

Ministers' Report to Full Council September 16, 2008

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Wow! What a lot is happening at Woodlawn United!

While we continue to learn and try to follow the traditions of Woodlawn, 'new' is the word of the season:

-new offices; new ministers, office administrator and youth workers; new computers, printers, phones and intercom system; new governance model; (and for us personally, new house!)

All this "newness" is mostly exciting, but it is a little stressful too, as would be expected.

We want to thank all those who have welcomed us with understanding that we may not be working as efficiently as we will be.

I'm sure that there will be things that we miss - sometimes from information overload and sometimes because just we didn't know.

Thanks as well to all those on Council, executive and committees who are working hard to "build up the body" so that together we may be effective as a ministry and mission team.

Here a few of the study groups planned for the near future:

1. Baptism seminars are ongoing each month and are being fine tuned from feedback.
2. Tuesday morning Bible study resumes next Tuesday (September 23rd) and the DVD study resource "Living the Questions" will be proposed to the group.
3. Introduction and Overview of the Old Testament- 5 Thursdays in October 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30
4. Adult Confirmation in early January, followed by Teen confirmation.

October 25th - Halifax presbytery workshop on different church models at Woodlawn United. Everyone welcome! Ask me for more details. Phillip



Greetings to all!

As Phillip says – everything seems to be “new” – which is in direct opposition with nature which is now dying, (drying out) and taking a rest – and here we are coming alive and starting a fresh new year of study, worship, work and fun! It is an exciting time to be a part of Woodlawn and the church of Jesus Christ.

We continue to work with each of the committees – to learn from the past, live in the moment and to look to the future. We must have patience with each other as things – especially change – take time to implement and to communicate. I am full of hope and happy expectations!

It is especially rewarding to help the two interim members of the team to settle in and to find a safe and sacred space to share their gifts and ministry with us here at Woodlawn.

Sarah Sampson – is our interim Youth Worker – I know that she is busy providing spiritual guidance to the youth on Sunday mornings using the Seasons of the Spirit Curriculum. We are pleased with having the youth join us for the beginning of worship each Sunday. I feel that it is great for them to experience worship and for us to have them with us. They are also planning a youth retreat at Camp Kidston.

Krista Jupp – is our interim Sunday School Coordinator. She is working closely with Dodie Covert and Barb deBoer. Krista is busy as well – organizing, cleaning and recruiting teachers and helpers. It was wonderful to see all of those shining faces on Sunday – ready and willing to know more about Jesus and God.

Phillip, Donna and I have spent quite a number of hours cleaning and purging the offices of “stuff” that has accumulated or has been left at the office – some of it dates back several ministers and a few decades. We need help with this project as there is still

a lot more stuff to go through! Some of it is valuable and should be stored in a safe and organized manner or taken to the archives. And some of it is to say it politely is “junk!”

Unfortunately, when we started looking at classrooms for Sunday School, we found that there is still more stuff hiding in the church hall downstairs. I believe that in this season of newness and new beginnings – we need to clean out our stuff – keep what we need and junk the rest.

My question to anyone who will listen is this “What do we want to “fill” our church buildings with?”

Blessings

Valerie

Some dates:

Baptisms will be held on	October 12 th , November 2 nd December – no baptisms January 11 th
Baptism seminars	September 3 rd October 7 th November 18 th December - No January 6 th

Weddings

October 11th, 2008 Joan Kennedy wedding (Phillip’s cousin)

October 18th Anita Marchildon and Pete Nickerson wedding