



The Oak Leaf

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

Christmas at OPC....

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: INSPIRING PASSIONATE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Session News 2
- Session Intro. 2
- LifeQuest 3
- Oakridge Youth 3
- Pay it Forward 3
- Library 4
- Oakridge/Community 4

The Christmas season is always busy and this year is no exception at OPC.

Starting with the **WA Bake Sale & Quilters sale** on Saturday, November 21 from 10-1, with a chili lunch. Last year the goodies went quickly, so hope you get there in time! The next Saturday, November 28, is the **OPC Christmas Dinner and Show**....a super roast beef dinner and music presentation (tickets available between services or thru the church office).

Sunday, November 29, is the first Sunday in **Advent**, a time to prepare ourselves for the birth of our Lord, and Communion. December 3 there is a Sing Song at McCormick

Home; the 5th is the first Saturday in December, which means **'Men's Breakfast'** at 8am;



...and laid him in a manger...

a **Casual Carol sing** will be held Sunday, December 6 @ 7pm.

The **Christmas Pageant** is December 13; the **Oakridge Spirit Ringers** will be bringing

Christmas joy to McCormick Home December 15. The Soup 'n Song Carol lunch is December 16. The second **OPC Community Christmas Dinner**, for all our neighbours, friends, and others who might be needing a 'boost' during this season will be December 20. Consider volunteering and/or inviting someone to join in any or all of these activities. Check with your OPC group for any other special get-togethers that are planned.

Finally, OPC's **Christmas Eve services** will be at 6 pm, 8 pm, and a communion service at 11 pm.

Children's News...



If you enjoyed last year's production of *Angel's calling* you will love this year's **Promised Land**. David Buckley has done it once again! The cast and crew returns for a special performance here at OPC on Sun. Dec. 13th at both the 9:15 & 11 am service. You don't want to miss this.

Christmas Baking with Mamma Biscotti! Come Sat. Dec. 19th at 10am -1pm to bake cookies for the Community Christmas Dinner later that night. Please bring aprons and rolling pins. Pizza lunch served at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

Family Christmas Eve service takes place on Dec. 24th, at 6 pm. If you would like to contribute with your musical talents, audio visual or with your gift of hospitality, please contact Sonia at sbrule@oakridge.london.on.ca or at 519-471-2290 X 224.

Session News: Contemporary Service



Consider volunteering for coffee duty!

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

Thanks to all in the congregation who came to the worship service on Sunday, September 27 to experience, perhaps for the first time, a **contemporary worship style**. Reverend John and team had worked hard to provide us with an example of this style of worship. Thanks to all who provided feedback through the survey about this outreach effort to a younger generation. It was obvious that much prayer to our good Lord was part of the development of this service as well as in the feedback. Based on the feedback received, Session has ap-

proved moving forward with developing an 'OPC' contemporary service. A special team of Session and staff has been formed to work out the details of implementing such a contemporary service. We would like to invite all to pray for this team as they approach these important decisions. Also, please consider ways in which you can support this venture now and in the future.

The following is the very abbreviated version of the survey results. **Total surveys** returned (both hard-copy and online): 288.

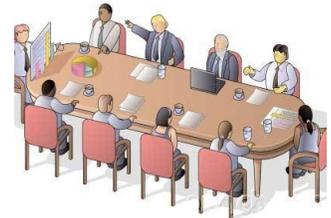
1. **Do you agree** that OPC needs, as an outreach project, to attract people to Christ who do not feel drawn to our current worship format? 258 Yes and 14 No.

2. **Do you believe** that a contemporary service, such as the one demonstrated at OPC on Sept 27th, would attract new people to worship at OPC? 228 Yes and 26 No

(For a copy of more comprehensive report, please contact the church office.)

Volunteer opportunities related to our contemporary service: Inviting (bring a neighbour, friend, etc.), prayer, financially (coffee supplies, advertising, etc.), hospitality, music, (sing, play, etc.), outreach, setup, takedown, childcare, ser-

vice support, and leadership...so many opportunities to further God's Kingdom. Perhaps you have some ideas as well. Contact Reverend Ed for more details, or keep your eye out for sign-up sheets in the Narthex.



Session Introduces...

Geoff Holt is our new Business Administrator. A Christian and a happily married man of 31 years to Jane with three children, Micheala, Judah, and Abigail, Geoff lives in the London area. Geoff has a deep

love for Christ's Church and expresses that love through his work as Business Administrator. With over 30 years in building management, Geoff is looking very much to being of service and support to all the peo-

ple here at Oakridge Presbyterian Church. His door is mostly always open, so please don't hesitate to drop by and say hello from 9 am to 1 pm, Monday to Friday.

LifeQuest.....

Ted and Nell Maxwell will introduce a fresh dimension of prayer for Oakridge. Prayer is not another program, rather prayer is what drives everything we do. An brief introductory plan will be introduced on **Wednesday, November 25, at 7 pm**, as part of the Prayer Night for Elders, pastors, and all Christian leaders who serve here at Oakridge.

It has been said that prayer is

the engine that drives the church, which cannot be emphasized too much. Prayer ministry will never go any further than the personal passion of those who lead it. We know that the church that prays together stays together. It will be wonderful if we develop a community of prayer which undergirds everything that we do. We encourage you to make time in your schedule

to come to OPC for this special introduction to prayer. This is an invitation for everyone to come as we launch a special emphasis on prayer.



Oakridge Youth....

Youth Night Our youth night has had a couple of changes this fall. First, it was moved to Friday evening. Second, we introduced a discipleship element to the evening. Youth sit together and learn Scriptural lessons in deep and meaningful ways. We also have engaged in a number of meaningful activities, such as neighbourhood

food drive on October 30. Here's our typical evening: 6:30-7pm: Junior Youth Discipleship; 7-8:30pm: Social/Game; 8:30-9pm: Senior Youth Discipleship
Junior High Youth Retreat:
 A number of Junior youth attended OPC's Junior Youth retreat held at Camp Kintail. We had Rev. Ed Hoekstra and

Rev. Jane Swatridge as guest speakers, sharing the theme of "The Excellent Way" taken from the passages in 1 Corinthians: 12 and 13. We had a wonderful time in worship, sharing food, t-shirt decorating, playing games, camp fire and many other activities.

Oakridge Youth Pay It Forward.....

The five youth who went to Montreal this summer for the Pay It Forward mission trip came back with lots of great memories and inspiration. We have attended four different churches, including OPC, and a London Presbytery meeting, to share our experience and give

thanks for their support. We added to, or led, worship services with the songs we learned during the trip and testimonies in skit, readings and sharing. We have had a few official and unofficial gatherings of the youth who went on this trip, which have created opportuni-

ties to build friendships with the youth from other Presbyterian churches in London.



Montreal, Summer, 2015

Ministers:

Rev. Ed Hoekstra

Rev. John Park

Korean Ministry: David You

Adult Programmes: Jane Swatridge

Children's Programmes: Sonia Brule

Music Programmes: David Buckley

Office: Kathy MacDonald

Business: Geoff Holt

Come and participate this Advent with us as we worship and prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you and your family this Christmas Season,
(Rev.) Ed

Contact us at:

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OPC working for our Community...

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is seeking more knitters to join this important ministry of prayer, compassion and comfort. We have donated so many shawls to those in need that our supply has been depleted. We recently donated 25 adult-sized shawls and 5 children's shawls to LHSC's Children's Hospital and the London Regional Cancer Program as part of the "Celebration of Life" concert on November 15, 2015.

This ministry provides so much comfort to those suffering from illness and challenges in their personal lives. I am able to supply the yarn, needles and patterns and to assist you as needed. If you are able to help with this ministry, it would be

greatly appreciated.

Please contact me, Marget Smith, at my home # 519-657-4455 and leave a message or contact Kathy MacDonald in the Church office 519-471-2290 x221.



We do much for our community to further His Kingdom.

On Sunday November 15 many from our church and choir (Tracey McIntyre thinks it was about 20-25!) had the honour of singing with the **Celebration of Life Chorus**, to raise money and awareness for Ovarian cancer. It was an amazing concert, with a near sell-out crowd at Centennial Hall! To those who attended--thanks so much for your support in the hope of finding a cure. To Janet Heerema--thanks for the inspiration-- so proud of you!