

FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M6A 2A9 Office: 416-783-6503 / Toll Free 1-877-226-2242

"The Friendly Church"

December 25, 2011

Edition 129



Oh Come Let Us Adore Him

THE PASTOR'S PEN

In the Broadway show, "Fiddler on the Roof" Tevye, the milk man, sings of the importance of tradition. It is tradition, that keeps his village going. It is tradition which teaches his fellow villagers how to live. It is tradition which gives life its meaning. Tradition makes sense of life.

In many ways we ignore tradition in our modern world. People wish to adopt the ways of now and forget about the old ways of doing things. Take home decorating shows for instance. One I like to watch is Sell This House. The home designers take out-dated looking homes and re-stage them in an up-to-date style so that they might appeal to today's home buyers. Or take fashion trends: hem lines go up and down, hair styles change, car colours change all to get consumers to buy and keep the economy going. If things always remained traditional, there would be less reason to get new things and the economy would suffer.

Some people feel we should throw out all traditions. For them they are archaic, meaningless rituals that have little place in modern life. This group of people sees only errors from past traditions. They want to develop new patterns of being. They dwell on mistakes of the past. They are willing to try new things because they feel new must be better.

Other people value tradition to an extreme degree. They see change of any sort as a threat. They see change as something which brings uncertainty. Why fix something if it ain't broke. They remember how good things used to be, and despair how life today just doesn't measure up.

I guess I always place myself in the middle of this debate. On one hand I know how important it is to keep things a bit fresh. When things are done by rote, just because we have always done it that way, traditions become stale and not life giving. I applaud that some traditions of the past, traditions such as slavery are no longer practised in most areas of the world. I am glad that certain traditions such as gender discrimination, racism, classism, are much

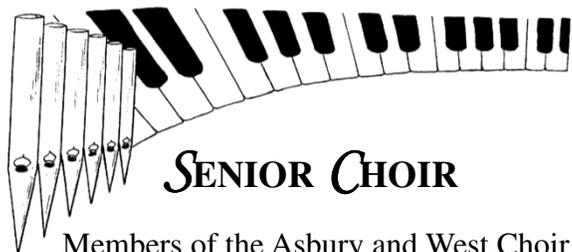
less in favour than they once were. But in other ways I value tradition. Seeing beauty in ancient art or hearing beauty in an older piece of music fills my soul with joy when I think of the millions of eyes and ears who have already been blessed by its beauty. As I sing Christmas carols I think of the choirs throughout the centuries who have sung "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," or "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." Hearing stories of how certain rites and practises have been life giving to others makes me ponder how these same rites and practises affect my life. So I live with this love hate relationship with tradition. Some traditions need to be changed in order to make life more equitable. Other traditions are life giving and signs of God's miraculous joy.

Tradition is very important at Christmas time. It is the season of traditions. In my house we have our traditions: having a carolling party with friends, watching our favourite Christmas movies, going downtown and viewing the Christmas windows at the Bay, decorating the Christmas tree, and placing a small gift at Anthony's feet as he sleeps so he can have one present to open up in case we are slow to get up after three Christmas Eve services. I am sure you have your own traditions as well. For me, these Christmas traditions remind us that we all share in the celebrations of Christians from all centuries. These little practises, which pay homage to history but are ever changing, remind us that all of us are the recipients of the angel's message of peace and good will. So from my household to yours, I wish you the merriest of Christmases and the most blessed of New Years.

Peace and good will,



Rev. Darren Liepold



SENIOR CHOIR



Members of the Asbury and West Choir who have joined with the members of the Northminster choir have been hard at work all fall under the direction of John Leek. While music is very important every Sunday, the Remembrance Day service held Sunday Nov 6th was particularly poignant. The processional hymn was Amazing Grace and the choir was pipped in by a bagpiper playing clear and strong. Later in the service, trumpeter Curtis Hunter played several selections including The Last Post.

Once we return to our church, we will be needing a new organ. Recently, some members of our congregation went to view and hear the sounds of a Phoenix Organ which costs \$70,000. The Wm. R. Shewalter Memorial Organ Fund is only at \$34,000 at the present, therefore, the congregation will have to raise considerable funds over the next two years in order to pay for a new instrument. Consider a memorial gift and give generously to the Wm. R. Shewalter Organ Fund.

The highlight of the Christmas season of music was during our 'Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas' evening service on Sunday Dec 18th. The Children/Youth Choir did a great job with their two selections and joined the Senior Choir in the Huron Carol. The evening was rounded out by returning trumpeter Curtis Hunter, hand-bell ringers Sandra and David Thomas and delicious refreshments enjoyed by all.

It is my hope that you will all have a very Merry Christmas and pray for many blessings during the coming year.



*Mel Beckles
Choir President*



A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The following words are alternate titles for several well-known Christmas Carols ... Good luck!

1. 5 pm to 6 am without noise
2. Miniscule hamlet in the far east
3. Ancient benevolent despot
4. Adorn the vestibule
5. Exuberance directed to the planet
6. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing
7. Monarchical trio
8. Yonder in the haystack
9. Assemble everyone who believes
10. Hallowed post meridian
11. Fantasies of a colourless meridi
12. A dozen 24-hour Yule periods



Find the other singing snowmen for the answers.



The Young at Heart Seniors have settled into our new quarters at Northminster.

We began our programme with a picnic luncheon at Earl Bales Park on a beautiful fall day. We had guest speakers from Delmanor retirement homes, had our usual pot luck luncheon and a movie and a games event. Our year culminated with a bus tour to Rockwood's Farmers Light Parade near Guelph. Our membership is getting smaller. I would like to extend an invitation to the Seniors of Northminster to join us in 2012.

Both Shirley and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our members for their support during 2011 and wish to members of the joint congregations a very Merry Christmas, and all the best in 2012.

*Melvyn and Shirley Beckles
Committee Contacts*

THE CHRIST BELL

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
 I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
 I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
 I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
 I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
 I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
 I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
 I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
 I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1-2)
 I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)
 I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)
 I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
 I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
 I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
 I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
 I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
 I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
 I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3:12)
 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
 I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
 I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
 I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
 I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
 I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
 I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
 I belong to God
 Do you know
 Who you are?



Founded 1985

The annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner was, as usual, a great start to the Advent season. Thanks to all for the delicious array of food and for the gifts that were presented during the program for the North York Women's Shelter. These were delivered the week following the dinner. During the program we placed Christmas symbols on the two trees at the front of the sanctuary. They are the white felt and gold ones. Why not have a look? And the carollers (Darren, Pauline and Janiss) did such a great job in leading us in our carol singing. Thanks again for a wonderful evening.

Our Christmas Party was held at the home of Irene Fair. We enjoyed the three Gs – goodies, games and gifts. Thanks Irene for your warm hospitality.

There will not be a meeting in January. Our first meeting in 2012 will be on the 4th Monday evening in February at 7:30 in the parlour. Women from both congregations are welcome.

All of us wish all of you a merry and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Cheryl Holliday
Contact



WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

Tears are falling
Hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You've been promised
We've been waiting
Welcome Holy Child
Welcome Holy Child

Hope that You don't
Mind our manger
How I wish we would have known
But long awaited
Holy Stranger
Make Yourself at home
Please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace
Into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking Heaven's silence
Welcome to our world
Welcome our world

Fragile fingers
Sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny heart
Whose blood will save us
Unto us is born
Unto us is born

So wrap our injured
Flesh around you
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sin
And make us holy
Perfect Son of God
Welcome to our world

Written by Chris Rice



Editors' Note:

If you like the words, you must hear the beautiful music sung by Amy Grant on her album 'A Christmas To Remember'.

TWELVE DAY'S OF CHRISTMAS AND ITS MEANING

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.



The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.



Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.



Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.



The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.



The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.



The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.



Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.



The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.



Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.



The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.



The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.



The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



FINANCE

These are challenging times for our Congregation. We deeply appreciate the hospitality shown to us by the people of Northminster United Church but we long to be back under our own roof. While we are away, we receive no rental income, fundraising projects are difficult to organize and donations through the collection plate have dropped off so we are struggling financially.

Our Congregation needs over \$11,000.00 per month to operate our church programs, pay the salaries and cover operating expenses. Without rental income from our tenants, we receive far less than we need to pay our monthly bills. We do receive some money from Options for Homes because of the delays in closing the Agreement of Purchase and sale but it has been necessary to borrow money to keep up with our normal costs and the additional renovation project costs. In short, we need more money!

We will be receiving the proceeds of the sale of about 70% of our two acre site at 3180 Bathurst Street early in the New Year. That will enable us to complete the renovations. Project costs have increased due to the demands of City Planning to relocate our main entrance and due to the demands of Heritage Services to preserve the 1958 building.

In fact, our project costs have escalated to the point where the proceeds of the sale will not be sufficient to cover all of the renovation project costs.

We asked our City Councillor for his assistance in finding additional funds. We applied for grants to help with the costs to make the building fully accessible. We are hopeful that these additional funds will be forthcoming and will allow us to complete the renovation project as originally planned. Meanwhile, Asbury and West must struggle on as best we can with what we receive through your generous donations and fund raising initiatives.

Thank you for your generous gifts of both time and money. They are deeply appreciated and gratefully received. Your contributions make a bright future for Asbury and West United Church a reality. Please continue to support our Congregation's vision for the future and our continuing mission to be a powerful Christian presence in the Bathurst and Lawrence area. Every dollar you give makes a big difference. Once we are back in our newly renovated church home, Asbury and West United Church will be able to serve our Lord for many years to come. You are making a dream come true with your dedication and generosity!

Alan McKenzie, Chair



MERRY BERRY CHEESE BARS



If you like cranberries here’s another way to work them into the holidays!

Ingredients

- 2 cups unsifted flour
- 1 ½ cups oats
- ¾ cup + 1 tbsp. firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 8 oz. package of cream cheese, softened
- 1 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- ¼ cup lemon juice from concentrated
- 1 16 oz. can whole berry cranberry sauce
- 2 tbsp. corn starch

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. With mixer beat flour, oats, ¾ cup sugar and butter until crumbly. Set aside 1 ½ cups mixture, press remaining mixture on bottom of greased 13 x 9 inch baking pan. Bake 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
2. With mixer, beat cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in condensed milk until smooth then stir in lemon juice. Spread over baked crust. Combine cranberry sauce, corn starch and remaining 1 tbsp sugar. Spoon over cheese layer. Top with reserved crumb mixture.
3. Bake 45 minutes or until golden brown. Cool and cut into bars. Refrigerate leftovers.



POINSETTIA POINTERS

You can choose from over 15 different varieties of poinsettias. Since the original plant, first discovered in Mexico, Poinsettias have undergone major cultural advances. Your choice of plant goes far beyond the traditional red varieties. Poinsettias are now also available in associated colours including white, pink, marble and unique varieties such as Jingle Bells (red with white flecks), Pink Peppermint, Lemon Drop and Monet (light dusting of red on ivory and bracts). New colours and varieties are being introduced every year. Coral and salmon colours have been recently introduced and a brilliant orange is also available. Now with genetic engineering sweeping the growing industry, the possibility of even more colours is endless with blue and various hues of purple on the market. Poka dots and speckles and who knows what’s next.

Care of Poinsettias

-  Place in a room with sufficient natural light to read fine print.
-  Check to be sure growing media is moist, many plants become very dry in transit.
-  Place plants to avoid drafts or excess heat from appliances, radiators, or ventilating ducts.
-  Place plant high enough to be away from traffic and out of reach of small children and animals.
-  Put plant in a water-proof container to protect your furnishings.
-  Water plant thoroughly when soil surface is dry to touch. Discard excess water.
-  To prolong bright color of bracts, temperatures should not exceed 72°F during the day or 60°F at night.



LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE (LRPC)



Dear Lord. Please grant us understanding, patience and forgiveness. When the Hebrew people left Egypt long ago, they wanted to get to the Promised Land. Everything would be wonderful when they got there. And they wanted to get there right now. But God had other plans for them. God said that they must wait. The time was not yet. The people could sometimes see Canaan just over there. But God told them the right time had not yet come. The people felt anger, hurt, abused, bewildered. Why did they have to wait? They got mad. They got mad at the Pharaoh's army that had pursued them out into the desert. They got mad at Moses, who had taken them out of things they had known, ways of being, security (at least as slaves they had a bed and food), and taken them into this God forsaken desert to wait. They got mad at God, who fed them and led them. Why did we have to wander for so long? Why God why?

Forty years went by. Eventually under the directorship of a new leader, Joshua, the Hebrew people entered into Canaan. Their time of waiting was over. Life would not be perfect in the land of milk and honey. But they were there. And the 40 years of wandering truly shaped the people. The waiting had not been easy, but the people were stronger because in their wanderings, they had formed community, learned of their strengths, saw where they were weak, took up opportunities and examined what threats they faced.

We too have been in a period of waiting. Hopefully it is not the same 40 years that Moses and his flock faced. But still waiting is never easy. We have had to deal with issues that we never thought possible in our little plan to renovate our church and provide housing for our neighbours. We have had our share of frustration with changing guidelines, red tape, endless meetings. Like the Hebrews we have got mad and blamed each other, blamed the bureaucrats, blamed boards and committees. We just want our time of waiting to end and to get back to our promised land. Amen

Dear friends, please do not give up hope. We have done everything we can to get our project pushed through its desert journey. Your Long Range Planning Committee is committed to making sure that we get back to our promised land.

Work has started on the demolition of the part of the old church building that we are permitted to pull down. That will save time when we receive the proceeds of the sale of land and can start to renovate the 1958 portion of the existing church building.

Thanks to the hard working and dedicated members of the Long Range Planning team. Thanks to our loving and gracious hosts at Northminster United Church. We truly appreciate your hospitality and wish you well with your plan for the future.

Christmas Blessings to all, and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Alan McKenzie, Chair





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



This year, our Advent and Christmas journey was filled with many activities. We made and sent Christmas cards to our foster sister, Noemy, in Honduras we packed three boxes for Operation Christmas Child; and we made Christingles.

We joined with the Youth Class in their White Gift play "A Perfect Fit" (great job guys!!); we had a Christmas party with a birthday cake for Jesus and a visit from Santa Claus who brought candy and gifts for everyone; and we participated in the Christmas Eve Nativity play.

There will be no formal classes on December 25 or January 1, but all families are welcome to join in the Intergenerational Worship Services on both those Sundays. Classes resume on January 8.

Thank you for your support over the 2011 year. Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas season.



Cheryl Holliday
Contact

Kids
Corner

All I do is set the hair dryer on high heat, and the pounds just melt away!

WEIGHT LOSS FOR SNOWMEN

"I'm making sure I get my five daily portions."

Achoo!

I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING ABOUT THIS

I TOLD YOU CIGARS WERE BAD FOR YOU!

Know what this is?

Frosty the Snowman's baby picture!
Merry Christmas

GIVE ME BACK MY ARMS!

"There's one in every crowd."

WHAT'S WRONG PREACHER?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PUT "X-MAS" ON OUR CHURCH SIGN INSTEAD OF "CHRISTMAS"!

I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOM FOR CHRIST!

A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE THAT PROBLEM THIS TIME OF YEAR!

GAMES PLUS MORE



WORD SCRAMBLES

- tanas _____
- silheg _____
- heret swie nme _____
- ndayc nace _____
- twreha _____
- armeng _____
- soarlc _____
- abby esujs _____



JOKES

- What never eats at Christmas?
The turkey, it's usually stuffed
- What do you get if a vampire crosses the road with jack frost?
Frost bite
- What is a mom's favourite Christmas carol?
Silent Night
- What do you give a railway station master for Christmas?
Platform shoes

Hahahahahahaha !!!

Santa / Sleigh / Three Wise Men / Candy Cane / Wreath / Manger / Carols / Baby Jesus



Find These Holiday Items Below in the Picture



-  6 Candy Canes
-  6 Red Balls
-  2 Green Balls
-  4 Holly Sprigs
-  11 Holiday Logs
-  1 Cherry

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL – WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?



It is hard to believe that our Church Council went into effect almost six months ago. To help us understand (and remember) the new structure, this issue of Flock Talk once again provides an outline of the overall responsibilities of each Ministry Group. What does it mean? It means our church is busy and active and recognizes the need to look after all aspects of our church life. Also listed are the names of the individuals in each Ministry Group; the Chair of each making up the Church Council. What does it mean? It means that we are fortunate to have committed people willing to serve our congregation. You will notice that the list of names is not long and many spots have a ***vacancy***. What does it mean? It means that a small group of people, no matter how dedicated, cannot do everything all on their own. It means we need your help. It means you can fill a vacancy or you may give of your time and lend assistance without becoming a member of a Ministry Group.

Have you been asked to be a greeter or an usher, take up the offering or serve communion, read scripture or assist with refreshments? What does it mean? It means we need your help. It means that these are small but important ways you can assist to make our church more meaningful and run more smoothly. It means that we need you to be an important extension of the Ministry Groups lending support and sharing your positive energy. As we approach the New Year, please give prayerful consideration to what it all means and how you can strengthening the effectiveness of our congregation.

I wish you and your families all the blessings of this Christmas season and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, Chair, Council

THE WORK OF OUR COUNCIL MINISTRY GROUPS

COMMUNICATIONS

- Keep the congregation informed through: Website, Flock Talk, Bulletin Boards, Sunday Bulletins and Announcements
- Reach out to the community through: Website, Advertising

FAITH FORMATION

- Ensure that children and adults have Christian Education
- Evaluate and choose study materials for all ages
- Work with the minister to involve children & youth in worship services

FINANCE

- Develop and administer the overall budget for the congregation
- Keep the congregation informed about financial matters

HOSPITALITY

- Organize greeters before services
- Invite visitors to sign the Visitors' Book
- Facilitate companions for new persons during service
- Ensure that secretary has names and addresses of newcomers in order to send a letter
- Organize refreshments after service
- Sparkplug social events

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Maintains confidential oversight of our staff
- Salary, working conditions, concerns

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

- Help individuals to become members
- Keep the church membership roll up to date
- Help Carelink to keep contact with sick and shut-ins

MISSION AND OUTREACH

- Ensure that the Benevolent Fund is collected, counted and used
- Make decisions annually about grants to community organizations
- Co-ordinate the Food Bank
- Inform the congregation about peace and justice issues

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES

Our presbytery brings together over 100 churches. Our representatives attend six meetings a year on our behalf. They speak for us to the larger group, and also bring us news of what is going on at other churches. There are also opportunities to become involved in work for peace and justice and mission at a wider level in our community for those who wish it.



OUR CHURCH COUNCIL (continued)



WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC

- Ensure that worship takes place
- Help the minister in planning services
- Make sure that the sanctuary is decorated and prepared.
- Prepare and assist at Baptism and Communion
- Take attendance at services, usher and collect offering

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

- United Church Women
- Joybreak
- Assist other women to form fellowship groups

Communications

Chair: Lisa Crawford
Secretary: Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson
 Pauline McKenzie
 Ken Oleksiuk
 Sylvia Shewalter- Nielsen

Faith Formation

Chair: Cheryl Holliday
Secretary: Dorothy Ostrom
 Karen Barnes Melissa Masih
 Lydia Cariaga Joseph Massih
 Dorina Datt Trissa Massih
 Michelle Datt Jocelyn Villamayor
 Kim Davidson

Finance

Chair: Alan McKenzie
 Judy Gillingham
 Lou Rhoden
 Yvonne Wright

Hospitality

Chair: Lou Rhoden
 Veronica Ennis Joyce Rhoden
 Yvonne Lampkin Myra Seyfried
 Carole Rhambarat Harel Smith
 Janiss Johnson

Human Resources

Hilary Badley
 Sheila Mascoll
 Vacancy
Needs minimum one more person

Membership and Pastoral Care

Chair: Ianthe Spencer
Council Rep: Mel Beckles
Secretary: Lynsia Panthaki
 Shirley Beckles
 Phoebe Cleverley
 Janiss Johnson
 Yvonne Lampkin
 Jose Polo

Mission and Outreach:

Vacancy
 Vacancy
 Vacancy

Presbytery Representatives

Vacancy
 Vacancy

Worship, Sacraments & Music

Chair: Pauline McKenzie
Secretary: Hilary Badley
 Lisa Crawford
 Clayton Johnson
 Glenda McBroom
 Connie Shewalter
 Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen

Women’s Ministries

Chair: Lucille Hunte
Council Rep: Ianthe Spencer
Secretary: Yvonne Wilson
 Cheryl Holliday
 Marina Mackin
 Dorothy Ostrom
 Kay Roffey-Dampier

Implementation Committee

(will exist until end of renewal project)
Chair: Alan McKenzie
 Lou Rhoden (co-chair)
 Yvonne Wright (co-chair)
 Joyce Bullock
 Judy Gillingham
 Cheryl Holliday
 Sheila Mascoll
 Pauline McKenzie
 Dorothy Ostrom
 Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen
 Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK



The Editors of "Flock Talk" wish to express their sincere appreciation to all those who contribute to the editions of "Flock Talk" during the 2010-2011 season.

The support of those many people made the issues possible and without that support, your quarterly newsletter simply would not have been possible.

We wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

Jocelyn & Sylvia

QUIZ ANSWERS



1. Silent Night
2. O Little Town of Bethlehem
3. Good King Wenceslas
4. Deck the Halls
5. Joy to the World
6. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
7. We Three Kings
8. Away in a Manger
9. O Come, All Ye Faithful
10. O Holy Night
11. I'm Dreaming of A White Christmas
12. 12 Days of Christmas

THE CHRISTINGLE

Christingle, Christingle, shine out in the night.
To kindle among us the marvellous light.

Christingle means 'Christ's Light' and it is a symbol of the Christian faith. Lots of churches hold Christingle services around Christmas time, especially for children. The custom originated in the Moravian Church in Germany in 1747 but they weren't introduced to the Anglican Church in England until 1968.

Christingles are made up of different parts...

The orange represents the world. The red ribbon around the orange reminds us of the blood Jesus shed and symbolizes forgiveness. The four sticks represent the four corners of the world, north, south, east and west. The fruits and candies remind us of God's gifts to us and the fruits of the season. The candle at the top when lit reminds us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

This year, the Church School children had fun making Christingles as part of their Advent Lessons.

Cheryl Holliday, Children's Ministry Superintendent



WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC



Our group continues to meet with the Northminster Worship Team, in order to plan our joint worship services. While that will continue, we will soon begin to plan for worship when we return to our home at 3180 Bathurst Street. If our congregation is to grow and thrive, we must consider the form of worship that will be meaningful to our community. Asbury and West has received a study of our ministry area that gives us a lot of information about who lives in our neighbourhood. This will help us to plan for our future. The Worship Group will be asking everyone for help with this major task. To begin, please think about what is most meaningful to you in our worship services.

Pauline McKenzie
Chair



FAITH FORMATION

All Christian Education programs are operating well thanks to the many dedicated leaders, teachers and helpers. We are especially proud of the Youth Class and the wonderful play they presented on White Gift Sunday. And we so enjoyed the nativity play presented by the children on Christmas Eve. Both of these presentations added such a joyful and refreshing dimension to our Advent services.

The five week Bible Study sessions on the four Gospels ended on December 5. People from both congregations shared in the learning and discussion. Thanks to Darren for his leadership. Besides the insights we took away from the study, we also had an opportunity to get to know Darren better and make new friends. We look forward to more opportunities for adult study and growth.

Wishing you the joy and peace of the season.

Cheryl Holliday
Chair



Editors' Note:

Many thanks to Susan McMillan of Northminster for her outstanding dedication, leadership, and support of the members of the Youth Group.





On behalf of Northminster United Church, I wish to say a warm welcome to all Asbury and West members. It is a joy to see the pews full on Sunday morning. The Choral Music program has been augmented with many more voices. Your Minister, Darren Liepold has added his own perspective to Worship and on occasion he is able to sing an anthem with the choir.

Northminster is pleased to share the building with you. Over time we hope it will feel like your home. As you prepare for the challenges ahead and look forward to moving back to a renovated church on Bathurst, do not become discouraged as your plans move slowly along. Let's have fun together and work in harmony.

Peace be with you.

Anne Galilee
Trustee, Northminster United Church



COMMUNICATIONS

The New Year is around the corner and we have lots to take care of! Our Progress Reports will continue in 2012 and we will keep you updated on the work at the Asbury and West United Church site.

We will be talking to everyone about the Accessibility Programme that we need to implement in the new year with help from the Northminster United Church congregation.

Have a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year!

Lisa Crawford, Chair

TRUSTEES' REPORT

It's been six months now since the congregation has vacated the church building. We are aware of the many concerns that members have that nothing has been happening as they could still be in their friendly house of worship. However, none of us had expected the many road blocks and challenges that we are experiencing from the City and other Municipal Boards.

So far, some progress has been made, in that hoarding around the church building has been done and the hazardous (hazmat) materials have been removed from the interior of the church. Also, on the authorization of the members of the committee, the Heritage Easement Agreement was signed, and a signed letter for demolition of the old church (which is not heritage designated) was sent to Options for Homes to commence the demolition as soon as possible in order that work on the current church can begin in mid February.

We are still awaiting final approval of the Site Plan Agreement. Severance of the land is still pending and when this is final the proceeds of the sale will be invested with TD Waterhouse which our able member Lynn Fair will undertake. This has been a journey of faith for us but in God's grace and mercy He will see us through as we anticipate and early return by 2013.

Yvonne Wright, Chair

Trustees: Yvonne Wright - Chair; Glenda McBroom - Secretary; Melvyn Beckles; Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen; Lynn Fair; Joyce Bullock; Alan McKenzie; Lysia Panthaki and Rev. Darren Liepold





FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY

A big THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY goes out to the people who faithfully co-ordinate the refreshments served after church every Sunday. Not only do they co-ordinate, they provide the treats (homemade or bought), come early and set up the tables, make the treats of the day look inviting on the table, make the tea, coffee and cold drinks and leave the service a bit early to make sure everything is ready for us. Then they pour us a cup or glass, they smile and say hello and they encourage us to enjoy a treat. Then they stay late and tidy up and they wash the dishes.

How can we say 'THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY'? Often times the best way to say thank you and show appreciation is by helping. Could we bring treats? Could we come a bit early and help set up? Could we smile and pour a cup of tea and encourage people to sample the goodies? Could we stay a bit late and wash dishes? Could we consider taking a turn on a Sunday morning?

While folks from Northminster and Asbury and West have teamed up, it is a lot of work for a small group of people. Although the members of our Hospitality Ministry Group share in this responsibility, many hands make light work and ANYONE can help. Don't be shy to speak to a member of our Hospitality Ministry Group and let them know you want to say thank you by a turn to help.

Hospitality Ministry Group is listed on page 13 of this issue.



MEMBERSHIP AND PASTERAL CARE



The group continues to work with all members and Adherents. Each of us have a list of eight to ten people that we keep in contact with. We are encouraging members to come out if possible. We work closely with Rev. Darren Liepold.

We visit or phone "Shut Ins" through the Care Link Group. Members of care link are Rev. Darren Liepold, Mel Beckles, Joyce Bullock, Louise Cobon, Lucille Hunte, Lou Rhoden, Sheila Mascoll, and Ianthe Spencer.

We continue to meet once a month. Our next meeting will be in January 2012.

Ianthe Spencer
Chair



RENOVATION REPORT

Work is finally beginning at 3180 Bathurst Street.

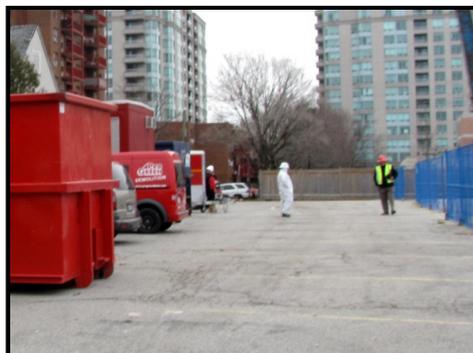
The masons are hand demolishing part of the old church to recover stone that will be needed to complete the renovations.

Great care is being taken to remove the corner stones without damaging them.

A lot of what is going on at the church, cannot be seen from the outside. The figure in the space suit is one of the workers who are taking out the hazardous materials from the 1958 building. Our church will be a lot healthier for us without asbestos floor tiles and ceilings!

Getting to this point has been a great deal of work for everyone on the Implementation Committee. I wish especially to thank the Architect Group for their commitment to meeting many times with our architects, Black and Moffat. Members are: Dorothy Ostrom, Mel Beckles, Yvonne Wright and Lynn Fair.

Pauline McKenzie



WHAT'S IN A NAME

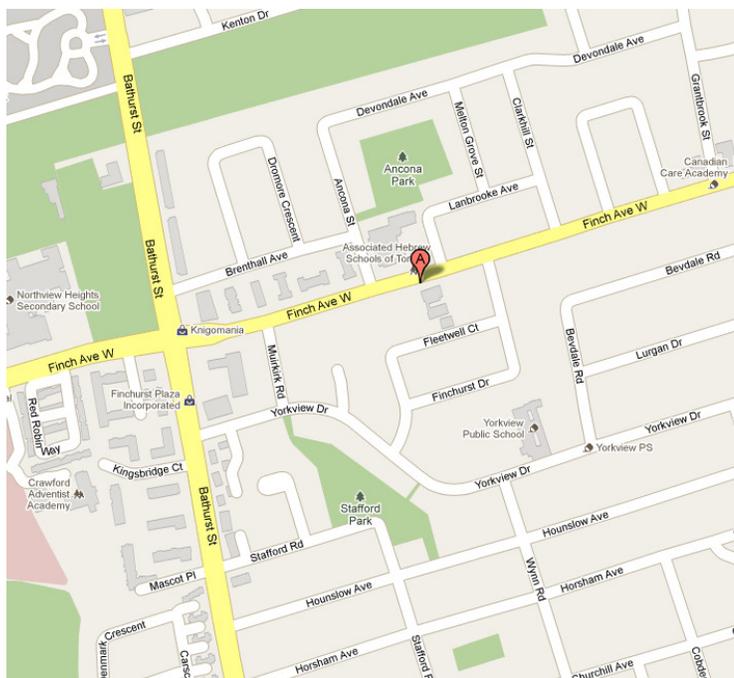
The wearing of our name tags is certainly helping us put the name to the face. It has been suggested that you keep your name tag on during our time of fellowship after the service while we chat with new people over coffee and tea.



Asbury and West has Relocated ...



**While we’re renovating.
Please join us at
Northminster United Church
located at
255 Finch Avenue West
Willowdale, Ontario
Tel: (416) 225-7941
Reverend Irene Ty**



Location

Northminster is located on south side of Finch Avenue, 1 block East of Bathurst. Sunday morning services begin at 10:30. If you’re coming by public transit, you can take the subway to Finch station and then a 36 bus west approximately 1 kilometre. If you’re coming by Bathurst Street, get off at Finch and the church is a short walk east along Finch Avenue. For those of you coming by car, there’s parking on the south side of the church around the back.

Building accessible

Yes (except for our washroom). There’s a driveway off Finch Avenue where you can park. From there, go along the west side of the building to the side entrance (which is really the main entrance) where you’ll find a ramp.

Children

If your children are infants, we have a nursery where they’ll be well cared for. Just ask a greeter or an usher about the nursery and they’ll be glad to help you out. If your children are school-aged, bring them into the sanctuary with you. About 10 or 15 minutes into the services, there’s a time for sharing with the children. After that, they’ll go out to Sunday School with our volunteer teachers. Our teachers are here all summer long.





Have you taken a few minutes in the past week to pray for members of our congregation who are in poor health, who are shut-ins, who cannot get out to church? Take a minute to phone one or two, or call to make some personal visits, or send out a couple of cards just to let them know we care about them. They'll appreciate your thoughtfulness. If we have forgotten any persons -- please let the Editors or the church office know.

Due to the Privacy Act in Canada, we are no longer able to publish any personal information such as home phone numbers and addresses. If you wish to contact one of our "Home Members", please contact the church office.



HOME MEMBERS

George Breen
Fran and Jack Cairns
Bea Cares
Betty Enta

Gloria Everson
Cliff Firmin
Linda Garland
Lilla Jaleel

Gerry Moore
Aldythe Newton
Ethel Quinlan
Helen Smith

Fred Sunahara



Asbury and West United Church

When you need to get in touch with us . . .

3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario M6A 2A9
Office: 416-783-6503 / Toll Free 1-877-226-2242
Office Hours: Tues - Friday 9:00 - 12:00 pm, closed Monday & Friday
Email: secretary@asburyandwest.org
<http://www.asburyandwest.org/>



Rev. Darren Liepold Intentional Interim Minister

Cate Billinger Church Secretary

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson (416-239-5821) Flock Talk Editors

Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen (905-770-7457)



NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday, March 25, 2012

Next Edition – Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012

Material accepted ANYTIME (the earlier the better !!!).
Please place all materials in the red accordion file, under 'F', located on the table outside the church office. Articles are subject to editing for length and clarity.

