

I'VE BEEN THINKING...

...about what makes spirituality and religion interesting and helpful. So many times it can seem boring or irrelevant. Some of the best religious communicators have been forced to work through this.

Today's sermon is an example of that. I can assure you that I usually write my own sermons; but today's' comes from Frederick Buechner, a minister from Vermont who has inspired many preachers (including me). He started out as a chaplain\teacher at Phillips Exeter Academy in 1960, and from the beginning he was up against a tough audience.

"Exeter was for only boys in those days – and most of the ones who came to hear me did so only because it was a school requirement. Left to themselves, they would have stayed in bed.

They dismissed all sermons as hogwash even before the preacher started preaching them, they slouched in their pews and stared up at the ceiling, yet every once in a while you could tell they were listening in spite of themselves.

I had a strong suspicion that once they left Exeter, most of my captive listeners would never be caught dead in church again, and that gave me a strong sense of urgency about what I was doing. It might be the last time anybody would try to persuade them

wellington
square



January 1, 2017

The Face in the Sky

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father."

--John 1:1,14

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 "Connect" 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 | Please fill out a connection card in the pews and bring it to the Connection Point Table in the foyer, or hand it to one of the greeters.

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.

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

Givings Envelopes | Envelopes for 2017 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 2016 as your number may have changed from the prior year.*

Joseph Brant Hospital Mental Health Consumer Advisory Committee

Presented in Partnership
with:

Friday Comm. 14117

Friday January 13, 2017
Friday Night Speakers Series

*CMHA and Behavioural Supports Ontario
Providing Information and Access for Older Adults
Families and Caregivers*

BSO Connect 1-800-810-0000

*Information and referral service for Older Adults with cognitive
impairment due to mental health, addictions, dementia, or
other neurological conditions exhibiting challenging behaviours.*

FRIDAY January 13, 2016

**PRITCHARD ROOM, WELLINGTON SQ. UNITED CHURCH
2121 CAROLINE STREET, BURLINGTON**

Speaker at 7PM to 8:30PM

Dinner @ 6pm All Welcome

Sponsored by:

Friday Comm. 14117



**JOSEPH BRANT
HOSPITAL
Consumers Advisory
Committee**



"Making Rows into Circles"

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

Matthew 18:20

Vision | to grow a prosperous, vibrant ministry together that glorifies God and equips His people to live out the great commandment and the great commission.

Mission | to create a loving, kind atmosphere **where God's people are cared for** and the marks of discipleship are lived out.

Alpha: Save the dates!!!

Saturday Mornings Jan 14 - Feb 28,
8:30 - 11:45 am

Everyone has questions about the Christian Faith!

Alpha gives you a platform to ask, learn, fellowship, eat, and laugh in a safe and welcoming small group environment!!!

New series!!! Excellent teaching!!!

Sign up in the coming weeks, beginning today!

Invite your family, friends, neighbours!

Contact: fgray@wsquare.ca

ADVENT STUDY: BECAUSE of BETHLEHEM - LOVE IS BORN! HOPE IS HERE! Thank you to all those who took the **time to attend our Advent Study "BECAUSE of BETHLEHEM". A special thank-you** also to Katie, Orville & Spencer for co-facilitating this study. **Trusting that God's presence touched you during this study & may His presence be**

evident in our lives! May we strive to live in an **"IMMANUEL" world! Christmas Blessings** to you all. Joy

Dot Gow | Our first meeting for 2017 will be Thursday January 5th, 9:30am-2pm in the Pritchard Room.

Monday Men | Lunch and discussion on topics that influence Christianity. Mondays 12noon-1:30@WS Contact: Ross Patterson rosspat@wsquare.ca

Thursday at Seven | *New Series*, Advent Study - Because of Bethlehem by Max Lucado, book and DVD series for four weeks. Please contact Bruce: bmagwood@TORRLANE.ca

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

Small Groups | If you would like to start a small group or have an idea for a small group, please contact Joy. jmagwood@wsquare.ca

Joyful Spirits | Our next gathering will be Thursday, January 19, 2017 in the Pritchard **Room at 7:00pm. Session #3 "Fearless" of the Andy Stanley Study.** Contact: Joy Magwood jmagwood@wsquare.ca

For a complete listing of small groups this winter, see the brochure in the foyer or go to www.wsquare.ca



KETTLE'S ON
2nd Monday of the month
drop in 1:30-3:00pm
(September-May)

*All
Welcome*



Friday Community

We are thankful for the Friday Night Community Ministry and the ongoing support from Wellington Square and beyond. What a blessing it was to share our Christmas celebration dinner of turkey and all of the fixings with so many friends in our community. The children's stockings were a help to many, and the Tim Horton's gift cards and chocolates/candy donations were a lovely gift to our friends. Many of our younger friends **were thrilled to have a visit from 'Santa Dee'**. Many adults and children have received warm outerwear, and we continue to need all sizes of gently used/clean winter boots, coats, snow pants, and water resistant gloves and mittens.

Please spread the word that we are in need **of snacks for the children's lunch program**. With your continued help we are able to provide every school aged child with 10 snacks and 5 juice boxes to top up their lunches. In order to assist 50 children each week we require 500 individually packaged peanut free snacks.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

For information contact: fnc@wsquare.ca



GraceLand provides a FUN, SAFE and FRIENDLY place where we learn about God's love and how to shine His light everyday. Nursery to Grade 8.
Sunday's at 9am.

January Themes:

Jan 1 - **Children's programming will be** available at the one 10 am service

The Ten Commandments Series:

Jan 8 - Worship one God, Do not worship idols

Jan 15 - Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God

Jan 22 - Keep the Sabbath day holy

Jan 29 - Honour your mother and Father

February Themes:

The Ten Commandments continued

A Friendly Reminder....

We are still needing some 2016/17 participant forms for your children. These are required each year in order to ensure safety for all. Thank you.

Sign-in/our procedures: It is important for children to be signed-in and out. This is necessary in order to promote safety for all.



Happy New Year!

2017 is here! For the youth ministry at Wellington Square, this means regular opportunities for service, fun outings, a summer youth conference, and much more. Also, we will be offering Confirmation for any youth interested in exploring and enriching their faith.

Website and Facebook

Please visit the youth ministry page on our website (www.wsquare.ca/youth) to see **updates about what's happening for young people (Grades 7 - 12)**. You will also find links there to join our Facebook groups for where we post reminders for upcoming events (and much more in the weeks and months to come).

Final Survey Reminder

There is an online survey for families with youth (Grades 7 -12) to complete that will help us develop our schedule for the New Year. Please take a few minutes to give us your feedback.

You'll find the links to the surveys on our website and in the Facebook groups, or ask me to email them to you.

If you have questions, or would just like to **connect, please contact me. I'd love to hear from you!**

Spence

finance

Wellington Square Finance Update
Ten Months ending November 30, 2016

	Actual	Budget
Giving and other income	\$ 611,901	\$ 592,500
Expenses	624,643	592,056
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Net deficit	\$ (12,742)	\$ 444
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2016 Offerings will be received until Sunday January 8th. Please ensure that your offering is dated no later than December 31, 2016 or it will be included in your 2017 offerings.

From the BOARD and Trustees

The renovation and expansion of our building, done six years ago, has been a great benefit.

The 'gathering area', The Pritchard

Room, Geo-thermal heating and cooling, state of the art sound, lights & video, accessibility ramps, and a great parking lot - All are the result of that Big project being successfully completed.

We are now in the final stages of 'paying off' the cost of the project. The remaining mortgage is now under \$190,000.

The hope is that this mortgage can be retired before summer 2017. Any gifts will reduce the churches interest payments, and bring a tax benefit on 2016 income. Please consider making a special contribution before Jan. 8th (cheque dated Dec 31st).



Outreach

Our Syrian family, the Baroodys – Osama, Mouna, Batol, Firas – would like the congregation to know how much they have appreciated all the help – from drives to emotional support – the congregation at Wellington Square United Church has given them as they adjusted during the past year to a new life in Canada. The family is preparing to embark on their own as our support will soon come to an end. Throughout their first year in Canada, all the family attended ESL (English as a Second Language) classes. As well, Batol and Firas enrolled in additional English classes at Sheridan College this summer. Currently, Batol attends York University and Firas is enrolled in high school with plans to enter university in the near future. As well, Firas played star quality soccer this summer with a local soccer team and currently has a paper route. While Osama is unable to work at this time, Mouna is interested in afternoon light housekeeping work, following her morning English class. Anyone wishing to help her find this work should contact Ruth Thoem at office@wsquare.ca

Christmas at Wellington Orphanage, Sierra Leone, Africa

Thanks to your Christmas Joy donations **we were able to provide "250 Christmas Dinners" for our orphans, including our university students who will be coming home for Christmas.** We are grateful that we could work with Dr. Conrad Van Dijk and his daughter Tracy to send these funds.

905-634-1849

office@wsquare.ca www.wsquare.ca

2121 Caroline St, Burlington ON L7R 1L7

Office Hours: Mon to Wed 9am-4pm,
Thurs 10am-3pm, Fri 10am-2pm

Children/Family Ministry (GraceLand)

Heather Mackey (ext. 21)

hmackey@wsquare.ca

Youth Ministry

Spencer Edwards (ext. 11)

sedwards@wsquare.ca

Adult Faith Ministry

Joy Magwood (ext. 23)

jmagwood@wsquare.ca

Friday Night Community Coordinator

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

Music Ministry at 11am

Juanita Maldonado (ext. 20)

jmaldonado@wsquare.ca

Administration

Catherine Wagg (ext. 15)

cwagg@wsquare.ca

Jennifer Erbiceanu (ext.10)

office@wsquare.ca

Outreach Missions Coordinator

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

Finance

Karen Dobson (ext. 16) in Wednesdays

treasurer@wsquare.ca

Custodian Team

Randy Taylor (ext. 12) / Raul Gutierrez

Ministerial Team

Rev. Dr. Orville James (ext. 19)

ojames@wsquare.ca

Rev. Katie Southon (ext. 14)

ksouthon@wsquare.ca

Rev. Tom Chire (Voluntary)



(continued from front page)

that religious faith was not as boring, banal, irrelevant, and outmoded as they thought it was.

In sermons like 'The Face in the Sky' I tried to be as dramatic and vivid as I could without going overboard, to tell a story or set a scene that I hoped would capture their imaginations. I tried not to let them ever see where I was going next, to keep them on their toes, to keep them wondering what on earth I was getting at until suddenly and unexpectedly, if I was lucky we, all of us, got there together.

*I never took it for granted that they believed any of even the most basic affirmations of the Christian faith concerning such matters as God and Jesus, sin and salvation, but always tried to speak to their skepticism and to honor their doubts. I made a point of never urging on them anything I did not believe myself. I was honest about what, like **them, I was puzzled by and uncertain of.**"*

So even though my style and skill are vastly different from Frederick

Buechner's I like what he was aiming for – a sense of urgency, honesty and humility, while at the same time taking his listeners seriously. Therefore I've adapted and edited one of his sermons for our ears today.

The Lord be with us, and open our ears and hearts to Truth, presented so creatively and well.

ORVILLE