



# The Village Church

*A Different Way of Doing Church!*

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

## THOUGHTS FROM THE VILLAGE

I told the doctor last week; "I'm feeling a little under the weather". She felt my forehead and replied "You're suffering from spring fever" .....the cure, she said, was to spread it around! I'm hoping this newsletter will infect you with the same fever. It's been a long winter with lots of white stuff..... and just when you thought it was over...more white stuff! Spring fever is always

triggered by sensing new life around us. Plants, grass, sunshine and people out walking again. New life can also take shape in church's...The Village Church is no exception. This newsletter will introduce areas in our church that have come to life... both in new ministries and in people's lives. Even though winter may be a dormant time of year...

God is behind the scenes and is actively growing the Kingdom..... sit back and enjoy this newsletter. Your investment in this partnership is bringing new life in all seasons.... thanks for all your encouraging words, finances, and prayers..... and don't forget to spread the fever.....Pastor Mike

## 'DOORWAYS TO THE COMMUNITY' SERVICE

In March we had a fantastic service that was dedicated to the organizations that we have partnered with in the community of Thorold. Thorold Community Care, Cobblestone Garden Retirement Home, Thorold Community Activities Group, Thorold Secondary School, The Niagara Life Centre and City Hall were all represented at this service. These are all organizations that The Village Church has ongoing partnerships with and have helped in some way. They set up informative booths that displayed their

services. We also had a chance to pray for them during the service.

The mayor presented The Village Church with a certificate that expressed their "sincere appreciation for [The Village Church's] commitment to serving God and the community".

Rita Makubuya of The Niagara Life Centre announced that they are officially re-naming the counseling services that are operating at The Village Church's Ministry



Pastor Mike and Mayor Ted Luciani.

Centre the "Thorold Life Centre"! A dream that was talked about 2 years ago. This newsletter is packed full of ways that God is using The Village Church to be His hands and feet in this community and how we are seeking more opportunities to show God's love to the city of Thorold. Please pray that God will continue to use us as His instruments.

### Inside this issue:

Why I Attend The Village Church	2
R.A.K.E. Appreciated	2
Thorold Love Team	3
3rd Annual Boot Walk	3
Small Groups at The Village Church	3
NEW Connections Coordinator	4
So ... Is There Something You Can Do?	4

### Vision Statement

**"To be a community of faith that is dedicated to knowing Jesus Christ, serving others in His name and making Him known throughout our home community."**

## WHY I ATTEND THE VILLAGE CHURCH

### BY SHARON PILUKE

My name is Sharon Piluke and I have been connecting with the Village Church since Fall 2009. When I moved away from my parent's home (north of Toronto) to attend Brock University, not only did I lose what little of a relationship that I had with God, I also lost my relationship with my church family. Life went on and things seemed fine. Job, Marriage, Kids and House – but still something was missing.



Sharon & her husband James and children Andrew & Benjamin

I really didn't realize how much I missed having the support of a church family, until after my husband wound up in the hospital after having seizures. Our families live a distance away from here, so I was on my own dealing with the stress of not knowing if and when the next seizure would strike and who would look after my

son if I had to take my husband to the hospital. I worried a lot about everything during that time which in turn wasn't healthy for me or my family. I knew that something needed to change and I had a desire to start attending church again.

I started looking for a church in St. Catharines that was close to home, flipping through the yellow pages. It was clear that some of these churches weren't for me. The plan to find a church ended up on the backburner until my son's kindergarten teacher suggested I attend a community group led by The Village Church in Thorold. It was at a time when he was having difficulties at school with his behaviour. The parenting group I attended was led by Hilda and Bill VanderKlippe and helped me feel more confident about disciplining (instead of punishing) my kids.

Though this community group, my two boys and I started attending regular services at the Village Church. Everyone was friendly and genuinely cared about how our week had gone. I am a very quiet introvert until you get to know me; but even I found it easy to get to know the "Village People". It was God's plan for me to find this church, these people, in this community.

It was through the Village Church that I learned what a close relationship with God should be like. As a teenager I had decided not to be baptized because I knew that it was a big step that I was

***It was through the Village Church that I learned what a close relationship with God should be like.***

not ready for at that time. I decided last year that I was ready and wanted to be baptized. Pastor Mike Collins helped me with my testimony and gave me support as I spoke before the church last November and was baptized.

As part of my Profession of Faith I stated, "I am looking forward to God showing me how he can use my skills to serve others through the Village Church. For me, being part of this church is not only leaning on others for support, but also providing support to others." Well, it sure did not take too long for God to identify my skills and provide me with ample opportunities to serve.

It is great to have the support of this church family while raising my boys. There is also peace in knowing that my two boys will have such awesome role models to guide them as they get older.

## R.A.K.E. APPRECIATED BY JACKI REID

The Village Church is at it again. We continue to R.A.K.E. Thorold and have increased it to almost once a month! **Random Acts of Kindness Everywhere** have continued with small, random (well, we try to be as random as possible) acts shown through odd jobs and little gestures! And the community has noticed. The Thorold Secondary School Principal, Ms. Miller, appreciated the garbage on

their property being cleaned up. Prince of Wales School was also very pleased with the leaf clean up we did this past fall. And the Thorold Activities Group was very grateful for the small jobs and clean up done at the Nick Basciano Centre in January. The church has received many other letters of appreciation and donations from residents of Thorold that have been R.A.K.E.'d by The Village

Church. The residents of Thorold are getting to know the Village Church as the "community involved" church that offers different groups and services to Thorold and its residents. And R.A.K.E is an important part of that—how awesome is that! It has proven to be a great way to get to know our own church members and our city!!! The Village Church Rocks!

## THOROLD LOVE TEAM BY CAROLYN BOSTOCK

I suppose the first thing I could say about the Thorold Love Team is that it's about love. I know that it sounds obvious, but it's the kind of love that is active rather than passive. The team encompasses many activities including the prayer chain, cards, meals, visits, financial assistance and building and maintaining relationships.

The team's goal is practical help that everyone needs from time to time. It could be a card during an illness or

the loss of a loved one, meals for a family in crises and keeping in touch with people who have connected with the church. Our team members are active in many groups within the church and community so we can see how and where this groups can serve. During this coming year we pray that we will make new connections and serve where the Lord leads.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a*



*harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:9-10*



## 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL THOROLD BOOT WALK

Keep those Rubber Boots out! Yes, it's almost time for the **Third Annual Thorold Boot Walk**!! It's hard to believe that one year ago we raised \$20,000 for the Niagara Life Centre and collected over 405

pounds of food for Community Care, but here we are again. And this time we are going to raise more money, collect more food, and have even more fun than last year!!

So why come out? Well why wouldn't you? We have games, we have prizes for the top fundraisers, and best of all you help support the Niagara Life Centre and Community Care who help out so many of our beloved neighbours.

Still not convinced? How about the chance to have your name entered in the Guinness Book of World Records! As of right now the record is at 1,366 people and last year...well we weren't even close to the record, but we can't give up! We need you to tell your fam-

ily, tell your friends, tell your neighbours, tell anyone who will listen. We will continue our conquest to conquer and we will be Guinness World Record holders!!

So come out on July 1<sup>st</sup> to Club Capri in Thorold. Registration is at 9:30 am and the walk starts between 10:30-11:30am, with a rolling start. For more information please contact James Symons ([symosis@hotmail.com](mailto:symosis@hotmail.com)) or check out our website for more details!

## SMALL GROUPS AT THE VILLAGE CHURCH

Two of the core values at The Village Church are that we value people and we value community. Small groups is a great vehicle to bring shape to these core values.

The purpose of small groups at The Village is to "provide everyone a place where they feel they **belong**, can **serve** and **grow** in their relationship with Jesus".

We have three general categories of groups. The first we call the **Village Variety**. Groups in this categories aim to meet folks in the community where they are at; they are shaped around people's needs and interest. In this category we've offered exercise classes, grief recovery, parenting,

divorce recovery, cooking classes, money/budgeting courses, a breakfast club, etc. These groups provide a low key connection with The Village Church.

The second category is called the **Village Coffee Shop**. In this category we offer groups for people who are willing to take steps forward both in their journey with Christ but also in their relationship with the church. We offer groups like: H2O (introduction to Christianity), Christianity 101, New Members class, Coffee Break, Bagels and Bros, etc.

The third category of groups we've called the **Village Garden Centre**. In this category we offer groups that

help people mature in their faith and also learn skills to equip them to live out their faith. 'Just Walk Across the Room', Accountability groups, and Women's Bible study all fall in this category.

All groups are encouraged to not only serve themselves but also find ways to serve others. Each group receives some money which they can use to bless the community in some way.

Small Groups at The Village are supported by the Small Group Leadership Team. The Leadership Team provides training and support for leaders.

## THE VILLAGE CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Mike Collins** - Pastor  
E-Mail: [mike@myvillagechurch.ca](mailto:mike@myvillagechurch.ca)

**Erin Knight** - Administrator/Worship  
E-Mail: [erin@myvillagechurch.ca](mailto:erin@myvillagechurch.ca)

**Jeanette VanderWerff** - Prayer Coordinator  
E-Mail: [jeanette@myvillagechurch.ca](mailto:jeanette@myvillagechurch.ca)

**Hilda Vanderklippe** - Community Connections  
Coordinator  
E-Mail: [hilda@myvillagechurch.ca](mailto:hilda@myvillagechurch.ca)

**Phone:**  
905-227-2525

**Website:**  
[www.myvillagechurch.ca](http://www.myvillagechurch.ca)

**Ministry Centre Location:**  
133 Front Street North  
Thorold, Ontario L2V 0A3

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 47  
Thorold, Ontario L2V 3Y7

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR



Hilda Vanderklippe has accepted the position of The Village Church's **Community Connections Coordinator**. The purpose of this position is to coordinate, develop and

promote partnering relationships with community organizations in Thorold/St Catharines as part of the overall vision and values of The Village Church. We are blessed to have her as part of The Village Church staff.



**Find us on Facebook!**

## SO... IS THERE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO?

Those of you reading this will all have some sort of connection to the Village Church. Some are actively involved week by week at the Village. Others have a casual interest - maybe because a friend or acquaintance is part of the Village. Whatever the link, the Village appreciates and welcomes your support! A big thank-you to all of you.

Starting up a new church in any community actually requires another community - of supporters. We give God praise for what takes place week by week at the Village, and His support is very evident. We also recognize that much of God's support comes through the many who have connected to the Village. And your contribution, through prayer, participation or promotion, is important to us.

We hope that some of you who read this feel an urging and an inspiration to take your level of support to another level. It may be because God is at work to provide for the Village. Because, you see, we do have ongoing, day-to-day needs and activities that require your support. Some of the initiatives that we have begun in Thorold were able to come to life because of the vision and visionary support of folks just like you.

For these to continue, and to allow

new initiatives, new supporters are welcome and invited to join the 'team'! Among the numerous ways the Village seeks to be a blessing in Thorold is the provision of personal counselling services through our relationship with the Niagara Life Centre, and community benevolence through our own Thorold Love team. The Village Church is committing \$5000 to increased counselling and an additional \$2000 to Thorold Love team activities. Exciting!

The Village Church is blessed by an ongoing commitment from Christian Reformed Home Missions (which is coming to term soon) as well as from Chr. Ref. churches in Classis Niagara. And those who now call the Village their church home are increasing their support. This invitation is to those of you who on *an individual basis* feel inspired to commit to supporting the Village Church over a period of time. Prayer support is vital. And so too is financial support. Please let us know of your commitment! (See contact information in this newsletter)

Village Church Stewardship/  
Finance team

A group shot of some 'Villagers' at the Nick Basciano Centre in Thorold during a R.A.K.E. Sunday.

