

TRENTVALLEY ASSOCIATION OF BAPTIST CHURCHES**NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017**

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NORWOOD BAPTIST – Doug & Janet Sims

The following will be the last submission for Norwood Baptist Church Just as a reminder to everyone, Norwood Baptist Church officially held its last meeting on Dec. 18, 2016. Since that time we have been waiting to finalize the sale of the church property which took place on Nov. 6, 2017. The congregation members have all moved on to the next stage of our personal ministries, for the most part seeking new congregations to call home. Norwood Baptist Church congregation would once again thank the TVA and member churches for the financial and spiritual support received over recent years. We celebrated our 130th Anniversary last year, with recognition of all those who served the Lord before our time. We trust Christ's perfect will would be done in the lives of all who love Him. God bless.

CAMPBELLFORD BAPTIST – Dawn Conium

The Baptist Busy Bees had another successful weekly yard sale season, and very thankful to the Lord for the blessings received by all. Our 133rd Anniversary Service on Oct 22nd was well attended, and at 9:45 am our guest speaker, the Rev. Tim McCoy, Executive Minister of CBOQ, spoke from John 13:4-17 regarding "A Towel & Time". The lunch was delicious. "Raw Gospel", a Gaither type vocal band, sang at our 6 pm

service, blessing all in attendance. Our Harvest Party on Oct. 31st was a wonderful outreach to our community. It was a fun and fabulous evening of jumping castle, comical inflatable Sumo Bumper Bopper wrestlers, imaginative face painting, Treasure Hunt and other games, and donated treats for all. The kids also enjoyed assembling their own cup cake, each designing a confectionery masterpiece. We are blessed to have a Baptism planned for Nov. 12th, Bible Study programs throughout the winter months, and Grief Share, a weekly support group. The Mission & Outreach Committee held a soup & sandwich luncheon on Nov 12th, and proceeds were given to Bridges for Peace for their Project Rescue, who find and assist Jews in getting to Israel – restoring them to the Promised Land; God's promise to His people. Our 7pm Annual Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service is a wonderful expression of choral worship and adoration to God for his gift of Jesus, and over one hundred candles in a massive variety of candle holders will be lit to celebrate this. Come early, as this evening's event is always well attended.

WHITBY BAPTIST – Mair Greaves

Cold weather means youth retreats, Food Bank needs, special Advent music preparation, Samaritan's Purse boxes, and many opportunities for generosity as we strive to be engaged in Kingdom enterprise. Our Church Board works on our behalf in ministry and service through our members and facility. Our Annual meeting takes place November 19. Our youth participated in Door2Door4Hope on Oct 31, year 22 for such an effort with four agencies and churches, collecting 2924 lbs of food for distribution through local Food Banks. Plans for a March break trip to Mendenhall Mississippi for a 20 yr reunion of their first mission trip are underway. An Advent food drive for our congregation will boost Food Bank supplies for the

winter. We served 865 people from our community from Jan-Oct 2017 in our weekly efforts, and the need continues to grow. Four from our church attended the TVA Oct. meeting, which keeps us informed about our Association goals and accomplishments. Our Sun. services under the leadership of Pastors Ross and Jim focus on creating an atmosphere of worship and praise as well as sound Biblical teaching. Braden Campbell is our student intern, an extension of his studies at McMaster. Excellent worship leadership is provided by Cindy Campbell and her many team participants. Four studies on The Bible and Human Sexuality offer insight for understanding today's societal changes. Blessings Craft Group provides knitted items for the Pregnancy Help Centre and Kashechewan First Nations community in Northern Ontario. Hand-made winter wear is available for Food Bank clients. Whitby Baptist Women provided over 200 quilted items for registration gift bags at the NABWU conference in October. Women4Women hosted a Retreat at Kempenfelt Conference Centre for 38 women with Susan Packer as theme speaker - 'I Can See Clearly Now.' 300 Christmas bags for Whitby Shores clients will be packed in December. The Men's Ministry Bible Studies and monthly breakfasts are a blessing to the men in our church. Our new CMB Mission Partner is Andre Sibomana, Coordinator for Rwanda and the Congo. Offering envelopes are becoming extinct and we are encouraged to use PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) to make ongoing financial contributions. God's grace and goodness are evident at Whitby Baptist.

FIRST BAPTIST, OSHAWA – Glenn Wyper

On Sunday, the 15th of October we celebrated our 147th anniversary. After the morning service we had a potluck lunch. (Hey, we're Baptists, aren't we?) We are very grateful for the ministry of various clergy during the last couple of years: Pastor Renata Acuna, Rev. Dale Soble, Rev. Pamela Fitkin, and for the extended service of interim pastors, Rev. Dr.

William Norman, and Rev. Bruce Burgess. We now welcome back the Rev. Dr. Charles Jackson as interim pastor.

VICTORIA AVENUE BAPTIST, BELLEVILLE – Ruth Webber

After a blessed and busy fall we are moving into the wonderful Advent Season. Over the past month we were privileged to celebrate the 90th birthdays of three of our ladies with a luncheon. The very dedicated Mission Team presented a Dominican Dinner fundraiser and will have a Souper Sundae lunch along with other activities in the coming weeks. We were privileged to have Amy Dempsey with us for a one day seminar on Love and Forgiveness. Our Anniversary Speaker was Rev. Dr. David Smith, father of our own Pastor Richard. Always a privilege to hear his message. We all enjoyed a catered dinner on the Saturday evening and the residual desserts after worship on Sunday. Our Deacon's board participated in a one day workshop recently. As in other years we have had an Open House for the Santa Claus Parade with a safe place for the families to have a warm reception during or after their long, cold wait. They always enjoy the hot chocolate and snacks. On Dec. 1st, our Praise Hymn Ensemble are presenting "A Christmas of Carols". This is always a very enjoyable evening prelude to the Christmas Season. Our weekly activities continue with the Prayer Group, two Bible Studies and the Night Light Street Mission who use our facility. The men meet monthly for breakfast and guest speaker. We would wish you all a safe and blessed Advent season as we celebrate the Birth of the Christ child, our Saviour.

UXBRIDGE BAPTIST – Julie Ott

Our fall spiritual growth series “Habits of the Heart” continues with a Scripture Memory challenge and discussion questions for home and small groups. * Kids Fest celebrated 20 years and welcomed 54 children to their Back2Basics weekend. * A great group of workers met to pack a container in preparation for the new Ghana Hospital. Currently, the 2017 health team is on the ground with surgeries and clinics in full swing. *

Shoobox and Servant Socks have been collected and we are now looking ahead to the Loaves and Fishes Food bank Christmas Hamper Drive. * On Nov. 29, we will have a Commemorative Service for those in the community who are grieving the loss of loved ones and to celebrate their lives. * Upcoming events include Redemption on Nov. 26, Merry Little Christmas (featuring Azalea) on Dec. 2, Turkey Dinner for Adults (featuring Hiram Joseph) on Dec. 14, our Living Nativity performances Dec. 15-17, and our New Year’s Eve Family Skate. All are welcome. For more info, see the website www.uxbridgebaptist.com.

PORT HOPE FIRST BAPTIST – Jeff Snow

Over the past few months we have enjoyed Sunday guest ministry from Rev. Bill Rowe and Rev. Ian Dixon, as well as from one of our mission partners, Rick and Carol Hawkins from TransWorld Radio. Some new ministry initiatives have started recently. Since we now have families in our church with teenagers, we have started a weekly youth group. Last week we had 16 teens out to our youth night. A couple of ladies have had a passion to use our nursery to reach out to moms in the community. As a result, we have started a Tuesday morning Mom’s Group for moms of preschoolers and their children. The kids get to play with each other and all our toys, while the moms get to have tea and enjoy supportive conversation with each other. We have also begun a monthly young adults gathering to try and reconnect with people who used to attend the YFC youth drop-in that our church hosted in

the 2000’s. Our Thurs. morning ladies’ Bible Study and Fellowship continues to be a key ministry of the church, with two new ladies joining in recent weeks. We are looking forward to our annual Christmas dinner Dec. 15th, which is an opportunity to reach out to family and friends. Last year, three times our normal Sunday attendance came to the dinner. We are hoping for as many this year.

GILMOUR MEMORIAL BAPTIST – Brenda Mann

Someone just said “it seems like there is something going on here every day” and we do thank God for that. This fall we have been doing an Alpha course; GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting Jesus); bible studies for men, women, young Moms, home groups and adult Sunday School after church; an active Sunday School with the current \$5 challenge for the children to use a \$5 loan to make money with so they can then purchase items for the local Brock Street Mission or for the mission of their choice; Days for Girls (making reusable sanitary supplies for girls who miss a week of school each month due to lack of supplies); youth group and college and career group; We celebrate having had baptisms this fall. We are in the process of doing a new photo directory so we can all get to know each other better. We look forward to some special events in the next few weeks which we invite any of you to join us in if you are in the area. There will be a special Canadian Food Grains Bank evening on Nov 23; Dec 3rd, the first Sunday of Advent being our Intergenerational Service followed by Christmas dinner at noon or 6:30 pm; a service for those who are grieving on “The Longest Night of the Year”– Dec. 21; and three services on Christmas Eve – 10:30 Worship; 5:30 Spontaneous Nativity; 7:30 Carols & Candles Service.

May you all experience the joy of this special season as we worship our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

MURRAY STREET – Catherine Allen

We are enjoying Rev. Brad Peters' casual approach to everything happening in our church. He and his family are younger than most of our congregation and they lift our spirits. Ceilidh plays the guitar with our Praise team. Michelle has joined the choir and Edwin, an international student, has also joined. Sadly, we bade 'Farewell' to Betty Lucy. Betty has been in our choir for over 60 years! She was our 'Birthday Songstress': she phoned everyone in the congregation on their Birthday and sang to them. It was always very special. She will be MISSED. *As a Christmas Outreach, we will again be collecting mitts and heavy socks. We have a different project each month, September to June. *A Community Breakfast is held on the second Saturday of each month. Between 100 and 125 are served each time. *Murray St. is considering having the Warming Room use our dining room space for 20-22 homeless to sleep overnight. These are people who are disruptive and are not accepted at other locations in the city. *Advent begins Dec. 4th. May each of us anticipate this Holy Season.

CAMP BURBALAC – Judy Anderson Camp Burbalac is in the midst of making site improvements to accommodate larger, non-seasonal trailers and improve site views of the lake. As improvements are completed pictures will be posted on the website. New services are being developed for garbage pickup and sewage disposal from trailer tanks. The new registrar for non- seasonal camping reservations is Sharon Hatton. Check the website; www.burbalac.org; for her phone number and email address. Reservations for one week or longer may be made beginning Jan 1, 2018. Shorter term reservations are accepted as of May 1, 2018. Please continue to support the camp board with your prayers for wisdom as decisions are made for the upcoming camping season.

LAKEFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH – Joanne Anderson

Christmas greetings from our church to yours! As we approach the Yule season our church is buzzing with activities in celebration of Jesus's miraculous birth so long ago. Our new Mission Outreach Worker Carolyn has children's & adult paint workshops planned for Nov. & Senior's lunches once a month. A Christmas tea is planned for Dec. 2 where our young girls from age 6 up to 100 can enjoy an afternoon tea with all the table trimmings and special Christmas sweets! The afternoon will include the reading of a Christmas story and singing some favourite carols. There is a Christmas luncheon planned for Dec 5. Please join us for our annual family Christmas Sing-along on Dec. 10 at 6pm. We will be holding 2 services on Christmas Eve, one in the morning and our annual candlelight evening service. We are looking forward to a women's retreat in Jan. and a leadership retreat in Feb. at Kingfisher Bay. We welcomed Samuel Christopher James Pinn born on Oct. 20 to James & Shafawn and Grandparents Chris & Ruth Pinn.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next newsletter Jan. 15th

A PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS

Loving God, help us to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate, and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which

Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your
children,
and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful
thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!
Robert Louis Stevenson