

# CONNECTIONS

## News and Views of Oxford County United Churches.

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### THE St. VALENTINE CONNECTION

This February edition of **Connections** is about love; not hugs and kisses, which are much better in practice than in print, but **the kind of love at the heart of our faith**; the love of Valentine, the third century saint.

Lynne Allin and Andrea Allen reported on **the meeting we had with MPP Ernie Hardeman** because of our love and concern for the environment and our concern for the level of financial support for some of our marginalized people. There is an article from the **Oxford United Refugee Sponsorship Committee (OURS)** announcing the sponsorship of a third refugee family. **You will want to share this exciting news with your congregation. It is a story of how the \$66,053.15 that you raised for refugees was and is being used to get three families out of harms way.** Then under "Food for the Soul", there is a letter and link from a friend and colleague, Bill Lord. With permission I am sharing his email. **It is a link to a prophetic sermon, filled with much love. It will both inspire and disturb.** You may want to share this with all the teachers you know.

Returning to St. Valentine. One story about Valentine's day suggests that it was the English poet Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14<sup>th</sup> century who helped make Valentines Day what it is today. St. Valentine was not particularly amorous, but Chaucer thought the middle of February was the perfect time to share

a little love. Who can argue with that? Chaucer chose February 14<sup>th</sup>, a day the church celebrated St. Valentine.



### FOOD FOR THE SOUL:

Date: January 20, 2019  
at 4:07 PM

**Subject: Very  
prophetic sermon**

Greetings,

Just discovered this very prophetic sermon by a writer of curriculum for Freedom Schools in the USA, not a preacher but the wife of a minister in Harlem NY.

She calls it like it is for children in the USA and around the world.

It is well worth your while to spend 20 minutes of your time listening to this prophetic message on Luke 9 delivered at Riverside NY on October 21, 2018.

Blessings, Bill Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa1rgYCA7ko>

Oct 31, 2018 - Uploaded by The Riverside Church,  
Sunday, October 21, 2018 Preacher: Dr. Marci  
Vandiver

### OPEN HOUSE FOR REV LYNNE ALLIN

**February 24, 2019, 2:00–4:00 pm**

Mt Elgin United Church 324105 Mt  
Elgin Rd, Mt Elgin, ON

Please join us as we say farewell  
to Rev Allin and wish her well in a  
new chapter in her Ministry with The  
United Church of Canada.

**All Welcome! Best wishes only!**

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### GRANDMOTHER'S TEA (potluck and chat)

**Wed. Feb 27, 2019**

**Eastwood United Church  
565739 Towerline Rd**

**Noon till 2:00 pm**

**Nations Uniting** from the Six Nations Land south of Brantford brings Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal grandmothers together to build bridges between the two cultures. Supported by Mission and Service.

All welcome

**Details: Jacquie McLeod,  
[mcjacros2016@gmail.com](mailto:mcjacros2016@gmail.com)**

### REPORT OF PRESBYTERS MEETING WITH MPP ERNIE HARDEMAN



Lt to Rt: Rev Andrea Allan, Rev Glen Wright, Marie Avey, Dave Schell, Celia Orth, MPP Ernie Hardeman, Rev Lynne Allin, Rev Marg Murray

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, a group of clergy and members of United Churches in Oxford County, met with MPP Ernie Hardeman to discuss current issues of concern. Over the course of an hour the conversation covered topics such as poverty, preservation of the greenbelt and farmland, cuts to disability and Ontario works allowances, the removal of the cap and trade carbon tax and the need for government members to understand that their decisions will affect future generations as well as people today. Mr. Hardeman, defended his government's position on a number of points, but also indicated that he always appreciates the opportunity to receive advice and feedback regarding government policies and legislation. He thanked the group for sharing their concerns. It is hoped that similar meetings will be held in the future.

Lynne Allin and Andrea Allan

**World Day of Prayer**  
**Friday, March 1, 2019**  
**Eastwood United Church**  
**565739 Towerline Rd**  
**2:00 pm**



**Eastwood** United joins with Christ and St John's Anglican churches and Oxford Centre United church.

**ALL WELCOME**

Lunch

### **AOTS Men's Spaghetti Supper**

**St. Paul's United Church**  
Tillsonburg.

**Saturday, March 2**

Serving from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Adults \$10, Children \$6 (< 12)

Tickets available from church  
office (519 688-0011)

or 519 688-7724.

Take-out available.

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### REPORT OF OURS COMMITTEE (OXFORD UNITED REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP)

3 families we've helped out of harm's way:

#### **Mira Family:**

Mohamad Mira has work driving a dump truck. In August, they will need other accommodations.

#### **Mebhahtu family**

(co-sponsor with Habte and Abrhazion Zekarias). Hopefully, this family will arrive within 6 months to live in London with the Zekarias family. Gift cards (Bay, Giant Tiger, Shoppers Drug Mart, Food Basics and No Frills) would be appreciated.

#### **New family:**

(to co-sponsor with Habte and Abrhazion Zekarias) family of **Abrhazion's** sister, Sarah Hagos: Sarah has 3 children: daughter Selem, 22, and sons Fithawi, 19 and Naod, 15.

Selem and Fithawi have been in a Refugee Camp in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Selem has 3 years of college and is fluent in English. Sarah and younger son, Naod, lived in Eritrea and belonged to a small Christian congregation. Recently, all members of this congregation (including Sarah) were imprisoned for 2 months. Although communication has been risky, in late January, Sarah and Naod successfully crossed the border into Ethiopia. Our prayers comfort them as they await to be reunited with Selem and Fithawi in Addis Ababa!

The Committee agreed to co-sponsor with the Zekarias family, to bring this family to live with them in London.

### Financial Report-OURS COMMITTEE

Total donations to date:	\$ 66 053.15
Spent on Mira Family	39 345.29
In Trust-Mebrahtu family	15 000.00
In trust-Hagos Family	12 682.00
Available Funds	212.51

**GW** from notes of Carol Ewing, Chair

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**



**Tuesday March 5**

**Tickets available at the doors:**

**Innerkip United:** 5-7 pm, Adults \$8, children 5-12 \$4, under 5 free

**Knox United Church, Embro 5 to 7 pm** The proceeds from the supper will be split between the church building fund and Youth Unlimited.

**Norwich United:** Walk-in between 5 pm & 6:30 pm. Adults \$8/ Kids \$5/ Family \$20

**If you are on Facebook,  
like and follow Oxford  
Presbytery.**

<https://www.facebook.com/Oxford-Presbytery-690395957746547/>

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**Worship, work and conversation** were the order of the day as thirty-one members met January 12, 2019 to hear updates from Managing Director, Michael Shewburg on operations, personnel, capital projects and finance – **all positive and encouraging**. Judy Steers, Partner/Program Animator, outlined creative developments in the **program pitch model**, upcoming programs and our new social media activities. Participants gave constructive feedback to the working teams, and to staff and Board. **The dusty Dining Room is cleaner now as our community restored it to its pre-renovation condition.** (Work on Upper Room has been completed, now!)

To read the Five Oaks Membership Minutes please click here:  
[https://1drv.ms/f/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAKHv4Aq\\_iN\\_YpfmKeJ](https://1drv.ms/f/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAKHv4Aq_iN_YpfmKeJ)

To renew your Five Oaks membership , please click here  
<https://fiveoaks.secure.retreat.guru/program/purchase-membership-2019/?form=1&lang=en>

### MM

#### **Norwich United Church: Soup & Sandwich Luncheons**

Wednesday, February 27 + March 27  
11:30-1:00 pm, Lower Hall. \$8 for Adults/ \$5 Child/ JK & SK- Free.

## CAMPTANNER

**Hiring for all staff positions.** Positions to be filled include:

Counselors, Counselors-in-training, Directors, Lifeguards, Craft Leaders, Kitchen Support, Medical Staff, and Cleaners.

Interested applicants please see website [www.camptanner.ca](http://www.camptanner.ca) for more details.

**Closing date: Saturday,  
Feb. 16, 2019, 9:00 am.**

### Links for Prayer cycles:

As communities of faith we are encouraged to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

#### **United Church of Canada – Antler River Watershed.**

<https://www.prayercycles.ca/antler-river-watershed26c697c9>

#### **Former Oxford Presbytery – updated Feb 13, 2019**

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAkQEba-8QXKUNMT01>

#### **Norwich United Church March Break Camp: (March 11 –**

**15). Daily rates - \$25 per child/ \$75 for a family of 3 or more. For more information contact the Norwich United Church.**

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### ***Curious about Tanzania?***

**Don Hilborn of Innerkip United Church**, a retired Engineer and farmer is writing about his 3-month journey as a volunteer in Tanzania. **Follow Don on Facebook**

[https://www.facebook.com/DonaId-Hilborn-Tanzania-Adventure-305658553402012/?ref=profile\\_intro\\_card](https://www.facebook.com/DonaId-Hilborn-Tanzania-Adventure-305658553402012/?ref=profile_intro_card)

### **The Oxford Climate Response Team wonders:**

- **How will YOU 'turn out your lights' for EARTH HOUR March 30, 2019 8:30 pm-9:30 pm?**

Our connection to Earth and nature is undeniable: our planet's gain is everyone's gain.

- Watch the Official Video from WWF (World Wildlife Fund)  
<https://youtu.be/wQ6S-pkgbB0>
- Check out  
<https://www.earthhour.org>



- Use material for the Earth Hour Vigil prepared for United Church and Roman Catholic Church <https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/earth-hour-vigil.pdf>

- **Earth Day is April 23 2019.**

### **Inn of Woodstock** (previously Inn

Out of the Cold) regularly provide a bed for 12 people to sleep every night. **They are seeking donations of pyjama bottoms, hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for both women and men.** Items can be dropped off at IUC or taken directly to **Old St. Paul's Church**, Woodstock, between the hours of 7pm-7am each night (hours of operation).

### **Family Day Board Game Café:**

Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 Noon-8:00 pm. Lower Hall, **Norwich United Church**. Norwich

Admission is by donation

### **Draft Statement of Purpose:**

Everything we do as Christians in our everyday lives is about making connections: with the Biblical text and Creation, with God and ourselves, with God and others.

**CONNECTIONS** is a newsletter for the former Oxford Presbytery. It hopes to be an inviting place to post special Church events (e.g. suppers); to lift up specific local church outreach inviting others to join; and to affirm our values about social justice: sustainable development of Creation, public health care, improved living conditions for the poor, the disadvantaged etc so that we can advocate for these values with our elected officials.

Feedback welcome on everything!



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### SAVE THE DATES

- **Wednesday, March 20, 2019,**  
**Oxford UCW Annual Meeting.**  
Dundas St UC, Woodstock,  
Registration 8:45 a.m. Theme:  
"Days For Girls", Speakers: Carol  
Ward & Pat Bruvelaitis
- **April 13, 2019, Siloam UC,**  
**London. 57<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Gathering Region 7,** Advance  
registration  
[cherylpriverside@yahoo.ca](mailto:cherylpriverside@yahoo.ca) or  
call 226-927-5729, Registration  
& Refreshments 9:00 a. m., \$20,  
**Theme: "Here I Am Lord",**  
Speaker: Dr. Eileen Antone,  
Emeritus, Bible Study Leader:  
Rev. Mark Bellamy, Noon Dinner  
\$20, Supper \$10
- **April 15, 2019 Oxford UCW**  
**Spring Event,** Westminster UC,  
Thamesford, Registration 6:00 pm
- **May 3-5, 2019 Westminster**  
**Weekend,** Stoneridge Inn,  
London **Theme: "The Road**  
**Less Travelled"** Register early  
for accommodation.

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**Co-editors: Marg Murray (MM)**  
**and Glen Wright (GW).**

Additional members are invited to  
join our Communication Team.

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News and Views of Oxford County U. C.

**PUBLICATION DATE: 2<sup>ND</sup> WED**  
**+**  
**SUBMISSION DUE DATE:**  
**MON. PIOR**

**Email:**  
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and other interested parties.

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Feedback welcome.