

Gale 150

YOUR STORY IS GALE'S STORY

AUGUST 2018

UPCOMING 150 EVENTS

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9th

Rally Sunday

Gale's Activity Launch and Lunch for Everyone

A **Potluck BBQ** is planned by the Christian Education Committee. The congregation is encouraged to bring along a salad or dessert to share.

Life & Mission Moments will feature a message from the Gale 150 Committee.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 7th

Communion and Special Guest

Rev. Zander Dunn will be Gale's guest minister. Rev. Dunn was the interim moderator during Gale's history between the ministers Rev. Jack Boyne and Rev. Linda Bell. He was a very well-liked man -- a distinguished speaker with a great sense of humour.

Life & Mission Moments will feature a message from the Gale 150 Committee.

Stay for the **Coffee Hour** hosted by Gale 150 Committee.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 21st

Anniversary Sunday – Special Music Presentation, Lunch & Social

Rev. Scott and Julie, Gale's music

director, have been working on a **special music** presentation for the church service on Gale's anniversary Sunday.

Following the Sunday morning service, the 150 Committee has arranged to have the Elmira Legion Ladies prepare & serve **lunch** in Gale's fellowship hall in celebration of its anniversary. The Legion Ladies are also in charge of dishes & clean up.

The lunch will include sandwiches, relish & pickle trays, beverages and desserts.

You are invited to come enjoy a relaxing celebration! *(A donation basket will be set out should you wish to contribute financially to this event).*

To assist the Legion Ladies in preparing adequate quantities of food, there will be a **sign-up sheet for the luncheon**. Even if you are not 100% certain, please indicate your intent on attending and provide an approximate number of guests in your party. Alternatively, please call the church office to be added to the sign-up list.

Please note: Even if you don't sign up, you are more than welcome to show up at the luncheon. No guest will be turned away!

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***Our stories
describe
Gale's voyage.***

The Strawberry Social - A Sweet Success

June 2018



Deb Beirnes coordinated the Strawberry Social, and with the help of many dedicated volunteers, guests enjoyed a delightful afternoon! Besides enjoying all the sweet treats, there was the opportunity for socializing and fun photos! Say "Cheesecake"!

MARGARET GOODCHILD

DAUGHTER OF REV. WALTER MCLEARY

First of all, I would like to compliment the present people of Gale Presbyterian Church for the 150 years of faithfulness and service to our Lord. We the McCleary family of eight were just a very small part (13 years) but the best for me. I know they were the best for Mom and Dad also. Looking back as, now, a mature adult I am thankful for God's plan not to harm but prosper me with solid Biblical tools to take into the world.

I had just turned 13 leaving Grand Valley for a new journey and a new church home. My three older siblings had left the nest but attended the church as much as possible and some of my nieces and nephews were baptized there during those years. My sister Nancy looked forward to returning home each weekend from Toronto just to be part of the amazing choir under the leadership of Claude Chislitt. He demanded nothing but excellence from us all. Nancy is still in her church choir in Huntsville and I was also, up to just a few years ago, in Orillia. I love music and singing and it began at Gale. Dad was also a terrific piano player so we had lots of family singing nights. The church was packed for all our concerts and cantatas that were put on regularly.

My Dad was a wonderful role model for not just his family but for his church members and community. On his tombstone it reads "Man should be used up in service of God and Man". He was a great father, writer, mentor, neighbour, friend, preacher. I witnessed it in his walk daily as he visited homes, hospitals, the homeless, the disadvantaged, preaching God's word; a great listener, full of wisdom, and joy, a true jolly Irishman with patience and humility. He loved life and loved people. He was the same man at home as he was in church or community. Mom was an amazing person holding us all together as well as working in the church and teaching at John Mahood school. I don't know how she did it. I never heard my Mom complain (except about the old hat my Dad insisted on wearing).

We were at Gale for 13 years - half my life - as I was married in 67 and Dad died a few months later. So half my life was at Gale and raised in Elmira. Such wonderful innocent years. It was a very unique community where church was home for me. And still is here in Orillia.

You were trusted with teaching Sunday school, serving church dinners and whatever we could do to volunteer. The church was very active and a place where we became confident to go into the world and serve others. I think most churches were very active in Elmira in my days there as my many girlfriends would visit each other's youth groups often.

Dad was full time busy at Gale and West Montrose but found time to be part of the community with starting the first school for mentally challenged children, Bellwood summer camp for mentally challenged children (which is still running), and the Elmira Kiwanis Music Festival. He never sat still except for reading a book, preparing a sermon or listening to opera which was, I guess, his downtime.



IN THE WORKS...

In honour of Gale's 150th Anniversary, the Sunday School will be compiling items for a Time Capsule.

Did you know that a time capsule was created and "sealed away" in the old Gale building on Cross Street? Do you remember the year? Do you remember where it was "hidden"?

Portrait of a Church
Winnipeg artist, Jeff Nepinak, has painted a representation, past & present, of Gale Presbyterian Church. The painting will be unveiled at Rally Sunday on Sept. 7th.

Upcoming Project
A Memorial "Signature" Quilt to commemorate Gale's historical legacy in our community.

Margaret Goodchild (continued)

One pleasant memory I have held dear is the Sundays we had visiting Mission Speakers. They would sometimes have to sleepover at our place or come back to our house for Sunday dinners. I loved listening to their stories and dream of the day I would visit the faraway countries or serving at Scott Mission in Toronto. Over the past years I have gone on many Mission trips -- so if you wait long enough God will make it happen!

I return as much as possible (girlfriends still have our PJ parties) and pass by the Old Gale (miss the rose window) and reflect, travel down Water Street past the manse full of beautiful stories and I even had a chance to visit a service at your new beautiful church.

Dad would say many Sundays that you are equipped inside the church, but work begins outside the walls and into the world sharing God's love with others. Over 150 years much sweat, tears, love, joy, kindness, patience, peace and yes self-control has been shared by members of Gale Presbyterian church and I pray that the bright torch continues to glow from one generation to the next.

May God be truly Glorified through all we do for Him throughout the world. I am truly thankful that a call to Dad came and was accepted to bring his family to Elmira and Gale Presbyterian Church.
Blessings, Margaret Goodchild (McCleary)

DEB & BRUCE BEIRNES

Telling "my story" of how I came to Gale is a wonderful memory for me. I can't believe it was 36 years ago when I sat for the first time in Gale Church on Cross Street.

It was 1982. Our family attended a Sunday morning service at Gale church. There were many young families attending of whose children scampered happily off to Sunday school. The 3 young girls sitting with their parents in the pew in front of us helped two younger children down the aisle. I was surprised at how many of the congregants I knew and I sang with the congregation to the hymns announced. At the end of the service the man in front turned around and said "Why aren't you singing in the choir?" I wondered what choir as I didn't see a group anywhere in the church leading hymns. His answer was "Oh, this is our Sunday off so we'll see you at choir practice." He then introduced himself and his wife. The family was Dave and Rose Chalmers and their 3 daughters: Laurie, Janet and Beth! We were then introduced and welcomed by the Gale family. Bruce & I endeavor to share this invitation to those who are new to our Gale too. I thank Dave & Rose for 36 years of Gale family being part of our life.

Deb Beirnes (continued)

I was born in St. Mary's Hospital Kitchener where mom was head nurse of the pediatric ward. Dad was shipping and receiving foreman at BFG, Kitchener. Being one of 6 children we were an active family who enjoyed music, sports, entertaining family and friends and spending holidays at our cottage near Bayfield.

Bruce and I met Oct. 6, 1972 on a blind date that our friends arranged at a fundraising dance for a St. Clements arena. Bruce grew up on a 200 acre farm between Listowel and Molesworth. Being second oldest of eight children he had a variety of chores to keep him busy and caught chickens to make spending money. His first employers were for Molesworth Feedmill then Moores Trucking in Listowel. We married August 23, 1974 and lived in Listowel but found the work commute too long as he worked at Home Hardware in St. Jacobs and I worked for the UIC in Kitchener.



We have two children; Shelley who lives in Guelph and Stephen who lives in Kitchener. Camping, organized sports, music lessons, many family functions and a house filled with their friends filled our calendar. Currently Shelley is technical sales manager for Manitoba and Ontario at BSG Canada providing brewers with the very best ingredients and technical support. She travels the world learning all things new to the industry and enjoys the interaction with clients. Stephen has worked for 20 years as a machinist at WestHeights Mfg. in Kitchener training new employees and is excited to be enrolled at Lakehead in September studying HVAC.

My first job was working for the UIC (EI today) as a stenographer then as the assistant supervisor in the information unit handling all in person interviews and phone inquiries of applicants. It was a wonderful opportunity to use my shorthand, typing, telex and French language skills. I stopped working until after Stephen started school and worked part time for Uniroyal Chemical in the engineering and agriculture departments. On my days off I volunteered at John Mahood School in the library, kindergarten and grades 2 and 3 classes. It was a joy to be with the children helping them discover new skills.

In 1983 I began working part time at Reichard's Dry Goods in Elmira and continued working there until 2013 when the store closed due to the owner retiring. I had the pleasure of working with Lorraine Fortune, a former Gale member, and Marnee Ewasko and Betty Clement. Lorraine and Marnee are the dynamic duo who persuaded George Hahn our employer to offer quilt retreats. I have continued to organize 6 retreats per year for the past 25 years with approx. 120 women attending yearly.

Deb Beirnes (continued)

A most memorable experience occurred when I volunteered for 3 years at Elmira High School in the Family Studies class. The students wanted to make a quilt as a fundraiser for new sewing machines for the classroom. After teaching the history of colour and learning a bit of quilt math I helped them design and make the quilt. From selling tickets at the schools 60th reunion their endeavor furnished the classroom with 5 new sewing machines and much needed equipment. Together we were overjoyed at their achievement.

Presently, Bruce works part time at Conestogo Mechanical and loves being the oldest man there! He was puzzled when I would tell him that I didn't "work" at work. I "played" with my quilt friends putting fabric together to cover the world with love. Today he understands what I meant. He gets to "play" tidying up the shop, driving needed goods to the "young boys" on the job sight, and most of all is respected because of his age and knowledge.

I continue to "play" with my students teaching classes at Undercover Quilts in Fergus, E & E Cloth & Creations in Newton, in our home 4 days per month, at quilt retreats at Hessenland Country Inn a few miles north of Grand Bend, and at quilt guilds across our wonderful country Canada.

In our leisure time Bruce and I enjoy cooking, gardening, kayaking, are avid Sugar Kings hockey fans, play cards with family/friends and do a bit of travelling. Most of all we enjoy having pot luck dinners with our children and LOVE to dance -- after all that's how we met!

Gale has always been our extended family where we have made many friends encompassing all generations. I'm blessed to continue singing with our wonderfully talented choir and praise team. Having Julie as our mentor she follows in the footsteps of those before her who challenged us to new "highs" and "lows" and everything between. I am pleased with the installation of our prayer bowl as congregants are invited to place their joys and concerns there to have them offered to our Lord. So often we carry our burdens in our heart and find them difficult to share. When I see that bowl on the offering table my soul is at peace knowing that He will take care of them for all of us.

I know that Gale is in good hands with talented people tending to the growing responsibilities of our church family. I watch with joy, as I did 36 years ago, when the young ones scamper down the aisles to hear Rev. Scott's or Rev. Kees's Sunday school message. Children are a church's future where they will enact what they have learned from their time at Gale. Let us walk together hand in hand to Gale's bright future.

**PLEASE
PASS
IT ON!!**

Please be sure to share information on Gale's 150th events with your family & friends, as well as "friends of Gale", past & present.

All are welcome to attend these upcoming events in celebration of the anniversary.

For more information on Gale's 150th Anniversary, please visit the church website, church office, or find us on Facebook.

www.galepresbyterian.com

**10 Barnswallow Drive
Elmira, ON
N3B 0A8
Phone: 519 669 2852**

office@galepresbyterian.com