

# First News & Notes

April—May 2024



150 Years of Faith and Fellowship

## Faith as small as a Mustard Seed

and Outreach Initiatives in 2024

In Matthew 17:20 Jesus said, *"if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there', and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."*

It does not take big faith to move a big mountain, only a very small bit of faith in the Almighty All-powerful Creator of heaven and earth. How would our lives be different if we regularly applied our small faith to ask God to move big mountains? How would our church be different?

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as *"the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* What do we hope for? Is it in things seen, of this present life, or is it in things unseen, having eternal value? What do we hope for as a church? 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, *"we walk by faith, not by sight."* How are we to walk by faith?

Outreach initiatives for 2024 include:

- a morning PA Day event Monday, April 8: The Big Surprise! Where is the King? with Carol Eagles
- a morning Vacation Bible Camp July 8 – 12 with key Bible teacher Carol Eagles
- a morning Vacation Bible Camp later in July with Child Evangelism Fellowship
- a full day Vacation Bible Camp in August with U-Turn Ministries
- teen ministry beginning in the Fall with U-Turn Ministries

These are doors of partnership the Lord has opened to us and by faith we walk through. We are partnering with God-centered ministries who have a solid history of gospel sharing and fruit bearing. We might not be able to see what the impact of these partnerships may have for our future. With our grain-of-mustard-seed size faith we take the next step and pray God will accomplish what He has purposed. In Isaiah 55:11 God says of His Word; *"it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."* We believe God will accomplish His purposes through these partnerships and in the lives of the kids and youth who will hear the gospel. We come before Him humbly knowing God's work does not depend upon any one of us but rather on our collective surrender and obedience to Him.

Let us as a church come before the Lord God our Maker, praying with our small faith, and expecting that God will move whatever mountains need to be moved. *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you."* (Matthew 7:7).

Let us *"worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness"* (1 Chronicles 16:29, Psalm 29:2, Psalm 96:9). David celebrated with these words when the ark of the Lord was finally brought into Jerusalem. Like David let us *"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His Name"* (1 Chronicles 16:29, Psalm 29:2). *"Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You."* (Jeremiah 32:17).

Let Ephesians 3:20-21 be the attitude of our hearts: *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

written by Sara Rust on behalf of the Outreach Committee

# Calendar of Events

## April

- 8 P.A. Day program
- 9 Diane O'Dell
- 10 Ladies Bible Study
- 11 Church Open for Prayer 2:30 p.m.
- 17 Ladies Bible Study
- 18 Lunch and Sing 12:00 p.m.
- 24 Ladies Bible Study
- 24 Donna McAuslan
- 25 Sara Rust
- 26 Rebecca Rust
- 28 George McPhee
- 28 Carol Rankin

## May

- 1 Ladies Bible Study
- 5 First Baptist Anniversary 152 years
- 6 Elsie Jones
- 8 Ladies Bible Study
- 9 Church open for Prayer 2:30 p.m.
- 11 Robert Dillon
- 12 Mother's Day
- 12 Start of Baby Bottle Campaign
- 12 Wendy Loosley
- 15 Ladies Bible Study
- 16 Lunch and Sing 12:00 p.m.
- 18 Betty McPhee
- 22 Ladies Bible Study
- 20 Victoria Day
- 28 Gail Burgess
- 29 Ladies Bible Study
- 29 Sharon & John McGrail Anniversary

## Pregnancy Options and Support Centre

Our congregation has long supported the Pregnancy Options and Support Centre. Below on this page, you can see some of the statistics of where that support is going.

They have served 119 individual and their families in 2023. And the ages shown on the left circle were a bit of a surprise.

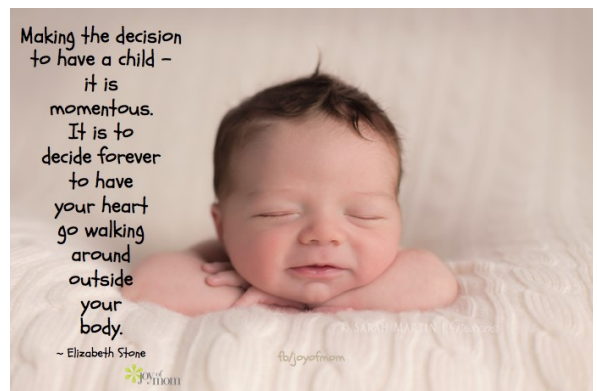
This is the year for the Gala and Auction, which has been changed to the fall so it doesn't compete with the Baby Bottle Campaign from Mothers Day to Fathers Day.

## 2024 GALA IS MOVING!

Please mark your calendars for  
**Saturday,  
November 16, 2024!**



We have moved Gala to ensure an excellent launch of our Spring Baby Bottle Campaign and to spread our two largest fundraisers out during the year. Save the Date cards will arrive with the Spring Newsletter!



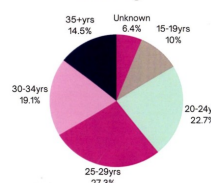
## The Pregnancy Options & Support Centre 2023 IMPACT REPORT

This Impact Report is an overview of what your donations made possible in 2023! We praise God for all that has been accomplished!

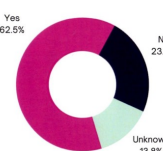


We served 110 individuals and their families this year. 81 of these were new client cases (74%).

### Client Ages



### New client cases impacted by unexpected pregnancy



These percentages are our best estimates based on client stories. Sometimes clients do not disclose whether their pregnancy was expected or not.

## Report on Deacons' Board March/April 2024

The Deacons and Pastor met for regular monthly meetings with some healthy discussions, decision-making and prayer for the physical and spiritual needs of the congregation.

An important March 5 Annual Business Meeting was held in which among other things, we collectively voted to go ahead with the multi-part youth outreach plans proposed by the Outreach Committee. As a congregation we look forward to hosting an experienced youth-teaching lady named Carol Eagles to help our volunteers with an April 8 half day program and then a week-long morning Vacation Bible Camp (July 8 – July 12) - also with some volunteer help needed.

Summer outreach is planned to continue with a Child Evangelism Fellowship half-day camp for later in July (similar to last year) and then an additional full day (9:00 – 3:30)

V.B.Camp with the assistance of U-Turn Ministries. It is expected that the youth outreach work of U-Turn Ministries will continue through the Fall.

The Deacons' Board has been pleased that numerous things are planned, accomplished and kept in good order by the efforts of the church committees and many contributing Individuals.

May we know the Lord's blessings as we continue to team-up seeking to do His work in His way with the help of fellow mature believers. May joy and fruitfulness be blessings we enjoy.

-Blessings in Christ, Harald

**The Big**  
**SURPRISE !**



**Where's the King?**

**Free P.A. day program**  
**April 8 9:00—12:00**  
**Sk—Grade 6**

**First Baptist Church**  
**418 Greenfield St. Petrolia 519-882-2480**  
**Please Pre-register by April 5**  
**text/call Sara 519-330-7179**

Watch for a **FREE** Vacation Bible Camp  
**Adventures With Jesus!**  
July 8–12 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
Kids grades 1—6 by September



With Key Bible Club teacher Carol Eagles. Miss Eagles teaches after school Bible Clubs at London Road, Hanna Memorial, PE McGibbon (Sarnia) and Plympton Wyoming, (Sept—April)  
Contact  
519-334-6340  
eagles.cb@gmail.com



For this P.A. day program we will need some help from the congregation.

We will need a few people to register the campers and help guide them through the day. There might also be some tidy up needed.

Wyn will be in touch regarding snacks for the day as well.



152 Years of Faith and Fellowship  
to be celebrated May 5, 2024

**Anniversary Speaker:**

**Rev. Ken Park**

**Special Music**

Roast Beef dinner to follow the  
service. Everyone is welcome.

Ladies are asked to bring a dessert  
to share.

**Baptist Women of Ontario and Que-  
bec**

**Our E-LINK newsletter**

We will add you and our subscribers  
to our monthly newsletter list. This  
newsletter is full of information – up-  
dates, news, links to material on our  
website. You and your subscribers will  
have the option of receiving E-LINK  
via email or Canada Post. . [https://  
baptistwomen.com/](https://baptistwomen.com/)





## The Great Evangelists . . .



Rev. J. E. Hunter

Rev. Ernest Crossley

### THE CROSSLEY AND HUNTER MEETINGS

Rev. Ernest Crossley and Rev. J. E. Hunter arrived in Petrolia according to arrangements and commenced evangelistic meetings on the first Sunday of September, 1893. The new skating rink on Tank Street became the grand auditorium; but was not large enough for the great congregations that gathered night after night for three weeks.

The first Sunday was a great day. Services were held morning, afternoon and evening. On each Sunday morning the evangelists separated and occupied the pulpit of the Baptist Church and the Methodist Church. At 4 o'clock separate services were held for men and women, with a grand mass meeting in the rink in the evening. The old gospel songs were sung with great enthusiasm. The audience was strangely moved from the beginning of the meetings.

Quoting from the Petrolia Advertiser of that date, the Editor said:—"These are not the jumping-jack type of evangelists. They are quiet, sensible and rational. Everyone who can should attend these meetings."

The late Ed. Fletcher in his 85th year, looking back through sixty-seven years, said "I well remember those meetings. I was a hotel keeper at that time and I lost many of my customers. Many men who often frequented the bar, never returned to drink. Laboring men went to work singing those

Harald found this his article about a series of Evangelistic services in Petrolia in 1893 .

Apparently there was a skating rink on Tank Street which was used for the meetings.



(See John 19:17-37)

04-18-2014

"I, JESUS, HEREBY BEQUEATH MY CARPENTRY STUFF TO ZED, MY GOOD TUNIC TO ROB, AND I'LL BE BACK TO PICK UP THE REST. TO EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ... I LEAVE LIFE."

gospel songs and the spirit of the refinery and other industries changed. The campaign brought the greatest blessing that ever came to Petrolia." Over eight hundred men and women and teen-agers surrendered to Christ.

The closing services were heart-warming. The audience was loath to see the evangelists leave. Farewell addresses were spoken by Rev. Kelly of the Baptist Church, and Rev. S. Bond of the Methodist Church, and by some of the supervising committee.

In the year of the dedication of the new church, in October, 1900, the evangelists, Rev. E. Crossley and Rev. J. E. Hunter, returned to Petrolia. The memory of the campaign in the skating rink in 1893, was still fresh in the minds of the people. The congregation and the people of Petrolia and surrounding district, gave them a rousing welcome. The services opened with a full capacity audience. The Advertiser estimated that a congregation of 1600 people gathered. For three weeks the services were carried on in the new church. Only eternity can measure the good that was accomplished. To quote one man, Tom Metcalfe, a driller in his 84th year, looked back upon those meetings with a glow of joy. He said, "I attended every one of those meetings. I gave my heart to Christ at that time and he has kept me through all these sixty years."

The Evangelists donated a Pulpit Bible to the new church. For fifty years that Bible served its purpose. It is now kept in memory of the occasion by the congregation.