

News/Tidbits

HOMEGOING

Dixon

We regret to announce the passing of Owen Dixon. Owen passed away suddenly at St. Michael's Hospital on Thursday, November 13, at age 36, after suffering a major stroke. A celebration of his life, officiated by Pastor Courtney, was held at Innisfil Community Church on Saturday, November 22. On behalf of the family, we express our thanks to so many who have prayed for the Dixon family and have been such a support to them since Owen's initial stroke over a year and a half ago. One of the passages marked in Owen's personal Bible was from Prov. 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart; and lean not on thy own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path." That is our prayer for Owen's wife, Marcian; sons, Jevon & Denzel, and all their families during this time. May God comfort your hearts.

LOVIN' FROM THE OVEN

"Lovin' From The Oven" is a branch of Women's Ministries, headed up by Christine Ross. In times of need, the ladies and men of our church donate and serve food for funeral receptions, prepare and deliver food to homes where there is a long-term illness, and they are always available to voluntarily help out. This was evident during the funeral of Owen Dixon as so many poured out love and support to the family. Thank you so much! God blesses those who bless others!



O Lord my God,
Thou art very
great!
(awesome);
Thou art clothed
with honor and
Majesty!"
Psalm 104:1

News/Tidbits

Stewardship & Expansion Update

Things are moving forward very well in the recent weeks with the building of the new sanctuary.

The roof of the church has been erected and the walls are up, thanks to the diligent work of the K.D. Clair crew! Shingling has begun. The flat roofs have all been sealed and tarred. All the side windows have been installed. The car port roof is on. A new hydro line has been buried in preparation for a completely new, upgraded and enlarged hook-up with new transformers at the road side pole. The hydro lines are buried approximately three feet deep and are encased in concrete from the road to the interior of the building!

The door frames have arrived and awaiting installation. Part of the old existing building has been cut back to provide space for a new, self-standing, 12 inch block wall to serve as a fire wall between the existing building and the new building. The water line has been connected to the new building. And the first level of the auditorium floor has been poured with concrete. Brick work should begin shortly. We were hoping to have it done before the cold set in. (Maybe this is the week for it!)

Although the formal stewardship program has concluded, many have decided to continue to contribute towards the construction project, with faith, for the coming harvest of people coming to Christ through the church ministries. A full report of the success of the Stewardship Campaign over the past three years was presented to the congregation on Sunday, November 16 in the morning service.

We thank God for all that has been accomplished over the last month.

Pastor Courtney



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER, 2008



REMEMBERING...

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month holds a special significance associated with the remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives during the war. On Sunday, November 9, the first part of the service was dedicated to the men and women who represent our country and defend our rights to freedom. Those from our own congregation who served in the war (and several who currently serve in the armed forces) were recognized, and honored. The Last Post was played by Bonnie Pereira, and the poem "Flanders Fields," written by Lieutenant Colonel McCrae, was recited by one of our BG students, Travis.

Water Baptism

During the same service several people were baptized in water. Demonstrating their obedience to Christ (Matt. 28: 19-20) were: Monique Bishun, Leanne Bilawski, and Hilary Chase. Congratulations for taking this step of faith! Pastor Courtney and Pastor Mark Quinlan had the privilege of baptizing these candidates and joining with them in prayer. As well, several from the congregation shared scriptures and words of encouragement for each one.

Prayer of Dedication

A celebration of the Grand Opening of the Innisfil Recreational Complex and YMCA was held on Friday, November 21. Pastor Courtney was invited by the Mayor of the Town of Innisfil, Brian Jackson, to share a dedication prayer over the facility. What a privilege to be able to speak God's blessing over the activities of our community!

Events/Activities

GROUND ZERO & THE GATE

The highlight event for Ground Zero was the Youth Retreat. From November 14-16, Pastor Mark & Erica, youth leaders and the youth group, spent an amazing weekend away, with four other youth groups, to dig deeper in their walk with Christ. One of the activities the kids enjoyed was a 700 foot zip line and high ropes (tree top trucking), and, because they were blessed with snow, they threw a snow ball fight in along with it. The guest speaker for the Retreat was Pastor Mark Colwell, [Western Ontario District Youth Director](#). His theme was "being a generation that makes a difference". Pastor Mark (Quinlan) believes the lives of our youth were changed during this weekend, and reports that over 20 people gave their hearts to God, with at least 4 of them being from our own youth group. That's awesome!

The GATE (junior highs) are learning how to "get to know God better" as well as continuing to enjoy high-energy fun on Wednesday evenings.

BG CLUB HALLELUJAH PARTY



The Boys & Girls Club (BG) Hallelujah Party, held on October 31st in the gym, was a very lively, noisy, and fun-filled evening, with over 150 parents and kids! Bonnie Pereira and her helpers did an amazing job of running games, handing out prizes and candy, and making sure everyone had a good time! Thanks, Team, for all your hard work and thanks, too, to everyone who supported the evening through your donations of treats and dollars!

MEN'S MINISTRIES

A number of men from Innisfil Community Church attended the Promise Keepers Retreat, held at the Hershey Center in Mississauga on the weekend of November 14-15. As well, as this letter is written, a Men's Breakfast is planned for Saturday, November 29th, with guest speaker, Dale Clair.

Events/Activities (cont'd)

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women love to have fun—and they sure enjoyed some laughs at the last WM event! "Comedy Night" was held on Tuesday, November 18, in the Fellowship Hall, with a wonderful attendance. The night was organized and planned by two of the WM Executive, Bonnie Pereira and Lissa Richter. There were four hilarious skits (three prepared and directed by Sheri Lind), and another portraying the traditional "Newfie mummies" (directed and explained by Christine Ross). As well, in between the set changes, Lissa entertained the group with her funny stories; Bonnie led in some songs, and wrapped up the program with an inspiring devotional. The evening concluded with fellowshiping around the "eats and sweets" table. The Bible states "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Prov. 17:22) and laughter is indeed "good medicine!"

PRIMETIMERS

The Seniors' Shuffleboard & Carpet Bowling continue to be held on Monday afternoons. The Primetimers are currently in the planning stages for their Christmas Banquet, taking place at the church on December 1st.

COURSES & CLASSES

The 8-week Boundaries course, with facilitator Marion Boone, has concluded. The Truth Project, Marriage Enrichment, Relevant Truth Bible Study, and Young Ladies Bible Study are continuing. As well, the Thursday morning Ladies Bible Study is ongoing. These courses and classes have been well received and have shown to be a source of help and networking for all who have attended.

UPDATE FROM THE WHITES

Pastor June and John White have sent us emails updating us on their mission in Kenya. They are very thankful that they have a computer and can communicate to us, and to their families, via technology. The need is great in Kenya and they covet the prayers of God's people.

Events/Activities (cont'd)

WE APPRECIATE OUR JANITORS!

There is a lot of activity that takes place at Innisfil Community Church, not only on a daily basis, but also on a nightly basis. We are so thankful to our janitorial team, Byron & Marian Sweetland and Marian's Dad, (Harry Jonkman), for the wonderful job they do in cleaning our facility. This family goes over and beyond their regular duties and works hard to keep our building clean and tidy each week. It is sometimes challenging, with all the construction going on and the flow of traffic, but they work around the busyness of the church, and are always cheerful. Thank you so much for all you do in serving us and serving the Kingdom!

INNISFIL (ALCONA) CHRISTMAS

PARADE

As this letter is being written, Pastor Mark and the Youth Group are getting ready to participate in the Innisfil Christmas Parade, being held on November 30. They are taking this opportunity to have a presence in the community and portraying the birth of Christ through a "Happy Birthday Jesus" birthday cake float. You go, Ground Zero!

CHRISTMAS EVE

COMMUNITY DINNER AND CANDLELIGHT CAROL SING



Where does the time go? Here we are once again looking ahead to Christmas! As in previous years, Innisfil Community Church will be hosting a free Community Dinner on December 24, Christmas Eve. If you know of someone who is in need, or alone, this Christmas, we would be delighted to have them join us. Please call the church office at 436-1611, as reservations are required. Following the meal everyone will be invited to stay for the Candlelight Carol Sing in the Sanctuary. This is always an exciting time at ICC where we look forward to seeing so many from the community celebrate with us.