

Mar/April/May 2019



The Kronicles

of Kortright Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario



*Radiate Weekend, Ontario Pioneer Camp
Feb 12th, 2019, Grade 6 to 12*

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NEWS FROM SESSION

Session has exciting news about the new position of Director of Worship and Outreach at Kortright.

We have hired Justin Sytsma to serve in this new role, starting on April 1st. Justin is a gifted pastor and worship leader currently serving at Lakeside Downtown here in Guelph. You can read all about him and his family below (or “on the next page” if it doesn’t fit “below”).

At the Annual General Meeting on Feb.24th, Session made a presentation about a new vision for future outreach at Kortright and how we believe this staff position will help us to achieve our outreach goals.

Given that we did not conduct an open search – that is, advertise the job and invite anyone to submit their application – as we have done in the past, Session would like to take this chance to briefly explain how we reached the decision to hire Justin.

Since this past August, we have been without a Worship Director at Kortright. We are blessed with strong leaders for our Sunday morning worship services and, as a result, we have not missed a beat, so to speak. And yet, Session intended to search for a new member of our staff team to oversee music and worship all along.

Back in the fall, we learned that a gifted pastor and worship leader in Guelph was in the process seeking the Lord’s guidance as to where he could serve in a new congregation. It seemed like an opportunity we should explore. That person was Justin Sytsma. We met with him to start to consider what God might be doing. At the same time, Session had begun to work on hospitality and outreach as our new priorities going forward as a church. We concluded that we need to put our money where our mouth is. This will be the first time we have had a position on our staff team with a particular focus on outreach.

When we discovered that not only is Justin a highly regarded worship leader, but he also has a passion for outreach and recently completed a Master’s degree in Missional Theology, we felt like the Holy Spirit had brought us together and that there was no need to look elsewhere.

Justin went through a rigorous process. We interviewed him twice with some of our key worship leaders, musicians, and outreach leaders involved. We checked his references. We prayed and deliberated. The choice was clear. And so we are delighted to welcome Justin to our staff team at KPC.

One final development: the budget for this position was sufficient to allow us to increase what we had expected to be a 75% job to 85% (or 34 hours/week). Also, we have hired Justin on a contract that goes to the end of 2019 only. If there is not a real improvement in our financial position in 2019, we may not be able to continue to fund this new position. May the Lord bring renewal and growth to KPC!



Alex MacLeod
Pastor

The HR Team

Laurie Timms
Kristina Shaw-Lukavsky
Crystal Wyllie Isaak

DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP AND OUTREACH

Meet Justin and the Sytsma family

Since a young age, Justin has had a passion for Christ, the Word of God, and music – and he sought to combine these loves. Over the years, he has served as a youth pastor, young adult pastor, worship pastor, and most recently as the pastor leading Lakeside Downtown. Having recently graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary, Justin brings both experience and training to the areas of missional outreach and worship.

Justin is a self-professed coffee snob, guitar gear nerd, and avid Montréal Canadiens fan.

Justin and Lindsay are long-term Guelphites with a heart to see the city know Jesus. They've been married since 2009 and have an energetic red-headed 3-year-old daughter, Iris. Lindsay is a gifted teacher and minister herself, currently working on completing a Masters of Theological Studies through the University of Waterloo.

The Sytsma family is thrilled to be coming to KPC – Justin says, “We can’t wait to meet you all!”



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION UPDATE 2

The family faith formation is a group whose mission it is to explore how to empower and bless families at Kortright and develop a practical strategy to implement.

January 24th- Joan Hildebrand and Rowena Ridder attended a Family Faith Cohort symposium in Grand Rapids. This was an intensive day of learning alongside 10 other churches from across Canada who are on the same journey as our team.

It was great to meet others in ministry, both staff and lay leaders tackling the same question that we are. We learned about the impact of congregational culture on ministry, as we reviewed a series of faith formation centers, completing an exercise to help us understand our goals and missions for the year.

On February 19th a roundtable discussion was held with the Family-Centered Ministry at Heritage Green Presbyterian Church. This congregation is deeply focused on supporting family faith formation.

On March 10th we had our third KPC group meeting. Lesli van Milligen walked us through a BLUE WALL exercise answering the question- In what way do we want to impact, empower, and bless families at Kortright.

We came up with 7 categories with points of action. We will be working towards bringing this list into a focused, executable plan. This was an incredibly fun and challenging exercise that stretched our minds and imagination!



Rowena Ridder
Director of Family Ministries

Volunteers

Melanie Dennis

Joan Knox

Joan Hildebrand

Lonah Seurey

Bas Vermeyden

Lydia Bermeyden

Connection, communication, Relationships	Supporting Families in Faith Formation	Deeper, Personal faith journey	Engage everyone in the service	Inter/Intra Church outreach	Multi Generational Connection	Welcome and acceptance
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Team Update Meeting—Mar 10th

Coming up:

LEARNING: Thursday March 21 -members of our group will participate in an online round table with Bob and Laura Keeley will explore the Building Blocks of Faith.

INFORMATION GATHERING- Develop a survey for the congregation that will help us better understand our families.

PLANNING- Organizing a congregational lunch and workshop with Lesli van Milligen on practical ways to build faith in the home across all generations

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION IN ACTION

Natasha McAllister has been volunteering with our children’s ministry at 11 am for about a year now. It has been incredible to see her so joyfully serve, share with, and challenge our youngsters at KPC. Natasha has built some strong relationships with some of the kids.

Natasha:

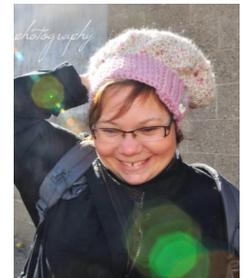
I have been volunteering with Sunday school and the Hall Monitor position, this has been a fantastic experience and it has helped me build self-confidence and take a leadership role with the children. I’m blessed to have been given this wonderful opportunity and I have been able to give back to the church community also. Thank you Rowena Ridder for your encouragement!

I remember when I first met Ben and we used to colour and discuss why God was so amazing, he was so excited to talk to me about it! Looking back on that I realized that I was supposed to help children discover God!

Ben Ridder:

On Natasha- Natasha helps teach us in Sunday School. She is great because she really listens and encourages me. It has been really fun to meet her and spend time with her. And it was really special when I first met her. She makes me feel happy because she laughs so much. Also its fun when adults are in the room or kids that don’t know her and I can help them get to know her. That kind of feels really special. She also helped me to see that God gave me the gift of seeing people for who they are. Some people might see her wheelchair as a disadvantage but I see it as a place that we can learn. When you are with her it feels so peaceful.

Sometimes when I am in church I like the prayer spot at the back. I listen to the worship. And what I really like to do is to bring a flag there because there is one lady, I made a friend, who is a flag bearer who flags right next to that place. So then I bring a flag and then I wave and sometimes I dance. When I am singing and dancing I feel close to God.



Rowena Ridder
Director of Family Ministries

David Morris, Ben Ridder, Natasha McAllister, Jacob Morris



RADIATE WEEKEND

Deep snow, milder weather, great games, amazing staff and awesome teaching. These are the things that greeted us this year at the Ontario Pioneer Camp's Radiate weekend. We were also greeted with a brand-new facility that served as our space for worship, meals as well as a hang out place. It took some getting used to, and we did miss the nest (previous worship hall) a little bit, but it didn't take long to make the new hall our home for the weekend.

The theme this year was about following the light that God puts before us, so he can lead us into his light through the maze that is life. This theme was the focus of our worship sessions as well as our small group times. It even became the decoration theme for some of the youth as they entered a cake decorating challenge.

Throughout the weekend the Kortright group was known as the green team, as they worked to earn points in the activities and challenges. I even ended up buried up to my neck in snow as one of the challenges consisted of burying one of your leaders. I'm not sure how many points we gained for it but it's not easy burying someone who is 6 foot 7.

The Lord really blessed us again this whole weekend with learning, exploring and making new friends. Also, by growing as a youth group in friendship with each other. We finished the weekend off with some crazy rain, but we felt God's protection as we drove home. The temperature stayed above zero, so we did not have the freezing rain yet and although we experienced some strong winds on the way, we made it home well before the storm that hit a few hours later. God truly is good in His wisdom and in His protection over us.



Frank Ridder
Youth Leader



SNOW CHALLENGE—BURY THE LEADER

EASTER DINNER INVITE

While in my first year at McMaster my friend Heather invited two of us home to Guelph for Easter.

Mary and I were raised Catholic and we found attending Priory Park service rather strange but what a great meal her parents had for us! Heather prayed for Mary and I faithfully and I in turn made fun of her for having this 'giant bible' in her dorm room!

We shared times of fall down laughter and struggles. In second year, my battle with depression became unbearable and I ended up in ICU after attempting to take my life. I didn't find out until years later, because of confidentiality issues, that Heather was doing a placement in that hospital when I came in that day. Her prayers were answered. I miraculously survived and within a few months became a committed follower of Jesus.

This new passion I had for Jesus I shared with Mary who had started attending a small bible study, she surrendered her life to Christ.

The three of us spent the afternoon together last week sharing our stories and memories, laughing and crying together and talking to Yahweh about the incredible faithfulness we have witnessed in our lives. Despite suffering terrible loss, death of parents, illness, relational conflict, familial estrangement and rejection the substance of our prayers was gratitude and love for changed lives (mostly ours), miracles of healing, reconciliation and lives touched with the love and kindness of Yahweh.

Mary and Heather became teachers and I worked in campus ministry and now as a therapist. I'm amazed and humbled to think that the three of us have been used by Yahweh to touch the lives of thousands of people through our interactions and prayers over the years.

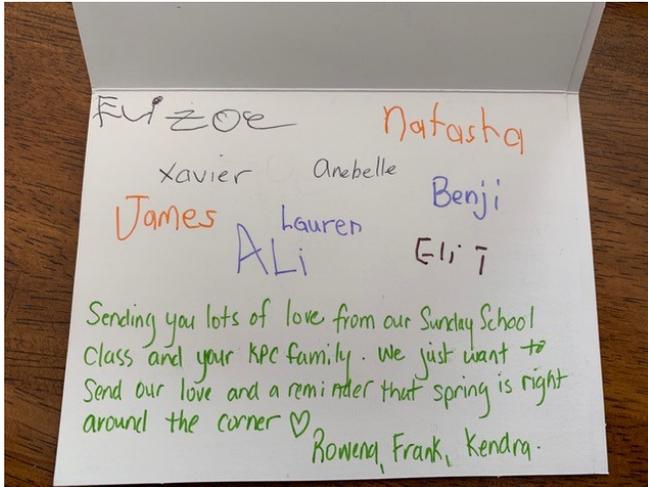
This all started with Heather's parents encouraging her to invite some friends home for Easter dinner over thirty years ago. What are you planning this Easter?



Terry St. Denis-Clarke
Writer



TOUCHING THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY



The Sunday school children created “thinking about you” cards with flowers to give to people within our community who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to be in worship with us.

Session delivered a card and flowers to eleven people .

What an amazing expression of Christ’s love in action as people responded with a spontaneous smiles and words of “ the children made me flowers.” Amongst their life struggles, faith shone through, knowing God is always there taking care of them.

EASTER PRAYER ROOM

We are thrilled to offer the Easter Prayer Room again this year. We have a great team of old and new members who are excited about the stations that will be prayerfully set up. We hope you and your family will plan a visit to the Prayer Room over the later part of the week leading up to Easter. The dates and times are listed below.

Thursday, April 18: 6am – 6pm & 10pm – 12 midnight

Friday, April 19: 6am – 10am & 11am – 12 midnight

Saturday, April 20: 6am – 12 midnight (NB: worship practice 9am-11am)

Sunday, April 21: 6am – 9am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Services

Mar 31	10am Single Service, Baptism
April 7	9am and 11am Service, Communion
April 14	9am and 11am Service
April 19	10am Single Service, Good Friday
April 21	9am and 11am Service, Easter
May 5	9am and 11am Service
May 12	9am and 11am Service
May 19	10am Single Service
May 26	10am Single Service

Upcoming Events

Mar 26	Prayer Night (every Tuesday Night)
Mar 27	Community Bible Study (6 weeks)
Mar 30	Listening Prayer-Hearing God's Voice
Mar 30	Worship, Testimony and Prayer night
Mar 31	Community Lunch—Chili
Apr 2	Prayer Night
Apr 9	JOY Group Meeting
Apr 9	Prayer Night
Apr 13	Men's Promise Keepers Conference
Apr 14	Seniors Boys Lunch
May 4	Women's Breakfast

Community Care

A few of our members from the Senior Care Team attended a Caregiver Support Program supported by Hospice Wellington. Other programs available are: Grief Support, Palliative Support, Bereavement Support. If you are in need or considering some outside care please consider one of these programs.

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Pastor:
Director of Discipleship:
Director of Family Ministries:
Administrator:

Alex MacLeod
Allison Pinches
Rowena Ridder
Dale Klein

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 Klein in the office (office@kortrightchurch.org) by **May 1st**. 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.*