

## *I've Been Thinking...*

...about this special spiritual season of **Lent**. It's a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy (Easter) Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism and entry into the Christian community. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Right now, the Blue Jays are down in Florida, getting ready for the baseball season. **They're exercising and practising to be in their best shape to play all the games in a long season.**

I've often suggested that Lent is kinda like 'Spring Training' for Jesus' team. **What might help you improve your 'spiritual game'.** Give up TV for 6 weeks? Read & discuss a good spiritual novel like 'The Shack'? Refrain from dining out, and donate (to charity) the money saved? Add a short devotional and prayer time to your day? All of the above? **Or something else...?**

Whatever you decide to try, you'll only benefit from it. The Lord be with us all, as **we join with Jesus' disciples everywhere, working to 'up our game'.**

Peace & Joy to you... *ORVILLE*



## Satan! Seriously? The Temptation to Dismiss

*"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ...Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"*

Matthew 4:1, 10 (NRSV)

*"Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."*

Romans 5:18&19

# 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, **no-body'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.

Communion Sunday Collection for the Crisis Care Fund | Today we invite you to contribute to our Crisis Care Fund - a vital resource used with prayerful discernment by your ministry team. It allows us to provide care and hope for those in our wider community **as they cope with some of life's harshest** realities. Our prayer is for a day when such a fund will have no use...and we pray, until that day arrives, you will continue to contribute generously.

New Members | are being received on March 19th at both 9am and 11am services. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the church office, Orville or Katie.

Staff Notes | Rev. Katie Southon will be away Feb 25 - Mar 11th. Rev. Orville James is available during this time for any pastoral needs.

Fellowship Lunches 2017:  
March 19th                  April 23rd  
May 28th                    October 15th  
November 19th

The Chapel | is open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm and Sunday morning. We encourage and welcome you to take time for prayer and reflection in the Chapel this holy season.

# happenings cont.

Jesus Christ Superstar Info Session | Juanita will host a Jesus Christ Superstar info session March 9th from 7-7:30 pm. in the Music Room.

Kettles on Tea | Please join us on Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3pm in the Pritchard Room for our afternoon tea. All are welcome.

PROPERTY | SAVE THE DATE APRIL 29TH  
Please come join the property team on Saturday morning April 29 to give the lawn a little TLC. We need people to help with dethatching, aerating, fertilizing, tree cutting, pruning, sod repair and gardening. Equipment needed include backpack blowers, fertilizer spreader and utility trailers.

Maintaining our church property is an important way to demonstrate that we also care about the people and activities that take place inside our building. Our property is often the first thing newcomers see when they visit us.

When we have a tidy, well-maintained yard, we show love for our church home.

For more information, please contact Alvin Kiers at [property@wsquare.ca](mailto:property@wsquare.ca) if you can give your time or lend your equipment.

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.

Givings Envelopes | Envelopes for 2017 are now available for pickup in the office and in the foyer this morning.

*Please destroy any of your unused envelopes at the end of 2016 as your number may have changed from the prior year.*



Mean Girl Makeover series  
by Nancy Rue

Nancy Rue has written 3 books for girls (ages 9-13yrs) about bullying. The books, based on Scripture, show solid biblical solutions to the bullying problem that can actually help girls.

So Not Okay #1 (bystander's viewpoint). Tori Taylor is a quiet sixth grader who knows to stay out of the way of Kylie Steppe. So when Ginger, a new awkward student becomes the new target for Kylie's taunts, Tori is relieved it's not her.

You Can't Sit With Us #2 (victim's viewpoint). The student body of Ginger's school, except Kylie, has just signed the Code, a strict anti-bullying pledge. Now Kylie and her gang discover a new medium of taunts: social media.

Sorry I'm Not Sorry #3 (bully's viewpoint). Kylie has been expelled for bullying and is forced to attend mandatory counselling and volunteer at an arts summer camp for under-privileged kids. She plans to fake her way through counselling, but as Kylie's gang turns on her on Instagram, she is forced to face why she's known as the queen of mean.



## Outreach

Ps Moses report from the harvest in Malawi:

"Chrisy Matikini shares her story to others of this breakthrough after receiving the farm inputs (seeds and fertilizer). She hopes to harvest at least 10bags of maize from the quarter acre. Her field shows good cobs and every seed she planted have a cob which is a great reward from God. She is a divorced woman and she has 8 children and 4 grandchildren. She stayed with her children and also looks after her mum who is old. It is a great success story for her life."



## Come to the table TOGETHER

For Communion Sundays we will be linking children together with their families. Today, Sun. Mar. 5th, please note the following instructions:

- Parents/guardians will sign in their child as normal at the GraceLand reception area
- Parents/guardians will go with their child to their class to check in with their leader for a 2nd sign-in as well as leave any coats, boots, bags, etc. in the room
- GL leaders and helpers will be available to assist and/or come along-side-of families for support in the service (nursery & toddler Leaders can stay with any babies & toddlers in room if needed)
- Parents/guardians and children will enter the sanctuary and sit as a family - GL volunteers will sit on the side transept or with families that would like support
- ALL will be a part of worship and communion
- Once communion is received, parents can lead their children to the side transept where GL leaders will be ready to lead children to St. Paul's Hall for Open session and the remainder of GraceLand
- Sign-out will be done as usual at the end of the service in the GraceLand classrooms
- If families arrive late to the service, they need to enter the sanctuary and then sign their children into GraceLand after communion when Leaders and children return to GraceLand.

There will be colouring/activity sheets with crayons available at a table near the sanctuary for families. We ask that crayons get picked up and put back in bin. The above details will flex and adjust as we seek the best spiritual experiences to worship together as ONE family in Christ.



GraceLand provides a FUN, SAFE and FRIENDLY place where we learn about God's love and how to shine His light every-day. **Nursery to Grade 6. Sunday's at 9am.**

Sign-in/out procedures are important for us to follow to ensure safety for all children and leaders. Pager systems are available to provide extra comfort and ease for families.

March Themes:

We will have fun engaging, involving and **challenging kids with our lesson series 'The Miracles of Jesus,'** feeding the 5,000, Jesus heals a deaf and mute man and the miraculous catch of fish.

Family Ministry:

Lent is a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice, a time for the entire family to be more attentive to the words of Jesus and to each other. It is a time of rebirth and renewal. It is a 40-day journey with Jesus. Lent means doing something as well as giving up something.

Make a Prayer Chain - List 40 intentions or people on 40 slips of paper. Link them together into a chain. Rip one off each morning of Lent and pray for that need.

Faith at Home Event: How to read the Bible - Sunday, March 26 @ 9am. For Grade **2's and their parents. Stay** tuned for more details.



## Youth March Madness!

We are holding a meeting after church today in the Youth Room for all parents and youth who are in Grade 7 and up - Edge and Rockpile kids. This is to update you all on our "Introduction to a Month of Fun!" Need to find out more?? Come and join us - snacks provided!!



**"Making Rows into Circles"**

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

Matthew 18:20

\*\*CONNECTION POINT 9AM AND 11AM TEAMS (greeters, ushers, team leaders, offering team) please meet with Joy TODAY, Sun March 5 at 10:30am in the McMillan Room. \*\*

Discipleship Café: Saturday April 29  
Time: 10am-noon (**Marg's marvelous muffins** & coffee being served at 9:45am)  
Topic: EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP AT EVERY LEVEL with T.D. Jakes

- how to have leadership excellence at every level
- the change begins with me
- the three moves of MOSES

Sign up at the CONNECTION POINT TABLE

Lenten Study **"THE BAD BOYS OF EASTER"**  
**"In the days and weeks**

preceding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, three men found their way into the story. Each refused to abandon his quest for control and surrender to the Savior of the world. In this 3-part series, Andy Stanley uncovers the stories **and how you fit in."** This will be a three week study on Tuesdays offered both evening & in the afternoon. Start date: We are offering this study Tuesdays, March 21, 28th & April 4th at 2pm or 7pm in the Pritchard Room. Sign up at the Connection Point Table. Jeff Weir, Rob DeWitte, Bruce Magwood - facilitators for 7pm. Joy Magwood - facilitator for 2pm.



SAVE the DATE: MEET & GREET Monday, May 1st @ 7pm in the Pritchard Room (Details to follow at a later date)

THE SHACK - '*Where Eternity Confronts Tragedy*'

An opportunity to read & discuss the most impactful novel of the last decade (Over 10 Million copies sold, and 70 weeks on the NY-Times best-seller list).

Beginning March 2nd, Orville will lead a 3 week encounter with the book that led Wynonna Judd to say "this story has blown the door wide open to my soul."

Come Thursdays, either 1:30p.m or 7:15p.m to deepen your understanding of God, and how our faith can shape and restore our lives despite hardship and loss. Sign up at 'The Connection Point' table. New copies will be available for \$15; *However - Special request: We used 'The Shack' 6 years ago. If you still have a copy of the book and might loan it to someone, please put your name inside, and bring it to the church.*

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL - **"AT THE CROSSROADS"** is now available at the Connection Point. If able, please donate at loonie or toonie to help cover the cost. **"Lent is the perfect season to consider the critical crossroads of life - losses, transitions, choices, uncertainties and disappointments - those times when faith and life intersect."**

For a complete listing of small groups this winter, see the brochure in the foyer or go to [www.wsquare.ca](http://www.wsquare.ca)

JOYFUL SPIRITS - This small group meets Thursday, March 16th at 7 pm in the Pritchard Room. Discussion & DVD will be on Session 5 of **"FOLLOW"** by Andy Stanley - **"THE FINE PRINT"**. Contact: [jmagwood@wsquare.ca](mailto:jmagwood@wsquare.ca)



Last week I was able to reflect on all of the goodness, growth and connection that has transpired in just one year. In 2015-16 we worked through a strategic plan in order to evaluate, prioritize, and create action steps for further growth. Without question the biggest challenge was and continues to be the small kitchen space that we use to prepare the meal and clean the dishes. It was evident that the community and fellowship that we provide is one area that we do well, and that we want to continue to grow and develop. I highlighted a few stories including about the caring and supportive community that has been created within the **"A Team"** daytime set up crew. We acknowledged our Friday Robin who is a true testimony of the positive impact that a God honouring community can have on the life of one man. We reflected on the importance of our partners including the many churches and organizations, Food For Life, Burlington Food Bank and the Joseph Brant Mental Health Advisory Committee. We will be holding another **Women's Brunch in April where all women can** support one another, laugh together, share a meal and grow in our faith. It is most amazing that last summer we were able to partially or fully financially support 34 adults and children in attending Ryerson Family Camp, and look forward to having this life changing experience once again. Lastly, we shared our excitement in the proposal we are submitting to the Board to put in a community garden this coming spring. Our vision is to build a garden where together people can learn, share, and enjoy green space and healthy food.

The Friday Night Community ministry is made possible by hundreds of volunteers who week after week give their time and gifts so willingly. God continues to call us to serve others, share our gifts and help those in need.

In 1 John 3:17 Jesus reminds us: If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Most needed items:

**\*snacks for children's lunches**

- \*empty yogurt & sour cream containers
- \*salad bar toppings
- \*twin, double, queen duvet/sheets (newer)
- \*vacuum (gently used)
- \*gently used/newer pull out couch
- \*double bed & mattress (gently used)
- \*boys clothes 2t-5, **men's boots 11 and up**
- \*children's rain boots (gently used)**
- \*men's jeans size 36-42**
- \*pull-ups for children size 5/6

For information contact: [fnc@wsquare.ca](mailto:fnc@wsquare.ca)

# wellington square united church

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## Custodian Team

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