

**Announcements for:**

**TODAY:**

**June 15, 2008**

Welcome all worshippers! We hope that many will choose to remain for a time of conversation and refreshment, in MacCallum Hall, immediately following this service.

... **Nursery care** (birth - 3 years old) upstairs in MacCallum Hall. For families needing childcare next Sunday (June 22nd), the nursery will be attended by Devon Cross and a volunteer.

... Welcome all University and College students.

**Today we welcome pianist Robert Kirby**, in recital before the service. Robert is from the studio of Fran Harkness.

**Our Church Family Picnic** will take place immediately following the service at City Park, just south on Barrie St. from 12 to 3pm. Watch for the balloons near King St. Come one and all, even if you forgot to bring any food – there will be lots! (In case of rain it will be held in MacCallum Hall from 12 noon to 2:30pm.)

**NEXT SUNDAY:**

**June 22, 2008**

**The Sacrament of Communion**

Assigned readings: Genesis 21: 8-21  
Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17  
Romans 6: 1b-11  
Matthew 10: 24-39

There will be a Strawberry Social at Sydenham St. United Church, after service next Sunday.

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|-----------------------|---|
| June 29, July 6, 13   | Tri-Church Worship Service<br>at Sydenham St. United Church                   |
| July 20, 27, August 3 | Tri-Church Worship Service<br>Queen St. United Church leading at<br>Chalmers. |
| August 10, 17, 24, 31 | Tri-Church Worship Service<br>at Chalmers United Church                       |

***CALENDAR NOTICE***

**TODAY**

Would anyone be interested in forming a team(s) for a golf tournament at the Loyalist Golf & Country Club in Bath in support of the Partners In Mission Food Bank on July 21(Mon.). Cost is \$130 for a group of four. More information is in the Church Office.

Cheese orders will be delivered next Sunday, June 22.

**TUESDAY JUNE 17**

12:00 Noon Discussion Group Chalmers House

**Vacation Bible School**

This summer Queen Street United church will be hosting Vacation Bible School from Monday, July 21 until Friday, July 25 from 9:00 am to 12 noon each day. This year's theme is "**Beach Party**" and we invite children from 4 to 10 years of age to participate.

If you wish to register please contact Jessica Baird at (613) 384-3971 or Rev. Laurie at 542-6945 or the church office at 542-3818. Join the Fun! Join Us!



*During April  
"In Memoriam"  
donations have been made  
in memory of  
Ri Kidman*

## **Children's Fellowship**

Today is the last Sunday together in Children's Fellowship for the 2007-08 church season at Chalmers. It has been a great year with a lot of exciting things happening.

Michelle Hawkins, who has provided leadership in programs with children, youth and families will be completing her work with us this month and travelling soon to Italy to finish her training as a Montessori early childhood educator. We wish her well and thank her for her year spent with us.

Thanks also go to Mark McDonald and Dorothy Pearson for their leadership in music on Sunday mornings.

Watch for more exciting events starting in September for children, youth and families.

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*Rev. Elaine Smith, Coordinator of Pastoral Care ext: 225 [elaine.smith@chalmersunitedchurch.com](mailto:elaine.smith@chalmersunitedchurch.com)*

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# 1986 Apology to First Nations Peoples

Long before my people journeyed to this land your people were here, and you received from your Elders an understanding of creation and of the Mystery that surrounds us all that was deep and rich, and to be treasured.

We did not hear you when you shared your vision. In our zeal to tell you of the good news of Jesus Christ we were closed to the value of your spirituality.

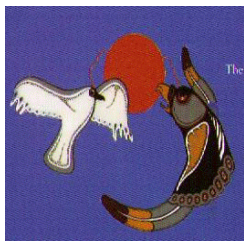
We confused Western ways and culture with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ.

We imposed our civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel.

We tried to make you be like us and in so doing we helped to destroy the vision that made you what you were. As a result, you, and we, are poorer and the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred, and we are not what we are meant by God to be.

We ask you to forgive us and to walk together with us in the Spirit of Christ so that our peoples may be blessed and God's creation healed.

The Right Rev. Robert. F. Smith  
Moderator of General Council, 1986  
The United Church of Canada



*The Meeting of the Eagle and the Dove* by Mervin Meekis, an artist from Sandy Lake Reserve who died in 2000, was presented to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Council 1986 during the consideration of the Apology to First Nations.

## **To Former Students of United Church Indian Residential Schools, and to Their Families and Communities:**

From the deepest reaches of your memories, you have shared with us your stories of suffering from our church's involvement in the operation of Indian Residential Schools. You have shared the personal and historic pain that you still bear, and you have been vulnerable yet again. You have also shared with us your strength and wisdom born of the life-giving dignity of your communities and traditions and your stories of survival.

In response to our church's commitment to repentance, I spoke these words of apology on behalf of the General Council Executive on Tuesday, October 27, 1998:

"As Moderator of The United Church of Canada, I wish to speak the words that many people have wanted to hear for a very long time. On behalf of The United Church of Canada, I apologize for the pain and suffering that our church's involvement in the Indian Residential School system has caused. We are aware of some of the damage that this cruel and ill-conceived system of assimilation has perpetrated on Canada's First Nations peoples. For this we are truly and most humbly sorry.

"To those individuals who were physically, sexually, and mentally abused as students of the Indian Residential Schools in which The United Church of Canada was involved, I offer you our most sincere apology. You did nothing wrong. You were and are the victims of evil acts that cannot under any circumstances be justified or excused.

"We know that many within our church will still not understand why each of us must bear the scar, the blame for this horrendous period in Canadian history. But the truth is, we are the bearers of many blessings from our ancestors, and therefore, we must also bear their burdens.

"Our burdens include dishonouring the depths of the struggles of First Nations peoples and the richness of your gifts. We seek God's forgiveness and healing grace as we take steps toward building respectful, compassionate, and loving relationships with First Nations peoples.

"We are in the midst of a long and painful journey as we reflect on the cries that we did not or would not hear, and how we have behaved as a church. As we travel this difficult road of repentance, reconciliation, and healing, we commit ourselves to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority.

"We pray that you will hear the sincerity of our words today and that you will witness the living out of our apology in our actions in the future."

The Right Rev. Bill Phipps  
Moderator of the United Church of Canada, General Council Executive, 1998