

# FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

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

December 22, 2013

**“The Friendly Church”**

Edition 136





## THE PASTOR'S PEN

A couple of weeks ago we had a wonderful church evening of song, laughter and eating. I always think that church meals are the best times. We share with one another, get a chance to talk to fellow parishioners in a more relaxed way. We get to share one another's lives for a few hours. We get to partake in each other's foods. We get to share grace. And thanks to Cheryl and her crew we also got to sing songs and pray together. I always think that the church dinners we have are a prelude to the heavenly banquet that we all will share. My idea is that there will be too much food, laughing, sharing, prayer, singing, and enjoyment.

But it seems strange to me that we share this kind of joyous event so infrequently in our church life. Too often we get involved in the mundane and ordinary things of church. And we lose the feeling of joy. We get caught in board meetings dealing with little issues that seem to take so much time. We worry more about who is not here rather than celebrating who is here. We see only the problems before us and do not see the blessings and opportunities.

It also seems strange to me that we dwell on the joys of life so little in our everyday lives. Too often we find fault with something or someone. We see the shortcomings that exist. We are reluctant to give praise to someone for fear they might get a swelled head. We don't want to share good news, because we feel that it might seem like bragging.

This seems wrong to me. Life should be about joy. Yes we will have difficult times. There will be times when we feel the absolute absence of joy. However, when joy comes we

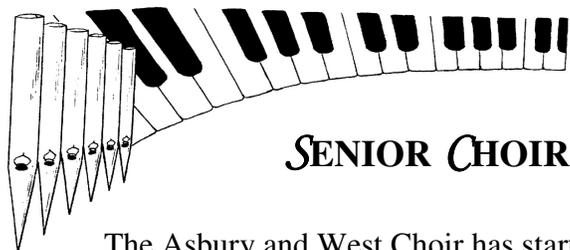
should celebrate it as fully as possible. And we should know that joy is the true goal of life (and as I said last year- happiness is a fleeting thing, joy is more eternal).

Church should be about joy as well. Yes we have hard work to do. We work with people when they are vulnerable. We work with people when they are going through their worst personal losses. We struggle with buildings, and finance, providing human resources for committees, and with people with differing ideas. However, we have the knowledge that Christ is with us and that we are God's beloved children. We have been given grace. Surely church should be about joy.

So during this Christmas season, may all of us sing heartily joy to the world. With the birth of the baby, our world has been forever changed. Come let us adore him.

*Rev. Darren Liepold*





## SENIOR CHOIR

The Asbury and West Choir has started to practice for the Christmas season. There will be a varied program of music with the emphasis on the Sunday, December 22 and Christmas eve service.

The William R. Shewalter Memorial Organ Fund remains at \$39,117. Your continued support and contributions are gratefully appreciated.

All are welcome who would like to join the choir. Rehearsals are Wednesday evening at 7:30pm and before Sunday service starting at 9:30am.

*Mel Beckles*



## INTENTIONAL INTGERCULTURAL MINISTRY

At the October council meeting it was agreed that our congregation would undertake to become more Intentional Intercultural Ministry. In February, we will be having special speakers to help us understand what it means to be a welcoming congregation. In March, Rev. Darren will be conducting some workshops to help us understand who our neighbours are and what we can do to assist them with their needs. Stay tuned for further details.

*Rev. Darren Liepold*



## MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

We continue to meet monthly, as we reach out to all members, in the hope that they will return with us to 3180 Bathurst Street. The response looks positive at this time. Every member will receive a Christmas card, and our Home Members will receive poinsettias as well. Most members are anxiously awaiting our return home.

The Care Link group continues to keep in contact with our Home Members.

Our sympathy go out to Ann Darling on the passing of her husband Charles (Charlie.) His Memorial Service was held on December 1st 2013 in Orillia.

We wish you, your families and friends a very blessed Christmas, and continued blessings in the New Year.

*Ianthe Spencer  
Chair*



We are coming to the end of another year. Though small in numbers every one seemed pleased with the programs that were offered. It is our hope that some of you will join us at Young at Heart in the coming year.

We visited Roy Thompson Hall for two concerts; one by the Mendelssohn Choir and the other by the Agincourt Junior Choir. We had speakers from the Hub, the Union Center at Bathurst and Finch, made a coach trip to St. Jacobs open air market and

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with an Irish Stew Luncheon. We enjoyed our share of potluck luncheons and movies and ended with our Christmas potluck with George Heldt entertaining us with wonderful music.

Shirley and I wish all the members of our group and the members of the congregation a most blessed Christmas and health and happiness in the coming year.

*Melvyn and Shirley Beckles  
Committee Contacts*

## **PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**

The public impression-taking sessions at the Barbara Frum Library in November with artist Peter Powning was well attended by the future occupants of Crandbrooke Village who were excited about the art project. I had the opportunity to meet with everyone and the common theme was their gratitude that Asbury and West had sold a parcel of property to make it possible for their new home to be build.

The cast session was fascinating. Peter took time to chat with each person to learn of the history and meaning of the items they had brought. Each artifact was catalogued, photographed and then pressed into the slabs of clay that had been covered with a thin layer of silicon sheeting to protect the items. Next, Peter poured white quick-drying plaster into the clay molds and once it had set the plaster cast was removed.

The history of Asbury and West was well represented with the following items being cast: The Mulholland communion pitcher and goblet, baptismal bowl and candlestick from West Church, bust of Francis Asbury, a piece of the 1951 cornerstone, the peace bell and the baptismal font.

Linda Cobon and the Flock Talk Co-Editors also brought personal items to have casted.

The duel sculptures, Spire Stellar, will be unveiled in Spring 2014. Stay tuned for details.



*Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, Contact*





Founded 1985

We are small in numbers but we don't let that stop us. We meet every 4th Monday night and always find something to do or talk about. Besides meeting, we again hosted the Annual Pot Luck Christmas Dinner on November 30. Lots of yummy food and good conversation made for a wonderful evening. We were happy to see a few of our old friends from Redeemer Baptist. Thanks to everyone for the donations of Christmas gifts for the North York Women's Shelter and to Doreen Porter who played for the program.

This year, our Christmas Party was held at the home of Pauline McKenzie. We enjoyed the food, the games, a gift exchange and the company of our guests. Thanks Pauline for hosting this festive time.

All of us in Joybreak wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas and many blessings in the New Year.

*Cheryl Holliday*  
Contact



[www.asburyandwest.org](http://www.asburyandwest.org)

"Left To Our Own Devices or Thinking Outside The Flocks?"

It wasn't that long ago that Asbury and West didn't have a web site or a blog (Heaven forbid). Well over time we managed to construct a site and a blog. However with the renovation, temporary location and numerous other changes, the site has languished in terms of up-to-date information.

Our Blog, at the moment, attempts to keep us current with Darren's Musings, Renovation articles, key events and Flock Talk.

Since we have been in exile for quite some time, things have changed in the world of the web. More people are choosing to access and search the web via 'devices', such as Smartphones, iPads, iPhones, etc. in addition to desktop computers. You can even see some of these folks walking down the street, with heads bowed (Not really praying though), thumbs and forefingers doing a dance on their devices, either texting or searching for something.

What does all this mean for Asbury and West? How will we be able to let 'searchers' know what's what with us?

The COMMUNICATIONS Ministry at Asbury and West will be looking at ways to keep our 'Message, Announcements, Info, Events & Resources' up to date on the web accessed by newer digital devices as well as desktop computers. We also encourage suggestions and input from the congregation as to how we should structure our future site and blog.

Please send any comments via email to [communications@asburyandwest.org](mailto:communications@asburyandwest.org)

*Ken Oleksiuk*  
Communications Ministry



## CONFERENCE AND PRESBYTERY REPORT - EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

After many years of doing things the same old way, the United Church has developed a new process to help congregations assess their strengths, goals, and mission directions in place and to help minister's assess their strengths, gifts, shortcomings, and learning goals. Congregations and ministers will use these lists to make better matches when it comes time for future hiring of new staff.

So what does this mean to us? In January, a team of three from our congregation, Jocelyn, Sheila, and Darren will be attending at workshop to learn the tools to assist our congregation look at its strengths and weaknesses in the following 8 areas: discipleship, justice and outreach, leadership, ministry partnerships, pastoral/spiritual care, spirituality and self care, stewardship, and worship. As a congregation we will be seeing where we are strong in these areas and where we are weak. For those items that we are weak at, we will set learning goals for the next year.

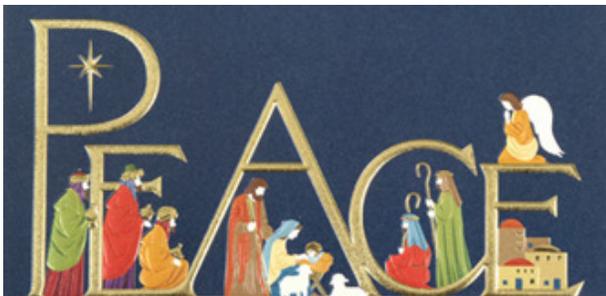
In the spring, our congregation will also be going through a workshop on anti-bullying and harassment. The province of Ontario has mandated that every workplace, including the church, set out a policy so that everyone

might enjoy a safe workplace. Each congregation will need to attend one of these workshops and then develop their own policy in order to comply with the law.

Ministers will need to complete a self evaluation tool on line. They will also be required to have a performance review each year by the Ministry and Personnel Committee. These materials will be given each year to the Conference Personnel Minister who will support the ministers by celebrating the gifts of each minister and encouraging them to work on learning goals that they set.

This project will take much work in 2014. However, once we go through the process once, each subsequent year will be easier as items just need to be updated. The whole idea of the project is that we have congregations who know what they are good at, and have an idea of what they need to work on. Also we will have ministerial staff who are aware of their growing areas and areas in which they excel.

*Rev. Darren Liepold*



Want to see Darren's photo's from his upcoming vacation? Want to hear some of the stories? Then go to Darren's vacation reflection journal, "Darren's Waltzing With Matilda".

You may follow the blog at  
[www.darrensaustralianphotosandjournal.blogspot.ca](http://www.darrensaustralianphotosandjournal.blogspot.ca)



## OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

I am pleased to share good news with you regarding changes with members of Council.

Pauline McKenzie will serve as Chair of the Property Ministry. This ministry group is responsible for the care and upkeep of the church and property, daily operations of the church, interfacing with tenants and so forth. Under the old regime, many of these tasks were handled by members of the Board of Stewards.

Cheryl Holliday has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Women's Ministry which highlights aspects of the United Church Women, Joybreak and the women who do not belong to either group. Although Cheryl is Chair of two ministries (Women's Ministry and Christian Education Ministry) it is not possible to represent both at a Council meeting. Therefore we are pleased to welcome Kim Davidson who will represent Christian Education Ministry at the meetings.

Due to scheduling conflicts, Nancy Sison will no longer be able to attend Council meetings in the role of congregational representative. We thank Nancy for her time and participation. Council generally meets the last Sunday of every month and anyone is welcome to be present at a meeting as a congregational representative. If you are interested in attending please let us know.

Mark your calendar for Sunday March 16, 2014 for the Annual General Meeting of our congregation. The annual report will be available to you two weeks in advance on Sunday March 2, 2014 so you will have time to read the reports and prepare any questions you may have for the meeting. As is the tradition, lunch will be provided. For those of you preparing material for the annual report, your deadline for submission to Cate is Sunday February 2, 2014.

On behalf of the Members of Council, I wish you and your loved ones and friends all the blessings of this Christmas season.

*Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, Chair, Council*

## MINISTRY GROUPS and COMMITTEES

### COMMUNICATIONS

**Chair:** Lisa Crawford

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Chair:** Cheryl Holliday

**Council Rep:** Kim Davidson

### FINANCE

**Chair:** Alan McKenzie

### HOSPITALITY

**Chair:** Lou Rhoden

### HUMAN RESOURCES

**Chair:** Sheila Mascoll

### MEMORIAL Committee

Cheryl Holliday, Darren Liepold, David Tuck

### MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

**Chair:** Ianthe Spencer

**Council Rep:** Mel Beckles

### MISSION AND OUTREACH

**Chair:** Vacancy

### PROPERTY

**Chair:** Pauline McKenzie

### WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC

**Co-Chairs:** Lynsia Panthaki & Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen

### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

**Chair:** Cheryl Holliday

### RENOVATION Committee

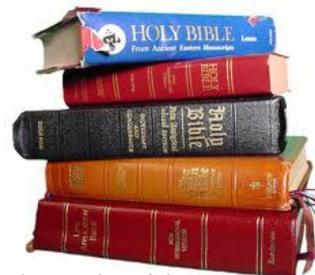
**Chair:** Alan McKenzie

### PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES

Linda Cobon, Sheila Mascoll



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY



## Church School

Psalm 23, The Lord’s Prayer, The Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule – all familiar and all the focus of our lessons during Kids for Christ: Fall Edition.

Some of you may have benefited from the Golden Rule lesson as the children made cards with a special message and gave them to people whom they didn’t know. This was to emphasize not only “Do unto others...” but also random acts of kindness.

We also made Christmas cards for Noemy and wrapped stocking stuffers for the boys and girls at the North York Women’s Shelter.

Our Christmas play this year was based on “The Little Drummer Boy”. Thank you to Lisa Crawford for being the drummer. And our Christmas party, open to the congregation, was a whiz bang affair. Thanks to all who helped make it such a fun time for everyone.

Looking ahead – we would like to invite the congregation to a Spaghetti Lunch on January 19 after the service. A free will offering will be accepted.

## Youth

We are very happy that some of our younger people are helping out in various areas of the church: Melissa in the nursery, H.J. on sound, Dan and Janelle in the Sunday School. Two thumbs up guys!! Thanks so much.

## Adult Studies

Darren’s book study on “Christianity for the Rest of Us” went very well. More to come in the future so please keep your ears perked!

The children, teachers, helpers and committee members wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2014.

*Cheryl Holliday  
Chair, Christian Education*

Kids

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"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

Dr. Seuss



## And Now for Something Completely Different ...

Have you heard? The City of Toronto is going to start charging churches for garbage removal! But wait! It's not as bad as it sounds when you hear the details.

"Garbage" is now defined as "things that cannot be composted or recycled." If we remember to put waste in the right place, then we will save our church money. And as an added bonus, we will be keeping valuable items out of landfill.

So ... please do your part to place waste in the correct bins and bags. Watch for the signs.

*Pauline McKenzie*



## 2013 FALL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CAMPAIGN REPORT

Here are the results of the Stewardship Pledge Campaign as at December 17, 2013.

Nineteen people pledged to use envelopes during 2014. This is two fewer than 2013. Two people switched from using envelopes to PAR. The amount pledged by users of envelopes increased by \$616.00 for 2014 over 2013. We received two new PAR pledges bringing the total to seventeen. The PAR pledges we received for 2014 increased by \$ 1,604.00 over 2013. Total pledges received during the Stewardship pledge campaign increased by \$2,220.00 over 2013 bringing the total dollar amount pledged for 2014 to \$63,242.00. That is a 3.6% increase over 2013.

Your financial contributions to our church family's finances help Asbury and West United Church to continue our 200 plus years of service to our Lord and our community.

Heart-felt thanks to all of you who participated in the Stewardship Pledge Campaign. It is not too late to contribute. Please give prayerful thought to signing up to donate using "PAR" the Pre Authorized Remittance program. It is easy and safe to use and to change if your financial situation changes. It makes budgeting and donating easier for you and is a true blessing for the Church Family's finances.

*Alan McKenzie,  
Chair Finance Ministry*



## BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE

Kembic Construction is working hard but it is taking a long time to finish our renovations! Pauline and I put on our hard hats and safety boots and visit 3180 Bathurst Street frequently. Kembic Construction is installing our new metal roof. Otis Elevator is working on our new elevator. McCausland Glass is renovating the stained glass and other windows. It is difficult to move around because of all the step ladders and workers who are busy at their appointed tasks.

Our new daycare tenants, Forest Hill Montessori, visited the site recently and were pleased with what they saw. The basement is almost finished. Rev. Marcos Falcon, the Redeemer Baptist’s Pastor, also visited the site. I know that all of us at Asbury and West United Church are more than eager to return to our newly renovated church home. The delays have been frustrating but it gives us an opportunity to fine tune our plans for our return.

Kembic Construction still has challenges to overcome. The old cement floors in the basement and on the second floor were poorly laid. They are very uneven and rough. Kembic must take special care to make sure that the cement is level and even before the new flooring is installed. The new completion date is March 31, 2014. Then we will retrieve our belongings from storage, install new furniture and equipment and make the move from 255 Finch back to our church home hopefully in April. We are very grateful and thankful to Cummer United for allowing us to use their building a little while longer.

On behalf of the Building Renovation Committee, I want to thank all of you for your prayers, patience and support. We hope that you have a joyous Christmas and are looking forward to an exciting New Year.

*Alan McKenzie, Chair*



## REV. DOUGLAS MCKENZIE FOREVER LINKED TO MUSIC



As many of you know, Doug was an avid curler. He was very involved in a clergy and lay curling league, now called the Greater Toronto Interfaith Curling Club (GTICC). Today several rabbis and cantors - both men and women - are members.

After Doug's death, I was contacted by one of the curlers - Rabbi Michael Dolgin of Temple Sinai. Some of you may remember him preaching at Asbury and West. He called to tell me the curling club had commissioned a piece of music in Doug's memory. I remember thinking that they couldn't have honoured him in a more meaningful way, with his passion for interfaith dialogue, music and curling.

One of the curlers, Rabbi Cory Weiss of Temple Har Zion, was commissioned to compose the piece. He suggested it be based on one of the Psalms, and asked for my input. We met and both thought Psalm 100 was the right one.

For several years the GTICC has presented an annual concert, with donations to an interfaith peace organization. This year's Interfaith Peace Concert was held on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at Trinity - St. Paul's United Church, Bloor Street West, Toronto. Donations to The Canadian War Museum's Operation Veteran Program were received.

Seven choirs from churches and synagogues of the curlers participated. Each choir sang two pieces. The final piece was the combined choirs singing Rabbi Weiss' composition: Hari'u Ladonai\* (Psalm 100). Some parts were sung in Hebrew; others in English. The music was beautiful and moving. There was a standing ovation. It was magnificent and a gift our family and friends will always cherish.

\* This piece was commissioned by the Greater Toronto Interfaith Curling Club in loving memory of the Reverend Doug McKenzie, who before his untimely death was very active in both the GTICC and in Jewish - Christian dialogue in the City of Toronto.

*Heather McKenzie*



### AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you....." In our Thanksgiving issue we asked if you would consider financially supporting Flock Talk and you answered. The cost of this Christmas issue has been fully funded by your response. Many people wished to remain anonymous but we know who you are.....

THANK YOU to everyone for generously supporting Flock Talk.



### FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

*We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season filled with many blessings and wonderful memories. May the New Year bring you health, happiness and peace!*

*Jocelyn & Sylvia*





## FINANCE MINISTRY

This is the season where we show our gratitude for the greatest gift that was ever given. We also have many other things to be grateful for. I am grateful to all of you who contribute your time, talents and treasure to Asbury and West United Church. Although there have been delays completing the renovations to our church home, it appears that the costs will be on budget. There may even be a small surplus. I wish that I could say the same about Church Operations. While we are at 255 Finch, we must pay rent and of course we cannot collect rent. Because of this it is certain that we will end 2013 with a deficit.

Our finances should be better when we return to 3180 Bathurst next year. We hope to see many of our friends return who find it difficult to get to 255 Finch. We will have many new neighbours to welcome. For the first time, our building will be fully accessible to those with physical challenges. I am optimistic that with time and work, our Congregation will prosper.

Most of us have limited financial resources and can't afford to be as generous as we would like. We may have limited monetary treasure but each of us has time and talents. Please think of something that you or your group can do to raise funds for the church. This fall, the Women's Ministry Group organized the annual walk-a-thon in honour of Rev. McKenzie. Thanks to all who participated in this important fund raising event.

Week by week, the PAR program is a great way to donate. Your money comes to church even when you can't. That really helps with the Church Family Finances. There is information on the PAR program in the narthex. Envelope packages are also available if you would prefer. Your donations are an investment in our future and your generosity helps us to help others.

What can you do to help?

*Alan McKenzie, Chair  
Finance Ministry*



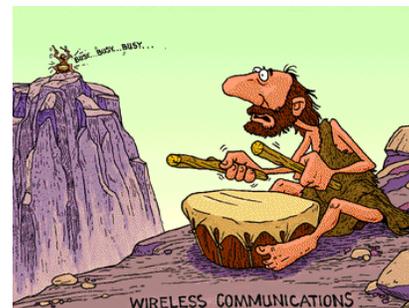
## COPPER COIN KETTLE

Small things can mean a lot and your small change placed in the Coin Kettle adds up. As of December 8<sup>th</sup> the total for 2013 is \$444.50 compared to \$359.00 for 2012. Thank You! Lighten the load of your pocket change by dropping your coins, (wrapped or unwrapped) into the Coin Kettle each Sunday. Folding money is also welcome. These contributions help with our local expenses.

*Alan McKenzie  
Chair, Finance*

# COMMUNICATIONS

2013 has been a year of big changes for our congregation. We lost our close friends at Northminster as they took their step into the future to form a new church. We've struggled through setbacks and delays with the completion of our home at 3180 Bathurst St. We've struggled to identify ourselves as defined by our Ministry Groups. We've struggled with loss and we've also struggled with gain.



But our struggles give us a view to how we will change and grow in 2014. We have and will continue to grow from our adversities. We will become a stronger and happier family group as we work together to build our exciting new path.

The Communications Ministry Group struggles, too. But we will strive to bring more information to the congregation and to be a liaison between the congregation and the Ministry Groups. We look forward to connecting with our neighbours as we return to our new home and engage them with our church life.

I see great things for the Asbury and West United Church future and plan to keep us all connected and vital!

*Every adversity, every failure, every heartache carries with it the seed on an equal or greater benefit.*

- Napoleon Hill

Read more at

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/n/napoleonhi121336.html#kFTIABXrZVLZ8hoD.99>

Merry Christmas!

*Lisa Crawford  
Chair*



# GAMES PLUS MORE



Colour me

P	R	O	S	J	A	H	S	E	N	A	C	Y	D	N	A	C	
R	E	E	H	W	L	J	B	L	X	M	A	F	F	K	L	H	S
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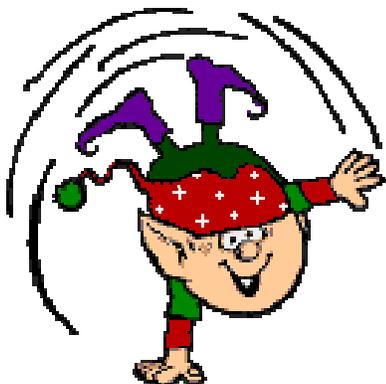
See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- |              |                |                 |            |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Happy     | 5. Family      | 9. Shopping     | 13. Santa  |
| 2. Holidays  | 6. Friends     | 10. Candy canes | 14. Songs  |
| 3. Christmas | 7. Presents    | 11. Cookies     | 15. Movies |
| 4. Vacation  | 8. Decorations | 12. Milk        | 16. Fun    |



Magic Santa & Jingle Bells  
 'TIS THE SEASON  
 Ho Ho Ho JOY  
 TWINKLING LIGHTS  
 BELIEVE  
 MERRY CHRISTMAS  
 I'LL BE HOME

Compare the pictures and find 10 differences





## ADULT BOOK STUDY



This past fall, 6 of us took part in a book study led by Rev. Darren. We studied the book, Christianity for the Rest of Us, written by American theologian, Diana Butler Bass. The book was written from an American context, but had much to do with Canadian churches and Asbury and West as well.

In her book, Dr. Bass looked at several mainline congregations across the US, who have bucked the trend and who are growing in size and are not shrinking. What is the secret of their success? She observed that these congregations were growing because they engaged in ancient Christian practices. Although these congregations were very diverse, they practiced things like radical hospitality, appreciation of worship, strong discipleship programs, prayer, providing a wonderful sense of community, practicing healing, etc. These successful emerging churches were able to bring some aspects of Christian tradition to life for a modern audience.

Dr. Bass says that churches are successful when they reach out to real needs in their community but are also true to their tradition. We need to know why we are the church. How are we unique from other social clubs? How do we claim our identity in a world of so many identities?

One participant in the book study noted the following. It was great to read that we are not the only church who is facing some sort of struggle with declining memberships. There are still possibilities though- congregations are adopting creative strategies to become vital meaningful communities of faith. This participant was very struck on the idea of radical hospitality. She quite was taken with the line from the book that a Christian community is not a closed community but sends welcome and shelter to all, regardless of class, status or respectability.

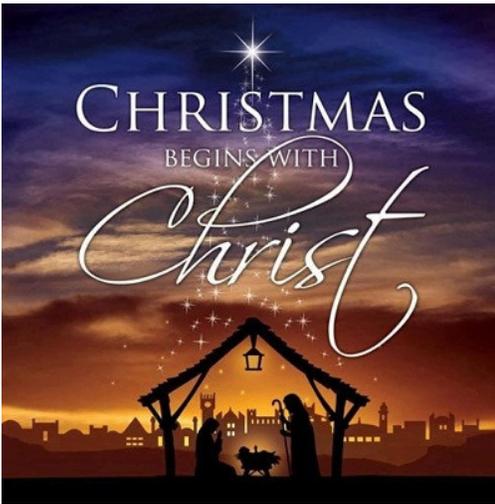
Darren will be using this book as future workshop topics for your book. If you would like to learn more or to read up on the book please contact either Lynsia, Sheila, Linda, Lou, Phoebe, or Joyce Rhoden who would be happy to lend you our copies.

*Rev. Darren Liepold*

The book that Darren chose for our study is both down to earth and Spirit inspired. In essence the book is approachable, Bass welcomes us into her world, her thoughts, and experiences. Although based in the United States, the author explores churches in neighbourhoods throughout her country, which, like its neighbour to the north, is vast and varied. She pleases me by including in her research pool fifty congregations from six denominations: United Church of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran Church of American, Episcopal (Anglican) church, United Methodist church, Presbyterian Church, and Disciples of Christ. Her exploration includes visits with members and pastors of these churches, but it is organized according to various aspects of the Christian life. She calls them ten signposts of renewal with chapters under hospitality, discernment, healing, contemplation, testimony, diversity, justice, worship, reflection and beauty. Bass is optimistic. Her approach is positive and is illustrated in a rather natural and intimate way with Biblical references. In this month of December 2013, we are reminded of these qualities as we honour the contribution of Nelson Mandela to not just South Africa, but all humanity. To quote Diana Butler Bass "Christians pursue diversity because it models creation, embodies love, and through the related practise of reconciliation, aligns our love with God's dream of harmony".

*Phoebe Cleverely*

Peace  
Flourish  
Earth



## Asbury and West United Church

Contact us at ...

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Paolo Busato [busatopaolo@gmail.com](mailto:busatopaolo@gmail.com) Musical Director

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Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen (905-770-7457)

Flock Talk Editors

[rsm56@sympatico.ca](mailto:rsm56@sympatico.ca)

*Have you taken a few minutes in the past week to pray for members of our congregation who are in poor health, or who are unable to get out? 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. Please let the church office know if we have forgotten any one.*



### HOME MEMBERS

Cecil Anderson

Myra Badley

George Breen

Joyce Bullock

Fredrica Cameron

Bea Cares

Betty & Fred Enta

Gloria Everson

Lilla Jaleel

Evelyn Lyon

Gerry Moore

Lloyd Ostrom

Helen Smith

Fred Sunahara

Viola Warford

**NEXT DEADLINE - April 6, 2014**

**Next Edition – Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014**



# POWERFUL

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