

Truth Seekers present Christmas Play: Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs and Fireflies

On Sunday, December 17, the children and young people of the church presented their Christmas pageant to an appreciative audience. This was followed by a delicious meal served by the Christian Education and Congregational Life Committee. The children received homemade pillowcase as part of their Christmas gift. Thanks to Isobel Morrison, Tyna Watson and Nina Zwart for making the pillow cases.



The Good Food Box

The first Good Food Boxes were delivered at DPC on January 11. We are truly excited about launching this program for our congregation in conjunction with United Way in Grey Bruce. Please don't hesitate to order your Good Food Box for \$22. It is real good value for money and you get produce fresh from the market, delivered same day. Below is a photo of January's Good Food Box.



The next pick-up day for the Good Food Box is February 1. Remember to bring your own bags or containers for your produce.

Order deadline:

February 29
 March 28
 April 25
 May 30
 August 29
 September 26
 October 31
 November 28

Pick-up Date:

March 7
 April 4
 May 2
 June 6
 September 5
 October 3
 November 7
 December 5

News from the Pews Durham Presbyterian Church

Edition 01-24

Farewell to Sarel and Zankie Smit



Sarel and Zankie Smit retired to their new home on the shores of Lake Superior early in January 2024. We are sad to see them go and we pray that our God will bless the new season in their lives, enjoying the splendour of His creation.

Sarel served as an Elder for 16 years with Zankie by his side. Their three children, Stephan, Nico and Ané were confirmed as Presbyterian members at DPC - testimony to the love for Christ in their home. We will always cherish the generosity and love of the Smits as they move into their new environment. Although far away, always part of the DPC family.

Durham Presbyterian Church

Pancake Supper

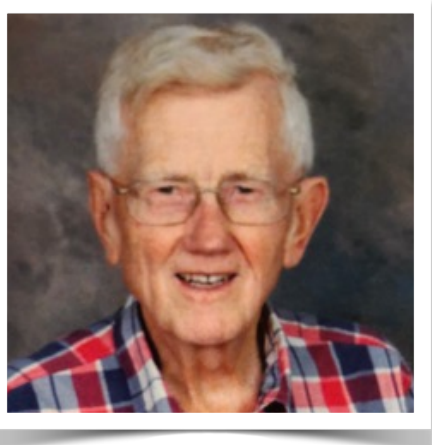
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

5 to 7 p.m.

Donation only

A message from Jake Penner

“We moved from Toronto to Durham in 1997 & purchased the house called Bon Accord located more or less across the street from the Presbyterian Church. I started to worship at your church. Shortly thereafter the Rev Dave Nicholson paid a visit to our home. It was revealed to Rev. Nicholson that in the 1940,s the Presbyterian Church held a strawberry tea on these premises when the house was owned by Dr. & Mrs. Jamieson. Shortly thereafter Eleanor Marshall & a few other ladies organized a strawberry tea on these premises that lasted for 8 years. It is with great sadness that I am leaving Durham. I will miss the people of Durham very much. May God bless & sustain members & adherence of your church as you venture into uncharted territory. God bless & sustain all members.”



Jake’s new address: Jake Penner
Luther Village on the Park -
Sunshine Centre
141 Father David Bauer Drive
Waterloo, Ontario
N2L 6L1

Presbyterian Membership

I would like to invite anyone that considers themselves being a member of our DPC family, who wants to start a process of becoming a full member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, to contact me directly. I would love to journey with you or answer your questions, should you desire to become a professing Presbyterian member. Rev Will - 226 974 6265



Missio Dei - God’s Mission

God is a sending God.

It is in His Character to send.

Sending is Who God is. He sent his Son. He sent his Spirit. He sent prophets, kings and apostles.

God is a sending God because He has a mission - He wants us to be free.

Us, meaning human beings, the crown of his creation; created with free will to choose; the ones who ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil; the ones who thought they could handle this knowledge; the ones who weren’t as smart as they thought they were; you and me. We are at the same time the object of God’s mission and the subject of God’s mission. We need to find freedom in Him, but we are also sent to be part of this mission God has. Jesus said: *“As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you”* (John 20: 21)

What a thought - I am sent by God to go on his mission. I am to be part of God’s mission in the world where I live.

The word mission has taken on a different meaning in church. Churches would say we support mission or we are involved in some way with a mission. We would limit our thinking the word mission to formal missionary work - like the work our brothers and sisters from Ethnos do. What if we were to flip this around? The church does not have a mission, the mission of God has a church! We are here as a church to participate in God’s greater mission. We are not here for ourselves or our organizational interests - we are here for the sake of the mission, God’s mission. I am part of this church because I believe in the greater mission of God and God is sending me from here to actively be part of his mission.

We pray, *“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is heaven”*. What does that look like? Jesus said that we are salt and we are light. How do I bring flavour and healing by being salt and how do I take the darkness away through being light? That is what God is sending us out to do.

In this new year of 2024, may you discover the Missio Dei. The God that is sending includes you in his action of sending. May you discover that you are part of the great mission of God - not just those in formal ministry of mission. May you hear God’s voice when He sends you to let his Kingdom come and to be salt and light.

Always remember - as the Father sent Jesus, so you are sent by Jesus Himself!

- Will



Thankful Offering

It was wonderful news to hear from the Board of Managers that DPC ended of the financial year with a small surplus. It bears testimony to the gratitude and positive attitude of God's children in DPC. A special mention should go to the DPC Ladies for a generous donation that helped achieve this goal. I am deeply grateful towards God to see how He provides for his congregation through the grateful hearts of the DPC family. May God be glorified for his grace and providence!

In this new year, let us grow in trusting God to provide - in our personal needs as well as the needs of the congregation. I want to encourage you to prayerfully consider and plan for your offering this year. May your gratitude motivate you bring your offerings in honour of God. We want to go forward in serving the Lord and would love you to join us in taking ownership for what God is calling us to do in 2024.

I am excited about the new year ahead of us! Let us work hard - side by side - to realize the words of the Lord's prayer: *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

Your brother in Christ, Will Basson

Coming Events

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| Feb. 13: Trinity Group - 2 p.m. | Mar. 6: B. of Managers -7:30 p.m. |
| Pancake Supper 5-7 p.m. | Mar. 12: Trinity Group - 2 p.m. |
| Prayer Time - 7 p.m. | Mar. 13: Prayer Time - 10 a.m. |
| Feb. 14: Prayer Time - 10 a.m. | Mar. 14: Session - 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 15: Session - 7 p.m. | Mar. 24: Palm Sunday |
| Feb. 18: First Sunday of Lent | Mar. 28: Maundy Thursday |
| Feb. 25: Congregational Meeting. | Communion Service |
| following service and potluck luncheon. | Mar. 29: Good Friday |
| Feb. 26: Prayer Time - 10 a.m. | Mar. 31: Easter Sunday |

Presbyterians Sharing

From time to time we hear mentions of "Presbyterians Sharing." What is this about and how are we part of that?

Essentially, Presbyterians Sharing is the Presbyterian Church taking care of the work God calls the PC to do in Canada and the rest of the world. This happens through PC congregations contributing financially to this work.

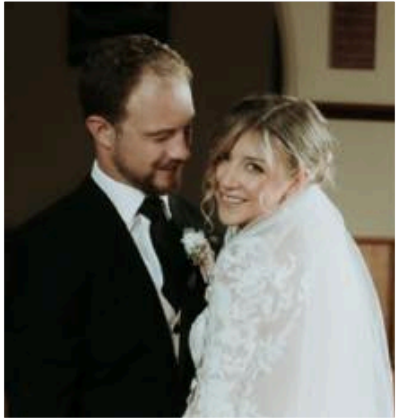
Every year the PC asks congregations to give an indication of how they anticipate that contribution would look. We mark our offerings, whether in an envelope or via E-transfer, to indicate that we want to support Presbyterian Sharing. In 2023, DPC indicated that to the PC that we anticipate donations of \$5000. At year-end, the amount of \$2,685 was contributed to the PC.

At the Session meeting of January 18, we decided to give the same indication to the PC of an anticipation of \$5000 for 2024. We decided to keep it the same and work on the awareness of this work. The graph below gives an indication of how Presbyterians Sharing funds are allocated.

Let us consider this work of our denomination prayerfully when we plan our givings in 2024. May God be glorified!



Congratulations to the Newlyweds



John Nixon and Chantelle Sniderhan were married on Saturday, October 28, 2023. John is the son of Susan and Rob Nixon and grandson of Eleanor Marshall.

Troy Bonterre and Brittany Lemon were joined in matrimony on Saturday, November 18, 2023. Brittany is the daughter of Jim and Denise Hutchinson. Brittany and Troy have happily joined their families as one with Brittany's children, Zachary, Charlotte and Adeline and Troy's children, Aliyah and Kai.



Good News for the Bassons and our Church Family!

About a week before Christmas, the Basson Family received word of an early Christmas present - notification of their new status in Canada as permanent residents! This follows three years of much paperwork, applications and many many prayers. And they are now one step closer to becoming Canadian citizens. We, as their church family, are grateful for this event and send our congratulations to the entire family.

Joining in the Durham Santa Claus Parade



The first Sunday in December saw our church take part in the local Santa Claus parade. The theme was around toys and our church had a Buzz Lightyear on our float. Buzz's favourite saying is "To Infinity and Beyond". Our message was that through God and Jesus, it is "To Eternity and Beyond"

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Thanks to Connie Clarkson (See Exodus 7-12) 03-26-2012

I'VE GOT YOU DOWN FOR BLOOD, FROGS,
LICE, LOCUSTS AND HAIL ... WOULD YOU
LIKE ANY FLIES WITH THAT?

Christmas Bazaar

On November 25, 2023, the Ladies once again hosted a successful Christmas Bazaar. Things have gotten back to normal and a luncheon was featured as well as sewing, knitting, crafts, baked goods, candy and Christmas items. Over \$3,000 was raised from the event.

Christmas Musical Evening

With dedication and planning on the part of the Music and Worship Committee and our musical director, Robin Rich, an enjoyable evening of seasonal music and hymns took place at the church on Friday, December 8. Those in attendance were very appreciative of all the talented musicians who took part during the course of the evening.

Sock Sunday Success



The Christian Education and Congregation Life Committee organized another successful Sock Sunday on January 21. A total of 156 socks for children, women and men were donated while 21 scarves, hats and gloves were also sent in. These donations were delivered to the Safe and Sound Homeless Shelter and the Women's Shelter in Owen Sound. Both were very appreciative of the donations.



Above: Kat McConnell hands over the socks to a staff member of the Women's Shelter. Right: Aimee, staff member at the Safe and Sound gladly accepts the socks, scarves, hats and gloves.

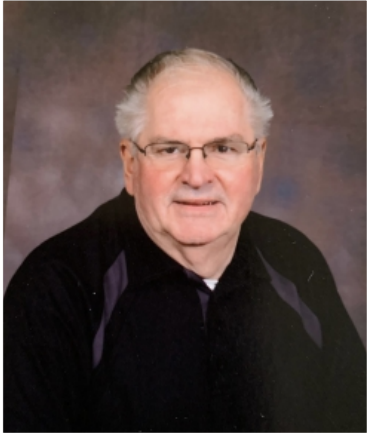
Scottish Luncheon Success

On January 26, many people came out to enjoy the Ladies' annual Scottish Luncheon. The meal consisted of shepherd's pie, cabbage salad, turnip, buns with tarts for dessert. The ladies and men who helped with the lunch were busy making, serving and cleaning up, along with the busy task of delivering food to those who ordered takeout. Over \$2,000 was raised.



Above: The crowd enjoys the meal in the hall.
Left: Ladies' President Eleanor Marshall helps with the serving.
Below: Rose Patterson, Louise Breen, Frankie Astley and Bonnie MacIntrye keep busy preparing the takeout meals.





Death Notice of Douglas Charles

Thorne: Doug Thorne of Hanover, passed away at the South Bruce Grey Health Centre, Walkerton on Saturday, December 16th, 2023 in his 82nd year. Beloved husband of the late Wilhelmina “Willy” (nee Vandermey). Loving father of Lee-Ann and her husband Stephen Turley, Kristi and her husband Craig Sanderson, Robert Thorne and his wife Meghan, and James “Rook” Thorne and his partner Julie. Cherished grandfather of Eric,

Joshua, Grace, Natasha, Sydney, Scott, Adria, Melissa, Piper and Sofia. Also remembered by Melissa’s mother, Amanda. Dear brother of Pat and her husband Henry Moore, and brother-in-law of Nick and Joan Vandermey, Kees and Darlene Vandermey, Riek and Bill Adams, Kryn and Sandy Vandermey, Anne and George Harauz, Frank and Stephanie Vandermey, and George and Helen Vandermey. Predeceased by his siblings Lorraine Greenhow, John “Jack” Thorne, and Carol Thorne. Visitation was at the McCulloch-Watson Funeral Home, Durham on Thursday, December 21st from 6 - 8 p.m. A memorial service celebrating Doug’s life was held at the Durham Presbyterian Church, 205 Lambton Street East, Durham on Friday at 10:30 a.m. Interment of cremated remains at Markdale Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations to the Durham Presbyterian Church Celebration and Memorial Fund or Diabetes Canada would be appreciated by the family. Durham Cemetery.



Death Notice of Peter Plas:

The family of Peter Plas, formerly of Chatsworth, announce his peaceful passing November 13, 2023, at the age of 88. He is now reunited with his wife and love of his life, of 60 years, Pauline. Loving father of Patti Gallagher (Mike) of Hanover and Heather van Eck (Adrian) of Guelph. Proud grampa of Abram, Joseph, Sarah (John), Natalie, Ethan and Rose. Peter is survived by his sisters Ronny Leach and Gerry Amoroso. Predeceased by his sister Jane Plas

and parents Cornelius and Agnes Plas. Born in the Netherlands, Peter will be remembered, in the local area, as the founder of Pete’s Auto Body of Owen Sound Limited. Peter and his wife Pauline were avid travellers and also spent many years wintering in Florida. Peter enjoyed gardening. He sang in many barbershop choirs, quartets and in later years the Tri-City Gospel Chorus. Cremation has taken place and arrangements have been entrusted to Garafraxa Hill Funeral Home, Chatsworth. A private service and inurnment will be held at Keward Cemetery, Chatsworth, next spring. If desired, donations to the Alzheimer Society or Parkinson Society would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences may be expressed at www.garafraxahillfuneral.com



Death Notice of Mary Vanbodegom:

On January 6th the world lost a strong and caring woman. Comforted by family after a very sudden illness Mary died at Peterborough Regional Hospital. She had enjoyed a wonderful Christmas beating us all at cards and sneaking food to her beloved granddog Murphy. Born and raised in the city of Toronto she spent her adult life making many friends throughout the province. Remembered for her beautiful cross stitching, her great love of knitting, her volunteer and charity work that continued to the very end and the Oma box cherished by children and adults lucky enough to open it. An avid fan of all sports she often said she would not go until the Leafs won the cup again so for all you fellow fans this must be your year! Dearly missed by her children Cindy and Rob, Jeff and Shawna, Tim and Jessica grandchildren Samantha (Devon), Andrew (Jaci), Maggie, Leila (Kayl), Cameron, Aria. Ruby, great grand children Athena, Vince, Oliver and Izzabelle. Met in heaven by her loving husband Case who now once again will have to wait until the end of a row.