

FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M6A 2A9 Office: 416-783-6503

April 21, 2019

"The Friendly Church"

Edition 157

EASTER
BRINGS

HOPE

"In his great mercy he has given us
new birth into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ..."

1 Peter 1:3

Our Mission Statement: We are a diverse community of Christians, called by God, who seek to make a positive difference in the lives of those who live in the Bathurst and Lawrence Community and beyond.



THE PASTOR'S PEN

It is Easter time...that means Spring has arrived. This is one of the most exciting times of the year. Everything is fresh and the days are longer. There are signs of new life all around. Robins are singing, trees are budding, geese returning and life's possibilities are once again being awakened.

I have noticed a few new people attending worship, which is another sign of new life. Have you noticed the flurry of activities going on around Asbury and West? There is "The Possibilities of Love" concert, Karry Your Own Key, Strawberry Supper and the upcoming Platinum Sunday. These's activities are all signs of new life.

Look around, new life abounds. The proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ abounds. All we have to do is open our eyes and spirits to all the possibilities that surround us.

Hymnist, Clara Scott wrote in 1895, "Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou has for me". May our eyes and spirits be open to the possibilities of new life that abounds during this glorious time of year.

He is Risen.

He is Risen Indeed!

Happy Easter!

Rev. Carol McKinley





The Choir continues to maintain the number of members (eight voices at present) and new members are always welcome. Please speak to Anthony or any choir member if you wish to join us. Please note that we have one practice weekly on Sunday at 9:30am.

The piano was tuned recently, which we hope to maintain, and it sounds better. We also look forward to hearing Anthony play the organ more often.

We are looking forward to a music Sunday Service at the end of the month on April 28th as well as hymns chosen for Mother's Day Sunday May 12th. We are also excited about the "The Possibilities of Love" concert on Saturday May 31.

During the summer we hope to have more soloists. If you would like to sing a solo (or duet), but do not wish to be a regular choir member at present, please speak to Anthony. Also, if you have a request of the Choir let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Glenda McBroom





The Young at Heart Seniors program is underway. We celebrated Robbie Burns Day with theme about Alex McKenzie, a Scottman who founded Black Creek Village and was a leader in the Presbyterian Church around Fisherville. We had a Black History celebration and potluck luncheon, at which we watched a film about the Council in Halifax plans to demolish Africville, a poor black settlement, which was finally done in 1964. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with our Irish Stew luncheon.

We are looking forward to our future program as follows:

May 9	-	Mother's Day
May 23	-	Bus Tour
June 6	-	Roy Thompson Hall, noon concert
June 30	-	Pot Luck Lunch with Pianist George Heldt

We are hoping that other members of the congregation will join us. All are welcome!

Melvyn and Shirley Beckles, Group Contacts



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We are very pleased to have Joybreak affiliated with us. As both our numbers are small, we will now be able to help each other out on many occasions.

The World Day of Prayer was held Friday March 1st at Willowdale Emmanuel United Church. The Service was written by the women of Slovenia and reminded us that we are one people from every part of the planet. We heard the concerns of our Slovenian sisters and created a world of prayer for them and with them. A very interesting program and an enjoyable lunch was put on by the church.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Kerry Ya Own Key on Saturday July 20th from 3-6pm. It promises to be an event not to be missed.

Dorothy Ostrum



PLATINUM SUNDAY

**Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12**

Come and celebrate your Mother with us. Invite your family and friends. If you have a story and/or favourite hymn of your mother's, please submit them to Rev. Carol.

Bring your mother's picture for display. Refreshments will follow.



WE WILL REMEMBER....

VIMY RIDGE DAY

April 9-12, 1917

Canada's most impressive tribute overseas to those Canadians who fought and gave their lives in the First World War is the majestic and inspiring Canadian National Vimy Memorial. It overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge, about ten kilometres north of Arras.

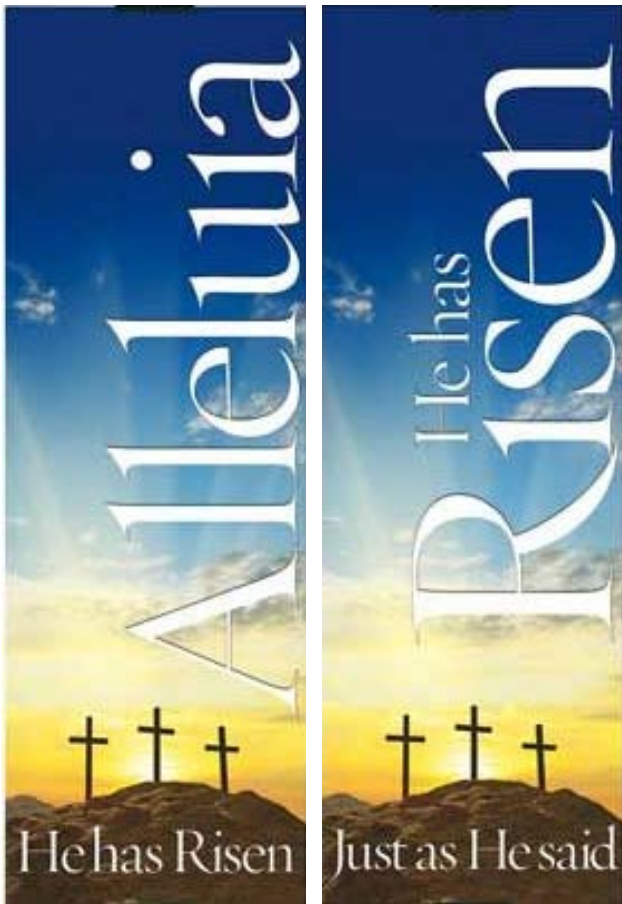
The Memorial does more than mark the site of the engagement that Canadians were to remember with more pride than any other operation of the First World War. It stands as a tribute to all who served their country in battle in that four-year struggle and particularly to those who gave their lives.



The Battle of Vimy Ridge by Richard Jack



France granted Canada 107 hectares of land at Vimy, and sculptor Walter Seymour Allward was chosen to design the memorial. Work began in 1925 and was completed 11 years later.





WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS & MUSIC MINISTRY

Our Ministry group is always busy planning Asbury's worship services. We had inspiring messages from Rev Carol and celebrated Black History month with guest speaker Vernon Hendricks. We have waved palm branches, washed feet, came to the foot of the Cross on Good Friday and celebrated the Risen Lord on Easter morning....*He is Risen Indeed.*

Worship is looking to the future – the future of our church. We are in the midst of planning our next Platinum Sunday, celebrating Mother's Day on May 12th. Other significant services are our 206th Anniversary on June 2, Asian Heritage & Filipino Independence on June 9, and Aboriginal Day on June 23. Our other Platinum Sundays are scheduled in July 14, October 6, and December 22. Stay tuned for more information on those special Sundays.

With Rev Carol being away on a well deserved holiday with Rick (April 28-May 5), we have planned a wonderful service of music, and a service on Discipleship.

Of course, we could not have a worship service without inspiring music by Anthony and the voices of our Choir. And when an emergency plea went out to the congregation about needing to tune the piano, our prayers were answered – *THANK YOU!*

If you have any Worship service ideas or you would like to assist with the service, please speak to one of the Worship Ministry members Lisa Crawford, Cheryl Holliday, Clayton Johnson, Glenda McBroom, David Tuck, Anthony Panacci and of course, Rev. Carol.

Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen, Chair

Don't miss our upcoming FUNDRAISING events...

The Possibilities of Love FUNDRAISING EVENT Friday, May 31, 7pm

Sandra Kirby, vocalist
Oleg Samokhin, pianist
Tickets are now available - \$20 each including refreshments. Please see Mel Beckles. Child care for children ages 2-9. There will be a Bake Sale and we are asking for your contributions to the table. A percentage of the evening's proceeds will go to Baycrest Public School for their breakfast program

Strawberry Social FUNDRAISING EVENT Saturday, June 22

Come and enjoy a light dinner, strawberry dessert, and spend some time spent with friends. We can hardly wait! \$20 each, children 9 and under free. More details to come.



Karry Ya Own Key FUNDRAISING EVENT Saturday, July 20 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Dinner and entertainment featuring a variety of local talent. Tickets will be available as the date approaches. Please watch for further information.



PROPERTY MINISTRY

The Property committee along with our devoted custodian Alvaro continues keeping up on whatever maintenance needs to be done. With this year's dreadful winter, having snow removal contracted out was well worth it.

As we are now in the 5th year since the renovation of the church, some equipment is failing resulting in having to be repaired or replaced. Quotes from our maintenance agents have come in which we are reviewing as we keep in mind costs to the congregation.

For those using the south entrance to the church, you will notice that the entrance key pad is not in operation. Not only did the winter months cause damage to it but the battery failed. We are in the process of having it repaired as well as thinking of ways that it can be protected from the cold. This has been a source of inconvenience to the daycare as well.

You may have noticed that the church banner on the fence has been taken down as it was in a state of dis-repair from the constant wind over the winter. We are presently having a "Feather Flag" made showing the church's address and time of service pending the approval from the city for a larger permanent sign. We have applied to the Transportation Department as well as Community Council to seek their approval. We have also contacted the councillor for the area whose involvement will be necessary.

During the months of July-August we will welcome a Cooking Day Camp – Rooks to Cooks in the Upper Room for kids 6 years and over. Not only will this help with our revenue, but also to showcase the church's community effort.

Yvonne Wright and Clayton Johnson, Co-chairs



A guest to our church, from Toronto Conference told us that the Eucharist (the Christian ceremony commemorating the Last Supper, in which bread & wine are consecrated & consumed) is part of this picture. If you look closely at his forehead near the hairline, you will see the cup (as a white light) and to the right a circle which represents bread. For a closer look at this picture of Christ, it's on the wall in the meeting room.



"It was love, not the nails, that held Jesus to the cross."

HOW IS THE DATE OF EASTER DETERMINED EACH YEAR?

Based on mathematical calculations, Easter falls on the first Sunday after the Full Moon date on or after March 21. If the Full Moon is on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated on the following Sunday.

Although Easter is liturgically related to the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere (March equinox) and the Full Moon, its date is not based on the actual astronomical date of either event.

March 21 is the church's date of the March equinox, regardless of the time zone, while the actual date of the equinox varies between March 19 and March 22, again depending on the time zone.

The date of the *Paschal Full Moon*, used to determine the date of Easter, is based on mathematical approximations following a 19-year cycle called the *Metonic cycle*.

Both dates *may* coincide with the dates of the astronomical events, but in some years, they don't.



Don't forget Mother's Day on
Sunday, May 12.



Don't forget Father's Day on
Sunday, June 16.

COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting for the church was held on Sunday February 24th and several exciting and important items took place. Here are the highlights:

Melvyn Beckles was nominated to be a Trustee. As you may know, the Trustees are responsible for and oversee such things as our church building, insurance policies, investments, tenant leases.

Linda Cobon was nominated as our Shining Waters Regional 10 Council Representative. This new name replaces Presbytery Representative and reflects the new structure of the United Church that came into effect January 1st this year.

We are indeed grateful to Melvyn and Linda for accepting their new roles and responsibilities. Please join me in thanking them for their dedication and service to our church.

A survey was distributed regarding Flock Talk and The Observer with an eye on our financial budgets. The wishes of the majority of respondents has lead us to the following decisions:

Effective immediately, Flock Talk will be published three times per year and available on Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday and Christmas Sunday. The June Father's Day Sunday issue is cancelled. If you wish to make a donation to pay for an issue or help defray the cost, please speak to the editors.

The Observer (recently renamed Broadview) magazine subscription will become the responsibility of each individual household. Since the annual subscription for this year has been finalized, the switch over will take place next year and details for a smooth transition will be forthcoming.

Wishing you all the hope of Easter.

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, Chair



COMMUNICATIONS (Chair: Vacant)

Keep the congregation informed through Sunday bulletin and announcements, bulletin boards, website, social media and Flock Talk. Reach out to the community through Website, social media and advertising.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Chair: Cheryl Holliday)

Ensure that children and adults have Christian Education, evaluate and choose study materials for all ages and work with the minister to involve children & youth in worship services.

HOSPITALITY (Chair: Lou Rhoden)

Initiate social and anniversary events and enlist the help of members of the congregation to organize after service refreshments.

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE (Chair: Ianthe Spencer)

Encourage individuals to become members, maintain up-to-date church membership, coordinate revisions of church directory and name tags. Keep in contact with members and Home Members.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL (M&P) (Chair: Vacancy)

Maintains confidential oversight of our staff including all salary, working conditions and concerns. Training is available.

STEWARDSHIP (formerly called Finance) (Chair: Phoebe Cleverley)

Develop and administer the overall budget for the congregation and keep the congregation informed about financial matters. Administer the Benevolent Fund and make annual decisions for grants to community organizations.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES (Chair: Cheryl Holliday)

Oversees all matters related to the programs and special occasion for the United Church Women (UCW) and Joybreak and encourages all women to participate.

WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC (Chair: Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen)

Oversees all aspects of worship. Assists the Minister on planning worship services and coordinates the preparation and decoration of the sanctuary for services. Prepares for and assists with the elements of Baptism and Communion. Takes attendance at services, ushers and gathers the offering.

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL 10 COUNCIL



Shining Waters Regional 10 Council will be holding the first meeting the weekend of May 24-26 at Georgian College in Barrie. Rev Carol and Linda Cobon, our new Representative, will be attending for part of the weekend. Similar to previous years at Conference, youth are invited to attend and Shining Waters Regional 10 Council will be covering all basic costs for the youth. I am pleased to tell you that Melissa Nielsen has expressed interest and will be attending to represent Asbury and West. This will be the third year that Melissa has been involved and she looks forward to re-connecting with her friends. And, Flock Talk looks forward to her report!

THE EASTER LILY

Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden by the teardrops of Eve that she spread while leaving the Garden of Eden. They were teardrops of repentance. The Easter lily also has its roots in pagan rituals - specifically, Hera, the queen of motherhood.

Lilium longiflorum is also known as the Easter lily because in Christianity, it is a symbol of the resurrection of Christ, which is celebrated during Eastertide. The lily has always been highly regarded in the Church, as Jesus Himself referenced the flower, saying "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Luke 12:27). Moreover, according to pious legend, "after Jesus' death and resurrection, some of these beautiful flowers were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus went to pray the night before His crucifixion." Legend has it that these flowers sprung up where drops of Jesus' sweat fell as he prayed. In many Christian churches, the chancel is adorned with Easter lilies throughout the Paschal season.



The Garden of Gethsemane



"Sharing the Gifts We
Have Been Given"

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

The mission of your Stewardship Ministry is to operate the financial affairs of our church A.S.A.P. - As Smoothly As Possible. To accomplish our goal we need the support of everyone who comes to Asbury and West. We are thankful that you come to our Sunday worship and special events and that you bring your children and friends. I'm sure we all enjoy Rev Carol's stories for the children.

We can only continue as a congregation if our people commit to regular givings, either through the automatic monthly debit system PAR (Pre-Authorized Remuneration) or through envelopes where you pledge to give what you can afford on a regular basis.

In addition to the work of our own church, many donors dedicate a portion of their gifts to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada, which helps care for people in need, both in Canada and abroad. In December your White Gift envelopes are used to make donations to carefully chosen local charities.

We appreciate your support through time, talent, and treasure (including cookies!). We are especially grateful for a number of bequests, without which we would find it extremely difficult to balance our budget.

Phoebe Cleverley, Chair



ARE YOU ON P.A.R.?

Have you thought about making your church donation by P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Remittance)? Through PAR, automatic monthly withdrawals are made from your bank account. PAR is easy to set up and can be adjusted at any time should your circumstances change. If you are already on PAR, don't forget that you can increase your donation anytime. Simply speak to Cheryl Holliday, in confidence, about the process.

Thank you for your support!



COPPER KETTLE

Please drop your change in the big Copper Kettle. Folding money gratefully accepted. Available every Sunday.

We have collected \$104.10 YTD.

Thank you for your support!

We are also collecting Canadian Tire money to assist with future purchases. Please consider this form of donation to your church.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Sunday School

Happy Easter!

Over the past few months we have been taking a journey with Moses as he led the Israelites through the desert to the Promised Land. On Palm Sunday, after the palm parade, we talked about Passover/Lord's Supper/Communion, combining Jewish and Christian traditions. We are now into the Easter season and lessons pertaining to Jesus' appearance to the disciples before His ascension.

On the first Sunday of February we served soup after refreshment time. This was well received on a cold, wintery day. We just might have to do this again!

For our church's upcoming anniversary celebration we will be serving a pasta lunch after the service. A free will offering will go towards church funds.

We are planning to have a joint Celebration on Sunday June 9 with the Filipino families as together we celebrate Filipino Independence, Asian Heritage and the Sunday School over the 2018-2019 season.

Please check out **Helping Hands** on the bulletin board in the back hallway. From time to time our supplies run low or need to be replaced. Your helping hand is greatly appreciated.

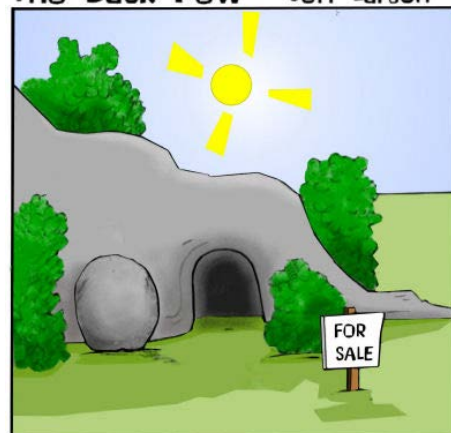
Formal classes will end on June 16 and resume on September 8. Look for announcements in the church bulletin for any plans regarding Sunday School activities over the summer.

Cheryl Holliday, Chair

FUN FACTS ABOUT EASTER

- ✝ The first story of a rabbit (later named the "Easter Bunny") hiding eggs in a garden was published in 1680.
- ✝ It's estimated that Americans spend \$131, on average, every Easter. Between the candy, dinner, and decor, that's a big chunk of change. And such a weird figure, too — hopefully that "1" in "131" is allotted for peanut butter eggs.
- ✝ Egg dyes were once made out of natural items such as onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and juices.
- ✝ The white lily is the official flower of Easter. As they represent grace and purity, many churches and homes have chosen to decorate with the white lily for the holiday. In fact, they're commonly known best as "Easter lilies."
- ✝ Eggs have been seen as ancient symbol of fertility, while springtime is considered to bring new life and rebirth.
- ✝ The traditional act of painting eggs is called Pysanka.
- ✝ The largest ever Easter egg hunt was in Florida, where 9,753 children searched for 501,000 eggs.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FOR SALE – Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale...resident was resurrected.

GAMES PLUS MORE



Word Search



Find these Words

- Bible

Church

Triumph

Messiah

Gospels

Alleluia

Resurrection

Jesus Christ

Sunrise Service

Lamb of God

Everlasting Life

Light of the World
- New Life

Cross

Joy

Celebration

Easter Bells

Candles

Glorious King

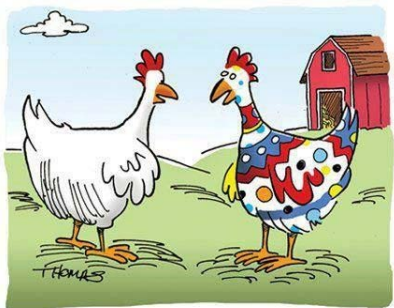
Redemption

Sunday

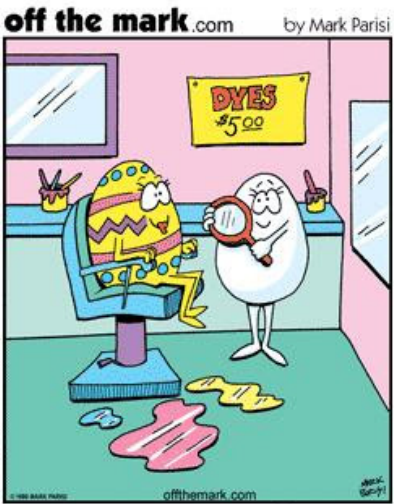
Third Day

Easter Lily

Empty Tomb



"I was an Easter egg"



Get the empty basket to the eggs.





Carrying the Cross

On Palm Sunday, April 8, 1990 "Carrying the Cross" stained glass window was dedicated by members of the congregation in loving memory of former members of Asbury and West United Church.



The Empty Tomb

"The Empty Tomb" stained glass window was given by the Choir at the evening Christmas Candlelight service in 1994. This window was dedicated to God's glory in music and in honour of choir members past, present and future. This window completed the last in the series of eighteen windows in our sanctuary.



The Resurrection

"The Resurrection" stained glass window is another beautiful congregational window from gifts and memorial donations to loved ones and former members of Asbury and West United Church. This window was dedicated on Sunday, October 6, 1985.



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

At this Easter time, we invite you to visit our beautiful stained glass windows and the story they tell us. Take time to pray in the Garden of Gethesemane, walk the road to Calvary, and rejoice at the Empty Tomb. Happy Easter to you and your family.

Jocelyn & Sylvia

Calendar of Events



April

- Sun Apr 21 - He Is Risen... Alleluia !!!
 Mon Apr 22 - Easter Monday (Statutory Holiday)
 Sat Apr 27 - M&P Committee Workshop - speak to Rev. Carol for details

May

- Sun May 12 - Platinum Sunday – Celebrate Mother's Day, 10:30am
 Thurs May 30 - Ascension of Jesus
 Fri May 31 - "The Possibilities of Love", Fundraiser Concert, 7:00pm

June

- Sun June 2 - Anniversary Sunday (209th)
 Sun June 9 - Pentecost
 - Filipino & Asian Heritage Sunday
 - Sunday School Celebration
 Sun June 16 - Father's Day
 Sat June 22 - Strawberry Social, Fundraising Event
 Sun June 23 - Aboriginal Sunday

July

- Sun July 14 - Platinum Sunday, 10:30am
 Sat July 20 - Karry Ya Own Key, Fundraising Event, 3-6pm

August

- Mon Aug 5 - Civic Holiday (statutory holiday)

September

- Mon Sept 2 - Labour Day (statutory holiday)
 Sun Sept 22 - Rev. Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk
 Sun Sept 29 - Deadline for Thanksgiving issues of Flock Talk

October

- Sun Oct 6 - Platinum Sunday, 10:30am
 Sun Oct 13 - Thanksgiving issues of Flock Talk
 Mon Oct 14 - Thanksgiving Day (statutory holiday)

Regularly Scheduled Events - ALL ARE WELCOME

- Caring for the Temple (Beginner Yoga) Tuesdays at 7:00pm.
- Caring for the Temple (Chair Yoga for Seniors) Wednesdays, 12:30pm. Bring your lunch for noon.
- Choir Practice, Sunday morning at 9:30am.
- Conversations (Bible Study) Wednesdays at 11:00am.
- UCW 3rd Tuesday at noon, except Dec., July & Aug. Bring your lunch.
- Worship Service & Children's Church School on Sundays at 10:30am, followed by refreshments after the service.
- Young at Heart (Seniors) 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 11:00am. Bring your lunch.

MINISTRY GROUPS and COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Vacancy

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Cheryl Holliday

Council Rep: Kim Davidson

HOSPITALITY

Chair: Lou Rhoden

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Ianthe Spencer

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL (M&P)

Chair: Vacancy

PROPERTY

Co-Chairs: Yvonne Wright
& Clayton Johnson

STEWARDSHIP

Chair: Phoebe Cleverley

WORSHIP, SACRAMENT AND MUSIC

Chair: Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Chair: Cheryl Holliday

MEMORIAL Committee

Cheryl Holliday, David Tuck

SHINING WATER REGION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

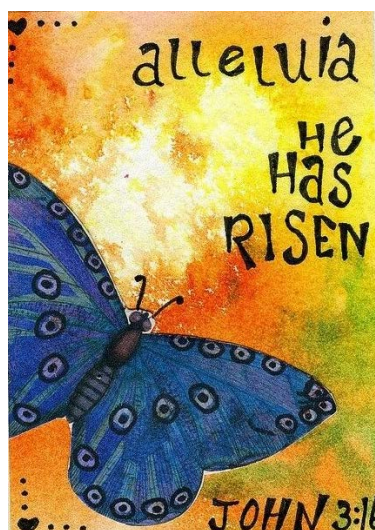
Linda Cobon

CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

You are welcome to
attend any meeting.

Council Chair:

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson



Asbury and West United Church

Contact us at ...

3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M6A 2A9 Office: 416-783-6503

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 - 12:00 pm, closed Monday

Email: secretary@asburyandwest.org Website: <http://www.asburyandwest.org/>

Blog: <http://asburyandwest.blogspot.ca/p/announcements.html>

Rev. Carol McKinley minister@asburyandwest.org

Minister

Cate Billinger secretary@asburyandwest.org

Office Administrator

Alvaro Perez custodian@asburyandwest.org

Church Custodian

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson (416-239-5821) jocelynandharvey@gmail.com

Flock Talk Editors

Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen (905-770-7457) rsm56@sympatico.ca



NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday, September 29, 2019

Next Edition – Sunday, October 13, 2019

Material accepted ANYTIME (the earlier the better).

Please place all materials in the "Flock Talk" folder on the counter in the workroom or email the editors. Articles are subject to editing for length & clarity.



The sacred land on which Asbury and West stands has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississauga's of the Credit River.

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**

Fredrica Cameron
Hollie Hepburn

Evelyn Lyons
Marina Mackin

Helen Smith
Fred Sunahara



POWERFUL

IDEAS
DESIGN
END TO END PRODUCTION
MAILING

ATPH
THE PRINTING HOUSE

Proud print sponsors of Asbury and West United Church.

416-782-1191 TPH.ca/32

3273 Dufferin St • Toronto, ON • M6A 2T4