

November 17, 2013

Fall 2013 Newsletter

Special Interest Articles:

- Financial Update on page 2: See the results of your envelope givings.
- Mission and Service on page 4: We continue to be a giving congregation.
- Facility Use Policy on page 7: Read what's new and what this means.

Individual Highlights:

Session	2
Financial Update	2
Sunday School	3
Adult Christian Ed	3
Mission & Service	4
Property	5
Calligraphy	5
Green our Church	6
Green Your Home	6
Facility Use Policy	7
UCW	8
Fundraising	8
Ready for Christmas	9
Choir	10
Committees	10
Calendar	10

St. Davids-Queenston United Church, 1453 York Road, PO Box 89, St. Davids, ON L0S 1P0, 905-262-5242

Minister's Message

Well, it's getting cold outside, but it is warm in here at the church.

Whether it is your tummy or your heart and soul, we have things to warm you.

Whether it is the Spirit of God moving through you, wonderful music, a warm handshake, a

turkey dinner or a cup of coffee - you will find yourself warmed at church.

Advent starts on December 1st and the church will be decorated for Christmas.

Communion will be on December 22nd, and there will be a candle light

service on Christmas eve.

Why leave yourself out in the cold? Come and join us for any or all of the above.

See you in church!

Blessings,
Paul

From the Congregational and Official Board Chair

I hope you will enjoy this brief newsletter providing some details of what is happening within our church. Fall is a time of renewal for the church as we wind down from Summer's activities and prepare for the season of Advent. Our church is alive again with many

activities including the ever popular Beef-on-a-Bun and Games Nights, the Turkey Supper, UCW Annual Bazaar and the Christmas Candlelight Service and Choir Cantata.

Thank you to all in our congregation would contribute to making these church events the

resounding success they are.

Please enjoy this Fall Newsletter. Thank you to all that contributed to this edition.

See you in church,
Steve

Session: Submitted by Susi Hardaker



While the congregation remains a busy one, Session does as well. St. Davids—Queenston United Church has now participated in two Niagara On-Line Worship tapings. The inaugural taped service was June 29 and we just completed another on air service in October. We were happy to assist in the Sacrament

of Baptism for the grandchildren of two of our congregation members and we continue to offer Our Daily Bread booklets as a daily devotional for our members. We look forward to the yearly Advent activities and this special time of year that brings family and friends closer together.

If any one of our members wishes to consider joining Session and becoming an Elder of the church, please approach Rev. James to let him know of your interest. We are always welcome and open to new ideas and thoughts that assist in the weekly services of our church.

Financial Update: Submitted by Darlene Romanowsky

"Our congregation continues to be very supportive resulting in an increase of 11% in envelope givings from this same time period in 2012.."

The finance committee extends their sincere thank you to our Church Family for their faithful assistance in assuring that our financial position remains healthy.

The fundraising efforts have proven very successful with \$6,685.00 being raised to date. Due to these efforts we were able to have an air-conditioner installed in the Christian Education Hall and we are well on the way to raising enough funds to purchase new choir gowns. The Sunday

school was also able to enjoy a special (Bowling & Pizza) outing due to their fundraising efforts.

The UCW continues to be a very important aid in keeping our deficit down with their annual donation of \$5000.00 that at present covers our church insurance and as well helps with other operating costs.

Our congregation continues to be very supportive resulting in an increase of 11% in envelope givings from this same time period in

2012. (January1- October 31)

As of October 31st we are operating with a deficit of \$8,793.69 but with the unyielding support and generosity of our congregation, we truly believe that we can once again become deficit free in 2013 as we were in 2012.

Sunday School: Submitted by Christine Earley

The Sunday School students have started to **help with the greeters** before the service

Worldwide Communion: The Sunday School children observed the communion service from the balcony during the Oct 6 service. Communion will be explained to the children who may be partaking in the next communion.

The children enjoyed an evening of **bowling** at Cataract Bowl in Niagara Falls followed by **pizza dinner** at Pizza Hut on Lundy's Lane on Oct 27th. Special thanks to Rena Edgely, Julie Dill and Johnathan McTaggart for their help in supervising the kids.

"Everything is old is new again." The Sunday School children sang during worship on Nov 3rd.

The children will be participating in a **"Movie Night"** at the church on Saturday, Nov 16th.

Don't miss the **Turkey soup lunch fundraiser** for the Sunday School on Nov 24th after Worship.

The Sunday School is also planning an upcoming trip to go and play laser tag.



Adult Christian Education:

Learn & Lead course: "Spiritual Formation toward Discipleship", Fonthill United Church The Learn & Lead courses are open to anyone wanting to continue on their faith journey. See Christine Earley for more details.

The Question Of God: A 9-week study and discussion of the conflicting thoughts of

C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud on God and the meaning of life. Tuesdays 1:30 pm - 3 pm. November 12, 19, 26, and six weeks in January and February. Discussion led by Rev. James. Cost \$10.00 for book. Please contact church office before October 30th to sign up and reserve a book.

Faith and Culture Classes: Submitted by Bob Johnston

This year we are examining some of the works of Dan Brown. They are full of excitement and travel but also raise many relevant topics, which affect our lives. In "Inferno" we discussed the rising population of the world and how we can deal with shortage of food and the

Carbon imprint, which is a result. We also looked at Genetic Engineering and the effect of unregulated multinational companies on our daily lives. The second book is "Angels & Demons" and addresses the ongoing conflicts between Science and Religion. We meet every second Sunday morning at 0900 in the Ladies Parlour and welcome those whose interests run in this direction.

Mission and Service

"Mission and Service Fund: As of this writing, we are within \$2,000.00 of our 2013 goal!"

At the Annual General Meeting of St. Davids-Queenston United Church, on the recommendation of the Official Board, the Congregation set the 2013 goal for our church's contribution to the United Church's Mission and Service Fund at \$15,000.00, an increase of \$5,000.00 over previous years. As of this writing, we are within \$2,000.00 of our 2013 goal! Thank you very much.

The United Church's Mission and Service Fund is the unique way we as United Church members witness to God's love, whether it be with overseas partners, in Canadian outreach, in hospital or university chaplaincies, in supporting small congregations, or in assisting intern ministers. It is not really possible to compare the M&S Fund to any charity - it is much bigger, more encompassing than any

of these. It is the church.

Did you know that your offering envelop provides space on the front to designate how much of your offering goes to Mission and Service and how much goes to local expenses. If you leave this area blank, all of your offering, as well as any loose change offerings, goes to local expenses only.

Tooney Sundays and the Piggy Bank Project are two local Mission and Service fundraising initiatives where the money raised by our congregation is allocated to local community outreach and support agencies. As of the end of September, there has been \$840.60 raised through the Tooney Sundays fund and \$50.00 in pennies for the Piggy Bank Project. The Mission and Service Committee is looking for worthy local

agencies to donate these funds. Any suggestions should be communicated to any member of the M&S Committee.

The M&S Committee of St. Davids-Queenston United Church is a key group working in planning and coordinating our community outreach programs both locally and throughout Canada and the world. This very important committee is seeking additional congregation members to assist with these programs. Please talk to Jill Dill, if you are interested in joining this committee.

"This very important committee is seeking additional congregation members .."

Property: Submitted by Steve Hardaker

The Property Committee has been busy once again this summer completing projects to enhance and sustain our church. Thanks to Neil Salewytch for coordinating the foundation parging project and the church window painting project. A huge thank you to Al Des Roche for

donating the funds and for coordinating the replacement of the kitchen windows. The Activities Committee completed their CE Hall Air-conditioning Fundraising project, which allowed us to have the much desired air-conditioning installed in the hall. We have now completed the light bulb

replacement project and a big thank you goes to Monty Slingerland for replacing the fluorescent tube lights and ballasts. With the assistance of Sandi Salewytch, we are working on a landscaping plan for the front of the church and hope to undertake this beautification project

in the spring. A top priority is finding a replacement for the church sign at the front of the church, which is being coordinated by Bill Utting and the replacement of the roofing over the Vestibule and Kitchen, which is being coordinated by Greg Smith.

Calligraphy Classes: Submitted by Bob Johnston

On Fridays when our work is done
We meet at Church to have some fun
To learn to write like days of old
In letters beautiful and bold

Before there was a printing press
Your thoughts you only could express
By using feathers from a bird
To convey your written word

Calligraphy is dying fast
Hand writing surely will not last
So join with us to stem the tide
And let us be your writing guide.

The Calligraphy Class meets every other Friday at 2 PM in the Christian Education Classroom. All are welcome.



Greening Our Church: Submitted by Steve Hardaker

Over the past few years, St. Davids-Queenston United Church has undertaken a number of “greening” initiatives in order to lower our environmental footprint and at the same time reduce our operating costs. This has been done under the United Church of Canada sponsored Greening Sacred Places Program. All church doors have been

replaced with new steel doors as has the church basement windows with double glazed windows. A high efficiency gas furnaces and hot water tank were installed in the CE Hall. Rain barrels were implemented for the cemetery and a green bin program was implemented. During 2013, we have replaced the windows in the kitchen with double glazed windows. We

have also completed the project to replace all the light bulbs in the church and CE Hall with energy efficient light bulbs. These included LED bulbs in the vestibule pot lights, new T8 fluorescent tubes and ballasts and compact fluorescent bulbs throughout. We even replaced the metal halide wall pack fixture outside the CE Hall with an LED wall pack that uses 85% less

electricity. For the latest light bulb replacements in 2013, we will be receiving a 50% rebate on our costs through Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro and the saveONenergy program.

As God’s disciples, we have been entrusted with the care of our earth, the air we breathe, the water we drink and all living things.

Greening Your Home: Submitted by Steve Hardaker

The **saveONenergy Home Assistance Program (HAP)** helps qualified Ontario homeowners, tenants and social and/or assisted housing providers improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Participating in the program can help reduce energy use, help manage energy costs and improve home comfort. The energy efficiency and comfort

of your home could be significantly improved through the installation of:

- energy-saving light bulbs
- a power bar
- a low-flow showerhead (in homes with electric water heating)
- faucet aerators (in homes with electric water heating)

You may also be eligible for a new, energy-efficient

refrigerator or other appliance, such as a room air conditioner. If you are in an electrically heated home you may also be eligible for a programmable thermostat, weather stripping around your doors and windows and additional insulation in your attic or basement.

The Home Assistance Program is completely **FREE!** If you are on a fixed income or pension, you may

qualify. For instance, if you are one person living in a home with a before-tax annual household income of \$29,931.00 or less, you qualify. Two persons living in a home with an annual household income of \$37,261.00 or less also qualifies. The program applies to those who own or are a tenant in residential housing. See pamphlet outside kitchen for further information.

Facility Use Policy: Submitted by Steve Hardaker

In the spring of 2013, the Official Board appointed an ad hoc committee to develop a Facility Use Policy for our church. The committee consisted of Rev. Paul James, Anne Dorland, Marianne McRae, Christine Earley and Steve Hardaker. The committee met in person and via email to discuss and develop a draft policy document. A number of facility use policies from United Churches were researched as well as legal resources on the subject. Assistance was also provided by the CFO and a facility program coordinator at the United Church of Canada. We also consulted with our church's insurance broker. The draft policy document was presented to the Official Board and at the Board meeting on October 15th, the policy was approved.

Having a sound and well thought out policy on the use, serves to assist those wishing to

use our church in planning their activities, to avoid conflict and concern and to ensure our church and the congregation are protected. Here are a few issues that need further clarification:

We are now asking potential users to fill out a Facility Request Form for their event. The only exception is worship services, sacraments and weddings. A Facility Request Form can be obtained in the kitchen, downloaded from our web site or obtained from Darlene. The applicant will also be required to sign a Facility Use Agreement. A Church sponsored function does not require a Facility Use Agreement. Once your event is approved, it will now be entered on a church master calendar in Darlene's office and entered on our online calendar and monthly church calendar.

Fee For Use Policy: There is no fee for use

for regular church sponsored activities and functions. Facility use fees will be charged to all other users for all other activities. We were sent a copy of a letter, dated May 3, 2012, from the Canada Revenue Agency to the United Church of Canada outlining their policy regarding charging of fees by charitable organizations like our church under the *Income Tax Act*. Essentially, the same fee schedule must apply to any user, whether they are a member of the church or not. Under the *Income Tax Act*, a registered charity cannot confer an undue benefit because of a special relationship with a donor or charity. In other words, St. Davids-Queenston United Church, as a registered charity, cannot confer any undue benefits to its members simply because they are members of the church. A registered charity

that provides an undue benefit is liable for a fine and the loss of its charitable status. This said, our policy states the Official Board may waive the facility rental fee and any other restrictive regulations. Liability Insurance: Individuals, organizations or groups not conducting a church sponsored activity must present a certificate of insurance. This has been included in our policy document on the advice of legal experts, the United Church of Canada and our church's insurance broker. While our church is protected through our existing insurance policy, those organizing non-church sponsored events and activities and their guest are not covered during these activities.

The congregation is invited to read the entire policy document, which is available upon request from the Darlene or on the Church's web site.

United Church Women: Submitted by Alice Page

We held a very successful *Bazaar* on November 2nd. Our profit was \$3,854.00. We had lots of help and appreciate that very much.

The UCW have recently made donations to *Cave Spring Camp* and *Women's Place* - \$100.00 to each.

On the morning of our meeting on November 15th, we completed the

Annual Clean-up of the Kitchen, which was followed with the monthly UCW meeting as usual at 1:30 PM.

At the meeting on December 10th, we will have a pot-luck luncheon to which the congregation is invited. In March of next year, the *World Day of Prayer* will be held at St. Davids-Queenston United Church.



Fundraising Committee

News Flash: The Fundraising Committee is contemplating changing its name to The Activities Committee to better reflect their role in organizing church activities for the congregation and local community that result in raising funds for Capital and church improvement projects.

We are very grateful for the work of this committee in organizing the very popular Beef on a Bun Games Nights that raised enough funds over the past year to purchase the air-conditioning for the Christian Education Hall. Their newest project is to raise funds for new Choir Gowns. To date, they have raised

\$739.60 through a recent Beef on a Bun Games Night. They have also received over \$718.00 from personal donations towards the new gowns. The target amount for this project is \$3,000.00 and they are already almost halfway there!

"The Fundraising Committee is contemplating changing its name to The Activities Committee.."

Getting Ready for Christmas:

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 December 15th devotional entitled *Cancelled Christmas*:

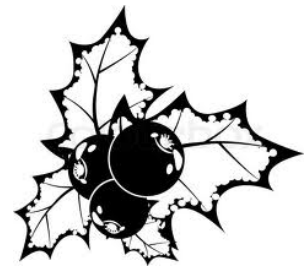
We felt as if our Christmas was being canceled last year. Actually, our flight to see family in Missouri was canceled due to snow. It's been our tradition to celebrate Christmas with them, so we were greatly disappointed when we only got as far as Minnesota and had to return home to Michigan.

On Sunday, in a message we would have missed, our pastor spoke about expectations for Christmas. He said "If our expectations for Christmas are gifts and time with family, we have set our expectations too low. Those are enjoyable things we're thankful for, but Christmas is the celebration of the coming of Christ and His redemption."

Simeon and Anna celebrated the coming of Jesus and His salvation when Joseph and Mary brought Him to the temple as a baby (Luke 2:25-38). Simeon, a man who was told by the Spirit that he would not die before he saw the Messiah

declared: "My eyes have seen Your salvation" (v.30). When Anna, a widow who served God, saw Jesus, she "spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem" (v.38).

We may experience disappointments or heartaches during the Christmas season, but Jesus and His salvation always give us reason to celebrate. –
Anne Cetas



St. Davids- Queenston United Church

1453 York Rd
PO Box 89
St. Davids, ON
L0S 1P0

PHONE:
905-262-5242

E-MAIL:
sdqsecretary@bellnet.ca

We're on the Web!

<http://www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca/>

Find us on
facebook

Choir Corner: Submitted by Lisa Brillon

Since September the Senior Choir has been back to regular Thursday evening practices. We have been singing an anthem every Sunday during worship and enjoyed our Thanksgiving

selection. Currently we are preparing special music for Remembrance Day, Advent and our Candlelight Service on Sunday December 15th at 7:00 p.m. when we will be presenting the

Christmas cantata "Sing with the Angels". All are welcome to attend and enjoy the special Christmas program and later fellowship, following the service.

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 2013/Winter 2014 Calendar

Nov 20: Turkey Supper
Nov 24: Sunday School Turkey Soup Luncheon
Dec 1: Advent starts
Dec 15: White Gift Sunday
Dec 15: Candlelight Service and Christmas Cantata
Dec 22: Holy Communion
Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service
Dec 29: Christmas #1
Jan 5: Epiphany