

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page featuring a central vine with several leaves and two circular swirls. The background of this graphic is a textured, light-colored wash with some darker spots and faint floral patterns.

**W**ellington Square UNITED CHURCH

# Annual Report

JULY 1, 2008 - JUNE 30, 2009

Annual Report July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

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## Message from the Ministers

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...  
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:19 & 20

Years ago and miles from here, the elected leaders of another United Church were wrestling with future plans and budgets. One of the men vehemently declared, "We have got to run this church like a business." There was silence for a moment, and then someone softly responded: "If that is true, the question is, what business are we in?"

For us at Wellington Square, our business is "To know Christ, and make Him known." That's a great mission statement, and it keeps pulling all of us in leadership back from distractions. There are many ongoing good developments in the year past, such as staff replacements (welcome to James Bretzler and Caitlin Belanger), and building renovations (it looks like we're about to begin construction). We appreciate very much the details in the report from the Board (thanks to Tori Jones). The oversight of the ongoing life of this congregation – its property, personnel, finances and programs – has gone very well this year.

But our mission statement reminds us that, through all of this and more, we are primarily in the business of spiritual formation and development, and of evangelism and outreach – knowing Christ and making Christ known. So we celebrate the faith building activities such as the 'Reading the New Testament in a Year,' the record numbers of children in the recent Vacation Bible Camp, and the return of a vigorous ALPHA program (Christianity 101). We celebrate that over 100 adults (in 4 different study groups) were reading and discussing the Christian novel *The Shack*, and we rejoice that Pastoral Care District meetings have moved newcomers and old friends to feel more connected into Jesus' team. Those are all about the business of this church. So too are our numerous Outreach projects: houses built in Mexico; meals served at Kerr St Mission and Wesley Centre; support for an orphanage in Sierra Leone, Africa; the Community Supper that will soon serve people every week; and partnerships with front-line community ministries and several other sister churches to address the many needs of our city.

To Know Christ, and Make Christ Known. Whenever we hire staff, or improve our facilities, or manage our programs, it is to support the primary goal. It is a goal set for us by Jesus, in the way that He lived, and in the instructions that He left in Matthew 28: 19 & 20 (see above). In those words, we hear Jesus' job description for us, to go to the world and invite everyone to become a friend and follower of Him.

Please pray for your church. Please pray that when we define the business of this church, when we measure our net worth and profitability, when we set our strategic goals toward adding value, that our bottom line and our top priority is always about seeking lives that are changed, hearts that are healed, souls that are connected to their loving Creator and Saviour. Because that is God's eternal enterprise, for which Jesus gave His life. Because of that, it is, and always will be, the business plan for Wellington Square.

Rev. Dr. Orville James

Rev. Katie Southon

Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz

## Report from the Board

As a returning member of the Official Board of Elders I would first like to thank all of the members that serve with me. Marg Torrance as Vice Chair, Sharon Mosher, Tony Wilson, Laretta Weir, Joyce Pearson, Bruce Magwood, and of course Rev. Orville James and Rev. Katie Southon. We give thanks also for Brian Vickers as he worked along side of us for 1 ½ years as Presbytery Representative. I would also like to thank Tish Buckley as Past Chair and Alex Chapman as Past Vice Chair. Alex and Tish have served on the Board for 3 ½ years and we greatly appreciate all the time and experience and friendship offered by them both.

The work of the Official Board is both challenging and humbling and I have found it to be an exciting place to stretch and grow in my faith and in ways to serve this community. We have welcomed new staff to our Ministry team here and have enjoyed getting to know both Caitlin Belanger as our Youth Ministries Coordinator and James Bretzler as our 11 o'clock service Music Director. Both have added immeasurably to our community with their hearts for God and those they serve.

We also continue to move forward with our Renovation Project and after having received Presbytery approval we now await bids and our final congregational vote for approval. We will work with Stewardship and our Finance team as we educate the congregation on our plans for a new budget structure to fund our operational expenses as well as our Outreach initiatives and purposefully set money aside each month for a Capital Reserve fund for ongoing repairs and maintenance to this building. This is called the 10-10-80-budget approach, which will call us to live out what we are called to do as a church in, serving those beyond our walls here at Wellington Square. This will stretch us to think about what kind of work we can do in God's name when we work together for one purpose in sharing what we have been blessed with.

The Board has spent many hours in discussion and prayer over financial issues and that will remain a priority for us to keep transparency and clarity for all to understand where we have been and where we are going.

We also look ahead at what Worship at W.S. will look like in the future to serve the needs of those that haven't joined our family yet, and don't know of the transforming love of Christ. We appreciate the efforts of our Congregational Care team lead by Lindsay Foster and Katie Southon and assisted by Neil and Sharon Mosher etc. Wonderful opportunities have been made to gather our family of faith at barbeques during the summer months making connections so that our big family doesn't feel overwhelming and disconnected. Thank You from the entire congregation!

So, as always, the challenge is before us to each prayerful seek ways to step up and find your voice and seek service that is fulfilling to you and honoring to our God. It is our joy and privilege to serve.

Submitted by Tori Jones (chair)

## Building Committee

Through many years of preparing, the Wellington Square United Church building project reached a turning point when the contract went out to tender in July. We received the bids back on August 5<sup>th</sup> and were pleased to hear that the lowest bid came within the budget carried by the Building Committee. This was great news for the team. The Architect is satisfied with all bids, meaning that they all met the requirements of the tender. The winning contractor is a well respected builder who specializes in church renovations and has performed many contracts for BB&R Architects (who tendered the project on behalf of WSUC).

The Building Committee is proud to bring the project forward to the Board of WSUC; we now await a final recommendation from them, that will lead to final approval from the congregation to start construction in October 2009.

The overall project costs are within the budgets set out by the WSUC building committee and the Capital Fundraising campaign.

So we go forward with confidence and expectation and anticipation, confident that our facilities will continue to serve God's people for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted by

Scott Wood, Chair, Building Committee

(Alan Ingram, Bob Mulcaster, Paul Gresham, Mike Orosz; Jeff Weir - retired, past chair)

## Capital Campaign

It has been a long road since the first dreams of making changes to our church were first envisioned. A great deal of work and commitment has gone into arriving at this stage as we look for final approval to proceed with this exciting project.

On behalf of myself and my many committee members I would like to thank the approximately 200 families who have pledged nearly \$2 million to help attain this goal we have all been anticipating.

It is an exciting time for all the members of Wellington Square United Church and we all should be very proud of what we have accomplished.

Russ Jackson

Chair, Capital Campaign

Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
Held at Wellington Square United Church  
**Wednesday October 29, 2008**

**Call to Order:**

*Tish Buckley*, representing the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

**Opening Prayer:**

*Rev. Orville James* opened the meeting in prayer

**In Memoriam:**

*Rev Katie Southon* read the names of members who had died in the period July 2007 to June 2008 and paid tribute to their memory with a prayer.

**Motion:** To approve Margaret Ingram as recording secretary for the congregational meeting

Moved by: *Tish Buckley* Seconded by: *Don McTaggart* Motion carried

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of October 16, 2007 and the Congregational Meetings held on June 3, 2008 and July 8, 2008.

Change to point 5 of the minutes from July 8, 2008-Tori moved to accept the following members of this year's Board of Elders: *Tish Buckley, Alex Chapman, Bruce Magwood, Sharon Mosher, Joyce Pearson, Lauretta Weir and Tony Wilson*

Moved by: *Tish Buckley* Seconded by: *John Anderson* Motion carried

**Capital Campaign Update:** *Russ Jackson*

- Russ emphasized that the project was moving along as planned in spite of the global financial situation. Tenders will be requested and responses brought to the congregation.
- Financing and borrowing will be revisited if necessary. Most members committed to a 5-year pledge.
- Final plans are being completed. Congregation will be involved in the next stage at a meeting to be held in February or March 2009.

There were no questions or comments

**Building Plans Update:** *Tish Buckley*

- Drawings are 35-40% complete with an anticipated completion date of late January/early February.
- Construction will begin in April/May if congregation approves the final project.

**Report from Finance [John Anderson] and Trustees [John Lewis]:**

John Anderson requested a change in the Financial Report for fiscal year 2007-2008 in the second paragraph-This balance sheet reflects the following proposed adjustments:

- John Anderson indicated that the United Church allows funds accrued from the sale of a manse can now be used for general operating funds.
- Effective June 2006, the Board of Trustees took over investment functions from Finance.
- Report reflects the proposed use of the Templin Funds (undesignated) being used to pay off the deficit to give the church a "clean start" for the fiscal year 2008/2009.
- The Capital Campaign is identified as a separate account
- Canadian companies are now required to report their investment at the present marketplace rate rather than at time of purchase. This is reflected in differences on the balance sheet from June to October.

**Questions/Comments**

1. *Penny Bailey* was concerned that the Sierra Leone Outreach project did not appear on the report. John Lewis/Ruth Ferry clarified the zero balance designation and the fact that a project did not appear on the report.

2. *Allan Ingram* congratulated the team for producing a document that was easy to understand. The Finance team representatives indicated that they were using spreadsheet templates established by Keith Munro and his team.
3. *John Durdan* asked how the manse funds were being used-concern that they might be frittered away and that a portion be "held back". John Anderson indicated that it was his hope that when the church was free of deficit and givings were increased there should be no need to use the manse funds for the general operating budget. The official board must approve dispersement of the manse funds.
4. *Don McTaggart* indicated that the manse funds might have originally been intended to be used for living allowances of ministers. If manse funds are to be used for capital/operational needs the proposal should come from the board to be approved by the congregation.
5. *Phil Connell* supported the idea that the manse funds **not** be used for the operational budget and that the congregation be asked to reconsider their donations otherwise there should be cuts in the budget to match the money realistically available.

There followed considerable discussion around the use of the Templin Fund to pay off the deficit. Phil indicated that some members might reconsider donation as part of their estate if they are unhappy about this situation.

6. *Colin Morley* (Chair of Gifts and Memorials) requested clarification that the board had not in fact approved the use of the Templin Fund [undesignated] to pay off the deficit. *Alex Chapman*, representing the official board, clarified that this step had not yet been approved.

There followed discussion as to whether the official board or the congregation has the ultimate authority to determine the use of undesignated funds.

*Alex Chapman* assured the attendees that the official board would discuss the matter at their next meeting.

*John Anderson* indicated that such a discussion could be presented at the next congregational meeting in early 2009.

7. *Keith Munro* complimented *John Anderson* and *John Lewis* for the proposal to post a monthly finance statement on a church notice board (not the weekly printed bulletin).

**Motion** :to post a monthly financial update, including year to date: *Keith Munro*

Seconded: *Penny Bailey*. Carried.

The second of *Keith Munro's* motions to have all investment decisions approved by the board of trustees was tabled until the next congregational meeting. *Colin Morley* pointed out that delegation to an investment manager is necessary to take care of the day to day market situation rather than wait for a decision from the board of trustees who may only meet monthly or every two months.

**Ministers Report/Celebrations:** *Rev Orville James*

- Smooth transition of staff when *Rhonda Elgersma* left and was replaced by *Caitlin Belanger*
- *Heather Weaver-Orosz* requested and was approved by M and P to reduce her hours of commitment
- Youth Ministry and Music Director hours have been reduced, with approval, resulting in 30 fewer staff hours/month in 2008/2009 compared with 2007/2008.
- There has been a "softening" of "regular attendance in all churches in North America compared with a generation ago. People are traveling more and spending time on family activities that take them away from regular attendance (3+ times a month down to 1-2 times a month)

- Stewardship Committee is ready to challenge the congregation to look at personal commitment and to give more financial support.
  - Pastoral Teams under the leadership of Katie Southon and Lindsay Foster are connecting with all age groups where there is a need.
  - Worship-need to keep both services energized and relevant. More frequent use of people sharing their personal faith experiences will be considered.
- Special appreciation to Klaus Droste, Lindsay Foster and Tim Tufford for filling the gap during the period without a music director and to Jean Gresham and Jeff Weir for their continued commitment to meaningful music at the contemporary worship services.
- WSUC with its strong and inspirational congregation is a recognized leader in a number of key areas-children's ministry, band, youth ministry and staff have visited conferences and theological college (Queen's University) to share their ideas.

**Motion:** To appoint Cathy Stevenson Stidwell as Presbytery Representative: *Tish Buckley*  
Seconded: *Nancy Walker*. Carried

**Motion:** To accept the reports [with designated amendments] as written: *Tish Buckley*  
Seconded: *Cindy Durdan*. Carried

**Courtesies**

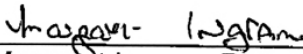
Tish gave thanks and acknowledged the importance of paid staff along with the contributions of Rev Walter Martila and Rev Neil Mosher and numerous volunteers who make Wellington Square a caring body of people.

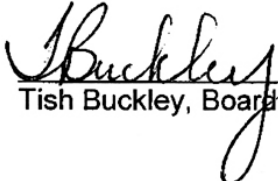
**Closing Prayer:** *Rev Heather Weaver-Orosz*.

Heather concluded by quoting a printed "gem" she often reflects upon  
"I know not what tomorrow brings but I know WHO brings tomorrow".

**Motion to adjourn:** *Tish Buckley*  
Seconded: *Steve Gray*. Carried.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Ingram, Recording Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tish Buckley, Board, Chair

In Memoriam

*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted*

Baillie, William  
Baker, Glenn  
Carter, Elinore  
Christiansen, Find  
Donovan, Douglas  
Evans, Irene  
Hamilton, John  
Hollingdale, Margaret  
Hoover, Ted  
Hylton, Myrtle  
Johnstone, William  
Locke, Leslie  
Maines, Patricia  
Markham, Casey  
McTaggart, James  
Moore, Lillian  
Oliver, Bette  
Paterson, John  
Rayworth, Sara  
Rose, John  
Shaver, Margaret  
Smith, Brooke  
Tice, Linda  
Witzel, Grace  
Woodworth, Lillian  
Wright, Douglas

## Baptisms

Cameron Steele  
Son of Jonathon Steele and Charity Marino

Dinah Lawson  
Daughter of John and Tammy Lawson

Matthew Adams  
Son of Michael and Laural Adams

Chloe, Adams  
Daughter of Michael and Laural Adams

Rachel Hills  
Daughter of Barry and Stacy Hills

Peyton Delves  
Daughter of Adam and Sherilyn Delves

Kaia Ohata  
Daughter of Gerald and Tracey Ohata

Madeline Mount  
Daughter of Stephen and Jody Mount

Brooke Stoneman  
Daughter of James and Krystle Stoneman

Chelsea Andrews  
Daughter of Daniel and Vanessa Andrews

Matthew Felker,  
Son of Sean and Kelly Felker

Sabina Dich  
Daughter of Shane and Myrella Dich

Karina Dich  
Daughter of Shane and Myrella Dich

William McGarrell  
Son of Michael and Lynette McGarrell

Travis Wyatt  
Son of David and Lindsay Wyatt

Sydney Wyatt  
Daughter of David and Lindsay Wyatt

Cailin Dupont-Freill  
Daughter of Ryan and Lori Lynn Dupont-Freill

## Marriages

Trevor Watters and Jo Ann Brown	August 8, 2008
Robert Caldwell and Jaclyn Pritchard	October 11, 2008
Robert Brisco and Amber Clark	October 18, 2008
Kevin Foley and Cheryl Hickey	October 19, 2008
Dale Sutherland and Elizabeth Lewis	November 8, 2008
Joshua Canney and Rammona McIntosh	November 8, 2008
Brian Vickers and Mardi Miller	February 28, 2009
Neville Brown and Audrey McKinney	April 24, 2009

New Members

Anderson, Laura  
Andrews, Richard  
Bhanich – Supapol, Wendy  
Bird, Patti  
Bird, Catriona  
Black, Janice  
Bruce, Hannah  
Burr, Karen  
Caldwell, Shirley  
Caldwell, Bill  
Chapman, Cassandra  
Clement, Jessica  
Coulas, Desmond  
Cox, Maureen  
Cox, Donald  
Cox, Sheila  
Dickenson, Catharine  
Fowler, Mike  
Kalley, Donald  
Kalley, Christiana  
Kavanagh, Cynthia  
Longely, Robert  
Longley, Susan  
Lord, Steven  
Mackey, Alison  
March, Diane  
McLellan, Allynn  
Mulder, John  
Mulder, Melinda  
Orosz, Michael  
Quinn, David  
Quinn, Jennie  
Redfearn, Douglas  
Redfearn, Mary  
Redfearn, Tim  
Royal, Nancy  
Shiels, Judith  
Simpson, Janice  
Stam, David  
Tung, Charlene  
Wells, Gary  
White, Vanessa

## Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Handbook for the Ministry and Personnel Committees of the United Church of Canada describes the M & P Committee as a confidential, consultative body that supports the pastoral relationship. The role of the members is supportive and supervisory, and encompasses staff relations, mentoring, continuing education, effectiveness evaluation and the review and revision of staffing needs and role descriptions.

In the year 2008-2009, the M & P Committee expended much effort on behalf of the staff and congregation to ensure this mandate was met. We continue to ensure that Wellington Square United Church is a good employer, meeting the United Church of Canada's employment standards.

In September, 2008, we happily welcomed Caitlin Belanger to the Staff Team here at WS. Caitlin has very successfully fulfilled the role of Director, Youth Ministry, providing tremendous faithful support to the youth, congregation, visitors and other staff team members on a daily basis. The Youth programs continue to flourish under Caitlin's strong leadership and vision.

In January, 2009, we further strengthened the Staff team at WS with the addition of James Bretzler as Praise Team Music Leader for the 11 am Service. James' faith, musical talent, passion and enthusiasm are contagious and have brought a renewed excitement to everyone he interacts with at WS.

With the support of a committed, skilled and experienced Ministry and Personnel Committee (made up of Cindy Durdan, Debbie Pugh, Heather Germain, Sue Eade and Rollie Steed) and the cooperation and support of the Board and the Staff Team at Wellington Square United Church, we have had a successful year and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that next year will bring. Thank you to the Staff and Committee Members for their dedication and fine work.

John Crusoe  
Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

A footnote provided by the members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee: Without the strong leadership of our dedicated, competent Chair, John Crusoe, M & P would not be as responsive in providing the support needed to the Staff and Board of Wellington Square United Church. John's balance of professionalism, coupled with his faith, continue to provide each team member with the forum to serve our Church. As a result we are able as a Team to work together and find solutions to any issues that fall under our Mandate.

## Adult Faith Development

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are doing, but let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:24,25

Small groups this year have been blossoming and growing as existing groups continue to flourish with thoughtful and encouraging facilitators, and new groups bud with excitement as together they learn the joys of being a part of Christian community. Whether we are planting, sowing or reaping, all of us benefit from this vital part of our church life...and what a year it's been!

The summer was spent journeying through a change in the structure of Adult Faith and how we could better meet the needs of both newcomers just “checking us out”, as well as supporting and encouraging faith group development. Under the loving and always eager tutelage of Joy Magwood, we approached the fall with group support, leadership development and welcoming newcomers teams that were eager to get a move on!

Welcome and Connect was born and Dave and Jennie Quinn dove into the position as team leaders to a group of people who were keen to find ways to first, be welcoming to newcomers, and then ways to encourage them in connecting with people around “the Square”. A team of greeters are now at every entrance (well, as many doors as possible!) every Sunday, and wow are they ever an enthusiastic bunch – not many people get by without a hug for sure! Also new this year is a welcome centre where we have a new welcome brochure and information bag available – this helps people to know who we are, what we're about and how to get involved. This is a critical piece, as visitors need to know as much about us as possible in deciding if Wellington Square is the church for them. Special thanks to Fran Anderson for both the creation of the info bags and all the follow up calls made. God is definitely at work in this initiative and we're all excited to see where He's taking this team!

The small group team forged into the new season starting with a Small Group fair on Sept. 21 to help make people aware of both the groups that were available, and to meet the facilitators who lead them. As well as the fair, a fall brochure was prepared with more in-depth information that included:

Groups for deeper Christian growth – the ‘core’ courses of Alpha, Power of Blessings and Living Prayer, as well as Hebron Seekers, Joyful Spirit, Practical Christian Living, Feed Your Faith, Spirit GIC's, Men's Bible Study, Monday Men, Women to Women Bible Studies, Wednesday Women, Women's Breakfast Time to Connect, This Hour has 59 Minutes, Mom's n' Tots and the U.C.W.

Added to this list were Christian service and interest groups such as the quilters of Dot Gow, the Sanctuary Choir, the Handbell Choir, Singing Strummers, the Drama team, The Messengers, Wok with God and last but not least, Movies & Sports for Guys! Phew – we're a busy place!

Some highlights to celebrate throughout the year were -

In October we held a leaders' café workshop based on the book “No Perfect People Allowed”, which led us to think about Jesus' message in our ever changing culture. Several people attended the Group Life Conference held in Orangeville and came away with much fruit and food for thought.

Two study groups on The Shack were led by Orville and Heather in both the winter & spring. The Wednesday Evening Women learned about their spiritual gifts and abilities through the SHAPE course, and then went on to explore Bruxy Cavey's book "The End of Religion". A bi-monthly check-in time called "REGROUP" was formed to give facilitators a chance to hear and learn from each other – sharing both celebrations and questions they've encountered. February brought us a Leaders' Café on Stewardship, reminding us to be generous toward God in every season of our lives, because He has so richly blessed us all. Monday Men celebrated their 44<sup>th</sup> year of continuous meeting and growing in faith. The U.C.W. welcomed Jenny Kyle and saw the Japanese POW camps through a child's eyes, Rev. Jan Rotheurger talked about the Yonge St. Mission, and Dr. Miles Munro shared insights into how to pray. The list goes on and on.

We at Wellington Square have been so richly blessed with the loving and Spirit filled leadership of Joy Magwood. She has worked tirelessly to encourage the growth of small groups over several years, and the word "thanks" doesn't adequately express what is in our hearts as she takes some much needed R&R. In typical Joy fashion though, we know that she will continue to encourage people in their faith journeys with the gusto known as being "joyfully Joy". We are all so VERY grateful for you, pray continued blessings and healing, and know God will continue to do great things through you.

As we look ahead to a new year, we are developing a reshaped model for the many facets of adult faith development, including a newly named Group Ministry Team that will be focus on Foundational Faith Development, Group Development, Facilitator Development and Group Ministry Communications. This process has been honed and refined over the last six months and brings us into the approaching fall with a new vision and strategy for sharing the love of Christ with others in our community.

In closing, I wish many heartfelt thanks to all our wonderful facilitators who share their time and servant hearts. As well, many thanks for the support and care of the Small Group Team of Neil Mosher, Donna Tufford, MJ Pearson and Michelle Guest, and finally my deepest gratitude to our Heather Weaver-Orosz, who leads, teaches and encourages us with so much grace!

Looking forward to what God has in store for us as He goes with us into a future filled with anticipation – we can't wait!

In Christ,  
Mardi Vickers

A few more thoughts and thanks...

As September gets underway already, we are very excited about the annual fall re-launch of all these programs and more – none of which would unfold as they do without strong and faithful leaders, including Mardi. She has offered many thanks to many people, and I want to echo all of them. But I also need to add my gratitude for Mardi herself and offer a reluctant farewell, as life and ministry have called her leadership elsewhere, too. In the midst of transition, we are held firm knowing that leaders like Mardi and Joy have built a strong foundation for this team and we are so very grateful.

We're also very grateful for each and every one of you that commits to this path of deeper discipleship. May you continue to find, connect into and be transformed by companionship on this journey of faith. For we are not alone ... thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,  
Heather Weaver-Orosz

## Congregational Care Ministries

Team Leaders: Lindsay Foster and Rev. Katie Southon

Staff Support: Rev Katie Southon

Caring Teams: Friendly Visitors, Phone Ministry, Bayridge Ministries, Connect with New Members

Prayer: Prayer Ministry and Circle in the Square

Hospitality and Fellowship: Sunday Coffee, Fellowship Lunches, Christmas Brunch, Congregational Meetings, Anniversary Sunday, Special Events as they arise, Congregational Dinners, Caring and Connecting BBQ's, Trivia Night, Couples Seminar.

Outreach: Singing Strummers

### Caring Ministries

Friendly Visitors: Gloria Wells, Marjorie Milligan, Betty Stubbs, Sheila Buckingham

These ladies visit, or contact members of the congregation by phone.

Hospital Visiting: Volunteers visit at the beginning of the week and clergy visit at the end of the week. Please let the office know if you are going into hospital or know of someone in hospital.

Links 2 Care: coordinated by Jolaine Montgomery

This ministry pairs up visitors and people to visit weekly

Phone Ministry: Janet Robb contacts each person once every week. This is a way of keeping contact with those who are not always able to attend church or just need a call.

Care and Connect: Support Sharon and Neal Mosher

This is a new Ministry connecting with people in their geographical areas.

Funeral Receptions: Bette Park and the UCW

It is a much needed and appreciated ministry to those at a difficult time in their lives.

Card Ministry: Cards are sent to welcome new members to our church family. Cards are also sent following a bereavement.

Records: Records kept up to date are Baptisms, Weddings, New Members, Burials and Historic Roll.

Prayer Ministry: Penny Bailey and Heather Germain

"Great is Thy Faithfulness!" is the theme of prayer ministry at Wellington Square. We pray for this church family continuously, as well as at times of crisis. This September will be the 44<sup>th</sup> Living Prayer class and the 13<sup>th</sup> year of "Prayers in the Park".

Bayridge Village: A New Ministry – An interactive on line ministry. To log on go to the Wellington Square website ([www.wsquare.ca](http://www.wsquare.ca)), go to the join page and select “affiliate” under the promo code. Use 095F4CFD7A to access the Wellington Square section of the Village.

Circle of the Square: Rev. Dr. Orville James

A program at Wellington Square designed to help people deepen and broaden their faith and Christian experience. The Circle is open to people of all ages and stages of life. The only requirement to be a part of the group is the willingness to practice the following 5 Christian disciplines: Regular worship attendance, reading daily bible passages to help prepare for Sunday worship, Daily prayer, regular participation in any small group that meets at least monthly, and committing to work towards tithing within a 3 year period. A weekly newsletter is emailed to members, including daily bible passages to read, and prayer requests from the Circle.

If you would like to per part of this group please contact Orville.

### Outreach Ministries

Singing Strummers: Lead by Ruth Urbasik.

This is a very busy group. They entertain at hospitals, nursing and retirement homes, and wherever they are needed.

### Hospitality and Fellowship Ministry

Sunday Coffee: 9am Fern McAndrew and volunteers

11am Margot Mandel, Jim Walker, Nancy Plumb and Nancy Pollack

Fellowship Lunches: Team Leader Denise Pearson, catered by Diane March. We have 8 lunches during the year after the 11am service.

Trivia Night: Beth and Chris Carver

Pasta Dinner: Grandmothers for Africa

December Christmas Brunch between services

Anniversary Sunday

2 Congregational Meetings

Caring and Connecting BBQ's

Team Leader Lindsay Foster and many helpers

Thank you to a fantastic, dedicated team of volunteers. This ministry could not exist without your participation. Also a big thank you to Katie and the rest of our Ministry team, and Staff, for your wonderful and much appreciated support.

As Always “But with God All things are possible” (Matthew 19:26)

Lindsay Foster

Congregational Care Ministries Leader

## Children's Ministry

Mission Statement: to provide a fun, safe and friendly place where we learn about Jesus' love.

Purpose: to encourage kids to get fired up about God's Love...they can't wait to share it with others.

Values:

- L ove God and others
- E xperience the good news of Jesus
- A ttract ALL children to Him
- R emain rooted in God's word
- N uture strong Christian friendships

The following ministries and teams continue to enrich our Children's Ministry here at WS:

*Music* Our GraceLand Band continues to creatively minister to kids through music in fun, live and inter-active ways.

*GraceLand Drama Team* Our drama team engages kids by sharing bible stories in fun and relevant ways that help introduce our lessons.

*GraceLand Puppet Team* Our drama team work hard at effectively sharing God's word through funny skits and inspiring kid-friendly songs.

*GraceLand Dancers* Our dancing girls ages 4 & up meet weekly to wiggle and giggle. They express their talent and love for Jesus through contemporary praise dance.

*GraceLand Planning Team* This wise team meets twice a year to set goals and objectives, plan themes and special events for GraceLand.

*GraceLand Curriculum Team* Our creative writing team works together at bringing the message of God's love to children by writing interactive and tangible lessons, ideas for games, crafts, story-time, discussion questions and activities...all centered on scripture and theme. The curriculum is edited and compiled by our Thursday prep team.

*Thursday Morning Prep Team* Our prep team gathers together to help prepare Graceland's large task of administration duties, materials and resources needed. They also work on short-term projects and share a hand in creative up-keep.

*GraceLand Leaders and Helpers* This eager bunch, teach our children the word of God and strive to model the love of Christ by loving His children.

*Plan to Protect* Part of our mission for GraceLand is to be a safe place for children and volunteers. As we continue to grow our team is committed to keeping our safety procedures current.

*GraceLand Support Team* This team has the wonderful task of interviewing our entire Children's Ministry volunteers. Using their gifts of wisdom and discernment, they responsibly screen as well as provide on-going support and prayer for them.

*Communication's Team* This team of creative communicators eagerly takes on the constant challenge of keeping our church and beyond our church walls informed of our awesome kid's ministry and up-coming events in a variety of visually effective ways.

### Children's Mid-week Groups

*Boy's Sport's Night* Our enthusiastic crew of boys and dad leaders gather every Tuesday to play games, sports and have loads of fun.

*The Grace Notes Choir* Our kids' choir loves to sing to fun action songs and make new friends. They meet every Monday afternoon. A dedication duo team of leaders share life with these children.

*JAM Events!* JAM Events provide a fun night for ALL ages! Families included. We had a blast with our Mad Science Night and Talents Show/Make your own Sundae night. Other families from the community join in the fun too!!

### Special Events

*Vacation Bible Camp (2008) Run for Your Life!!* Run For Your Life camp week was HUGE!! Over 130 children ages 4-10 (some toddlers too) along with 65 teen and adult volunteers gathered for a full week of friendships, drama, creative story time, puppets, crafts, games, snacks, songs and more. Our goal was to help children learn about running the good race with Jesus by trusting God with everything.

*Christmas* GraceLand delights in sharing our Godly gifts by presenting 'Silent Night' at both services. We celebrated Jesus' birth by having all our children share their talents in unique ways...drama, song, slide-show presentation and dance.

*Faith @ Home Events* Our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of providing Faith @ Home events continues to be an effective way to encourage and equip families to live out their faith in the home. We hosted the following successful events: *How to Read the Bible, Jesus Loves Me this I know, How to Pray with your Child, Thankful Hearts, Music, Media & Me and a Blessing teaching is given to each family requesting baptism.* We're able to give a variety of resources from each event to help families further their faith development in the home (*Bibles, Crosses, blessing, devotion & prayer books, resource sheets, DVD's/CD's, activity sheets, etc*)

*Baptisms* Children preschool ages to grade 8 participate in baptismal service by watching children receive baptism or dedication. We also share our creative communication gifts by presenting puppet shows, video presentations and/or music to help in the celebration.

### Outreach

*Open House* We hosted a number of Children's Ministry leaders from outside churches by providing a walk-about of GraceLand and a chance for folks to ask questions. As well, Heather Mackey led two Children's ministry Seminars on how we at WS spread the great news of Jesus in fun and relevant ways...one at Queen's Theological University and the other at Halton Presbytry Conference.

*Giving of our Gifts* GraceLand sponsors a young boy named Pachorn Sinnart from Thailand through World Vision. We also gathered canned goods for food banks and participate in various missions throughout the church. Many students from our Grade 5 & up classes serve breakfast at Kerr St. Missions and help out at the Wesley Christmas Store. We also supported Canadian Food Grains by donating proceeds from Our JAM event. Our SALT students use their gifts to help serve in Children's ministry.

*GraceLand Volunteer Affirmation* Everyone under the umbrella of Children's ministry gathered together over a special brunch to celebrate another awesome year of kid's ministry. We thanked our volunteers for their dedication and for loving God's kids.

Heather Mackey  
Children's Ministry Director

## Communications Team

The Communications Team at Wellington Square is a communications resource group to staff, leaders, teams and committees in the church, and a point of coordination of all kinds of information. We serve God and the church family to increase awareness of any message that needs to be delivered through various media.

Through liason with staff and volunteers we have assisted in the development of a new Welcome Booklet as part of the Welcome and Connect team's package for visitors; continued weekly email news-blasts based on bulletin announcements; and continual revisions to the church website.

Thanks to all who serve tirelessly on this team: Les Reynolds, Linda Lord, Larry Couse, and Catherine Wagg (who donned the Comm Team hat most of this past year while I could not.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Rose

## Footsteps Library

This past year we saw an increase in borrowing from Footsteps Library. Many of you responded to our WSquare Reads promotion on the "WS happenings" bulletin board and asked about titles we recommended. More of you inquired about items you wanted to read/view in the case of Dvds and we responded. Often we placed holds and followed up to get you the item you wanted and in other cases we bought more copies to satisfy the list of people waiting to borrow.

In the next couple of years we will be initiating a DVD collection. The adult video collection has been withdrawn and the children's video collection will also be reduced to allow for these new acquisitions. Our current titles are hard to keep on the shelves. A collection inventory and weeding project will happen in July 2009 to maintain space for the popular items and keep material that is appealing and desired to help you grow in your faith journey.

Library hours are 10 – 11 a.m. between the contemporary service at 9 a.m. and the traditional service at 11 a.m. on Sundays from September to June. However please remember that you may borrow anytime during church open hours from the McMillan Room (see the shelf for self checkout here) or be obtaining the key for the Footsteps Unit in St. Paul's Hall from the church office.

Submitted by  
Jane DeBoer

## Gifts and Memorials Committee

Wellington Square honoured our past members with a Memorial Sunday service on Sunday, November 2, 2008. We were privileged to have Reverend Claudia Adams deliver the message and also participate in the period of meditation and prayer in the Memorial Gardens.

During the 2008 – 2009 year, we were in receipt of memorial donations in memory of:

Alan Baillie  
Margaret Hollingdale  
Ross Loughram  
Casey Markham  
Sarah Rayworth  
Members of the Michael Rodgers family  
John Rose  
Brooke Smith  
Grace Witzel

We continue to provide funds for the maintenance of the Memorial Gardens and with the special support of Sheila Buckingham, the Caroline street sign. Recently, at the request of the Church Board, our committee has agreed to provide funds for the purchase of a defibrillator and the training of persons to operate it.

Our committee has met with representatives of the Trustees and the Board and later with Michael Southon's leadership group to review our committee's role and method of operation.

I am pleased to acknowledge the support and assistance of committee members Lindsay Foster, Janet Lacy, Duncan McFadgen, Marjorie Milligan, Bette Park and Pat West.

Colin Morley  
Chairman

## Music Ministry

The music program at Wellington Square is very active with many volunteers who dedicate both time and energy into making worship meaningful. I began working at Wellington Square in January 2009, so this has been a real growing year for me, as well as for the members of the various music ministry teams.

### Choir

The choir at Wellington Square is a dynamic, friendly, and outgoing group of individuals who I have had the pleasure of directing over the past several months. They are actively involved in the 11am worship service through the presentation of anthems, special hymn descants, and other small-group vocal ensembles. Some members have also shared solo vocal and instrumental music. In particular, I would like to give particular commendation to the group of individuals, mostly from the choir, who gave of their time and talents to lead the music at 11am worship during the fall of 2008 while a search for a new 11am music leader was being conducted. It was thanks to their committed leadership week in and week out that my transition as music leader in January was a smooth one. Thank you!

The highlight for me with the choir this year, in my short time being here, was the hosting of the combined Good Friday service at Wellington Square. This involved participation of a mass choir with 3 other churches participating. I was thankful for the leadership shown by our choir in learning and leading the anthems that were presented, as well as the group of volunteers who prepared and cleaned up after the breakfast that was served that morning.

### Bell Choir

The 2008/09 church year saw the Bell Choir reorganized with Mary Loree, one of our ringers, becoming our Director. We were able to present a Christmas Concert at a nursing home, and performed at WSUC before Christmas. We have played twice at WSUC in 2009, and played at St. James United Church in Waterdown at the request of Tanya Vroenhoven. Debi Sproule who was awarded a Music Scholarship in 2008 performed a solo piece in June. Eight members of the Bell Choir travelled to Ottawa to attend a 2 day bell ringing symposium. We wish to thank the congregation for their support of our annual Pancake Supper.

### Messengers Choir

This group has been together for about 4 years and they practice on Sundays after the 9:00am service for about a half an hour. During the past Christmas season we worked on a lovely tune called Emmanuel and sang with the Gathering band accompanying us. We are on holidays until September, where we will once again meet for our short but fun rehearsals, and we hope to embrace more of the small groups by combining what we do in a performance with perhaps the Graceland band, or dancers or even the little Grace Notes choir.

Submitted by  
James Bretzler

## Outreach and Caring Action

Transition. That is the word that dominates and has been dominating Outreach and Caring Action for years now. And we have no reason to believe that the close of this season is anywhere close. Although change can be difficult and sometimes unwelcome, it is with great hope and anticipation that we embark on this journey—a journey that we expect to be on for years to come.

So, where are we going?

Unity. What ever we do, we want to do together. Most everything that we have done as an Outreach Leadership Team, we have done to remind ourselves that we are all after the same things. Though some may have a passion for a particular place, or people, or program, ultimately we all see injustice and want to make it right. If we can recognize where our passions overlap, and work together we can do more to meet the needs and change the world we live in.

These are the places we worked together this year:

Bulletin Announcements: this year we were able to unify our announcements. All requests were sent to our Communications Coordinator (Jeff Price) and were crafted to speak with one voice.

Celebration Sunday: on October 19<sup>th</sup> we had a “Celebration Sunday” where we highlighted the projects and partners that we work through and with.

Education instead of asking: the annual Foodgrains presentation was turned into a Hunger Sunday, with a slightly wider focus, and with emphasis on education around the hunger needs that are present around the world.

We have begun to explore and get involved with different initiatives in our community. We’ve started to financially support Room at the Inn, a drop-in center located in the Crestwood Motel. We’ve also started supporting the Compassion Society, a ministry to lower income family’s in Burlington. Another opportunity that we are currently investigating is the Motel Ministry project. This initiative is focused on serving dinner and building relationships with those in long-term motels in Burlington.

We are continuing to share, explore and finesse the vision that the Outreach and Caring Action ministry would be encouraging people in:

SERVING – action, participation, “going & doing”, many opportunities

SUPPORTING – financially, and with supplies (food, clothing, etc.)

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS – giving the poor a face & a name, putting people face to face, long-term, multi-level (sometimes a “hand-out”, sometimes a “hand-up”).

CREATING UNDERSTANDING – educating ourselves and others.

Submitted by  
Les and Lindsay Reynolds

## Property

The following was accomplished during this fiscal year.

- Debbie Pugh volunteered to coordinate the gardens. Thanks Debbie.
- The sign at the west entrance was replaced
- Fire Protection monitoring was moved from ADT to Password with increased reliability.
- The floors in rooms 1 & 5 were stripped, sealed and re-waxed.
- All surplus paint cans (about 40 gals.) were taken to the hazardous waste site.
- A roof repairer attempted, unsuccessfully, to fix the leak at the east sanctuary entrance.
- The leaking sprayer hose in the kitchen was replaced.
- Temporary help for Jamie, when he broke his arm, was hired.
- All EXIT sign lamps were replaced by energy efficient lamps: Cost \$0; Saving \$522/yr.
- 4 ceiling fluorescents were replaced by energy efficient lamps: Cost \$0; Saving \$15/yr.
- The evening custodians were terminated and a cleaning company (Sunshine) was hired.
- A new Server, Backup and UPS (uninterruptible power supply) were purchased to enhance our computer system.
- A riding mower, push mower, sweeper, blower and trimmer were purchased for Jamie to do our own lawn care. The contract for lawn care we had for lawn care in 2008 was not renewed.
- The broken hinge on a kitchen cupboard door was repaired.
- The handles on the outside doors from the parking lot were tightened numerous times.
- The contactor controlling the parking lot lights was repaired.
- A new compressor motor for the heating system was installed.
- A faulty valve in the west end Men's room was repaired after a minor flood one evening. Luckily, one of the evening custodians was on duty and contained the damage.

I wish to thank those who volunteered their time to assist me. In particular, I'd like to mention the invaluable help I received from Jamie Acheson.

Submitted by  
John Butler

## Stewardship

The stewardship team; Bruce Magwood (leader), Bryan Webber, Tony Wilson and Penny Bailey. Three businessmen and a pray-er ~ God has a sense of humor.

We have met almost every other week, spending time praying (seeking God's will and counsel), studying the Word, researching our Church history, examining past practices, we reviewed 15 books on the subject of God and His financial principles, (ten books are available in the Church library) exploring web-sites, and viewing videos and DVD teachings on this topic. All of this information has helped us to answer our original question.

"God, how do we resolve the financial challenges of Wellington Square?"

Here are some of the things we learned:

Stewardship is not just about \$'s and cents ~ Stewardship: to faithfully manage all that God has entrusted to us according to His Will and His Purposes, to His Glory; life, on earth and eternal life, time, family, friendships, relationships, gifts and talents, money and possessions, careers and roles, our purpose here on earth, faith, the earth and everything on it, the Gospel and His Grace.

The focus for this team, however, will be learning how to be "good stewards" of the finances entrusted to us, personally and corporately (the Church) so that we will be found trustworthy and bare greater fruit for the Kingdom of God.

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:12

We discovered, the very first thing we need to "give", is to give our hearts to Jesus. When the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us, then, we experience the freedom and joy of "spirit led giving".

Everything must to be "rooted" in love ~ this is where the real power is.

The financial issues of this Church are not just financial ~ they are spiritual and must be dealt with as such. In response, we developed a "stewardship prayer team" (Lynn Kasprzyk, Sue Zwicker and Penny Bailey) who meet every Monday for two hours. We prepared 19 pages of scripture-based prayers that we use as a foundation for our prayers and we spend time seeking the Lord (Counsel and sound judgment are mine, I have understanding and power, Proverbs 18:14).

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" Hosea 4:6 ~ As a Church, we need a solid foundation of understanding the many biblical, financial principles.

"Without a vision, my people perish" ~ we spend a great deal of time focusing on the finances of this Church, when, in fact, our focus should be on the Kingdom Work we are called to do. This is a historical church, which has always been deeply rooted in "mission work" locally and abroad. Wellington Square United Church belongs to Jesus, it is His Church and we need to ask Him what work He wants us to be accomplishing for the Kingdom of God.

The goals for stewardship set back in 2004 still have not been achieved but we are determined that the goal set before us by God will be accomplished. We are in this for the long haul.

So, what was the answer to the question we asked God?

That WSUC would develop a culture of tithing and generous "spirit-led" giving. If you are new to your faith, you may need some teaching in this area before it makes sense to you. The good news is that

God meets us where we are. Tithing and giving is as much a spiritual discipline, as prayer, reading the Word, worship, communion, and fellowship is. Like all disciplines, the intent is for “our good”, to help us become more Christ-like. Jesus is a serving and giving Lord and we are created in His image. So, we can do this.

So what have we done so far?

- we established our vision; “To be rich toward God in all seasons.”
- We developed guiding principles, strategies, tactical plans and outcomes, as well as discussing ways of evaluating the forward movement of this plan.  
(Our plans are consistent with the overall values and visions of WSUC)
- Bruce has worked with finance, trustees, and gifts and memorials to develop a “big” picture view and hopefully to enhance our communication amongst these branches of finance.
- Tony is excellent at creating charts to analyze and measure giving trends so we can carefully and regularly track our financial picture. Accountability is a priority.
- We continue to explore ways to effectively manage the finances of the Church ~ presently considering a 10-10-80 Kingdom Budget.
- We met with another Church to share ideas. Their Church had “one deficit”, in the early 1960’s, so it is very possible for a Church to have a balanced budget, year after year ~ they also recommended a reputable auditor to help with a yearly audit.
- Stewardship has a section in the bulletin; we confess we are still trying to find the best way to keep you up to date with our financial status.
- We have a stewardship communication board outside the Chapel.
- We are developing a stewardship information brochure.
- We have purchased prayer cards ~ scripture based prayers for your finances, which we will distribute to our congregation.

Meetings: We have had extended meetings with the ministers and the board.

In the spring we held a leadership café, attended by leaders in the Church, we showed DVD’s around the theme of mission work ~ together we explored the many needs in Burlington and Bryan did an excellent presentation using pie charts which demonstrated the positive impact, that tithing and spirited giving could make to significantly increase our Kingdom Work.

Presently the stewardship teams are evaluating a 13 week course, called Financial Peace University. Course objective: to help free people from debt, learn to save and be positioned to give freely, with a cheerful heart. Financial Peace.....

Respectfully submitted by  
Penny Bailey

## Worship and the Arts

The church calendar year of 2008-2009 has been a year of excitement and change for Wellington Square as we welcomed 2 new dynamic staff members to our WS team.

In September 2008, Caitlin Belanger was hired as our new Youth ministries coordinator. She brings enthusiasm, great experience and a wonderful sense of humor to her role. Caitlin spent the past 3 years as the Youth worship director at Cayuga United Church, and worked for the last eight summers at Ryerson Camp where she returns as Assistant Director this year. In April 2008 Caitlin completed her Honors Music Degree at McMaster University.

We are also so very blessed to have James Bretzler join our WS team as Music Director. James has 10 years of experience leading choirs and playing organ and piano at Binkley United Church in Hamilton and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Burlington. He is currently completing an MA in public policy and public administration at the University of Guelph. He is excited to be part of the Wellington Square team and looks forward to ministering through music in the 11am service. Welcome aboard Caitlin & James!!!

The focus on the arts continues to shine with great music and drama. THAT Band continues to gratefully serve in the way they do, and is appreciative of the support and encouragement that is regularly received from the Square community. As some members moved on, others were welcomed in. THAT band received a blessing as Meghan Miller joined on vocals in the spring. They will continue to lift their hearts, heads, and instruments to the Lord and work to engage themselves and the Square with the awesome love and reconciling power of Jesus.

WSUC's contemporary choir "The Messengers" welcomed Toni Clement as their new choir director this past winter. Toni's musical background, enthusiasm and love of music, makes her an excellent addition to the group.

The Drama Team continues to work closely with the Planning Team to select creative dramas that directly link to the given message. They hope to perform more consistently at the 11 A.M service beginning in the fall.

The Wednesday night worship service continues to provide additional worship time in an intimate setting. This past year the planning team worked hard to make these services a success by presenting biblical truths along with practical ways to incorporate them into our daily lives. The highlight this year was guest speaker Bruxy Cavey who spoke about his book titled "End of Religion".

Our church continues to reach out to those who may not have a close relationship with Jesus, and show how life-changing a relationship with Him can be. For those members who do know Him, we strive to teach more. We continue to be a church that will always look for ways to touch lives and help carry each other's burdens. God is good, and we are grateful to have the support of our wonderful community here at Wellington Square!

Blessings to you all...  
Nikki Smith ☺

## Youth Ministries

There's never a dull day in youth ministry and that is a fact. Working with teenagers not only keeps me young but also allows me to have one of the most varied ministries at the church. I get to take kids out for lunch, play games, share about my faith in fun/serious ways, be a sounding board for kids of all ages and just have fun.

This having been my first year at Wellington Square and having to jump into a staff position has proved to be an interesting task but God's faithfulness has shone through and has given me a "killer" first year on staff, full of new friendships, new memories and new ideas for the future.

We are so blessed at Wellington Square to have such a wide and varied group of kids who long to be involved at the church. There are many things to celebrate from this 2008-2009 calendar year and I am thankful for the chance to get to know each kid and to see just how special each one is.

### The Edge

The Edge is a youth group for high school kids (grade 9-12) and meets every Sunday. We play games, have worship times, do bible studies, discuss topics from A-Z, hang out and just be ourselves. The Edge has always strived to be a place where teens can just be teens, a place and time in the church that they can call their own and begin to see the church building as "home".

A typical youth night can never be called typical but we did a variety of different things. We would have "normal" nights of games and hang out, various Bible studies (whether at the church or traveling), outreach nights at off site locations to pull in new faces (ex. Bowling, Movie Theatre, etc.). We also tried to get the kids to an evening young adult church service somewhere offsite, such as Church on the Rock, Crossroads, St John's Youth Service, etc. It's always great to see various styles of worship and to open our eyes to the possibilities we as a youth group can accomplish at the Square! If anything I hope those visits can inspire our kids to become spiritual leaders amongst their peers.

This year afforded some changes in numbers and faces as is normal with any transition in leadership. Our average weekly numbers ranged from 6-12 but whether large or small there were plenty of opportunities for growth in relationships and getting to know that one person you might not have even noticed before. Like any ministry this group has had its up and down moments but I am excited to see where the fall will take us. God has been good and will continue to be so!

A huge thanks to Mark Eade for his contributions through out the year. Also to Christian McFarlane for his early involvement in helping me feel more at home with a new group for kids. Volunteers and helpers are the most important part of running any program and as we look to expand our volunteer recruitment for the future I am so thankful for the energy, thoughts, ideas and support from Mark and Christian!

### Rockpile

Rockpile is a youth group designed for grades 7&8 and they are definitely an energetic group. The main function of this group is to keep kids involved in the church and helping them feel ownership over the church. As well we hope to create relationships between the kids and leaders.

Rockpile is loosely based off the Edge group as it eventually leads into that age group. We did events such as bowling and movies while also focusing on ways to help out within the church. This age group was excessively willing to step forward and be present/help out for events such as Trivia Night, District BBQs baby sitting and running the Christmas Eve service. I'm always amazed by the desire and focus of this age group and have great expectations for them in the fall as our older kids transition into the Edge group while our new 8<sup>th</sup> graders can mentor the grade 7s coming in!

Thanks to Andrew Alton and Tracey Gallenger for their help throughout the year. With the change from Fridays to Wednesdays we will be looking for more leadership but specifically Andrew and Tracey's hard work was admired and extremely welcome.

#### Confirmation

This year I was blessed with the opportunity to run Confirmation Class. In it we had 10 dedicated and amazing teenagers step forward in faith and embrace Wellington Square as their home and family. We had adventures after church most Sundays from March through May that included open and honest discussions on what it means to be a Christian. We did many things such as attend other church services, serve a meal to each other, talking about ways to serve others, the church and ourselves.

This class also created a new opportunity to form close-knit relationships with other adults in the church through a mentorship. Working alongside the confirmands and mentors was a blessing in itself and I hope that those relationships can continue to grow and deepen each one's faith.

"Above all else, clothe yourselves with love" (Col. 3:14) is what we are called to do. And as each confirmand stepped forward to profess their faith I have no doubt in my mind that each one of them will succeed above and beyond all of our expectations. My greatest hope is that our love can go beyond the four walls of the church and reach out to other youth in Burlington and beyond!

Thanks for the prayers, concerns, questions and fashion tips,

Caitlin Belanger  
Youth Ministry Coordinator