

Gale Gatherings

THE MISSION OF GALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO BE A FAMILY OF EMBRACING AND DYNAMIC DISCIPLES OF CHRIST WHO GLORIFY GOD IN THE WORLD THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

February, 2017

Gale Presbyterian Church Mark Your Calendar:

March 5
Café Church Communion

March 26
Camp Sunday

April 14
Good Friday

April 16
Easter Sunday

May 3
Fish Fry

Tuesday, May 6
Life and Mission bus trip to Six Nations Residential School and Museum

May 26-28
Gale Fellowship Retreat

June 4
Communion

August 14-18
Kintail on the Road

THERE IS PROMISE! *A message from Rev. Scott Sinclair*

What's new on the streets this month? RRRROLL UP THE RRRRIM at Tim Horton's. There are many dependable signs of spring for us winter-weary glums – robins, leaf buds, pussy-willows, road slush to name a few. But the Tim's franchise has brought us a new herald of spring. Artificial though it is, I always get a sense of relief when the patented cups and posters show up. Spring is in the air.

And it's not about winning anything. I coin their own jingle "Roll up the rim – Tim wins!" I don't personally know anyone who has won any significant prize through this campaign although I usually get at least one free

coffee or doughnut in this season. To me, the value of their campaign is in the spirit of the game – not the winning of their prizes. And by that spirit, I mean the promise of spring and good things. And don't we all need that now near the close of a particularly cold and unforgiving winter – a promise of it getting better.

In March we'll enter into the season of Lent. This is traditionally a time of denial and sacrifice to prepare us for the Good Friday/Easter event of April. I like that idea of preparation and longing for something good to come. It seems to make the climax event acutely special when we feel we've been through a bit of

trial and tribulation to get to it. But get to it we will. That is a promise.

We'll do our special communion services on Tuesday evenings this year as part of our preparations. We'll still meet in church on even the slushy and drizzly days of spring. We'll continue our fellowship and gatherings knowing that we are promised something good in Christ.

While Tim Horton's can promise something good to very few winners in their harbinger of spring, God offers to everyone something great in his climax of spring – Easter.

RRRroll up the RRRrim to Lose!



www.twoxtwo.ca
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By Jeff Baker

Clerk's Corner *by Darlene Vandermey, Clerk of Session*

This year the annual Session Retreat was held on Saturday, January 14th at the Riversong Banquet Hall on Hawkesville Road.

During the morning we heard from special speaker Tori Smit, Regional Minister for Faith Formation within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Tori spoke about new

ways to include children in our worship services and we learned that generational experiences are essential to Christian formation and to the development of a mature faith. Children need to hear the bible stories but they also need to hear our personal stories of faith...how God has touched or worked in our lives.

With this in mind, the Session will, over the next few months, be talking about and implementing ways in which we, here at Gale, can include children in our worship services, even more than we already do.

The Session is excited to see where God will lead us in this regard.

If you have ideas of how we might be more intergenerational in our worship services, I invite you to share your thoughts with your Elder and in turn they will be shared at our Session meetings. Session meets on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Input, thoughts, ideas are always welcomed.

Financial Summary *by Peter MacKenzie, Treasurer*

As presented at the Annual General Meeting, we finished the 2016 year in a surplus position. Thanks due to all those in the congregation who gave their tithes and their time to make this possible. With these funds we sent over \$40,000 to various Christian and other organizations to improve communities and people's lives. Additionally we paid down \$60,000 of debt. If you did not yet pick-up a copy of the Annual Report, please see the office for a copy for complete details.

The Board presented the 2017 Annual

Budget at a congregational meeting in November 2016 and again at the Annual General Meeting. The biggest change in the budget for 2017 is the return of apple pie revenue to the Building Fund. This means that we need our general fund donations to increase by approximately 15% to balance the general fund budget for the year. In order to meet this increase, please consider our various available programs at Gale; regular Sunday givings, Pre-Authorized Givings (PAG), Planned Givings, and of course our beloved Vista

Cards. Please see the office for further details on any of these programs. You will find the Vista card table set up weekly on Sunday mornings. This is absolutely the easiest way to assist Gale with the lowest impact on your personal budget! Use gift cards for your regular purchases of gas, groceries, and restaurants – those things you purchase all the time. Gale then earns a portion for every dollar purchased.

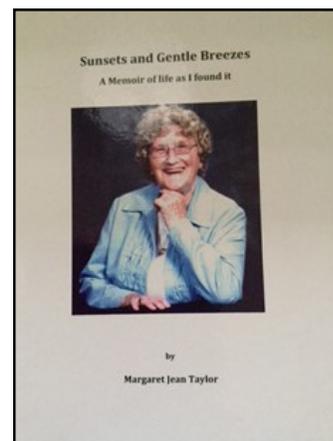
Sincerely,

Peter MacKenzie,
CPA, CA, CBV, CFF
Treasurer

Library News

by Barb Smith

"Sunsets and Gentle Breezes" is the name of a memoir written by our very own Margaret Taylor. We are very pleased to have a copy of it in our church library. Not only has she been a big part of Gale for many, many years, but Margaret was the person who got our library started! Please come in and check it out!



A Reflecting Place *by Myrna Shantz*

A REFLECTING PLACE is a new project at Gale. It is a contemplative garden which would be situated in the south east corner of our church property. We have a basic design done by a landscape architect, which would have two parts---a garden area and a pathway leading to the garden. All the plantings and mulching would be done professionally. The garden would use Montrose Charm White Spruce as an evergreen screen, encircling a sitting area. The pathway to the garden would be lined with trees of a yet to be determined type.

This project could be divided into two parts for installation purposes....the garden and the pathway. As well, there are many enhancements that could be added in the future. The quote for the garden is \$4900.00 plus HST (includes all plantings and labour) and the quote for the pathway is between \$4500.00 and \$6000.00---there are variables here, still under review. The total cost then being between \$9500.00 - \$11,000.00. This project is dependent solely on donations, with the hope that we could begin the garden area

this spring. It would be cost saving if we could do the entire project at once, but it is also possible to do it in two stages.

All donations will be tax receiptable...Sunday morning envelopes can be used by marking on the "Other Line"- A Reflecting Place or Memorial Garden or envelopes are available in the entry by the Guest Register.

We see this project as a very visible enhancement to the church property....one

that will not only excite folks at Gale, but also the passer by from the community. Share your ideas, concerns and suggestions with any committee member at any time.

Jane and Rick Baird, Bill Crane, Bill MacPherson, Ken Shantz, Barb Smith, Shirley and Bob Soehner, Myrna Shantz (Chair)



Gale Prayer Group *by Linda Pearson*

You are cordially invited to meet with me Tuesday evenings here at Gale Church.

Come by at 7:30PM to the church library.

I'll be waiting just for you.

Let's talk.

***Love,
Jesus***

Wouldn't it be great to someday get an invitation just like that one? Actually, you already did and still do, every single day in your "faith" mail. In at least 70 different places in the bible, we are exhorted to pray and let's not even get started about the verse that says to do it "without ceasing".

We are a very small group of people who meet every Tuesday evening in the library for prayer. We've been doing it for almost 3 years now.

We pray for specific

people by name that are ill and seek healing.

We pray for unnamed people also. Occasionally an Elder will pass on a request on behalf of someone who wants anonymity. We pray for all the children in Sunday school and youth group, for the leaders and teachers at Gale, for all the staff and volunteers, and for our minister. There have been times when we've been asked to pray for those outside our congregation and even our community – when people learn that we are a praying church they quite naturally

pass along items for prayer.

The length of our list ebbs and flows so the duration of our meetings also varies. Sometimes we are finished in a half hour and sometimes, if the list has been added to a lot during the week, our meetings might extend to an hour.

It is a blessed time apart. Drop by some Tuesday to check us out. No commitment is required; no weekly attendance is necessary; no audible prayer is expected. Come – join the conversation!

Camp Corner *by Jan Parsons*

According to the groundhog, spring is only six weeks away so it must be time to start thinking about the 2017 Camping season! There are many great camp programs available for our children and families through our church and presbytery. If your children have not experienced the



fun of Christian Camping, we encourage you to give it a try! Check out these camps online—Cairn, located in Baysville, and Camp Kintail in Goderich. Both camps have great websites which are fun to explore with lots of news about the exciting things they have planned for our children this summer.

Registration forms are also available on these sites. It is a good idea to register early to ensure you get your first

choice of week and program.

Camp Sunday will be held at Gale this year on Sunday March 26.

Plan to join us for this worship service which will focus on the many exciting things Christian camping has to offer. We will share some of our favourite camping stories, songs and videos. Our Campership Fundraising Lunch will be held following worship, with one of the favourite meals at camp -

Baked Mac and Cheese, salad and dessert! Please plan on joining us and supporting our Campership Fund. This important fund supports 60% of summer camping fees for the children of Gale, as well as supporting the cost of families attending our Gale Fellowship Retreat weekend. Donations may also be made through your envelopes by marking "Campership Fund" on the other line.

Kintail on the Road (KOTR) *by Jan Parsons*

Kintail on the Road will once again be returning to Gale this summer. This very popular week long program will be offered the week of **August 14 – 18** and is open to children from Sr. Kindergarten to Grade 6. Registration forms will be available by early April through our web site or from the church office. It is a good idea to register early as space is limited and it fills up quickly!

Volunteers Needed -It takes the efforts of many volunteers to make this great program available at Gale. While Kintail staff are leading the programming aspects of the day, Gale volunteers play an important role, essentially that of a counsellor at camp. Building relationships between volunteers and campers is important. KOTR staff are only in the community for a week, but hopefully



relationships built with volunteers will continue long after the week is over.

We are very happy to welcome back **Sarah Zavitz (Boyne)** once again this summer as

our Church Coordinator for the program!

She will be asking for volunteers in the next few months so "save the date", plan to keep this week open, sign up as volunteer and join in the fun!

Gale Fellowship Retreat—Save the Date!

Our annual Gale Fellowship Retreat this year will be from Friday May 26 to Sunday May 28. This will be the **24th** year our congregation heads to beautiful Camp Kintail on the shores of Lake Huron for a weekend of fun and fellowship. With the guidance of Kintail staff, we have use of all the great activities Kintail has to offer such as The Rock Wall, Disc Golf, High and Low Rope courses and the "Adventure Tower" climbing wall!

Registration forms and more information will be available on *Camp Sunday March 26*.

The retreat is a great opportunity to get to know other Gale friends and families better, while enjoying nature's beautiful surroundings, sharing great meals and worshipping God together. All ages are welcome and we hope you will come and join us this year! For more information or if you would be willing to help with the planning team, you can speak with Mel Dow or other members of your CE committee.

MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC *by Julie Donaldson*

Last year ended on a musical high note once again with Christmas... but looking ahead to this year we hope to continue to do our best, try new things and also sing our favorites.

Hopefully we are able to have our Handbell ringers join us again too.

On February 5th, with Rev. Scott away, I was happy to help out and provide a musical worship service. I had a great group of readers help lead. We took a whirlwind tour of some of the wide variety of music God has used through the centuries - to transform the lives of His people.

We went back to Adam's great-great-great-grandson Jubal, "the father of all who play the harp and flute", and to David, the "sweet singer of Israel" when all variety of music was accepted providing it was spiritual and glorified

God - to the year, 312 A.D. when people of power began to rise in the church making musical rules and taking music freedom from congregations.

We touched base on many composers and instruments throughout the years right up to today. The common topic of all eras led to the same story... Each generation falls in love with it's own musical discoveries - which meant that if we present God's truth to them in the form they love - they'll give the Gospel a hearing!

Each era had its trials for allowing change, but we are thankful to the churches who accepted change along the way for us. Gale is one of the churches that have also sensed their assignment from God to lead the way. Our choirs, praise team and congregation have sung hymns from the 1500's and throughout the centuries including dance music, gospel, rock

and roll, and contemporary. I'm proud to be apart of the journey.

We are always open to new members, even if you can only commit part-time. The more the merrier, don't be shy - come join us! Practices are Thursday evenings at 7pm.

Men! Calling all men! We are hoping to have some new members join, or some past members return! It's hard to believe but we are soon beginning our preparations for Lent and Easter and we hope you share your voice with us!

Perhaps you have a song request or musical talent you'd like to share - please come talk to me.

As I have said before, and I will say again since it is so important to recognize that the Music; the Choirs, Groups, Bands etc, only happen because of the many talented volunteers and their won-

derful dedication to their ministry! I may lead, but without anyone for me to direct, it would not be the same music program. I simply cannot thank them enough. If they ignite a spark in you and the spirit so moves you to celebrate in the presence of the Lord with them - then...

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn, make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands, let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord." Psalm 98:4-9

"Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy! Psalm 47:1

A Huge Thank You from the Sunday School *by Mel Dow*

Once again our Sunday School did the Gifts of Change Mission Project during November and December of 2016. The children picked some items that they wanted to raise funds for to be able to "buy" these items from the Gifts of Change program. The children were hoping for just under \$300 and once again the end results were amazing. Total profit was \$479 which allowed us to "buy" a few items in multiples. Money was raised in a variety of ways - the Sunday School downstairs offering for Oct-Dec, the purchases of the crafts in November and December, the Movie nights in the fall, the wooden loose change box, and also some donations from congregation members. Again the children work hard to bring in their money, but we couldn't have done this again without everyone's support. Thank You and we are thinking up ideas for this years crafts!

Gale is turning 150! *by Doug Dann and Barb Martin, 150th anniversary Committee Co-chairs*

Next year is the 150th anniversary of Gale Church!

The Gale 150 committee members are Barb Martin and Douglas Dann as Co-chairs, Reverend Scott, Marilyn Coupal, Joan Moyer, Elinor Rau, and Bill MacPherson.

We meet monthly and have been discussing ideas and planning events.

Some of the events in the planning stage include:

1. A 150 anniversary kick off on Communion Sunday, December 3, 2017 with special events planned for the service.
2. Our historian Eli-

nor Rau is working on several areas of Gale history that will be shared throughout the anniversary year via worship service, a 150 bulletin board, Gale Gatherings, church bulletin, website, etc.

3. Reverend Scott is planning a guest speaker for each month. These speakers have had an affiliation over the years with Gale church.
4. Reverend Scott is willing to do a presentation of his upcoming 2017 pilgrimage trip to Spain. Our committee suggests the presen-

tation event be held on a Saturday and to have a catered dinner. This event would also be open to the wider community.

5. The stained glass windows project is planned to be completed prior to December 2017.
6. Having a Garden party in conjunction with the new outdoor Reflecting place.
7. These are some of the highlights to date. Our committee is working on other ideas as well. One idea is called "My story" where you can share with others your story and connection

to Gale.

Our committee welcomes your ideas. We also invite you to join our committee and or volunteer to help with a specific activity.

The Gale 150 activities are identified as Gale history, special worship services, gala events, special events, promotion/communications, and special projects. Please give consideration to volunteering and helping with any activity that is of interest to you. You can let a committee member know of your interest.

The Gale 150 committee will keep you informed as we move forward.

Bus Trip to Six Nations Residential School and Museum *by Marilyn Coupal*

Last Sept. Gale held a very successful First Nations Sunday, which was very informative, but also disturbing & emotional. At the evening program with the Indigenous people we heard about some of the atrocities that occurred in the government-run residential schools. The government contracted the churches, Presbyterians includ-

ed, to run the schools. It became clear that we need to know the truth before reconciliation can happen with our Indigenous people.

The Life & Mission committee felt that a good follow up would be to go to the residential school on the Six Nations Reserve to learn more about the truth. So a bus trip is planned

for Tues., May 9th, 2017. The bus will leave the Gale parking lot at 10 a.m. We will travel to Central Presbyterian Church in Brantford for lunch & from there we go to the school & museum for guided tours. We should return to Elmira around 5:15 p.m. The cost, which includes the bus, guides, admissions & lunch is

\$55.00. Please give your cheque or money to Myrna Shantz by Mar. 19th. Our cancellation policy will be that if you or the committee can find someone to take your place, your money will be refunded. If there should be any profits they will be given to a First Nations project.

Rev. Sinclair on a Pilgrimage

From mid-April until July 1st this year, I will be on pilgrimage in Europe. I am embarking on El Camino de Santiago de Compostela. You can find lots of information about this historic spiritual discipline on the internet. During this inter-mission, Rev. Kees Vandermeijer will provide preaching and pastoral care at Gale.

Although I will be

out-of-touch from the Gale office, you can follow my pilgrimage on a Facebook account. Search for Alimpin España. You will get updates as I make journal entries during the walk.

I look forward to this inter-mission in my ministry at Gale, but I especially look forward to returning and

discovering all about what Gale has expe-

rienced in my absence.



Gale Family News



Here is a photo of Patti Smith, her parents Barb and Randy Smith and her former coach, Paul Bloomfield. In December Patti was awarded a great honour by her former school, Liberty University, in Lynchburg, Virginia. She was the first hockey player and first woman to be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame. Her very proud parents were delighted to be able to attend the induction. 2016 was a very good year for Patti as she also finished up her Masters Degree in Research Psychology and did well on her MCAT exams for medical school. Congratulations Patti!



Two new babies !

Emma Joyce MacKenzie, born December 27, 2016. Parents Candace and Peter MacKenzie

Meyer Worlend Young, born November 27, 2016. Parents Crystal and Jon Young

Proud grandparents, Les and Vicky Hammel



Scott and Morgan Parsons welcomed a son, Elliott Robert Parsons, into their lives on January 20, 2017. Proud grandparents are Graham and Jan Parsons.



Congratulations to Alexandra Parsons and Daniel Bliss who are engaged to be married on May 13, 2017.

A Bridal Shower for Alex is being hosted by the ladies of Gale on March 29 at the church.

A YouTube I think You Should Watch *by Rev. Scott Sinclair*

BEYOND THE WAY by Andrew Suzuki

In preparation, on pilgrimage and in follow-up to my pilgrimage on El Camino de Santiago de Compestela in 2008 I

read a lot of books, visited a lot of websites and attended a lot of pilgrims' meetings. I just recently found Andrew Suzuki's You Tube channel and I think I like it the best. He recounts

his experiences and encounters when he walked El Camino. Andrew, a self-professed hedonistic heathen on a Catholic pilgrimage has created a high quality series of videos (each one around 10 minutes) with a fresh, often irreverent perspective on the walk.

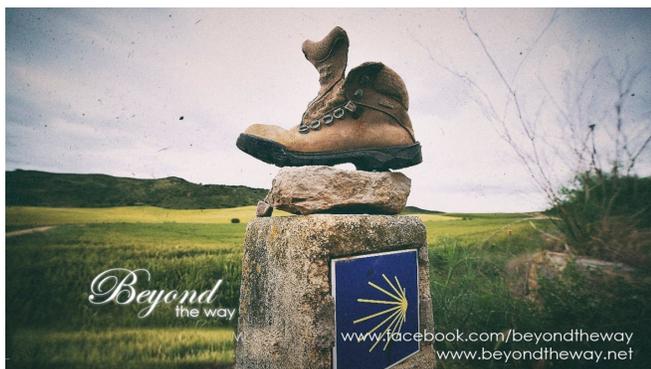
But it's not just walking. It's philosophy from the greats like Gandhi, Tolstoy and Dr. Seuss. It's conversations with musicians, invalids and heroes. It's struggle, joy and dancing. There is talk of death as much as there is talk of laughter.

The stories he encounters can be inspiring and disturbing.

Perhaps what most intrigued me is that many of his observations and insights were so in tune with mine despite our two very diverse approaches to the Camino. There are 10 videos in the first series with the tease of another series to come.

I think you should see these.

<https://youtu.be/Oe-PjILV7JM>



Noon Hour Lunches 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. \$12.00

February 21
Ham
Scalloped Potatoes
Cabbage Salad
Roll
Cherry Cheesecake
Beverage

March 21
Roast Pork
Mashed potatoes, hot vegetable, salad
Roll
Chocolate oven pudding with mint ice cream
Beverage

April 18
\$10.00
Mac and cheese with ham
Salad
Dessert
Beverage

May 16
Russian chicken with egg noodles
Salad
Roll
Rhubarb Dessert
Beverage

TUESDAYS IN LENT – 7:00 pm



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday – March 1st this year. Lent is a season of reflection and preparation leading us to Good Friday and Easter – April 16th. Many people do special tasks, sacrifices or rituals to mark these 40 days. At Gale we will hold special mid-week communion services, each Tuesday starting on March 7th and concluding on April 11th. Beginning at 7:00 pm and lasting about 30 – 45 minutes, these meaningful and non-traditional communion services will be another opportunity for us to enrich our walk with God. Come and join us in the chancel for these special services.

- March 7th – A heritage style
- March 14th – A DIY Communion
- March 21st – 30 pieces of silver
- March 28th – Communion in the Labyrinth
- April 4th – Rooted in dirt
- April 11th – Nails of crucifixion