

## Meadow Brook Calendar

- Mar 26 (Sunday) - 7:30pm  
Open House Worship
- Apr 14 (Friday) - 10am  
Good Friday Service
- Apr 18 & 25 – (Tuesdays)  
7-9pm – Next Pathway Classes
- May 7 (Sunday) Baptism

Essex County  
Community Bulletin  
Board

- April 10 (Mon) – 6pm - Leamington After 5, Christian Women's Club meets at Colasanti's. Cost is \$18. Join us to get "planting tips" with Joe Colasanti and enjoy our inspirational speaker Bonnie Dawson from Wheatley - "The Life of Hats". Music by Bob Dawson. Reservations by Friday, March 10 with Barb 519-326-7631.
- April 17-20 – Meat Canner, Leamington. We need canners to help can chicken at Southwestern Ontario Gleaners located at 40 Industrial Rd in Leamington. 3 daily shifts: 7am-12; 12-5pm; 5-10pm. Call Peter Fiss 519 999 8855 or [peter.fiss@gmail.com](mailto:peter.fiss@gmail.com) if available to help.
- April 29 (Sat) at 6:00 p.m. Bible Club Spring Banquet at Meadow Brook Church. Attention all former Bible Club families! Do you remember how much you enjoyed attending Bible Club at your school? Celebrate all that Bible Club stands for by attending the Spring Banquet. Hear how the Lord is blessing the ministry of Judy Hiebert as teacher of the After School Bible Clubs in our local schools. Tickets \$14.00 - advanced sales only, available at the Welcome Centre, Bob Neaves & Marilyn White.



April 2017

## MINISTRY MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Children's Director** The Search Team has been working with a candidate who has also met with the MMT and with members of our children's ministry department. We are in the final stages of discernment, and ask for your prayers as the leadership gets close to making a decision!

**Leadership Retreat** The Board of Elders, Ministry Management Team, and staff took a day on Sat, Mar 25<sup>th</sup> for discussion, prayer, and looking to the future of Meadow Brook Church! Thank you for praying for the day! As discussions and decisions become more fleshed out, we will keep you in the loop as things develop!

## MISSION FOCUS

Dave and Mel

Dave and Mel are thankful that the online schooling of their three children is going well.

Dave had the chance to attend the ICOMB meetings and was encouraged as he saw many examples of God moving in many areas of the world as fellowships are forming and God's love is being expressed.

Prayer Requests:

- Dave and Mel would appreciate your prayers for direction as they consider their ongoing visa issues. There are other options of continuing to serve with T people groups, living outside of T.
- Please pray for the many believers in T and for those who are searching.

## SOAR 2017

We know spring is off to a cold start, but warmer days and summer are coming which means Meadow Brook is sending a group of Sr High students to Soar Montreal!

Soar is a 10-day urban missions trip during which young people are trained and serve local communities in many different ways to bless people and bring the love of Jesus to them. Plans are underway to get a group of students and leaders to Montreal. The team will be travelling there on July 7-18. Over the course of the next few months, there will be a number of fundraisers to help get the team to Montreal. Please be praying that God provides and leads us as we plan the trip!

## Condolences

Our condolences to Abbie and John Froese family, on the recent passing of Abbie's mom. May you sense God's comfort and strength during this time.

*He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of sorrows, and familiar with pain... Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering... He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; but the LORD has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all. (Isa 53:3-6)*

**He's alive. He's dead. He's alive again!  
(and you thought you had an exciting weekend...)**

This was the text of a print ad that we put together many years ago at the first church I worked at. We put it in local newspapers the week before Easter, wishing the community a Happy Easter weekend and inviting anyone who wanted to join us for our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. It still makes me chuckle...it's pretty good! And in a short, pithy way, it highlights what would be safe to say was likely the most dramatic weekend in the history of the world.

We are about half-way through Lent, and Easter will be upon us in a few weeks. For Christ-followers, this brings a two-fold focus: the resurrection of Jesus, and His triumph over sin and death which has brought us back to God and to eternal life; but also the passion of Jesus, His anguish, as He sacrificed and suffered and died horrifically on the cross for our sake. We celebrate and rejoice in the first; we grieve and lament the second. It's an emotional weekend, to be certain!

Isaiah penned the Scriptures above around 700 years before Jesus would walk the earth. As a prophet, the Holy Spirit revealed to him what was to come, and one of the things that he saw, which must have seemed shocking at the time, was that the saving Messiah who was to come would not necessarily look the way that the stereotype might have suggested. Rather than the strong, conquering, adored, in-your-face leader that Israel was expecting, this Messiah would in fact be a humble man, a rejected man, a suffering man, a man of sorrows. His life would not be easy. He would not be accepted. Signs are pointing to violence committed against Him, and the prophet speaks of a "crushing" that would come upon Him.

And all of this, unfairly. He is not suffering for His own sins and errors. Rather, He took up *our* pain, bore *our* suffering, was crushed for *our* iniquities, took the punishment that brought *us* peace, by His wounds we are healed, and though we have gone astray like sheep, God has laid upon *Him* the sin of *us* all.

Jesus is the Suffering Servant of God. In one of the most staggering and mind-blowing facets of this great Christ-story, God actually came down and suffered through life *with* us. He felt pain *with* us. He was rejected *with* us. His heart broke *with* us. He felt injustice *with* us. And He experienced death *with* us. God-with-us went through life on this broken, sinful planet, and lived as we live and felt what we feel and suffered as we suffer. We serve a God with scars.

Yet that is not the end of the story, of course. The weekend needs to yet unfold. Friday is full of suffering, Saturday is full of disappointment, but Sunday is coming! And Sunday is different – Sunday is full of life, life that beats death, life that cannot be conquered, life that lasts forever! It is a weekend like no other – that weekend where God entered fully into our suffering and our death, and by entering into it, defeated and overcame it forever. Suffering loses, and life wins, and wins for good.