of peace.

**HEAR OUR VOICES: First Nations of Canada Speak** is a four-part series on one video. It explores the social, political, economic, and cultural rights of First Nations for the education of the non-Native members of the church so that Natives and non-Natives of Canada can walk together. It was commissioned by representatives from the All Native Circle Conference, British Columbia Native Ministries Council and Native ministries of The United Church of Canada in southern Ontario.  
Part 1 - LAND RIGHTS Stories from British Columbia  
Part 2 - RECLAIMING ABORIGINAL CULTURES IN URBAN SETTINGS Stories from Toronto. Part 3 - ECONOMIC JUSTICE Stories from Split Lake, MB.  
Part 4 - ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT Stories from Saskatchewan

UCW FALL EVENT  
 theme  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 with Don Campbell  
 Pot luck lunch at 11:30 a. m.  
 Sweaburg United Church  
 Monday, October 27, 2008  
 11:00 a.m – 3:00 pm  
 Everyone Welcome  
 Oxford Presbyterial Event

An invitation to all who work with youth (approx. Gr. 5 and up) in our churches :

"Faithful Footsteps and Boundaries" Workshop  
 Thursday Oct. 23, 2008 7 to 9 p.m. Dundas St. United Church, Woodstock  
 Light refreshments provided.

We will have child care available from 6:45 to 9:15, provided by 2 students who have taken the Babysitting training. If you would like to take advantage of this, please let Lynne Dunlop know ahead of time by email (please provide ages of children, special needs).

Topics will include: Creating a Covenant with youth  
 Powerpoint presentation on forms, letters (with a CD that you can take away)

Code of behaviour, policies Safety suggestions  
 An open forum - questions, concerns, discussion  
 Questions? Please contact: [lynndunl@execulink.com](mailto:lynndunl@execulink.com)

Check out every thing that's going on at Westminster United Church in Thamesford

Come visit us at:  
[www.thamesford-united-church.com](http://www.thamesford-united-church.com)

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 London Conference: 519-672-1930 [www.londonconference.ca](http://www.londonconference.ca)

## Canadian Celtic Choir

at St John's Anglican Church

Saturday, November 8, at 7:30 p.m.

This is the second concert in the joint venture with Westminster United Church Thamesford. Proceeds will be split between both churches and going to both of our General Funds.

Tickets are \$15. for Adults  
 \$10. for children 12 and under

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Around the Churches in Oxford Presbytery
 Richwood is celebrating their 147th Anniversary, Oct. 19
 Rev. John J. Mastandrea, Metropolitan UC Toronto
 11 am, Special Music and Lunch

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Oxford Centre United Church is holding their Beef Supper Wednesday, October 15, in the Community Centre.

Otterville United is holding a Chicken Supper Monday October 27 in the church.

Drumbo Minister's Coffee Time 8am to 11am in at the United Church Manse. All welcome.

Every Tuesday evening at 7 pm a Prayer Meeting at Willis United Church in Drumbo, every one welcome.

At the Bright United Church everyone is working away at our new Uncle Phil's Diner Dinner Theatre which takes place Friday, Oct. 24 at 6 pm, Saturday, Oct. 25 and final show Sunday, Oct. 26 at 12:30pm. Order tickets by email [saj@execulink.com](mailto:saj@execulink.com) or call Shelley Jeary at 519-533-5072.

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Princeton United Church Anniversary Oct. 19 at 11 am
 Princeton U. C. Turkey Supper, Tuesday, Oct. 21