

News/Tidbits



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Pastor Howard, Beulah & Gideon are delighted to welcome the newest member of the Courtney family! "Olivia Carol Ann Courtney" was born to proud parents, Caleb & Stephanie Courtney, on Thursday, May 22, at 6:04 pm. She was 20 inches long and weighed 9 lbs.10 oz. As Caleb put it, "she's very, very beautiful!" Congratulations!

MARLENE O'NEIL IN CONCERT



On Sunday, May 25, ICC was privileged to have had gospel recording artist, Marlene O'Neil as their special Dessert Concert guest. Marlene is one of Canadian Christian Music's most sought-after Southern/Inspirational vocalists. She has received numerous nominations and awards over the years in honor of her outstanding musical achievements, some of which include inspirational speaking, worship leading and special music. Marlene is such a tremendous blessing and ministers so passionately to any audience. It is our desire to continue to use these Dessert Concerts as an outreach tool within our community.

CLOTHING DEPOT

Once again our clothing trailer is almost full. We are so thankful for the donations that come in from the community. We have been able to assist several families over the last few months and continue to be available to help out those in need.

BUILDING PERMIT

Well, we are on the last lap! The Town sent us a few more action items and we have responded to all of them. Currently the final drawings are with the Fire Department and they are reviewing them. We are hopeful that in next month's newsletter we will be able to tell you we have begun digging! That's exciting! Stay tuned!

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FRIDAY PRAYER MEETINGS

The Friday prayer meetings are ongoing and continue to be held at the church every Friday at 9 am in the Fireside Lounge and also at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. There are many needs around us and we appreciate so much those who take time to pray. Please join with us in praying for the following individuals and their families:

Dennis Fehr—cancer
Owen Dixon—stroke
Pauline Reid—cancer
David Neufeld (Charleen Young's dad) - cancer
Zachery Wells—undergoing tests
Ippolito Occhiuto—stroke

"Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray." My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." Psalm 4:2-3

A NOTE FROM PASTOR COURTNEY

Let me take this opportunity to express my gratefulness to the entire congregation and friends of Innisfil Community Church for your faithful support in so many ways. I feel very privileged to be a part of such a wonderful church family. These last couple of years have been challenging years as we have sought approval to extend the Kingdom of God here in Innisfil. The secular "systems" around us have made it difficult to move any quicker than we have. Yet, you have remained strong in your commitment and have laid a strong foundation with your prayers and finances. Soon the barriers will be past, and we will move forward to capture enemy territory in the souls of men and women throughout this community. Even now we are charting a course with purpose and determination to reach people with the Gospel. Please continue to pray as we search for a Youth Pastor. This is a critical next step as we look to expand our borders and serve the purposes of God's Kingdom. And, once again, thanks a bunch for your continued faithfulness to God, and this local church here in Innisfil.



NEWSLETTER MAY, 2008



MAY & MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day in Canada is always the second Sunday in May; this year being May 11. Around the world Mother's Day is celebrated. Motherhood is a high and noble calling. It is nurturing, sacrificing, and loving; reflecting the nature, actions, and being of God. God compares His love to that of a woman for her child (Isaiah 49:15), because as the Creator of all men and women, He knows that a mother's love is the closest thing on earth to His own Divine, sacrificial, selfless love. May God help us as mothers to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4).

In the morning service, Pastor Sharpe shared a message on "Comparanoia", capturing the nature of our tendency to compare ourselves with other people. By doing so, we miss out on really being ourselves, following our own unique path in life, and being the person God created us to be. By not comparing ourselves to others, we are able to discover the true value of our own individuality.

Mother's Day was also "The Day of Pentecost". In the evening service, Pastor Courtney's sermon was taken from Ezekiel 37:1-14: "the valley of dry bones". Literally, God is saying to Ezekiel and to us, "with My hand upon you and My spirit within you, there is nothing you cannot do!" No matter how inadequate we feel, we can accomplish whatever God has set us to do because His power and His authority is behind us.

Events/Activities

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Women's Connection (formerly Women's Ministries) held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 20. The theme was "All In The Family." Jessica Pereira spoke on the "Bloodline of Christ", particularly the bloodline of the women of the Bible. Her teaching gave insight as to how we are all part of the family of God and that, even with all our imperfections, He loves us so much and values us individually.

New Women's Connection President

On Mother's Day Pastor Courtney announced "Elaine Heeringa" as the new Women's Connection President. Brenda Clair passed the torch to Elaine and prayed a prayer of blessing over her. Brenda has filled this role for the past 4 years and has done so with excellence. Brenda will continue to plan the Annual Daisy Déjeuner Luncheon and show support to Elaine in her new role. Thank you, Brenda, for your hard work and your commitment to Women's Connection, and, congratulations Elaine on your new ministry!

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Men's Ministries meet on the first Monday of every month and enjoy fellowship and man-to-man discussions. Brad Young leads the group and they are currently continuing their study on the book "Point Man".

PRIMETIMERS

The seniors held a Pot Luck luncheon on Monday, May 12. Following the delicious assortment of foods, they enjoyed games and their regular shuffleboard challenge. The Primetimers Strawberry Shortcake/Wiener Roast is coming up on June 2.

GROUND ZERO AND THE GATE

In the absence of a Youth Pastor, DJ Lupo has been very faithful in leading the Ground Zero and GATE activities. We are so thankful to the Youth and Adult volunteers who support these ministries each week. Please pray for God's guidance as we continue our search for a Student Ministries (Youth) Pastor.

Events/Activities (cont'd)



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Courtney has been leading the Wednesday night Bible Study along the theme of "God's Devotion to Us" and "Our Devotion to God". Devotion is a matter of attitude and attitude is a matter of the heart. Our devotion is seen by how we behave in our relationship and service to God. We also discovered that devotion is an act of surrender and obedience to God. Through the scriptures we have been able to find the many ways of worshipping God and showing our honor and adoration to Him. The one thing we DO know is that "God inhabits the praises of His people." Psalm 22:3

BG PRAISE-A-THON

On Wednesday, April 30, the BG Club held a Praise-a-thon Fundraiser (organized by Bonnie Pereira) to help support the missionaries in Kyrgystan. All other regular programs were pre-empted in support of the evening. Praise was presented in a variety of ways, which included Ground Zero Band, solos, Vessels of Praise dancers, Scripture readings, and lots of worship. Approximately \$600 was raised to help spread the gospel in Kyrgystan. Thanks Bonnie for your hard work and for teaching the children the importance of Missions.

BUSY THURSDAY AT ICC

Several weeks ago the church was buzzing with five activities happening on the same night. In the Gym the Alcona Girl Guides were wrapping up their season and entertaining special guests for their Girl Guide Advancement Ceremony; the Marriage Enrichment Class was running in the Fellowship Room; the Boundaries course was held in the Fireside Lounge; Al-anon was meeting in the Checker Board Room (old kitchen); and the Innisfil Food Box meeting was taking place in the Blue Room (old Board Room). It was a very busy night, but everything ran smoothly. We certainly have a well-used facility!

Events/Activities (cont'd)

PAOC GENERAL CONFERENCE

Pastor Howard & Beulah Courtney and Pastor Rob Sharpe attended the General Conference held in Toronto from May 5 to May 9. The theme of the conference was "ONE" - "Every ONE Matters". It was a very positive and inspirational conference where some of our key leaders reflected on "Pentecost" for all generations. Rev. David Wells was elected as the new General Superintendent, a position that was held by Rev. Bill Morrow for the past 12 years. Dr. Morrow has assumed a new position as President of Master's Bible College & Seminary in Toronto.

INNISFIL TALENT AUDITIONS

On April 28 and 29, the preliminary round of the Innisfil Talent auditions were held in the gym of ICC, followed by the semi-finals on Saturday, May 24. The final wrap-up will be held at "Summerfest" at Innisfil Beach Park on June 13-15, where the winner(s) will be announced.

ACTON CHURCH WORK BEE

On Saturday, May 3, a team of 11 from Innisfil Community Church spent the day at Evangel Family Church in Acton on a missions work project. Evangel is a small church with an attendance of approximately 25 people. The ICC team spent the day painting the sanctuary and foyer of the church, getting it ready for their 50th anniversary celebration on June 7-8. By 3 pm the project was completely finished and everything put back in place ready for Sunday worship. Pastor Cam & Hanna Willson were deeply appreciative of the work that was accomplished. Thank you so much Innisfil team! Together we made a difference!



*"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God."
1 Corinthians 3:8-9*