



The Oak Leaf

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

FALL, 2015

What's Been Happening....

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: INSPIRING PASSIONATE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

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Summer is a somewhat quieter time at OPC as most programs and activities take a break. However, some, such as the Thursday morning prayer group and bulletin folders, continue throughout July and August. A new group, Daytimers, even started during the summer! Meeting the last Wednesday of July and August in the afternoon to enjoy coffee, conversation, and getting to know new friends was a great way to enjoy summer. Also, staff continue to provide support and leadership to the congregation. Rev. Ed, Rev. John, Rev. Jane, and Sonia all participated in the Global Leadership Summit in Au-

gust... continuing to grow their skills to help us all on our faith journeys. Since July and August are generally qui-

ter months, many staff took much needed holidays as well to re-charge to be ready for September. **One notable exception to the 'summer is quieter' edict** was



Lots of fun at VBS!

VBS! What an incredible VBS week! OPC hosted 190 children (our biggest camp to date) in July, as we presented **Everest –Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power.**

We learned that God has the power to provide, comfort, heal, and forgive and to love us forever; we just have to **HOLD ON!** Children had a great time playing games, singing and dancing; participating in great Bible stories; hands on science experiments and, of course, eating. Again we challenged the children to raise money for the School Lunches for Haiti Program (SL4H) raising a total of



Great weather at VBS!

Library: The library is open for 'business' all summer too. Not only for adults, for children 2-12 years, there is a wonderful selection of books, DVDs and videos. Stop by between services on Sundays.



There are many volunteer opportunities at OPC. Join in!

Did you know
Mission Services
picks up
donations from
the box in the
Narthex every
week?



What's coming up this Fall...

By the time you read this, Power UP will have happened...another great energizer for all who volunteer at OPC! Thanks to all who helped this be another super start to Fall programs. (Hopefully the Golf Tournament and the Men's Canoe Trip will have also happened...weather permitting.

Growing your Faith: We are continuing with our **Walk Through the Bible in**

scarf – we're going to learn some new folding ideas! Sign the sheet in the Narthex sign up area. For more information, email Judy Buchanan at jbheyjude@gmail.com.

The *Men's Breakfast* will be on Saturday October 3 from 8 – 9 am. With a guest speaker to follow. Another wonderful opportunity to invite friends & neighbours out for a time of fellowship.

a Year program. This is something you can do on your own; just pick up the reading list/tracker at the Welcome Desk and start reading. There are also study groups based on the readings. These groups have already resumed on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings, however, you can join in at any time! **Faith at the Flicks** resumes October 16, check out the bulletin for details. As well,

For the whole family, there is *It's Saturday Night!* The first one will be September 19 starting with a potluck supper...followed by Karaoke (don't worry, no one will make you sing). Save the date: November 21 - It's a Dance Party!

Weekly/monthly activities: There are so many opportunities for socializing, volunteering, learning! Quilters, Women's Auxillary,

bible study happens on Wednesdays, prayer partners on Sundays, and other opportunities...check the bulletin.

Social times: *Women's Breakfast* on Saturday September 26, 9-11 am. "Sharing Faith with Different Generations" presented by Jackie Hoekstra. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring friends & neighbours to share in the OPC community. If possible, bring a

LifeQuest, Sunday Coffee Crew, Soup 'n Song (for more music see: OPC Music), Bible Study, Korean Prayer, Woody's... you get the idea! Check the bulletin (or call the church office) for particulars...or in the case that we've missed something!

Oakridge Music...

Chancel Choir – Practices resume Thursday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. We welcome all who enjoy singing and encourage your involvement with our choir on either a long or short term basis.

Youth Music – Practices resume Thursday, September 17th. Violin Class is at 4:15pm, Guitar Class is at

4:55pm and the Triple Cord Chorus runs from 5:40 to 6:20pm, with a social time afterward.

Adult Praise – Our practices resume Wednesday, September 16, with instrumental warm-up beginning at 5:45 and singers joining us at 6:15. Practices usually end at around 7:15 p.m.

Soup and Song – We meet

again Wednesday, September 16th at noon for some home-made soup, some inspirational song singing and plenty of warm fellowship. Suggested donation is \$5 with proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. For more information, please speak to Dave or Anca Buckley.

Session News...



A Step of Faith Appeal Between September 6 and October 18 we are all being asked to take a 'step of faith' when it comes to our financial contributions to OPC. Two important concepts were highlighted in the appeal letter given to the congregation. First our offerings are simply giving back to God a small portion of the gifts he has bestowed on us; second, giving is done willingly not due to peer pressure but because it is the right thing to do...giving to a cause you believe in. As we give willingly, we are sowing bountifully and shall reap bountifully; God loves a cheerful giver. When we give

back to God willingly, we not only meet the needs of God's people, but our gifts overflow in a flood of thanks giving to Him. He multiplies and swells our gifts and provides and blesses us so that we may always be rich enough to be generous. But you must have faith. Please pray for this appeal and support it as your heart moves you.

"We are sowing bountifully and shall reap bountifully; God loves a cheerful giver."

Oakridge in the Community...

September 23, 2015: An **All-Candidates meeting** will be held at OPC beginning at 7 pm. This is one of the best ways to gather information about the candidates for our area to help you decide who gets your vote!

Contemporary Service: The Session at OPC is considering **adding** a Contemporary Worship Service to what we already do. The 2 services we have on

Sunday will remain the same, a blended worship service. In order to give the congregation an opportunity to see what a Contemporary service would look like, we are having Contemporary services at both the 9:15 and 11:00 on **Sun. Sept. 27**. We are hoping to reach out to those who may not have a church right now or who would prefer this style of service. This

is a mission for our church—to reach out to others. A congregational survey will be available after Sept. 27, either on-line or hard copy, for you to fill out. The theme of the day will be **Join His Movement**. Let's take this as a mission challenge in reaching out to our community and invite someone to our services on Sept. 27!

Oakridge in the World.....

Thanks to the congregation for supporting the **Stamp Ministry**. This year, so far, we have collected approximately 3000 stamps. Further information about this ministry is located on the Mission and Outreach table in the Narthex.

Glasses to Guatemala (January, 2016) Please continue to donate your unwanted eyeglasses. They are really appreciated. A Mission team of Eye Doctors will be going to South America to exam eyes and dispense used glasses to people in re-

mote villages (the box is on the M&O table, too).



Ministers:

Rev. Ed Hoekstra

Rev. John Park

Korean Ministry: Rev. Susan Lee

Adult Programs: Jane Swatridge

Children's Programs: Sonia Brule

Music Programs: David Buckley

Office: Kathy MacDonald

Business:

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Alzheimer's Request

Do not ask me to remember, don't try to make me understand. Let me rest and know you're with me, kiss my cheek and hold my hand. I'm confused beyond your concept, I'm sad and sick and lost. All I know is that I need you, to be with me at all cost. Do not lose your patience with me, do not scold or curse or cry. I can't help the way I'm acting, I can't be different though I try. Just remember that I need you, that the best of me is gone. Please don't fail to stand beside me, love me 'til my life is gone.

Anonymous



OPC Kids; Timely Reminders...

Kidz Zone.....There are many opportunities for children and youth at OPC. Kidz Zone has a brochure outlining these (check the information desk or ask Sonia Brule or your child's Sunday school teacher for one). There are Wacky Science Sundays; the Master's Chefs; Halloween Party (October 30, 6 – 8pm); Kidz Zone presents; Camps; music...something to interest just about anyone as well as learning about how God works in our lives.

Our next **Afternoon Communion Service:** Sunday, October 4th, at 2:30pm. This is also World Communion Sunday; a time of worship and fellowship. For further

information call: Jean Keith - 519-471-3092.

OPC will be hosting the **London Presbytery** October meeting on Tuesday October 13. Presbytery deals with issues effecting all the churches in our area: issues of



Thanks to Sharlene Grant for our beautiful landscaping!

policy; reviews and approves candidates from our area for ministerial study; among other duties.

November 15 at 7pm, Centennial Hall: **Celebration of Life, a fundraiser for Ovarian Cancer Research.** A night of music led by Janet Herrema with many of our OPC choir members participating. This group has been practicing throughout the summer here at OPC. Tickets are \$20 and available at the Centennial Hall Box Office 519-672-1967.