

Welcome to Willoughby

You may have noticed something new in the foyer last week. Our "Welcome Booth" was set up just in time for Easter Sunday! We all want our church to be a welcoming place -- a place where everyone can feel the warmth that drew us to this community of believers.

Over the past few months, several different committees have been brainstorming how we can make our services, our space, and ourselves increasingly warm, hospitable, and safe for newcomers. We'd love for your input!

1. Can you remember back to your first visit to Willoughby? What stood out to you? How could your experience have been better?
2. If you have any ideas or initiatives that you've been dreaming of for our church, drop us an email!
3. Join our "Friendly Faces" team! If you're blessed with an open and conversational personality, consider hosting the welcome booth to answer questions and connecting with newcomers.
4. Eating together is an important part of welcoming one another into our lives. You may have noticed that we've been having enjoying Fellowship Meals, Timbits or homemade baked goods following the services. A huge thank-you to those who have already volunteered to organize lunches or bring baking! Let us know if you'd like to be added to the list to bake or help out with anything behind the scenes!

It's exciting to think of the potential we have in this community to show God's love to everyone who walks through these doors. We are a church family that enjoys fellowshiping together; let's give special attention to share that with our guests. If you have any questions, comments or are willing to volunteer in any part of this hospitality ministry, email Stephanie (stephanie@willoughbychurch.com) or Brielle (brielle@willoughbychurch.com)



W i l l o u g h b y W i n d o w s

Easter Celebrations

Easter morning started early -- breakfast at 9am with all kinds of egg casseroles and even make-your-own Eggs Benedict. Right before 10am we joined together to sing Christ is Risen, and heard the resurrection story recited. "Peter" invited us all to follow him into the Sanctuary to see the empty tomb and praise our risen Saviour. What a way to begin our Easter celebrations! A big thank you to all who volunteered to be a part of Sunday morning's festivities.



Youth/Seniors Bowling



On Thursday, March 28, the Seniors competed with Youth on Spring Break in an annual bowling match. Youth Leader Ben Bouwman, represented the Youth as the individual high scorer, while the Seniors, once again, defeated the Youth overall. After bowling, we joined together for soup and buns at church. The intergenerational bond between youth and seniors is always a delight. It's a gift to come together as diverse representatives of our congregation and have some fun in fellowship and competition. Stay tuned for next year, as the youth have a comeback to make.



April 7, 2013

Understanding our First Nations Brothers and Sisters

This past week a small group of Willoughby Church people gathered around a dining room table to pray and plan. The gathering and urgency of the meeting focused on the impending arrival of an art exhibition entitled **Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin: The Creator's Sacrifice**.

The art exhibition, **Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin: The Creator's Sacrifice** will be on display in our church from June 1 to June 17. The series of 17 large contemporary paintings by Cree artist Ovide Bighetty depict the Easter story through the symbols and narrative of the Woodlands Cree painting style. The Indian Metis Christian Fellowship together with the Christian Reformed Church of North American Canada has worked to make this exhibition available to churches, colleges and galleries. The works will have made their way from coast to coast, from Halifax to Port Alberni where they will be on display before coming to Langley.

The art exhibit serves as an invitation, an invitation to learn more about the First Nations issues that cry out for understanding, compassion and reconciliation in our families, in our communities and in our country. For our church community to begin to explore and learn about how we can be Easter people in relation to and with our First Nations brothers and sisters, we would like to provide the following:

Sunday, May 5: On this Sunday afternoon and evening we will host a number of sessions called "The Blanket Exercise" which will help us to understand First Nations land issues. The session will be facilitated by Steve vanderHoef from the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue and Elna Siebring, who serves on Canadian Diaconal Ministries. We plan to offer sessions before and after a shared supper hour.



Creating a New Family copyright IMCF, 2002

Sundays, June 2, 9, 16: Worship will focus us on a Biblical understanding of reconciliation. At this time the art exhibit will be displayed in our fellowship hall. We plan to host a number of evenings focusing on music, film and fellowship as well as welcome the community, our neighbouring church fellowships and school groups to the exhibit.

Saturday June 15: A day of workshops and fellowship with guest Ray Aldred, a member of the Swan River Cree Nation in Alberta and a theology professor at Ambrose Seminary in Calgary. (More info below)

Sunday June 16: Designated Aboriginal Sunday. On this day we hope to hear from the three young people (Janessa Grypma, Ben Bouwman and Danielle Rowaan) who will spend the month May in Fort Babine in northern BC, giving thanks for Holy Spirit breathed understanding and newness in and through the Willoughby church fellowship.

The planning team: Jenny deGroot, Janice Tolkamp, Janet VanHemert, Eleanor McComb, Pieter Vanderleek, Janessa Grypma, Danielle Rowaan, Miriam Polman, Mark Glanville and Liz Tolkamp.



JUNE 15, 2013...
Indigenous Learning Day with Professor Ray Aldred

Ray, a senior Canadian indigenous scholar, will teach us about reconciliation, forgiveness and other issues relating to our Canadian indigenous people. Indigenous artists will join us also. Ray will preach the following day, June 16 in our worship service. Other CRC churches will join us on this day.

Reverend Ray Aldred is a member of the Swan River Cree Nation, Alberta, Canada. Born in Northern Alberta, he now resides with his wife and son in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Ray is the Assistant Professor of Theology Ambrose Seminary in Calgary, Alberta. Also, he continues to work with My People International to develop indigenous leadership.

Ray has significant contact with the CRC, including being part of a team that reviewed our *Indian and Metis Christian Fellowship* in Regina, Saskatchewan.