

# THE BRENTWOOD NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 3

February 2011

## ART TRANSFORMS THE HOUSE... INTO A HOME



The transformation of the Events Hall in the last year has been nothing short of amazing. The artwork is incredible and every brush stroke, according to the artist, is dedicated to Father Paul.

The artist, Dennis

White, spent many long days, strictly on a voluntary basis, to complete this tribute to Father, and Jim & Kay Ryan. Dennis is also quick to point out the other contributors, Dan Lessard on Jim Ryan's portrait, Dave Richardson on the Last Supper in the dining room, Mike Edwards who lent his talents on various areas and Gary Hazel who helped with a lot of the prep work. Dennis also accepted help from the occasional youngster who happened by. Dennis would allow them to help paint 'their' branch and then encourage them to bring their parents to visit 'their' branch often. With very little direction, outside of capturing the four seasons, the results are an eclectic blend of wildlife, nature scenery (both marine and on land), and, of course, Kay's Kafe. Dennis says he was pretty well given free rein on the project. He readily admits to



having "no idea what I was doing" as the project unfolded – but some aspects of the work are truly unbelievable. The "Our Father" woven into the tree branches on the back wall, the lion and the lamb

lying together the Model 'A' with yellow wheels (Father's first car, and, by the way, he requested the wheels) the 'Self Will' and the 'Self Destruction' and are all knitted together in the Main Event Hall. The Dining Room has also undergone a major transformation. The room is much warmer, brighter and much more appealing to the senses. The centre



piece of the room is a depiction of the Last Supper, truly underscores the importance of community, sharing and forgiveness. Dennis White's work has certainly improved the appearance of the Meeting Hall and the Dining Room, but, it has done so much more.



It is certainly a tribute to Father Paul – it is a work of art – it is a source of pride in the "House" and, generated respect for the building that has become such a part of our lives.

Continued on Page 9



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE-DON RUSSELL



I was especially proud and pleased to see the numbers of Alumni and people on program who turned out for the Christmas Dinner and the New Year's Eve dance. I have had many reports from staff, board, and alumni of how they appreciated the fellowship and fun at these events. Special thanks to Murray and the Social Committee for creating the wonderful atmosphere at the New Year's Eve party. Also a delicious prime rib dinner prepared by our resident chef Leo, as-

sisted by the kitchen staff and all the helpers made the evening very heartwarming. Leo's ice sculpture tribute to Father Paul was spectacular-one of Leo's best yet. Both occasions reflected the great spirit Fr. Paul prepared for us at Brentwood. Although Fr. Paul was sadly missed we all felt his spiritual presence. We have much to be grateful for from devotion and dedication from our founders Father Paul, Jim and Kay Ryan. Also, a special thank you to all involved in the lottery this year. I would like to thank each and every person individually for the extra effort put into making the lottery a success either by making that special effort to sell tickets or by volunteering to help in the office etc. I understand the lottery outsold the previous lotteries for the past two years.

Special thank you to all of our volunteer Committees and volunteers. This is a great reflection of the effort of our fellowship. Our Adolescent substance program is coming along nicely. Brentwood is fortunate to have a Masters of Social Work student, Mara Alexander who is an alumnus, working with the youth and assisting with the development of this program. Mara is working with Wayne Brosseau, CACII to implement the program. I appreciate the energy and care they bring to this program. As always, thanks to the staff for their constant devotion to their work each day, and sometimes nights and weekends. In addition, thank you to the Board of Directors for their support and their diligence in handling Brentwood's finances and keeping Brentwood a strong organization. Love, Don

## CHECK THESE OUT

### Food Bank

**Hours**  
 MONDAY—FRIDAY  
 10—11AM  
 SATURDAY  
 9-10 AM

If you need 2  
**Get Food**  
 Or if you need 2  
**Give Food**  
 We would love  
 2  
**See You!**

**Thanks!!**

### THE TUCK SHOP

**HOURS**  
 MON-FRI 12-1/3-5:30/7-8  
 SATURDAY 11-12:30  
 SUNDAY 10:30-12/8:15-9:15

SNACKS  
 REFRESHMENTS  
 AMENITIES  
 CARDS  
 LIGHT LUNCH

PLEASE NOTE : FOLLOW THE POSTED  
 RULES FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN,  
 THANKS!



Kay's  
Cafe

**We are  
Back and Better  
Then ever!**

Kay's Kafe  
Open  
Wednesdays  
Noon until 2:00pm

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Board of Directors would first of all like to say a very Happy New Year to everyone! The past year has been very busy and also exciting for us all! The elections in October had a very good

turnout and after the votes were counted there were a few old faces reinstated on the board and we would like to welcome newcomers Karen Ducharme and Mary Anne Aitken. Elections for our executives were held as well and Cheryl Chaney was elected Vice-Chair, Rob Smith Treasurer and Gail Cogliati Secretary.

As we begin 2011, I would like to report to the Alumni and their families that Brentwood's finances are very stable.

We have been very active in the LHINDS and networking with many other health service providers and keeping up to date with our Board Training. We have also have been committed to our Strategic Plan.

The lottery was a huge success this year and this is mainly due to all of our dedicated volunteers and staff and we believe that this will be the catalyst for next year's lottery which will be by the way our Twentieth.

The Christmas dinner was outstanding thanks to Leo and his staff and volunteers.

New Year's Eve Party was buzzing with joy and gratitude!!! The Brentwood spirit is always there!

Thank you fellowship!

Please have a look at The 2011 Calendar of Events it is full of events for fun as well as fundraising and we are looking ahead to them with enthusiasm.

And in closing we would also like to thank Don Russell and all of his staff for all their hard work and dedication.

May God bless all of you!

Gil Valley

Chairman of the Board

## TREE PLANTING

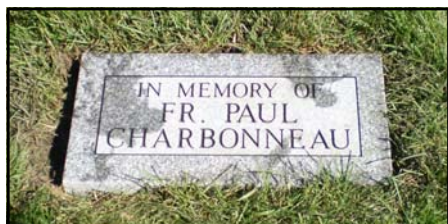
### FATHER PAUL CHARBONNEAU

#### FATHER PAUL TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

On October 6, 2010, in the front yard at Brentwood, just beyond Father Paul's' Parking spot, and next to the Maple tree in honour of Jim Ryan, Father Bob Charbonneau did the dedication ceremony for the tree planting ceremony in honour of his brother, Father Paul Charbonneau.

Kay Ryan said that it was fitting that an oak tree, was planted in honour of Father Paul.

The tree planting followed the Wednesday 10:30 meeting. A lovely luncheon was served and speeches were said in honour and memory of all of Father Pauls' work and commitment and unconditional love for the alcoholic and their families.

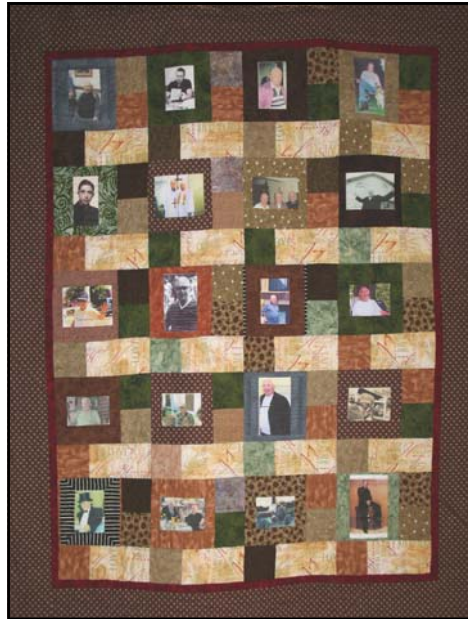


## FATHER PAUL MEMORY QUILT



I thought that a Fr. Paul Memory Quilt would be a wonderful fundraiser so I asked Don R what he thought and he said that it would be great but he did not want me to do it alone. I was to get a few

women together to help do it. So I spoke to Carolyn G. and asked if she would be interested and if she knew any other quilters. She gave me Lis B. and Carol B's names. Carolyn called Lis and I spoke to Carol and we became four. Then I asked Joann S. to send Fr. Paul pictures through the computer so we could choose which



ones we would use for the quilt. I also asked Jenn R. to join us because of her talent with Photo shop and as a quilter. Our little group was complete. There was cutting, sewing, ironing, and matching of fabrics until the finished product was to be unveiled in Don's office. It was on a Wednesday when Kay Ryan was there. We wanted Kay to have first glance at the quilt along with Don. They loved it and both remarked that it was too nice for just one person to enjoy and it needed to be hung at Brentwood for everyone to enjoy. We chose pictures of Fr. Paul that people do not normally see. One picture has his personal signature on it, "with Love, Fr. Paul." We know God and Fr. Paul were with us through this endeavor because it happened with little effort and a lot of love.  
with gratitude, Linda M.

## CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA IN THE KAY RYAN



There is a new addition to the Kay Ryan Building a well needed play area for the younger kids, ages 2 to 15 years old that come and visit their mothers on the weekend. The new area is small and simple, filled with Brand New Toys, and all of the signs were personally designed by Bob Monk's for our children. The area is kept very clean and is sanitized once a month for the safety of each child that uses the play area. This is a very important area for mothers and their children to learn how to communicate with their children once again, and not feel so awkward with each other.



## CHECK OUT THE TUCK SHOP



but especially to the men and women on program. And 100% of the proceeds go back to Brentwood, which benefits all of our fellowship, for sure! If you are interested in volunteering your time, please see Mark Lennox or stop by the Tuck Shop. They are always looking for volunteers.



Why not come and visit the Tuck Shop sometime...we are Brentwood's next best thing to 7-11!! They offer a wide variety of refreshments, drinks and amenities, and they're only a step away. Thanks to volunteers, the Tuck Shop is able to run and provides an excellent service to all our fellowship,



The Tuck Shop The Next Best Store To 7-11 Hours of Operation:	
Mon-Friday	12:00pm-1:00pm
Mon-Friday	3:00pm-5:30pm
Mon-Friday	7:00pm-8:00pm
Saturday	11:00am-12:30pm
Sunday	10:30am-12:00pm
Sunday	8:15pm-9:15pm

## BOB MONKS' CORNER



## THE WISH TREE



This year's Wish Tree, once again was an excellent and successful turnout. Every envelope was taken and filled out. All of our Brentwood children received what they asked for. It is an amazing experience to see the look on the mother or father's face when they come and pick up their children's gifts. Their eyes have true gratitude and appreciation in them. The Newspaper Committee and staff would like to thank the Alumni for there support as always for making this happen.



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT



and offering hope to one another. Spreading the joy of Christmas is our way of giving back to the fellowship. It is our gift to you.

Karen K.  
Director, The Brentwood Choir



***We asked what does the Christmas Concert mean or do for you?***

You answer: it means family; a good start for the Christmas season; it opens me up; I enjoy women's' choir and I especially like when we do a *sing-a-long* for the Little Drummer Boy

**The Choir Director**

In my own experience, I have always found that music has a way of bringing peace to the soul. I think every member of the choir feels this when we get together for practice and to sing at

Mass. For many of us, our souls are troubled during the Christmas season and it can be a very difficult time. Father Paul understood that our Christmas concerts helped to lift the spirits and that's why he was such a big supporter. This year, especially, with Father's passing, it was very important that we continue the tradition. We wanted to include the youth and the children to make it a real "Brentwood Family Christmas", with everyone gathered together, singing, laughing

**Ladies and Gentlemen...  
Elvis has now left  
the Christmas Concert.  
Thank You! Thank You Very Much!**

**NEW YEARS EVE**





## WHAT DOES THE CHRISTMAS DINNER MEAN TO YOU?

It means to get together in fellowship and help each other get through what can be a very difficult time. **Dan**

The Christmas dinner is a fun time and after a whole year of stress and hardship it's good to have a time of celebration and love in the Christmas spirit. **Pat**

This dinner means to me that I will be able to go home and spend the holidays with my wife and kids. I would never have had that without Brentwood and this program. **Mike**  
The Christmas dinner, more than anything, means family, we miss Father Paul dearly, he was more a father to me than my own father. Coming together with this fellowship I feel that there more of a family here than with the family that I grew up in. **Dennis**

I was on program during Christmas, so I don't think that I could go by a Christmas without coming to the Dinner. It's family – being with my family. **Tracey**

This dinner is everything that the fellowship taught me. I come here to serve, I've been here every year and I am fortunate to be able to do that. This year I thought was more emotional than others because Father is not here. There's a lot of special things that father did for each one of us. I was seventeen when I got here and I was very fortunate to have gotten to know father. I believe that you and I have a responsibility to give to those what was given to us. **Rick**

Christmas dinner at Brentwood means a lot to both of us but mostly it's about meeting old friends and new friends and spending the time together in the Brentwood spirit. **Irene**

Means getting together with all the Alumni – all the wonderful memories about Christmases from the past. The stories from Kay were great. Just a wonderful time to get together with fellowship. **Ed**  
Helps me start off Christmas every year

with the spirit and to be able to bring that spirit home to my kids and family and be part of my grandkids - it gives me a lot of gratitude - Brentwood just means so much to me and my family. **Mike**

Wow I was crying the whole time – it's just so emotional, the joy and the sadness all together at the same time – I'm so lucky to be part of this. With everything going on right now – I looked around when we were all saying the Our Father and it was so beautiful. **Charlene**

Short and Sweet – wonderful tradition, so happy that it is going into the by-laws, very happy to have made it again this year and I hope that it goes on forever. **Brian**

It's an example of service to me – I thought that, when I came in here, it was in the taking but I found out that it is in the giving. **Charlie**

It's my first one in a couple of years but the feeling never goes away – it's such a great feeling to see everybody here. Brentwood has always been my home and always will be and is always in my heart. One of the greatest moments is being here to witness all of the love in this place I certainly miss and I need to be around here more that I have been. **Tony**

I see the happiness in the guys that are on program and the girls and how they can see some hope and a chance for a new life and that really warms my heart especially at this time of year. **Rick**

It's fantastic to see the number of people that show up for an event like this and more than half the people that are here are here to help put this event on. In many organizations it is few people working for the benefit of others, but here it's many people doing for the others. **Gerry**

I was ever so pleased with the turnout, I felt the number of Alumni that showed up without a doubt will carry out Father's legacy. I was very touched by the poems composed in his memory. I also thought it was one big wonderful family. **Gisele**

I helped serve dinner, so it was nice to give back. The feeling in the room was father is with us. It was nice to sit with friends and family. Hearing the stories from the alumni just reminded me on how generous and amazing Father was. I am grateful to be a part of this. **Cherisse**

## Thank you!

Chef Leo

Kitchen Staff

All the Volunteers

for making  
this  
event  
so special!

## DENNIS WHITE THE ARTIST



Dennis White has been around the 'House' for a while, graduating in 1983. His background was in Health Care, and, he epitomizes the Brentwood way of life. The talents, the struggles, the successes, the failures, the hope and the hopelessness are all there, and, still he persists at following the lead of Father Paul, who showed tremendous faith and support. Dennis' painting started more out of curiosity. In 1985, when his wife was looking for Christmas gift ideas, he suggested brushes and canvas. After a couple of attempts, he painted a picture of an old man staring at a butterfly that he was pleased with, and gave it to Jim Ryan for his retirement. When Father saw the painting, he immediately recognized the talent, was very impressed, and suggested that he should do this for a living. Dennis couldn't see that, but thought that he had just got 'lucky' with this painting, and certainly didn't deserve the title 'Artist.' From 87-95, Dennis worked at Brentwood. His health care background gave him the ability to help in medical, and he served as a Group Leader and a Youth Leader, but all the while feeling the "pull" to do art (he admits to feeling the "push" from Father Paul). When a prospective client of-

ferred him the opportunity to do his first mural on an airplane hangar, Dennis didn't feel he had the ability to do it. He finally agreed when they decided that, if the client didn't like the finished project, they would paint over it. Needless to say, the client was very satisfied and commissioned Dennis to paint an air show on the ceiling of the hangar. Father Paul gave Dennis the time off work to complete the project, as Dennis says "Father always believed in me, and recognized my gift from God."

After working at the House, Dennis continued to do murals, but, as he says would just "poke my head in" at the House, and be "around the program, not in it." Life spiraled downhill and those feelings of self-pity and lack of both appreciation and self-worth returned. For years, death was on his mind, until finally he convinced himself that suicide was the only answer. It was Father Paul and the staff at Brentwood who were there for him, right at the



hospital, very saddened, but very supportive. After leaving the hospital, Dennis painted the mural that was to be the backdrop for the stage. He says that his ability, his gift, never left him while he was struggling with depression. "God doesn't leave you!" Father's critique was "It's desolate" which Dennis found very disturbing. About a year later, Father asked Dennis, "If you could do something to this mural, what would it be?" Remembering the

"desolate" comment, Dennis replied, "Maybe I could give it some life," although he did believe that it needed any



changes. "I didn't think it needed it, but I was just people-pleasing Father. It wasn't until I got into it that I realized the whole mural was only shades of brown without life," Dennis shares today. Once again, it was Father Paul showing Dennis that if he helped another person in depression, it would help him through his depression. It was about people and being there for the other alcoholic. Dennis told me "if I had a way to find happiness without people, I'd do it." He's found that isn't possible, its people needing people that is the key. Today, Dennis continues to use his gift, he had an Art Show at the Gibson Gallery in Amherstburg, and was totally overwhelmed and humbled by the support he received. He is very grateful to all those who made the effort to support that show. The future holds a series of projects. He is a partner of the Mudpuppy Gallery in Amherstburg. He is exploring the opportunity to sell prints of his painting of the 'Edmund Fitzgerald' as a fundraiser. The possibility of the 'dogs playing cards' mural (a real favourite of Father Paul) might soon turn up at the House. And Dennis might get back to another passion, writing and illustrating children's books.



## CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

Craft and bake Sale  
 2010 has been a great year for fund-raising and the Craft and Bake Sale was no exception. Tracey Seguin, the Bake Sale Coordinator, reported that the last bake sale generated a profit of \$5,200.00. "Every year I get into a panic wondering where the donations for the sale are coming from and through some miracle the Brentwood Community always comes through. Preparation for the Craft and Bake Sale really starts two months before the actual weekend sale." "I would like to thank to all of the volunteers, the support women, the women and men on program, the alumni and staff for all of their help." Tracey sends a special note of gratitude to Sis and Marylou for all of the time that they volunteered to this event. "There is also a lady from Learnington who donates so much for the sale every year."



*Thank You!*  
 To all our tireless  
 Volunteers  
 And Shoppers



## BALLROOM DANCING

Are you looking for a fun way to meet people and learn some interesting moves? Have you ever considered taking Ballroom Dancing Lessons? You don't have to be a star to learn to dance like a pro!

Ballroom Dance classes are being offered right here at Brentwood, every Thursday night! The first lesson starts at 7:30 pm which is suitable for Beginners, followed by an Intermediate lesson at 8:30 pm, for those with a little more experience. Both lessons run \$10:00 an hour, with your first lesson being free. Alumni Wayne Brousseau, who started Ballroom dancing at Brentwood insists that you do not need previous dance experience. Instructor Meredith, from Chicago, begins teaching a new dance the 1<sup>st</sup>

Thursday of each month, and spends the whole month working on it with the people. Some of the dances include The Foxtrot, Beyonese Waltz, Tango, Cha-Cha, West Coast and East Coast Swing, Bolero, Samba and Salsa, to name a few.

You also do not need to be a couple to join, though couples are certainly welcome. Lessons are open to men and women from Brentwood and also to the general public. It is open to anyone with a sincere desire to learn Ballroom Dancing! It offers many benefits: it's great exercise, it's a lot of fun and it teaches you to reach out of your comfort zone.

Wayne says that it is challenging and you may want to quit, but when you finally succeed, what a feeling of

accomplishment. Also, what fun to try out your new moves at the next dance! Perhaps we'll be dancing with the stars at Brentwood!

Thanks Wayne, for introducing Ballroom to Brentwood, and hope to see you all there!

Ballroom Dancing  
 Classes  
 Thursdays @ 7:30 pm  
 \$10 per hour  
*First lesson is free!*

## BRENTWOOD SOCIAL COMMITTEE

There are many activities and functions that take place at Brentwood that happen so smoothly and with little apparent effort that the organization and preparation for them goes unnoticed by some who attend or benefit from them. Many of these events like the Picnic, the Children's Christmas Party, New Years Eve, Halloween and Valentine's Day Dances are arranged and coordinated by the social committee. Working on a committee like this can be an extension of the Brentwood experience and as such should be a happy and rewarding experience. Not

that the tasks that they are responsible for are not difficult and time consuming, but that the time and effort that they put forward should enhance their program and be an opportunity for growth both as alumni and as committee members. Many people want to serve the Brentwood community, so this is a great way to give back. There are many gifted and talented people around Brentwood and they continually come up with some very inventive ways of getting things done for as little as possible. The feedback so far has been positive, just

goes to show what a great bunch of people that we have to work with. Members of the group feel that they are rewarded by the feeling of accomplishment they get when a project is completed. Father's name is mentioned a lot within the group. "His presence is very much felt when we are deliberating details of events." Their latest projects focus on the Christmas season. The kids Christmas Party and the New Years Eve Dance are all bunched close together and are the final events for the 2010 season. "I think that when all is done they will be able to look back over

this year together as a group with pride and a real sense of community. Recently, members of the committee celebrated the group by treating themselves to a Christmas pot-luck dinner. As is usual the meal was accompanied by much laughter and a very real sense of "Brentwood Spirit".

**SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE  
MEETS  
WEDNESDAYS  
AT 6PM**



Adrienne, Jason, Murray, Louise, Colleen  
Charlene, Marie

Missing from Photo: Jim and Carolyn, Lia, Margaret, Freddy, Sherstin, Chris, John

**Donations for the are now being accepted for the Spring Yard Sale May 28th & 29th  
Please Call:(519) 253-2441 Ext. 247 and leave a message**



*Where People Need People*

## Fatherisms

**"You can't do shit and feel good about it."**

This has always been one of my favourite Father Paul quotes. He said that it would be an unjust God and an unjust world if we were allowed to go about our day being dishonest and then feel fulfilled or at peace at the end of the day. That good feeling only comes from doing the right thing consistently in everything that we do. "We practice these principles in all of our affairs." He said that the program that is watered down cannot be fulfilling – only when we are able to honest with ourselves and in the things that we do can we be fulfilled.

I remember this any time that I am in turmoil or struggling and I do a mental inventory of what exactly I have been doing and invariable I have not been true to my program, have been dishonest, have hurt the ones I love, not been patient or understanding, been short tempered and intolerant – all these things are against what have been taught and when we do them are reward is that we can only feel like shit be unfulfilled and closed.

## Alumni Poetry/Songs

**Dedicated to Father Paul**

### The Inn Keepers Gift

I'm going to tell you a story.  
 About a man who long ago.  
 Had different ideas about life.  
 And the way that things should go.  
 He thought there should be kindness,  
 And love in everyone's heart.  
 His first bed was in a stable.  
 He had a humble start.  
 But this day started a tradition.  
 Of a life of giving done with such ease.  
 He could have been selfish.  
 With only himself to please.  
 He could of shouted it from the rooftops.  
 And given it a lot more noise.  
 But instead he was quiet and calm.  
 His greatest gift to us his poise.  
 For he never forgot his lowly beginnings.  
 When on that bed he lay.  
 For the Inn Keeper gave him two simple gifts,  
 A stable and a manger of hay.

### Father's Last Christmas

Appearing weak and fragile  
 He took the center stage.  
 To offer us his blessing and grace  
 Despite his advancing age.  
 And when the feast was over,  
 When the singing had been done,  
 He spoke to us about love,  
 And the hearts we had won.  
 His gift to us he told us  
 Was the freedom to go on.  
 And spread what he had taught us  
 Since Brentwood's first dawn.  
 We didn't all know it then  
 But it was in the air.  
 His last days were soon upon us  
 And we would give him care.  
 To repay all his kindness  
 A small portion of what we owe.  
 To the kind and gentle man  
 That we had come to know.

Attention Alumni this section is submissions from you. We are always looking for more, poems, songs, etc. The Fatherisms section is space where people can share on one of the many saying that father would use in his teachings, if you have one that has a special meaning to you, drop us an email or write it and get it to one of us.

## UPCOMING AND RUNNING EVENTS

February 6	Superbowl Party (Starts at Noon)
February 12	Valentines Day Dance
March 12	St. Patrick's Day Dance
March 22	Father Paul Memorial Open House
March 26	Talent Show (Lia N. co-ordinator)
April 9 & 10	Easter Craft & Bake Sale
April 13	Alumni Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Couples Meetings Sundays at 6pm  
*February* 20th  
*March* 6th 20th *April* 3rd 17th

Sunday School  
*February* 13th 27th  
*March* 13th, 27th *April* 10th 24th

Chatham Brentwood Group  
 Meets Tuesday @ 7pm  
 Victoria Avenue United Church  
 Chatham, Ontario