

SEPT/OCT 2018



The Kronicles

of Kortright Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario



*ADAH, CALEB, JOSH, RUTH, JUSTIN (IN FRONT)
PIONEER CAMP—LEADERS IN TRAINING*

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HOW WAS MY INTERMISSION?

That's a question I've heard a lot lately. I usually answer it by saying "it was really good." And then, if I have more time, I go on to describe it as a gift of time. Time to spend with God. Time to spend with Judith. Time to spend with my kids. Time to spend with my parents. And time to spend with myself.

I read more than I usually do. I read the bible and other books. I started journaling again. I prayed through the psalms. I rested in my prayer time. I went away with my wife for 5 days on our own. I took the time to be with Chloe, Callum, and Lily. I stayed at my parents' house for ten days and helped them with odd jobs and got to know them better.

One minister (who shall remain anonymous) warned me when my intermission began that I would either come back refreshed and ready for the next chapter in my life as pastor of Kortright Church – or, he said, you won't want to come back and when you do you'll start to listen for God's call to move on to the next thing he has in store for you.

I am pleased to say that I feel refreshed and ready for what comes next. I've described it like I have new reservoirs of energy and enthusiasm that had been depleted but are now restored.

I was so excited to get back that I found myself day-dreaming about being back at work at least a week before I was due to return. As I write this, I am filled with delight after our Sunday service on Sept. 9th. We had such a wonderful morning with 270 in attendance and lots of newcomers as well as familiar faces after the summer.



Alex MacLeod
Pastor

TWO SUNDAY SERVICES

On Sunday, Oct. 14th, we go back to holding two worship services – one at 9am and one at 11am. Some of you might be wondering why we're waiting until mid-October this year to conclude our single service schedule. Here are the reasons:

September has five Sundays this year and we normally hold a single service on the 5th Sunday of a month with five Sundays, partly due to the fact that we don't have a regular worship for the fifth Sunday of a month and it's easier to put together a team for a Sunday with only one service – but also because we like to be together as a congregation in one service during the period from September to May and the 5th Sunday of a month with five Sundays lets us do that.

The next Sunday after that 5th Sunday (Sept. 30th) is the Thanksgiving long weekend and so we expect to have lower numbers on Sunday, October 7th because people travel that weekend to be home with family. When we have a Sunday with lower numbers it's a good opportunity to hold a single service and not spread ourselves thin over two services.

We are currently without the services of a Worship Director and so extending our single service season by a couple of weeks makes it easier on worship teams (who only have to prepare for and play for one service) at a time when we're short-staffed.

These are some of the main reasons we are waiting until Oct. 14th this year to start up our two service schedule. We hope this helps you understand the careful prayerful consideration that went into this decision.

JESUS SENDS JILL OUT



Jill Vanderlei
*Past Interim Young
Adult Coordinator*

I began coming to KPC as an intern for the Young Adult Ministry; a quiet second-year university student – never having led a Bible Study and with little confidence in my ability to be a leader in ministry. Now, as I head out into the big world: post-university and pre-the rest of my life, I leave with two years of Bible Study leadership training, with two years of being poured into by a stream of patient Christ-led mentors, and two years of meeting Christ in new ways again and again with the help of the KPC community.

In my final year in Guelph, God led me to a job opportunity at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) for high school ministry in Toronto. While receiving a call for IVCF, I was also being reminded of the message in Matthew 10, through Community Bible Study, as Jesus sends the disciples to go out and stay where they are welcomed. The disciples are told to leave everything that they have and go out into the world with only their faith in God for their protection. Armed with this call and with boldness in Jesus' blessing, I am heading into the world with faith in God's plans for my life as I work in the high school hallways to deliver the saving message of Jesus to teenagers. Already I have seen the impact that IVCF is having on students' lives. Students are leaving their IVCF groups to tell their families about Jesus, they are sitting and talking with people living on the street and they are going on to their universities, fully equipped to let their faith carry them through the years that find so many falling away from faith.

My two years working for and being part of KPC taught me to take chances, to embrace meeting new faces and to deeply listen to the call of the Lord and follow it without looking back. These are the lessons I take with me as I work to build the future of the Canadian Church. I am deeply grateful to KPC for the teaching, for the opportunities to meet my Lord alongside a loving community each week and for the gifted smiles and faces that welcomed me with open arms and have since become treasured family.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUMMER INTERN

While spiritual growth and development is the main focus of Sunday school, and reading bible stories and praying has been key during our Sunday school lessons, this summer the children have grown in many more areas. In order to display God's love, we need to reach out beyond our Christian circles and be equipped with more than the word and wisdom we learn from the bible. Practicing the qualities that Jesus demonstrated is one of the best ways that we can put His love on plain display. In Sunday school, the children are shown unconditional love and, in turn, practice showing love to their peers. They waited their turn to use the scissors, waited their turn during the relay race, or waited until a new round of musical chairs begins. Through all these things, the children practiced patience and understanding, one of the key qualities that Jesus displayed as well.

It was also interesting being able to observe how different children reacted when put in different situations. Many of the children were not entirely comfortable walking into the classroom because there were many new children in an unfamiliar space. Some of these children would be withdrawn, while others would respond by acting out and overpowering the classroom. However, as the children became more comfortable, they began to feel the acceptance of the other children; the quiet children would start warming up and talking a little bit more and the overpowering children began to settle down as they became more comfortable. Watching these different reactions and watching the children begin to feel comfortable in the loving environment was evidence of the importance of practicing the qualities that Jesus demonstrated, seeing beyond how people are acting.

My experience as an intern has been a lot of fun, and extremely rewarding. I have grown in patience, and spiritually alongside the children. As I wrap up this incredible opportunity, I am left thinking a song written by Brandon Heath "Give Me Your Eyes" that reminds us of the importance of seeing others through Jesus eyes. As I begin another school year, my prayer for all students is that we see others through Jesus' eyes, and pray that they, in turn, can experience His love through us. Spending time with these kids has meant the world to me.



Thea Seguin
*Children's Ministry
Summer Intern*

PIONEER CAMP

This summer I participated in a Leaders in Training program up at Intervarsity Ontario Pioneer Camp. As I prepared to leave for camp I prayed that God would show himself to me. After a long year of school where my faith had been stretched I wanted to see God's power and I wanted to be revived by the Spirit. After spending six weeks at camp, I can say with absolute certainty that my prayer was answered and that God (as he usually does) added on in ways that I never could have imagined. The community that was built between the 70 leaders over those weeks is something I am certain will only continue to grow. It was a place where God was sought in all of our actions and a place where He was glorified in everything. After three weeks of leadership training, our group was officially ready to be counselors. As a counselor I thought I wouldn't grow nearly as much as I had during the leadership training, but once again God worked in amazing ways. The days were full and I knew that the only thing physically keeping me going was God's strength. After a week of loving, caring and being available at every minute for a group of kids, there was no greater feeling of peace then hearing them accept Jesus into their life as their Saviour. This summer has taught me so much about servanthood and having a heart for God. I've found a love for scripture and a desire to know more about God which will stay with me for my whole life. I will certainly be spending more summers up at camp as a counselor and I'm excited to see how God will continue to work in and through my life.



*Phil Gautier, Gabriel Sacrey, Callum MacLeod
(writer)*

Our 3 weeks together in leadership



Callum MacLeod, Michael Folch, Hannah McCrae, Esther Shenouda

Counsellors last day

PIONEER CAMP

This past summer I served at Pioneer Camp Ontario as the videographer for Girl's Camp. I've been to OPC as a camper, but this was my first summer on staff and it was full of highs and lows, laughter and tears, sun and rain, a whole lot of growth and God showing up in every moment of every day. I learned countless things this summer, but above all, I came to understand the fact that God provides, always. See, I ended up chalet leading (aka being a counselor and looking after campers) for half the summer, in addition to being the videographer. If you had told me back in June that was how my summer was going to play out, I would have run the other way as fast as I could. The role of chalet leader was not one I expected to have nor one I wanted and honestly, a role I did not think I could do. I thought what I needed was 2 months of doing something I love (video) and not being pushed too far from my comfort zone. That was definitely not the kind of summer I had, but it turns out God actually provided me with exactly what I needed: a deeper connection and relationship with campers than I ever could have gotten if I had just been the videographer, as well as an opportunity to pour love into campers in a much more direct way, and a close up view of the harvest. God put me in a position that I wasn't comfortable in, but he gave me peace, a position that I didn't feel I could do, but he qualified me. God provides. Not always in the way we think we need or we want or we expect, but he is always faithful and he always provides! I also want to express my deepest gratitude to my entire Kortright family for supporting me this summer through prayer and financially - your generosity and care means the world to me!!

Being at camp this summer in the Leaders in Training (LIT) program at InterVarsity Pioneer Camp Ontario made me realize exactly how important community is and how easy and surprising it can be when you all share a core value such as faith. Going into LIT I had been feeling that I hadn't made many deep connections with people and it was something that I really wanted. So often, I find that communication and friendships are either superficial or one sided where one person talks and the other is only there to listen. While those are good, they shouldn't be the only connections we have.

This feeling of superficial connections continued during the beginning of LIT, so I talked and prayed with a leader and asked family to pray as well. Later that week, I made 3 amazing friends who share my faith, can support me and encourage me and who I can support and encourage as well. We shared crazy experiences as one does at camp and we laughed and talked together. I would never have met these people with such different interests and would likely never have talked to them. God on the other hand, knew exactly what I needed and he worked through camp and the LIT environment to bring us all together. For me, God answered my prayers beyond what I ever imagined. I thought He might bring one good friend into my life, but instead He brought 3 amazing ones and a whole family of LITs.



Chelsea Giesbrecht
Senior Youth



Ruth Horn
Senior Youth

THE CANADIAN SHIELD - GOD NEVER TAKES A VACATION

I'm gonna be honest here. When I discovered that the week of our wilderness canoe trip promised to be wet, rainy and thunder-stormy, I was a *little less than enthusiastic*. I imagined hours upon hours of being cooped up in our tent with 3 energetic kids who seem to love to bicker at the best of times... *sigh*



What I find amazing is the difference in my attitude and outlook from the day before we left, until the day we returned. Upon the 'return' to civilization, I felt as though my senses were being assaulted. After only 5 days, I didn't want to return to 'real life'. In our wilderness campsites, we played, observed frogs and skinks and snakes, saved dragonflies and took them to the 'dragonfly hospital' that someone had created, played games, and read a book together, enjoyed fishing and swimming, canoeing and creating. We made up a song together using sticks on rocks and our voices while waiting for soup to boil as we cooked it on our little stove on a large slab of bedrock of the Canadian Shield. Some of us got over our fears of jumping into dark, deep water, to the cheers of the rest of us.

It was hard to leave the wilderness. To think of how much I was dreading our time there, the turnaround in my heart surprised me.

There is such a peace in nature, in the surrounding noises of lapping water, wind in the trees, a loon calling... and absolute silence. There is an astonishment when you are living with so few possessions, without usual comforts and only a tent to shield you from thunderstorms. There is something about the people you meet on a portage – they are friendly, genuine and down-to-earth. No one is concerned about the latest app, the latest and greatest trends in technology. I sense kindred spirits. There is also a sense of pride to have lived harmoniously with bees and snakes (including a Massasauga rattlesnake) and to find great joy in it all.

Yes, there was some bickering. Yes, there were tears. Yes, things were sometimes hurtful. Such is family life. It wasn't all sunshine and butterflies. But there was also space....

Space to breathe. Space to sit. Space to observe nature. Time to watch snakes as they basked in bushes. Time to listen to stories. Time to listen to each other. Time to tune into the voice of the One who created all the beauty around us.



Kristen Rekker

Writer



KINGDOM BOUND



Vivienne, Carolyn, Hannah Bier

It has been a great summer. Our family managed to find the right balance between work, play and time on the road. We even made it through the inevitable “I’m bored” moments!

One highlight was our road trip to Darien Lake in New York for the Kingdom Bound Christian music conference. Every year, KPC’s wonderful youth pastor Rowena, enthusiastically extends invitations to anyone who will listen. This year we made it work and we had a blast!

We loved seeing our fellow Guelphites around the amusement park and at speaker sessions. We loved the experience of sharing this event with thousands of other Christians from both sides of the border. We felt united in our love for Jesus and our general courtesy toward anyone who wanted to jump the queue for an ice cream or

rollercoaster ride! Yes of course, the last *shall* be first.

Each night well known, Christian musicians would take the stage for an evening of worship and praise. There were thousands of gathered voices singing out to our Lord. Young couples, friends, families with children and grandparents, and youth groups all in attendance. One night, Mark Hall the lead vocalist of Casting Crowns, shared his story of faith and journey with Christ and his team led a very holy time of musical worship. All praise and glory being regularly directed upward to Jesus and away from themselves or their own abilities. It was easy to sing along to some of their most familiar tunes and they ended the night with Glorious Day. Mark encouraged us to close our eyes and sing with everything in our hearts. The instruments faded away but our united voices stayed strong, repeatedly singing out the gospel message.

*“Living, He loved me. Dying, He saved me
Buried, He carried my sins far away
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He’s coming
Oh glorious day, oh glorious day”*

It was powerful with the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. We opened our eyes to find the stage empty and the lights off! The band had left - well before the song was finished. Casting Crowns did not want our applause. It was clear our worship was to be offered to God and to Him only. What a privilege to share this moment with our own children and with our extended family in Christ.

To God be all glory and praise. Forever and Amen.



BEATITUDES

Library Co-ordinators

Betty Schuett

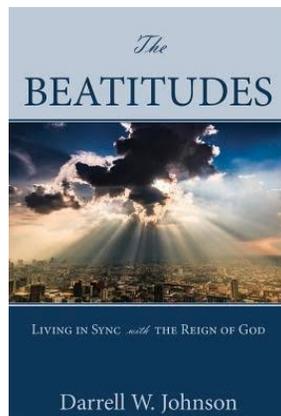
Meilanie Sharpe-Berges

The Beatitudes: Living in Sync with the Reign of God by Darrell Johnson

For two Sundays in July we looked together at the beginning of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" the portion of Scripture commonly known as "The Beatitudes." In examining these 'blessed are' statements we considered what it is that Jesus considers "blessed" - when and to whom does he say "right on," "in sync" and "you lucky bums!" The most useful tool in my preparation and as I have learned about the Beatitudes over the last number of years has been from the teaching of Darrell Johnson. I mentioned a book several times that is a real gem and I HIGHLY recommend it to anyone that wants to review or dig in deeper to what we were discussing with the Beatitudes and what it means to live as Kingdom people. This book won't take long to read but it is jam packed with profound yet understandable insights. My copy is covered in underlining and highlighting on every page! Dale kindly ordered a couple copies and they can now be found in our church library.



Allison Pinches
Director of Discipleship



Library Update

Over the summer, the Library has been re-organized to accommodate the many book donations that have come in. The fiction shelves have been re-arranged to better utilize the available space.

Please note that:

- 3 copies of the requested book on the Beatitudes is now available - Non Fiction - "Topical" category
- all bibles have been relocated to the shelves at the back of the Sanctuary
- a new series has been added to the Junior Fiction section
- some older Adult Fiction books have been removed to make room for newer donations.
- A list will be compiled by author and writing style for the Fiction side to better aid in making a selection
Examples: Biblical Fiction, Historical Fiction (American, Canadian, Russian, German, World War), Mystery, Romance.

There will be a free book table set up with discarded books and duplicates sometime late September.

Thank you all for your support and donations to our library - AND KEEP READING.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Services

Sept 23	10am Single Service, Ed Dickson, BBQ
Sept 30	10am Single Service (Moses 2)
Oct 7	10am Single Service, Communion (Moses 3)
Oct 14	9am and 11am Service (Parables 1)
Oct 21	9am and 11am Service (Parables 2)
Oct 28	9am and 11am Service, Bruce Kuhn

Upcoming Events

Sept 21-22	Missional Leadership
Oct 9	JOY Group Meeting, Christine Mance, Geriatric Nurse Practitioner
Oct 10	Community Bible Study starts
Oct 13	Leadership Summit
Oct 12-14	Anchor Youth Retreat
Oct 27	Women's Breakfast
Oct 28	Salvation Sounds

WE REMEMBER

Brock Pilkey	Feb 2018
Bea Firth	July 2018
Brice Martin	Aug 2018



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 **October 10th**. Articles may be edited for length in order to accommodate space requirements (aim for 250 to 300 words) and may be edited for content. Photos are encouraged to be included with articles. A photo of the author should also be submitted.*