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**Sent:** January-25-19 8:53 PM  
**To:** cgaver@cogeco.ca  
**Subject:** Animator's Youth News for February

What do I want God to show me this month?

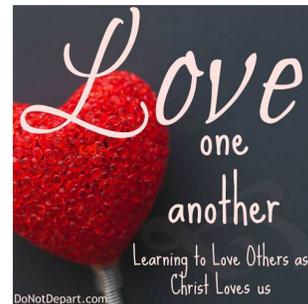


## Youth Newsletter - February Edition Presbyteries of Ottawa & Seaway-Glengarry

### *Happy Valentine's Day!*

Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" - it's amazing what came out of our second *Meet-&-Greet* and the recent CAPITALYZE conference when Christians came together to share what they were doing and how God was active in their ministries.

It's really great to hear some of what is happening. One thing that came out of the Meet-&-Greet were events that some youth leaders wanted to attend - but would rather attend as part of a larger group. So here are opportunities where we can collaborate!



- **February 9th - 1:30-2:30** ... St. Stephen's youth want to go **skating before coming to Winterlude @ Knox**. Do any other youth groups want to go too? Please contact Meg Patterson at [meg.patterson@ststephensottawa.ca](mailto:meg.patterson@ststephensottawa.ca) if interested.
- **February 9th - 3:00-7:30 p.m. – Winterlude 2019** (for Ottawa's Presbyterian Youth) – Knox, Ottawa. We encourage youth in your congregation to join us as we learn more about what's happening with our youth in Ottawa and what *Restoring Hope Ministries* is doing to help. We will then cook different types of chili, and make up salads and other foods for the youth before having supper and closing worship.
- **Early March - TDB - next Meet & Greet**. We're looking for a church to host our next Meet-&-Greet for sometime in March (before March break?). Host congregation gets to choose day and time! The emphasis is on fellowship and sharing what we are doing but we will add a component on prayer. **Anyone willing to host?**
- **March 29th - 7:00-10:00 p.m. - Hillsong Y&F III Tour.** @ Woodvale Pentecostal Church on Greenbank Road. Tickets range from \$29-\$75. Some youth leaders are interested in taking their

group there - they would like a "Presbyterian Contingent" to go together, if possible. If interested, let me know and I'll put you in touch with each other.

- **April 5th - Ottawa Christian Music Festival - Jacob Moon** is the featured artist. If you want to learn more about the festival, check out the [Jacob Moon Trailer](#). If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Bob Curzon at [bobcurzon@hotmail.com](mailto:bobcurzon@hotmail.com).
- **April 19th** - no details as yet but **No Other Name** is an all-day event usually held on Good Friday. If interested, let me know and I'll connect you with other leaders who are planning to attend.

As usual, here is the [PDF](#) version of the newsletter.

Cheryl  
[cgaver@cogeco.ca](mailto:cgaver@cogeco.ca) (or tel. 1-613-918-0506)

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH LEADERS

### Online Webinar - *GrowCon 19* January 27, 2019 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by *Stuff You Can Use (.org)*

#GrowCon19 is a **free, online conference** for anyone who serves in children's or youth ministry. It's going to be a night of training, fun, and inspiration! [Click here to register](#).



You can bring your children's and youth ministry teams together for a live watch party, or watch it from home in your pajamas. That's the beauty of #GrowCon19!

**But What If I'm Busy That Night?:**

**Still register! We'll be sending everyone who registers the entire video replay of the conference, plus free bonus sessions.**

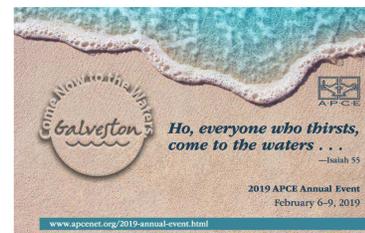
We'll also send everyone who registers an event guide that will provide you with everything you need to plan for & promote the event within your ministry. [Click here to register](#) so you don't miss out on awesome freebies.

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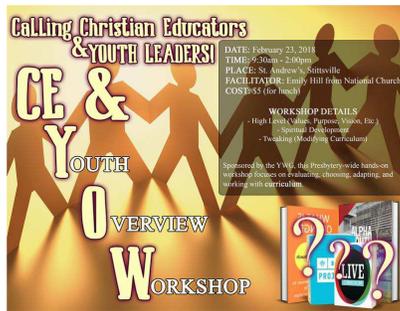
### APCE Conference - *Come Now to the Waters* February 6-9, 2019

The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators' annual event, **Come Now to the Waters**, will be held in Galveston, Texas from February 6-9, 2019 - for more info, visit the APCE website: <http://www.apcenet.org/>.

Keep in mind that [Canadian Ministries](#) offers a number of grants to help pay for this conference. While it is likely too late for this year's event, keep it in mind for next year's!



**CE & Youth Overview Workshop (YOW) February 23, 2019 - 9:30 a.m.**



Sponsored by the YWG, this Presbytery-wide hands-on workshop focuses on "everything" those working with youth and children need to know.

Emily Hill, Education Program Coordinator, will be facilitating the workshop. Topics include:

- developing a vision for your ministry
- understanding child/youth spiritual development
- evaluating, choosing, adapting & working with curricula.

**When:** February 23rd, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Where:** St. Andrew's, Stittsville

**Who:** Anyone working with youth and/or children

**Cost:** \$5 (for lunch)

For more information or to register, contact Rev. Cheryl, [cgaver@cogeco.ca](mailto:cgaver@cogeco.ca).

### Online Webinar - How to Choose the Right March 20, 2019 - 1:00 p.m. Curriculum for Your Church

The Presbyterian Church offers a number of training webinars that you can sign up for. On March 20th, there is a webinar on *How to Choose the Right Curriculum for your Congregation*.



To register, and to see the list of other webinars being offered, check: <https://presbyterian.ca/webinars>.

## OTHER FEBRUARY EVENTS



### Games Night @ St. Stephen's February 1 - 6:30 p.m.

Bring your games and your friends to another evening of fun and fellowship.

**When?** Friday, February 1, 2019 6:30 p.m.

**Where?** St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church

**Who?** Everyone!



**Winterlude / Restoring Hope Ministries  
February 9 - 3:00 to 7:30 p.m. @ Knox, Ottawa**

Last year, 3700 youth contacted *Restoring Hope Ministries*. Up to 40 youth were served meals each night.

This year, for our Winterlude event, **Presbyterian youth want to help**. We will learn more about Ottawa's homeless youth and *Restoring Hope Ministries*, prepare some dinners and take-away kits before wrapping up with worship.

**When:** February 9th, 3:00-7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Knox Presbyterian, Ottawa  
**Who:** Young people, grades 6 and up  
**Cost:** \$10

For more information, volunteer to help with planning or with the event, contact Rev. Cheryl, [cgaver@cogeco.ca](mailto:cgaver@cogeco.ca).

**VALENTINE CHALLENGE**

**"Everyone" Welcome - but Not Quite Study: US Churches Exclude Children with Autism, ADD/ADHD**

The July issue of *Christianity Today* included an article on a study which found that "children with the greatest need for a supportive community were the most likely to feel unwelcome."

So often we say the words that *Jesus loves us* and that *We are known by our love* but our actions communicate something quite different.

The study, published in *Christianity Today*, stated that "sanctuaries were much more sympathetic to children with health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, or vision problems. Those children were likely to be in the pews as children with no health conditions."



[Full article](#)

**Valentine Challenge -**  
Are your leaders ready to deal with those whose medical condition limits their social interactions?

What can you do or implement to be ready (if need be)?

"But children with conditions that limit social interaction, who are often excluded from other social settings and have the greater need for a community of social support, were most likely to feel unwelcome at religious services."

The study goes to say that,"in many ways, this population is unseen because they never show up, or when they do, they have a negative experience and never return."

Christians talk about love a great deal - but non-Christians see through our talk to the reality of how often we have failed. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

This month, as we celebrate St.Valentine's Day, why not take the **Valentine Challenge** - take an honest look at your congregation. How welcoming is your congregation? Are you able to accommodate people with different physical and health needs? How trained are your leaders?