

MAR/APRIL 2018



The Kronicles

of Kortright Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario



SR AND JR YOUTH ENJOY A WINTER RETREAT AT PIONEER CAMP (STORY ON PAGE 4)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Session Update: Alex's Intermission
- Keith Green - The Not for Profit Prophet
- Community Bible Study— Picnic for Five
- Radiate Weekend at Pioneer Camp
- Leadership Studio 2018 at Muskoka Woods
- God's Story by Robin Fletcher
- Smelly Situations of Life
- Service Opportunity with Power Tools
- Reaching Out While on Vacation
- Book Review: The Be Happy Attitudes
- New Books in the Library
- Upcoming Events

SESSION UPDATE: PASTOR ALEX'S INTERMISSION

Session is pleased to announce that Pastor Alex will be taking an intermission later this year. The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington approved this intermission at its meeting on March 13 after Session had done so on January 10.

Below you will find an article by Rev. Ralph Neil answering the question "What is an intermission?"

For now, we want to let you know that Alex will be away from May 28 to August 6 on intermission, followed by two weeks of study leave from August 6 to August 20. During his time away, Pastor Ralph will be available in the case of pastoral care emergencies and will also be doing most of the preaching. As the convener of the HR committee, I will be available for staff if they need any particular support.

Further to what Ralph has written in his article, let me add that our presbytery decided in June 2016 to encourage ministers currently serving in Waterloo-Wellington to consider an intermission. In the past few years, seven local ministers have taken or are about to take intermissions, including three in Guelph. Intermissions are also now included in the call for ministers when they start in a congregation.

Please join us in praying that this time of intermission would be a blessing to Pastor Alex and that the Lord would renew and refresh him.



Steve Morris
HR Committee Chair

What is "Intermission"?

Intermission is neither a holiday nor a sabbatical. Holidays are relatively brief and are for personal rest and family recreation. Sabbaticals are much longer and are for academic study or writing. Intermission is a ten-week period for a minister to recharge and refresh.

At the beginning of A. A. Milne's wonderful stories of Winnie the Pooh, we are introduced to Winnie. He is coming down the stairs behind Christopher Robin, "thump, thump, thump", on the back of his head. He is thinking to himself that there must be a better way to come downstairs, if only his head would stop thumping long enough for him to think of it.

Intermission gives ministers a break from the "thump, thump, thump" of the pastoral routine so they can find the "better way" they lose sight of in the busyness of work. After some years of dealing with crises and problems a minister's vision inevitably shrinks. His vision of the greatness of God and the wonder of His grace to him shrinks, and along with it the vision God gave him for his church's ministry when he first began to serve it. On intermission the minister is relieved of the urgent issues of ministry so he can face the important issues for which pastoral duties leave little time. "Am I the man of God I am supposed to be? What does the Lord want to do in me now? Am I leading the church as He intends? Where does He want us to go next?" As the answers to these questions become clearer, faith is strengthened and energy is released.

I am delighted that session has granted intermission to our pastor at the end of May. It can only be good for him and for Kortright as he gets closer to the Lord and finds fresh vision for our future.



Ralph Neil
Interim Pastor

KEITH GREEN: THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT PROPHET

Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) has evolved these past three decades into a veritable industry. While the Lord Jesus warns that one cannot serve two masters—God and mammon—the unholy spectacle of “worship-tainment” led by worship rock stars pervades CCM, to the tune of mass monetization and the praises of men (i.e. the Dove Awards). Debatably, today’s CCM is largely processed-sounding, homogenous and banal, worldly albeit baptized in the name of Jesus and peddled as such.

This potential for Christian music ministry to deviate into consumerism was always a burden for American evangelist Keith Green (1953-82). Having previously sought fortune and fame in the 60s and 70s pop music scene, Green, after years of soul-searching, finally surrendered his life to Christ along with any ambitions to musical acclaim. He challenged the burgeoning CCM business purveyors to radical faith and trust in the Lord, not charging for his concerts and even gifting his albums to those who could not afford them. Some notable quotes:

- **“Why do we idolize Christian singers and speakers? We go from glorifying musicians in the world to glorifying Christian musicians. It's all idolatry! Satan is getting a great victory as we seem to worship these ministers on tapes and records and clamour to get their autographs in churches and concert halls from coast to coast.”**
- **“If somebody writes a great poem, people don't run around applauding the pencil, saying 'Oh, what a great pencil'... I'm a pencil in God's hands.”**
- **“The only music minister to whom the Lord will say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant,' is the one whose life proves what their lyrics are saying, and to whom music is the least important part of their life. Glorifying the only worthy One has to be a minister's most important goal!”**



Keith Green (1953-82)



Sean O'Leary
Worship Director

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY - PICNIC FOR FIVE



Allison Pinches
Director of Discipleship

As we look together at who Jesus is and what it means to be sent in Luke's Gospel – what has stood out to you so far? What has captured your attention? Spend some time with that, ask God more about it and see if there is a creative way for you to respond. If you are willing, please share with us what you have come up with.

gathered & milled
grinded & pressed
kneaded & rolled
baked & cooled
wrapped & packed

hooked & reeled
caught & killed
sliced & boned
salted & smoked
wrapped & packed

whole & ready
picnic for five

gathered & sent
offered received
blessed & broken

RIP
PULL
TEAR

SHRED
SPLIT
SLICE

crumbled
cracked
torn

offered received
gathered & sent
picnic for five thousand

Junior and Senior Youth

“RADIATE” WEEKEND: PIONEER CAMP, FEB 2-4



Rowena Ridder
*Director of Family
(Children and Youth)
Ministries*

It was that time of the year again, time for our annual Radiate retreat at Pioneer Camp. We left with an eager group of Jr. and Sr. youth. This year we had a fairly large group, all with anticipation as to what was in store for them. Once we arrived, the activities started with an introduction to our hosts and team captains, who were dressed like chefs from around the world. Next we met the speakers who going to lead us throughout the weekend. We recognized one as our speaker from two years ago, and the second a speaker who was still in high school and only a few years older than the average age of our group. With this new dynamic, the youth learned a lot about themselves and who we are in this world. We had some great discussions in our small groups and during regular conversations.



GOLF BALL SHUFFLEBOARD GAME CAPTIVATES YOUTH

The games prepared for the weekend were epic, from buying and selling commodities for the greatest profit to earn points for our teams, to creating a fire in the snow and using it to melt snow and boil an egg. Along with snowshoeing, axe throwing, tubing. Scavenger hunt and many other activities, there was not a dull moment. We had a tired group of youth on the long drive back.

Senior Youth

LEADERSHIP STUDIO 2018: MUSKOKA WOODS



Joan Knox
Session Elder

As one of Kortright's Just Older Youth, a grandma to a 21 and 14 year old and an elder, when I was approached to go on this weekend my response was "I'll pray about it and talk with Bill. Bill's affirmation, prayer and support for my involvement, plus the excitement and joy I experienced in my own spirit about spending the weekend with six of our senior youth said to me God was involved.

Several descriptive words come to mind, that I hope will give you a sense of our time at Muskoka Woods Leadership Studio.

Inspirational, challenging, impactful. relational, fun, intense, experiential hands on learning.

Our overarching theme of the weekend was: "LEADERS ARE PEOPLE WHO LOOK AT THEIR WORLD AND SAY IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT." - AND THE PERSON WHO WOULD BE A LEADER MUST ALSO BE A BRIDGE.

We stopped at a library on the way up to dig deep in answering some serious and tough questions Rowena had prepared in advance for all of us. All of our youth were fully engaged from the beginning and in all aspects of the weekend. It was fun to give Roses out to library patrons as an act of kindness!

The model used for teaching was designed and delivered for every type of learner by integrating the arts, social justice, Christian values, and emotional, relational intelligence. Our senior youth were challenged to think differently about our world and themselves.

They are articulate, well mannered, considerate and respectful of others. They want to make a positive difference in their church. They have come back excited, encouraged, and strengthened in their faith journey.

In closing they are willing and open in seeing how one specific idea we talked about can be implanted with our support and encouragement.

Would I go again if asked? You bet! This just older youth, grandma and elder even went tubing.



*Back: Frank, Elizabeth, Hannah, Ruth, Joan
Front: Callum, Thea, Matthew, Rowena*

GOD'S STORY—FRIENDSHIP

My name is Robin Fletcher. Some of you know me well. Others just know me as the one who plays the weird instrument on one of the worship teams. By the way, that instrument is an EWI or Electronic Wind Instrument.

I have been feeling a Holy Spirit “nudge” to share something. In the past five years, I have lost about 80% of my hearing. I can still hear instruments OK, although not as well as before. My big challenge is hearing voices. That makes things very interesting around home with four very active, exuberant children. Female voices are easier for me than male voices. That makes conversation interesting for my husband and me. Dinner table conversation is completely lost to me as background noise adds to my difficulty. The Lord is teaching us to have patience with each other throughout this time with many speed bumps along the way.

In John 12:24, Jesus says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” God uses times of brokenness to refine and teach us to be more like Jesus. I have found that as the sound of the world dims, I can hear HIS voice more clearly. I can also turn off my ears when the children are arguing – ha ha! There have been other blessings too.

Rewind to about ten years ago. I was just starting to sing background vocals on a worship team. The group leader stepped down and I was nominated to lead. The learning curve was steep but I had good mentors to help me. One definite challenge for me was the tech guy. I found him harsh (I am super sensitive in part from a distant relationship with my father) and was often in tears as I dealt with him. I would frequently ask my husband to deal with him so that I didn't have to.

Well, this tech guy was later diagnosed with a form of cancer. He and his wife did not have a car and people within the church were volunteering to drive him to his treatments. I distinctly felt a nudge (push) to step up and drive. I fought it and argued with God for some time. What would we talk about? The time would seem endless. (And selfishly) What was in it for me? I reluctantly stepped up and honestly, dreaded the day.

That day was a beginning. We had great conversations and he was very transparent in sharing some very personal things with me. From that day on, I had a new understanding and appreciation for him. I think he did for me too. I would like to say that from that day on, everything went smoothly in our relationship but that would not be true. However, it was definitely better and has continued to transform and improve.

Fast forward to my present hearing challenges. This tech guy has gone out of his way to help me. He researches speech to text apps that could help. He and other sound guys made me my own “Kickboard” (see photo). I am tech-challenged and had a hard time remembering where to plug in all of the different wires each time I played. This kickboard has stickers with arrows labeling where everything goes. They figured out that if I hear the voices amplified in my headphones (remember they are the hardest thing for me to hear), I can hear the instruments naturally and play along. The most rewarding thing for me as a worship leader is when I can hear the people in the congregation singing along so loudly that I can hear their voices raised in praise, despite my hearing difficulties and headphones. It always makes me smile. So, please sing! Our Father in heaven delights in the praises of His people.



Robin Fletcher
Writer

GOD'S STORY-FRIENDSHIP (cont.)



Custom made kickboard.

In the recent AGM report, the tech guy shared his "Highlights" of the past year. There was only one. It was being able to help me and find a way that I can still play on the worship team. I read that and cried. The next time I saw him at church I gave him a big hug, before my surgery he sought me out to give me a hug and tell me that he will be praying for me. I count him as a dear friend now. If God can transform our relationship, He can do that for anyone; any marriage, any co-worker, any estranged family member, any friendship that has gone sour. You may have to step up and respond to nudges that

you would rather ignore. You may have to make the first move and wonder what will happen. It may take many years. Our Lord can do it. As it says on the back of cars in Nicaragua: "The impossible doesn't exist with God". Please do not let satan win and create division amongst Christians. As much as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone (paraphrase of Romans 12:18).

On February 22, I had surgery for a cochlear implant on my left ear. I have been overwhelmed with the support our church family has given me. I feel lifted up by the prayers of His people. Our family has been blessed by rides, meals, baking and treats. You have shown us the love of Jesus in a real, tangible way. We are humbled and grateful.

The next step comes on Wed March 21st when the doctors will attach the processor on my left ear. They have to wait this long so that the inflammation from the surgery goes down. Some people hear well right away. Others hear just beeps. These are the two extremes. Most are somewhere in the middle; with adjustments and therapy, most people hear well within 6 to 12 months. My brain has to learn to hear in a completely new way. We would appreciate your prayers. I trust that I am in His hands every step of the way.

SMELLY SITUATIONS OF LIFE

Cute and cuddly critters....., bundles of fur with impressive tail raising dances, and the uncanny knack of appearing just at the wrong time. The skunk season was at hand, and the Beales were heading out on vacation. Three empty houses in a row, and a lawn covered with mulberries gave the orphaned family of five black and white babies, the ideal setting for survival.

For Daughter Deb, and husband Ken who were checking the house, what should have been a pleasant visit back home, became a threatening trip into a hostile environment. Where were the little critters today ? Would they cut off entrance, or just wait and prevent exit from the family home. It became a hostile and potentially smelly situation, which worsened as the young skunk family became entrenched. The skunks teamed up with a family of finches who had decided to make our doorstep hanging basket their home. The birds took delight in swooping down on anyone who approached the front door. Could things get any worse. What would the next day bring ?



Bundle of fur with an impressive tail raising dance

little skunks, and the hostile situation they created, which eventually led to their demise. One by one they disappeared from the neighbourhood. Not because of anything we did, but because of the actions of various neighbours who were looking after their own interests.



Margaret Beale
Writer

As I journeyed recently through John's Gospel, I became intrigued with Martha's response to Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus. "Roll the stone away," says Jesus to the distressed family. "But Lord, there is already a stench," protests Martha. "He has already been dead four days !"

What an honest reaction - Yes Lord, I want a miracle, but do it with the good stuff of life - don't expose the smelly putrid stuff. Do we really have to go there! Can't you just fix everything, without digging too deeply and exposing us to reality.

Unperturbed by the imminent possibility of a stinky smelly situation, Jesus ignores the protest, and brings life out of death.....hope out of despair. All of this brought to mind the smelly

SMELLY SITUATIONS OF LIFE (cont.)

Christ seeks over and over again to bring new life out of our worst and smelliest situations, and uses those around us in our Christian Community, to help to steer us on the right path . Like skunks, we can stand on guard, controlled by our sin, doing our deceiving little dance to look good, while all the time creating a hostile environment for the Christ who seeks to come into our hearts and control our lives. Whether it be in our Church, our work, our families, our health or our social situation, God in Christ seeks out the stench in which we would rot and destroy ourselves, and enfolds both us, and it, in His love.

Do we like Martha rebel, when direction is given ? Do we ask for a miracle without facing up to the problem. Do we cry out , “Let's not go there ! “ when called to examine the things that hold us back on our journey.

In 2nd Corinthians Chapter 2, we read - Through us, God brings knowledge of Christ; Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation- an aroma redolent with life. But those on the way to destruction, treat us more like the stench from a rotting corpse. We are the salt of the earth, light to the world, and to other Christians a sweet scent rising to God.

We live in a world which is becoming more and more hostile to our Christian beliefs. Quite recently, I posted a message on a public Facebook page, wishing all Christians a blessed Christmas Day, as they celebrated the birth of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wow, did that cause backlash, and the worst comments, which attacked me for not being inclusive, came from a young ‘Christian’ lady. Yes, everyone wants the good stuff of Christmas, but only Christians can grasp its full impact, as it inevitably leads on to Calvary, and the ultimate sacrifice for each one of us.

The reality for Lazarus and his family was death..... It stank.....Jesus had let them down. It was too late for any recovery effort. But the power of God overcame the grip of death, as Jesus restored life to the rotting corpse. So too the reality for us is death.....nothing is more certain.....but through the grace of God, we too can be brought to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Death stinks, but God can and does intervene in the smelliest situations of life , to recreate in us, New Hope and New Life in Christ. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Father God, thank you for walking with us, and before us each day. Keep our eyes focused on you, and help us to be salt and light, and a sweet aroma, to those who seek the path to Salvation. We pray in Jesus name

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY WITH POWER TOOLS

The Maintenance committee is made up of volunteers with varied skills and expertise, that together support the various ministries of the church and also the rental groups.

Previous work has included cabinet making and carpentry including new furniture for our worship platform such as the Cross, multipurpose tables, the Bible stand, bookcases, portable trollies and storage units.

All building services are within the committees responsibility and include the servicing of the five roof furnaces/air units, roof inspections including the removal of growing materials , maintenance of gas appliances, electrical, plumbing, heating, lighting, painting, grass cutting, snow clearing, security systems and fire safety, and the ongoing upkeep of our beautiful gardens at the front entrance.

If you have skills with construction or building maintenance, please consider joining this important ministry at Kortright. Contact Doug Hayes or Bill Knox for more information about this opportunity.



Bill Knox

*on behalf of the
Maintenance Committee*

REACHING OUT WHILE ON VACATION

It is a joy to worship with other believers while on vacation.

The church we attend in Florida has an annual Mission's Conference which lasts for 5 days. The leadership plans many events one of which is a round robin. The individual missionaries set up in different rooms and the congregation travels from room to room hearing the missionary's stories about their time on the field. Afterwards they have strawberry short cake, since it is strawberry time here in Florida in February.

One retired missionary told of his witness to an African tribal chief who had told him he would kill him if he talked about Jesus. The missionary showed this African chief practical love by fixing his motorcycle and it opened the door for dialogue. The result - he shared about Christ and his love for him and he accepted Christ as his Saviour. So encouraging to see how the Lord calls out some to be ambassadors for him in foreign countries.

We learn a fresh each year how important it is to pray for our missionaries who "count it all loss for the sake of the gospel" who give up the comfortableness of North American living and answer God's call on their lives so others will come to know Jesus.



Bonnie Neil
Writer

The Library

BOOK REVIEW: THE BE HAPPY ATTITUDES



Louise Sharpe-Bergess

Book Reviewer

ARE YOU HAPPY?

Is your life filled with joy? Can you meet obstacles that come your way with assurance that Jesus is walking with you, side by side? Are you a walking testimony for your Saviour?

"The Be (Happy) Attitudes" written by Dr. Robert Schuller presents "Eight positive attitudes that can transform your life!"

If you guessed the book is about the Beatitudes then-you are correct! Dr. Schuller uses anecdotes, personal experience and spirit led insights to explain all eight statements given by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount.

I have listed the eight statements, each are followed by the author's attempt to explain them.....

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." " I need help- I can't do it alone."

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." "I'm really hurting-but I'm going to bounce back!"

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." " I'm going to remain cool, calm, and corrected."

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." " I really want to do the right thing."

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." " I am going to treat others the way I want others to treat me."

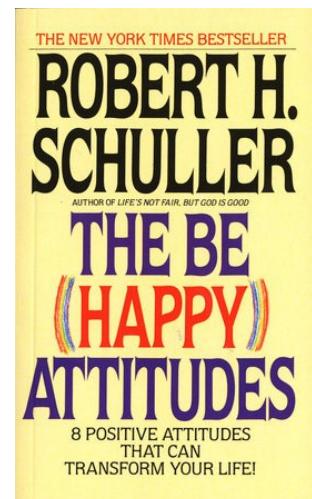
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." " I've got to let the faith flow free through me."

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for shall be called children of God." " I'm going to be a bridge builder."

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven." " I can choose to be happy-anyway."

Curious about the author's explanation and how it relates to each statement? This book is entertaining and worth the read.

There are many treasures to be found in the church library. Have a look!



The Library

NEW NON-FICTIONS BOOKS

Library Co-ordinators
Betty Schuett
Meilanie Sharpe-Berges

On Becoming Pre-School Wise by Gary Ezzo & Robert Bucknam - 249 Parenting

Who can understand the mind of a preschooler? You can! The growth period between ages three and five years is all about learning, and On Becoming Pre-school wise is all about helping parents create the right opportunities and best environment to optimize their child's learning potential.

Griefing the Death of a Mother by Harold Ivan Smith - 234 Grief

Drawing on his own experience of loss, as well as those of others, the author guides readers through their grief, from the process of dying through the acts of remembering and honoring a mother after her death.

Virtuous Leadership by Alexandre Havard - 235 Equipping

Drawing on the lives of some of the greatest political, intellectual and religious leaders of modern times, and the author's personal experience, Virtuous Leadership demonstrates that leadership and virtue are not only compatible, they are actually synonymous.

In the Name of Jesus (Reflections on Christian Leadership) by Henri J.M. Nouwen - 235 Equipping

For a society that measures successful leadership in terms of the effectiveness of the individual, Father Nouwen offers a counter definition that is witnessed by a "communal and mutual experience." For Nouwen, leadership cannot function apart from the community. His wisdom is grounded in the foundation that we are a people "called." This beautiful guide to Christian Leadership is the rich fruit of Henri Nouwen's own journey as one of the most influential spiritual leaders of the 20th century.

Peace with God by Billy Graham - 230 God/Jesus

In Peace with God Billy Graham asks God to help this book "find its way into the hands and hearts of a lost, confused, and searching world . . . men, women, and young people everywhere [who] thirst for peace with God."

The Volunteer Revolution by Bill Hybels - 235 Equipping

The future of the local church is directly tied to its ability to attract, equip, and unleash the potential of volunteers in the church. Pastor Bill Hybels sees a new reality on the horizon.

Two Part Harmony by Patrick M. Morley - 249 Marriage

Your intimacy as a couple will be strengthened as you share the thoughts contained in these classic pages. Pat helps both of you through the delicate art of communication to a deeper understanding and the openness you long to achieve.

Eat This Book (A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading) by Eugene Peterson - 220 Bible Resources

Eat This Book challenges us to read the Scriptures on their own terms, as God's revelation, and to live them as we read them.

Desperate Women of the Bible (Lessons on Passion from the Gospels) by Jo Kadlecik - 226 Bible Studies

Jo Kadlecik introduces us to eight biblical women driven by their passion and desperation to seek out Jesus. She explores their stories in their cultural context, then draws out the lessons they hold for contemporary readers who are willing to let an encounter with Jesus change their lives.

Life on the Edge (A Young Adults Guide to a Meaningful Future) by Dr. James Dobson - 249 Teens

As a young adult, you will face crucial questions about identity, education, marriage, career, God's will, and much more. Some of the most dramatic and permanent changes in life will occur during the "critical decade"—those ten years between 16 and 26. Are you prepared to make the right choices?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Services

Mar 25	9am and 11am
Mar 30	10am Single Service, Good Friday
April 1	9am and 11am, Easter and Communion
April 8	9am and 11am
April 15	9am and 11am
April 22	9am and 11am
April 29	10am Single Service, New Members

Upcoming Events

Mar 24	Kortright Connect, Men's Movie Night
Mar 25	Small Group Leaders Meeting
Mar 29 to Mar 31	Prayer Room Open
April 10	JOY Group
April 28	Women's Event

Easter Prayer Room

Kortright will be hosting the Easter Prayer Room again this year. The Youth and Games Rooms will be transformed into various "themed" stations relating to prayer, meditation and reflection. At this busy Easter season, we invite you and your family to a place of quiet, peace and contentment. Come and experience God's presence in a special way.

The Prayer Room will be open:

Thurs. Mar 29 6pm - 1am

Fri. Mar 30 11am - 11pm

Sat. Mar 31 7am - 11pm

Easter Sunday - unsupervised, open 1 hour before and after Sunday morning services

Please note that band practice will be held Saturday evening 7-9 pm.

The Kortright Kronicles is published four times per year. It is created to tell the stories of Kortright Presbyterian Church.

For the next issue, please submit articles to Dale in the office by April 20th. Articles will be edited to accommodate space (250 to 300 word) requirements. Photos are encouraged to be included with articles. A photo of the author should also be submitted.