

News 'n' Views



"Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops" —Proverbs 3:9

MacNab Street Presbyterian Church Newsletter
905 529-6896—email: macnabsec@macnabpresbyterian.com

"Aim at nothing and you'll hit it every time!"

Taking Aim: The MacNab Ministry Strategy recognizes that different individual levels of spiritual interest require different corresponding approaches to ministry.

Spiritual Interest: Ministry Approach:

CULTIVATING —————→ **MINISTRY TRAINING**

Those who want to receive training, cultivate skills to reach out and serve others

Training and mobilizing for leadership opportunities to serve others

COMMITTED —————→ **GROWTH**

Those who have embraced a saving faith in God and want to grow in knowledge and maturity through Jesus Christ

Biblical training in understanding and applying the breadth and comprehensive nature of faith

CURIOUS —————→ **OUTREACH**

Those who have an interest in faith, but have not yet come to a place of embracing a relationship with God

Assisting others in their faith journey towards a relationship with God through Jesus Christ

This model helps us measure 1. what we are doing, 2 if we should keep doing it and 3. where we need to change.

Session has adopted the strategy reflected in the chart above.

The first step to implementing it is communication. As we move forward in the various programs that MacNab offers, we will be evaluating how successful we are at addressing these needs, and where we need to consider change.

A preacher announced from the pulpit, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is we have enough money to meet our budgeted offerings for the year! A sigh of relief went through the congregation. The preacher continued: "the bad news is: the money is still in your pocket."

The way we treat our money is one of the most significant measures of our spiritual lives. In fact, Jesus said that the greatest rival to loving God is loving money instead. Money can become a roadblock to loving God, or it can be used as a means of demonstrating ones' love for God. Proverbs 3:9 urges us to "acknowledge God first" with the wealth entrusted to us. In 2 Corinthians 8, the apostle Paul talks about the Macedonian church who "gave themselves first of all to the Lord," and, in turn, gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability."

What is your approach to honouring the Lord with your wealth? Do you make your financial plans by sacrificially giving to God first before you have a chance to spend it? Or do you just send Him whatever is leftover and convenient? Are you satisfied before God that you are putting Him first? If not, what needs to change?

In the months to come, we will be providing more frequent updates, information at helpful tools with which we can excel in this important part of the ministry at MacNab.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION- to the end of February 2016

	Year to Date 2015	Year to Date 2016	Budget
Weekly offerings:	\$12,944	\$20,185	\$23,833
Expenses	\$49,975	\$51,783*	\$48,145

* THIS EXPENSE FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE \$21,176 FOR NEW SOUND SYSTEM (FUNDS TAKEN FROM MANSE FUND)

We are grateful to the Lord for our offerings to date (presently \$7,241 over the same time compared to last year) and thank the congregation for their faithfulness. At the same time we are challenged that our year to date offerings presently represent 85% of our required budgeted offerings for this year. If we continue at this rate, we will have a deficit in offerings of 21,888 by the end of the year. Clearly now is the time to change this trend. Please prayerfully consider your part in addressing this part of the ministry at MacNab.



CHOIR NOTES—by Jack Brown

I usually end my newsletter with something "on the Lightside". So, just for a change of pace, I would like to start this time with a little "guffaw" or two:

What did one candle say to the other candle? *"Let's go out tonight."*

Or, as the one rope said to the other *"I'm a frayed knot."*

"Doctor, you've got to help me! I Can't stop thinking I'm a goat!"

"I see—and how long have you had this problem?"

"Ever since I was a kid!"

I frequently issue an invitation at large to our congregation seeking new members for our choir. It is therefore good to report when a new member appears. Welcome Marilyn Steadman to the ranks of the Sopranos! Conductor Chris knows his voices and perhaps we shall hear Marilyn in a solo or in an ensemble. Myself, I like to sing with other voices and I have a sheet music collection that is like me—rather elderly! Nice to make duet music with e.g. Marguerite, Amanda, Emily, Gerald. We are also pleased to have several young men-friends of the Teeuwesen boys help out the Bass and Tenor sections—welcome and return any time!

Welcome back Mair Davies and Jean Currie from "sick leave".

A big "thank you!" to Marguerite Gilbert and her helpers for two delicious dinners. The first to celebrate Robbie Burns and the Scots on January 22nd and on March 11 it was time for Irish Night and the "wearing of the green."

Lively groups of dancers each celebrated their heritage to the enjoyment of all. Also, several of our own choir members gave us traditional songs from both countries.

Now Chris will keep us busy getting ready for Easter. Then, preparing some anthems to carry us to our summer break.

In closing, I just can't resist these:

I used to be a banker but then I lost interest.....

A cartoonist was found dead in his home—details are sketchy!



GHANA SCHOOL OF DREAMS

Dear friends at MacNab Street Presbyterian Church:

I extend my warm appreciation and THANKS to all for your LOVE & SUPPORT for **Ghana Schools of Dreams Non-For-Profit organization** which you and I as a church family have built and support from the ground up. Without your support, we would not have been able to accomplish what we have done. The first school at Mepom, was completed in 2007 but we still look after the up keep. We adopted another school, where the work is almost done, at an incredible village where the whole community lives on water called Nzulezo in the Western Region of Ghana.

Our third and biggest project is

Akuffokrom village in the Eastern Region where at the moment the children and teachers are sitting under a tree with a chalkboard hanging on the tree. Nightly these children have to carry the chalkboard, tables and chairs to safety. With you and other generous contributors, we broke grounds in 2013 in this village. Up to-date, the building is almost to ceiling level, this work is on hold now because of lack of funds for completion. To complete this project we need about \$40,000 US.

To help us move these children to proper and safe classrooms, we are having our 4th annual **Taste of Africa fundraising**.

There would be African food, African Drumming & Dancing, silent auction with lots of African artifacts, 50/50 draw and more.

When: May 28, 2016

Where: Ukrainian Catholic Church of Resurrection

821 Upper Wentworth Street, Hamilton, ON L9A 4W5

Time: Doors open @ 5:30

Cost: \$40.00 per person

If you can't attend and would like to donate, please talk to Dora. You can also put your donation in an envelope marked Ghana Schools of Dreams with your envelope number and place it on the offering plate on any Sunday.

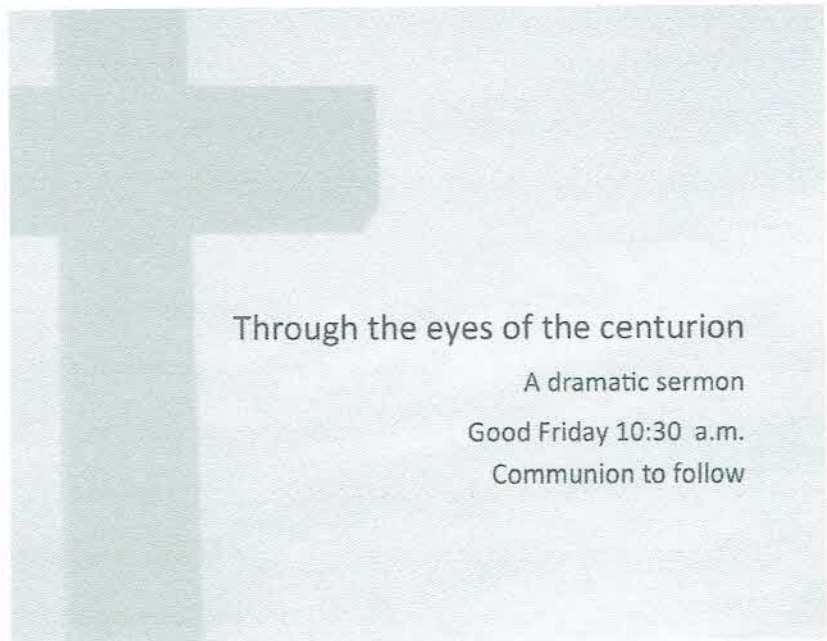
Your generosity has been and always been much appreciated.

Contact Dora for tickets
cell : (905) 978-3672



Offerings received in the Easter offering envelope included with this newsletter will be used to support the Inner City Outreach

Summer Camp Program as well as other mission programs in the community and abroad. Combined with the 2015 Christmas offering, your generosity allows MacNab to make a significant difference in the lives of many throughout the year.



Through the eyes of the centurion

A dramatic sermon

Good Friday 10:30 a.m.

Communion to follow

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun Mar 20 10:30am Palm Sunday Service

Fri Mar 25 10:30am Good Friday Service
featuring "Through the Eyes of the Centurion"
- a dramatic sermon by Steve Baldry (see above)

Followed by "Good Friday Hike"
-meet at Dundas Valley Conservation
at 12:30 p.m.

Dundas Valley Conservation Area
650 Governors Rd, Dundas, ON L9H 5E3
Bring your own picnic lunch. Dress appropriately.
Maps available in the narthex. Parking costs \$10/
vehicle

After you park, make your way to the Trail Center (old train station). We will start with lunch at the picnic tables and then make our way on the 3K loop for a hike (this involves a few steep hills). Event should be finished by 3 p.m. at the very latest. Children must be accompanied and supervised by his/her parent at all times.



Easter Sunday 10:30am
Glorious Easter Music
Followed by Hot Cross Buns & fellowship in
Johnston Hall



The Friendly Circle

Meets

April 15th

May 17th

Guest Speaker:

Kevin Russell on MacNab
Stained Glass Windows

June 21st

Strawberry Social

10:45am Prayer Group

12:00 Noon

All ladies bring your
lunch-coffee/tea/
dessert provided

gathering

with God ~ with others ~ with others still to come

In addition to our 10:30 Sunday morning worship, MacNab will be offering another Sunday morning event called Gathering (starting April 3rd). Gathering will take place in Johnston hall at 9:00 a.m. and will be more relaxed and current in style and approach. Presently, Gathering is to be a 3 month pilot project with the hope of becoming part of the fabric that makes up MacNab.

This strategy of introducing Gathering is consistent with the "dual ministry" outcome of the congregation's discernment process (prior to calling Steve). This confirms a continuity between the congregation's assessment of their situation before calling Steve and Steve's desire for our congregation to move in this direction. In light of this, it would be most beneficial if many joined in for the first month in launching this new event. Please note that the subtitle to Gathering reads "with God, with others, and with others still to come." That means that new initiatives like Gathering are not just one more thing for us to choose to attend, but an opportunity in which we can choose to serve and reach out. Momentum and mass make a difference when you are starting something new. This will involve some extra time on your part for a few Sunday mornings (coming early to support Gathering before you attend the 10:30 service). I hope that you will see this as well worth your time in helping our congregation to move forward and grow.

Volunteer forms to help with specific jobs are available in the narthex. Just give it to me once completed. Also, you may have a friend that might benefit from this different type of event. Invitation cards are in the Narthex as well.

April topics:

- 3rd Why doubting makes so much sense
- 10th When you feel like everything is ruined
- 17th Something more important than believing
- 24th Where The Beatles had it right

- coffee (Fair Trade) ready at 8:45 each week!

MacNab
Street Presbyterian Church

116 MacNab St. S., Hamilton (905)529-6896

macnabpresbyterian.ca—directions & parking