

Presbyterians Sharing Mission Capsule

CANADA: Meeting needs in the inner city – Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help St. David’s Inner City Outreach Ministry to meet the needs of families in Hamilton’s inner city. Their outreach activities, including after-school programs for children and teens, adult and seniors’ programs and a teen mom support group are geared towards not just alleviating, but actually preventing poverty. Let us pray for St. David’s outreach ministry as it works to develop a safe and healthy community for children, youth and families in Hamilton’s inner city.

PWS&D Bulletin Bit

January 22: Welcoming a Stranger – Looking for an exciting opportunity to take part in the life-changing ministry of helping refugees begin new lives in Canada? Refugee sponsorship is a tangible way for a congregation to take action. More than 4.5 million Iraqi citizens have been uprooted from their homes since the Iraq conflict began in 2003 and over 2 million have sought asylum in neighbouring countries. An opportunity now exists for Presbyterian congregations to take on sponsorship of Iraqi refugees. To learn more about embracing the challenge of welcoming a refugee to Canada, as well as what funding is available, speak to your minister or mission committee leader, and contact PWS&D refugee coordinator Carolyn Vanderlip at cvanderlip@presbyterian.ca or call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 249. www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/welcoming-a-stranger/

Texts for Next Sunday

Deuteronomy 18:15 – 20

Psalms 111

1Corinthians 8:1 – 13

Mark 1:21 – 28

~ **Lay Readers:** The Session has agreed to encourage the use of lay readers in our regular worship services. I have put a sign-up list of readings for the next 6 Sundays on the table in the lobby as well as small take-home slips with each week’s readings. If you would like to participate by reading the passages of Scripture on a particular Sunday, sign your name beside the week you’d like to do and take the slip with the corresponding readings as a reminder. I encourage you to share the gifts God has blessed you with by participating in sharing the good news of God’s Word for His people.

~ **Your Ideas:** The Session is considering a number of initiatives to open our church up to the wider community and invite folks to join us in worship and fellowship. If you have any ideas, please do not keep them to yourselves. Let one of our Elders know or speak to me personally. It has been said, the only dumb idea is the one that is not voiced.

~ **Greeters:** Due to health reasons Mary Redmond has ceased being able to look after getting greeters for each Sunday. The Session has decided to adopt the “Duty Elder” approach to serving the congregation and have taken on the responsibility of getting greeters. Each Elder has a “call list” of folks they are responsible for keeping in touch with; each month, the duty elder will be contacting the folks on their list to ask for help in serving as a greeter. It is our hope and prayer that you will support them in this vital aspect of our ministry of welcome here at Knox.

~ **Mitten tree:** You may have noticed the mitten tree is now up. It has been our practice to collect mittens, gloves, scarves and toques during the month of January to donate to Ward 5 Food Bank for the children they serve. Please bring in your offering between now and January 29th so that we may deliver them to the children who need them.

~ **Visioning Survey:** The Presbytery and the National Church are both engaged in a visioning process for the future of the denomination/ Presbytery. We have received a request to fill out a survey which, through the Session, Knox’s response is to be returned by the 15th of February. If you would like a copy of the survey to fill out yourself, copies are on the table in the lobby. We will need them back no later than January 29th so that we can incorporate your responses into Knox’s reply to the survey.

~ **Annual Congregation Meeting:** The Annual congregation meeting has been set for March 4th. As we did last year, we will move from the service into the meeting which will likely be relatively short and will conclude with the benediction. We will have a light lunch in the hall following the meeting to allow us to have a time for fellowship. Please ensure that Jean Dunn has the reports as soon as possible, but no later than February 5th as the annual reports will need to be printed and available for pick-up as of Feb. 19th.