

I'VE BEEN THINKING...

After a happy adventure visiting our daughter who teaches in England, Nancy & I are realizing how blessed we are. So I've been considering a special year-end gift to **God's work through this church. I'm hoping** that you will consider this too.

Wellington Square has had an impressively good year, in so many ways.

Here's a short list of 'celebrations':

Worship has been enhanced by our two music directors, Tim & Juanita. New people are joining at both 9 & 11a.m. Even though we are losing the generation of faithful members who made Wellington Square strong, our attendance has remained steady. (Since Thanksgiving, about 425 on an average Sunday)

The Friday Night Community is winning recognition and awards not only for the **great meal, but also for it's expanding programs of clothing, mental health training, children's school lunches, community development and more.**

GraceLand 'was recognized in 'The *Observer*' magazine as the largest, best 'Sunday School' in the United Church of Canada.

(Continued on back page)



Prepare & Respond

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation,..."

Luke 2:29&30

welcome!

We're glad you're here today. We're a group of people learning what it means to be followers of Jesus. This is a place where **everyone is welcome, nobody's perfect, and** anything is possible. We welcome and encourage you to share your life with us as we journey in faith together.

What can you expect on a Sunday morning? Our worship services aim to be about 70 minutes long, with a mix of praise singing & prayer, and a time of inspiration and learning through the teaching that explores scripture, and issues of everyday life.

We believe that by working together, sharing our faith and our lives, we can accomplish much more than we could individually. **With God's help and the power of** the Holy Spirit, we believe we can transform our community and our world as the hands and feet of Jesus on earth.

If you're ready for us to get to know you, please fill out a "Welcome" card from the pew and bring it to the Connection Point in the foyer after the service. We hope you too will find a place of belonging here, and share your life and faith journey with us.

happenings

New to our church? We would like to get to know you | We invite you to fill out a Welcome Card which is in the pews. Please leave it in the box marked Connect/Reconnect at the exits at the front and back of the sanctuary.

One Service @ 10am on these dates:
Sunday December 24
Sunday December 31

Christmas Hours | The church will be closed on the following dates:
Monday December 25
Tuesday December 26
Monday January 1st

Goodbye and thank you Randy! On behalf of the Board, the M&P team are saying farewell to Randy - with many thanks for being our "jack of all trades", always eager to step in where needed whether it was quick room set-ups and turnarounds or peeling carrots on a Friday night, Randy has helped us out in so many ways, and we wish him well in all his steps forward! Blessings to you Randy - with our gratitude for your service to us!

Nut-Free Scent-Free | Please note that at Wellington Square we do our best to be a nut-free and scent-free safe space for everyone. Thank you for your contributions to this effort.

Bulletin Submissions for December | for Sunday Dec 24th and 31st please send to the office by Tues Dec 19th at 10am.

happenings cont.

Go tell it on the Mountain...that Jesus Christ is Born!

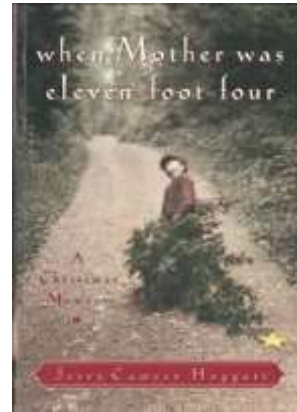


Thanks all for sharing ways we can spread Good News to others! We will post everyone's ideas soon!

Givings Envelopes | Envelopes for 2018 are now available for pickup in the foyer on Sunday, or from the office during the week. *Please destroy any of your unused envelopes at the end of 2017 as your number may have changed from the prior year.*

Offerings for 2017 must be received by Sunday December 31st in order to be included in your 2017 tax receipt.

Mitten Tree | is outside the office. We welcome any donations of mittens/gloves, hats and socks.



WHEN MOTHER WAS ELEVEN -FOOT-FOUR, A Christmas Memoir by Jerry Camery-Hoggatt.

What do you do when your father doesn't believe in giving Christmas gifts at all? He says, **"Christmas is too commercialized and the pagans have taken the real meaning of Christmas out of the holidays."** **But your mother** loves to celebrate Christmas with a flourish; she brings out all the hand- made ornaments made by children through the years. She would have to draw her 4 Ft 11 inch frame up to its **"full height"**. **Relive the joy of cherished** memories through the good years and the bad when a child learned the true meaning of giving.

finance

Wellington Square Finance Update
Eleven Months ending November 30, 2017

	Actual	Budget
Givings and other income	\$ 628,131	\$ 681,729
Expenses	<u>670,969</u>	<u>681,729</u>
Net deficit	<u>\$ (42,838)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>



Joseph Brant Hospital Mental Health Consumer Advisory Committee

Presented in Partnership
with:

Friday night
Community

Friday January 5, 2018
Friday Night Speakers Series

Phoenix Program:

Early Intervention in Psychosis

Presented by:

Bilal Sabra and Joanne McKinley

Joseph Brant Hospital

FRIDAY JANUARY 5, 2018
PRITCHARD ROOM, WELLINGTON SQ. UNITED CHURCH
2121 CAROLINE STREET, BURLINGTON
Speaker at 7:15PM to 8:30PM
Dinner @ 6pm All Welcome

Sponsored by:

Friday night
Community



**JOSEPH BRANT
HOSPITAL**
Mental Health Consumer
Advisory Committee

Lessons & Carols



*Our special guest is
Hungarian Soprano
Erzsebet Almassy*



Sunday December 17, 2017

4pm at Wellington Square

Cider and Cookies for all!



Celebrating
THE BIRTH OF
Christ

Join us for Worship

December 3

9 and 11am Communion Services

*December 10th at 10am and
2pm for the Handbell Concert*

*December 17th at 9 and 11am and
at 4pm for Lessons and Carols*

December 24th at 10am

December 31st at 10am

Christmas Eve Services

*4:30pm Fun, Interactive service for kids and
their families*

6:00pm Worship with the Band

8:00pm Worship with the Sanctuary Choir

10:00pm Candlelight and Communion



ALL YOUTH -Carol Singing @ Aldershot Residence -540 Plains Road East (Gr. 7-12)

Sunday (Today!) Dec 17 2:30-4:30pm

Come on out this afternoon as we sing carols for our friends at Aldershot Residence! It will be a great chance to reach out to those who may not get many visitors around this time of year. We will meet and get picked up at the retirement home on Plains Road. No musical talent required as our friends Tim Watson and Hannah Mackey will help lead us in singing!!

ALL YOUTH - Christmas Eve 4:30 Service Prep and Rehearsal (Gr. 7-12)

Sunday Dec 24 12-5:30pm

Come on out in advance of our family service on Christmas eve to help get things ready! We'll share lunch and treats together rehearse our awesome skit, and prepare props and costumes.

If you haven't already signed up or didn't attend our practice two weeks ago you are STILL encouraged to come out there's lots of spots and opportunities to take part on this day before our service begins! A BIG thanks to Heather Mackey for leading us in this service!

Adam Cresswell our Interim Youth Ministry Director holds for office hours by appointment Tuesdays 3-5pm. Feel free to send him an e-mail if you'd like to meet: acresswell@wsquare.ca



GraceLand - a place full of God's grace...where children learn the love of Jesus and how to shine His light everyday. Sundays at 9am for Nursery to Gr. 6

Participant Forms are required every year for children and youth to ensure safety for all. 2017/18 forms have been mailed to each family to complete and return to our GraceLand Reception Area.

GraceLand Advent Activity Bags are available for pickup. They include an Advent calendar, activities to do each day, glue stick and candy cane during the season of Advent. If you have not received a bag, please ask **your child's GraceLand Leader for one.**

Christmas Themes:

Dec 17: Jesus warms my Heart

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services (10am, 4:30pm, 6pm, 8pm 10pm)

Dec 31: The Little Drummer Boy (Movie and Activities) (10am)

Our GraceLand Band leads our children in worship every Sunday. Thank you for spreading JOY through song!!





"Better Together"

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them"

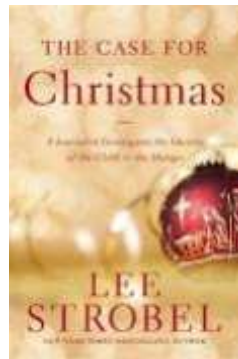
Matthew 18:20

Vision | to have every person in a healthy small group.

Mission | To live out the GREAT COMMANDMENT (Matt. 22: 37-39) and the GREAT COMMISSION (Matt. 28: 19-20).

NOW AVAILABLE: **"THE CASE FOR CHRISTMAS"** by Lee

Strobel. A wonderful little book that investigates the facts behind Luke 2:8-18. Copies available at the CONNECTION TABLE. If able, please contribute a loonie or a toonie to help cover the cost.



NEW TO OUR CHURCH:

We encourage you to fill out our WELCOME CARD that is in the pews. Please leave it in the CONNECT/RECONNECT box located at each entrance to our sanctuary or bring it to our CONNECTION POINT table after worship service. As a THANK-YOU, we would like you to **receive the little book by Andy Stanley "How Good is Good Enough?"**

FLOWER SMALL GROUP: THANK YOU to Carol Couse & her team (Rene Kraus, Ruth Couldrey, Judy Sovran, Barb Hurst, Carol Braley) for beautifying God's Sanctuary for this HOLY SEASON! It truly does MAGNIFY HIS GREAT NAME!!! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

THURSDAY AT 7: *New Series* Advent Conspiracy - "Can Christmas Still Change The World". Book and DVD study starting Nov 30th. Please contact Bruce for more information. bmagwood@TORRLANE.ca

...Jesus Calling devotional is now available again at the Connection Point Table (\$11).

ADVENT CONSPIRACY -

I would like to thank those who made the commitment to attend our small group study for ADVENT & a very special thank-you to Gary & Alison Brown, Dee Glover & Ana Walber for facilitating. From this study, we are reminded, Christmas can still change the world. My prayer for us all this Christmas is that we all try to:



- WORSHIP FULLY - BECAUSE CHRISTMAS BEGINS & ENDS WITH JESUS
- SPEND LESS - AND FREE RESOURCES FOR THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER
- GIVE MORE - OF OUR PRESENCE: OUR HANDS, OUR WORDS, OUR TIME, OUR HEARTS
- LOVE ALL - THE POOR, THE FORGOTTEN, THE MARGINALIZED, THE SICK, IN WAYS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Christmas Blessings, Joy

Dot Gow: Our next meeting will be Thursday January 4th, 9am-2pm in the Pritchard Rm.

Monday Men: Our next meeting will be Monday January 8th, 11:30am in the McMillan Rm.

JOYFUL SPIRITS: We will resume our study **"THE RED LETTERS"** (The words of JESUS for today's world) on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 7pm in the Pritchard Rm.



I love how God continues to provide. During our clean up a gentleman came in the doors with his coat on and asked if he could speak to me. He wanted to donate his grocery points **and since he couldn't transfer the points he** asked what kind of items we were needing. I suggested snacks of apple sauce, fruit cups and pudding for the school lunch program, as we require over 600 snacks each week to assist 60 school aged children. He then asked what time we would be there until, and proceeded to leave and come back a while later with a trunk full of snacks. He unloaded them, filled our cupboard and let one of our volunteers know that he would be back in a **couple of weeks with the rest. We don't have a** way to contact and thank this friend, but we are so blessed by his generosity that will in return benefit so many children and their parents and guardians.

We are once again collecting unopened boxes of candy, chocolates and cookies to use at our **New Year's raffle on Dec. 29th. Our hope is** that every person will go home with a special gift. Please spread the word to your families, schools, and work places.

Most Needed Items:

- *candy canes/holiday candy for Christmas
- *decaf coffee
- *hotel sized shampoo, body wash, etc.
- *snacks for children's lunch bags**
- *yogurt and sour cream sized containers
- *salad bar toppings (beets, olives, pickles..)
- *gently used, clean larger winter coats
- *gently used winter boots, hats & gloves
- *tool kits for new families

For information contact: fnc@wsquare.ca



Thank you much for your generous donations to our Reaching Out initiatives, both during Christmas Joy and through your weekly givings. We hope that you will have the opportunity to read our December newsletter for updates on our recent mission trip to Mexico, the immigration project in Malawi, sponsorship of orphans in Sierra Leone, our contributions to alleviating hunger through Canadian Food Grains Bank and how our "Dot Gow" dolls are used at McMaster's Children's Hospital.

The success of our Angel Wings program for 2017 means that many families and teens in Burlington will have a much more enjoyable Christmas. Again, thank you.

905-634-1849

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2121 Caroline St, Burlington ON L7R 1L7
Office Hours: Mon to Wed 9am-4pm,
Thurs 10am-3pm, Fri 10am-2pm



Ministerial Team

Rev. Dr. Orville James (ext. 19)
ojames@wsquare.ca

Rev. Katie Southon (ext. 14)
ksouthon@wsquare.ca

Rev. Tom Chire (*Voluntary*)

Children/Family Ministry (GraceLand)

Heather Mackey (ext. 21)
hmackey@wsquare.ca

Youth Ministry

Adam Cresswell (ext. 11)
acresswell@wsquare.ca

Adult Faith Ministry

Joy Magwood (ext. 23)
jmagwood@wsquare.ca

Music Ministry at 9am

Tim Watson (ext. 10)
twatson@wsquare.ca

Music Ministry at 11am

Juanita Maldonado (ext. 20)
jmaldonado@wsquare.ca

Friday Night Community Coordinator

Lisa Lunski (ext. 0) *llunski@wsquare.ca*

Outreach Missions Coordinator

Karen Guyatt (ext. 0) *kguyatt@wsquare.ca*

Finance

Karen Dobson (ext. 16) in Wednesdays
treasurer@wsquare.ca

Administration

Catherine Wagg (ext. 15)
cwagg@wsquare.ca

Jennifer Erbiceanu (ext.10)
office@wsquare.ca

Custodian Team

Randy Taylor (ext. 12) / Raul Gutierrez

(Continued from front page)

Our facilities are healthy and well maintained. Complete replacement and overhaul of the 52 year old furnace and heating system; Air Conditioning installed in the **sanctuary**. A **'community garden'** developed on the back lawn.

Mission & Outreach projects continue to evolve and expand, in so many ways, both locally, and offshore.

God's work is being done, and done well here. And I pray it will continue, without cutbacks. Because congregational givings have not kept up with the outstanding mission & ministry being done.

So I'm asking for your unique support. Someone said, "let our giving reflect the houses & cottages we own, the cars we drive, and the vacation trips we take..." Exactly. So Nancy & I (*just back from our trip*) are **'in'** for an extra gift.

And last week someone came into the church office with a cheque for 4-figures; the donor has felt the importance of this faith community, and gave with a grateful heart.

I'm hoping before the end of the year, you also can consider something you might not have thought of. Each of us are at different stages of our faith life and our giving.

Wherever you're at, Thank You - for your presence here, and for your faithful **support to God's work in this place.**
Grace & Peace to you, and yours...

With my gratitude and love - ORV