

CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The wondrous time of Easter has arrived. This is, I believe, the most significant celebration in the church year. What happens at Easter is really the culmination of all of the teachings we have of Jesus, and the teachings presented to us by the followers of Jesus.

The story of resurrection is ever-present in our world and in our living. During this time of spring (even though it has been slow in coming) we see resurrection happening all around us. The grass which has lain dormant all winter is now beginning to turn green. The naked branches of the trees, which have been reaching starkly into the skies, will soon be covered with buds – a promise of wondrous leafy green foliage contrasting with the blue of the sky. The bulbs hidden in the cold dark ground will soon be sharing wondrous colours and fragrances with the world. The mystery of life, forever on-going, will soon be evident from the small faces poking up from burrows, nests, paddocks, or fields. Spring is the wonderful time of year when all flora and fauna celebrates the

When we contemplate the mystery of resurrection and the mystery of our faith we need to remember the qualities which live forever. These qualities of love, forgiveness, generosity (spirit as well as resources), acceptance and kindness, not only live forever, but were also the qualities which Jesus embodied. The qualities can never be destroyed! They live on forever.

Easter is the time of year when we celebrate the resurrection of those qualities which can never die. Jesus, who embodied those qualities as a human being, was called by those who knew him to be the promised One, the Messiah (translated to be Christ). His followers claimed that he was still with them, still present. The very thing that made Jesus who he was, the qualities he embodied, the qualities which could never be left on a tree, or in a tomb, where the very qualities his followers saw around them after that first Easter.

We as Christians continue to celebrate the wondrous gift of life, the gift of love, the gift of hope, the gift of joy, the gift of forgiveness – all the gifts which we know live forever. It is this which we as a church need to celebrate, to pass on to the next generation.

May you all have a wonderful Easter and continue to celebrate the mystery of resurrection and new life!

Wim

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree...

We can see hope in many things, the potential to become great and wondrous. I see this at Centennial. We are continuing to do the work that is needed. We are continuing to reach out to support our community. I am so very grateful to see this work being done. We need to continue to pull together and work as one to improve our congregation, strengthen our community and our world. The Board as well as all of our committees are continuing to focus on the future of our church and what kind of legacy we want to leave behind. Join us as we truly become the hands and feet, sharing the love, hope and joy that we have come to know by being a part of Centennial and the faith community.

"The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen." - Frank Loyd Wright

Kenneth Dutka, Board Chair

FINANCE, PROPERTY & STEWARDSHIP

Here we go again! Spring is here, summer is coming. In the summer our expenses are quite often larger than our income, so we must depend on our reserve funds. However, our reserves are depleted because of last year's deficit at year end.

In order to survive for the future, we must build up some reserve. In order to do this, we need a little more each week in your envelopes or a lump sum

payment over and above your regular givings. Whatever you are able to contribute to your church will be very much appreciated.

Happy Easter to all. God bless.

Doug Dickinson, Chair

COMMUNICATION, PASTORAL CARE & VISITATION

With the arrival of Spring, we look forward to the trout heading up the creeks and rivers to spawn. Speaking of fish, our annual dinner is planned for Saturday, April 30th starting at 4:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there. We thank you in advance for your contribution of produce, time, and energy in this very worthwhile fund-raising event. All the proceeds go towards the General Fund of Centennial United.

At our last meeting we had a good discussion about the style and usefulness of our current newsletter format. With so many of us now adept at using the internet as a means of communication, perhaps this is a less expensive (less paper and postage) means of keeping our congregation abreast of current happenings and information. Your feedback on this topic would be greatly appreciated.

Our visitors are doing their best to keep up, but new volunteers are always wanted. Let us know if you are interested. The visitor usually gains far more from this experience than the person being visited.

Happy Spring & Summer.

Les Beattie, Chair

WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

Winter seems to be hanging on as long as it can this year. The snow banks we could hardly see over, are receding ever so slowly and the crocuses are peeking through the cold soil. Given our current weather pattern it may be a blessing that Easter is later this year..... so we wait and hope for warmer days to come much like our Lenten journey fills us with hope & promise of new life.

April 17th Palm Sunday

April 22nd Good Friday Service in the Round Room 9:00 a.m. at Centennial

April 22nd 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Centennial's version of **Stations of the Cross** will be presented after the Service. This is a self-guided journey through the Stations. Participants can pause and reflect at each station for as long as they choose.

The committee groups have been busy preparing the stations for presentation.

April 24th 6:30a.m. **Easter Sunrise Service** in the CE Wing at Centennial. Hot Cross Buns, coffee and fellowship to follow.

April 24th 10:30a.m. **Easter Service and Communion.** Communion will be served traditionally with the Congregation served at their seats.

May 1st **Celebration Sunday.** The Congregation has a chance to share highlights of the past month.

A special thank you to Paul Boughton for leading Services while Wim enjoys some vacation time.

Thank you to our Readers, Greeters, & Communion servers for their participation in our services.

Dave Hopper, Chair

OUTREACH & SOCIAL ACTION

The Outreach and Social Action Committee would like to thank everyone for their support on March 25th for the Door Fund Raiser. We were able to raise \$1,477.25. Huronia Auto Wreckers will place a container in the church parking lot by April 18th for everyone to donate any scrap metal in, with the proceeds going to support the Door. The **metal drive** will end on April 29th just in time for the Fish Fry. There will also be another fund raiser for the Door on Sunday May 15th. Following church at 11:45 we will be serving a \$5.00 **Soup Luncheon.** Saturday, May 21st at 8:00 a.m. to noon will be **Centennial's Annual Yard Sale.** The church will be open Tuesday, May 17th to Friday May 20th, during office hours to drop off any yard sale donations. Volunteers for the 21st would be appreciated. Proceeds from the Yard Sale will help us to meet our M&S commitment. The Food Grains Project is also in motion as fall wheat was planted last fall for this year's crop to be harvested. Field Patches will soon be available to purchase and again Lloyd Somerville will coordinate the Food Grain Project.

Submitted by Don Coutts

CENTENNIAL WOMEN

*"Give to us laughter as sigh of deep joy,
Let us in laughing find Christian employ..."*

Centennial Women meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30p.m., always just to relax and enjoy each other's company, with a good cup of tea/coffee and a treat thrown in!

We often have guest speakers. In March we had a very informative organic farmer and in April we had a speaker from Grandmothers to Grandmothers for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. In May, we will be taking part in the Sunday morning service while Wim is away at conference. In June or July, depending on the strawberry crop, we will be helping out with the Strawberry Social for all of Centennial's seniors.

Centennial Women's Group is open to all women of the congregation. Come and try us out! If you have any questions, call Valerie Willock at 705.422.1201.



SPONSOR A BULLETIN

Looking for a great way to further support your church? Sponsor a Sunday bulletin in memory of a loved one or celebrate a birthday, new birth, anniversary, or any other event. Cost is just \$20. Contact the office at 705.428.3711 to get your event into the bulletin!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome Spring! With the warmer weather and the brighter days the Sunday School is looking forward to a busy spring. The Secret Pal program has begun. We are thrilled to have this opportunity for our young people to get to know others in our congregation. If you would still like to participate in the program please contact Jen. May 7th marks our Mom to Mom & Spring Sale. This year we are welcoming crafters and vendors as well as moms with gently used items. This is sure to be a wonderful event. The funds raised at this event will help the Sunday School make donations to their outreach projects. We are looking for baking, items for the Sunday school tables and, as always, volunteers. If you are able to help please let us know. As Easter approaches the Sunday school will be preparing Easter Cards for the Stayner Nursing Home. If you would like to participate please bring a card on Easter Sunday.

Some of you may have noticed this large branch with cards hanging from it in the CE hall. This is the Sunday Schools Prayer Tree. We would like to invite the congregation to join us in offering their prayers by filling out a card and placing it on the tree.

We also want to thank Valerie for all her work with our children. The kids love her and we really do appreciate all of her efforts as she helps guide our children. Thank you so much.
A Happy Easter. from the Sunday School.

Jen Gerrior, Sunday School Co-ordinator

PRESBYTERY NOTES

As a Presbytery Representative, I attended Presbytery on April 5th at Grace United Church in Thornbury.

A presentation was given by a member of the Camp Simpresca Board and also past Camp Director Paul Cooper on the many positive values; ie friendship, faith, honesty, and teamwork, that are built up by being part of this Christian camp community. To promote the Camp and provide a camping experience to a child (children), we encourage you to provide support to our camp fund through the "Cabin Money Bank". Camping Sunday will be held on May 1st.

On June 25th from 1 p.m to 4 p.m there will be an "Open House" at Camp Simpresca on the shores of Midland Bay. All are welcome to attend.

"Accessibility Training" is being provided by Presbytery so each congregation has a policy statement in place to be welcoming and mindful of the independence and dignity of all persons. Our congregation has a committee designated for this task. Ontario Government compliance must be met by January 1, 2012.

Toronto Conference meets at St. Paul's United in Orillia from the evening of May 27th to May 29th.

The next Northern Waters Presbytery meeting will take place at Camp Simpresca on June 18th. Any questions

that you have about Presbytery happenings I will endeavour to answer for you.

Yours in faith,

Greta Horton, Presbytery Rep
705-445-5930

THE GOOD FOOD BOX

Seize your opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at very reasonable prices. The Good Food Box is the perfect idea! A large box (approx. 32 lbs of various fruits & veggies) is \$14.; a medium box (approx. 22 lbs) costs \$10. Place your order by the 2nd Tuesday of each month for delivery on the 3rd Wednesday. Call Richard & Carol Marsden at 705.428.3945 to place your order.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-12, 1-5 and Friday 9-1. If the door is locked, please ring the door bell.

The office will be closed Friday, April 29th.

Have you checked out your new website yet?? It's fabulous and full of great info. Be sure to browse around. Send us your favourite biblical quote with a brief explanation of what it means to you. Stop by the calendar section to stay up to date on the goings on here at Centennial. Enjoy! www.ucstayner.ca

THE DOOR YOUTH CENTER

Inspiration is such a powerful thing. It can make us commit to ideas and action or keep us going when the path seems too hard. The question becomes – Where do we find it?

I have spoken with some of my friends and found that a lot of us find inspiration in our children. I find this to be very true. I am very lucky to have two sources of inspiration in my daughters. They are always inspiring me with their inner strength and caring. But I count myself even luckier than that. I have the pleasure of sharing my time with amazing youth as well, over 240 youth to date. They never fail to provide inspiration.

This past week marked this year's final Girls Club at Clearview Meadows. Once again I was overwhelmed with inspiration. On Monday the girls shared with their school the message of True Beauty, Inner Beauty. They had prepared a skit, poem and power point of photos they had taken. It was very inspiring to see the message that they had taken from our time together but also the confidence and grace with which they shared it. I will admit to being very proud of them.

I have also found inspiration in the relationships that we are building within our programs. Watching youth and volunteers come together, building a foundation of trust and mutual respect; watching small changes in both our youth and volunteers, continue to inspire me to be a better, stronger and more compassionate person. They inspire me

to keep going, to keep working and building the partnerships and relationships that allow us to keep The Door going and growing. Thank you to all who give inspiration – you provide the drive to keep offering hope and alternatives to the next generation.

A BIG Thank You to Centennial for the Penny Sale Event. It was so much fun and wonderful to see such support. Also a big Thank You to those who joined us for our Annual Dinner Theater. Coming out to these events provides not only financial support for The Door, but it also inspires us to keep going even when things look dark.

Please join us for...

Metal Drive at Centennial United Church-The drive will take place April 18th - 25th. Proceeds to The Door.

Our Annual Yard Sale – May 14th. Please join us for our yard sale at the center 7am – 1pm. Items can be donated beginning the first week of May.

Watch for news on a Gulley Family Concert in June too!

If you have any questions or comments about this article or our programs, please contact us at 1-705-428-3733 or gerrjordutka@rogers.com. Click on www.wix.com/clearviewdoor/the-door. to keep up-to-date on our events and programs. Thank you for your continued support.

Seeing the hope and potential in every youth...

Jennifer Gerrior, Director, The Door