

# Thames Road Elimville United Church

## NEWSLETTER

November 2017

### THE

## CHAIR'S CORNER

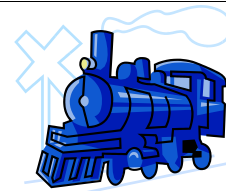
It seems that life for the congregation at Thames Road-Elimville United Church is ever changing; the several changes in pastoral relations experienced in the past five years are proof of that. In 2017, we find the Thames Road-Elimville Express sidelined once again as we travel on our faith journey.

Currently, we are enjoying the presence of Rev. Jock Tolmay within our faith community. Rev. Jock is serving as a temporary interim minister for our congregation until at least March 2018, with the possibility of serving beyond that time, if necessary. Rev. Jock served with us in a similar capacity 20 years ago as our congregations worked towards the blending of the Thames Road and Elimville United Church families. Rev. Jock's leadership and his emphasis on pastoral care visiting are proving to be valuable assets to our community. Scripture based worship services on Sunday mornings are both thought provoking and encouraging as we seek the path for the future of Thames Road Elimville congregation. Rev. Jock enjoys his pastoral care visits with the seniors and shut-ins of our church community and judging from the responses of those he has been to see, his visits are both welcomed and appreciated. Pastoral visits can be arranged by contacting Rev. Jock or Helen Kadey.

The Exploration Committee consisting of Robert Bray, Kathy Bray, Judith Parker, Rebecca Heessels, Larry Lynn and recorder Sharon Lynn has been meeting with representatives from CREDITON United Church and Exeter United Church in recent months. The purpose of these meetings has been to explore the possibility of partnering in some way for the benefit of all three congregations.

As of early November, further discussions with Exeter United Church will cease for the time being; however, conversations with CREDITON United Church will continue. Another meeting is planned for the end of November as we endeavour to vision the terms of a possible partnership that could unfold between the two congregations. Of course, when discussions are completed, details pertaining to any potential future arrangement with CREDITON United Church will be brought to the congregation for discussion, along with any other options that are available to our congregation as we seek our future direction.

As another year end approaches, the Nominating Committee is organizing to form the 2018 Church Council. Our bylaws allow for up to two congregation members or adherents at large to be part of the committee. Please contact any member of Church Council if you would like to volunteer for one of these positions.



The investigation of details pertaining to the installation of a vertical lift in the church has been reopened. Watch for future developments regarding this exciting project as they unfold.

With the beginning of Advent just around the corner, I encourage everyone to come out and join together with fellow members of your church family in celebrating the joy of the Christmas Season. The Christmas Social, Supper and Silent Auction planned for Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> promises to be a great family event and a Christmas worship service will take place at the church on Sunday morning December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Christmas Eve service at Thames Road-Elimville United Church this year.

From our house to yours I extend best wishes to all members of the church family at Thames Road-Elimville and trust that for everyone the festive celebrations in the weeks ahead will be filled with the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the Christmas Season.

2018 will be a new year with old challenges; not to worry though as the Thames Road-Elimville Express has climbed mountains before and succeeded.....and with continued prayer and the Grace of God, we will again.

**Larry Lynn, Chair of Council**

**519-229-8276**

# WORSHIP COMMITTEE

**For the month of December worship services will be held downstairs.**

This will allow those who have difficulty with the stairs the opportunity to attend Advent and Christmas services. Sunday School will meet upstairs.

**Nov 19**—Bring items for the Huron Christmas Bureau to be collected during the service

**Nov 26** – **Communion** to be served

**Dec 3** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Dec 10** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Dec 17** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Dec 24** –4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve combined service at 10 a.m.

**Note:** This year there will be **NO evening Christmas Eve service**

**Dec 31** – NO worship service

**Jan 7** – **Worship** at 10 a.m.

~ *Robert & Kathy Bray, Sharon Passmore*

## FINANCE

There are many ways you can support the projects of your church. Donations can be given towards:

- Ongoing Care and Support of the Church;
- Mission & Service Fund;
- Memorial Fund;
- Thames Road Elimville Community Park;
- United Church Women;
- Sunday School;
- Elimville Cemetery;
- South Huron Foodgrains Project

Cheques can be made payable to **Thames Road Elimville United Church** and simply indicate on the memo line where you would like the donation to be directed. This information can also be helpful when families are deciding upon *In Memorial* donations, as they can choose which project or fund they would like donations designated towards. Financial contributors will receive a charitable tax receipt for income tax purposes. Mail to the attention of **Mary Lou Thomson, Treasurer; P.O. Box 3 Exeter, NOM 1S6.**

**Offering Envelopes for 2018** are available for anyone who hasn't had them. Contact Mary Lou Thomson, Joyce Fulton or Joan Skinner. When putting cash on the offering plate, it is helpful to have it in a plain envelope with your name, so a tax receipt can be issued.

**PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)** You can also support your church through automatic monthly withdrawa or PAR. Besides being convenient, regular monthly givings help your church's

outreach even when you are away. You will be providing a dependable flow of contributions, which increases the church's overall financial stability. Why not participate in PAR? To enroll, make changes in the amount or where your donations are directed **contact PAR Secretary Sharon Passmore 519-235-2708**

**REMEMBER:** pickup for Jerry Rader Pie Orders and Dutch Village Cheese Orders is **Wednesday, November 29 from 4 to 5:15 p.m.** at the church.

~ *Joyce Fulton, Joan Skinner*

**Have you disconnected your land line? Let Sharon Passmore know your cell #, so the call lists are correct when cancelling church due to stormy weather.**

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE

## **Christmas Social, Supper And Silent Auction on Sunday December 3 at 5:30 p.m.**

The Outreach Committee will be hosting the **Supper in a Bowl** meal once again following the Christmas Social. Menu will be chili, stews and soups. There is always a great variety and we welcome contributions of your favourite recipe in a slow cooker. Contact Judith or Marianne. Proceeds will go towards the **M&S Fund**. Tickets for the supper are \$10 adults; \$5 (6-12); 5 and under Free.

We continue to give outreach ministry at the **Exeter Villa** for our friends and family living there. The UCW, Sunday School, Choir and others have assisted the Outreach Committee and Rev. Jock in providing welcoming and meaningful services for the 25 to 30 residents who attend on Wednesday afternoons. The next worship service is November 29 at 2 p.m. We give a big thank you to Jean Hodgert who is our faithful organist for the services. All are welcome.

The **Exeter & Area Food Bank** greatly appreciate our monthly deliveries of food items that are dropped off at the church on the first Sunday of the month. Suggestions for food items are: **cereal, rice, pasta sauce, oatmeal, canned fruit or vegetables, peanut-free items for school lunches such as pudding cups and fruit cups**. The Food Bank hours are Monday evening 6-8 pm; Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9 to 11 a.m.

Our 2017 goal for the Mission & Service Fund is \$8,000. We hosted **Coffee Hour** following church on the first Sunday of October and November with proceeds of \$270 to the **M&S Fund**. To date we have surpassed \$5,800.

**NOTE to Observer Subscribers** – Renewals are \$25 and due to Marianne or Judith by November 19.

~ *Judith Parker, Marianne Veldman*

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Attention Kids!** . . . tell your friends about the fun you have at Sunday School and invite them to come!

## **COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN PARTY**

The annual Halloween Party was held on Friday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. This popular community event attracted almost 50 children for a costume parade, Hallowe'en games and finger-food potluck snacks.

## **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL, SUPPER AND SILENT AUCTION** – *It's a new format this year*

**On Sunday, December 3** will be the **Family Christmas Social** (instead of a Christmas Concert) followed by Supper, Santa and Silent Auction. Everything will be held downstairs at the church. Anyone wanting to donate items for the silent auction would be appreciated. Proceeds will go towards Sunday School activities.

~ *Rebecca Heessels, Erin Parsons*

Thanks to Lorne & Pat Ballantyne for looking after the flower beds around the church. We can be quite proud of our country church at the crossroads of Thames Road and Elimville Line.

# THAMES ROAD ELIMVILLE COMMUNITY PARK

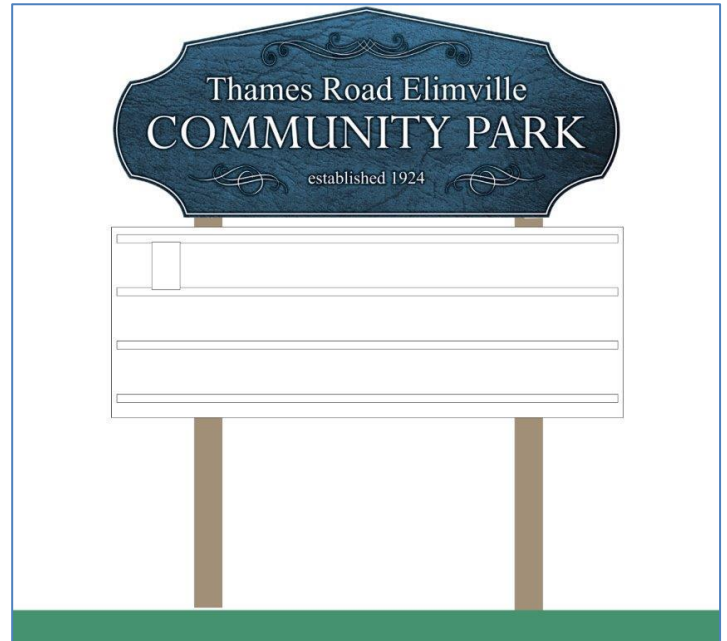
On Canada Day we organized a weiner roast and fireworks evening at the Park. Everyone brought their own hotdogs and fireworks. It was a great, no-fuss evening with around 50 kids and adults enjoying the night and celebrating Canada's 150 birthday.

On July 23 the Communities in Bloom Judges visited the park on their two day tour throughout South Huron. The Park Committee provided a BBQ supper in the pavilion for 65 guests consisting of the Community in Bloom judges, committee members, special guests, South Huron municipal staff and councillors. It was an opportunity to tell them the history of the park and the story of the barn quilt.

The pavilion was booked on two occasions in August for family events. So spread the word that it is available for booking by contacting Beth Cooper 519-671-1030.

## "CAMERON'S LEGACY" BARN QUILT

With the assistance of Bev Prout, the Park Committee prepped, marked and painted an 8'x8' barn quilt to be part of the South Huron Barn Quilt Trail and the Huron County IPM Barn Quilt Trail. Helping the park committee with the quilt installation were Randy Mathers, Wayne Roddick, Al Hodgert, Ross Hodgert.



A **NEW GATEWAY SIGN** is our next project. The design is shown above and will cost \$4,000. It will have a three line reader board on the bottom for promoting events or messages to travellers and park visitors.

## DONATIONS WELCOME!

To date there has been \$1,120 received from individuals and as memorial donations towards the new gateway sign. We thank these donors and welcome your support towards the fundraising campaign so the sign can be installed next spring. Just talk to any committee member if you would like to contribute.

*~ Beth Cooper, Robert & Kathy Bray, Judith Parker, Kristy Bray, Jack Hodgert, Jayne and Sydney Rowcliffe, Brad Cann and Ryan Parker*