

Summer, 2016

Westmount NEWS and VIEWS

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Worship Service and Sunday School: Sundays at
10:30 a.m.

Nursery available during worship

"We are a Growing Family, Serving Christ"

If you wish to place a submission, announcement, prayer, etc. into any future newsletters, please provide same to Bev Brandt. Her email address is beverlybrandt@hotmail.com. Please make any submissions for the Winter newsletter by **August 22, 2016**.

If you are interested in membership, a visit, prayer needs (including illness), baptism, marriage, etc., please let us know by calling the office at 705-326-9252.

Prayer Request Sheet: Kindly PRINT your FULL name on the sheet.

If you would prefer to have future newsletters emailed to you, please email a request to Bev Brandt, at the email address above.



Summer Calendar Highlights

June 19 – Father's Day

June 20 – First Day of Summer

July 1 – Canada Day

PULPIT SUPPLY - Summer Schedule

JULY:

3rd – Rev. Jim McKean

10th – Rev. Bev Day

17th – Larry Jones

24th – Paul Davis

31st – Jackie Whiston

AUGUST:

7th - Paul Davis

14th - Larry Jones

21st - Rev. Bev Day

28th - Ruth Emilson

Minister's Message

John 21:1-14 Jesus Comes to His Failed Disciples

Jesus rose from the dead. And He told His disciples to go to Galilee so that He would meet them in there.

So His disciples went to Galilee and had waited for Him. But Jesus did not come in time. They had been sitting around for a while and unsure what to do.

It was at that moment that Peter broke the silence. He said, "I'm going out to fish." And the other disciples said unanimously, "We'll go with you." And seven disciples went out to fish.

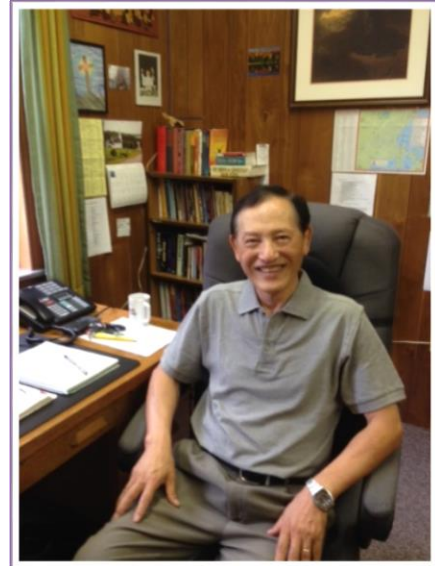
Here comes a question. Why did they go back to fishing? Aren't they the disciples who had seen the risen Christ? Yes, they saw the resurrected Christ, not once but twice.

Then why did they abandon the Lord's expectation? Why did they return to their former life?

Maybe because of the recurring memories of their own failures. Maybe because they could not get their own betrayals out of their minds.

As all of you know, Peter denied the Lord three times. He did it only hours after proudly speaking openly that he would not deny Him even if everyone else denied the Lord. And all the other disciples said the same.

But what happened? Exactly on that night all of them slept while their Lord was praying in agony in the Garden of



- **The Awesome Revelation CD's are still available! Cost is \$20 each. Supply is limited so get yours soon! See Heather McBride or Shelley Davis for more information!**
- **Quilters meet in the church lounge every Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Come Join Us!**



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Gethsemane. And they ran away when Jesus was arrested. And they even did not show up when the Lord was crucified on the hill of Golgotha.

My friends, do you know that the more you care about someone, the greater is your shame? If you truly love someone, the thought that you have abandoned your promise may be unbearable. You might hate yourself.

That's why Peter said, "I'm going out to fish." In other words, he said, "I want to break my relationship with Jesus. I am going back to my fishing job. I don't deserve to be called a fisher of man. I am merely a fisher."

Peter was turning back to his old work. He tried to delete his memory with Jesus. He felt he had failed terribly. He lost confidence in himself. And the rest of the guys felt in the same way.

So what happened?

They spent the whole night fishing. But when the morning sun came up, they had caught nothing. That means, they experienced more terrible failure! It was an impossible thing that all of them got not even one small fish through the whole night's toil.

It was at that very moment that Jesus appeared in front of them. Our Lord came to reinstate them.

But their present failure of fishing only added to their feeling of previous failure. So they did not even notice that our Lord was there.

They were only looking at their own failure and misery! They were overwhelmingly preoccupied by their own faults and shames.

My friends, the sense of failure can hold us in a grip that may distort our whole mission.

Probably the disciples might have assumed they had lost favour with Jesus.

But Jesus loves us more than we love Him. It is impossible for Him not to love us because He died for us while we were still sinners. And it is impossible for Him not to help us because He treats us His dear friends.

So Jesus called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No", they answered.

"Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."

Jesus did not give them a mere suggestion. It was a firm promise that they would definitely find fish if they only listened to His words.

When they obeyed, they could not get the net into the boat because there were so many big fish in the net.

After they dragged the net ashore, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish and bread on it.

Jesus invited them to the breakfast. He took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. None of the disciple spoke. But they knew once again they were forgiven by the Lord! Their relationship with the Christ was restored!

When I visited Lake Galilee, I saw the rock that Jesus prepared the breakfast for His

disciples. People called it Mensa Christi (Latin: the Table of Christ). O, it was a clear manifestation of Christ's unfailing love toward His failed disciples!

I want to conclude my message with a poem, titled "And God Said If".

(Written by an anonymous poet)

If you never felt pain,
Then how would you know that I'm a
Healer?

If you never went through difficulty,
How would you know that I'm a Deliverer?

If you never had a trial,
How could you call yourself an
overcomer?

If you never felt sadness,
How would you know that I'm a
Comforter?

If you never made a mistake,
How would you know that I'm forgiving?

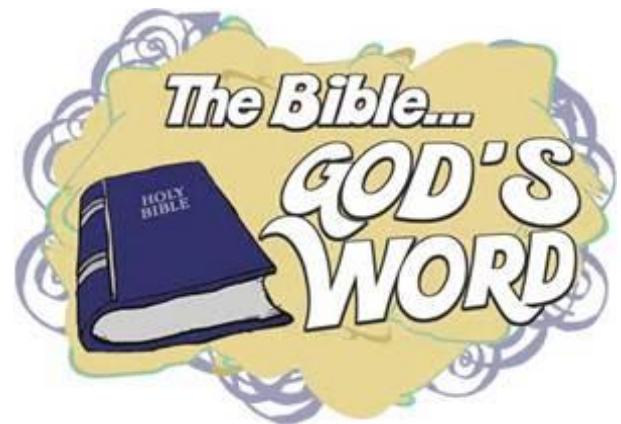
If you never were in trouble,
How would you know that I will come to
your rescue?

If you never were broken,
Then how would you know that I can make
you whole?

If you never had a problem,
How would you know that I can solve
them?

If you never had any suffering,
Then how would you know what I went
through?

If you never went through the fire,
Then how would you become pure?
If I gave you all things,
How would you appreciate them?
If I never corrected you,
How would you know that I love you?
If you had all power,
Then how would you learn to depend on
me?
If your life was perfect,
Then what would you need me for?



National Back to Church Sunday



Back to Church Sunday is a campaign strategically designed to help churches reach out and invite everyone to try church again. This powerful movement encourages church attendance by inspiring and empowering church members to invite their neighbors, friends and loved ones to a special Sunday service designed just for them. Westmount Congregation will once again be participating in the **National Back to Church Sunday Campaign** - September 18th, 2016. Rev. Bev Day will be presiding and there will be a pot luck lunch after the service. Stay tuned for more details and start thinking about whom (family, friends, neighbours or strangers) you will invite to share in our worship service and discover or rediscover a relationship with God through Jesus Christ in our welcoming church community.



"Remember success is measured not so much by how many come but by how many are asked. If we don't ask who will? Whether people accept our invitation or not is between them and the Holy Spirit."

Jackie Whiston, on behalf of Westmount Worship Committee

CHANGES AT WESTMOUNT

Rev. Young Rhee

Rev. Rhee has been at Westmount for the past 5 years and now is retiring. His last Sunday will be June 26 with a pot luck lunch following. So much has happened in those 5yrs to both our building structure as wells as the lives of those who worship here. Rev. Rhee set out to help us to become disciplines, disciples of Jesus Christ, to grow in our faith and to love one another. I am so thankful that God knew just what we needed in a Minister and brought Young to us. Let's give him a warm send off.

Rev. Jim McKean

Rev. McKean will be our Supervising Minister starting July 1 after Rev. Rhee's retirement. During the time of our search for a new Minister Rev. McKean will be here to support our council and be available for consulting on church emergencies. Rev. McKean is a retired United Church Minister and is a member of the St. Paul's Center.

Rev. McKean will be leading worship on Sunday July 3, let's give him a warm welcome.

Rev. Bev Day

Following Rev. Rhee's retirement on July 1st, Rev. Bev Day will be here to assistant us with the day to day running of our congregation.

During this transition time while we are searching for a new Minister Bev will be available for pastoral care and to help with administration duties, as well as pulpit supply.

Most of you will have known Bev from her long time pass membership here at

Westmount. Some however may have met her at the Alpha course last fall or from our Spring Retreats, or you may remember her preaching as pulpit supply over the years.

If you have not met Bev please introduce yourself. She will be leading worship on July 10, let's give her a warm welcome.

Debbie Cahill, Council chair

Mission and Outreach

Reporting from Mission and Outreach Committee:

40 Packed Shoe Boxes were donated to Operation Christmas Child.

71 pieces of winter wear were distributed to three Orillia Schools, two adult shelters and the Orillia Youth Center from Westmount's Sock/Mitten/Scarf Christmas Tree - Thank you for all the donated items!

1,400 Campbell Soup Labels have been collected/counted and distributed to the Orillia Christian School to assist with the purchase of sports equipment. Keep those Campbell Soup Labels coming - Thank you!

13 pairs of eyeglasses have been donated to help others in need of vision care in other countries.

12 Bed Kits were purchased for Sleeping Children Around the World from the "Small Change" collected.

From the above summary - it is noted that "Westmount United Church Congregation" is very giving and supportive to these Mission and Outreach Programs!

"Amen" and "Praise" the Lord!

"Praise" all God's people of this congregation!

Movie Night: June 18 at 7 pm - "Grace Unplugged"

Scrap Book Date: Saturday, June 25.

On a personal note: I am very thankful and appreciate "Ruth Leistner" for her guidance and leadership while she served many years as "Chair Person" on this committee. Blessings to you for all your assistance and the work that you accomplished!

Having said the above, I welcome "Nancy Cornwell" to Mission and Outreach Committee. Blessings to Nancy as we continue the work of this committee! Currently, we are a two-person committee but anyone who might be interested in joining this committee / or helping on occasion please contact us. Mission and Outreach is very important work in the Orillia Community, Provincially and Internationally!

Susan Potts and Nancy Cornwell.

Brothers McClurg Review

What shines forth first and foremost with The Brothers McClurg is their deep love for God beautifully expressed through honest, simple and often witty life stories, and their original music incorporating beautiful harmonies and crystal clear acoustic guitar melodies and rhythm. The audience members at Westmount Congregation last evening (on May 13th) were moved by their musical worship which draws on rock, folk and country influences and joined in many of the songs uplifting voices together while being encouraged by "The Brothers". Their music is polished and tight but is perfected by its

honesty and heartfelt expression. After making a connection with members of Orillia's 'Awesome Revelation Band', who have been playing Brothers McClurg tunes "On The Rock" and "Take heart" at Sunday worship, Brothers McClurg came to Orillia last night as part of their "On The Road Again Tour 2016/2017". The lyrics from "You shine through" are telling, "Through the cracks in all of us, through the fractures and our dust, You shine through, You shine through". Many left the performance not only satisfied with an exceptional musical performance but also uplifted and encouraged in their faith! Mark Wed. Dec. 14th on your calendar, Brothers McClurg is returning to Westmount Congregation, Orillia to share music from their "Goin' Back To Bethlehem" CD released in Dec. 2015 and will be joined by Orillia's Awesome Revelation Band for a couple of tunes too!

Thank you to all who volunteered their time, energy, hospitality and cooking skills, technical and musical skills to make this evening a resounding success. God works through willing members such as all of you to create something beautiful for our church members and community!



Seven Reasons You Don't Want to Skip Church on Sunday

Summarized from an article written by
AUTHOR: Matt Kottman

Why is gathering together as a body of believers on Sunday so important? Because we serve a great God, and anything can happen on any given Sunday!

There is something special about Sunday morning. It is quite possibly the only time in the week the whole church gathers together. That provides a tremendous opportunity for

the Spirit of God to work in the midst of His Church.

Here are seven things that we can be intentional about on any given Sunday.

1. COME READY TO SERVE ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY

God has gifted each member of the body. When the church is gathered, there is compounded opportunity to serve others.

An indication that you may be coming for the wrong reasons is if you say, "I don't get anything out of Sundays." Unfortunately, in our consumer culture, we look at Sundays as a time to get, but we are called to give of ourselves for the benefit of the body (Eph 4:16).

2. COME WILLING TO BE SERVED ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY

People often tend to fall into one of two camps. Either they are in the needy camp, where they want to be served instead of serving others, or they fall into the self-sufficient camp, where they arrogantly hide their neediness behind the cloak of service.

We are to serve and to be served. On Sundays, we allow others to serve us by not hiding behind the I'm OK, you're OK mask. We are people in need of grace, helping people in need of grace.

3. COME TO HEAR GOD'S PROPHETIC WORD ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY

Hearing the Word of God preached is hearing God's word applied to our lives. God speaks to his church through the sermon, and you are part of that church. Of course, we can listen to mp3's and radio broadcasts, but

there is something particular from the Lord for a particular congregation at a particular time.

4. COME TO AFFIRM OUR MUTUAL FAITH ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY

There is something powerful about the corporate affirmation of truth. Throughout the week, many struggle as the sole Christian in the workplace or in the family. Even when there are a couple other Christians, they are still a small band.

King David said, "We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng" (Psalm 55:14). There was a sense of identity and mission in the church gathered.

In a world where Christ is marginalized, gathering together to affirm our mutual faith equips us as we scatter back into our mission fields.

5. COME TO GIVE YOUR BEST ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY

It is interesting that a lot of what happened in the early church, happened on Sundays. It was the first day of the week, a day of celebrating being a new creation (creation started on the first day of the week, Gen 1:3). They partook of communion (Acts 20:7), and they gave financially on Sunday (1 Cor 16:2). There was a sense that this day was important.

It was not another day of the week. It was the day of the week.

Many people these days want to downplay Sundays and say every day is important. I would agree that every day is important, and if our faith is only ever lived out actively on

Sunday, that indicates a heart problem. But there is no doubt that the church throughout history had a designated day of gathered worship. This is the first fruits of our week, and we are called to give the Lord the first fruits (Pro 3:9).

6. COME TO STIR UP ONE ANOTHER'S FAITH ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY

Sunday is a day when the priests minister to the people. The Scriptures teach that we are a kingdom of priests (Rev 1:6). That means I am a priest to the individuals in my local church, and they are priests to me. We are called to act redemptively in one another's lives. If we are not gathering, the author of Hebrews tells us that our faith stagnates (Heb 10:19-25).

As a pastor, I have seen a pattern, where those who are not committed to gathering together are usually those whose faith is struggling.

They do not have joy or holy passion, and it's not a surprise, because these qualities are meant to be cultivated within the community.

Everyone has days they would rather isolate themselves, and I am no exception. However, time and again, being with my church family has strengthened me, corrected me and stirred me toward love and good works.

7. COME TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY

Remember, we are called to love one another.

It is difficult to do this while avoiding one another. Loving the congregation by joining with them is saying, "Our time together matters." Loving the leadership of the church

through attendance and actively serving is saying, "I am with you in this ministry." We love by purposing it in our hearts to leave our spheres of comfort and enter other people's spheres of pain. Most of all, we love Jesus by proclaiming on any given Sunday, "Here we are, a people called by your name for your glory."

Sundays are special, not to the neglect of other days, rather to the opportunity especially afforded the Church of God as they make a point in their week to gather together in the name of Jesus. In your church, consider how any given Sunday can be an opportunity for the work of God, through His people, to be expressed to the praise of His glorious grace!

Submitted by: Sandy Patrick

Spring Retreat 2016

Westmount's Spring Retreat was held on April 16th. The theme this year was "The Bread of Life." There were over 50 people attending, two keynote speakers, 4 small discussion groups, great food, and an amazing worship time with Awesome Revelation.

It was so nice to see so many back to the retreat for the 3rd time and to see many new faces.

I have included the result of the evaluation sheets so to show you what this experience was like for the participants.

Debbie Cahill

2016 SPRING RETREAT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Overall

Great day / Awesome / Blessed / Refreshing
/ Warm, welcoming, relaxing atmosphere

Well-organized / Good balance of food for
body and soul / Thanks to the planning
committee

Fed physically and spiritually / Spirit-filled &
portrayed the love of God

I felt the Spirit among us all day

A day I'll never forget / Great leadership /
Questions answered

A happy experience surrounded by sisters
and brothers in Christ

Good balance of serious thought and
relaxing laughter

It was nice to have time to enjoy some sun
and fellowship outside

This was my first time at Spring retreat – but
won't be my last

I think this is what it will be like in heaven –
one big family present with God –
celebrating,

talking, singing, praising, and asking
questions

Several churches drawn together in love –
evidence of unity and peace within the
Body of Christ

I liked the one-day format – allowed me to
retain more / Start and end time good

The day flowed smoothly - everything on
schedule without any sense of being rushed

I liked having just one group session

I liked meeting new people

Yoga

Great / Relaxing / Enjoyable / Started the
day off well / Thank you Sandy

Worship Times

Loved it – everyone participated

Choir - well-prepared – alive – Thanks
Heather and Shelley for your leadership

Awesome Revelation – well-named – always
a treat to enjoy this talented band

It is obvious both groups enjoy praising the
Lord



Messages

Reminder to gather manna daily / hidden
but easily found - when I seek Him with all
my heart

Interesting / informative / Encouraging /
Inspiring - made me think

Helped me realize I just need to believe,
trust and obey / God likes me just the way I
am

Reinforced and strengthened my faith -
Great Scriptures

Good to hear two ministers - two different,
yet similar, perspectives on the "Bread of
Life"

Appreciated seeing the close relationship
between the "manna" and the "Bread of
Life"

30-minute message is a good length – both
speakers covered a lot, but made it all quite
clear



Small Group

Wonderful fellowship / felt safe and
accepted / enjoyed people of various
denominations

Educational / Honesty / Christian faith and
love in action / Beautiful prayer

Encouraging to hear that all struggle with
daily problems – but we are supported by
the love of Christ and of each other

Thank you: Rev Rhee for being so willing to
teach us / Jackie for your active listening
skills

Thank God for my church that helps me
recharge - surrounded by non-believers is so
draining

Food

Great / Awesome / Wonderful / Plentiful /
Fresh / Lots of choices

Appreciated the flavoured water

WCW always so gracious and obliging –
always lots to satisfy everyone's needs



I Resolve

To live today worry-free / God is in charge /
Let God take care of the future

To accept God's will and follow it with His
help and guidance

To listen carefully and obey God's
instruction

To apply the "trust and obey" concept to
more aspects of my life

To begin a new lifestyle with Christ as my
focus

To seek God in prayer and in His Word

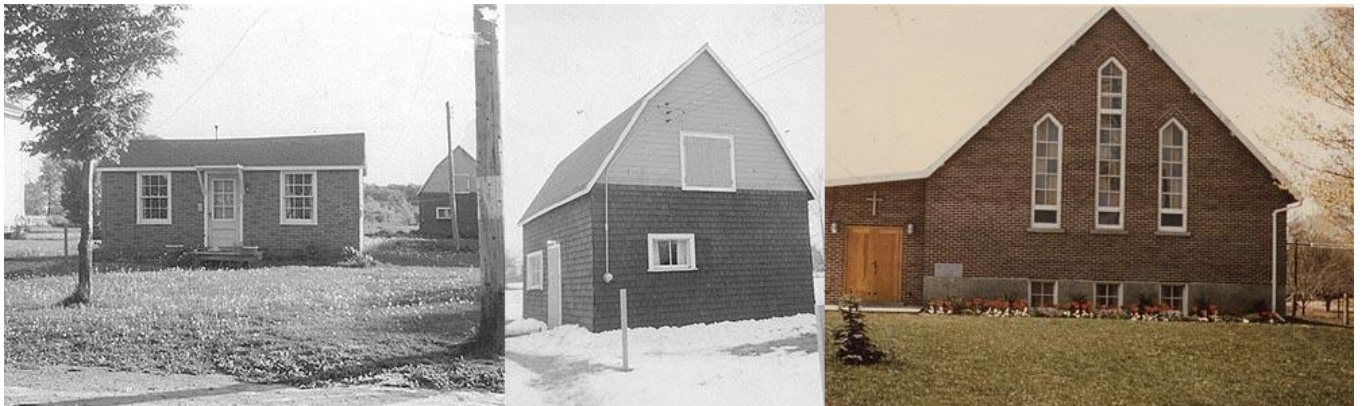
To be open to the Holy Spirit

**Hope to see everyone next year and bring a
friend!**

WESTMOUNT HISTORY

Did you know?

- 1954 – Westmount began as an outgrowth of St. Paul’s United Church’s “Forward Movement” campaign.
- 1948 – Miss Helen Langman donated property at the corner of Linwood and the Fourth Concession (known today as Westmount Drive). Subsequently, the adjacent property was purchased.
- 1953 – These properties were exchanged for a larger piece of property two blocks north and across the road (the present location). This property held a barn and a very small house. Deaconess Phyllis Sykes resided in the house, better known as ‘The Cottage’, where she organized the Sunday School and midweek activities. The barn was renovated to accommodate the many groups of the church as attendance grew.
- 1954 – The barn was bulging with people and a new larger building was needed. Plans for a new building to accommodate 300 people were completed. The building would be 35 feet wide and 75 feet deep with an estimated cost of \$40,000.



- 1954 – July 13th, the sod was turned for “Westmount Hall”.
- 1954 – September 10th, Rev. W. B. Bugden laid the Corner stone.
- 1954 – Rev. Harold Davies, Assistant Minister at St. Paul’s United Church held the first regular 11:00 am service at Westmount and in July of 1955 was called to Westmount.
- 1957 – Presbytery was requested to recognize Westmount as a self-supporting pastoral charge in Simcoe Presbytery.
- 1958 – The property and building were transferred from St. Paul’s to Westmount. The power of vision, faith and willing workers resulted in 233 “Original Signers” on the Westmount Charter Roll and June 15th officially became the Anniversary date as a congregation.

- 1959 – January 28th, the first congregational meeting of Westmount was held.
- 1961 – New Conn organ dedicated.
- 1964 – The church’s interior was renovated including installation of pews and carpets and removal of the original stage, where the back pews are now located.
- 1964 – Cubs and Scouts was sponsored by the Westmount Men’s Club.
- 1968 – New Assembly Hall addition was completed.
- 1969 – First “Westmount Views” Church Newsletter was published and the Church Directory of family photographs was compiled.
- 1970 – First Congregational Picnic was held.
- 1971 – New Hymn Books purchased.
- 1972 – Official Board was changed to a “Council”.
- 1972 – Westmount transferred from Simcoe Presbytery to Muskoka Presbytery.
- 1973 – A portion of the back property was sold.
- 1974 – First United Church Women (UCW) Bazaar was held.
- 1975 – Hi-C youth group and I and II Adult Social Clubs were organized.
- 1976 – Public address and recording system was installed, sermons were taped and the Church library was opened.
- 1977 – Task force formed to set-up Telecare.
- 1978 – 20th Anniversary celebrated and an upright piano was purchased.
- 1979 – 25th anniversary of the Sunday School, Student Minister Michael Hart was hired for the summer and a church baseball team was formed.
- 1980 – Westmount sponsored the Mac family from Vietnam and their baby was born 2 days after their arrival. In 1983 the family received their Canadian citizenship papers.
- 1981 – A weekly worship and Sunday School, supported by Westmount, began at Warminster Community Hall.
- 1981 – Summer ministerial assistants Rudy and Marny Pohl were hired.
- 1981 – The “Couple’s Club” changed to “Westmount Club” to include singles.
- 1982 – Irene Ramsay hired as summer assistant.

- 1982 – “Inclusive language” and “Confessing Our Faith” were studied thoroughly by Westmount.
- 1984 – Current entrance to the Church was constructed.
- 1985 – Updated public address system installed.
- 1986 – Wheel chair lift was installed.
- 1986 – “Mission Alive!” held first Mission Fair in support of Sleeping Children Around the World.
- 1987 – Carpeting installed in sanctuary and Westmount’s float won first prize in the religious category in the Orillia Santa Claus Parade.
- 1988 – Non-smoking policy adopted and auditorium steel chairs replaced with fabric-covered chairs.
- 1988 – Declaration of Dissent and Intention forwarded to Muskoka Presbytery with respect to 32nd General Council’s “New Statement on Membership, Ministry, and Human Sexuality”.
- 1990 – Pew cushions and air conditioner installed and Westmount Church designated an Emergency Shelter for Bestview (now Oak Terrace).
- 1991 – New organ purchased and members participated in the Bible Society Walk-a-thon.
- 1991 – “Statement of Faith” booklet completed.
- 1991 – United Church Women withdrew from Muskoka Presbytery and became Westmount Church Women (WCW).
- 1992 – Church was renamed “Westmount Congregation” declaring our theological beliefs within the United Church of Canada. Westmount Congregation joined the National Alliance of Covenanting Congregations.
- 1992 – New hymnals, “The Worshiping Church” were purchased and the organ was replaced. First “Strawberry Shortcake Take-out” was held.
- 1993 – “Coats for Kids” program was organized by Mission Alive!, computer and laser printer purchased, installation of stained glass windows.
- 1994 – Baby grand piano purchased, Michelle Brotherton (sponsored candidate for ordination – ordained in 2000) formed the Westmount Youth Group, outdoor church sign erected, new Photo Directory published.
- 1996 – Choir presented an original Christmas Cantata.
- 1997 – Revised Constitution for Council was adopted, “Westmount After School Program” (WASP) formed.

- 1998 – First participated in Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Program and central window at the front of the church was replaced with brick, wooden crosses were installed, with spotlights to highlight them.
- 1999 – First Penny Jar fundraiser for Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW).
- 2000 – New Statement of Faith adopted: “We Are A Growing Family Serving Christ”.
- 2000 – Shuffleboard Court installed.
- 2001 – Partnered with Forest Home and Regent Park United Churches to sponsor one unit in the outreach project of Couchiching Jubilee House.
- 2002 – First Westmount Gloryfest was held, an evening of Christian musical entertainment for the community.
- 2003 – Produced “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” with the help of Ted Duff and many friends, participated in the Community Prayer Walk, new sound system and new steel roof installed.
- 2004 – Fire Code Retrofit renovation began.
- 2005 – Participated in “Love Orillia”, an outreach to encourage random acts of kindness, new Photo Directory published.
- 2006 – Fellowship Hour started, installed air conditioner for the sanctuary.
- 2007 – Westmount Congregation’s Constitution revised, newsletter became available via e-mail and new carpeting installed in the lounge.
- 2008 – Celebrated 50th Anniversary of Westmount Congregation, dedication of 50th Anniversary Quilt made by Westmount Quilters, Kathy Godfrey designed the 50th Anniversary logo.

Youngie, Me and Six Skunks - Doug Giles

We would be six or seven when this took place. Youngie's brother penned up skunks along his dad's rail fence on the west side of his orchard and at this time he had six in a chicken wire pen. Youngie was ten days younger than me. Youngie was not supposed to tell me about the skunks or where they lived. Well, yes we were buddies; yes about four o'clock one nice day Youngie wanted to show me something I had not seen before. So we went along the rail fence to the pen and yes there were six beautiful skunks!!

We looked at them and talked to them. We also gave them chopped apples and they liked it. They did not seem to mind, well, so we decided to use a long stick. we put it through the top wire. I was on the fence guiding it and Youngie was behind me a few feet and up on a rock, passing the stick, I guided. Slowly the stick went between a skunk's hind legs, okay Youngie jumped on it. Well the skunk's backside hit the net and all six let us know what happens next.

Jumping, screaming Mommy!! - then I heard Youngie's mom as she was coming up the road and she must have known what we were up to as she yelled at him, "You can't come home. I don't want you!" My mom was at the front door and told me I was not to go in the house front or back doors.

So the old round bath tubs were put out in our backyards, cold water, soap and tomato juice, then we scrubbed until all the skunk smell was gone!!

CONCLUSION: DON'T FORGET TO BURY YOUR STINKY CLOTHES BY THE RHUBARB PATCH!!!



A SKUNK - by Jim Dack (passed away Sept. 26, 2015)

There is a little critter
It is mostly seen at night
Its perfume is strong and bitter
Its colour is black and white

The kitty looks appealing
He is armed with potent junk
His aroma is what's revealing
He is known as a common skunk.

Now to know about this feller
I am sure your heart will rend

For sad to say the smeller
Just hasn't got a friend

You see him as he is walking
In a manner quite serene
Ambling, uncaring and mocking
Could he be that mean?

He has the reputation of a sniper
They say his aim is true
He is not deadly like a viper
But he can't certainly can get to you

His reputation goes before him
Sometimes odour too when the wind is right

Some people flee with vigour and vim
But a skunk doesn't look for a fight

A skunk will not harm you
If you let him go his way
But he is ready with adequate pew
And there can be a devil to pay

He has the ultimate put-down for the nosey
And for those who interfere
He may loose his charming posey
To make the doubters veer

