



**NEWS FROM CENTRAL**  
**January/February 2018**

***WE'VE WON THE LOTTERY!***

These are the words a speaker shouted at a conference I attended. As we looked confused, he explained. You live in a country where basic education is free, medical care is free, where you can be free to worship where and how you wish without danger, you can espouse alternate viewpoints without fear and you can change governments without violence. There are very few countries where these freedoms are available to all. We recognize that life can be hard when jobs are lost, relationships fall apart, money problems become overwhelming, and all seems bleak. But if we take a step back and count our blessings, we will realize that we have hope and opportunity and these two things make all the difference when we live in a country where we feel safe and secure. So let's begin 2018 being grateful to God for our many blessings and try to be a blessing to those less fortunate than we are. Winning the lottery means we have so much to share!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

<b><i>Worship Service</i></b>	<b><i>Sunday, January 7</i></b>	<b><i>10:00 am</i></b>
Women's Bible Study	Friday mornings	10:00 am
Men's Breakfast	Saturday, January 20	9:00 am
Missions Outreach Celebration	Sunday, January 28	6:00 pm
Pancake Supper	Tuesday, February 13	5:00 pm
Communion	Sunday, February 18	
Bible Study	Dates and times to be announced.	

***SPECIAL EVENTS***

**MISSIONS OUTREACH CELEBRATION:** This event will feature food and music from different cultures as well as a guest speaker. Join us to celebrate the diversity within our congregation.

**PANCAKE SUPPER:** Pancakes, maple syrup and sausages are on the menu as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Celebrate the beginning of Lent with us.

# HOW CENTRAL SERVES

## *ALPHA*

Alexander McIlwraith is the driving force behind Alpha at Central. Having wrapped up the third Alpha course in December, Alexander is already planning for number four which will begin on January 15, 2018. Alexander was born in Cambridge, attended Southwood Secondary, and completed his degree at Guelph University, going on to work for the university, where he was also involved with the Alpha program. He currently works for Agricorp, an agency of the Government of Ontario, in Communications.

Alpha is an outreach program, which seeks to help people answer some of the big questions of life that we don't often have a chance to examine; questions like "Why does God allow suffering?", "Why am I here?", or "Is there more to life than this?" It seeks to bring hope and faith to those who may feel lost, be suffering from addiction or who feel that God couldn't possibly love them. Many of those who attend go from having no faith to being excited and wanting to share their new understanding of how the Holy Spirit can influence their lives. Alpha brings the joy of knowing that God loves them to people of all ages, including those in retirement homes. Through fellowship, talks, discussion, and new understandings, Alpha members experience a growing sense of confidence in their personal lives and in their ability to use their gifts to give back.

Alexander notes that members of the Alpha group have become leaders to help and support others and some have professed their new-found faith by being baptized. Through Alpha, the realization that God is with them, cares for them, and will sustain them, members of this program find the strength to live happier, more hopeful lives.

If you wish to join Alpha or to assist with the program, please contact Alexander at:

Telephone-226-218-2902 or E-Mail at [alpha@cpcmail.ca](mailto:alpha@cpcmail.ca)

