



# The Oak Leaf

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

WINTER, 2016

## Upcoming events....

**OUR VISION STATEMENT: INSPIRING PASSIONATE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST**

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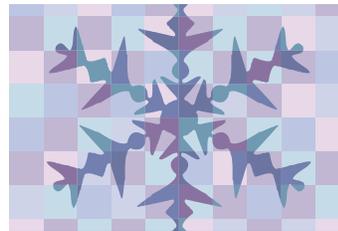
Winter programs are back in full swing. Check the monthly calendar (available at the information desk) for times/schedule.

Here are a few 'save the dates' for events that will be here before you know it:

**January 30:** It's Saturday Night: 70s/80s/90s Dance Party with MacDJ; 7-10 pm.

**February 9:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5-7 pm. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is typically known as a season for giving up and letting go, especially certain food items. Many Christians traditionally gather on Shrove Tuesday to consume richer

and fatty foods, such as pancakes. Our youth group is this dinner at the church. Tickets only: \$4/child, \$8/Adult, \$20/Family, available on Sunday



**Lots to do in the Winter at Oakridge**

between services or through church office. There will be two seatings, one at 5 pm and another at 6 pm. Contact Rev. John for more details.

**March 14-18:** Art Camp for Kids, mornings, during March Break. The cost is \$30. See Sonia Brule for more information.

**April 3** at 3 pm is our Annual Congregational Meeting. (See 'Session News' as well).

**April 16:** Women's Breakfast, 9 - 11 a.m. "**One More Step Along The Road**" with Cathy Chapin. Sign up sheet on the sign up shelf or [jbheyjude@gmail.com](mailto:jbheyjude@gmail.com). Bring a friend or a neighbour!

**April 29:** Culture Shock... always a favourite!

## What's been Happening...

**Community Dinner:** Our second annual community dinner was held on December 20 and was, once again, a great success. At least ninety non-OPC people were in attendance. Attendees were 'greeted' by OPC's Spirit Ringers ringing a medley of Christmas tunes, followed by a rousing carol sing in the

beautifully decorated sanctuary. A turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served and enjoyed by all. Thanks to all the volunteers who baked, cooked, decorated, invited, welcomed, entertained, and generally made this a festive holiday time for all.

Another **heartfelt 'thank you'** was received from the October Federal Election Team for the use of our facility. Their greatest thanks were reserved for our staff. We know we have a great staff, but it's always nice to have them acknowledged by others who use our facility.



Lots of ways to volunteer and get involved at Oakridge.

Did you know  
Elders are elected  
to Session for six  
year terms?



## Oakridge volunteers...

Do you realize how important volunteers are at OPC? The saying goes that “many hands make light work” and that is very true in our church community. Here’s a partial list of what volunteers do in a year: Greeting, ushering, gardening, serving coffee, making sandwiches and sweets, building maintenance, painting, wiring, singing in the choirs, bell ringing, playing musical instruments, Kid Zone assistants, computer

expertise, sound booth operations, nursery caregiving, Korean - English lessons and translation, newsletter publishing, leading the youth, prayer room facilitation, pew rack filling, bulletin folding, counting offering, Communion preparation and serving, Scripture reading, Welcome Desk greeting, seasonal decorating, leading Bible studies, organizing the bazaar, knitting and quilting, wood-working, preparing break-

fasts, Session, pastoral caregivers, prayer partners, and much more.

When added up – over 1000 positions are filled by the willing people of OPC. So, we acknowledged our many helpers at a luncheon on January 17, at 12:30 in the Upper Room. Our church cannot function without so many hands to make the work light as we inspire passionate believers in Christ.

## Session reports....

OPC’s **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be **April 3, 2016, at 3 pm**. This is an important event in our congregation’s life. The budget will be approved and **new elders will be elected** to serve a 6 year term on Session, the body that guides and serves our congregation.

There will be six positions to be filled for the term May 2,

2016 – April 30, 2022. Session has formed a nominations team comprised of Olive Bell, Carolyn Oudyk, Bob Shirley, and Rev. Hoekstra. Candidates for Session must be members of Oakridge Presbyterian Church and be ‘an example to the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity’ (Book of Forms 106.1). Nominations must

be in writing. Members must receive 2 nominations and give their consent before their name can stand for election to eldership. Nominations should be addressed to Bob Shirley, Clerk of Session, and may be left at the church office or given to Bob by Jan. 25, 2016.

## Oakridge Retreat...

“A NEW THING WANTING TO BE DONE”: *“I am about to do a new thing; Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)* On **Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** you will have an opportunity to participate in a retreat at St. George’s Anglican Church, Denfield. Each of us has a

holy discontent. There will be time to share and reflect on what God is asking us to do. The sessions will address Holy Discontent, Promises and Solitude/Discernment. There will be an opportunity for quiet reflective walking on the spacious church property.

The **sign-up sheet for the retreat will be in the narthex on April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. As the number of spaces are limited, we encourage you to sign-up early. Doug Bruce, Cathy Chapin and Jean Cameron will be able to give you more information if needed.

# Oakridge in the Community & the World...



In response to the current refugee crisis the 25 churches of the Presbytery of London are undertaking efforts to sponsor two refugee families to come to Canada.

In September 2015, a steering committee was formed with members from five different Presbyterian churches to guide the process of the Refugees to Canada refugee sponsorship program.

All churches in the Presbytery were encouraged to collect donations and hold fundraising events. Oakridge Presbyterian Church held a very successful fundraising campaign called "Tenting in the Parking Lot: Do S`more for Refugees" on October 30, 2015, which raised almost \$10,000. (See some photographs of the event on facebook page, RefugeestoCanada).

The initial financial goal was \$27,000 to sponsor a family of four, but when Presbyterian World Services and Development gave notice that a family of six was available, the necessary funds increased to \$32,000. Thanks to the overwhelming support of the congregations within the Presbytery of London, as well as the greater London community, and the Mayor's office of London, the total donations collected to date are \$40,000.

**OPC has helped sponsor one family already!**

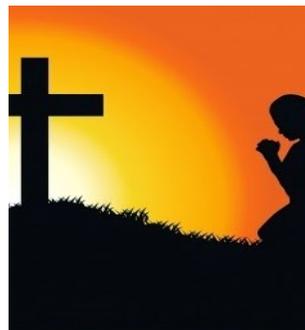
There have been wonderful donations from so many congregations and individuals. For example, St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church sold Christmas trees and donated \$3,000 towards the refugee fund. A young boy in our own congregation made cookies, sold them to friends and family, and collected \$140.00 which he then donated to the refugee fund. Additionally, a call for in-kind donations was answered with all items received for this first family as well as some to support the next family. Sharon Zwarts (zwart.s@rogers.com) is heading up the master list of in-kind donations. People have been generous and want to help.

Right now we are awaiting further notice from PWS&D about the exact arrival date of the first refugee family, a Syrian family of six. This family includes a mom and dad, an 8 year old girl, 5year old girl, 4 year old boy and 2 year old girl.

Teams have been organized into Housing, Reception, Finance, Transportation, Interpretation, Orientation, Health Care, Education and Childcare, Employment and Culture and Recreation teams.

A member of Chalmer's Presbyterian Church has offered to move in with her daughter and let the refugee family stay in her home until they can settle into permanent housing. A member of St. George's Presbyterian Church is offering a 3 bedroom

duplex apartment within the rent range of the family. Continue to pray for the Al Mu-taleb family as they anxiously await word for transportation to Canada. Our contact person (Rob Shropshire) at head office has told us that we may only get a few days notice before their arrival. We thank God as we look forward with joy and anticipation to welcome this refugee family to Canada.



***There have been wonderful donations from so many congregations and individuals.***

Ministers:  
Rev. Ed Hoekstra  
Rev. John Park  
Adult Programmes: Jane Swatridge  
Children's Programmes: Sonia Brule  
Music Programmes: David Buckley  
Korean Ministry: David You  
Office: Kathy MacDonald  
Business: Geoff Holt

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**"Prayer does work – it really does!"** This is a statement made by a Pastor which was recorded on a video produced by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Pastor said this because he truly experienced God working through prayer. We know prayer is important, but for various reasons, many Christians do not practice a daily prayer life. Since January 10<sup>th</sup>, Oakridge Presbyterian has been engaged in a 5 part sermon series on Prayer. We are reading the book by Philip Yancey, "Prayer, does it make any difference?" as a companion manual to our discussion. Jesus spoke about prayer and practised prayer as a vital component of his life, and He encourages us to do the same. Blessings, Rev. Ed  
(Check out the Library for more books on prayer)



## Youth News.....

**Confirmation Class:** There will be a course available for youth, who are interested in joining the church membership. This is recommended for Grade 9 and up. It will be offered with a mentorship program. The deadline to register is **January 31**. For more information or to register, please contact Rev. John.

**Canada Youth 2016 Primo Promo** is taking place on **Tuesday Feb. 2**, at Oakridge Presbyterian Church 7:00-9:00pm. This event is for all those wanting to know more about Canada Youth and to build community with interested participants. This national event (CY2016) is for youth, young adults and leaders and is hap-

pening from July 5-10 at Brock University in St. Catharines. The cost is \$550.00 per person for the entire conference. For more details, check out: [presbyterian.ca/2016](http://presbyterian.ca/2016).

The tenth annual junior youth event, **One Day Wonder**, hap-



**OPC to host Canada Youth, 2016 Primo Promo**

pens on **Saturday March 5**, from 9:30am-7:00pm at Westmount Presbyterian Church. Youth from grades 6-8 are invited for this day of play, praise and mission. The cost for the day is 15.00/child and you're required to **register by Feb. 15** with Rev. Heather Paton Email: [heapat@outlook.com](mailto:heapat@outlook.com) or Call 519 268 3399  
Teens are welcome to be junior leaders on the day but they need to register.