

FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

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

June 21, 2015

"The Friendly Church"

Edition 142





THE PASTOR'S PEN

"Th th th th, that's all folks"- Porky Pig

Well it seems hard to believe, but my time with you at Asbury and West is almost over. During the past four years we have done a lot together. We moved in with our Northminster cousins. We celebrated our 200th anniversary. We waited through endless delays to get into our building. We had the ice storm that did what the Grinch was unable to do, it was able to steal Christmas 2013. We had the joys of moving back in. We had the wonderful grand opening service. We have eaten a few meals together. My time with you has been very full and it has been fulfilling. I will take with me many fond memories of bible studies, Seniors' Trips, the laughter, the worship, and many other things. Thank you each one of you for your support during this time.

The role of an Interim minister is four fold really. First you work with the congregation to deal with whatever issue it was facing. For this Interim it was keeping the congregation together as we journeyed in the wilderness. Luckily you were determined to stick together, no matter how long the delay might be. Second, as Interim you help plot the congregation's way forward. You plant many seeds and hope a few spring forward. Time will tell what will germinate. Third you carry out the normal functions of ministry. And fourth, you need to say goodbye. This fourth aspect is never easy, but it is part of being an Interim Minister. My one regret during my time here is that I never got to meet Santa at the Sunday School Christmas Party.

I think Asbury and West is on the edge of great opportunities. Our attendance has grown. New faces are appearing. You have some challenges. But as I was taught when I worked in

Stewardship, God has given us everything we need to survive and thrive. Asbury and West needs to take some risks, needs to promote itself better, needs to learn what strengths it has to offer the community, needs to be willing to change as new people join with you in faith. Also, you need to be kinder to yourself when things don't go smoothly. The Christian church has struggled in one way or the other since day one. Even "the good old days" that some still long for, even those glory days had their various challenges.

I am always reluctant to single out individuals to say thank you to, because I most likely will forget someone. But here a few people warrant special mention. Thank you to Jocelyn who has been a great support as chair of Council. Thank you to members of my steering committee for your words of counsel. Thank you to Paolo, Cate and Alvaro who have been my staff support. Thanks to Council, the ministry groups, and ad hoc committees for being there. And thanks for everyone for your smiles, your encouragement, and your willingness to journey forward. Blessings.

Blessings
Rev. Darren Liepold





SENIOR AND YOUTH CHOIR

The summer is coming fast upon us and the Senior Choir is winding down another year. We've grown this past and now have 10 members in our choir. Our sound is more melodic and consistent every day. The choir is a pleasure to work with.

The Youth Choir started up this past spring with five new members between the ages of 8 and 15. They've made a wonderful start and in the next year we expect to do much more.

We're also delighted to have added instrumentals to both choirs, with Ariadne's beautiful rendition of Chanson Triste on cello in the Senior Choir and Jariah's sweet tuning of Amazing Grace on the violin in the Youth Choir. We look forward to Reverend Daren's final solo, You Raise Me Up at his last service.

As always, the choirs are open to new members so please feel free to contact me if you are interested.

Paolo Busato, Music Director



90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED CHURCH

On June 10, Asbury and West joined United Churches across Canada to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Shown here is Pauline McKenzie ringing our Peace Bell 90 times.



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

We take this opportunity to say 'THANK YOU' to Rev. Darren for his support of Flock Talk over the past four years. We will miss his regularly featured column and the special reports on Presbytery, Conference and the greater church. (He never missed a deadline!)

Rev. Darren it is our wish that you arrive safely, settle in quickly and experience fully all that God has waiting for you.

Jocelyn & Sylvia

P.S. Be sure to add our names to the newsletter email list at your new church.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Founded 1985

We have a question. We have been selling chocolate covered almonds and mint meltaways for the past year. At one time we also sold caramel swirls. Would you like us to continue with these sales, and if so, what do you prefer? The favourite seems to be the chocolate covered almonds but we can order other choices too. Let us know. We are interested in hearing your thoughts. And thank you for your support!

June 22 marked the end of our 29th year and we closed with a pot luck dinner. In October we will celebrate our 30th Anniversary. At that time another life

membership will be presented. Watch for details about this special milestone.

Our first meeting in the fall will be September 28. All women are most welcome to join us.

We want to take this opportunity to wish Darren the best as he ventures off to a new life in Australia. Thank you, Darren, for all your support over the years.

And we wish all of you have a wonderful summer.

Cheryl Holliday, Chair

Sometime in late July you will be able to write to Rev. Darren at:

Rev. Darren Liepold
Neutral Bay Uniting Church
49A Yeo Street
Neutral Bay, NSW 2089
Australia
darrenliepold@gmail.com
Phone number unknown at this time.

Darren's last blog post to the Asbury and West was during the week of June 7th-13th. However if you wish to continue to read his musings, you can follow them at: www.darrenliepold.com

BE SURE TO ATTEND

Sunday June 28th will be Rev. Darren's last Sunday with us. Please be sure to attend the luncheon in his honor immediately following the service.



MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

This Ministry continues to reach out to residents of the community.

We welcomed three new members on Easter Sunday. Lola Pinnock, Ariadne Reid- Campbell, both members of the Choir, and Sharon Wright.

We continue to send cards and follow up on any ill home members. Flowers were taken to home members from the congregation.

Our sympathies went out to the family of Annabelle Paz who was taken from us unexpectedly.

Ianthe Spencer, Chair

MAKING SMALLER FOOTPRINTS

What do you know about "footprints" and have you heard about the United Church "Greening" initiative? As children of the Creator in the twenty-first century, we have begun to realize that the resources of the world are not unlimited; we must use them wisely. We have also begun to know that discarding garbage carelessly can, and does poison the earth. Have you heard that tuna has so much mercury in it that you should not eat a lot of it? Did you know that a community north of Toronto had explosive methane seeping into the basements from an old farm dump? The United Church is working to reduce the impact that we have on the earth - our footprint. This is the Greening of the church.

The greening emphasis at Asbury and West so far has been on recycling. We have been learning the difference between what can go for compost, what can be recycled, and what goes in the garbage. That is an ongoing learning for us, and it is a beginning. However, the most powerful way to care for the earth is REDUCTION. If we do not use things that become garbage or have to go to recycling, then we reduce our footprint. So in order to move us forward, Council has decided to make July 1, 2015, the start of our Green Days.

Effective July 1, nothing can be used in our building except things that are reusable or compostable. This means that disposable plastics, styrofoam, most paper plates and plastic cutlery are no longer going to be used in our church. Our beautiful new kitchen is fully stocked with plates, cups and saucers and cutlery. We will wash dishes by hand or in our new dishwasher that is fast and easy to use.

"Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the earth in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear." (VU 307)



Pauline McKenzie, Property Chair

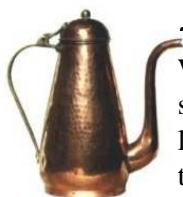
Did you know?

"Compostable" is not the same as "biodegradable."

Items that can go into compost will rot away and turn into soil that can grow food. Biodegradable items will break down into tiny pieces, but not necessarily become soil. It is possible to buy compostable plates and cups made from things like sugar cane. They can go into the compost.

Did you know?

It takes less water to do a load of dishes in a dishwasher, than it does to wash them in the sink.



LOONIE BIN = COPPER KETTLE

We received \$217.50 from the Copper (Coin) Kettle so far this year. Our goal is to raise \$500.00. You can lighten your load by emptying your loose change into the copper kettle. By doing so, you will lighten the financial burden for your church.

Alan McKenzie, Chair Finance

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



CHURCH COUNCIL

On Sunday June 7th a congregational meeting was held at which time the following four motions were passed:

1. Asbury and West United Church seek out a part-time supply minister effective as soon as possible until we are able to call a full-time permanent minister.
2. The following people be named to serve on a search committee for the part-time minister; Lisa Crawford, Kamano Gashoka, Jonathan Francis and Alan McKenzie.
3. Asbury and West United Church seek out a full-time permanent minister to begin as soon as possible.
4. The following people be named to serve on a search committee for the full-time permanent minister; Phoebe Cleverley, Alan McKenzie, Melissa Nielsen, Lola Pinnock, Ariadne Reid-Campbell and Lou Rhoden.

The meeting ended with the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father -

We thank you for the rich history of Asbury and West United Church as shown by the dedicated members and ministers who have served before us. We are grateful for the example they have given.

We thank you for the commitment of the people named today; Alan, Ariadne, Jonathan, Kamano, Lisa, Lola, Lou, Melissa and Phoebe. We are truly grateful for their dedication and passion for our church and for the vision they have for our future. We ask that you give them strength and courage and joy as they carry out their work on our behalf.

Lastly Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us to be patient and understanding with the process of calling a new minister. Guide us to continually give support and encouragement to the members of our search committees and to express our appreciation for their special service. We ask that we be ever mindful to keep our committees in our prayers and that we must trust in them as we put our trust in you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next Steps - What Happens Now?

The process of calling new mister involves a whole new procedure and we are working on the forms that must be completed and submitted. The documents include such things as Demographic, Financial & Community Profile, Ministry & Mission Profile, Ministry Position Description and Request to Declare a Vacancy. Once the documents have been submitted and Toronto Conference and Presbytery approve, a liaison will be appointed to guide and support our search committees.

In the meantime, the members of our Worship, Sacrament and Worship Ministry are planning our summer services (and perhaps a bit beyond) which will include special music Sundays, lay speakers and Sunday Supply Ministers. This will be the format until a part-time minister is appointed and subsequently a call is made for a Full-time Permanent Minister.

As always, any questions, comments or suggestions you may have are always welcome.

Blessings,
Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, Chair, Council

MINISTRY GROUPS and COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS
Chair: Vacancy

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

MISSION AND OUTREACH
Chair: Vacancy

PROPERTY
Chair: Pauline McKenzie

STEWARDSHIP
Chair: Phoebe Cleverley

WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC
Co-Chairs: Lynsia Panthaki and Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Chair: Cheryl Holliday

MEMORIAL Committee
Cheryl Holliday, Darren Liepold, David Tuck

RENOVATION Committee
Chair: Alan McKenzie

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE
Sheila Mascoll



OUTSTANDING!

Congratulations to Cheryl Holliday and Kim Davidson on being nominated by Rev. Darren Liepold and the Asbury and West Council to receive an **Outstanding Volunteer Award**. For the past 6 years, this award has been presented by Mike Colle, M.P.P. for the Eglinton-Lawrence area to volunteers who donate countless hours making a difference in the lives of others through their work in a variety of local charities and churches. Cheryl and Kim have worked in children's ministry for over 40 and over 30 years respectively. The award ceremony was held at Villa Colombo on June 11, 2015.



CARE LINK

We continue to be in touch with our Home Members. They are Cecil Anderson, Myra Badley, George Breen, Joyce Bullock, Fredrica Cameron, Bea Cares, Betty, Fred Enta, Mildred Franklin, Evelyn Lyons, Gerri Moore, Helen Smith, Fred Sunahara, and Viola Warford.

Sadly Lila Jaleel is no longer with us and some of us attended her funeral.

Special thank you to the Rev. Darren Liepold for his knowledge, and guidance to this Ministry. May God continue to bless you, and hold you in his loving arms.

Ianthe Spencer, Chair

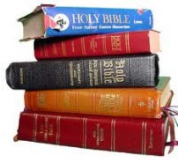
YARD SALE

The yard sale was held on June 6th and what a great day it was! The weather couldn't have been better for our first sale back in our new church. A **BIG "Thank You"** goes out to all of you that donated items, helped sort and were on deck the day of the sale. It was a huge success!! Total amount raised for the day was \$1,096.70!!



Happy
Father's
Day

KERALA
Baba CHA
Papai PAPI
Aba DAD Vati
Papa Faija
Isä Achan
OTOUSAN



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Next Sunday we will say goodbye to Rev. Darren. We want to thank him for his storytelling, for his special contribution at Christmas, for his leadership in adult studies, and for his support of the Church School and the Christian Education program over these past few years. We wish him well in his new life and church in Australia. God bless.

Church School

Last Sunday was our closing for the season. During the service the children received small gifts recognizing their participation, and the teachers and helpers were thanked for their support and dedication to the Church School program. During church time the children enjoyed games and prizes. Afterwards we all gathered for a hot dog and ice cream lunch sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry Group.

The KidsForChrist:SummerEdition (KFC:SE) program will start on July 5 and run for 10 Sundays until September 6. Each Sunday the children will hear one story from the book "The Painted Trunk and Other Stories, A Children's History of the United Church of Canada". We are looking for volunteers to help with the teaching so if you can help, please sign the KFC:SE roster located on the bulletin board in the back hall.



Church School resumes on September 13.

May you and your family enjoy a fun and safe summer.

Cheryl Holliday and Staff

Coming Soon!!

Watch and listen for announcements
about the upcoming

Rev. Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk.
Mark your calendars now for September 20.

FATHER'S DAY POEM

by Jonathan Francis

The love of a father
Protects me like no other

The significant other
To a passionate mother

Taught me to be brave
To obey and behave

Showed me how to shave
I was dark like a cave

I thank God everyday
For the father I have

I'm content and I'm glad
Grateful he's my dad

What would our life be, without our
father's instruction
We would lead to destruction, not
able to function

This day is a day
To show love and to pray

To thank God for the way
That our fathers were made

As the days go on and time passes by
Let us laugh, love & smile with our
fathers at our side.

Happy Father's Day

Jesus said to him, "I am
the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through me." John 14:6

GAMES PLUS MORE

WKQPSYHSPORTYH
WNWRLXUWPHHONOK
DGUZTYQQEWLNWLWV
GLSINKUOLDTEACHER
IILQFBRABEREADSLLL
ESEYO
STNGO
WEHNT
GNHYB
BEEGA
FRLIL
IVPXL
XEFIE
DIUSR
GXLZE
DADDY
GDQBP
EPCVJ
XXKF
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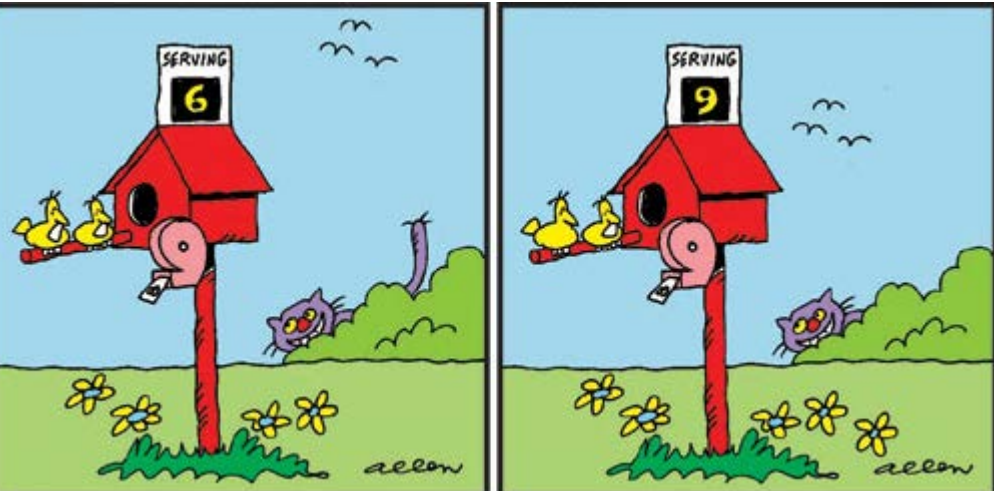
Word Search

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| Dad | Football | Teacher |
| Father | Barbecues | Swimmer |
| Daddy | Brave | Driver |
| Loving | Sporty | Cook |
| Kind | Gardener | |
| Helpful | Listener | |
| Playful | Reads | |

Kite Fun!

Use crayons to find out who is flying the kites. For more fun use a green crayon for the green kite, the red crayon for the red kite, the blue crayon for the blue kite and the yellow crayon for the yellow kite.

Spot the 5 Differences





FINANCE MINISTRY

Money and finances are a critical part of the life of any family and this is certainly true for our church family. As we approach the end of our first year back in our renovated building, we know our beautiful building is expensive to operate. During the first four months of 2015, we spent \$22,750.00 more in our day-to-day operation than we took in from all sources of revenue. Although we have reduced some of our debt we still owe \$267,700.00. We always keep a close eye on expenses but many of them cannot be control or reduced.

The future of our finances depend on our ability to increase revenue as well as control expenses. The members of the Finance Ministry have an ongoing request for your help and commitment to increase revenue. As in the past, suggestions include increase your donation of time, talent and finances, participate in PAR givings, encourage new members to join our

church, assist with short-term rental supervision, support the Rev. Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk in the fall, donations to the Copper Kettle & Canadian Tire money and the sales of our church pin, cookbook and chocolates. We also ask that you be creative in thinking outside the box for fund raising initiatives such as small group meetings, new rental opportunities, lecture series, concert performances. All ideas are welcome no matter how humble the concept.

The June 6th Yard Sale raised \$1096.70 (less cost of sign) and donations are still coming in. The Stewardship Ministry recently launched our 'Tame The Debt Dragon' campaign and immediately members responded. We are grateful for your support and thank you for your ongoing commitment to our church. Please continue to give generously to help lighten our financial burden.

Alan McKenzie, Chair



The Young at Heart seniors continue to meet and our programs included the following activities:

A movie about an Australian family group living adjacent to an airport and the fight to remain when they are asked to move.

February brought the theme of Black History month and we had a pot luck lunch with guest pianist Don Guinn. Don grew up in the church and his parents, Joan and Joe, were very active members.

During March we visited Roy Thompson Hall for a noon concert featuring the Viva Youth Singers, the North Toronto Collegiate Institute Senior Choir and String Ensemble.

Our Easter movie was The Robe with Richard Burton and Jean Simmons; a terrific classic. April 23rd brought guest speaker Lynne Gallagher from Family Services Toronto.

The spring meeting on May 20th was our motor coach trip to Ancaster and Hamilton to view the hidden waterfalls in the area and enjoy a delicious lunch at the Ancaster Mill. The trip ended with a visit to the Devil's Punch Bowl Falls and the Lighted Cross.

Melvyn and Shirley Beckles, Group Contacts

BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE

It is hard to believe that we have been back in our renovated building for a year. During that time, the building has been under warranty so most minor repairs were completed and paid for by the construction company. As with any new building we found some deficiencies but Kembic Construction have been diligent in correcting them. From now on, we are on our own if repairs are required and the Property Ministry is assuming responsibility for the maintenance of the building.

There are a few outstanding expenses that should be covered by the remaining funds in the Building Renovation Account. When the last of the purchases are completed, the account will be closed and any remaining balance will be used to reduce our debts. We anticipate this to be done by early Fall 2015 at which the work of the Building Renovation Committee will be completed.

Once again, thank you to all who have worked so hard to ensure a church home of which we can be proud.



Alan McKenzie, Chair



PROPERTY MINISTRY

Safe and Sound

Our safety and security are of utmost importance. Unfortunately there have been several instances when the building was not properly locked or the alarm was not properly set after our groups left the building. We have a modern security system that is designed to keep everything safe and protect our building structure and equipment, audio visual equipment and furnishings. The security procedure also keeps the people safe and sound. So far we have been lucky with nothing damaged or stolen. Please consider it to be your personal responsibility to make sure that the premises are properly secured before you leave. If you have not yet received security system training, or if you feel you need a quick refresher, please speak to a member of the Property Ministry.

Pauline McKenzie, Chair

"NO EXCUSE SUNDAY!"

BE STRONGER
THAN YOUR
EXCUSES

To make things possible for everyone to attend church, next Sunday will be a special 'No Excuse Sunday'! Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say "Sunday is my only day to sleep in." There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel the "Pews are too hard". Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching late night TV. We will have steel helmets for those who say "The roof will cave in if I ever come to church". Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold and fans for those that who say it too hot. Score cards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present. Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner too. We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those who feel the church is always asking for money. One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to "seek God in the nature". Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday. The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church without them. We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the preacher and cotton for those who can.

Editors' Note - See you next Sunday - No Excuses!!!

*Author Unknown, Take from Joyful Noise Letter
Submitted by Yvonne Wilson*



Asbury and West United Church

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

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Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen (905-770-7457)

Flock Talk Editors

jocelynandharvey@gmail.com / 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

Mildred Franklin

Evelyn Lyon

Gerry Moore

Helen Smith

Fred Sunahara

Viola Warford



NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday, September 27, 2015
Next Edition – Thanksgiving Sunday, October 11, 2015



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