What Oak Park Means to Me

Aside from the wonderful free coffee and snacks, when I think about what Oak Park church means to me, I have to say it has come to be a safe place for me. I view it as a safe place from today’s infected society to worship my Lord without mockery. I feel among family at Oak Park because we have such a special and close community here. Just as the Lord did, we welcome all and turn away none, and that is truly special because in today’s secular organizations (and even sometimes in other churches) a lot of people are not always welcome.

People in the congregation of Oak Park always support and encourage one another in positive Godly pursuits and in worship. We lift each other up, especially when we feel battered by stress and life. Whether it’s caused by work (don’t I know it!), or family (again too familiar with it!), or illness, we are there for each other to listen and bear our hearts and souls without fear of judgement.

That’s not to say that we’ll never disagree like family members do sometimes (it wouldn’t be normal if we didn’t!). Yet I feel this only demonstrates the love and acceptance we have for one another and the confidence we feel to be able to express ourselves freely.

I love the open, honest, and often humorous preaching style in our church; as I absolutely believe the Lord has a great sense of humour. It is so precious to have a weekly refuge where we can experience the kind of soul cleansing that only our Lord can provide. To know you have that kind of acceptance and love, means so much to a non-social (yes I am friendly, but not always social) individual like me.

-by Sara Cutten
Good Friday

04.19.19 10am

Senior’s Lunch with Acting Up! Drama

Come hear the Gladys Aylward story

Monday March 18th

Sign up at the Information Centre
Money: The Root of All Kinds of Good?

Resources recommended by Lane:

http://www.godandmoney.net/
Greg Baumer and John Cortines, authors of the book *God and Money* are on fire for helping teach Christians about a biblical vision for money. These guys are the real deal and have videos and podcasts on their website. Their story is incredible and inspiring. I love the idea of a “Generosity Covenant” that they provide the template for on the website.

https://faithandmoneynetwork.org/
This network is a well-known and well-established resource for churches and Christian organizations. One of the great resources offered is the “Money Autobiography” template.

https://www.epm.org/
Eternal Perspective Ministries is led by Randy Alcorn – perhaps the leading voice on the topic of money and the Christian faith over the past three decades. Author of countless books and one of the voices in North American Christianity that has called us back to the focus on money that Jesus has in his ministry.

https://www.daveramsey.com/
Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace University” is one of the most-used financial resources available. He has countless other tools and resources that are built on experience, pragmatism, and prudence. If you need some constructive ways to start getting your financial life in order (who among us doesn’t!), check him out.

https://petetheplanner.com/
Peter Dunn aka “Pete the Planner” has been a huge help in my own financial life, even though we were only introduced to him a year ago. Similar to Dave Ramsey, Pete’s approach is practical and easy to understand. Pete works with churches and Christian organizations as well as numerous businesses and thousands of individuals. His engaging and educational videos are worth watching.
Eat Well. Spend Less. Any one can order one or more Good Food Boxes. Boxes must be pre-ordered and paid for in cash (exact change) on or before the order by date. You can pre-purchase your next box when you pick up your order. Boxes must be picked up, before 6pm. (Note: Boxes not picked up will be donated - no refunds will be given.)

Good Food Boxes come in the following sizes:

- LARGE 40 lbs $35.00
- MEDIUM 30 lbs $30.00
- SMALL 20 lbs $25.00

We would be thrilled to have you participate in this ministry! You can help by donating a pot of hearty soup, assisting with set-up and/or clean-up, and having lunch at a table to visit with some of our guests.

Anyone can order. This is a truly a great value and everything is very fresh!

For information call Oak Park Church office at (403) 251-5150 or email office@oakpark.ca
Oak Park Senior High Mission Trip

I want to begin by saying thank you! The Valentine’s dinner was a raging success and we have raised $6,500.00 towards our trip so far! Our goal is to raise $19,000.00 in total. We are looking forward to the adventure that God has for us this summer. There has been some concern expressed about the political situation in Haiti and we are taking those concerns seriously. We are currently continuing with the intent of going to Haiti, but we are also working closely with Lifeline Christian Mission to feel out prospective alternate destinations for our team. We will continue to keep you updated as things progress. The good news is that regardless of destination our team will be going on a mission’s trip this summer! We thank you for your continued support as we continue to fundraise for our trip.

-Pastor Sara

Craft & Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 6
10 am - 3 pm

To book a table please contact Sara - sara@oakpark.ca

Book a table for $40 - booking deadline March 24th

Proceeds from table sales go to support our Senior High Mission’s Trip Team!
UPDATE ON SOME OF OAK PARK
CHURCH'S SPONSORED MISSIONS

Vienna is a Missionary at Safe Refuge International in Tagaytay, Phillipines. Their Mission is to “rescue, nurture and rebuild lives devastated by extreme poverty, abuse and the sex trade.” Vienna has been working at the Safe Refuge home in Tagaytay since arriving there in September. The following is a summary from her latest blog:

For a short time in early December and again in late January, Vienna (Certified as a Mid-Wife) was able to spend some time at the medical Maternity care clinic in Quezon called “Daughters of Faith Lying-In." She was able to participate with at least one birth and found it enjoyable to be able to talk about “Midwifery” things.

Over Christmas, Vienna was using her skills to build relationships. One example is she patiently taught the girls to bake cookies and ice them, which is a challenge due to the hot temperatures. They exchanged some holiday traditions, and she shared her faith through watching a Christmas Story video and Christmas communion.

In January she started to take the girls out for some one on one time, hoping to foster relationships and be a listening ear. It has been a slow process to build their trust but Vienna is starting to see some progress.

Vienna is thankful “for everything that I am learning, for the progress (as small as it is) in the language, for God’s provision for myself but also for Safe and for the new Church friends I have been able to make.”

Her prayer requests: “Chesa is still having seizures, please pray for complete healing; for the adjustment process; to learn the language; and for my missionary visa, it is taking a long time to be processed.” She is thankful for all your prayers.

More information can be found on Vienna’s Blog “thesheepishmidwife“ or through Vavenby Christian Church, Box 99 Vavenby BC V0E 3A0.
AGM Materials will be distributed to Oak Park’s voting members* and there will be a Pre-AGM “Q&A Session” held February 24 after the service in the Fireside Room.

There will be a Pot Luck Lunch during the AGM for those attending the meeting. Voting members* are asked to bring the following:

- Last names A-L: Sandwiches (no nuts please)
- Last names M-Z: Veggies/Dip, Fruit or Desserts (no peanut butter)
- Beverages will be provided

Note: There will be child supervision upstairs.

* If you are not sure if you are a voting member, please contact the church office.
Your Giving Matters!
February Financial Update

The so-called experts say not to talk about the heating bill when you talk to people about giving to the church. Apparently, it’s not a “sexy” topic that will encourage folks to give. But as the coldest February on record in Calgary wraps-up you need to understand what a blessing our furnaces are! We have between 2 and 20 folks who come through our doors every day – during the winter months many are seeking a warm and welcoming space to have a cup of tea and to be greeted by a friendly smile or hug. Please continue to make Oak Park a warm and hospitable place for our friends’ to drop-in and thank you for your generosity that pays our “unsexy” heating bill.