

September 16, 2014

Fall 2014 Newsletter

Special Interest Articles:

- Financial Update on page 3: See the results of your envelope givings.
- Mission and Service on page 5: We continue to be a giving congregation.
- Meet our new Voluntary Associate Minister on page 8.

Individual Highlights:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Session | 2 |
| Financial Update | 3 |
| Choir | 3 |
| Property | 4 |
| Mission & Service | 5 |
| Sunday School | 5 |
| Adult Christian Ed | 6 |
| EM Plan | 7 |
| Presbytery | 7 |
| Our new VAM | 8 |
| UCW | 9 |
| Men's Club | 9 |
| Thanksgiving | 10 |
| Activities Cmte | 11 |
| Committees | 11 |
| Calendar | 11 |

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Minister's Message

Dear Friends:

Well, the summer is winding down and we are about to plunge into the fall season.

I hope that each of you had a wonderful summer.

As you read through the newsletter you will see that things have been busy at the church, despite the "holiday" time of year.

You may notice the new sidewalk as you walk in – thank you to all who supported the fundraising project, and thank you to Wayne Philbrick, who arranged for and oversaw the work being done. It looks wonderful and is no longer a "trip"

hazard to people walking into church.

The Emergency Management Response team continued to work through the summer to ensure our safety.

We sold pies at the Lion's Carnival and the children enjoyed the Vacation Bible School program.

We continued to worship every week, with an average attendance of approx. 65 people, and with a strong music program.

And now we move into the fall season with an increase in activities and meetings.

God was with us in the slower summer days, God will continue to be

with us as our calendars fill up in the autumn.

Please read over the newsletter with a calendar in hand so that you can make note of what is happening in the coming months.

And may the peace of Christ be with you during the coming golden autumn days.

Blessings,

Paul

From the Congregational and Official Board Chair



I have been astonished and truly touched this year by your love for our church, our congregation and our community through your generosity.

Your weekly givings continue to surpass previous years. You have joyfully attended a number of fun fundraising events, which have enabled us to purchase new Choir gowns and to plan for a new church sign. This past summer, together we raised over

\$6,000.00 in just over a month in order to replace the aging sidewalk along the side of the church that had become a trip hazard. At the same time, in just 2 weeks, you raised over \$1,600.00 for water filtration system maintenance on a church in Haiti.

Generosity is not just the giving of money. Your generosity is overflowing as you have come together to help out our church in many ways. From helping with the

fundraising events, to helping at the Pie Booth. You are Sunday Greeters and Readers and Choir singers. You prepare the coffee and goodies for our fellowship time. Through committee work, you give your time. When everyone chips in, it makes for little work.

Generosity flows when we allow ourselves to be filled by the limitless goodness of God—when we focus on our meager resources, this kind of giving and serving is never possible (Mark 12:41-44).

Session: Submitted by Anne Dorland

*Dec.24,
Christmas Eve
Service.*

Over the summer, for the sake of convenience, the session has provided for a collection plate to be placed at the foot of the balcony steps and a Tooney Tin near the parking lot entrance. Over the next four months we have a busy and exciting schedule:

- Food Drives for

Project Share prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

- Oct.5, World Wide Communion.
- Oct. 12, Thanksgiving Service.
- Nov.9, Remembrance Service.

- Dec.14, White Gift Sunday.
- Dec.21, Communion.
- Dec 21, Christmas Candlelight Service
- Dec.24, Christmas Eve Service.

Wishing everyone a blessed autumn, Advent and Christmas

Financial Update: Submitted by Darlene Romanowsky

The finance committee would like to send out a very sincere thank you to everyone for their continued support and generosity which has allowed our church to remain in a relatively healthy financial position.

The Activities Committee deserves to be commended, as does the rest of the congregation, for the hard work and never failing support that has resulted in the remarkably successful fundraising efforts. The

"Capital Projects" has raised a total of **\$13,383.51** which has resulted in the installation of a badly needed "new sidewalk", the "New Choir Gowns" have been ordered, and the "New Church Sign" is in the planning process. The "Operating Projects" has raised a total of **\$3,875.00**, from which \$550.00 was donated to Habitat for Humanity. The Christian Education's (Sunday school) fundraising efforts have reached **\$558.35** so far this year which has

allowed them to enjoy a few special outings and as well they donated \$100 to the "Haiti water filter undertaking". As of August 31st a total of **\$17,816.86** has been raised.

We greatly appreciate our hardworking and generous "UCW" who have continued to give their annual donation of \$5000.00 that at present covers the cost of our church insurance and as well helps with other operating expenses.

Our envelope offerings have decreased slightly (3%) from this same time period in 2013 and we are currently running with an operating deficit of approximately **\$9000.00**, but we are confident that with the unyielding support and generosity of our congregation we will once again become deficit free by years end for the **third** year in a row.

Choir: Submitted by Lisa Brillon

Another summer has passed and even though the choir did not have weekly rehearsals, we managed to have music almost every Sunday in July and August thanks to the dedicated choir members.

Choir practice begins on **Thursday September 4th at 7:30 p.m.** and we are always accepting new members! We will be practicing our weekly

anthems as well as getting ready for our Christmas Candlelight Service on Sunday December 21st where we will present our cantata 'Love Came Down at Christmas'. I would like to get the younger children singing as well this year and will try and have them sing at the Christmas Candlelight service and if we have a big enough turnout, will put on the musical

'The Rock Slingers Biggest Hit'. Practices will be after church in the sanctuary beginning in late September. Watch announcements for more news. Our choir gowns are on order and hopefully we will be wearing them in mid-October. Many thanks to all who contributed to the choir gowns through fundraisers and donations.

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Property: Submitted by Steve Hardaker

The Property Committee continues to work together to ensure our church is maintained and sustained.

Our focus has turned to the outside of the church as we attempt to beautify its appearance. Over the next year or so, we will be embarking on a number of projects that will improve our property.

- Earlier this Spring, new Property Committee member, Harvey Hall brought in a load of gravel and

along with Neil Salewytch, filled potholes and helped improve the parking lot.

- Neil and Harvey also removed a number of shrubs from the front of the church along with trimming the tall Linden tree all in an effort to open up the front.
- Through a very successful fundraising campaign, we were able to replace the sidewalk along the side of the church.
- The Activities

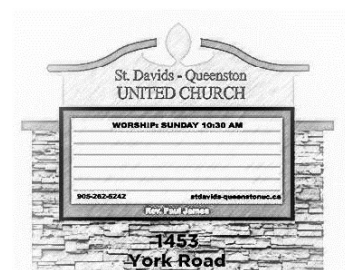
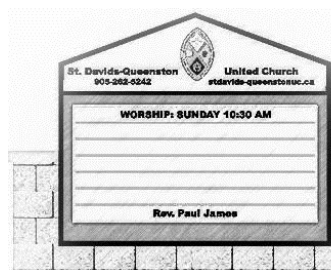
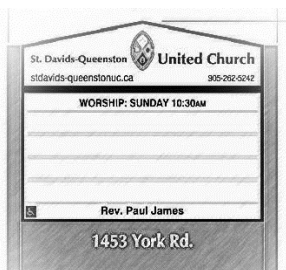
Committee has been busy raising funds for a new church sign. Now thanks to a generous donation, we have sufficient funds for a new sign. Watch this Fall as we complete this project.

- With the completion of the sidewalk and the removal of shrubs, we can now start planning a landscaping project for the front of the church. It is hoped that this can be an effort that members of

the church can get involved with. If you love gardening and would like to help out, please let Steve know.

- Finally, this Fall, we hope to install a couple of new outdoor light fixtures in an effort to improve parking lot safety for those participating in evening functions. These fixtures will use LED lighting, which use up to 80% less hydro than traditional lights.

Thanks for your continued support.



Mission and Service: Submitted by Jill Dill

"Mission and Service Fund: As of this writing, \$10,087.00 as been donated which is \$108.00 more than the amount raised for this same time period in 2013!"

When Pastor Joseph from Haiti visited our church he was hoping to raise \$600.00 US for two filters for their water pump. Our church ended up raising \$1,425.52! As a result the Haiti congregation was able to purchase four filters, two of which will be kept in reserve for replacement in about six months.

Pastor Joseph has asked for prayers because their used water pump occasionally breaks

down and they are hoping to replace it. This new pump will cost \$700.00.

On another note, Pastor Joseph's congregation is no longer able to rent the building they'd currently been using as a school for 140 children. As a result, they've had to buy a new building but it has no roof. An organization named "Joy and Hope for Haiti" is currently trying to raise funds to assist in

the purchasing of a new roof. One way they're trying to raise money is through a 5k walk/run and a marathon road race in Hamilton on November 1st and 2nd, respectively.

It should be noted that Pastor Joseph's parents are both well now, which is obviously great news.

Ron Donaldson kindly provided us with the information. He can be reached at ron.donaldson4@gmail.com

Sunday School: Submitted by Christine Earley

Stamps For Bibles



The Sunday School children have started collecting used stamps. This program can help those in prisons to follow a new path to make positive choices, no matter how long their prison sentence is.

This can lead to a better and more positive integration

back into society once their sentence is up.

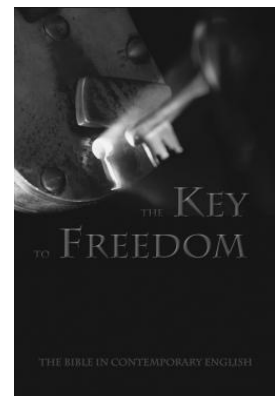
Wondering what to do with your used stamps? The Canadian Bible Society collects donations of used stamps. Here's how our Used Stamp Program works:

- Stamps collected from donations across Canada are combined to create charity boxes and are sold to stamp collectors and

vendors.

- The revenue generated from the stamps allows CBS to purchase Bibles for Canadian prison ministry, "The Key to Freedom Bible".
- 10 lbs of stamps = approx 5 Bibles for distribution.

You can deposit your used stamps in the stamp box in the Narthex.



Adult Christian Education: Submitted by Bob Johnston

Faith & Culture Group

This year we will be discussing some movies. The first batch are classic religious epics, movies that I first discovered in my youth and look forward to reliving. The period of the fifties saw the introduction of TV on a large scale and Hollywood countered with epic movies with large budgets and stunning technical advances in colour, sound and wide screen, to gain market share from the small screen B & W TV offerings. This was the age of Cecil B. de Mille, Charlton Heston, and Cinemascope.

- “Ben Hur” This epic masterpiece stars Charlton Heston in the title role of a rebellious Israelite Jew who takes on the Roman Empire during the time of Christ.
- “The Robe” A physically and emotionally deteriorated Roman Tribune is

ordered to execute Christ in this lavish adaptation of the best selling novel.

- “Quo Vadis” The powerful story of a Roman soldier, whose romance with a beautiful woman puts him at odds with the Emperor Nero.

The other movies are modern and address some of the problems in the world today.

- “Of Gods and men” Tells a story of eight French Christian monks who live in harmony with their Muslim brothers. Loosely based on the life of the Cistercian monks of Tibhirine in Algeria, from 1993 until their kidnapping in 1996.
- “Silent Light” Johann has a problem. He has a wife and children who he loves, and another woman who loves him who loves him who he can’t stop thinking about. The Mennonite community in Mexico

that is the backdrop for this story has a culture built on attempts to escape from the urgency of the clock, and pattern life according to a rhythm that respects nature and the sacred.

- “The Burmese Harp” A Buddhist tale of peace. An Imperial Japanese Regiment surrenders to British forces in Burma at the close of World War II and finds harmony through song. A very different War Movie.

The group will meet every two weeks at a time yet to be arranged, but starting in October. Please come join us to talk about the problems of living in a non Christian world.

Emergency Management Plan: Submitted by Christine Earley



Do You Know What To Do?

What would happen if the church was not useable due to a flood, fire or weather damage? Where would we worship? Where are the fire extinguishers? The first aid kit? What is the evacuation plan?

This summer, a team has been creating an *Emergency Management Plan* to help the congregation of St. Davids-

Queenston United Church how to react to all potential emergencies, big or small. A draft plan will be emailed to Official Board members by the end of September. Once passed, the Plan will be available to the Congregation

EMP Team: Christine Earley, Steve Hardaker, Christine Lancaster, Harvey Hall and Rev. Paul James.

Presbytery: Submitted by Larry McRae

Presbytery is made up of all ministers from all congregations, all retired ministers in Niagara and lay representatives from all pastoral charges. That is a total of approximately 100 people, but the average attendance at the meetings is 65 to 80. We discuss a

wide range of topics that affect every aspect of church life. In this regard, the latest development is a discussion to change the governance model of the United Church in Canada. It is an ongoing event which may come to an end in 2017 or 2018 with an entirely new administration system for the Church



Our New Voluntary Associate Minister: Submitted by Rev. Doug Jones

I would like to tell you a bit about myself other than I'm getting old(er). I was raised a farm boy north of Toronto on what was once known as a mixed operation... cattle, pigs, chickens and my pony 'Freddie'. He was my 'bike'. Spent a short time in the Canadian Armed Forces, worked as a hired hand for other farmers, worked as a plumber and cleaned a huge furniture store. I was not raised in the church and came to faith in my early 20's amidst a wonderful community of faith. I worked as a radio newscaster / announcer in Guelph (CJOY/CKLA FM) while my wife Donna-Dale completed her degree at U o G. I became candidate for ministry from Westminster UC in Orangeville. I attended UBC and graduated from Vancouver School of Theology in 1980 immediately following which I was ordained by Toronto Conference. Settled in SW Manitoba

(Melita) we spent five years in a rural agricultural community. Grand!

I began what is known as Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) during my VST years and after 4 years in Melita felt called to pursue healthcare Chaplaincy as a vocation. The following year I continued training at the Brandon Mental Health Centre then completed a one year CPE Residency at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. We moved to St. Catharines in 1986 where I had the privilege to be its first chaplain and there, developed a program that would grow into a service patients and families could expect as part of their care while in hospital. We stayed 9 years before returning to Winnipeg to a congregation in the downtown area. Three and a half years later we returned to St. Catharines where I resumed my Coordinating Chaplain

role for these past 16 years.

I have recently retired from the NHS after a rich ministry and now have chosen to join with St Davids-Queenston UC as a Voluntary Associate Minister. The times I have attended here I have felt warmly welcomed, spiritually nourished and befriended. I knew I was feeling at home when one person queried before the service why I had only brought one coffee. When I offered to bring an extra the next time she simply said "I'm fine with sharing this one." In retirement or re-directing as I like to call it, among other things (including the exercise of ministry) I hope to offer and exercise my gifts among you and more importantly to worship and serve our Lord with you.

I am married 38 years to Donna-Dale. We have three grown children (Bryn, Holly and Paula-Jane), two

in-laws (Lindsay and Mike) and one 15 month old g-son 'Declan'. I hold a BAA in Radio and Television Arts from Ryerson University, a M.Div from VST and am a Pastoral Specialist and Teaching Supervisor of CPE with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care. Currently I have the wonderful privilege to be an Associate Clinical Professor with the McMaster's Department of Family Medicine where, along with a physician we facilitate first year medical students in Professional Competence development. I am a drummer and currently play with Hidden Agenda (St. Catharines) and recently joined also with Susie McLean who is a jazz/pop vocalist from Toronto. I look forward to being among you and sharing with you. Blessings!

United Church Women: Submitted by Alice Page

We have held four meetings so far this year. One was cancelled due to the weather in March. We have purchased new folding card tables for the C.E. Hall and also new carafes for the kitchen. We have served luncheons for funerals and served a cake when new members were welcomed into the congregation. We hosted the World Day of Prayer Service this year; and, some of us attended the UCW's Annual Presbyterial Meeting in March. And, of

course, we are still making and selling meat pies.

Donations have been made to the Cave Springs Camp, Women's Place in Niagara South, Haiti and our church's General Fund.

In June, for our last meeting until September, we invited the congregation to join us for lunch at the Little Red Rooster Restaurant and approximately 20 people attended.

Donations have been made to the Cave Springs Camp, Women's Place in Niagara South, Haiti and our church's General Fund.

Men's Club: Submitted by Neil Salewytch

The Men's Club is a fun group that tries different activities for the purpose of strengthening our friendship within the church family. Always open to new ideas and thoughts this group meets approx. once a month. In the past our activities have been

breakfasts, ball game, jet boat ride, hockey games, dinner with a games night. In the spring the Men's Club went to the warplane museum in Hamilton followed by lunch at a local restaurant. The group also helped out at the spring yard sale by running the BBQ. All

these activities are to help us get to know each other and form lifelong friendships and memories. We as a group extend an invitation to all the men of the church to join us. We hope to do another jet boat ride shortly, spaghetti dinner, and of course the popular breakfasts.

Thoughts at Thanksgiving

Session has arranged to supply our congregation with the *Our Daily Bread* devotional magazine. They are available in the Narthex and outside the kitchen. The following is the November 16, 2013 devotional entitled *To Whom it is Due*:

My husband and I live in a rural area surrounded by farms where this slogan is popular: "If ate a meal today, thank a farmer." Farmers definitely deserve our gratitude. They do the hot, hard work of tilling the soil, planting seeds, and harvesting the food that keeps us from starving to death.

But every time I thank a farmer, I also try to remember to offer praise to God, for He is the One responsible for producing the food we eat. He gives light, sends rain, and creates the energy within the seed that gives it the strength to push through the soil and produce the fruit.

Although the earth and everything in it belong to God (Ps. 24:1), He has chosen humans to be its caretakers. We are responsible to use the earth's resources as He would use them – to do His work in the world (115:16). And just as we are stewards of God's physical creation, we also are stewards of

His design for society. We do this by respecting those He has placed in authority, by paying taxes, by giving honour to those who have earned it, and by continuing to pay our debt of love (Rom. 13:7-8). But one thing we reserve for God: All praise and glory belong to Him, for He is the One who makes everything possible (Ps. 96:8). – Julie Ackerman Link

*Sing praise to God who reigns
above,
The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of
love,
The God of our salvation. -Schutz*



*"Give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever."
2 Chronicles 20:21b*



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Activities Committee: Submitted by Doug McArthur

We are looking forward to our social activities for the upcoming year, 2014/15.

Our current project that we are fundraising for is to purchase an new illuminated church sign for the front of the church to advertise current church events and other church functions.

The Activities

Committee has been very successful in the past on various events and projects. After a successful campaign to raise funds for new Choir Gowns, we should see the results this Fall.

We, the Activities Committee feel indebted to you, our Congregation and followers for your support in this

matter. The popular Beef-on-a-Bun and Games Night is scheduled for Sept., Oct. and Nov. to coincide with annual events like the UCW Bazaar and Fall Turkey Supper.

If anyone has a project or idea for an activity that they would like to contribute, please let us know. Please also consider Joining our committee.

Consider Joining a Church Committees

The Official Board is always looking for new committee members who want to make a difference in their church community. If you are interested in

serving on one of the many committees, please talk to Steve Hardaker or any of the committee chairs about your desires. Committee members

are also on the Official Board. Our church cannot survive without your active participation. Be one of God's disciples from within your local church family.

Fall Calendar

Oct 5: World Wide Communion
Oct 12: Thanksgiving Service
Oct 17: Beef-on-a-Bun and Games Night
Oct 25: Sunday School Halloween Party
Nov 1: UCW Bazaar
Nov 9: Remembrance Service

Nov 19: Turkey Supper (tentative)
Nov 28: Beef-on-a-Bun and Games Night
Dec 14: White Gift Sunday
Dec 21: Holy Communion
Dec 21: Christmas Candlelight Service
Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service