



## Our Mission

*We are a welcoming, caring community, called by Christ, and enabled by the Spirit, to share God's love by living our faith*

**May 24** 11:15 a.m.



*Special General Meeting of Members*

**May 31** 10:00 a.m.



*Open Sesame 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service and reception*

**June 7** 10:00 a.m.



*Church Service & Picnic  
Waterloo Park Picnic Shelter  
(Westmount entrance)*

## OPEN SESAME – Creating Magical Opportunities for Children since 1970



*By Pauline Finch, with invaluable help from Carol Ziegler*

An ancient Arabian tale that became all the rage in Europe during the 1700s recounts how a humble woodsman called Ali Baba one day overheard some shady characters talking about a treasure-cave; and one of them accidentally spoke the magic words that would unlock it. Curious, Ali Baba ventured out in the dead of night, located the spot and whispered, “open sesame.” Suddenly, he was standing in front of more treasure than he’d ever seen in his entire life!

Most people would have grabbed as much precious wealth as they could, but Ali Baba was not greedy. He took just one small bag of gold before the magic door closed again – that was all he needed to make a better life for his poor family. Ali Baba had many more adventures and narrow escapes after that, but finding that one opportunity and using it well was the biggest change ever to happen in his life.

Ever since then, the words “Open Sesame” have represented challenge and opportunity, so it was uniquely suitable that Marian Main, one of the original planners of Mount Zion’s 45-year-old head start preschool, suggested this magical phrase as an ideal name for the program. It identified the new venture in a way that would speak to all cultures or faith backgrounds and proved prophetically true.

The challenging side of the idea originated with our founding pastor, Norman Lange. Early in 1970 he urged the congregation to develop a long-term outreach that would make a positive difference in the wider community. When the late Ron Scoins brought the question to his wife Mayda, her response was almost immediate.

Mayda – still an active Open Sesame committee member – happened to be working with a head start preschool at Waterloo’s First United Church and there seemed to be more needful children than spaces available. Why not start a similar program at Mount Zion at no charge to parents?





It was clearly an idea whose time had come. In May that year, the congregation approved financial support and then things moved very quickly. By the following September, Open Sesame registered its first students, aged 2½ to 4 years, with ECE teacher Susan White, who served for nearly three decades until retiring in 1999. (Sadly, Susan died suddenly earlier this year while visiting in Waterloo over Christmas.) Three other specialist-teachers – Open Sesame’s only paid staff position – have succeeded her; Kathleen Coté, Niki Proctor, and current teacher Darlene Bokma.

The first classroom, in what is now the Glebe Fellowship Room, was soon outgrown and Open Sesame moved to the large lower-level schoolroom where the program currently operates from September to May, Monday through Wednesday mornings, with about a dozen students a year. The other two days are used in the same facility by the non-specialized Little Mountain Parent-Participating Preschool, which shares teaching staff and a number of operating expenses, a collaboration that keeps costs down.

The difference between Open Sesame and other nursery, daycare, or preschool programs, explained long-time volunteer coordinator and program committee chair Carol Ziegler, is that “Open Sesame is

for children who would be lost in the public system” where Junior and regular Kindergarten classes have far higher ratios of teachers to pupils and where specialized language, socialization, behavioral and other individual development needs cannot be met.

While there have been a number of individual referrals, most children come to the program through agencies such as KidsAbility, Healthy Babies, or Family and Children’s Services. If they do not gain access to special education in their formative years, “those lost children often never catch up,” Carol said, “but at Open Sesame they do ... for some, the change in just a few months is tremendous.” To date, more than 550 children have successfully completed the program; she’s even encountered former pupils who now have families of their own.

No matter how successful, however, no formula for early childhood education can stay the same for more than four decades and remain relevant for those who need it most. Open Sesame is no exception. Carol believes that a key to its longevity is the ability of volunteers and staff to continually embrace and adapt to change. When Open Sesame began, it was among at least four church-operated head start programs in K-W: now it’s the only remaining one of its kind.

A major challenge came along when Junior Kindergarten was introduced in the public school system, meaning that fewer four-year-olds were referred. And when it became impossible during the mid-1980s for volunteer drivers to pick up and return children for every class, some of the neediest families were stranded. But then a city-wide project of building local community centres gradually filled in some gaps with other programs and services; and with improvements to local transit (Mount Zion is now close to half-a-dozen GRT routes) Open Sesame was again within reach for most parents.

As early as its third year, Open Sesame organizers



realized that parents also needed education in order to appreciate and reinforce the positive changes happening in their children's lives. A weekly parent support group that began for mothers, but now includes both parents, provides guest speakers, seminars, advice and other resources, while offering free nursery care for infants. Spending a morning with other adults is a welcome respite for many participants feeling challenged by parenthood.

In 1970, Open Sesame's annual budget was just \$2,500 and has grown to about \$18,000, with the biggest single expenditure being for teaching staff. Over the years funding has come from Mount Zion's Benevolence offerings, individual donors, memorial gifts, the Region of Waterloo, Faith Life Insurance, Eastern Synod, local charitable organizations, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, City of Waterloo and others.

But in 2006 the addition of a volunteer-powered grocery gift card program became Open Sesame's most successful ongoing fundraiser. Carl Thompson was instrumental in launching a program where every purchase of a card redeemable at local Sobey's, Zehrs or affiliate stores returns 5% of the card's face value to Open Sesame. To date, approximately \$10,600 has been raised, simply by persuading people to do what they do anyway – buy food!

With the transitional retirements of Carol and longtime treasurer Ann Crossman, Open Sesame is again embracing change. The planning committee recently announced that 10-year volunteer and mother of two, Jana Kelly, has been appointed the organization's new Coordinator, and Joan Brunger will be the new Treasurer. Carol continues as Chair and encourages anyone who would like to become involved in helping Open Sesame reach its "magical" first half-century, and beyond.



# Thank You

*To Mount Zion's Open Sesame Volunteers.*

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Hope Eaton        | 45 years  |
| Mayda Scoins      | 45 years  |
| Carol Ziegler     | 44 years  |
| Ann Crossman      | 43 years  |
| Mag Horman        | 35 years  |
| Carl Thompson     | 35 years  |
| Helen Dubrick     | 30 years  |
| Ladona Riegert    | 18 years  |
| Ruth Stromberg    | 18 years  |
| Barb Heldman      | 17 years  |
| Pat Edwards       | 11 years  |
| Carolyn Doubleday | 10 years  |
| <b>Jana Kelly</b> | 10 years* |
| Virginia Slack    | 7 years   |
| Joan Brunger      | 3 years   |
| Anne Woolner      | 3 years   |
| Linda Skinner     | 3 years   |
| Helga Juergensen  | 3 years   |
| Kaitlin Dedman    | 2 years   |

\* New coordinator, announced April 2015

## Open Sesame Announces New Coordinator

Ten year volunteer veteran Jana Kelly has been named as Open Sesame's volunteer coordinator. Jana and her two children attend St. Marks Lutheran Church in Kitchener, where her mother Nancy was the pastor for many years. Her father Bob taught at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. She will also be responsible for leading the Parent Support Group on Monday mornings.

*Plan to attend and be a part of celebrating*

*45 years of  
Open Sesame's  
ministry to the community*

**May 31**

*Special Service to be followed by reception*

# Growing into the deacon role: *Mount Zion and Scott learn together*

Bill Gastmeier, Internship committee member

Scott Knarr has been our diaconal intern since September 2014 and our Director of Music for many years. We are all familiar with seeing and supporting him in his traditional role. An important question we need to consider is “How will Scott’s role among us change when he becomes a consecrated Deacon in our Lutheran Church”? Scott’s role will change because a Deacon is called to use his special skills to do Christ’s work in the wider community as well as in his home congregation.

The process in which this is happening started with the learning goals created cooperatively by Scott and his Advisory Committee. These goals have matured as he has grown towards taking on his future role and they continue to do so.

One challenge in the process has been to differentiate the role of Director of Music from the role of Deacon with a Music Specialty. A Music Director is hired by a congregation to accomplish a particular task in a particular place, while a Deacon is called by the wider church to a ministry of serving people both in a home congregation and the larger community. In Scott’s case, his largest gifts are shared through song, music, worship, ministering to others and his great skills as a teacher.

Scott has had opportunity to share his gifts with us in new ways during his internship. One of his goals is to compose additional service music for the congregation when needed. He has met this goal by composing many pieces including two anthems which have been published. He also created a Lenten setting of Holden Evening Prayer for our midweek worship.

Since Reformation Sunday, Scott has also been crafting the Prayers of Intercession. Historically, it is the role of the Deacon to bring the concerns and prayer requests forward on behalf of the community and he has thoughtfully taken on that task.

As our Music Director, Scott has always been deliberately involved in planning worship. In fact, his passionate interest in this aspect of ministry informed his decision

to explore a Deacon role. That is something we can all be very proud of. Scott’s call became clearer as he discovered the Lutheran style of liturgy. He decided to go to Waterloo Lutheran Seminary because of this deepening curiosity of how theology shapes the liturgy. He has a longstanding interest in teaching and has been able to share this gift with our congregation in a number of ways. The adult learning sessions during Lent were his way of tying together the theme of “Wilderness” from our Sunday morning Kyrie into and through the Holden

sung prayers to the adult learning moments. This integration was also one of his learning goals. The invitation extended to congregational members to co-lead adult learning also points to the diaconal way of collaborating.

Scott has also expanded his Music Director role into

leading three afternoon “Hymn Sing” events for seniors across the K-W area. Both events were hosted at Mount Zion in cooperation with our Health Council. We had representation from our local neighbourhood, Luther Village and a bus-full from Trinity Village. All the feedback points towards having satisfied a real need and a possible future Seniors’ Ministry.

The choir continues to appreciate the many teaching moments when Scott shares theological insights in relation into the music we are preparing. He has helped choir members and our congregation to make connections between hymns, anthems, readings and the sermon of the day which make up the Liturgy.

One of Scott’s other learning goals is to walk alongside the people of the Six Nations of the Grand River. This involves front line work directly with the people of the Six Nations and also encouraging Mount Zion members as we continue to explore possible ways to work together. Mount Zion people have been involved in the Six Nations Music Camp, their Suicide Awareness and

*Scott has had opportunity to share his gifts with us in new ways during his internship.*

Prevention Group and in-school music support. This exploration has been an important part of his internship.

Mary Thompson, Sister Anne Keffer, Pastor Judi Harris, Pastor Philip Mathai and I are members of Scott's *Diaconal Internship Advisory Committee*. We have been meeting with him regularly since last fall. Our job is to direct, supervise and assess his performance as he proceeds during this important time of learning among us. His goal is to become a Diaconal Minister in the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada with a specialty in Music Ministry. This is proceeding in parallel with the daily hands on Supervisor/Intern work shepherded by Pastor Philip. Both of these processes report to Synod which makes the final recommendation towards Scott's being granted the opportunity to accept a call to service.



*Members of Mount Zion's and the WCCA Philharmonic Choir (the Chinese Choir who rehearse at Mount Zion) met together for a joint workshop on vocal techniques led by the very energetic and talented Gerard Yun of the University of Waterloo. It is the first time that members of both choirs have met each other and the introduction turned out to be a wonderful and fun experience for all.*

## Notes from Church Council

I am stunned as I look back to see the number of things that have taken place in our congregation in the last month.

As April dawned the congregation completed our Lenten journey and moved into celebratory season of Easter. Added this year was a Sunrise Service followed by breakfast which was well received.

Those heady days were followed by the unexpected announcement that Betty Behm will retire on July 1. Betty has been with us since September 1997 as Mount Zion's Parish Nurse and since then has been an integral part of the pastoral team providing health care education and outreach to those in need based on the healing ministry of Jesus Christ and the connection between faith and health. For the past 18 years, she has extended a helping hand to both young and old. It is bittersweet news as she will be missed but at the same time we celebrate with her as she retires. A special service and reception will be held in Betty's honour on June 14.

More celebratory news came later in the month from Deacon Intern Scott as he announced that he and his long term partner, John White plan to marry on August 7.

On April 26 council held a town hall meeting to ask members of the congregation what they felt we should do about the houses and what they saw as priorities for council for the coming year. We want to thank the 39 people who joined us for lunch that day as they have provided council with some much needed guidance. As each working group reported we heard loud and clear, "proceed with fixing 237 Dawson and get it rented, move forward with Scott's process in order to become a Deacon and start looking for a new parish nurse."

I am happy to report that at the following council meeting two days later, council moved forward with all those items.

Coming out of the discussion about the rental properties, council has called a General Meeting in order to arrange financing for the renovation project which will be undertaken by an enthusiastic group of volunteers from the property committee. The meeting will take place immediately following the service on May 24. More information about this meeting can be found in the attached mailing.

Please plan to attend.

Karen Gastmeier, Church Council Chairperson



# A Glimpse Into Hinduism:

*Ancient faith, surprising similarities*

By Tim Ehrlich

Hinduism is an amalgamation of religious, philosophical and cultural ideas and practices that originated in India. It is characterized by a belief in reincarnation, one absolute being with many aspects, the law of cause and effect, following the path of righteousness and the desire for liberation from the cycle of births and deaths. Now I've already managed to oversimplify this, but perhaps some of this description may sound familiar and I'll comment about that later on.

The beginnings of what we know as Hinduism can be traced as far back as 6500 BCE in the Indus Valley, one of the earliest sites of human civilization. In fact, the term Hindu is derived from the name of the Indus River. Scholars have divided the evolution of Hinduism into three main periods: the ancient (6500 BCE - 1000 CE), the medieval (1000 - 1800 CE) and the modern (1800 CE to the present). The foundation of what we know about early Hinduism comes from their earliest scriptures which are called Vedas, which in Sanskrit means "knowledge." The oldest of these is the Rig Veda which, incidentally, is also one of the oldest writings in any Indo-European language. There are many other important scriptural writings, but perhaps the most important of these are the Upanishads. Upanishad means "sitting close to" and implies listening closely to the doctrines of a guru or mystical teacher.

Many of us may be familiar, or have heard of, some of the many Hindu gods such as Shiva, Vishnu, Lakshmi, Ganesh and so on. There are too many and the pantheon is too complex to do them justice in a general article like this. Despite the numerous divinities, at the heart of the Hindu belief system is Brahman, "the unchanging reality amidst and beyond the world." All other deities are manifestations of Brahman so in a sense, Hinduism is monotheistic. Once again, I am over-simplifying a very complex set of concepts, but if you are truly interested there are many marvelous sources on the internet to explore this fascinating religion.

Rather than focus on how different Hinduism is from Christianity, let us look at ways in which they are similar; there are a surprising number of them. First, they are both monotheistic, believing in one supreme God. As mentioned above, there are many manifestations of this one God in the Hindu faith, but Christians also have other manifestations or aspects of God as well – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Many of the specific teachings in both religions relate to humility, tolerance and forgiveness. A teaching from the Mahabharata reads: "This is the sum of duty; do naught unto others what you would not have them do unto you." Does that sound at all familiar?

Although the doctrine of reincarnation would seem to be an obvious difference, both agree on the concept of an immortal soul. Hindus believe the soul is re-born, many Christian denominations believe we must be "born again." There are also some parallels between Krishna and Jesus Christ. Krishna is an incarnation of Vishnu who came to earth to better understand his creation and interact with his people. While meditating, he is killed and his body does not decay but ascends into heaven. There are other more superficial similarities. Both have places of worship, churches and temples respectively. Our religious practice of prayer is not unlike the Hindu practice of meditation.

Many words from the Hindu religion have found their way into common usage in our culture today. Words such as guru, yoga, karma and mantra have become commonplace, which perhaps speaks to the affinity we have for certain aspects of Hindu religious practice.

As tempting as it is to think the other great religions are as different from Christianity as night and day, closer inspection shows that they all hold many similar core values. We all struggle with understanding our place in time and our ultimate fate. We are all on a journey.





## Caring Connections:

Parish Nurse, Betty Behm

### Don't Wait, Vaccinate!

Did you know that there are at least 14 diseases that can currently be prevented by routine vaccinations? These include diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, haemophilus influenza Type B infections, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, hepatitis B, rotavirus, influenza, pneumococcal infection, and meningococcal infection.

It is important that you start your vaccination schedule in early infancy and follow-up with all the required booster shots to keep these illnesses from occurring.

Vaccinations help teach your immune system to protect itself from diseases by introduction of a small amount of the weakened or dead germs thus preventing complications should you be exposed to the real disease.

Are you planning a trip with your children? It is important to plan well ahead to see if your child needs vaccinations well before the scheduled vacation. You can check with Public Health for a list of immunizations required before travelling to foreign countries.

Vaccinations prevent between two and three million deaths worldwide per year. For more comprehensive information you can check out the following website:

<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/healthy-living-vie-saine/immunization-immunisation/children-enfants/index-eng.php>

Ask your family doctor for more information on immunization. It's safe, it's easy and it works!



## Vacation Bible School

Mount Zion Lutheran church invites all children to join us for our Vacation Bible School- **Jungle Safari- where kids explore the nature of God.** Come join the fun as kids get

to know what's so great about God, explore the nature of God, and serve God in practical ways. At Jungle Safari, the kids will participate in large group excitement at Toucan Jam, experience God's stories at Zip Line Bible Time, explore and create through fun-filled crafts, snacks and games. The fun begins Monday, July 13 and ends Friday, July 17 from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon at Mount Zion -29 Westmount Rd. S. Waterloo. Your kids won't want to miss this exciting adventure! For more information or for registration forms, call Anne Woolner at 519-743-2277 or [annewoolner@hotmail.com](mailto:annewoolner@hotmail.com). The cost is \$5.00 per child.

**Volunteers Needed** We have already had several people volunteer to assist for Vacation Bible School but we still need a person to lead the games and recreation for about 60 minutes per day (25 minutes per class) and a person to lead the story telling which is a group activity for about 20 minutes per day. If you can assist with this, please contact Anne Woolner.

## The Women's Auxiliary of the WLS

ADVANCE NOTICE; The Auxiliary's Annual Meeting will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church on Sat., Sept. 26, 2015 ---not on a Wednesday. The theme is "Beyond the Pulpit" and guest speaker is Rev. Bruce Schenck.

The Women's Auxiliary of WLS has been working to find ways to help Seminary students to further their studies. The ongoing project is the Supervised Pastoral Education course which students must take during or following their 2nd year at Seminary. The cost of the SPE course has drastically increased making it difficult for the students to cover the cost. Please help to support our students during this important part of their learning. Pat Edwards and Rose Moore



# What We Lived For

A pastor recently commented on what he sees as a growing trend among his parishioners. More and more obituaries end with the words, “in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the XXX Society”. The organization mentioned is usually a charity named after a disease or body part: cancer, heart, arthritis, kidney, etc. Bemoaning the fact that many of the obituaries described people who were tremendously dedicated members of his church, he asked “Why do people want to be remembered for what they *died of* rather than what they *lived for*?”

We could look at his comments in a purely practical way. The church needs donations as much as any other charity. A memorial donation to a Lutheran congregation may do as much good (or more) as money contributed to any of the disease foundations. So why couldn't our congregation be suggested “in lieu of flowers” to those who want to donate in our memory?

The same question could be asked of planned gifts. It is natural – and good – to include in one's will a gift to a charity that has helped us cope with a debilitating disease. But why not remember the church in the same manner? Think of how the church's sacraments and ministries have embraced us throughout our life: in baptism and Holy Communion; through Sunday School, confirmation, Luther League and marriage; in celebration and consolation; in health, sickness, infirmity and death. Is this not a relationship worth remembering with thanksgiving?

But there is a deeper dimension to the pastor's question. Memorial gifts are about *memory*, the things for which we want to be *remembered*. How many of us have taught Sunday School, served on the altar guild, provided volunteer janitorial service, sung in the choir? Or been the church's organist, treasurer, lawn-mower, assisting minister, secretary, youth group leader? Made quilts for

CLWR, worked a shift in the out-of-the-cold program, helped to sponsor a refugee family? How often have we volunteered for the Congregational Council or a committee, sometimes against our better judgment, because no one else would step forward? How many fund-raising events, pot-luck dinners and funeral lunches have we cooked and baked for?

In short, how much of our identity is found in the opportunities for serving others that our church represents? *That* is what many of us have lived for, what has given meaning to our life. Do we want to be remembered as someone who committed their life to serving God and God's people, or merely as another person who died of heart disease?

Douglas John Hall, the great Canadian theologian, explored this theme in his marvellous book *The Steward: A Biblical Symbol Come of Age*. Hall said, “Stewardship must be understood first as descriptive of the being – the very life – of God's people. Deeds of stewardship arise out of the being of the steward.”

The document that expresses our final wishes on the disposition of our worldly affairs is called a last will and *testament*. In it we *testify* about who and what has mattered to us; we give *testimony* to our most cherished values.

As we make our plans for the future, whether they are financial, estate or funeral plans, let's remember what we lived for and help others remember us for who we really are.

*For help planning your legacy, call Lutheran Planned Giving at 1-888-308-9461.*

*This article is reprinted from the Eastern Synod Lutheran, with permission.*

*“Why do people want to be remembered for what they died of rather than what they lived for?”*



## Team Mount Zion walks for TREK 4 KIDS



Team Mount Zion

**Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>** was the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual House of Friendship Trek 4 Kids.

Mount Zion Team walked 5kms on the Iron Horse Trail on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

Our team consisting of Shawn, Charlotte and Molly Rogers, Joan and Jacquelyn Schweitzer and Margaret Murison, raised \$1,435 towards sending disadvantaged kids to camp.

In the ten years House of Friendship has been holding Trek 4 Kids, over 11,000 children have had the opportunity to go to camp. Brian, a young man trekking with us on Saturday, told us that as a child he had the chance to go to camp twice and how much this had meant to him.

Thank you to all who supported us in this great cause.

## Edgewood Summer Camp Programs



Regular Camp (Sunday-Friday) - \$415.00

Day Camp (8 am-5pm) Mon.-Fri \$230.00

Beginner Camp- Sunday- Tuesday (ages 5-6) \$230.00

Teen Camp (ages 13-15) -\$340-\$415

2 week Teen Camp (\$965) (13 days)

LIT (Leadership-in-Training) - ages 15-18 \$830.00

**Register through the website**

[www.edgewood-camp.on.ca](http://www.edgewood-camp.on.ca)



## Ladies' Chinese Food & Daiquiri Night

Friday, May 22 @ 6:00 PM

Cost: \$10.00

It is time for our annual Chinese Food and Daiquiri Night at Anne Woolner's house- 282 Stoke Dr. Kitchener. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.. There is limited seating (17), so sign up soon before the table is filled. Please bring a good appetite and a joke to share. It is always a great night of laughter and fellowship!!

## Mindfulness Meditation Practice,

Every 1st Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

Every 3rd Tuesday 2:30 p.m.

Bring pillow, mat, blanket, water (all optional).

Wear comfortable clothes; fragrance free (not optional).

All are welcome and there is no charge. No need to pre-register. Just come. More info: Henriette [stumper@execulink.com](mailto:stumper@execulink.com) or 519.885.3434

# People of Mount Zion

## Member Profile

**Jason Rochon**

***Tell us a little about yourself (where you were born, where you went to school, if you have been, are or never married, where you have worked.)***

My story starts in Windsor, Ontario, after that things get confused. I crossed the Atlantic four times before I was seven, and there was a lot of change in between and after. England, Quebec, Northern and Southern Ontario have all been my homes, oh yes, Germany too. I studied at UW and work there as a Media clerk. That means I spend a fair amount of time running copies and telling people where to find the bathroom, and on odd days I produce the kind of work you would expect from a university.

***How long have you been a member of Mount Zion?***

***What brought you to Mount Zion? Were you always a Lutheran?***

My grandmother took me to Anglican service, but I never paid attention to the details. I have always been content with calling myself a Christian. After studying Lutheranism, and getting help from Pastor Philip, Lutheranism just seemed right. I believe that I first came to Mount Zion in 2010. I had been looking for a church to call home. Mount Zion's welcoming atmosphere was a big part of my

decision to stay. There's a beauty to the simple, warm community that Mount Zion builds.

*What activities have you participated in at Mount Zion, including committees, Council, etc.*

Mount Zion provides a lot of opportunity for involvement. I have been an usher, a lector, a performer, a gardener, a greeter, and participated in some general meetings. We really have a wonderful community here. Outside of church I participate in the Waterloo Regional Community Garden Council and the UW Community Garden.

***What do you like most about Mount Zion?***

I can't pick a favourite. Each piece is part of the overall effect that we experience both at the church and outside. I have always had trouble with remembering names, just ask anyone. Still, so many of us know and greet one another, strengthening our community.

***What is your vision for Mount Zion?***

I see Mount Zion as well positioned for a larger congregation. We are a welcoming community and equipped to support the needs of young and old alike. Soon, we will include more of the older population and the young families from our greater community.



## Church Service and Picnic at Waterloo Park

**On Sunday, June 7**, Mount Zion will be having their regular 10:00 service in the picnic shelter of the Waterloo park (enter off of Westmount Road beside Mark's Work Warehouse) followed by a potluck picnic lunch and games. The picnic shelter has water and electricity and will have enough picnic tables to seat 100 people. There are also washrooms nearby. Dress casually and bring your own drinks, cutlery, plates and food to share (sandwiches, wraps, salads, dessert). If you wish, you may bring your own lawn chairs but there will be plenty of picnic tables on which to sit. This was a great success last year and we hope that once again, you will support this opportunity to worship in a different setting and to socialize with our Mount Zion family. If you wish to assist with the set-up, service, games etc. please contact Anne Woolner 519-743-2277 or

[annewoolner@hotmail.com](mailto:annewoolner@hotmail.com)



*Last year at Waterloo Park*

## A note from Finance – Good News!

Our financial status for four months ended April, 2015, reflects a deficit of \$9,632 in the “Current Account” which is \$13,319 better than planned.



|                     | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Better/ (Worse)</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Total receipts      | \$82,501      | \$71,310      | \$11,191               |
| Total Disbursements | <u>92,132</u> | <u>94,260</u> | <u>2,128</u>           |
| Deficit             | ( 9,362)      | (22,951)      | \$13,319               |

### Comments:

Although we incurred a deficit of \$9,362 in the 1<sup>st</sup> four months, this is **\$13,319 better** than plan. This improvement was due to 4 main factors.

1. Member contributions of \$64,561 exceeded plan by **\$2,916**. Thank you!
2. A senior member made a special donation of publically traded securities which generated \$6,890 to be applied to Current Account Deficit reduction. The member intended to eliminate the prior carry-forward deficit of \$7,020 which had accumulated through 2014. An additional \$250 has been contributed by others in this Deficit Reduction Response which now totals **\$7,140**. Thank you!
3. Endowment Fund interest of **\$2,991** was applied to Current Account by council decision. This was unbudgeted, and improved our position.
4. Disbursements were **\$2,128** below budget in the four months.

While good progress has been made, we must continue this trend to help eliminate the anticipated deficit of \$10,000 which was budgeted to occur in 2015. Members who wish to make additional special contributions to help eliminate the deficit are encouraged to do so by indicating on their envelope “Deficit Reduction Response”.

Your support of Synod Benevolence and other designated needs including our Adopt A Causes was \$23,098 compared to the prior year of \$22,650. Included in these values are grants received of \$5,000, in support of Open Sesame.

# Justice Tour 2015

Come to pray, engage and learn what faith communities are saying and doing about climate change and poverty.

Find out how your voice can help!

#### Church Leader Participants:



Rev. Dr. Susan Johnson, National Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Rev. Dr. Willard Metzger, Executive Director  
Mennonite Church Canada



Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary  
Canadian Council of Churches

#### Special Guests

**John Milloy**,  
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary  
**Lynn Macaulay**,  
Homelessness and Housing  
Umbrella Group (HHUG) Initiatives  
**Caterina Lindman**,  
Citizens Climate Lobby

#### Time and Location

**May 10, 7:30-9:30 pm**

**St. Peter's Church**  
49 Queen Street North  
Kitchener

For more information contact Scott Knarr  
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"Justice Tour 2015" is a series of faithful gatherings of concerned Christians in cities across Canada, coordinated by the Canadian Council of Churches and Citizens for Public Justice. For more information visit [www.cpj.ca/justicetour2015](http://www.cpj.ca/justicetour2015).



# Financial Update – 4 months ended April 30, 2015

Richard Brubacher, Chair Finance Committee

The summaries below reflect the actual cash flows for the three months ended April 30, 2015, and the position of our bank accounts. Comparative data is displayed for our budget commitment and the prior year

## Current Account - Cash Flow Basis

|   | 4 Months - 2015 |                 | Comments re: Differences to plan   | 4 Mos           |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
|   | Actual          | Budget          |  | Last Year       |
| <b>Cash Inflow</b>                            |                 |                 |  |                 |
| Receipts from Members                         | 64,561          | 61,645          | \$2,916 better than plan.  | 58,397          |
| Receipts from Facility Rentals & Parking      | 7,591           | 9,000           | Parking & Facility Rentals below plan  | 9,514           |
| Other Receipts - (Plate, HST Refunds, Endow.) | 3,209           | 665             | Includes \$2,991 Endowment Interest  | 3,657           |
| Deficit Reduction Response                    | 7,140           | -               | Member donation of securities \$6,890, and others of \$250 for total \$7,140 | -               |
| <b>Total inflow</b>                           | <b>82,501</b>   | <b>71,310</b>   |  | <b>71,568</b>   |
| <b>Cash Outflow</b>                           |                 |                 |  |                 |
| Disbursements - Staff & operating costs       | 92,132          | 94,260          |  | 95,274          |
| <b>Total outflow</b>                          | <b>92,132</b>   | <b>94,260</b>   |  | <b>95,274</b>   |
| <b>Net Cash (Outflow)/inflow</b>              | <b>(9,632)</b>  | <b>(22,951)</b> |  | <b>(23,705)</b> |
| Cash balance (overdraft)                      | (6,352)         | (32,571)        |  | (14,829)        |

## Benevolence Accounts - Cash Flow Basis

|  | Actual        | Budget       | Last Year     |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Cash Inflow</b>                     |               |              |               |
| Receipts from Members - General Benev. | 12,158        | 9,800        | 10,262        |
| Receipts for designated appeals        | 10,940        | -            | 12,388        |
| <b>Total inflow</b>                    | <b>23,098</b> | <b>9,800</b> | <b>22,650</b> |
| <b>Cash Outflow</b>                    |               |              |               |
| Payments to Synod                      | 12,158        | 7,800        | 10,262        |
| Payments to other designated appeals   | 10,940        | 2,000        | 12,388        |
| <b>Total outflow</b>                   | <b>23,098</b> | <b>9,800</b> | <b>22,650</b> |

## Capital Accounts - Cash Flow Basis

|   | Actual       | Budget       | Last Year    |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Cash Inflow:</b>                           |              |              |              |
| Receipts from Members                         | 2,750        | 3,477        | 3,378        |
| Transfers from Music on Mount & Memorial fund | -            | -            | -            |
| Receipts from Endowment Fund Interest         | -            | -            | 2,994        |
| <b>Total inflow</b>                           | <b>2,750</b> | <b>3,477</b> | <b>6,372</b> |
| <b>Cash Outflow</b>                           |              |              |              |
| Capital Expenditures                          | -            | 3,300        | 2,158        |
| Funds lent to other accounts                  | -            | -            | -            |
| <b>Total outflow</b>                          | <b>-</b>     | <b>3,300</b> | <b>2,158</b> |
| <b>Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow</b>              | <b>2,750</b> | <b>177</b>   | <b>4,213</b> |
| Cash Balances                                 | 45,248       | 42,675       | 38,448       |

## Rental Property Account - Cash Flow Basis

|                                    | Actual       | Budget       | Last Year    |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Cash Inflow:</b>                |              |              |              |
| Rental Income from Tenants         | 3,540        | 4,720        | 4,720        |
| Transfers from Capital Account     | -            | -            | -            |
| <b>Total inflow</b>                | <b>3,540</b> | <b>4,720</b> | <b>4,720</b> |
| <b>Cash Outflow</b>                |              |              |              |
| Current Expenditures - Properties  | 4,363        | 4,000        | 3,436        |
| Capital Improvements to Properties | -            | -            | -            |
| <b>Total outflow</b>               | <b>4,363</b> | <b>4,000</b> | <b>3,436</b> |
| <b>Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow</b>   | <b>(823)</b> | <b>720</b>   | <b>1,284</b> |
| Cash Balances                      | 911          | 2,454        | 1,284        |