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Church

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the building and on the grounds.

"We could have a baseball league in the yard out back," she notes.

Vacation Bible School was a big hit last summer and 35 area children enjoyed crafts and fun activities for a week during the month of August.

"We saw with the Vacation Bible School that the community wanted to get involved," she says. "Some people brought in free donuts. There was a desire for community activities for kids.

"Young people are looking for things to do, especially in summer, but ideally, we want to run programs all year long.

"Right now the building is closed in winter, and it's a waste of a place where people could come together, to play cards, or do whatever.

LOTS OF IDEAS

She says instructors could use the basement to teach craft courses, there could be an after-school drop-in centre for children waiting for their parents to get home from work, different programs could be run for children and indeed adults of all ages, she says.

Social events, such as bus trips to sporting events in Toronto could be

organized from the church.

St. Paul's was formerly a "thriving church," Rev. Draffin explains, with three women's groups running at one time.

But, then, Lakeport was once a commercial centre and times have changed.

"People are exploring their spirituality in all kinds of different ways. We want to help them do that. We want to help develop children's sense of themselves as part of a caring community, learning how to be neighbours, friends, caring for each other and building their sense of self-worth," says Rev. Draffin.

"It's the only community building in Lakeport," she points out. "We'd like to use the building to enrich the community."

After the meeting, March 19, Rev. Draffin says volunteers will be calling door-to-door in Lakeport, trying to get a sense of the community's ideas for the old church.

"We want to build a community association," the young minister says. "There is really nothing there that says, 'This is Lakeport.' We think there are lots of new people in the community who would love to get involved."

She wants to give them that opportunity.



World Day of Prayer — Janet Taft played and sang *We're All Just Seeds* and *From a Distance* at last Friday's ecumenical World Day of Prayer service in held Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Colborne. The service is held on the first Friday of March each year in over 170 countries around the world in an effort to unite people in praying for peace. The women of Haiti prepared this year's service.

Photo by Eileen Argyris