



# South Nissouri Presbyterian Church

# Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### September 2015

**September 25-27<sup>th</sup>**  
Thorndale Fair  
*We will be holding our annual food booth Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup>. Donations of baked goods and volunteers are needed. Contact Janet if you're able to help 519.284.2611.*

**September 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Fair worship service: 10:00 am in the Lions Community Centre, South Nissouri  
*worship begins at 11:15am that day.*

### October 2015

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**  
World Communion Sunday

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Thanksgiving / Harvest Sunday

**October 16-17<sup>th</sup>**  
Synod of Southwestern Ontario mtg Chalmers church. Workshops are open to the public.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service

## Minister's Message

With, for, and ahead. This is how Rob Bell describes God in his book entitled 'what we talk about when we talk about God'. Unlike some more common negative perceptions of God, the book explains an affirming understanding of how God relates to God's people. God is with us all the time, walking with us through our highs and lows. God is for us offering grace and goodness even when we don't deserve it. God is ahead of us, moving us forward into more faithful lives of following Christ. I thought this last point was especially interesting. Sometimes we think about God being so ancient and full of changeless wisdom that God is behind us, endlessly trying to get us to return to how it used to be. Yet when we look over God's story we see that he has always been ahead of his people, leading them to new lands and new understandings of how to relate to one another. Even the laws

that seem strange to us were cutting edge for the people back then, people who, like us today, needed a little extra pulling towards the full life God desired for them. God doesn't want us to remain stagnant in our faith, to plateau at a certain level of closeness to him. God wants us to continually seek and be inspired by all the life God has to offer.

So as we enter a season of changing colours in the trees and as we ponder the changing nature of the church, we can remember that God is not only here with and for us in all we do together. God is also ahead of us, leading us into new opportunities and challenging us to grow. God meets us where we are and invites us forward into futures of peace and joy and loyal discipleship. May we continue to look ahead and trust in the goodness of God before us.

*Rev. Heather Paton*

## 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>** we celebrate 160 years as a caring community of faith in Friendly Corners. Rev. Joyce Elder (Pickering) will be our guest speaker at the 11:00 worship service and there will be a luncheon afterwards. Donations of sandwiches are welcome. We're also collecting photographs or artifacts from years gone by to display as part of the celebration. Bring the photos to church by **October 4<sup>th</sup>**.

## Visit Us Online!

**Yes, you heard right, We are online!**

Find us at [pccweb.ca/nissouri](http://pccweb.ca/nissouri). *This is a way for us to be visible to the wider world and help people find out where and when to find us. We will be posting photos of events held at SPNC over the years. If you do not want photos with your image on the site please let Heather or Nancy know.*

# Sprouts Gardening Program

During the summer months, five different families experienced the hospitality of South Nissouri Presbyterian who hadn't before. The Sprouts Gardening program had children from ages 2-12 exploring our community garden and cooking with its produce. Becky Ellis from the London Community Resource Centre started each session with a story related to the garden in some way. There was always some kind of earthy craft and the highlight was eating the food prepared from the garden. Favourites were zucchini

muffins, garlic green beans and butternut squash cookies. The children and their families were grateful for such a unique experience and have been asking if it will happen again next year. Let's hope it will! Aside from Sprouts, three of the garden plots are doing very well. There has been at least one donation from the church garden to the Dorchester foodbank. Further donations are sure to come as the harvest season approaches.

## Sprouts Gardening program 2015



## Corn Roast

The corn roast raised over \$200.00 to support the church's mission projects. Thanks to Cecil and Janet for their coordination and to their friends Glenn and Lorna for helping out. A highlight for many of us at this event was meeting our new neighbours who have just moved into the old manse. We're happy to know we have new friends nearby who are willing to continue to share the water well with us.

## To Market, to market

The church booth at the Thorndale Farmer's market was another great way to be seen in our community. In July we handed out fall crocus bulbs (thanks Eva) and registered people for Sprouts and in August we handed out free lemonade and bookmarks (thanks Thomsons). We had some nice conversations about our church and were pleased to support this new community endeavor.

**Eva Lamond staffing the church booth at the Thorndale Farmers' market.**

