

I'VE BEEN THINKING...

... we all know that the world is going to hell in a hand-cart. **Except it's NOT.**

Given the risk of nuclear exchange with North Korea, civil wars in Syria and Yemen, atrocities in Myanmar, and several world leaders **who may be cuckoo, you might think it's all bad – worst time ever. But you'd be wrong.**

In fact 2017 was probably the very best year in history.

A smaller share of the world's people were hungry, impoverished or illiterate than at any time before. A smaller proportion of children died than ever before. The proportion disfigured by leprosy, blinded by diseases like trachoma or suffering from other ailments also fell.

According to calculations by an Oxford University economist, every day, the number of people living in extreme poverty goes down by 217,000, and the number who gain access to electricity and clean drinking water goes up by 300,000.

Granted that the world seems to constantly face mortal threats and dangers. But it also is **registering important progress. It's important to**

(continued on back page)



When The Mirror Is Cracked

"For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,..."

-Romans 8:15-16 (NRSV)

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.

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.

happenings

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD | MONEY - MYTHS & FACTS - **WILL MY ENVELOPE BE MISSED IF I DON'T SHOW UP TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY?**

MYTH: **Surely my weekly givings won't be missed if I don't show up on the occasional Sunday and don't think about doubling up next week when I come back.**

FACT: Wellington Square currently issues envelopes to approximately 300 givers/families and on average only 250 envelopes are actually used in a month. At \$10 per envelope per week, that can amount to \$2,000/mth (\$24,000/yr) which could be used to fund our ministries and our outreach programs.

Staff Notes | Rev. Katie Southon will be away from February 9th - 24th. Rev. Orville James is available during this time for any pastoral needs.

New Office Hours | Monday-Wednesday 9am-3pm; Thursday 10am-3pm; Friday, 10am-2pm

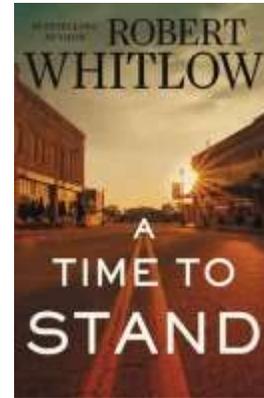
From the Board | The Board of Wellington Square United Church, along with the M&P committee are very happy to announce the hiring of Terry Beck as our daytime custodian. Terry brings lots of experience and enthusiasm **for all parts of this role, and he's even a regular** volunteer cook at our Friday Night dinners! Welcome to you Terry! May you feel the love of God and encouragement of His hand as you settle into The Square!

Annual General Meeting | Please join us for our Annual General Meeting on Sunday March 4th after the one service at 10 am.

happenings cont.

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.

M & M Trivia Night | Thank you to everyone who came out to support Trivia Night! A further update will be provided in next **week's bulletin**.



A Time to Stand
by Robert Whitlow

On a dark night in a small Georgia town, a white police officer shoots a black teen following a robbery. The officer is adamant that he saw the teen pulling a gun, and is bewildered to learn later that there was no weapon. As the young man lies in the hospital in a coma, the police officer is suspended and the black community rises up in outrage at the senseless shooting. Into this tense situation, Adisa Johnson, a young African-American attorney, returns to her hometown after launching her career at a prestigious law firm in Atlanta. Much to the chagrin of the black community, Adisa accepts the challenge of defending the police officer, determined to stand up for justice and uncover the truth. As the court case unfolds, racial tensions run high. But through these anxious times, God works to bring people from both sides of the issue to the point of forgiveness, understanding, and even reconciliation.



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 Nur to Gr. 6

Participant Forms are required every year for children and youth to ensure safety for all. 2018 forms have been mailed to each family to complete and return to our GraceLand Reception Area. Thank you for supporting our Plan 2 Protect Procedures.

February Theme: The Armour of God

- The Sword of the Spirit
- The Helmet of Salvation
- Prayer
- Jesus and the temptation



GraceNotes Singers/Dancers starts up today, Sun. Feb. 11th @ 10:30am



ALL YOUTH – Squarebucks (Gr. 7-12)

Tuesday Feb 13 – 4:00-6:00pm

Our Tuesday drop-in café complete with free snacks is once again open for business this Tuesday afternoon! Come to the youth room to hang with Adam eat, chill, do homework or play video games!

Rockpile – Faith Study Night: *What is Prayer & Why Should I Care?* (Gr 7-8)

Wednesday Feb 14 - 7:30-9:00pm

This week we're going to open up our bibles, and as Jesus tells us to: 'open up our eyes, ears and hearts' to dive into this thing called Prayer. Is it JUST a thing to do at church? At camp? For ministers? For before we eat? What ACTUALLY is Prayer and why should we even care? We'll explore together this Wednesday night! And YES since it's Valentines Day there WILL be chocolate.

Coming Soon:

High School Youth - YOUTH VOLLEY-DODGE DAY (Gr. 9-12)

Saturday Feb 24th 10:00am-8:00pm

It's almost here! This month 6 (count 'em SIX)

youth groups will be joining us here at the Square for a MASSIVE day of food, fun, community and worship! The day will have an inter-youth group volleyball tournament, a mixed dodgeball tournament, complete with lunch, dinner **AND a time of worship together!** If you're planning on attending you *must* e-mail Adam to let him know so he has numbers for food and creating the team brackets!

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

AGM 2018

On Sunday March 4th, please join us for ONE 10am Service with Intergenerational Communion, followed by our Annual General Meeting, starting at 11am.

GraceLand will be providing care and activities for Children during the AGM from 11am-12pm for those wishing to attend.

A light lunch will be provided following the meeting.
All are welcome!

We hope that you will join us!

Fellowship Pancake Supper



Tuesday, February 13th

From 5:00 to 7:00pm in St. Paul's Hall

Sponsored by Wellington Square Foodgrains Committee

All you can eat! All welcome!

Admission: Adults \$8, Seniors/Teen \$6, Children \$4,

Family maximum \$25.

**Tickets available between services on Sunday or from the office during the week
or at the door.**

PARENTS & WEE ONES *Drop-in*



*Drop-in' morning for parents
and their wee ones.*

**TUESDAYS
9:30 AM**

Share a morning together, support one another and hang out over coffee/tea with your children.

.....

Meeting place - GraceLand Toddler room
Nursery is available if needed.

.....

For more details, please contact
Heather Mackey at hmackey@wsquare.ca



"Better Together"

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

Matthew 18:20

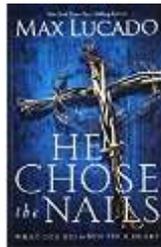
Vision | to have every person in a healthy small group.

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

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 for taking the time to fill out the card, **please accept a copy of "HOW GOOD IS GOOD ENOUGH?" by Andy Stanley, which you will find in the CONNECT/RE-CONNECT box where we kindly ask you to leave your completed card. If you need assistance, please feel free to ask one of our greeters.**

LENTEN STUDY: "HE CHOSE the NAILS" - "The Child in the Cradle Became the KING on the Cross" - a 5 Session DVD

Bible Study by Max Lucado, examining the gifts that Jesus gave at his crucifixion...not only the gift of the cross, but the gift of the thorns, the nails, and the empty tomb. Please sign up at the **CONNECTION POINT "GROUP LINK"** or jmagwood@wsquare.ca TIME: 2-3:30pm, Tuesdays Start Date: February 20, 2018. The cost of the study guide is \$10.



SERMON SMALL GROUP: If you would like to be part of a small group that meets after the 9am or 11am service to discuss the Sunday message with a few others, please see or contact Joy (jmagwood@wsquare.ca).

Thursday at Seven | **"Jesus Revealed - Encountering the Authentic Jesus"** A seven episode DVD study series (January until Lent) with biblical commentary by Andy Frost, looking at the original Jesus of the gospels and asking the question - Is He the Jesus we think we know? Please contact Bruce: bmagwood@TORRLANE.ca

JOYFUL SPIRITS: "RED LETTER CHRISTIANS" Our next gathering will be Thursday February 15th in the Pritchard Rm at 7pm. **TOPIC: "Exploring SPIRITUALITY"**. Sign up at the CONNECTION POINT **"GROUP LINK"** or @jmagwood@wquare.ca

Kettles on Tea | Please join us on Monday Feb 12th from 1:30-3pm in the Pritchard Room for our afternoon tea. All are welcome.



Friday Community

Every week we provide a delicious and nutritious meal that feeds close to 250 friends in our **community**. We couldn't do that without the financial and food support from other churches, organizations and folks such as yourselves. Last year one of our important partners, Food For Life, provided us with over 425,387 pounds of food which translates into approximately \$63,000. We are just one of many organizations and outreaches who benefit from this 'not for profit' food distributor who sources, and distributes fresh, nutritious food to those in need in our community.

This February friends at Friday Night Community will be walking in the Coldest Night of the Year in support of Food For Life, which is a fundraiser to raise money and awareness for the hungry, homeless and hurting. Please consider walking 2, 5 or 10 km with us or supporting this important endeavour on Saturday, February 24 at 4:00 in Oakville.

Blessings of goodness:

- *the ongoing food and financial donations that allow us to feed over 250 friends

Most Needed Items:

- *decaf coffee
- *wool for knitting in Hub
- *hotel sized shampoo, body wash
- *snacks for children's lunch bags**
- *curtain rods and curtains
- *dressers, end tables, lamps
- *muffin tins, rectangular cake pans
- *newer neutral paint and brushes for living room (2 cans to go over red)

For information contact: fnc@wsquare.ca



reaching out



Planning is well underway for the 2018 Mexico Mission Experience! We will have a full information package available in early spring, but mark the week of November 4-10, 2018 in your calendar. Along with our regular home building project, we plan to further expand our community building projects and experience. Contact Gwen Vernon or Rob Crawford for more details at Mexico2018@wsquare.ca

905-634-1849

office@wsquare.ca www.wsquare.ca
2121 Caroline St, Burlington ON L7R 1L7
Office Hours: Mon to Wed 9am-3pm,
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 Tuesdays

treasurer@wsquare.ca

Administration

Catherine Wagg (ext. 15)

cwagg@wsquare.ca

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

Custodian Team

Terry Beck

Raul Gutierrez

(continued from front page)

step back periodically and focus on more than just what is wrong.

Those of us who live with Faith, need to remind ourselves that there is a God who has a track record of acting in history. And God does that through people – individuals (from Moses to Martin Luther King), and through a People – All people of faith and good will.

So sure, at times the world can be seen as a dangerous mess. But people of faith trust **God, and listen for God's whispers of** perspective, encouragement, and challenge.

The most important think happening right **now is not a Trump tweet, but children's lives** saved and major gains in health, education, spiritual maturation and human community. Pray for Peace; Keep the Faith (& pass it on)

ORVILLE