

## PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Groucho Marx quipped, "Those are my principles, and if you don't like them... well, I have others." Though he is joking, I wonder if he is actually hitting close to home. I need to regularly check in with myself and ask questions like, "Is the thing I'm doing now guided by sound principles?"

Principled people are the heart and soul of a society. But who teaches our young people about character? Who teaches them how important it is to be honest and to do what is right?

Even ETHICS classes might not touch on matters of character. They discuss the medical ethics of cloning, stem cell research and genetic engineering. They consider euthanasia, abortion and capital punishment. And they even look at the ethics of governments and multi-national corporations.

But one college professor recently made a disturbing discovery: She assumed her students shared her principles of honesty, honor, integrity, and the like. She taught ethics, but assumed that her students shared her personal ethical standards.

Then one day she dropped an armful of final exams on her desk

in disgust and complained that over 50% of her students CHEATED on their social justice exam. (Do you think they caught the irony here?) They'd spent months learning about ethical issues most societies face, but they never discussed personal morality. They could talk convincingly about good and bad behaviors of corporations, governments and societies, but they cheated on their exams. They just didn't get it: cheating is wrong. And can we expect societies, governments and businesses to do better than the people who run them and live in them?

Principled people are the heart and soul of our lives together. Church leader John Wesley simplifies it for us. In regards to what is right and wrong, he says simply this:

"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can, In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can, To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can."

Don't forget to see a member of the Senior Youth Group to get your Loblaw's prepaid/gift cards during coffee time.

The cards can be redeemed at  
**Loblaw's, Your Independent,  
Loblaw's Superstore and Value mart.**

The cards come in denominations of \$10.00; \$25.00; \$50.00 and \$100.00 and the youth group will gain 4% on the amounts sold.

You can not only use these cards yourself but they can also be used as gifts. The young people are enthusiastic about supporting the Church. Just think, for every \$100 the church will get \$4.00 at no cost to anyone.



There is need of a few more people to help in the nursery on an as needed basis.

A great way for teens to get in some of their Community Service Hours.

Contact Heather McKeown at 831-9454 if you can help out here.

## We have exciting news for the new year!

On **January 22** there is to be a combination pot luck supper and Christian Education session.

All are welcome!

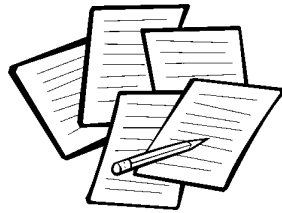
Pot luck from 5:30-6:30 pm with C.E. section starting at 7:00 pm – discussion to follow.

Our topic will be "What is a Presbyterian anyway?" We want to also address questions you might have about Presbyterianism.

Beginning today and for the next few weeks you will find a box at the back of the church into which you may drop your questions into about being Presbyterians.

More information to follow so stay tuned.

**Committee reports due**



*A reminder that the  
Annual  
Congregational Meeting  
takes place on February  
27th and electronic*

*reports (preferably microsoft word 97-2003)  
are requested to be submitted to the office  
any time between now and January 30.*

*Thank you.*

**"Christmas" Dinner at Scores**

The PCW and Ladies Fellowship groups will be getting together at Scores in Kanata on January 31, 2011 at 6:30.

This was delayed due to the "busy-ness" prior to Christmas.

All ladies are invited to attend.

Please sign up at the back of the church a.s.a.p so the tables can be reserved.

**CHECK OUT THE BULLETIN BOARD**

Community Hymn sing with Garth Hampson Sunday afternoon @ 2:30 – **January 16, 2011.** St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Bridge Street, Carleton Place

The Sons of Scotland, BURNS NIGHT, **January 22,** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel , 101 Lyon Street, Ottawa.

**JUST AN EARLY HEADS-UP**

OUR SPRING BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 9TH.

Joining us again this year will be  
**Pearls for Girls  
Ten Thousand Villages  
Caring Hands Jewelry**



And of course  
**OUR BAKE TABLE and DELICIOUS LUNCHEON**

**REMINDERS**



Our shelves at the Food Bank (Tea, Coffee and Hot Chocolate always need topping up.

There is still a Christmas Tree downstairs to be taken down if someone has a few minutes – maybe a group after church today? All the boxes are on the stage.

A smile goes a long way, but you must start it on its journey.

**RECYCLING MILK BAGS INTO BED MATS FOR HAITI**

Join us for a 20 minute presentation and fun workshop. Drop in Monday evening to see for yourself how to transfer 250 milk bags into a sleeping mat for someone with no bed.

January 24 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm (drop-in)  
Stittsville United Church.

Everyone is welcome.

Check the bulletin board for more details