

BANWELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

News 'n Views!

May 2011



Banwell Summer Fellowship Groups

ARE YOU...

New to
Banwell?

Been here awhile?

Wanting to get to
know others?

**JOIN A
SUMMER
FELLOWSHIP
GROUP!**

**Please call
Rose Litwin
at the
church office
519-735-2654
for more info.**

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN JOINING A SUMMER FELLOWSHIP GROUP?

- Participants will be placed in a group of 6-8 people (couples and individuals).
- Each group will be made up of both long-term and newer attenders to Banwell.
- During the months of May—August, these groups will share a meal together, 3-4 times. These could be in a home, at a restaurant, a picnic or a BBQ.
- All participants are to contribute to the provision of each meal.
- This is an opportunity to get to know some new folks in a fun, casual and relaxed atmosphere of each groups' choosing.
- The sign-up sheet is located at the coffee counter. Sign up today! A list of groups will be posted on the church bulletin board by May 8th and participants will receive further information in their church mailbox.



Banwell Community Church has a Facebook page, thanks to Grant Fairley!

Select the Banwell Community Church (Organization) for the most up-to-date info on what's happening here at Banwell. By clicking on the "Like" button, you will join this community!

Stay connected! Join today!



AGE UNLIMITED

"Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord
Let the people rejoice!"

"Salvation is found in no one else, For there is
no other name under Heaven given to man
by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Age Unlimited meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Theme of the meeting: "Praise be to God" The meeting includes prayer, scripture reading, singing our favourite hymns, a devotional thought, two special speakers and the morning ends with a delicious lunch.

All seniors of Banwell are invited to attend. Invite a friend to hear our special guest speakers, Debbie Doherty and Ann Hucal who are employed as Certified Diabetic Educators. Debbie is a nurse and Ann is a dietician. They have titled their presentation—"Diabetes and Enjoying a Healthy Lifestyle". Following their presentation, there will be a question and answer time, so come prepared to have your questions answered.

A delicious lunch is being planned by our hostesses Yvonne Eberle, Penny Bain and Madelon Kidd and their helpers.

This Seniors Ministry of Banwell allows you to meet new friends, enjoy the warm fellowship, enhance your faith and knowledge.

"The Lord has done good things for me and we are filled with joy." Psalm 126:3

Please sign up on the Age Unlimited sheet, which is on the Coffee counter, by Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8th for an informative experience.

Henry Nurse, Coordinator
Submitted by Joan Fulmer

GIFT OF HOPE PASTA FUNDRAISER

for
**Tavis Machan's
Intensive Therapy Autism Treatments**
at Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan

**JUNE 26, 2011
12:00 NOON—4:00 PM**

Fogolar Furlan Club
Donations Accepted

Tickets:
Adults - \$20
Children (4 - 12) - \$7
Children 3 & under - Free

Mark a calendar now for next year!
Why would you do that?

Banwell's 10th Anniversary Celebration

Our own Banwell Family Birthday
Party Weekend!

January 21st and 22nd, 2012

Save this date for a great weekend!

Speaker: Executive Minister for CBOQ,
Tim McCoy from Toronto.

We will be forming various committees to help us plan the weekend, from music, drama, food, programs, games, history, etc. so be prepared to come and enjoy, invite others and help us make this a memorable occasion.





WORSHIP NOTES

As we take a big sigh of relief after the busy Easter season, we enter the lovely month of May, anticipating some great times of worship with our Banwell church family. On May 1st we will continue to give thanks for the resurrection as the pastor will preach from one of the great Old Testament passages concerning the Messiah. We will enjoy two different voices from the pulpit during the next two Sundays in the persons of Wendell Phipps and the Rev. Doug Anderson, who will fill the pulpit during our pastor's spring vacation. We will close out the month with the pastor beginning a new message series entitled, "Christian Faith in an Information Age." As always, we are grateful for the participation of our musicians in worship, led by our Minister of Music Ian McGregor Smith. May the Lord continue to bless us as we gather together for worship!

DATE	MESSAGE TITLE
May 1st	"Mission Accomplished" (Isaiah 53:1-6)
May 8th	Guest Speaker, Mr. Wendell Phipps
May 15th	Guest Speaker, Rev. Doug Anderson
May 22nd	"Christian Faith in an Information Age...Part I" (Romans 1:11-17)
May 29th	"Christian Faith in an Information Age...Part II" (Romans 11:25-32)

FACES IN THE CROWD

- ◆ Congratulations are in order to **Rick and Melissa LaFontaine** upon the birth of their second child **Jacob Richard**; to **Evelyn Hadden** upon the occasion of her 90th birthday on April 4th; and to **Marcel, Mary Ann and Manal Morin** upon the occasion of their baptism during the March 27th worship service and to **Rob and Beth Adlam, Tim Ebel and Bruce Rand and Deborah Martel** as they witnessed to their faith in the same way on Palm Sunday, April 17th.
- ◆ Many thanks to **Hal and Ruth Herzog** for donating the microwave for our kitchenette and to **Vladimir Kralik** for the fine job he did in removing the wall in the youth room.
- ◆ Congratulations to **Bill Duttman and Robin Martin** who recently announced their engagement, with the wedding to come this July.
- ◆ Finally the sympathy of the congregation is extended to **the Dennis family** upon the passing of **Elaine** on March 18th; to **Jim and Janet Stefko** at the passing of Jim's father **Imrich**; and to **the Wheeler family** upon the passing of Norm's wife **Mina**.



PASTORAL CARE AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee has been very busy the last few months and we would like to share with you some of the items we have been working on.

- The Piano Fund: Our new piano is in place and now very much at home and part of our sanctuary worship. It is also being used for recitals and concerts increasing our outreach into the community. Many thanks are due to the dozens of donors who contributed to its purchase. Therefore we will close the separate fund and any other funds can be donated to the Memorial Fund.
- Nametag and Who Are We Campaign. Thanks one and all for cooperating on name tag Sundays and for all those who let us take your picture or handed in a photo to be used in an informal photo book of many of our congregation. It should be ready for you by the end of the month, maybe even earlier. Please take one and hopefully it will be a help to get to know each other better and remember each other in prayer during the week.
- We join with Rose in the campaign to get to know one another this summer and we encourage everyone to sign up and have some summer fun with other Banwell members.
- Pew Bibles: A budget item this year was passed to buy new Bibles for our pews so that we have two Bibles in good shape in each pew rack. We hope to have these by the end of June. As well, the committee has passed a motion that the nameplates that are requested to remember those who have passed away be placed in a Memorial Book in the foyer and not in the page in the pew Bibles.
- A statement on music at the Sunday Worship service is being written at this time and will be printed in the next newsletter. It is a joint effort between Ian our Music Minister, Alex our pastor and the entire PCW committee.
- The Pastoral Care Team, the group that keeps track of all of us and our spiritual needs, are looking for some more volunteers, especially men to help out. Please notify the pastor if you would like to serve in this way. If you need, or know someone else who needs these services, please inform the pastor or the office.
- We have indeed been blessed this past two months by two baptism services. How wonderful to hear the testimonies and see those who witness to their faith in this way. We will be welcoming many of them into our congregation in the next few months. God has indeed blessed us with these vibrant Christians in our church.



PASTORAL CARE AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT'D)

- Ignite; this is the name of the Youth led ministry held on the first Saturday evening of the month. Aaron Blata heads up a team of very hard working youth and young adults. They need help with different areas on that night and also they need your prayers as they reach out to the youth in our area. If you can help or just come out and support them it would be much appreciated.

Last year our pastor gave out a paper written by Michael Craven, the Founding Director of the Center for Christ & Culture. His quote is a good reminder of why we are doing what we are doing. 'We do not await the lost to come to us; we are sent to them and for this work, the Scriptures emphasize preparation. That is the work of the institutionalized church; the church exists for equipping the people of God for the mission of God, the administration of the sacraments, and ultimately the worship of the triune God by those who have experienced His saving grace.'

Please pray for Banwell this month!

Susan Holmes
Chair, Pastoral Care and Worship Committee

Easter Cantata in Review

This past month was a very busy one for the Music Ministry here at Banwell. The Banwell Singers and many of our musicians practiced for many hours, under the direction of our Minister of Music, Ian McGregor Smith in preparation for the Easter Cantata, "He's Alive", a Celebration of the Living Lord.

One of the lyrics that spoke to me was "I was so lost I should have died, but You have brought me to Your side to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God." What a great privilege to be one of His children! So undeserved, yet He loves us and chose us to be His children.

Another favourite was the second verse of "His Love is Alive":

Down from His throne on high, into our hearts He comes!
Servant, and sovereign Lord, God's own begotten Son!
Come with a childlike heart,
His Kingdom can be Yours!
He comes to turn the key to life's eternal door!

We were reminded through the music of the great sacrifice that Jesus' made for us in giving His life for us and providing a way for us to have eternal life with Him in heaven. Thank you Ian, and all you Banwell singers and musicians, for your hard work and dedication to make this musical such a success!

Debbie Ebel



WOMEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

On Saturday afternoon March 26th we had a very special day at Banwell. About forty women gathered and heard some challenging and heart rending stories.

First we heard from Debra Vidican about her medical work in Canada's Arctic with the Inuit and other First Nation's peoples. She opened our eyes and our hearts to the needs of the women in particular. We will continue to collect small size women's shoes for shipment to different settlements. She gave us a stunningly beautiful hand sewn banner from one of the settlements, which we will frame and hang up to remind us to pray and give as we can showing our care and concern for them.



Heather Mantle from Grace Baptist spoke to us about the work and the needs of Matthew Refugee House and she introduced us to two groups of recent immigrants to Canada. The first was the Karin from Thailand/Burma and they talked to us about coming to Canada, a place they had never even heard of. Then Celestinne told her story about coming from Africa and leaving behind most of her children. The Catholic Refugee Board in Windsor helped pay for their passage here and it must be paid back to them. They arrived here in December and they sang along with her. It was thrilling to hear them sing of Jesus' love.

Lastly, Gretchen Potma spoke to us about the women she comes in contact with in Prague Czech Republic where she and her husband Mark are involved in church planting. Atheism is still common there, the church is just in beginning stages. She then spoke to us of Ruth and Naomi and used their story to apply principles for our lives today.



It was a wonderful day, filled with information and stories of God's love around the world.

We hope to have more days like this in the near future and to keep in our prayers the needs and hopes of the women we met that day.

Wallie Pizzuti, Chair, Mission and Outreach

Susan Holmes, Chair, Pastoral Care and Worship



VIEW FROM THE PEW

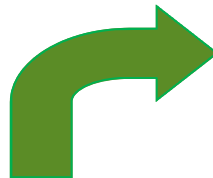
For a few weeks this Spring my heart just wasn't into the church services. I was hearing and seeing everything that was going on but it seemed as if the words were just bouncing off of me. I felt the love from people greeting me and continued to love hearing and singing the music and was able to listen intently to the sermons, but for some reason, I felt un-touched and un-moved. I wasn't feeling sick or depressed, just...not there.

Then one Sunday after singing the song '*...now is the time to give your heart*' and listening to Alex's words '*open yourself to God*' I realized that the problem was my attitude. I wasn't open to letting the words in. I'm a smart girl – sometimes – so I knew my negative feelings wouldn't last, but I was interested in examining the 'why'. I came to the conclusion that I was just reluctant to come back to cold weather, routine and reality after spending almost three weeks in the sunny South – I think my heart was still listening to the waves pounding on the shore and I didn't want to let that go.

I also got to thinking that my attitude may be shared by other people who dwell on external circumstances when sitting in the pew. Perhaps what they are conveying with their outward appearance is opposed to what is inside. If they aren't open to the Word or letting the love and music seep into their souls, they will leave the church building without encouragement and strength for the coming week. Maybe that is why some people don't come back. We, as a church family, can't do anything about their attitude but perhaps we can let them know that they are loved and missed by a phone call or by sending a note.

Now that the April showers have come and gone and God's world is in full colour, I'm back – heart and soul.

And that is my view,
Zelma Horvath



VBS 2011



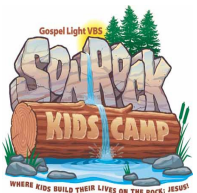
Mark your calendars for
Vacation Bible School
July 11th - July 15th.
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Registration forms are
now available!**

VBS VOLUNTEERS!

*Please attend one of these
training sessions!*

- May 19th, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 p.m.
- June 21st, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- July 8th, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



At SonRock Kids Camp your kids will experience an adventure camp like no other! There will be singing, skits, crafts and games, but most importantly, the children will learn how their lives can be transformed by God's great love for them.

We're looking forward to sharing this exciting event with the children and parents in our neighbourhood. We would like you to help us invite them to join us at SonRock Kids Camp.



MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

April has been a very busy month for the Mission & Outreach folks!

Our involvement with the Downtown Mission saw Roxanne Marques participating in the annual Riverwalk and was able to raise \$200 - thanks to those who contributed – we'll update you on total money raised when available. Roxanne also led a group of volunteers to serve the first of two 2011 BCC sponsored luncheons at the Mission – and we thank them for their time and efforts! If you'd like to participate in the next one in October, please let us know.

Dave Wickham and his band of merry men and women were off to Leamington to the annual Canning project – always a good way to serve, but also lots of fun and food!! Thanks to all those who participated or contributed donations.

Danny Blata will be reporting on his trip to Nicaragua at an upcoming date tba. Thanks for your support, both financially and in prayers. More info next month on his brother Aaron's summer trip to Eastern Europe. How wonderful to see our young people so involved in mission.

Our outreach ministries to the Nursing Homes continue – Thursday May 12th at Heron Terrace and Sunday May 15th at Villages of Aspen Lake. If you would like to come and join in fellowship with the residents or assist with the services, please let us know.

The ESL English Cafes continue at the First Baptist location and will be held Tuesday May 3rd and May 17th with further dates tba.

Both Men's and Women's ministries have separate reports – we look forward to upcoming events.

Watch your weekly bulletin for more and updated information. If you would like to be involved or participate in any way in M&O please contact the church office.

In His love and service,
Wallie Pizzuti, Chair Mission & Outreach

To Pastor Alex and my dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have missed you all and my prayers were with you. A big thank you for your kindness in prayers, cards and phone calls. It was greatly appreciated.

*In Christ's love,
Elaine Lonsdale*





DANIEL BLATA VISITS NICARAGUA

First, I'd like to thank you for all your prayers and support. I am very appreciative for what you have done for me and our team. The bus ride to our site was quite the eye opener. We saw the poverty as we drove through the capital city of Managua. We arrived at our site, Centro ABEM, after a one hour drive from the airport. On a side note, each day was around 30 degrees Celsius, and felt like at least 35! We ate lunch at the site and experienced our first culture shock—rice and beans were on the menu (gallo pinto). Not just that day, but for breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day for the next week and a half. We met the other half of the Woughter's family, the missionaries we were going to be working with. We were told we were to put on a "Survivor" camp on the Saturday and Sunday for 54 kids! During the camp, the kids had different challenges, including killing a chicken for their dinner and roasting it on the fire! The kids did it all by themselves, for this is part of their everyday life!

The Monday morning was spent cleaning up and the afternoon was spent at the Compassion International site where we worked with a pastor and a young new pastor to be who is planting his church. This was one of the my favourite days, working with the Compassion kids, seeing the smiles on their faces. They were happy, regardless of their situation.

Tuesday we visited a Blacksmith, another missionary from America who is teaching Nicaraguans the trade so that they will be able to sustain themselves and run the shop by themselves, quite soon actually! The evening was spent zip lining over an extinct volcanic crater (1.2 km long)! This was also another highlight! Wednesday was spent at the market (nothing better than bartering) and visiting other volcanoes! God really spoke to me through His wonderful creation. It was so beautiful!

The next two days were spent doing hard work! We cleared out a field full of shrubs and trees, down to bare grass. Using machetes sure was great! The site we cleared will either become a park or the future site of the church the young pastor (Pastor Bismarck) wants to begin. Pastor Bismarck had already been working 2 years trying to gain favour with the community leaders and plant a church in the area.

Sunday we went to church at Nicaragua Christian Academy, where many missionaries gathered for an English service.

The best part of the trip was the spiritual times we encountered with classmates and leaders. God worked in us to reach others and even our own team members.

This is only a brief description of the trip, for I have many more stories to share if you are interested! I will be doing a presentation in the future which will have many more details and stories!

Thank you once again!

In Christ,
Daniel Blata



MONDAY

New Study

Small Group led by Rose Litwin & Aimee Seguin

Meets the 1 & 3 Monday of each month at Rose's place
Studying: "The Truth Project"
by Focus on the Family

The Truth Project is a DVD-based small group comprised of 12 video and discussion lessons, taught by Dr. Del Tackett. This study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

Men's Group led by Jim Wheeler

Meets at Jim's Place the 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month at 7 p.m.
Studying: "The Unshakable Truth" by Josh and Sean McDowell.

Using Scripture and practical examples, the McDowell's reveal 12 critical essentials to living out the Christian faith. They establish a relational apologetic for today's generation! This is a comprehensive handbook on what Christians believe.

Bible Study led by Doug Anderson

Meets Monday nights at the Bodlack home @ 7:00PM
Studying the Gospel of Mark

The 7 Laws of the Learner, May 17th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Join us for the "Law of Equipping". Sign up today! For more info, see Rose Litwin.

TUESDAY

New Study

Bible Study led by Laura Ferguson

Tuesday Mornings at 9:30 AM
In 8 weeks this study will bring new understanding to the events of Jesus' final week of life—Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the trial, Jesus' death and his resurrection. These are foundational to our Christian lives and to our salvation.

WEDNESDAY

**"Early Bird Group"
(facilitated by the Pastor)**

Wednesday Mornings at 7:00 AM
Meets at the church in the Fireside Room
Studying: "The Lies We Believe" by Dr. Chris Thurman

In this study, Dr. Chris Thurman helps you understand what lies you are believing, how they are damaging your life, and what to do about them.

Small Group led by John Goodwin

Wednesday Evenings at the Wilcox's Home @ 7:00 PM
Continuing a study on the Gospel of John

Small Group led by Wallie Pizzuti

Wednesday Evenings at the church in Room 6 @ 7:00 PM
Continuing a Study in the Book of Acts

Claude Daniels' Group

Meets Wednesday Evenings at the church in the Chapel at 7:00 PM
Studying the Gospel of Matthew



Zehrs Tapes = Hockey

My grandsons have played soccer from the time they were able to walk so it was a given that they would be registered in a league when they became-of-age. When two of the four showed an interest in hockey, the cost of playing both was out of the question. Then along came Knobby's Kids.

This free hockey program was started by three Windsor men in 2006 who believe "Kids in Sports Stay out of Courts". Geared to boys and girls between the ages of 4-15, these kids can show up every Saturday morning at the outdoor-arena at Lanspeary Park on Ottawa Street and play hockey. The ice rental (\$3,000), insurance (\$2,500) and equipment needed for every child (uncalculated) is provided by various community groups. In the first year, 20 kids showed up and this past year, at times there were 170. During 2010-2011, and on some of the coldest days of the year, the average attendance was 110 – 37 of those kids had perfect attendance. Hockey starts the end of November and usually ends a few weeks before March break.



The time of skating is split between drills and playing the game and the organizers and volunteers say the aim is to help kids improve their skills in a pressure-free environment where everyone gets an equal share of ice-time. The younger, novice skaters have the ice from 8-9 a.m. and the more advanced skaters go on the ice from 9-10 a.m. My husband has been involved since the onset, working the 'gate' and making sure the right amount of kids are on the ice. I watch, take pictures, drink hot chocolate and eat Timbits (all donated for kids and parents) so that is why I know what an excellent program this is!

You are benefitting these kids too. Since the church is no longer able to redeem Zehr tapes to be used for our different groups within Banwell and, with the Down Town Mission and Matthew House not falling under any of Zehrs 'allowed' headings such as 'Greening Our City' and 'Active Kids', the decision was made to use your tapes to support this hockey program.

Speaking of which...some kind soul has been saving tapes since 2006 and these tapes, along with what you bring into the church, have added up to \$445,993.14. Since \$450 in Zehrs tapes equals \$1.00, this organization will (should) receive a cheque for \$991.09. A lot of kids will benefit.

Jerry Slavik, one of the three founding-fathers, has this to say to you "***since we do no fund-raising, we rely on people like yourselves to help defer these costs. We certainly feel what your group has accomplished is tremendous and you can be sure the money will be put to good use***".

And it goes without saying...keep those tapes coming in.

Zelma Horvath



LIBRARY NEWS

We have added many new books by your favourite authors such as Terry Blackstock, Karen Kingsbury, Jerry Jenkins and others, 2 Veggie Tales DVD's and 1 adult DVD.

Also, we would like to welcome Nancy Pavlovich to our team of library volunteers. I'm sure she will enjoy it as she gets to meet new people.

BOOK REVIEWS

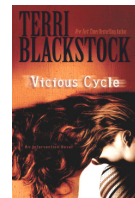
INTERVENTION Terry Blackstock

Barbara Covington tries to save her daughter Emily from drug addiction. Detective Kent Harlan wants to arrest Emily for a crime he thinks she committed, but as he gets to know the family and begins to have feelings for Barbara, he hopes he is wrong. In the meantime, Emily has disappeared.



VICIOUS CYCLE Terry Blackstock

Barbara's problems continue in the sequel to Intervention. This time, her son is accused of kidnapping a baby who was placed in his car by it's addict mother to protect it from the buyers of a baby trafficking ring. A harrowing insight into human trafficking.



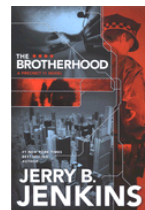
HEAVEN IS FOR REAL Todd Burpo

A MUST READ...An amazing story about a 4 yr. old boy who went to Heaven during a surgery that he wasn't supposed to survive. He tells his pastor Dad what God, Jesus and the angels look like. Also about meeting long dead family members. He tells his Dad that God is really, really big.



THE BROTHERHOOD Jerry Jenkins




Chicago P.D. rookie Boone Drake has it all, a beautiful wife and son. He is rising through the ranks when everything goes horribly wrong and his family is killed in a house fire. He becomes angry and bitter with God and his life spins out of control until he realizes that God is a God of second chances.




Maureen and Library Team



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

1. All outside locks have been changed to a non-reproducible key. 
2. Parking lot lights are being repaired to have all parking lights working at the correct time.
3. If you have not seen the youth room take a look. We have opened up 2 rooms to give this growing group more space.
4. Sanctuary lights are still a problem and may necessitate a fixture change to keep bulbs from heating up and burning out. One week after replacing all the lights, 9 lights were burnt out!! 
5. The vacant property from the back of our building to the tracks will be cut this year on a regular basis.
6. We are still proceeding with our search for a church custodian and expect to have a short list to the Board of Directors by the end of April.
7. Jim Wheeler would appreciate assistance in caring for the Island gardens. If you are interested in helping, please let Jim know.
8. Black bug problem is being dealt with by our pest control company. 

DID YOU KNOW...

- The students of Butler Piano Studio used our Sanctuary for a concert on April 15th. Proceeds from the event went to the Windsor Kiwanis Music Festival Scholarship Funds. Once again Banwell Community Church was pleased to make our facility available for non-profit community use. 
- Our building will be used once again as a Polling Station for the Federal Election on Monday, May 2nd.



Child Care Workers Schedule For May 2011

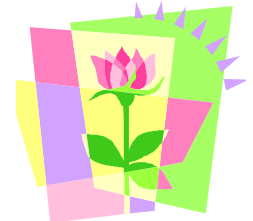
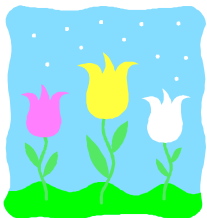
Date	Infant	Toddler	Little Lambs	Children's Church
May 1	Marlene Wray Heather Doyle	Kim Stevenson Jaclyn Stevenson	Carol Middaugh Meryl Lynn	Danijela Kralik Emily Lemmon Rose Litwin Kodi Page
May 8	Ellen Doyle Monica Small	Gord Wickham Max Rolle	Carol Sipila Jackie Stevenson	Sue Ferguson Marjorie Rusling Rose Litwin Tim Ebel
May 15	Heather Heuston Nancy Hannah	Deborah Martel Hailey Beemer	Gayle Marsh Taylor Cabana	Bonnie Hammond David Ferrato Terri Prevett Tim Ebel
May 22	Helen Fontaine Lilian Wilson	Kathy Freeman Emily Andrews	Patty Moroz Karimeh Haddad	Tracy Beemer Amy Lemmon Rose Litwin Beth Gellner
May 29	Christa Braccio Aimee Seguin	Kyrn Page Beatriz Guzman	Laurie Beemer Hailey Beemer	Sue Ferguson Marjorie Rusling Terri Prevett Tim Ebel

EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Easter Extravaganza this year.

We had over 50 children participate. Many of their parents joined us for the Sunday Easter service.

Despite the weather being rainy, everyone worked together to ensure the children still had their Easter Egg Hunt.





Children's Coloring Page





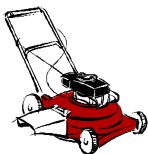
MY BACK PAGES

My, but spring is emerging slowly this year! As I look out my window today, the grass is green and really needs to be mowed ... but the cold steady rain prevents me from getting at it. Though the buds have come out on the lilac bush and the Robins are hopping about, anything having to do with the outdoors seems a day or so off, at best.

Yet, I look at the calendar and realize that I shouldn't be lulled into a false sense of security. It's getting a little late in the process and we should all realize that all this could change in a day or too. As is often the case in our part of the world, we sometimes skip over the transitional seasons of spring and fall right into summer or winter. "If you snooze, you lose" the old saying goes. In spite of the cold rainy weather, the growing season is fast approaching. We'd better all be ready.

So it is with the life of the spirit, as we head into the less busy part of the church year. Beginning in May our schedules begin to change and the two major seasons of the Christian year, Christmas and Easter, have come and gone again. Though Pentecost is the other important event for Christians, it simply doesn't demand the same attention as do the other two. Though exhausted, I'm sometimes a little wistful Easter Sunday afternoon, hopeful that the opportunity we've had to present God's word through both Easter and Christmas will bear good fruit.

But here's an important thing to consider ... God's spirit continues to work, no matter what the season. We believe that God loves humankind so much that the Holy Spirit is constantly "out there" seeking those who need to surrender their lives to Him. Jesus tells the story, recorded in the gospels, about the delayed wedding party and the guests who were ready when they finally arrived. It's a good lesson for us ... that we need to be prepared to "give a reason for the hope that is within us". In fact, it ought to be our main job as followers of Jesus ... always being watchful for those who may be on the verge of considering entering into partnership with God and to give them any encouragement they may need.



About three weeks ago I took my lawn mower blade into our local hardware store to be sharpened. I knew I was a bit early ... and the looks I got from the staff indicated such! But now I'm ready for that first little bit of warm weather, when the foliage will burst forth and the grass needs to be cut. So, also, let us be ready for God's spirit to warm up the hearts of those who need him so desperately. We serve a God for all seasons!

Devotedly your pastor ... Alex

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