

I'VE BEEN THINKING...

...about the sometimes awkward, always challenging complexity of 'Giving' – especially during the season of Christmas. There are SO many needs, and good causes we can support. Truman Capote, the writer, said, **"It's bad enough in life to do without something YOU want; but confound it, what gets my goat is not being able to give somebody something you want THEM to have."** Exactly.

The needs might seem overwhelming, but we need not be overwhelmed. Rather, be strategic. How?

First of all, make 'Giving to others' central to your Christmas activity. Here at church, you're already leaning toward Jesus, so generosity is part of the atmosphere. It ain't like that everywhere: **"When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing."** Ouch. We're all guilty of not being thankful or generous at one time or another. And this isn't about judgement. It's about remembering the joy of giving and being inspired to make this holiday season about others.

So secondly, 'strategic giving' calls for making choices. Requests and needs are everywhere. While we lean toward saying **Yes, sometimes we have to say "No, I'm sorry; bless you in your work, but I've committed my resources to some other projects."** As long as that line of thinking is not over-used, and not **an excuse for doing nothing, it's okay to say No** sometimes, and trust that the Lord Jesus has someone else who will support them.

(Continued on back page)

**wellington
square**



Sunday December 16, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent
When Something is About to
Happen

Mark 13: 24-27; 32-33; 35-37

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 or at the Connection Point table. As a THANK-YOU for taking the time to fill out the **card, please accept a copy of "CASE FOR CHRIST". If you need assistance, please feel free to ask one of our greeters.**

COMMUNION: December 24 @ 10pm
January 6th @ 10am

December 30th & January 6th, 2019
ONE SERVICE @ 10am

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

United Church 2019 Calendars | There are a limited number of calendars for sale. \$5 each available at the Connection Point after each service or please see Jennifer in the office during the week.

Offerings for 2018 MUST be received by Monday December 31st in order to be included in your 2018 tax receipt.

Offering Envelopes | Envelopes for 2019 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 2018 as your number may have changed from the prior year.

Message from the Ministry & Personnel Team – 11 am Music Director

We recently received a letter of resignation from Juanita Maldonado, our 11 am Music Director. Her final service for leading music worship at Wellington Square United Church will be

December 24th, 2018 at 8 pm. We greatly appreciate the significant contribution Juanita has made to the growth and development of the 11 am music program and worship service and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

The search for a permanent replacement is already underway, and in the meantime we have arranged to have Ian Green lead the 11 am music program from December 30th, 2018 to January 27th, 2019. Ian has been a guest music director at the 11 am service for us on other occasions and will maintain our high standard of musical excellence.

Journey to the Lands of the Bible (May 5-18) Rev. Dale Skinner and Rev. Maryann Skinner of St Paul's United Church in Milton would like to invite you on a journey like no other this May 2019. An information session regarding the trip will take place from 7:30pm-8:00pm on Monday, January 7 at St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main Street East, Milton. Journey itinerary and registration forms can be accessed by Visiting: http://christian-journeys.com/destinations/israel-2/?event_id1=1670

Footsteps Library - Overdue Book
If you checked out the book Fishing Tips: How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith by Rev. Dr. John Pentland, it is currently overdue. If you could please return it to the Footsteps Library.



Friday Community

We provide a community for people to gather together in friendship and hope. But some **come in our doors who don't have access to healthy food or regular meals.** One friend came in after the dinner had started and was not interested in sitting or getting to know anyone. He filled up on hot food and shared briefly **that he didn't have anywhere to live and had been on the streets since he was evicted some time ago.** For some the winter will be long and cold, and we will do our best to provide one day of respite with warmth and comfort, healthy snacks and food, friendship and some other needed resources.

We will once again be collecting any unopened donations of chocolates and candy left from **your holiday parties or gifts for our New Year's raffle** which will take place on Jan. 4. Please spread the word to your families, friends and workplaces.

Most Needed Items:

- *larger sizes of winter coats, winter boots,
- *warmer ski gloves and mittens
- *candy canes & Christmas candy
- *salad bar toppings (pickles, beets, olives...)**
- *baking ingredients (chocolate chips, etc.)
- *lemonade, iced tea crystals, hot chocolate
- *smaller wooden or Ikea type high chair
- *mattress covers (clean gently used)
- *curtain rods, panel curtains and hardware
- *book cases (gently used & lighter)
- *large cooking stock pot, heating blanket
- *rain and snow stroller covers for baby

For information contact: fnc@wsquare.ca



THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS by RICK WARREN.

Christmas is a time to celebrate **Jesus 's birthday**; to CELEBRATE THAT GOD IS FOR YOU.

Jesus frequently met people and **asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"**

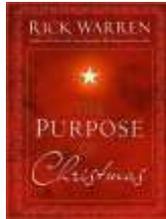
Ironically, the person whose birthday we are celebrating is never mentioned. He is often overlooked or merely mentioned along with FROSTY THE SNOWMAN; SANTA CLAUS, THE GRINCH; SCROOGE; & a host of other favourites. Many people feel that God is secretly out to get them or is waiting for them to mess up. They imagine God as some sadistic, cosmic grouch who always wants to criticize, judge, or **get even with us. But, God Himself says, " I know the plans I have for you. They are plans for good and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope." 365 times in the Bible, God says, " Do not be afraid!" None of us know what the next year will bring, but we can know:**

GOD LOVES US
GOD IS WITH US &
GOD IS FOR US.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment But, God is not mad AT you. GOD IS MAD ABOUT YOU!

Jesus doesn't rub it in, He RUBS IT OUT!

So learn why we should truly celebrate this time of year for it is a time of salvation and reconciliation.



Thank you for your support of Angel Wings!

Another successful Angel Wings program has been completed as can be seen in the **photograph of this year's boxes in the McMillan Room.**



Thank you for your generous support of this local outreach program.



CONNECT/GROW/SERVE

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matt. 18:20

Acts 2: 42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

ADVENT CONSPIRACY CHALLENGE: As we are in this most beautiful season of ADVENT, I pray that we enter into the TRUE story of Christmas. The focus in our ADVENT CONSPIRACY STUDY GROUPS was to WORSHIP FULLY, SPEND LESS on gifts, GIVE MORE of ourselves & our resources & LOVE ALL. God is the ultimate giver who gave us the most precious gift, HIS SON JESUS to die on the cross for our sins. I pray that during this HOLY SEASON, we can WORSHIP FULLY by GIVING BACK of ourselves & our resources in a BIG WAY for GOD!! Our outreach team has a gift wrapped box where we can give to our Wellington initiatives. LET'S BE LIKE OUR GENEROUS CREATOR & GIVE BACK to HIS KINGDOM IN A BIG WAY!! WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!! LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO BY CHRISTMAS FOR KINGDOM WORK!! Wishing you all a CHRISTMAS filled with HIS PRESENCE & PEACE!

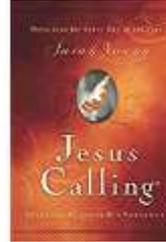
With much love,
Joy

ADVENT CONSPIRACY BOOKS - a few copies are available at the CONNECTION POINT. Cost is \$17.

JOYFUL SPIRITS - Our next gathering is Thursday, January 17, 2020 at 7pm in the Pritchard Room. We will be discussing from the John Ortberg study, Session #3, "THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS". Please bring your bibles.

"(JESUS) CREATED A NEW KIND OF HUMAN BEING, A FRESH START FOR EVERYBODY."

Ephesians 2:15 MSG



JESUS CALLING now available at the CONNECTION TABLE. COST: \$15.

Thursday at Seven - New series on prayer - Before Amen - *The Power of a Simple Prayer*. Four week series; book and DVD study by Max Lucado. Please contact Bruce: bmagwood@TORRLANE.ca

NEW GROUPS: If you have an idea for a new group or wish to lead a group, please contact Joy. We are excited about what God is doing through our groups. It is AWESOME working together to share the GOOD NEWS of the gospel through our GROUP LIFE at Wellington.

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

CAN CHRISTMAS CHANGE THE WORLD?

Christmas should be a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us. But does it? We invite you to consider these "challenges" throughout this season of Advent. Jesus calls us to go into this broken world to both *tell* the great story of God's love and to *live* it. Our lives should show others a picture of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We should be the ones to tell the story of Christmas, not the malls. Let God nudge your heart to make this Christmas different. Let Him whisper to your spirit how you can worship fully, spend less, give more and love all. And then respond to His invitation to help change the world.

Consider the following:

- Worship like the shepherds (with wonder and gratitude) - tell someone about how Jesus has changed your life
- Invite a friend to join you at church next week (worship fully)
- Rice week - Eat only rice for three dinners and put aside the money you would have spent on groceries or eating out - Give it to WSUC's Advent Conspiracy Donation Box or another project that speaks to your heart
- Help serve a meal at Friday Night Community or another local outreach program (contact fnc@wsquare.ca)

There are only 2 Sundays remaining to donate to these vital missions that urgently need the support of the whole congregation. This church walks along side our partners in Mexico, Sierra Leone and Malawi daily as together we participate in the building of the Kingdom of God across the seas. This church is blessed by this calling but needs your help.

***In your embracing of Advent Conspiracy, how are you called to Give More?
Please visit our donation table in the foyer.***





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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. Nur to Gr. 6

December theme:
A Christmas Journey

- Mary & Joseph
- The Saviour is Born!
- Angels &
- Shepherds!
- Sharing the Good News!



Reminder to parents to take home our monthly Faith at Home Family sheets for GraceLand's theme, focus, scriptures and prayers.

Advent Devotional,
Candle and Prayer
Boxes:

Over the last two Sundays, each family received an Advent Gift Bag that included an Advent Devotional and Candle as well as an Advent Prayer Box with 25 scripture/prayer/activity cards. We encourage the whole family to use these resources over the Advent season to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birthday (Christmas).



EDGE - The Hub Youth/Young Adult Christmas Worship Service - Gr 9+ - Tonight! 7pm

High schoolers and up come out to St Paul's Hall for a brand-new worship experience with The Hub! This is specifically geared to our EDGE Sr Youth and Young Adults but we'd love to see Wellington adults of any age come and take part in worship with us. Come and see what this "Hub" thing is all about!



For all December events go to:
www.wsquare.ca/youth

Joint Search Committee

On Monday December 3, 2018 Wellington Square was informed that our Joint Needs Assessment Report was officially accepted by Halton Presbytery, allowing us to move forward with creating a Joint Search Committee.

As with the Joint Needs Assessment Committee, a criteria list was established for the Joint Search Committee members.

- They have a mature faith.
- They have the gift of thoughtful discernment.
- They are someone who has held an active servant leader role within the church.
- They possess a specific type of gift (skill, experience, etc.) that will assist the committee.
- They have proven to be a positive team player.

It is the responsibility of the Joint Search Committee to follow the mandate of our Joint Needs Assessment Report for the purpose of hiring a new Lead Minister.

The congregation must vote to approve this committee so please join us on Sunday December 30th, 2018 for a very short meeting.

There will only be one 10 a.m. service that Sunday and this meeting will take place immediately following the service.

Joint Search Committee Members



Ryan Millar

I have been a member at Wellington Square since I was 16. I have served in the music ministry for many of those years, including leading worship and playing whatever instrument I could get my hands on. I also served on the Worship Planning Committee for several years, helping to

pick themes for worship services and participate in long-term planning. In my capacity at Wellington Square, I have led worship conference sessions, done music ministry consultation for other area churches and traveled to Mexico to build houses in Ensenada. More recently, my (now) wife Lauren and I got married at Wellington in 2017, with many of my Wellington friends and family actively participating in the ceremony. It has been a true blessing to be a part of this church community!



John Crusoe

My wife Kari and our 4 children have been members of Wellington Square United Church for 18 years. Kari volunteered **with the Children's Ministry** Prep Team when our children were younger and 3 of our children became classroom leaders in their early teens. I am currently fulfilling the role of Chair

for the Ministry and Personnel Committee, a position that I held for 10 years prior to rejoining the Committee earlier this year. We thoroughly enjoy and feel very fortunate being a part of this church family!



Nancianne Chin

Nancianne became a part of the Wellington Square family 3 years ago after moving from a church in Toronto. You would see her at an 11am service which she attends, and sometimes participates as Greeter with her husband, Mo. They chose this church based on the warmth of the congregation, the outreach

opportunities, and because of the small groups. Nancianne considers the small groups paramount to learning about and growing with God. She has participated in serving at Wellington including giving a church testimony, leading a Youth Alpha group in 2017, volunteering in the summer at Friday Community, Ribfest and knitting blanket squares for children in Malawi.



Sam Hickerson

I've been part of the wellington square family for the last 11 years, starting through the Sunday school programs and participating in various youth events. Over **the last few years, I've** had the opportunity to take more of a leadership roll in Graceland, with everything from actions

during children's ministry, to organization of youth events for our church's young people. I work with the Friday night Community to help clean up during and after the dinner. Wellington Square has been a huge part of my life, and I would love to continue to further this connection!

Joint Search Committee Members



Wendy Alexopoulos

I've been attending

Wellington Square United Church for about 11 years now, coming over from Burlington Baptist Church where I attended with my parents. I found the church to be warm and inviting and enjoyed the contemporary 9 am service right from the start. I immediately joined

small group studies and did a number with the same group of people, and still continue to take part in various studies as they come up. I also did my first Mexico Mission about a year after coming to Wellington. I have been involved in working with the Sierra Leone Outreach and help at the Friday Night Community Dinner whenever I have a chance. Recently I have become part of the WSU Greeters and help with the offering as needed. Katie has also asked me to help with our program involving visiting some of the elderly we have at the various retirement & long term care homes. **I'm blessed to have Wellington and its wonderful family as part of my life.**



Lynn Kasprzyk

When I first started attending Wellington Square I felt drawn to this church and church community. I became a member about seventeen years ago and joined my first small group. Since then I have been involved in many small groups and ministries over the years, including for the last 10 years prayer ministry

and Friday Night Community. God has richly blessed me by giving me the opportunity to be a part of this church family at Wellington Square.



Tony Wilson

My wife Janet and I have been members at Wellington Square for 19+ years. I have served on M&P and Stewardship in the past and I'm currently entering my 3rd year of service on the Board of Directors. I have led small groups in money management using the

Ramsey Financial Peace University material as well as the Christians Against Poverty Budgeting course. I currently volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program in Burlington delivering hot meals to seniors and shut-ins on Wednesdays. After entering the world of "retirement" six years ago, I also became active putting my money management and organizational talents to use serving on the Ministry in Motion Planning Team and on the Board of Directors for the charitable organization Cruxifusion Inc. Cruxifusion's goal and focus is to support, inspire and connect Christ-centered leaders and congregations in the United Church of Canada. During my 5+ year association with "Crux", I've come to know a great number of tremendous United Church ministers from coast-to-coast. Coupled with my recent service on the Joint Needs Assessment Committee, I believe my association with the Cruxifusion organization positions me well to serve on the Search Committee who will collectively search out our next Lead Minister.

Joint Search Committee Members



Noel Henderson

Joan and I have been members of this church since 1977. We have never considered a change. I have served in many capacities over the years. Currently I am chair of the Foodgrains committee, a member of the Reach Out committee, a volunteer with the Friday

Night Community and the Property Committee. We cherish our association with Wellington Square



Jennifer Kiers

My husband Alvin and I have been members of Wellington Square United Church since 1999. We have three children; Megan is a leader in the Nursery, and William and Nathan attend Graceland. I have been a leader in Graceland and with VBC for more than 10 years.

I coordinated and led the

Moms `n Tots group for about six years. I was co-chair of the Outreach Team for a number of years, and continue to be involved with this group. I have also served on a Discernment Team for a Ministry Candidate. We feel truly blessed to be a part of our Wellington Square community.



SEARCHING FOR
CHRISTMAS

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

PLEASE
JOIN US
FOR A
Retirement
PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th

*10 am Celebration Service
(lunch to follow)*

at Wellington Square United

Do you have a fond memory, funny story, pictures, or testimony about Orville that you'd like to share?

Please RSVP if you plan to attend, have stories, best wishes or short videos to:
orvilleretires2019@gmail.com

Please Drop off as you leave Sanctuary or Give to Office

Orville's Retirement Luncheon - RSVP

I (we) plan on attending on January 6th

Family Name

Number Attending _____

905-634-1849

office@wsquare.ca www.wsquare.ca

2121 Caroline St, Burlington ON L7R 1L7



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

(Continued *from front page*)

Then thirdly, Giving during these Holy days will be rich and meaningful if it is grounded in gratitude, celebration and compassion. Most of us have SO much, AND so many to be thankful for. Awareness of that guides us in **our giving choices... "Lest we forget those who aren't getting presents this year, while remembering those who don't even have someone to buy for."**

Here at Wellington Square, our leadership team is diligent in choosing carefully and supporting with tenacious generosity the causes and projects that will **change lives. This month we're emphasizing** the huge impact of three global projects: The Wellington Orphanage in Sierre Leone west Africa, the Prison Fellowship ministry in Malawi (south east Africa), and the YUGO house-building in rural Mexico. As I ask you to give to them with joyous generosity, you can be confident that your support is used very wisely and well.

Beyond that, the ongoing ministries and mission of this Church always seem to need a December boost. Entering this last month of the year, our budget is running about -\$28,500 behind. So friends, Thank You in advance for your support that enables Wellington Square to continue to testify and serve in the name of the baby born in Bethlehem.

Grace & Peace to you all,

ORVILLE