

Welcome to the March 2008 issue of the St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, e-newsletter. Please take the time to review the details of our upcoming Easter events and information items. If you need more information on any of these events, please contact the church office at 613-235-2551. Also, if you would prefer to be removed from the e-newsletter list, reply to the church office.

COMING EVENTS

CHURCH OFFICE Will be closed from Thur. 28 Feb. to Sat. 8 March.

March 2 HOLY COMMUNION at 10:30 am service. Second communion on Mar 9th.

March 5 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will meet on Wed 5 at 7:30pm in the choir room.

March 7 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday March 7 at 2pm. This year the people of the Glebe churches will gather for this international event at St. Matthew's Anglican Church on Glebe Ave just west of Bank

March 11 BOARD OF MANAGERS Tuesday 11 at 7:30pm

March 12 KIRK SESSION The elders are reminded that their next meeting will be on the second Wednesday of March.

March 16 PALM SUNDAY at 10:30am Invited singers and musicians join our choir to present John Rutter's Requiem at our morning worship.

March 20 MAUNDY THURSDAY at 7:30 pm Ecumenical Tennebrae Service to be held this year here at St. Giles. Tennebrae is Latin for "Shadows". During the service lights are gradually extinguished as we approach the Good Friday event. Communion is included.

March 21 GOOD FRIDAY at 12 Noon The Glebe area service this year at St. Matthew's Anglican, Glebe Ave. just west of Bank St.

March 23 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 am Pancake breakfast 10:30 am Easter Worship Service

March 29 OUT OF THE COLD Mark your calendar for Sat. afternoon and evening. Our final day to prepare the free Saturday evening meal at Knox Church on Elgin. As usual volunteers and money will be needed.

March 30 PULPIT EXCHANGE Ruth and the Twisted Haloes will be preaching and singing at St. Andrew's Church on Kent St. One of the ministers from St. Andrew's, Ottawa (Andrew Johnston or Greg Davidson) will preach here at St. Giles.

- Rummage Sale Saturday April 19
- Ecumenical music night at Glebe St. James, May 1
- St. Giles Anniversary Service of Celebration, Sunday May 4
- Open Doors Mission event Saturday May 10 Theme: Gracefield Camp
- Victoria Day Weekend at Gracefield May 17-19
- Great Glebe Garage Sale Saturday May 24

- General Assembly first week of June - St Giles will be responsible for delegate registration

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Easter Lily Plants At Easter we decorate the sanctuary with plants which are later delivered to shut-in people. To make a small donation towards this in memory of a loved one, add it to your offering as "Easter Lily" and include the name(s) of those you wish to remember. We need the information by March 17th

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY Led by Rev. Ruth Houtby on Thursday mornings at 11am in the lounge at 174 First Ave. All are welcome. Info. 613-235-0910. Everyone is invited. You can come every week or whenever you are able.

DONATIONS FROM THE CONGREGATION, YEAR TO DATE

For Current Expenses \$17,361 (Budgeted amount \$ 22,750)
For Presbyterians Sharing \$4,770 (Budgeted amount \$4,834)

Many thanks to all our contributors. Winter weather has made it difficult for some to get out on Sundays. At the end of February we had received 19% less than last year when the weather was better. This is a good reason to mail in post-dated cheques for church offering!

KRISTEN McNAULE traveled to Boston recently with her Political Science classmates from Carleton to get some first hand experience with the American Presidential Campaign. The Canadian media followed along. See Kristen's Canada AM interview under video links at http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080206/clinton_obama_080206/20080206/

AMY BRANDON will be returning to Ottawa from Truro, Nova Scotia, to perform four concerts at various locations in the Ottawa area www.amybrandon.ca/

Mar 11, Vineyard's 7:00pm Amy Brandon solo

Mar 14 Café Nostalgica 8:00pm Amy Brandon and The 16 Corners

Mar 15 Café Paradiso 7:00pm Amy Brandon, Alun Davies

Mar 16 Café Ambrosia - Aylmer 6:30pm Amy Brandon, Bohne Forsberg

Remembering the Children:

An Aboriginal and Church Leaders' tour to prepare for Truth and Reconciliation
www.rememberingthechildren.ca

An invitation
to share in the vision
to participate in the healing
to make a commitment to right relationships
to witness to a different future

You are invited to share in this moment in Canadian history.
Sunday, March 2, 2008 5 - 7 p.m.
Canadian Museum of Civilization - Grand Hall
100 Rue Laurier, Gatineau, QC (underground parking)

The National Ecumenical Working Group on Residential Schools in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations is beginning a tour of Aboriginal and Church Leaders which will make four stops across the country. The national leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the United Church of Canada and a Corporation of Roman Catholic organizations will join along side of the National Chief and Regional Chiefs to bear witness to the hope of a new beginning. This group has met for a number of years to network and share learnings about the role of the churches in the Canadian experience of residential schools. The tour is planned to support and prepare the way of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which will be underway in all its fullness soon.

As Canadian Churches, we continue to struggle with our history as partners in residential schools. Each of our denominations have made statements of apology and lament about our role in the residential school experience, what proved to be an experience of loss and suffering for the aboriginal children, their families and their communities. Over the past 20 years we have tried to learn to walk in new ways with the aboriginal community. Sometimes we have taken small steps forward toward the truth of what has happened and moving towards authentic reconciliation. This is your invitation to be a part of such a small step forward.

This note comes to you from a local planning group for the Ottawa launch of the Remembering the Children Tour of Aboriginal and Church Leaders. As representatives of our denominations, we are asking for your participation and public witness to the truth and reconciliation process.

RSVP rememberingthechildren@uccanottawa.org with your name and congregation affiliation or phone 613-224-5318 ex19 and leave a voice mail message with the same information.

Do you own Bell Canada Stock? BCE, Bell Canada Enterprises is a public company that is pending privatization. This means that shareholders will have to sell their shares. BCE stock is one of the most widely held in the country and many people have held shares for years as part of their investment portfolio. Upon selling, holders will likely benefit from a significant capital gain (increase in value of the shares since purchase), but will also face some significant tax liabilities as 50 per cent of the gain becomes part of your taxable income for the year.

There is a way to avoid this big tax hit. In May 2006, the Federal Budget announced that donations of publicly listed securities to registered charities would be exempt from capital gains tax, effective immediately. If you donate a portion of your BCE shares to a charity, such as St. Giles Church, you can eliminate the capital gains tax on the shares you donate and receive a tax receipt for the value of the shares you donate. You can reduce the tax you owe to zero AND provide much needed funds to the church. You can direct the money to our congregation of St. Giles Ottawa and/or any mission of the Presbyterian Church such as Gracefield Camp or Presbyterians Sharing.

To find out more about this call your own financial adviser and also talk to Herb Gale at the Planned Giving office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1-800-619-7301. He can set it all up for you. Warning - selling the shares and making a donation of the proceeds does not qualify for the preferential tax treatment.

Turn a tax liability into a giving opportunity!