

FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

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

October 12, 2014

"The Friendly Church"

Edition 140





THE PASTOR'S PEN

Wasn't that a summer? No I am not talking about the weather. I am talking about the many things that have happened here at our church since I last wrote in Flock Talk. Last time I wrote to you, we were waiting; we were waiting to get approval to move back into our building. Everything was so close to being done. We knew we were on the edge of something. Yet we were not sure what. We had come so far, but still were not at the Promised Land.

Then finally in mid June, we were given permission to move the office down here. It was the first of many moves. Soon the chairs would arrive, then the organ and then our items from Northminster and from storage. The first wedding was held here on July 5th and on July 6th our first worship service was held here. Like a couple moving from one house to another, the move has not always been a smooth one. There have been discussions, "Where should this go?" There have been decisions made that not everyone has agreed with, "This item will go here." And then there are more decisions to be made, "There is no room in our new place for this." But despite all that we are home.

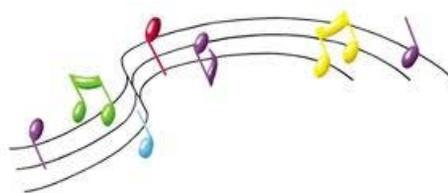
As I write this, it was eleven days since we had our grand opening service. It was a fantastic event. It was a chance for us to show off. And the crowds were there. On the Sunday service we record that 290 were here for worship, although others counted and said that there were over 300 there. It felt good to share with so many friends, new and old.

Building the church was the first thing. Moving in was the second. But now the real work of our church must begin. We bring with us some traditions from the past, a new building, and a welcoming smile. But how will we reach out

to our neighbours. In the movie, "Field of Dreams" the main character is told that if he builds a baseball field in his corn field, they will come. But it is not that way with the church. Church buildings can be frightening to those who are not use to them. Many of our neighbours do not know church. We need to continue to look for ways to invite them into our midst, to share our faith and our good news, and to be a welcoming presence. Some of the newcomers ideas might be totally wrong about church. "I thought you were just do gooders here." Some of the newcomers ideas might threaten our own beliefs- shouldn't you do more to help this group or that group. Some of the newcomers ideas might be just the thing that we need to do. Our beautiful new building is a wonderful testament to the faith of so many people over the past 200 years. However, it is just a shell. It is like Ezekiel's dry bones. What makes a church a church is its people, its sense of welcome, its faith, its presence in the community, its service to the community. Please join us in the continuing work of our church.

Blessings
Rev. Darren Liepold

Give
thanks
to the
LORD
for He is good
His love endures
f o r e v e r



SENIOR CHOIR

We're finally back home at Asbury and West and enjoying the excellent acoustics and growing attendance at our services. We need to grow our choir, too. If you sing in the shower, hum at the bus stop, and warble while you wash dishes, then we want you. People who can read music and sing parts are an asset. In particular, we welcome new male members.

I'd like to thank the Choir for their continued commitment over the summer in attending rehearsals and preparing for our Grand Opening Service which contained a vast number of pieces. They did a tremendous job at a time when many are usually away on vacation.

I look forward to a marvellous choral season and wish to remind everyone: all are welcome!

Paolo Busato, Music Director



THE VIEW FROM THE OFFICE!

And what a view it is. If I look slightly to my right I can see the great outdoors – at least the treetops. If I happen to stand, I can see street level and watch the people going by. Sometimes wonder 'where are they going or where have they been?' Some walk with determination, some just stroll, some walk in groups and of course some are alone.

If I look straight ahead, I can see the sanctuary. It is just beautiful. When we first returned to 3180 and as the Sanctuary wasn't fully furnished as yet, it looked like a great big empty room. Then slowly new furnishings appeared almost daily. The chairs went in, the communion table arrived and the antependia was put on it. The organ arrived and was installed and tested. The chairs for the choir were set in place just waiting for Sunday worship. It was taking shape. Slowly other things have been added – flowers, pictures, a step for Paolo to use to get out of the organ pit, some 'heritage' chairs, these are all things that make this home. Most of all I have a spectacular view of the stained glass windows. With the summer sun streaming into the Sanctuary, the colours are gorgeous!

It has been a long process to get all the permits, all the fittings, all the changes to original plans and all the work done and complete. It has all been worth it.

Thank you for my great view.

Cate Billinger, Office Administrator

Psalm 107:1
 "Oh, give
 thanks
 to the
 Lord
 He is
 good,
 for His
 lovingkindness
 is everlasting."

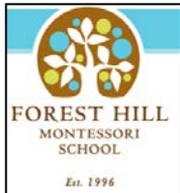
OUR CHURCH CUSTODIAN

The familiar, smiling face that you see around the church belongs to our custodian, Alvaro Perez. Many of us remember him from our time at 255 Finch. Like many of our congregation, Alvaro began life in another country. He was born in Salto Grande, Uruguay. So Alvaro speaks fluent Spanish as well as English.

When you see him, Alvaro is usually busy keeping the church spotless, or on his way to give some help to someone in the building. His regular duty hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon, and on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

One of the duties that Alvaro performs with pleasure, is helping our congregation with set-up for our meetings and activities. The Property Group asks that each group co-ordinator or chairperson, fill out a form and diagram showing how you wish furniture to be arranged. If you meet regularly, you only have to fill out the form once, unless you have a special request for one date. We also ask that requests for Alvaro be submitted through the office so that they can be co-ordinated. This will help Alvaro to organize his days. We are grateful for Alvaro and wish to show him that we appreciate his work - and his smile!

Pauline McKenzie, Chair, Property Ministry



FOREST HILL MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Anyone who is at our church between eight and nine o'clock in the morning will see an invasion of little people as a horde of enthusiastic, energetic toddlers and pre-schoolers arrive for a day of gentle care and educational fun.

Our new child care facility is leased to Forest Hill Montessori School. This is a fully accredited Montessori School, established in 1996. They provide programs for children from 18 months to 6 years in our church building. An extended day is available for families needing care until 6 p.m. Across Bathurst on Cranbrooke Avenue there is a second part of the school that offers education for 6 to 12 year-olds. In summer, a camp program is offered, featuring a different theme each week; for example, "Safari Adventure" or "Summer Olympics."

Forest Hill Montessori offers a full nutrition program of snacks and lunch. The staff use dishwasher safe reusable dishes, and have established a recycling and compost program to reduce garbage. They are teaching the program to the children, who find fun in all their activities. Welcome to Forest Hill Montessori staff and pupils.

Pauline McKenzie, Chair, Property Ministry



A warm and friendly welcome is extended to Rev. Peter Parks and the members of the Immanuel Methodist Church. We look forward to getting to know one another as friends in Christ. We take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for your generous gift of two beautiful clocks recently presented to our congregation.



PRESBYTERY

In terms of presbytery, at our June meeting in Norval United Church, Catherine Smith and Henry McLeod were named co-chairs of our presbytery. Catherine and Henry are members at Cummer Avenue United Church.

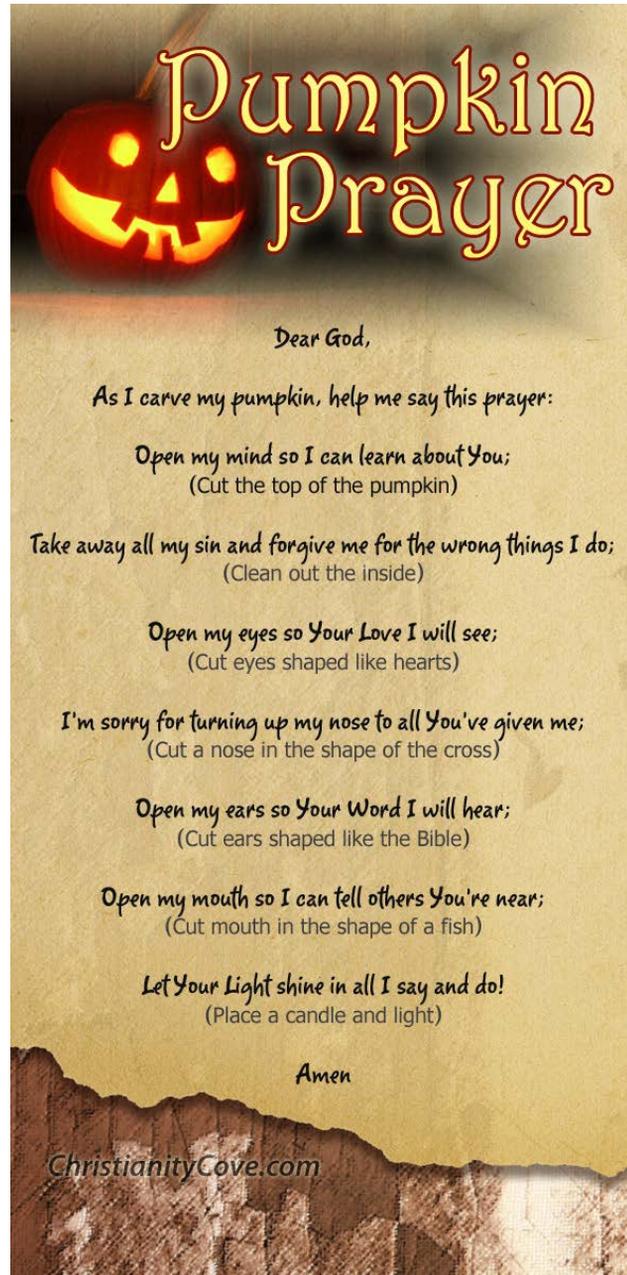
At its meeting in June, presbytery gave some support to folks from the Journey, an outreach project that was started by North Bramalea United Church. In June a fire occurred at this housing project and a young boy died in the disaster. Many of the poorest families in Brampton were left homeless by the fire.

At the September meeting we heard from three members of our presbytery who attended Rendezvous, an invent for young people in the United Church. Some 400 delegates gathered in Winnipeg to share good news and inspire one another.

Wider United Church News

In terms of the United Church, there has been a great deal of talk about the Comprehensive Review. The task of this review is to come up with a streamlined governance structure for our church. Possibilities for this task force are cutting the number of courts of the church from four to three (at present we have congregation, presbytery, conference, and General Council), running with a much smaller staff at the National Office, and doing Pastoral Relations and accountability in a much different way. The draft copy of this report will come to the floor of next year's General Council meeting in Corner Brook.

Rev. Darren Liepold



The Church is full of people in the Autumn of their years. Some have led colourful lives, leaves bronzed and golden through exposure to the elements, their appearance the centre of attention. Others have been exposed to more extreme conditions, branches bowed and scarred. Some go unnoticed, yet stand tall and steadfast against wind and rain. All have a story to tell, all can offer support and shelter for saplings which grow beneath their leafy canopy.



BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE

We are finally home again! I hope that you all feel as I do that it was worth the wait! The Building Renovation Committee is not finished. There is a list of deficiencies" –small tune-ups that Kembic Construction must address before they receive their final payments. We await the "as built" drawings from Black & Moffat and must have the documentation for all the building systems before they receive their final payments.

There is a little money left in the Building Renovations fund but there are also more bills to pay. Mission through Finance provided Asbury and West United Church with a short term loan to help us pay our bills. We are grateful for the trust that Erik Mathiesen from United Church General Council has in our Congregation. This loan is the building renovation project's largest obligation except for the money we had to remove from our own reserve funds. We expect to receive some financial assistance in the form of grants and HST rebates. We won't know for sure until all the final bills are paid but it looks as if there could be a small surplus that will be turned over to the Congregation.

There are a few more items that we would like to purchase to make our building complete. All purchases will depend on availability of funds. We need more cabinetry in the church office workroom to store supplies and frequently used items. It was necessary to remove the lawn sign and the sign on the east façade as both were in very poor shape. Until funds are available for a more permanent sign, we are arranging for a temporary durable vinyl banner that will identify Asbury and West to the community. The information on the banner and the cost of the banner will be shared with our new tenant Immanuel Methodist Church.

Our new church home is modern and versatile but much smaller than the large dilapidated old one we left three years ago. Storage space is very limited in the new building. Church Council is working with the Property Ministry to sort through the items currently in storage and dispose of items that are no longer vital to our new church life. Storage space will be allocated fairly but will always be scarce. It is similar to moving from a large house with a garage and basement into an apartment. It is hard to make decisions about items that have been important to us in the past and have sentimental value. We honour our heritage but we must remember that our new church home was designed for our future needs.

The Building Renovation Committee will continue until all the renovation work is completed and all the renovation bills are paid. The Committee will make sure that Council has all the documentation for the project and the information required to maintain and operate the building systems.

My thanks to the members of the Long Term Planning Committee that developed our strategies and plans for the future of our Congregation, to the Implementation Committee that steered the project through a complex and challenging approval process as well as our relocation to Northminster United and to the Building Renovation Committee members who managed the long and difficult renovation of the building and our return to 3180 Bathurst. A future full of possibilities!

Alan McKenzie, Chair

O give
thanks
 unto the LORD, for he is good;
for his mercy endures forever.

Pslam 107:1 (KJV)

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Founded 1985

Joybreak

Life Memberships!! What is the history and criteria? The first Life Membership was presented to Heather McKenzie in 2011 when Doug retired as our minister and left the church. We didn't want Heather to leave Joybreak

so we made her a life member. This year we decided more names should be added. The criteria is simple - you must have 25 years of continuous and faithful service. So on September 14 during the Grand Opening Service Cheryl Holliday, Irene Fair and Kim Davidson were presented with their life membership. Cheryl is a founding member since October 1985 and has held several positions in the group. Irene, also a founding member, has been our Treasurer from the beginning. Kim, a member since December 1988, was once our Secretary and then after Heather left, volunteered to resume her position. Stay tuned to find out who will receive her life membership next year when we celebrate our 30th Anniversary!!

Our fundraising project – selling World's Finest Chocolates – was launched at the Grand Opening weekend. Chocolates will be available as long as supplies last. We are planning to restock closer to Christmas. Thank you for your support.

Joybreak met on September 22 for our first meeting in our new building. We were surprised with a cocktail party (non-alcoholic), an interesting session of "What do you know about yourself and others", and even gifts! A great way to start our 30th year!

Thank you for your Thanksgiving donations of toiletries for the North York Women's shelter.

Mark your calendars!! **Saturday, December 6** – Annual Pot Luck Christmas Dinner.

Cheryl Holliday, Chair

United Church Women



We have participated for many years in a movement called "The Fellowship of the Least Coin". This is an international ecumenical movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. It was begun by Shanti Solomon of India, who in 1956 was part of a Christian Women's Mission of Reconciliation to countries on the Pacific Rim.

FLC is primarily a prayer movement not a fund-raising effort. The Least Coins are merely tokens of our prayers. Once a year the coins are collected in local Ingathering Services and are sent to be held in trust at the Women's Inter-Church Council of Toronto office, and then forwarded to the global FLC Fund who award grants to Christian organizations around the world.

Sheila Mascoll has been our very faithful delegate for many years, to the annual Ingathering Service. It is being held close to home this year, at the former Northminster United Church on Tuesday, October 28th, at 1:30pm. The guest speaker is WICT Vice-President/President Elect Connie Rose of the Grant African Methodist Episcopal: Women's Missionary Society. We hope many of our ladies will be able to join her.

Dorothy Ostrom, Treasurer

The 200th Anniversary Cookbook and Pins are always available.

Cookbooks - \$12.00

Pins - \$8.00

Please contact Cheryl Holliday or the church office to place your order.



"In Flanders Fields"

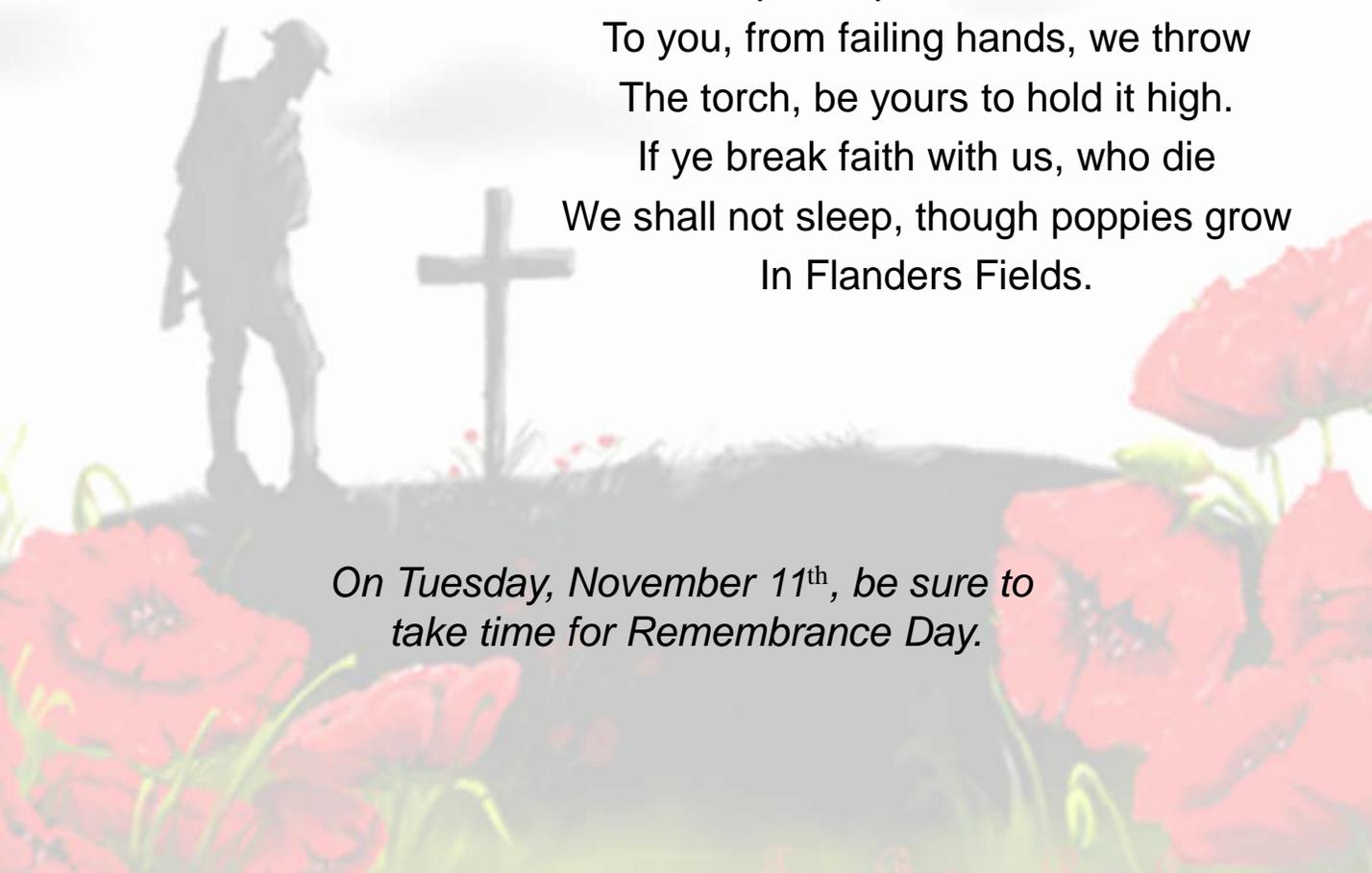
by Col. John McCrae

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.

Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead, short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us, who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

*On Tuesday, November 11th, be sure to
take time for Remembrance Day.*



CHURCH COUNCIL

How's Your Equilibrium?

Many of you have shared with me your thoughts and feelings regarding the renovation project and about coming back 'home'. You have expressed words of frustration and sadden over the loss of the past as well as words of excitement and hope for what the future holds. It is like walking a tightrope - a fine balancing act.

One of the highlights for me during our Open House weekend was the message delivered at the Sunday service by our very special guest minister, Rev. Bruce Roffey. Bruce grew up in our church so he reminisced a bit. It was heartwarming to hear his memories of the Asbury and West events and people that made a difference in his life and influence him still.

I believe Bruce captured the elements of missing the past, the pain that change will cause and the need for the ever-changing present. With permission from Bruce, I outline some key components of his sermon. (Please note: The entire sermon is available upon request from the Editors.)

- † As we look around we can see reminders of what was, the old united with the new, the foundations of history undergirding a new present and a future yet to be. I miss the past. I am nostalgic for what was.
- † Change. How do we deal with it? Those that study change note that generally speaking change, whether good or bad, feels bad. Even good change often feels bad. Change upsets us, frightens us and feels bad. We feel confused.
- † Yet that confusion is good. Feeling confused means that you are learning something. If you feel uncomfortable than you are moving into new understandings which for the time being make you feel uneasy but which in time will become as familiar as the old territory from which you have ventured.
- † Too much change, no matter what the nature, is not good. It leads to illness and burn out. The opposite is also true. Too little change, too little stress, is also bad for your health. It leads to what is called rust out, and stress experts tell us that rust out is even harder to deal with that burn out.
- † For a church, too little change mean irrelevancy. So although we don't like change and resist it, we need it. We need to grow. We need to fulfill our potential. We need it for our health - physical, mental and spiritual.



- † For Christians, there is an even more compelling reason to change. The Kingdom of God, God's Sovereign reign is not yet here. We as individuals are not what we can be and what God wants us to be. We as a church are not what we can be and what God wants us to be. ...we do not yet fully incarnate the love of God that was in Christ and that he commanded we express.
- † We need to welcome change, the changes wrought by God. Moreover, we need to be change agents. Isn't that what the church has always been about and continues to be about, change? Think about our holy words, our special words describing the Christian life - repentance, confession, conversion, salvation, regeneration, sanctification, being born again, transformation, recreation, resurrection. These are all words about change.
- † The difficulty is knowing the way to go? How can we know the way to change? How can we discern that changes God wants wrought in the world, in our church, in our own personal lives, today? The only way to discern the changes God desires is following Jesus' example and teaching, being sensitive to the inner voice of the Holy Spirit as Peter was and then risking by acting on that knowledge and making changes.
- † You, the congregation of Asbury and West United Church have made many changes over your long history. Now you have made another, to leave your home for two or so years, to redevelop your building and now to return to your ministry.
- † Jesus came to change individuals, to change the world, to turn it upside down, to bring love, peace, justice, mercy, compassion.
- † Don't be afraid of change yet to be. Rather seek it, embrace it. As this church building is dedicated, may each one of you, the real church, re-dedicate yourself to God. And in the midst of change know that you can always trust the unchangeable God. Thanks be to God, Amen.

As we continue on the Asbury and West journey, may we find the perfect balance between remembering the honoured past and seeking the changes we must make to be the church God would have us be. Pray for a healthy equilibrium!

Blessings,
Joelyn 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

MEMBERSHIP AND

PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Ianthe Spencer

MEMORIAL Committee

Cheryl Holliday, Darren Liepold, David Tuck

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Chair: Vacancy

PROPERTY

Chair: Pauline McKenzie

STEWARDSHIP

Chair: Phoebe Cleverley

WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC

Co-Chairs: Lynsia Panthaki & Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Chair: Cheryl Holliday



PRESBYTERY REP

Sheila Mascoll

RENOVATION Committee

Chair: Alan McKenzie

Be sure to take a look at our new and improved bulletin boards. As you will see, everything is neat, tidy and easy to read. This is a standard that is important to maintain so our Office Administrator, Cate, will be looking after the postings and keeping a watchful eye for the expiration dates for removal. ***Simply leave all requests for posting in Cate's mail slot outside the church office in the folder marked Bulletin Boards.***

Here is a guide to what you will find where.

The bulletin board in the workroom contains information such as counting schedule, emergency phone numbers, and the room booking schedule.

The Sunday Volunteer Sign Up Sheet is located in the narthex against the workroom wall. Why not take a moment and add your name to one or more of the areas needing a volunteer.

Three bulletin boards are in the hallway across from the offices of the Minister and the Christian Education Ministry. You will find such items as the upcoming events for the Young at Heart group, educational seminar opportunities, the most recent copy of Darren's Blog, finance news and PAR information, the monthly schedule of events, thank you cards and so forth.

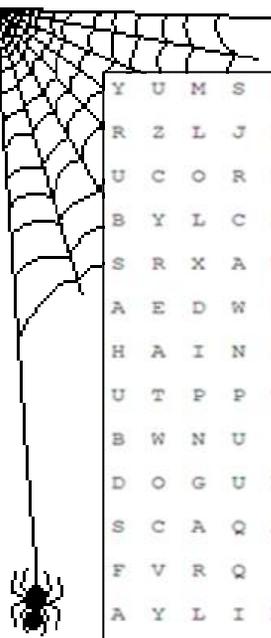
An important document to consult is the schedule for room bookings that has been confirmed through Cate in the church office. It is interesting to see how busy our church building has become every day of the week and the importance of confirming your room booking well in advance.

A special Thank You! to Irene Fair who provided many helpful suggestions and was instrumental in the beautifully finished boards.

Start a new routine whenever you come to church. Don't be bored, check the board!!!

Submitted by Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson

GAMES PLUS MORE



Y	U	M	S	K	T	V	G	G	I	C	A	R	Y	T
R	Z	L	J	H	H	C	C	N	Z	B	E	W	C	S
U	C	O	R	N	A	S	Y	E	I	B	T	O	J	E
B	Y	L	C	N	N	R	Y	T	O	F	R	K	Y	V
S	R	X	A	W	K	N	I	T	N	N	F	E	G	R
A	E	D	W	E	S	H	C	N	U	E	K	U	Y	A
H	A	I	N	S	G	O	O	C	G	R	L	A	T	H
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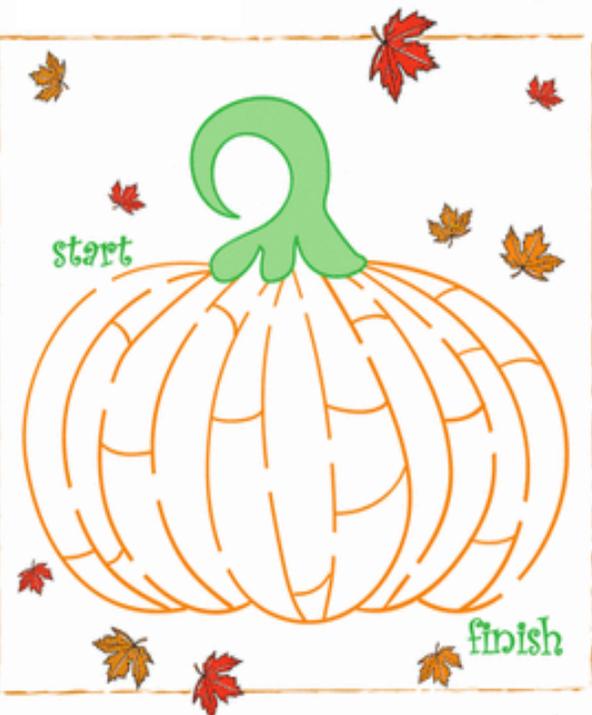
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|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Bounty | Canada | Asbury |
| Corn | Cornucopia | Celebrate |
| God | Harvest | Family |
| October | Pie | Horn |
| Pumpkin | Sharing | Stuffing |
| Thanksgiving | Turkey | West |
| Yams | Plenty | |

Can You Spot the 9 Differences



Pumpkin Maze

Draw a line from the Start to Finish to find your way through this maze.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY



Church School

On September 7, the children met for the first day of the 2014-2015 year. They helped to decorate the Christian Education trifold for the Grand Opening. On September 14, during the Grand Opening Service, they designed a celebration cake which was on display in the upper room after the service. Some of the children also made "It was sweet of you to come" cards with candies attached to hand out that day and for future welcome bags.

Now that we are back in our own church, flannel graph lessons have begun. We started out with the story of Ruth, which will be followed by Samuel, Daniel, and the Christmas story. This method of teaching is very interactive. We all take part in bringing the stories alive with the colourful scenes and figures.

Welcome to Mel Beckles! Mel has stepped up and volunteered to help with the Church School and in particular he is teaching the youth class. Thank you Mel for filling a great need. We are extremely glad to have you.

The nursery is available but lately it has been on an "as needed basis". We hope to get this more organized soon. We are grateful that Janelle Villamayor has agreed to assist. If you would like to help as well, please see Cheryl Holliday.

Dates to mark on your calendar –
 Sunday, December 14 – White Gift Sunday & Pageant
 Sunday, December 21 – Christmas Party

Christian Education

On Sunday, September 21 we held our annual Rev. Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk. The weather in the morning was wet and threatening, but during the service the clouds blew away and the sun came out. It turned out to be a glorious day. A rose, in memory of Doug, was placed on the communion table for the service and given to Heather afterwards.

Before the walk a delicious lunch was served, prepared by Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson and Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen. Thank you girls!!

Approximately 20 people, including Heather, Scott and Peter walked from the church to the Halocaust Memorial in Earl Bales Park. On the way, they passed the old manse where Doug and the family resided. How much money was raised? At the time of this writing \$2,800. Lots more is expected. Thanks to all who walked, to those who did not walk yet raised money, and to all for your generous support.

Confirmation - During the Grand Opening Service, three young people were confirmed into membership. Melissa Nielsen, H.J. Johnson and Derek Campbell had previously attended classes led by Darren. On their day they received a book, entitled "Jesus 24/7" by the Rev. Dr. David Bruce and a rose corsage. Please extend a warm welcome to these three new members!

Cheryl Holliday, Chair

Kids

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HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."



The Young at Heart Seniors met on Thursday, September 11 to set our schedule for the coming four months; in our new home at 31870 Bathurst Street. The following is our schedule:

- Oct 9 - Thanksgiving Potluck and speaker Daniel Rubinoff
- Oct 23 - Movie and Lunch
- Nov 13 - Bingo with prizes
- Nov 27 - Speaker Lisa Hunter; Revera Retirement Living
- Dec 4 - Trip to Burlington
- Dec 11 - Christmas Potluck with entertainment George Heldt

We are hoping that more members of our congregation will join us at our meetings.

Melvyn and Shirley Beckles, Group Contacts



WHY INTERIM ?

When Rev. Douglas McKenzie retired in 2010, presbytery insisted that you hire an Intentional Interim Minister for the next period. Their reasoning was as follows- Doug had been here a long time, 32 years. And yes, although a few congregations have been able to move smoothly from one long term pastorate to another, more often than not the minister find it very difficult to fit into the church. Second, you were going through a major building renovation and it would be helpful to have someone with at least some experience in that to help you go through the trials and tribulations of a building project. Having an Interim Minister was not a penalty, but sometimes it is difficult to let go of the past, deal with trying issues, without causing hurt feelings etc. An Interim allows someone to go in for a bit make some changes, deal with delicate issues, so that a long term pastorate might be more successful in a few years. So at first Carol Gierak was hired and then after her death, Bob Raymont stepped in for a few months, before I started here in September 2011. I was originally appointed for a three year period but this was extended to a 4th year when the building project got delayed.

We are now entering the fourth year of this Interim. And so is a time of transition for both you and myself.

For you, it means that you will need to start the process of looking for a new minister. The Effective Leadership project that members of our board and committees have been discussing since last spring will be an invaluable tool in this search. We know we need a minister who has strong stewardship and outreach skills. We know we need someone who can work with other programs in the church that are working quite well. I feel confident that you as a congregation know who you are now, and know what you can offer to a new minister.

For me it means that I will be leaving you as of June 30th. I don't leave because I want out, I have enjoyed my work here, but rather I leave because I have done the work that I came to do here- lay the seeds for successful ministries to come. I will be looking for another Intentional Interim Ministry in Canada or quite possibly with the Uniting Church in Australia. Both of us immediately fell in love with Australia and feel that maybe this is the next move for us. I am leaving for four weeks now to talk to the synods of New South Wales, Victoria-Tasmania, and Western Australia about future ministry possibilities for me there. See you in November.

Rev. Darren Liepold



MEMBERSHIP AND PASTEROL CARE MINISTRY

We continue to reach out to absentee members. We are encouraging them to return, now that we are back at home at 3180 Bathurst Street. It was a joy to see so many of our former members at our Open House and re-dedication service. We will continue to meet nine times a year. We will try to be in contact with every member, and seek ways to bring new members to this congregation.

Care Link committee continues to keep our at home members up to date with our progress. We send cards regularly, visit and phone calls are made. They are assured that we are here for them, and they can call on us any time.

Ianthe Spencer, Chair



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

"Sharing the Gifts We Have Been Given"

Pledge Campaign

We have much to celebrate in this season of harvest Thanksgiving! We are here in our beautiful new building, we've welcomed the community in our open house and our grand opening service, and even had our successful mini-fall sale. We did it! We're doing it! Thank you, thank you all for your support!

Now we need to take responsibility for our future. Throughout its history, the Christian church has relied on volunteer giving of time, service and financial support as we grow in faith and understanding. Our church building and services are here for people whether or not they attend every week. Costs continue to rise and we need to fulfill our obligations and balance our books.

On October 4th we opened our Pledge Campaign for 2015. Members of the Stewardship Ministry and Council will be visiting each of you during the rest of the month. I hope you will welcome them and make a serious commitment to your church and to the remarkable work of the Mission and Service (M & S) Fund of the United Church of Canada. For more information on M & S be sure to pick up a copy of the booklet "Gifts with Vision" available in the narthex. The Pledge Campaign will wrap up on Pledge Sunday, November 2, 2014. Please pray and think about how you can help your church.

Phoebé Cleverley, Chair



How do things work in the church? How do I get in? Who turns the heat up - or down? The Property Ministry Group are busy learning all these things, among others. We have a new building with modern systems, and they are all connected to computers somehow. Members who are interested in our systems are welcome to ask for some training. It can be an interesting adventure.

While Property Group have the responsibility to give leadership in building matters, we cannot do the job alone. Our church belongs to all of us, and we must all do our part. There are tasks both large and small. How can you help?

Here are three ways to begin:

- Follow recycling procedures; we have to pay for garbage pick-up, but green and blue bins are free, if they are properly used.
- Volunteer to supervise a church rental: it will be like donating \$100 to our church
- Be a good housekeeper so that others can enjoy our beautiful building.

Pauline McKenzie, Chair



FINANCE MINISTRY

Asbury and West United Church went through very difficult financial times during the summer months. It was difficult to pay our staff and even more difficult to pay our utility bills. I believe that all of our families have experienced times when there just was not enough money to go around.

Our Church Family is very fortunate to have had some financial investments. With the permission of South West Presbytery, we cashed in some of those investments to meet the most pressing obligations. Presbytery requires Asbury and West to replace the money we borrowed from our own investments over a period of time.

Finances started to improve in September. We are now receiving rental income from Forest Hill Montessori School and Immanuel Methodist Church; our new tenants. That helps a lot but it is not enough for us to meet all our financial obligations. Our Church Family has a long way to go before we can feel comfortable with our finances. It's easy to understand what must be done. Our revenue must be greater than our expenses. Easy to understand but how do we get to that point? It will take all of us to make it happen. Property Ministry is doing an excellent job with short term rentals. People who see our building are impressed and want to have meetings and parties in our building. This additional rent is very welcome.

The Open House weekend and the Rev. Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk and mini Fall sale also help to improve our financial situation. My thanks

to everyone who helped make these events a success. Please keep up the good work.

Fund raising will be easier now that we are back in our own area and in a building designed for special events. Rent the space for a birthday party. Think of a new fund raising event! Volunteer each time there is an event. Invite your friends and family! These events do more than improve finances; they introduce us to new friends in our community.

Please make every visitor feel welcome! I am proud of the loyalty and dedication of our existing church members. We are already seeing some familiar faces return. Many of our new neighbours are coming to our events and services. It will take time but I am confident that our church family will grow.

Our church family has a lot to be thankful for. We survived three years out of our area and are now safe in our beautiful church home. Let's express our gratitude by generous contributions of our time, talents and treasures. Please give prayerful consideration to joining PAR, the Pre Authorized Remittance program. It makes budgeting easier for both your family and your church. There are pamphlets in the Narthex explaining how easy it is to join. A joyous Thanksgiving to each of you! Thank you for your continuing support.



givethanks

Alan McKenzie, Chair



LOONIE BIN = COPPER KETTLE

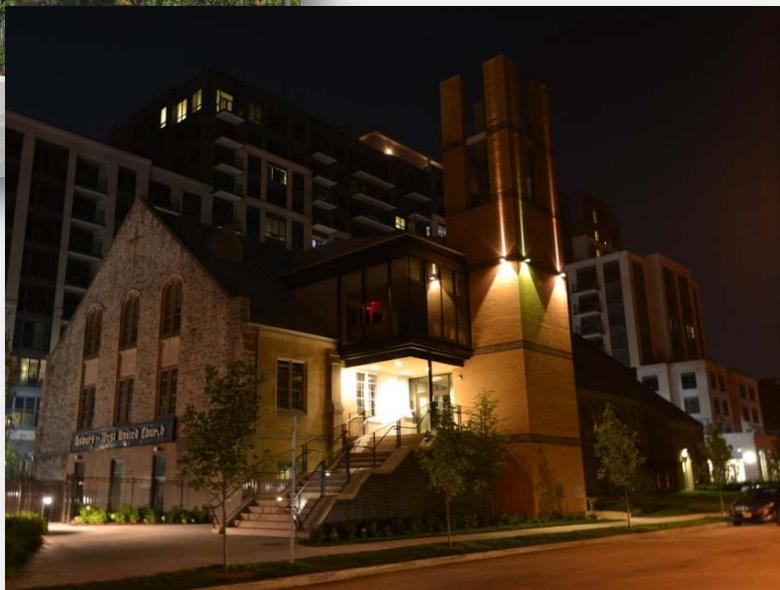
The "Loonie Bin" / "Copper Kettle" contributions are \$296.00 for the current calendar year. This compares to \$444.50 for all of 2013. Lets see if we can surpass last year's amount. Please consider donating your coins every Sunday as you leave the sanctuary. Paper money is also accepted.

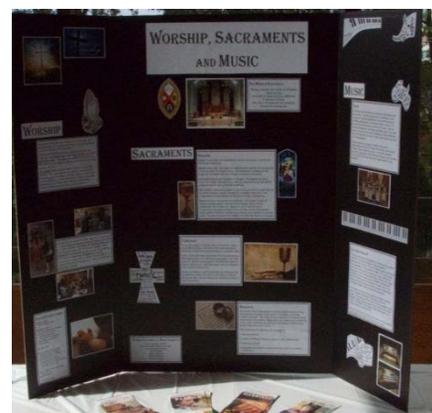


Alan McKenzie, Chair Finance

Asbury and West Grand Opening Weekend

September 13-14, 2014

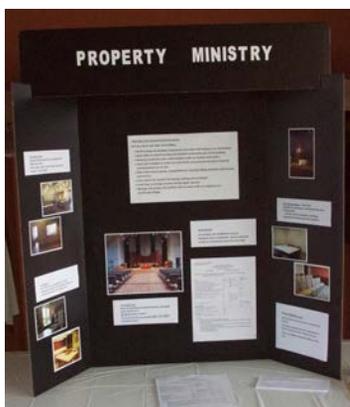




OPEN HOUSE

The Open House weekend of September 6th and 7th was an exciting time. The beautiful display boards along with friendly conversation at each table truly showed the work of our church. The Thank You and Welcome bags were a hit, the special music was memorable, and, as is our tradition, the delicious refreshments were so generously donated by members of the congregation. THANK YOU to each and every one who provided time and talent to co-ordinate and contribute to all the important details for this successful event.

*Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson
Chair, Council*





Rev. Bruce Roffey,
guest speaker



Many gathered for our special service.



Front Porch Harmony



Howard Moore



It was so wonderful to see so many
familiar faces.



Children of the congregation
delivered “Thank You” bags
to honoured guests.



Dan Villamayor



Confirmed into membership: (L to R)
H.J. Johnson, Melissa Nielsen, and
Derek Campbell alongside
Rev. Darren Liepold.



Heather McKenzie presents Joybreak
Life memberships to Irene Fair, Kim
Davidson and Cheryl Holliday



Catherine Smith & Henry MacLeod
Co-Chairs of Southwest Presbytery



Senior Choir lead by our Music
Director, Paolo Busato



Joe Oliver
MP Eglinton Lawrence





Asbury and West United Church

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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

Mildred Franklin

Lilla Jaleel

Evelyn Lyon

Gerry Moore

Helen Smith

Fred Sunahara

Viola Warford

NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday, December 7, 2014
Next Edition – Christmas Sunday, December 21, 2014



POWERFUL

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