

He's looking forward to working with youth

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it's pretty exciting," said Reverend Benham, who joined St. Paul's early last month and will receive his official welcoming into the church (known as the covenant) this Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. service.

"One night last week we had 20 kids out for our youth program. In Palmerston, we'd be lucky if we got that number over the course of a few years."

The strong turnout was particularly promising for Rev. Benham, who along with his regular pastoral duties will specialize in youth programming.

He said, "I want to get kids excited about the church and me being part of it. The idea will be to create a fun, friendly atmosphere where kids understand that no matter what God loves them."

"I'm hoping to organize some retreats. Much like a sports team, kids need to spend real time together to become comfortable with each other, not just an hour each week."

Having worked with inmates throughout Metro Toronto during his younger days, Rev. Benham is interested in doing some counseling work at Maplehurst — which is set to become Canada's largest jail.

"Right now that's Rev. Bob Hyde's baby so to

speaking, but I'd like to slowly make some inroads in that direction before long."

Rev. Benham describes his new community as very non-denominational — something he finds most appealing as a firm believer that faith should extend far beyond the walls of any one place of worship.

He said his own calling to a life of religious service involved a series of messages from family, friends and acquaintances, who all thought he was ideally suited for spiritual leadership.

One of those places was a nursing home in Brampton where he met a nurse, Nancy, who eventually became his wife. The two have three

children; Chelsea, Melissa and Scott.

Rev. Benham said he not only hopes to effectively serve St. Paul's and the Milton community at large but also to use his new assignment to grow himself.

"In Palmerston I was the only minister, so now I'm hoping to grow as a team player," he said.

Added Rev. Hyde, of his new parish partner, "John and I worked together in 1994-95 when he was chair of Bruce Presbytery and I was president of the Hamilton Conference.

We worked well together at that time and I look forward to more of the same at St. Paul's."

OPP not involved

Ontario Provincial Police have issued a caution to the public concerning the solicitation of money on behalf of police.

Individuals have been soliciting ads and subscriptions for magazines, purportedly to provide safety information for children or to assist police in locating children.

Often the sales person will indicate that someone will be sent to pick up the money with-

in a short period of time.

Some of the publications are known as: Ontario Police Magazine, Ontario Provincial Police News, Our Provincial Police News, Our Provincial Police Today, and OPP News.

The Ontario Provincial Police is not associated with any of these publications.

Anyone solicited should exercise caution. Ask for a business address, a phone number and past issues.

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