

New Programs for 2017

A Retreat for Young Moms

REST, RENEW, RELAX Jan. 14 - 17, 2017 Rev. Kristine O'Brien

'Simplified living is about more than doing less. It's about being who God called us to be' Bill Hybels, Simplify

This retreat is designed especially for moms of young children. Our speaker Rev. Kristine O'Brien, a mother of four, knows just how busy life can become. Kristine will share how we need to give ourselves permission to stop and breathe, to observe Sabbath, and to do less, while still being loving and faithful. Free time on Saturday afternoon will provide an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful grounds of Crieff and to simply rest and relax.

Retired or Soon to Be Retired?

Crieff is offering two new programs under the umbrella of *Retirement With Meaning* which is geared for both Laity & Clergy.

Living With the Spirit of Adventure- Feb 5 - 7, 2017 Rev. Dr. Andrew Irvine

Retirement planning gives a great sense of anticipation coupled with ideas of freedom. We look forward to the enjoyment of things that we have been too busy to do and have expectations that downtime has finally arrived. There is, however, a set of emotions that reflect a different dynamic. Our occupation and work has been a great part of our identity. With retirement we leave much of that behind to establish a new identity with a sense of meaning and purpose in this new reality. The recreational dimension of retirement lasts for a short while then we begin to ask questions about our meaning and purpose in life and how we now contribute to the world.

Still in the Game - May 7 - 10, 2017 Rev. Kirk Summers

This event provides a great opportunity to be together for encouragement, enlightenment and enjoyment. We ponder the never ending life of discipleship that we share in Christ. Special focus will be upon the 'third chapter' of living - *when the world of work may slow down, the calling to live fully for the Lord does not!* There will be much time to relax, read, walk, 'twist and turn', look at the stars, sleep and truly 'glorify and enjoy God together.

Youth Retreat at Crieff Hills St. Andrews Presbyterian Kitchener

On the weekend of Sept 31 – Oct 2, the youth of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Kitchener descended upon the Crieff Hills Retreat Center for their annual fall youth retreat. Crieff has been the location of this retreat each October for the last 12 years, and it is our most anticipated event of the year. Twenty-six youth and eight leaders from St. Andrews came ready for a weekend of outdoor fun, campfires, prayer, worship, reflection and communion. Upon arrival, all youth attending were required to give their phones, iPods and electronics to a leader to help them "unplug" and have the opportunity to live and learn in the moment from the people and things surrounding the. About the ban Courtney, a grade 12 student in the group who was attending her 5th Crieff retreat said "It's a good opportunity to build friendships with people around you and build friendships outside the screen".

"I love this place, it was an awesome weekend!"

For some of our younger students, it was their first time away from home for a weekend retreat with the youth group. Said Ryleigh, a grade 7 student in her first year "I had a great time". Youth Leader Mike Wasyluk said "It's so great to see our whole group come together for this retreat. Whether it was their first time to Crieff or their last, I know that this place will always have a lasting impact on their faith development through these essential teenage years. It's exciting to see each student get something different out of our time away.

On Sunday morning, after all the bags were packed, all the floors were vacuumed and the last person walked out of the House of Dove for another year, the only thing on everyone's mind was 'I can't wait to get back here next year'. Alex might have summed it up best by saying "I love this place, it was an awesome weekend". It sure was. Written by the Youth Team of St. Andrew's

Upcoming Events

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON BUFFETS

Hot Buffet & Dessert Buffet

Ideal for Family, Friends & Staff Christmas Lunches (reservations are required)

Dec 6 - 8; Dec 13 - 15; Dec 20,21

2017

- Jan 14-15 - Young Mom's Retreat 'Rest, Renew, Relax' - Rev. Christine O'Brien
- Feb 5 - 7 - Retirement - *Living With A Spirit of Adventure* - Rev. Dr. Andrew Irvine
- Feb 23 - Manna Day - *Music Ministry* - Chris Fischer & Fred Graham
- May 7-10 - Retirement - *Still In The Game* - Rev. Kirk Summers
- May 13 - Bird Banding & Nature Hikes (until noon)
- May 15-17 - Interdenominational Church Administrator Conference - Theme - 'You are God's Masterpiece'
- May 25 - Manna Day - *Towards a Vital Spirituality: Its Influence on Worship & Leadership* - Rev. Dr. Dale Woods
- June 2 - Music Ministry Conference

For more information on these and other programs at Crieff, visit our webs site at www.crieffhills.com

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Crieff Hills Retreat & Conference Centre
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Fall 2016

Crieff News

Celebrating Together ...

With Thankfulness & Tree Planting Memories

When the Refugee Sponsorship Project team from churches within the Presbytery of Hamilton approached Crieff Hills about the possibility of holding a picnic event at Crieff Hills to celebrate their two refugees families, little did we know what a meaningful event it would be. This was indeed a special idea that turned into an amazing gathering.

Thank you to all those who worked on this project and for sharing this story with us. We look forward to meeting again with these two special families. At the special request of their children, they plan to return from time to time to see **'their'** tree.

The following is an excerpt from words spoken by Refugee Sponsorship Project team member, Brenda Marriott on the day of the picnic.

I want to tell you why I think that today is a magnificent day...and a remarkable day.

- Today is the day that we welcome some very special people who have travelled on a very long and very difficult road to a new life in Canada.
- Today we celebrate the new friendships that we have formed with our Syrian friends.
- Today is a day of thanksgiving as we offer our gratitude for everything that everyone has done to support this sponsorship.
- Today is also an opportunity for the sponsorship committee members to honour the joy of the friendships that have developed and deepened between us over the months that we have worked together.
- Today is also the day that we have the incredible opportunity to come together as members of a number of Presbyterian congregations from within the Presbytery of Hamilton and to celebrate, not only the

richness of our faith, but also what we are capable of accomplishing when we work together. We have representation here from Erskine, St. Cuthbert's, St. Paul's Hamilton, Chedoke, Brant Hills, MacNab and Knox Waterdown.

- Today is the day for fun and friendship and sharing in the goodness and grace of God's love....and His love in action.
- Today is also a day for reminding ourselves about how fortunate we are to live in a land of peace and possibility.



Highlights of this day

- Several congregations from the Presbytery of Hamilton welcomed a family from Syria along with the help of another family who arrived one year ago.
- Gathering & picnic
- Sharing stories
- Each new family planted a Canadian Maple tree - a symbol of the roots they are putting down in Canada

Young Conservation Professionals Partnering with Crieff Hills

The Young Conservation Professionals (YCP) Leadership Program is a year-long personal and professional development program based out of the University of Guelph's Centre for Land & Water Stewardship.

The core of the program includes three residential retreats at Crieff Hills which focus on personal and professional leadership development - Leader as Learner; Leader as Partner; Leader as Catalyst.

Whether engaging in a group session or taking time away for personal reflection, these young professionals found Crieff Hills to be a great location for these learning retreats.

Crieff Hills is proud to partner with this exciting program.



Congratulations to this great group.

Thank you to the Presbytery of London and to Bethel (Ilderton) Presbyterian Church

Crieff Hills is grateful to the Presbytery of London and in particular to the congregation of Bethel Presbyterian Church (Ilderton) who selected Crieff Hills as one of the recipients to receive a generous gift of funds.

In researching the history of Bethel Presbyterian Church it was interesting to note that Bethels beginnings were in 1932. Being 'organized' by Rev. Thomas Christie and with Rev. William Proudfoot as the first minister, Bethel was well on its way.

We smiled as we read, "The congregation began by meeting in homes and barns. Shortly after their organizing, they were able to build a church building." (*Fond Cong 287 - Bethel Presbyterian Church (Ilderton, Ont) fonds*) In reading these words, we saw similarities between the beginnings of Bethel PC and that of Knox Crieff PC and thus to Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre.

To those who called Bethel Presbyterian Church home, as you close your doors on your rich history, be assured that Crieff Hills will wisely use this gift of funds and we will remember the history of Bethel with its many years of ministry to church families and to those beyond your doors.

Crieff Hills is in the process of two projects at this time and will be sharing your gift between these projects. We plan to create a kitchen/washroom facility for day groups who come and make use of the Crieff outdoor property. The second project is to improve accessibility in the main meeting hall by adding an elevator and improving the safety of the stairs.

We thank you and are grateful for this generous donation.

Historic American Beech Tree

Forests Ontario has launched 'Our Heritage Tree Program' which identifies and records the location of heritage trees across Ontario. Becoming designated as a Heritage Tree involves measurement for size, shape and beauty but it must also have a story - a human connection and involvement. These trees might be a prominent community landmark or associated with historical periods, events or people. Found at Crieff Hills was a beautiful American Beech tree!

In 2016 Crieff Hills was honoured to see this tree nominated, inspected and given the designation as an Ontario Heritage Tree. A plaque has been placed at the base of this tree which is at the front of House of Dove.

Wouldn't we all like to know just why this particular tree was left standing when the land was first cleared and what the McDiarmid family, the first family to clear and settle lot in 18, would think of all of this.



International Relief Managers (IRMs)

From September 26-28, the International Disaster Response team of the Christian Reformed Church, held a conference at Crieff Hills Retreat & Conference Centre for the International Relief Managers (IRMs). This conference was attended by 19 IRMs, coming from Colorado, Michigan, British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario. In addition to the IRMs attending, 16 World Renew staff participated in the conference and helped to lead a variety of workshops.

This conference provided IRMs with the opportunity to share about recent field assignments, learning from both the successes and challenges they experienced. Workshops also introduced IRMs to the Core Humanitarian Standards and provided training on community assessment tools. The conference culminated with a 3-hour disaster simulation that forced IRMs to re-enact the first seven days of a response to an international disaster. IRMs ventured out into disaster-affected communities to learn about how families (played by students from Woodland Christian High School) were affected by the disaster, and also visited a "local market". After three highly stressful hours, IRMs developed concept notes for their response to the disaster and shared about the lessons that this simulation taught. One participant shared that "this was an inspirational exercise."

For all who attended the conference, it was a valuable time of learning, fellowship and encouragement. Six IRMs have gone on assignment since the conference, to Uganda, Malawi and Zambia, and many others are eager to head into the field in the coming months.

Jonathan Self

FLOW Internship Program ...

This summer, myself and six other young adults had the absolute privilege of taking part in the FLOW Internship program, run by BIC Canada (Brethren In Christ). We spent our summer working in various roles at churches, camps and mission organizations. There we learned to use our unique gifts and passions to work in a ministry setting. The purpose of the FLOW internship is to see young Christian leaders grow as learners and leaders and for us to "find our flow" - the place where one feels both highly challenged and highly gifted.

Four times over the summer, we came together on retreats to process what we were learning at our different placements, as well as to unpack different issues and conversations we needed to be aware of and engaged in as young Christians leaders. We covered everything from First Nations issues in Canada, to inequality in the Global South, to how our individual skill sets can contribute to Christ's Kingdom. We had the privilege of spending two of those retreats at Crieff Hills. The beautiful property was the perfect setting to get some quiet and unpack all that we were

processing throughout what was such a formative summer for all of us. We are so thankful for such a wonderful space for us to connect with each other and with God. Hopefully, we will all be back sometime soon!

FLOW

- F Flexibility & Foundations
- L Lifestyle & Laughter
- O Opportunities & Outcomes
- W Work & Worship

www.canadianbic.ca/internships

Alyssa FLOW intern 2016

Jeff-A-Thon - PWS&D Fundraising Event

Organized by St. Andrew's Hespeler and supported by many.

On October 16th, at Crieff Hills walkers and runners of all ages raised money for programs of Hope to support child & maternal health in Malawi and Afghanistan in memory of The Rev. Jeff Veenstra.

To all who participated and all who supported this event, well done!

