Friday, October 6, 2017

Rev. Jon Van Den Berg
Convener
Creative Ministries Committee

Dear Creative Ministries Committee;
Thank you for approving our grant request for cooking classes for youth. We appreciate not only your generosity but your trust. Below is an update as to how the classes are proceeding.

We attempted to hold a class the beginning of July but while we had several people express interest, we only had two kids register. We decided we needed at least four to make it not only fun, but cost effective. Therefore, we cancelled those sessions. In the beginning of August, our second scheduled classes convened. We had 5 girls (6 one day) who loved every minute of it and learned a lot. Two were from our church and the others from our neighbourhood. Our girls made friends with the other girls easily. We sometimes made a bit too much food, but some items were served after worship on Sunday to our congregation who were happy to experience the class too and the other excess food was used at the lunch our congregation serves at the Inn of the Good Shepherd in Sarnia each month. We are in the midst of getting ready to run another program in November.

The one surprise we had was that we had some adults who asked to take the cooking class. One was an immigrant from Vietnam. She had been here 6 years but wanted to learn how to cook Canadian. We recognize that this is also a need. Therefore. we are contemplating having an adult class in the new year too.

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of this program. While it is starting out slow in numbers attending, it has generated several conversations with people for us. We are keeping this in prayer and look forward to how God will continue to use this.

Sincerely,

Rev. Janine Dekker
Pastor
Laurel Lea St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church
Sarnia, Ontario, Canada