



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

September 2017

What's happening at Gale this season:

Rally Sunday: Sept. 10

Sunday School commences with BBQ. Service returns to 10:30 a.m. schedule

Experience VIBRANT HEALTH classes:

Sept. 13-Oct. 18, 10 a.m. or 7 p.m.

SafeTALK Workshop on suicide: Sept. 25, 7 p.m.

Anniversary Service

Oct. 22

Communion

Oct. 1 and Dec. 3

Nicaragua Team Presentation: Oct. 29

Apple Pies

Ready early in November

A Pilgrims' Evening

On Rev. Sinclair's pilgrimage in Spain, Nov. 18

Larry Mercey Concert

Dec. 1

THE RABBI AND THE SICK MAN

I was reminded of this folk tale while on pilgrimage in Spain this past spring. My fellow pilgrims and I had been discussing how many of us were in pain and that equally many people were helping those who were suffering. I found my version of it in White's *Stories for the Journey*:

Late one Friday afternoon, a rabbi was walking swiftly toward his village, carrying a bundle full of valuable items. "If all goes well" he thought, "I will reach home before the Sabbath begins." Suddenly he heard a voice crying, "Rabbi, please help me. I am unable to walk. Help me reach the village." For a moment, terror gripped the rabbi's heart. If he carried the man, thus obeying the commandment of God, he would have to leave his bundle, for he could not carry both. Without the bundle he could not care for his wife and children, which is also a commandment. Should he carry the man or his family's food into the village?

His indecision lasted for just a moment. How could he leave the man? He set the bundle down, lifted up the sick man, and carried him slowly into the village. He took the man to his own home, found him a place to rest, and then ran back where he left his bundle. As he headed back to his village he

realized that for the first time in his life he would be breaking the Sabbath by traveling. It was also the first time that he has neglected his family.

As the rabbi rushed through the village gates and down the streets he heard voices at the windows saying, "Can you imagine, our rabbi is walking around with his bundle on the Sabbath. A Sabbath-breaker!"

In remorse the rabbi prayed, "If I have broken the Sabbath, God forgive me!"

Suddenly sunshine flooded the sky and the whole village was awash with light. The rabbi heard a voice, "My dear servant, you put a stranger's needs before your own. Go home, eat your bread, drink your wine, for I have lengthened the day. The Sabbath still awaits you. And the voice said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

Our Christian tradition reflects the same idea in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Although the story is told differently, the same religious truth prevails – we so often negate



God's grace through our rigid adherence to custom and tradition and rules.

It is my hope that the upcoming season will be a time where we experience the grace of God in rich ways, unencumbered by cares and worries about always doing things perfect according to human expectations. The Good Samaritan carried out God's will because he was unconcerned about the conventional rules of religiosity. That story ends with this command "Go and do likewise."

Shalom,
Rev. Scott Sinclair

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

The Session welcomes back Rev. Scott Sinclair from his time of Intermission and also thanks Rev. Kees Vandermey for his leadership during that time.

With the Fall season the Session will begin meeting again on the third Thursday of each month starting September 21st. Your Session tries to serve the congregation in many areas such as leadership, pastoral care, and encouragement to committees. If at any time, you have suggestions of how Session could serve the congrega-

tion in an area that perhaps is not being met at the present time, please be sure to share this with your Elder, our minister Rev. Scott or myself. Session is pleased to know that Anne Sinclair has agreed to be the editor of Gale Gatherings and as such we say thanks to Anne!

Rally Day is coming and that definitely marks the beginning of many activities, events and meetings that will take place at Gale. We do hope that you will consider taking part in many of them as

we serve God together. The Volunteer Book, located just outside the office, offers many areas to consider helping with during our Sunday worship times. Just take a look and sign up where

you feel comfortable to take part. Looking forward to worshipping and serving God together!

*Blessings,
Darlene Vandermey,
Clerk of Session*

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

September 19
October 17
November 21
December 19 (\$15.00)



Financial Summary by *Peter MacKenzie, Treasurer*

During the summer months we generally see lower attendance and corresponding tithes. This summer has been no exception. Our general fund continues to operate in a deficit position. For the seven months ending July 31, we had a deficit of \$19,700. In my five years as Treasurer, this is the largest deficit I have witnessed at any point in the year. We all need to carefully consider how we can support the general fund in order to meet our obligations.

Pre-Authorized Givings (PAG) is a great way to contribute and it also helps to smooth your personal budgeting. Vista cards are available anytime from the church office (just ask Milly) or Sunday mornings. This is a fantastic way to contribute to the church and fund your lifestyle without spending any more than your normal purchases.

We have some strong fundraising activities happening this fall, notably the resumption of month-

ly luncheons – contributing to the General fund, and apple pies – contributing to the Building fund.

We have reduced our total debt level by \$74,700 in 2017, which includes re-

ductions to the Non-member Loan, the RBC mortgage, and the Presbytery Loan.

*Sincerely,
Peter MacKenzie, CPA,
CA, CBV, CFF
Treasurer*

For the seven months ended July 31, 2017			
		General	Building
Donations/ revenue	\$	136,800	26,600
Salaries/ wages/ benefits		(86,400)	-
Utilities/ maintenance		(42,200)	-
Borrowing costs		-	(9,100)
Giving		(19,900)	-
Other (Office, CEC, etc.)		(13,800)	-
Net surplus/ (deficit)		(25,500)	17,500
Expenses from PY		6,100	-
Reflecting place surplus		(300)	-
Debt repayment		-	(74,700)
Net cash flow in/ (out)	\$	(19,700)	(57,200)

A PILGRIM'S EVENING

Saturday, November 18th.

DINNER – STORIES – PICTURES – SONGS

Join Rev. Scott Sinclair and friends as they present an evening of stories, pictures and songs from his recent pilgrimage on *El Camino de Santiago de Compostela*.

El Camino is an ancient 800 km pilgrimage route across northern Spain. Rev. Sinclair has been blessed to take this pilgrimage twice.

A dinner at the church to be followed by an evening of entertainment based on these experiences will inspire you about this unique spiritual exercise and enrich your own walk with God.

Proceeds from the evening will support special ministries of Gale Presbyterian Church celebrating our 150th year. Watch for details on our website and Facebook for timing, ticket sales and menu.



A REFLECTING PLACE — Our Summer Update

You may have noticed a lot of activity on our Barnswallow lawn over the summer. Our Reflecting Place is taking shape with some trial and error. The concrete base has been set, the pathway graveled in and benches installed. The foliage has come and gone due to conditions beyond our control and we are working on getting the best possible trees to line the garden.

We noted that the last few summers have been dry. With that in mind, plantings were chosen which were drought tolerant and a sprinkler system became part of the plan. This year, however, record rain fall became the norm. The original 16 beech trees soon showed signs of “sickness” and they were removed and new trees

planted. After the replacements were planted, it was soon evident that they also were stressed. This led to further investigation which finally helped us identify the issue. The fill which went in during our church’s construction was heavy clay which acts like cement when it is wet. This formed a layer of impenetrable soil, so that the heavy rainfalls could not drain away. The trees were drowning. No one could have foreseen this and we are diligently working on a solution. Over the next few weeks,

there will be holes dug and the wetness monitored. The trees have all been removed and taken back to the nursery and they will credit us for the trees that survive the winter. For now we are in discussions regarding other types of trees. Consideration is being given to the drainage problem, the poor soil and the weather conditions. We do not know the time of replanting. It will depend on the results of the drainage tests. This has been a challenge for the committee and for our landscape architect and nursery as well. This is a

very visible project and they are fully cooperating with the committee to come up with a good viable solution. Despite the issues, we have received encouraging support and for that we are thankful.

The committee for A Reflecting Place is Rick & Jane Baird, Barb Smith, Bill Crane, Bob & Shirley Soehner, Bill MacPherson, Ken Shantz and Myrna Shantz as Chair. If there are further questions or comments, we would be pleased to answer them as we are able.



safeTALK by Kim Denstedt

Be a part of a safe community

Suicide is a topic many of us feel uncomfortable discussing. It is mentioned in whispers, or in “knowing” nods, words unspoken. Yet that may be the problem. We don't talk about suicide. And would you ever ask someone if they were considering it?

The fact is, suicide does not discriminate. It crosses all ages, incomes, ethnicities and religions. You may have read about suicide amongst young people, many living away from home at university. You may

not realize that suicide is also a solution often considered by some in their “senior” years.

It may be something your neighbour, a friend, a relative, or an acquaintance may be thinking about.

What if you knew what to say? What if what you said prevented someone from taking this final step?

That is the purpose of the **SafeTALK workshop** being held at Gale Presbyterian Church on Monday, Sept. 25.

Think of it as first aid training for mental health: for our community.

Plan to attend this workshop. It could save a life; literally.

Sept. 25, 7-10 p.m. for a free will offering (donations after expenses will go to Woolwich Counselling Services).

As seats are limited, please call the church

office at 519-669-2852 to reserve yours. And do our community a favour by asking a friend to accompany you. The more of us who are trained, the more potential there is for a positive impact in our community.

BE A PART OF A SAFE COMMUNITY
 Gale Presbyterian is hosting a SafeTALK workshop on
Monday, September 25, 7 – 10 p.m.
 10 Barnswallow Drive
 This workshop has limited seating.
 You must be over the age of 15.
Please call the church office at 669-2852 to reserve your seat to be a part of a SAFE community.



PAGES (Presbyterians At Gale Enjoying Stories)! Year Seven!



Date	Book	Leader	Host	Dessert
Mon. Oct. 2, 2017	Loving Frank by Nancy Horan	Joan Moyer	Maryann Brubaker	Linda Pearson
Mon. Nov. 27, 2017	Roses are Difficult Here by W.O. Mitchell	Linda Pearson	Kim Denstadt	Karen Pond
Mon. Jan. 29, 2018	The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd	Jan Parsons	Marg Donald	Brenda Walker
Mon. Mar. 26, 2018	The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George	Myrna Shantz	Myrna Shantz	Joan Moyer
Mon. June 4, 2018	Discussion and Book Selections for our 8 th year!	Jan Parsons	Gale Church	Pot Luck

MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC *by Julie Donaldson*

It's hard to believe we're already heading into September!

Time to gather together and get excited for what's to come this year.

The Choir and Praise Team always welcome new and/or returning members. You don't have to have that perfect solo voice or the

ability to play amazingly - you just need to share your love of music with us! If you love music and want to be a part of the Musical Family at Gale please join us!

Contact me anytime at tjules@live.ca, 519-291-8000 or come talk to me at church.

You can join us any-

time throughout the year. Regular Choir practices will begin on September 14 at 7pm.

Perhaps you're a congregation member and you have a song you would love to hear... Let me know and we will see what we can do!

Our Musical Family at Gale enjoys fellow-

ship, laughter and sharing with you our music ministry.

We hope you will join us!

*Musically Yours,
Julie Donaldson*



Gale 150 "Your Story is Gale's Story" *by Denise Dickieson*

Gale will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2018.

The Gale 150 Committee wishes to gather stories and memories from the many folks who have been involved in Gale, in one way or another. Whether you are a church member, a frequent (or infrequent) visitor to Gale, whether you attend Gale regularly or not, whether you have been at Gale for a long time or a brief time, [we would love to hear from you.](#)

IMPORTANT: Your memory or story can be one sentence or several paragraphs! It's up to you!! Besides a favourite memory, consider sharing the following:

*Why you came to Gale?

*How has or does Gale impact your spirituality?

*How has your involvement with Gale impacted your personal relationships?

The ways in which we would like to gather these stories is described below:

1. Survey Monkey via email, church website, or typing this link into your web browser <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VWN2MHT>
2. Contact Denise Dickieson by email or phone – she will gladly interview you over the phone or in person
3. Submit, in writing, your stories/memories to Denise (by email if possible) or submit to church office.

These stories will be shared via the Church Website, Gale Face-

book page, Church bulletin board/projection screen, and Church bulletins/newsletters. They will be compiled and kept with Gale's historical records in the library.

These stories are YOUR stories and together these stories paint a picture of GALE'S STORY. As the 150 committee continues to plan for Gale's 150, please watch for information about upcoming events, speakers, and special dates. **Please direct your family and friends to the church website for more information.**

Any questions? Please contact Denise. Phone 519-669-8822 Text 519-616-2298 Denise.dickieson@sympatico.ca

YOUTH GROUP is starting up again, for youth in Grade 6 and up. Friends are more than welcome to come.

We are looking at meeting on some Friday evenings at the church and we will also enjoy fun off site activities as well.

Watch the bulletin for details. Questions please contact Melanie Dow 519-835-1711.

MOVIE NIGHTS

Watch the bulletin for dates and the movie choice we will watch in the Fellowship Hall. Bring change for the tuck shop, and friends for a fun night together!



Kintail on the Road, 2017 *by Sarah Zavitz*

From August 14-18th we welcomed 63 campers to Gale Presbyterian Church for Kintail on the Road. Campers helped Dr. Jamie Lightyear and her apprentice as they conducted scientific experiments and explored what it means to live as Jesus lived. At morning chapel we learned about a different way to live like Jesus and during bible study (FLASH - Faith Learning And Sharing) campers discussed how to apply the bible stories to their everyday lives.

We learned that “Living the Jesus Way” means...

- ◆ Feeding others
- ◆ Forgiving others
- ◆ Loving our neighbours
- ◆ Serving others humbly
- ◆ Praying

Campers enjoyed rotating through sessions around the church, trying many of the same activities children at Camp Kintail enjoy. Through parachute and adventure we learned how to work together as a team. Arts & crafts and music & drama were favourites for those wanting to move around and use their creativity. Nature sessions gave campers a chance to experiment and learn more about the world around them.

Thank you to everyone who donated food for our daily snacks and our Kitchen volunteers that made something delicious for campers and volunteers to enjoy each day. Thank you to the always energetic adult and youth volunteers

who worked tirelessly to keep campers engaged and feeling welcome in our church. Finally, thank you to the Camp Kintail staff for leading an amazing week of worship and fun. Everyone can't wait until next year!



Welcome to the Beavers!

Starting in mid-September the Elmira Beavers troop will be meeting at Gale Church on Tuesday nights. Members of the church are part of the troop making it extra special that we can provide our hospitality.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Board of Managers Chair, Sarah Bradshaw or Church Administrator, Milly Siderius.



Gale's Vista Card Program *by Karen Pond*

The purchase of Vista Cards is a great value for you and our church. Please consider picking some up. We have cards for groceries, gas, hardware, clothing, restaurants and many others.

Gale receives 4% of the value of the cards. It's an easy way to help our

church budget. Please see Karen Pond if you have any questions about the program.



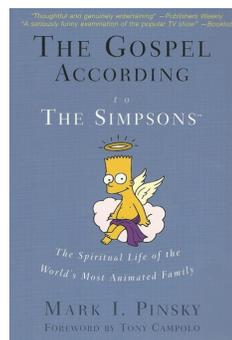
RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday, September 10th at 10:30 a.m.

This is the start-up of our Sunday School year and many activities we do at Gale. We invite all of you to join us after the worship service for lunch. Hotdogs, sausages and their fixings will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share! We will also be having our Activity Launch displays out so you can see the many activities and events happening as well as information about our committees.

A BOOK I'D LIKE YOU TO READ *by Scott Sinclair* *The Gospel According to The Simpsons* by Mark Pinsky

I made reference to this book in a sermon during the summer. I thought others would benefit from having a read through it. The iconic TV series, *The Simpsons*, is entering its 4th decade on the air. It is older than many of the parents of our congregation.



While the book is dated (2001) and it makes reference to many examples of religious imagery in the show, there is much more that has happened to this animated family in the intervening 17 years. But this book still has value to us as the author does more than simply list episodes and incidents. He also brings good insight into the influence of our culture on our religion and our religion on our culture. Do you think *The Simpsons* "is subversive or supportive of faith. [Pinsky's] answer may surprise you."

This book is available to borrow from our church library.

You are invited to experience

Vibrant Health: Physically, Spiritually and Mentally

with Darlene Vandermeij of Joy! Health Naturally!

Feel more energy, come closer to God, and enjoy a positive attitude while becoming healthier naturally.

- Food choices made easy
- importance of pH
- enjoy healthy snacks

...and more will be offered at 6 weeks of classes starting Wednesday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. or at 7:00 p.m. for 1 1/2 hours in the choir room downstairs.

Classes are FREE so bring a friend and enjoy!

Please contact Darlene at 519-698-0300 or healthnaturally2@gmail.com.

There is a poster and sign up sheet in the Fellowship hall.

Board Survey on Volunteering

The Board of Managers is pleased with the more than 60 people who responded to its survey on the topic of volunteering.

As a result of the survey, the communications committee is taking some action. For instance, see the volunteer section on the Fellowship hall bulletin board where how our volunteering impacts both Gale and the Elmira community will be noted. There will be a Life and Mission moment about the survey at church some Sunday in the fall.

A report of the survey responses, question by question, has been prepared and a copy of it is available at the church. Copies will be on the coffee table in front of the narthex fireplace as well as on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

We have limited the total copies to 30 in the hope that you will share the report with others when you are done reading it.

Gale Family News



Congratulations to new grandparents Marylu and Lawrence Pentelow! Arthur Paul Besco was born January 27, 2017 to Laurel Besco (Pentelow) and Randy Besco.



Congratulations to the MacIntyres. Harrison Knox MacIntyre, was born on August 7, 2017 at 5:49 am. Harrison was 9lbs 5ozs. Jonathan, Rebecca and Harrison are doing very well.



Sullivan John Van Doormal
Born: July 21, 2017
Parents: Laura and Scott of Vancouver
Proud Grandparents: Sandy and John Kendall.



Our daughter, Alexandra, was married on May 13, 2017 to Daniel Bliss.

Also, on Wednesday July 5, 2017 we were blessed with a Granddaughter! Our son, Adam and his wife Laurie and big brother William were overjoyed to welcome Madelyn Ann Louise Parsons to their family.

Jan and Graham Parsons



Christina Siderius' family is very proud of her for graduating from Laurier's Teaching Programme and for winning the Science award. She has worked very hard for the last 6 years at Laurier and has done extremely well. She has also earned Additional Qualifications in French, Math, Special Education and Kindergarten. We know that she will be an exceptional teacher!



Nicole Hartwick and Devan Scheeringa (son of Kathy & John) were married on July 8, 2017 in a beautiful service held at Gale. This was a very special day for the Hartwick/Scheeringa families and they and their families would like to thank Rev. Scott and anyone that helped to make the day perfect in every way. **Nicole and Devan Scheeringa**



Baptisms--by Rev. Vandermey

during Rev. Sinclair's Inter-mission

Emma MacKenzie daughter of Peter and Candace MacKenzie

Meyer Young son of Jon and Crystal Young

Both on June 4, 2017--the babies were presented with a spoon from Gale Congregation and a blanket from Helping Hands.