

NEWSLETTER JAN. 2018
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MURRAY STREET, PETERBOROUGH – Catherine Allen

Another year has flown by and we again have a 'clean slate' on which we can record God's leading in our lives. *Daniel Freestone, our part-time Outreach Worker, hosts a coffee time for casual conversation each Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-1:00. Our 'store' is also open 10-11:30 those mornings. As a downtown church there is a constant need for warm clothing. We are happy we can accommodate 20-22 people sleeping in our dry, warm basement, particularly during the recent frigid weather. They are supervised by staff from CMHA. *In December, we had our annual 'Plum Pudding' congregational turkey dinner. Following a musical program in the church we adjourned to Webb Hall for decadent desserts. Our Candlelight Service Christmas Eve was a time for families to prepare for Christ's coming on Christmas Day. Now a new year has begun. May God lead us all into a fulfilling future for His church and His Kingdom.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, OSHAWA - Glenn Wyper

Joint choirs of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church of Bowmanville and First Baptist held the Christmas concert on the 1st Sun. of Advent, Dec. 3rd, @ MCR and we held ours the 2nd Sun. of Advent, Dec. 10th. In our concert Cory Kuipers, our organist, led the choir. Charles Gerard was at the piano. Danielle Coleman-Pollock was the soloist. Jory Hewson was the reader. The choir sang Handel's Hallelujah

Chorus at the close, & those in the congregation who had previously sung that piece of music, were invited to go up to the choir & sing along. Several people did just that. As Eileen Taylor reported, that "was a lovely way of including everyone." Altogether it was an enjoyable and worshipful evening. Afterwards, in the lower auditorium everyone met together to partake the delicious food provided by the Women's Association.

CAMPBELLFORD BAPTIST – Dawn Conium

Blessings in 2018! / Our Annual Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service had a great turnout, and we are happy to report that we had to open our extra seating area. A larger than life shepherd gave his personal account of our Lord's birth & musicians presented their musical gifts with familiar carols. Glory to God was evident by the excited faces on the children when the candles were lit, and Silent Night was beautifully sung by all. / Another fruitful Community Christmas Dinner was well attended and enjoyed by residents of Campbellford and the surrounding area. One couple arrived and expressed their delight in finding our ad in the local paper, as they were alone this Christmas. Many recipients offered their thanks and complimented the cooks and volunteers. We were also blessed to have generous sponsors, who donated turkeys, pies and chocolate bars. / Our bible studies throughout the week have started up again, and Grief Share is continuing into Feb. every Wed. from 10 to 11:30 am. Also, Faithbuilders is back, our new program for teens, starting Jan. 10th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. then every 2nd Wed. / We are looking forward to our 20th year of Lenten Lessons with the Rev. George Budd, coming

to Campbellford Baptist beginning Ash Wed. Feb. 14th, 2018 and continuing every Wed. until March 28th, with a Lunch at 11:45 am and the Lesson at 12:30 pm, concluding at 1:00 pm. See you then.

VICTORIA AVENUE – Ruth Webber

After a wonderful Advent Season of Special Music, Christian Fellowship and the Word of God, we are now into the new year and our regular activities. We welcomed Rev. Gordon Finley and David Greenhough for two Sundays while Pastor Richard Smith and his family enjoyed a brief vacation. We have our weekly Prayer Group, two midweek Bible Studies that have resumed as have the Men's Fellowship and monthly Fellowships. Jan. is our Meals On Wheels month. Night Light Street Mission continues to enjoy our facilities which have been well used in the frigid weather recently. Several of our young people are going on an independent Mission to the Dominican Republic to assist in building a house. We wish them God's Speed. Our New Wishes to all our sister churches as we enter 2018.

EDDYSTONE – Julie McKenzie

NOVEMBER : held our annual Christmas Dinner for our Church family ; our Ladies Group prepared a meal for the November meeting of the local Seniors Diner's Club. DECEMBER : Shoe-boxes: 21 filled....what a wonderful kindness. No Christmas Concert this year, but thankfully able to have the Candlelight Service, very well attended, an evening of joy and celebration. Advent Sundays saw many of our Church family assisting with portions of the services, thank you to all. The Prayer and Bible Study group, held on Tuesdays at 1:30, took a hiatus over Christmas but are now back on schedule. New Year, new beginnings as we move

through year of service 161. We (all) have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll, fastened to the Rock which cannot move. Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love".

WHITBY BAPTIST – by Mair Greaves

Cold, snowy winter weather reminds us how much we need the warmth of God's love in our lives. Scripture points us to look at Enoch, the man who walked with God. Will it be said of us that we walked with God in 2018? Our Intercessory Prayer group under Melinda Crawford started on Jan 1 with an inclusive prayer of blessing and offering the whole body of Christ to serve, revive, increase and protect. Our church leaders committed the 4 Wed. evenings in Nov. to a church wide study of the Bible and Human Sexuality. Led by our Elders, the series was designed to explore God's design with respect to sexual orientation, its biblical basis and cultural relevance. The purpose of the study was to get us talking as Christ Followers about the defining issue of our times in preparation for our CBOQ leadership's response to the growing challenge it presents within our denomination. In light of this study, we hope to explore how we might be a people who hold together grace and truth as we live within a rapidly changing society. Winter Youth Retreats at Muskoka Woods for Avalanche and Blizzard are great opportunities for youth to interact, learn and grow in their faith. Three UpLinks Small Groups begin in January and encourage faith growth as we study. We have offered grief support to staff and those who attend the Refuge, a downtown Oshawa street ministry, in the tragic death of a young girl well known to them. Our team for the Coldest Night of the Year Walk is excited to again support the work of the Refuge. The Food Bank flourishes these weeks, thanks to the overwhelming support of the congregation

who brought many boxes of food on Christmas Eve. We welcome all who use our facilities to sense the love of God and His people here.

UXBRIDGE BAPTIST - Julia Ott

Merry Little Christmas featured the husband and wife duo Azalea and filled the church with merry voices. * Later in Dec., about 3200 attended the Living Nativity performances, braving the cold and the snow to hear and see the Christmas story. We know God is always calling people and pray that He will use these community events to draw them. * For the fifth year, Hope Through Hockey outfitted and trained 110 kids and teens over the holidays, prepping them for an in house tournament, and for the Dryden area Little Bands Tournament in February. Each night a friendly game of the HTH team versus the local men's team provided challenge, entertainment and the building of relationships. * Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Dr. David Mensah provided a thought provoking update on the recent Ghana Health mission accomplished with Ghanaian colleagues. * Our youth are anticipating the Blizzard and Avalanche retreats. * For family day weekend, we will welcome Life 100.3 and view the movie Woodlawn on Saturday. On the Sun., a fantastic pancake breakfast awaits all early risers!

CALVARY BAPTIST, Cobourg - Karen Bellamy

On Oct. 21st many of our members enjoyed a fall colour car rally and supper* On Oct. 29th we celebrated our anniversary with special guest Rev. Bill Norman. Many of our men sported bow ties for the occasion* On Nov. 5 we welcomed the local Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard

to our Remembrance Day service* On Dec. 12 the CBC Women held their annual Christmas lunch and on the 17th we had our church family Christmas lunch* This Advent season our members donated generously to the Salvation Army Hamper and Toy Drive* We were once again treated to some Dixon family video and puppet productions. This year the "Christmas (W)rappers" brought us their wonderful and entertaining take on the Advent season. Thanks guys! We also thank the Dixons for their kind hospitality at their open house* We are also very grateful for the efforts of our choir and bell choir who enriched our worship and celebrations* Our H.O.P.E. projects have recently included Northumberland Promise and CBM's Hopeful Gifts for Change. Due to the generous response to the Hopeful Gifts Project we have been able to provide a family in a developing country with two cows, three goats and six chickens* Pastor Clarke has begun the new year with a sermon series called "From the Manger to the Empty tomb, a Journey with Jesus" which will take us through the book of Mark.

GILMOUR MEMORIAL – Brenda Mann

We had a wonderful Christmas season and look forward to God's continued direction for 2018. We are excited about our 15 youth & leaders attending Blizzard Feb. 2-4 and thank TVA for their grant towards this. On Feb. 11 we will be hosting a Thank You Dinner for Farmers from our church and our community. Following the dinner there will be some great Country Gospel music and then a presentation from the Canadian Foods Grains Bank regional representative, Dave Epp. All are welcome to the info session at 7 pm. We

look forward to participating in the "Coldest Night of the Year" walk Feb. 24 which is a fund raiser for Brock St. Mission. After the walk we will join others at the church for a Soup and Games night! We plan to participate in the One Million Meals initiative organized through Church in the City on April 7th.

EDMISON HEIGHTS, PETERBOROUGH – Gil Plumley

We were excited this past year to celebrate two baptisms as well as welcome three new members into fellowship at Edmison Heights. Though we remain small in numbers we continue to thrive spiritually as a congregation as we grow in faith and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ☞ Once a month a team from our church is supplying lunch to the Syrian Youth Outreach at the Bridge Centre and we are also providing a monthly dinner for the Oikos Outreach to International students at Trent University. ☞ We are in partnership with Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church in outreach activities to mandarin speaking people in the community ☞ After a successful Alpha course at the church Pastor Chris did a follow-up teaching series entitled "Saved! Now What?" benefiting not only those who participated in Alpha, but the entire congregation as a whole. ☞ In preparation of the Christmas season we enjoyed a share-a-dish meal on Dec. 9th and watched "The Nativity" movie. Led by Pastor Chris we followed "The Star" in a Sunday morning Advent series as we journeyed through the familiar story to once again seek the Christ Child and prepare our hearts to celebrate the birthday of our King. ☞ We are excited to welcome Rev. Phil Brown to the pulpit once a month for the first quarter of the New Year and Pastor Chris will be doing a new teaching series from First & Second Peter and Jude.

CAMP BURBALAC – Judy Anderson

Are you looking forward to camping season at Burbalac? Submit your registration early to ensure you get your favourite camp site. Registrations for one week or more can be made by contacting the new registrar, Sharon Hatton at 705 745-5169. Shorter stays can be booked after May 1. Please continue to pray for the Camp Board as they prepare for the 2018 camping season.

In the middle of winter the buds prepare for spring.
Thank you God for unceasing life.
The dull, brown stalks of spent hydrangeas mirror my spent
spirit.
Yet green and blue and pink colours dance in the mind's
eye for the spring
within and without about to come.
I feel your presence in pealing cathedral bells, in insistent
cawing crows,
in intricate yellow petals of spring forsythia,
in new growth heralding coming spring.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next newsletter April. 15th
CBWOQ's Women's Conference
Fri.–Sat. April 27 & 28 @ Mississauga Chinese Baptist Church
"Come Thirsty, Drink Deeply"
TVA Spring Meeting April 14th place to tba
TVBW meeting Sat. June 2nd at First Baptist, Port Hope
Speaker: Cathy McIntosh