
FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

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

June 17, 2012

“The Friendly Church”

Edition 131



This is my Father's world

THE PASTOR'S PEN

Without doubt, I am a summer baby. As long as my bedroom is cool at night, I love the warm hazy days of summer. Things move at a quieter pace. The meetings stop for a while. I get to go travelling and love to take photographs of flowers and gardens. I get to reflect on the past church year and make plans for the year to come. It is good to have these quieter times.

Summer time is magical. When we were children it meant that we had two whole months off. Two months away from the routine of school. Two months of less rigid bed times, more time to play, more time to discover. Very few adults get two months off. Maybe teachers and retirees get two months off, but most of us have shorter periods of vacation time. But still things are less formal, less busy. Summer is a time to take a bit of time to relax.

Summer is also the time of great growing. If the spring was just right and if we get the right balance of sun and rain, we get to see blossoms

everywhere. Fruit begins to appear on trees. Corn begins to grow in the fields. It is a miraculous time of growth.

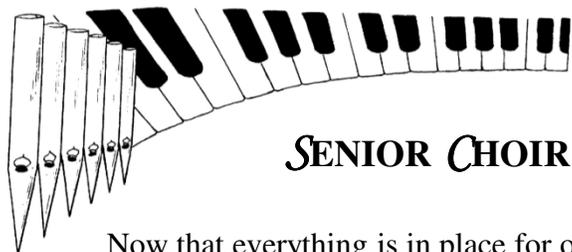
Maybe that is what we need to do this summer. We need to have time to relax, to think, to play, to grow. We need to put aside our rigid routines. We might reconnect with nature. We might think about our place in God's world. The busy routines that make up the rest of our lives will return in September. But until then, we can just put up our feet, read a book, grow, think, become more casual and it is just fine.

May you find this summer time a period of relaxation. And let's all rest up for the busy year that is to come.

Amen.

Rev. Darren Liepold





SENIOR CHOIR

Now that everything is in place for our renovations, the members of the Asbury and West Choir will be looking to raise funds to add to the William R. Shewalter Memorial Organ Fund. The fund is now at \$35,168.47. We are looking at the cost for a new organ of \$70,000. So please help us to raise this amount with your generous donations.

*Mel Beckles
Choir President*



Founded 1985

We are very proud of our little group and have good times together while learning and serving the church and community. Our last meeting for this season is this month and we are looking forward to our closing BBQ at the home of Irene Fair. We will start up again in the fall on Monday, September 24.

At this time we would like to extend our sympathies to Irene, Lynn, Luke, Andrew and Nicholas Fair at the loss of Irene's brother, Peter Czulinski. We also hold in our thoughts Peter's wife, Heidi, and their three children. May God grant them peace and comfort during this difficult time.

We also extend our congratulations to the UCW on their 50th Anniversary. It was the UCW of Asbury and West that encouraged and supported Joybreak's decision to start a group for younger women (at the time), and we are very thankful for their continuing support these last 26 years. We look forward to more opportunities to work together as we journey on the path of women's ministry together.

On behalf of all Joybreak members have a safe and happy summer.

*Cheryl Holliday
Contact*



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Wishing you and your family a sunny and safe summer. Be sure to wear your sunscreen.

Jocelyn & Sylvia



WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC MINISTRY

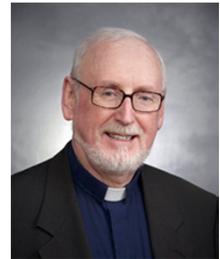
While we still continue to share our services with Northminster, there are going to be more Sundays in the future when we will be worshipping "just by ourselves." The Northminster congregation will be worshipping at Newtonbrook for the month of July, then as the time grows closer for amalgamation they will spend more time at the Cummer building. Those dates will be announced as they are confirmed.

Time is will go faster as we see the renovations going ahead. We have planning to do for our worship services when we arrive at our own, remodeled home. Any member of the congregation who would like to be a part of the planning is very welcome to join the Worship Group. Please speak to Darren Liepold or Pauline McKenzie, or just come when the meetings are announced.

Pauline McKenzie
Chair

Mark your calendars and get ready for an Asbury and West Family Fundraising event ...

The Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk Sunday, September 23, 2012



Sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry and Church School.

Come out and participate in this tribute to Doug by helping to support the church he so loved.

The walk will start and end at Northminster United. On the route we will pay our respects to Doug by visiting the place where he is resting - in a beautiful columbarium at York Cemetery.

The route and sponsor sheets are available on the table in the hallway. Please sign up to walk and get as many supporters as possible. If you cannot walk, please be generous in your sponsorship of other walkers. Receipts for donations \$20 and over.

A light lunch will be served at the church before the walk.

Cheryl Holliday



"UNITED WE STAND" (Sermon preached on Sunday, June 10, 2012)

The passage was Mark 3: 20-25. In this passage Jesus tells the scribes and the Pharisees that he is only able to do the work of God because he is united with God. Jesus' mother and brothers come out and try to stop Jesus. He is too dedicated to his work and people are going to start talking. Jesus tells his family, that only those who work with him are his true family.

In this reading, Jesus is not saying that all people should be alike. The disciples were chosen because they had different gifts and abilities which complemented one another. Jesus wasn't looking for a bunch of yes men who would always be following him around like lap dogs. Rather, Jesus was looking for 12 followers who would grow in their faith by sharing their differences, learning from the other, and developing a new enriched faith.

This past weekend, I was a panelist at an event held for youth and young adults who were considering different leadership roles that they could take in the church. I spoke with three other clergy who shared their stories of how they came to be in ministry. One of the clergy had started out as a physical education teacher. Another had sold insurance. Another had been a musical therapist and a teacher. I wanted to be an opera singer. Some of us grew up in the United Church, some of us grew up in other churches, and some came to the church late in life. Some had had their call recognized by others while others discovered their calls by themselves. All of us came from different walks of life. All of us brought different gifts to the church. Yet all of us have been called to serve in ministry despite our differences.

In 1925 our United Church was born. I heard the Rev. Bruce McLeod preach at the 85th anniversary service held at Islington United Church. He said that in one way 85 years is a long time. Much has changed. But in terms of God, 85 years, or even 200 years, is a very short blink of an eye. 85 years ago, people from different denominations put aside their differences and decided to follow God with a United voice. That does not mean that we always agreed. There have been times when we have had serious disagreements in the church. Yet, Rev. McLeod said that what was important was that despite our differences we have learned to work together.

This is what we need to do as a congregation. We come from different walks of life. We have unique experiences and unique beliefs. We will never be exactly on the same page. But if we strive to work together then we will be truly united. If we realize we are all children of God and learn to respect our differences we might thrive.

Rev. Darren Liepold

**"Together
We Can"**





The Young at Heart Seniors continue with their program; on May 10th George Heldt a pianist entertained us and we are looking forward to a bus trip on June 12th to a Lavender farm in Niagara region with lunch in Niagara Falls; we will end the session with a picnic in Earl Bales Park on June 28th.

Shirley and I hope that you all will have a good summer, and are hoping that other members of the congregation will join us in September for the fall program.

*Melvyn and Shirley Beckles
Committee Contacts*



Kids

Corner

Grades, The Bible, and A Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car." The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut." The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair." The father replied, "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

FATHER'S DAY TRIVIA

- The idea of Father's Day was conceived in Spokane, Washington by Sonora Dodd while she listened to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909.
- Dodd (now known as "the mother of Father's Day") wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who was left to raise his six children on a farm.
- The following year, June 19, 1910 was chosen for the first Father's Day celebration, proclaimed by Spokane's mayor because it was the month of William Smart's birth.
- Decades later, the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers was issued in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Father's Day has been celebrated annually since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent.
- Father's Day is the fourth most popular card-sending holiday in the world after Christmas, Valentine's Day and Mother's Day.
- Father's Day is celebrated at different times around the world. In Thailand it falls on December 5; in Australia and New Zealand it's observed on the first Sunday of September.
- Just as the carnations are regarded as the symbolic and traditional flower of Mother's Day, the very beautiful and king of all flowers rose was selected as the official flower for Father's Day. It is said that Ms. Sonora Louise Smart Dodd, the founder of Father's Day Festival, gave the idea of choosing Rose as the traditional flower of Father's Day. Traditionally, if the person is wearing red rose, it symbolizes the person's father is alive. Likewise, white rose means that the person's father has passed away.



WHAT MAKES A DAD?

God took the strength of a mountain,
 The majesty of a tree,
 The warmth of a summer sun,
 The calm of a quiet sea,
 The generous soul of nature,
 The comforting arm of night,
 The wisdom of the ages,
 The power of the eagles in flight,
 The joy of a morning in spring,
 The faith of a mustard seed,
 The patience of eternity,
 The depth of a family need,
 Then God combined these qualities,
 And there was nothing more to add,
 He knew his masterpiece was complete,
 And He called it – Dad.

Author unknown



INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY 101

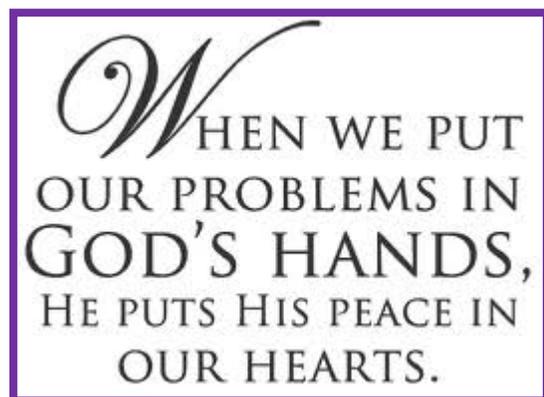
I think many of you know that I am appointed here as an Intentional Interim Minister here at Asbury and West. What is the difference between being a regular duly called minister and being an Intentional Interim Minister you might ask? And why does Asbury have an Interim Minister right now.

Intentional Interim Ministers are placed in a congregation that is going through a period of great change. Normally they are ministers who have a great deal of training in helping congregations go through change. The Interim might be placed in a congregation for one of four reasons. The congregation might be going through a major project. The congregation might have gone through a severe trauma. The congregation might have had one minister for a long time and needs to find out who it is before calling a permanent minister. Or there might be a lot of internal strife in the congregation. I am happy to report that your congregation has not had a lot of strife. But Doug was here for 32 years. A new minister might find that difficult to fit in. You have gone through grief in that both Doug and Carol died and you are temporarily living with our kind relatives at Northminster. And you are going through a major renovation. So presbytery in its wisdom said that you should have an Intentional Interim Minister and I was chosen to journey with you.

Intentional Interim Ministers work with a transition committee made up of members of the congregation and two presbytery representatives. Members of our committee are Jocelyn Shewalter Patterson, Cheryl Holliday, Pauline McKenzie, Mel Beckles, Lou Rhodden, and the Rev. Sheila Campbell and Mr. Steve Lee from presbytery. This committee meets regularly to set goals for the Interim and then to see how these goals are being met.

For the Interim at Asbury and West the following 9 goals were established:

- † Assist the congregation to go through their grief: over loss of building, loss of two ministers, uncertainty during time of transition
- † Assist volunteers in their endeavours to get the building project from point a to point z
- † Provide a sense of hope through communications vehicles
- † Look at ministry options once we enter the new building. Planting seeds now for ministries we would like to begin. Identifying and celebrating congregation's identity.
- † Assisting the congregation to deal with human resources needs in their new Council ministry group structure. Providing support for committees to carry out their mandate under new structure
- † Work with ministry groups to firm up guidelines for weddings, baptism, benevolent fund etc.
- † Assist congregation in stewardship structures.
- † Assist congregation in organizing 200th Anniversary celebration in 2012
- † Carrying out normal ministry functions.



INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY 101 (continued)

The committee meets regularly to see how we are doing in meeting these goals and what our next steps should be. We also have a timeline in how we should proceed with this work. Of course our building project has delayed a few of the items but here was the timeline presented in September to the Transition team to give you some idea.

Timeline

September-December 2011

Introduction of Interim Ministry

Getting to know each other

Working through the building project

Dealing with grief

Hoarding up November 2011

Hazmat and demolition of 1899 and 1951 building

Jan 2012-April 2012

Visioning- who do we want to be when we get back home

Plotting our course

Celebrating our anniversary

May 2012-August 2012

Irene's sabbatical

Establishing our new identity

Firming up our mission identity and foci

Sept 2012- February 2013

Completion of building project

Preparing to move back into the building

Making sure that everyone is singing from the same song book- establishing our purpose, our vision, our goals when we go back to 3180 and helping people to own them

March 2013- June 2013

Adjusting to being back home

Making vision of mission come to a reality

Assessing the costs: new building, the project, the people time, who did not journey with us

Looking at the gains: new building, new people new vision

July 2013-December 2013

Assisting the work of the JNAC process.

Surveys, data, writing reports

January 2014 - vacancy ready to be declared.

Establish joint search committee

February 2014 - Ready to begin interviews

March 2014 - Ready to issue call

April 2014 - June 2014 Wrapping up of interim

July 2014 - New minister begins successful call at Asbury and West.

Over the next months you will be taking part in some workshops to firm up some of our work in these goals.

Should you have any questions about Intentional Interim Ministry or the work of the Transition committee please contact either Darren, Pauline, Cheryl, Mel, Jocelyn, or Lou.

Rev. Darren Liepold





LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE (LRPC)

Renovation of our church building at 3180 Bathurst Street should start mid June. Kembic Construction General Contractors were the successful bidders on our construction tender. Our church building is empty and ready for renovations to start. Kembic estimates that it will take 45 weeks to complete their portion of the work. It will probably take a few more weeks to load up the renovated building with our new furniture and get ready to move back in. I can hardly wait!

Our new church building will be a blending of new elements with the old. The outside of the building received heritage designation and cannot be changed. The inside of the renovated building will include a modern daycare in the basement. Our sanctuary, offices and a small meeting room will be on the main floor and there will be a kitchen and large meeting room on the extended balcony which will become our second floor. There will be underground parking next door. There will be an impressive new main entrance facing Saranac Boulevard to the north. We will have an elevator. The building will be far more accessible for those with mobility issues. There will be a wheel chair lift from the parking area to the ground floor. Black and

Moffat have designed the building to make the best use of the available space. The Sanctuary will have chairs that hook together to make pews, making that space far more versatile if we want to change the seating. We will have a large, newly landscaped front lawn which will be fenced in so that the daycare can use it as play space.

Great progress is being made on Cranbrooke Village who will be our new neighbours. They have dug down 3 storeys for the underground parking. They will be pouring concrete soon and expect to be at ground level by September 2012 and their goal is to move in during the fall of 2013.

We still have many challenges to overcome but the biggest is finding the money we need to complete the renovations. We will need to raise \$330,000.00 in order to complete the renovations. Our committee met with Councillor Josh Colle and MPP Mike Colle to ask for their assistance and advice. We are also applying for grants. We need your financial assistance. Please consider a generous donation to our building fund.

*Alan McKenzie
Chair*



COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Our group has not formally met in a couple of months due to the heavy schedule of other goings-on in the life of the church. However, we will meet one more time before the summer to plan and "tweak" some things for the congregation in the Autumn. We are looking forward to seeing pictures and watching DVDs of what we, as a congregation, have been up to for the last few months. The 200th Anniversary, the UCW's 50th Anniversary Celebration preparations, the church renovations, and many other things, will be represented.

We welcome any and all inquiries, concerns, and suggestions!

Lisa Crawford
Chair

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

It is hard to believe that we have been worshipping with Northminster United Church for almost a year. We are truly blessed to have been so warmly welcomed into the Northminster family. We will soon be celebrating the 1st anniversary of our church Council. Again, we are blessed. I say a sincere "Thank You" to all the members of each Ministry Group for their dedicated work during the year.

When I was growing up I asked my Father, the late William R. Shewalter, why we had to go to church in the summertime. He told me that the Devil did not take the summer off, therefore, neither should we. If you will be attending church throughout the summer, please consider assisting with one or more of the meaningful practices observed each Sunday. Refer to the chart below and speak to the responsible Chair or simply sign up on the sheets in the hallway.

I wish you all a safe and happy summer. Blessings.

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson,
Chair

Practice	Ministry Group	Chair
Greeting	Hospitality	Lou Rhoden
Ushering	Worship, Sacraments and Music	Pauline McKenzie
Teaching Church School	Christian Education	Cheryl Holliday
Scripture Reading	Worship, Sacraments and Music	Pauline McKenzie
Music	Worship, Sacraments and Music	Pauline McKenzie
Serving Goodies	Hospitality	Lou Rhoden

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Church School:

We are at the end of the 2011-2012 season and we have enjoyed a full year of learning and outreach activities. We just celebrated our closing on June 3 with recognitions, games and food.

Coming up very soon is the **Kids for Christ: Summer Edition** program:

July 1 – September 2: This summer program is open to all children ages 5-12 and will take place during the sermon time. Materials are provided. Please sign the pink sheet on the Church School bulletin board if you can help. One or two volunteers are needed for each Sunday. The nursery room will be open throughout the summer.

Church School will commence in the fall on September 9.

Youth Class:

Just recently the youth sponsored a “Muffins for Mom” breakfast and picture taking session. This was highly successful and we thank the young people for joining with the congregation in this fun activity. Wendy Jang continues to lead a wonderful group of teens – there are about 13-14 members – Good Job!!!

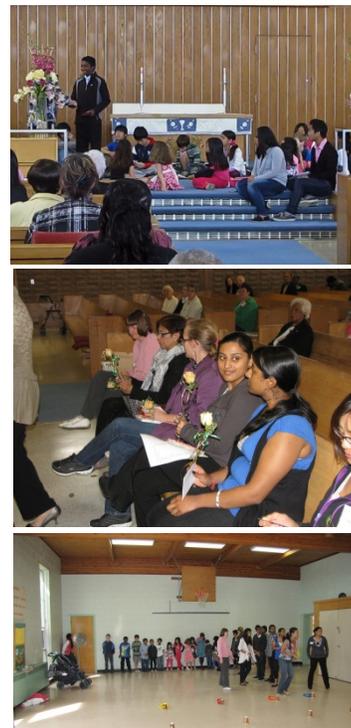
Adult Studies:

Rev. Darren held a very informative 5-week session on World Religions. Nine to ten people came out every Monday to broaden their understanding of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Confucianism and Taoism.

We have regretfully accepted Alan McKenzie’s resignation as Nursery School Co-ordinator, effective September 9. This was not an easy decision for him, and we are saddened by it. But we are so grateful to him for his many, many years of dedication and service, and for all he has done to start hundreds of little ones on their journey of faith. Alan, we wish you well. We are now looking for one or two people to take on this important position. If you feel that coordinating the nursery is an area in which you would like to serve, please speak to Cheryl Holliday.

Wishing you a wonderful summer.

*Cheryl Holliday
Chair*



Jesus Loves The Little Children...



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 18:14

GAMES PLUS MORE



Famous Men of the Old Testament

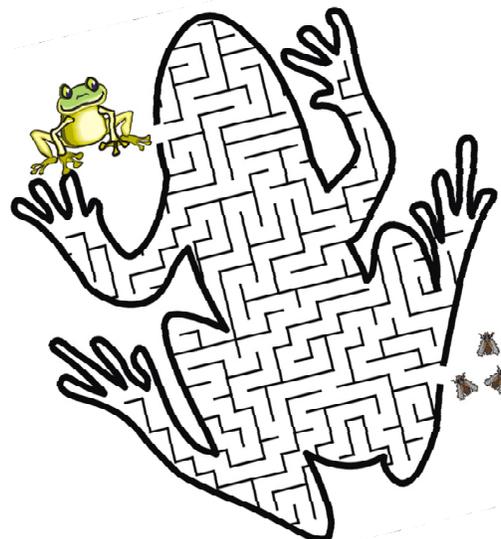
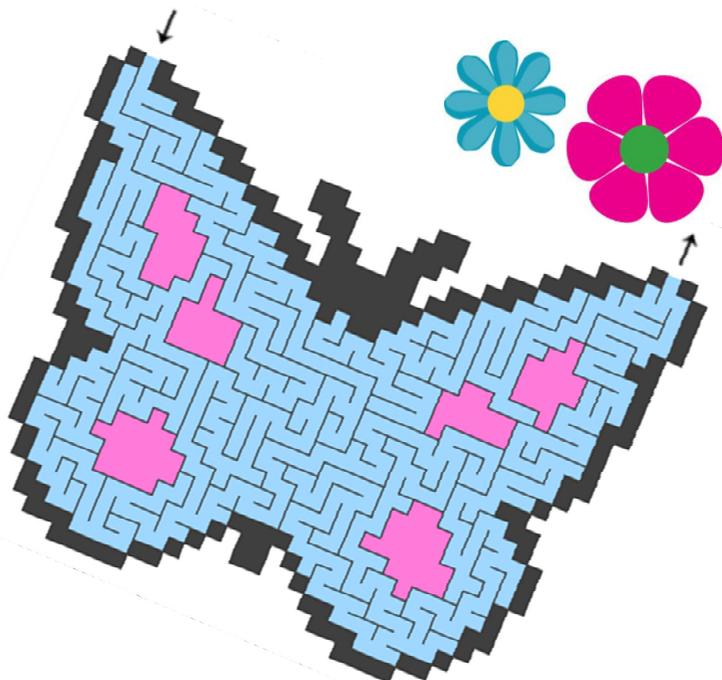
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C	Y	R	U	S	L	T	H	A	U	R	A	O	J	E
G	I	D	E	O	N	A	L	A	B	T	H	S	A	B
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- | | |
|---------|----------|
| AARON | JACOB |
| ABEL | JEREMIAH |
| ABNER | JOB |
| ABRAHAM | JONAH |
| ADAM | JOSEPH |
| BAALAM | JOSHUA |
| CAIN | JUDAH |
| CALEB | LEVI |
| CYRUS | LOT |
| DANIEL | MORDECAI |
| DARIUS | MOSES |
| DAVID | NATHAN |
| ELIJAH | NEHEMIAH |
| ELISHA | NOAH |
| ENOCH | SAMSON |
| EZEKIEL | SAMUEL |
| GIDEON | SAUL |
| GOLIATH | SHADRACH |
| ISAAC | SHEM |
| ISAIAH | SOLOMON |
| ISHMAEL | SIMEON |



After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 35



SPENDING WISELY

Imagine that you had won the following prize in a contest. Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400.00 in your private account for your use.

However, this prize has rules, just as any game has certain rules. The first set of rules would be:

Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you. You may not simply transfer money into some other account. You may only spend it.

Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400.00 for that day. The second set of rules:

The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, It's over, the game is over! It can close the account and you will not receive a new one. What would you personally do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all people you love, right? Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every cent, and use it all, right?

ACTUALLY this GAME is REALITY! Each of us is in possession of such a magical bank. We just can't seem to see it.

The MAGICAL BANK is TIME! Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life, and when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is NOT credited to us.

What we haven't lived up that day is forever lost. Yesterday is forever gone. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time...WITHOUT WARNING. SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds..

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars.

Think about that, and always think of this. Enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think. So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life and start spending.

Unknown



FINANCE MINISTRY

“May you live in interesting times”! These are certainly interesting times for Asbury and West United Church. We are excited that renovations are about to start on our church home at 3180 Bathurst Street. We are enjoying our time with Northminster United Church and thank them for their hospitality but there is no place like home.

Our financial challenges are interesting to say the least. We have been out of our own building for almost a year and there is no rental income from our tenants. We need to pay Northminster United Church rent during our stay with them. It is difficult for us to operate special fund raising programs while we are out of our own building. We need money! During the first three months of 2011, our expenditures exceeded our income

by \$38,000.00. We received payment for the land that we sold but all of that and more will be needed to complete the renovations.

Can you help? Please consider a generous donation to Asbury and West United Church. Will you be away during the summer? Please consider switching to the Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) program for your weekly offering. It is easy, saves you time and makes it easier to manage the Congregation’s finances. Would you like to donate to the Building Renovation Fund? Just cut out the form below and send it to us along with your donation.

Thank you for your generosity.

*Alan McKenzie
Chair*

“Serving the Bathurst and Lawrence Community since 1812”

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount of donation: \$ _____

Current members of the congregation: envelope # please (_____)

Please direct my gift to:

- () Building fund
- () Organ Fund
- () Stained Glass Window Maintenance
- () Other _____

Tax receipts will be issued for gifts of \$20 or more.





Asbury and West Celebrates 200 Years



ASBURY AND WEST UNITED CHURCH 1812 - 2012



MINISTERS

Asbury

Rev. Ernest C. Moddle	1931 – 1939
Rev. Garnet Lynd	1939 – 1947

West

Rev. Dr. J. A. Turnbull	1891 – 1921
Unknown	1921 – 1924
Rev. R.S. Johnston	1924 – 1933
Rev. W.J. Munford	1933 – 1943
Rev. Harold Vernon	1943 – 1947

Asbury and West

Rev. Harold Vernon	1947
Rev. W. D. Stenlake	1947 – 1953
Rev. Dr. Gordon C. Hunter	1953 – 1967
Rev. John K. Moffat	1967 – 1978
Rev. R.G. Davison	1959 – 1970
Minister of Visitation/Emeritus	
Rev. Douglas G. McKenzie	1978 – 2010
Rev. Dr. Carol Gierak	2010 – 2011
Rev. Robert Raymont	2011
Rev. Darren Liepold	2011 –

DATES OF INTEREST

Asbury

1812 - Meeting in farm houses and log school house. Mulholland began to clear land for place of worship on his farm

1845 - Frame church erected called Asbury after Francis Asbury

1898 - Church destroyed by fire

1899 - Brick church built at a cost of \$2,400 plus free labour

1917 - Asbury became part of Downsview Circuit

1925 - Asbury came into union as part of United Church of Canada

West

1855 - West started as Sunday School in Temperance Hall at Queen and Spadina

1861 - Frame church erected at Dennison and Wellesley known as West Presbyterian

1880 - Church replaced by brick church

1912 - Fine new church built at College Street and Montrose Avenue

1925 - West joined by Chalmers and later by Clinton to form West United Church

Asbury and West

1947 - Asbury and West joined together on March 30

1951 - New church completed with brick church incorporated

1958 - Present sanctuary dedicated on April 20

1964 - Burning of Mortgage, November 15

1975 - New organ installed-50th Anniversary of the United Church

1987 - 175th Anniversary

2012 - 200th Anniversary



OUR PRESENT PASTOR

*...the silence was broken when God sang the song.
Hymn # 248 verse 2, When Long Before Time, Peter Davison*

Two hundred years is a very long time. Our world is very much different from the world of 1812. Think of all the inventions that have been made in the past 200 years- the telephone, the car, the internet. Think of the different ways that people travel now that they could only dream about before- on space ships, planes, and cars. Think of how our city has changed- from being a small outpost in the middle of a vast forest to being the cosmopolitan world city that it is today. The world has changed a great deal in these 200 years.

Our church has changed a great deal in the past 200 years as well. We have had many building projects over the ages. We have sung new hymns, come to new understandings of our faith, grown through the working with global partners, answered calls for justice, tried to right old wrongs, tried to preserve old traditions, and sought out ways to find new leaders to take on important responsibilities in the church. The church is a lively and vital place. Our United Church came to birth some 87 years ago, blending the best of Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational traditions. Asbury and West is an amalgamation from 1947. Asbury and West United Church has become more diverse as peoples from many different lands and cultures have come, taught us about their faith and culture, and Asbury and West has been forever changed and enriched by their presence. Our ministries have changed over the years, as the needs of our community have evolved.

Through all this time, I think God has been with this congregation. God is loving us when we act as we should. God supports us when we fail. God is constantly challenging us to serve our neighbours better. God has offered us encouragement when we have faced times of doubt. The world has changed so much during the past two hundred years. Our community has certainly changed. Our church is much different than that small house church that was served by a Methodist circuit rider in 1812. Yet God still is with us, loving us, cajoling us, supporting us, pushing us, and nurturing us.

But our story does not stop there. We know that our world will continue to change. Toronto and Canada will continue to evolve as people from many different cultures arrive here. Technology will continue to come up with the next best thing, must have gadgets. Our neighbourhood will also make new demands upon us. We have no idea of what will be the challenges and opportunities that we will encounter in the years to come.

Yet I think the one thing we can count on is God's continuing love. The scenes may change, the actors may change, and even the audience might change. But no matter what, Asbury and West can still count on God to give us life energy. Our world today might seem quaint and harsh to people from the future, just as the world of 1812 seems primitive to us today. Yet the one constant is God's ever abiding presence. God's love was there in 1812, is here today and will certainly be there tomorrow.

*...the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
our God is with us in the world now as then.
VU # 248, Verse 4 When Long before Time.*

(The Rev.) Darren J. Liepold
April 2012

FAMILY HYMN SING



Friday, April 13 - 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Favourite hymns were sponsored for \$5 each. Organists John Leek of Northminster United and Taylor Sullivan of Newtonbrook United were our capable accompanists. Darren Liepold and Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson were the MCs for the evening and delicious refreshments were served during intermission. A generous \$900.00 was raised.

Hymn requests submitted by:

- Mel Beckles
- Joyce Bullock
- Doreen Clementson
- Louise Cobon
- Lisa Crawford
- Paul Elford
- Nancy Evans
- Pilar Francisco
- Mildred Franklin
- Judy Gillingham
- Cheryl Holliday
- Lucille Hunte
- Ken and Audrey Kruger
- Margorie Lavine
- Darren Liepold
- Sheila Mascoll
- Glenda McBroom
- Linda McBroom-Cerajewski
- Pauline McKenzie
- Dorothy & Lloyd Ostrom
- Lynsia Panthaki
- Carol Preston
- Lou Rhoden
- Kay Roffey-Dampier
- Helen Sanderson
- Dorothy (Lillie) Schumacher
- Connie Shewalter
- Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen
- Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson
- Harel Smith
- Ianthe Spencer
- Margaret Stark
- David Tuck
- Irene Tuck
- Yvonne Wilson
- Congress of Black Women North York Chapter



The hymns that were sung:

People Look East
 Angels from the Realms of Glory
 O Come all Ye Faithful
 All Poor Ones and Humble
 See Amid the Winter's Snow
 O Jesus I have Promised
 The Old Rugged Cross
 Christ the Lord is Risen Today
 This is the Day
 Redeemed
 Rejoice, the Lord is King
 Joyful Joyful We Adore You
 Jerusalem
 O World of God
 Amazing Grace
 Great is Thy Faithfulness
 We Praise You Creator
 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
 Fairest Lord Jesus
 Jesus Loves Me
 She Comes Sailing on the Wind
 I Come with Joy
 I, The Lord of Sea and Sky
 Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love
 Blest Be the Tie that Binds
 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
 Be Still My Soul
 I Know Who Holds Tomorrow
 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine
 Take Time to be Holy
 Will Your Anchor Hold
 Let There be Peace On Earth
 Halle, Halle, Halle
 The Lord's My Shepherd
 We Are Marching
 For All the Saints
 You Shall Go Out with Joy
 My Love Colours Outside the Lines
 Come Gracious Spirit
 Father, in High Heaven Dwelling
 Saviour, Again to Your Dear Name

Lo, He Comes
 Still, Still, Still
 Silent Night
 Away in a Manger
 How Great Thou Art
 When I survey the Wondrous Cross
 And Can It Be That I Should Gain
 Thine Is The Glory
 Now the Green Blades Rises
 Crown Him with Many Crowns
 All Creatures of Our God and King
 In the Bulb
 Praise My Soul The King of Heaven
 Immortal, Invisible
 If You Will Trust in God to Guide You
 All Things Bright and Beautiful
 This is My Father's World
 Love Divine
 Blessed Assurance
 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus
 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
 Morning Has Broken
 Let Us Break Bread Together on our Knees
 We Plough the Fields
 All the Way My Saviour Leads Me
 Be Thou My Vision
 Softly and Tenderly
 How Firm a Foundation
 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
 In the Garden
 The Solid Rock
 Make me a Channel of Your Peace
 Unto the Hills
 The Lord's Prayer
 Now Thank We All Our God
 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection
 My Life Flows On
 Wonderful Words of
 In Heavenly Love A
 The King of Love



POT LUCK DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday, April 14 – 5:30 p.m.

Guests brought their favourite receipt and many delicious dishes were sampled. Afterward in the sanctuary Lisa Crawford was our MC for the evening and entertainment was provided by the Front Porch Four; Don Guinn; Brenda and Ray St. Germaine; Thomas Schadl; and the Minister's Choir.



POT LUCK DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT



WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 15 – 10:30 a.m.

Guest speaker, Rev. Michael Blair Executive Minister, Communities in Ministry Unit of the General Council. Sermon: "Re-Building"



We opened the time capsule found in the cornerstone of the 1951 building! Contents included the United Church Observer, the Toronto Telegram newspaper, coins from the 1950's, and building campaign booklet 1949.



Opening of the time capsule is attended by Marion Morrison and her brother Allan Stephenson – 5th generation of the Mulholland family; Shirley Smythe – long standing member joining in the 1940's; Mildred Franklin – oldest attending member; and Khrislea Marquez – Church School member representing our future.



Guest Trumpeter
Curtis Hunter



Anthem: Hand Me Down My Silver
Trumpet, arr. Jean Ashworth Bartie



WORSHIP SERVICE: FROM THE PULPIT

Rev. Michael Blair, Executive Minister, Communities in Ministry Unit of the General Council. Sermon: "Re-Building"

In his sermon preached at our 200th anniversary service, The Rev. Michael Blair, Executive Minister for the Community in Ministries Unit of the United Church of Canada, made the following points. He reminded us that all congregations, in order to be successful needed to work on the 3 P's: they needed to have a plan, they needed to have a purpose, and they needed to be concerned about the people. First of all he said that church's needed to have a plan. What do we want to do? With us it is to renovate our building to better suit our needs. But Rev. Blair said that the church was more than a building. It is fine to have plans but he then went on to say that with the plan we need to have a strong sense of purpose. Why do we need a better renovated building? Because it will help us to carry on ministries that we have found to be important and life giving in the past. Our church needs to determine why we exist. And then he pointed out some of the ministries that we have done in the past or are still doing now: our work with interfaith groups, our social outreach projects such as the food bank, etc. Rev. Blair then went on to say it is fine to have a plan, it is vital to have a purpose, however the most important thing is the people. How to our plans and how does our purpose value and honour each person here. How do we welcome the stranger? How do we invite others to come and share? Our success will not be determined by our plans. We can have the greatest sense of purpose in the world and still fail. But if we truly value and honour the work, the dedication, the love of the people here, then we might be successful.



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Thank you to Darren for his synopsis of Rev Michael's sermon.

Jocelyn & Sylvia



A special **THANK YOU** goes out to our Anniversary Committee - Lisa, Judy, Cheryl, Darren, Pauline and Jocelyn. We would also like to thank our photographers Ken, Marek and Alan. Without these people the weekend would not have been such a success.

WORSHIP SERVICE



Covenanting Service for Darren

Presentation of Symbols for Darren’s Covenanting Service:
A Bible - for teaching and proclaiming the Word
Water – for baptizing in the name of Christ
Bread and Wine – for breaking the bread and blessing the cup



The Symbols



Learning All Together Time: Happy Birthday



Rev. Irene Tye, Rev. Darren Liepold,
Rev. Michael Blair, Rev. Suzanne Van der Lugt



Flowers given by Northminster
United Church

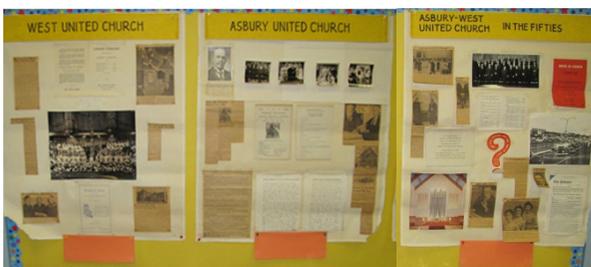
Luncheon after Sunday morning church where visiting and reminiscing took place.



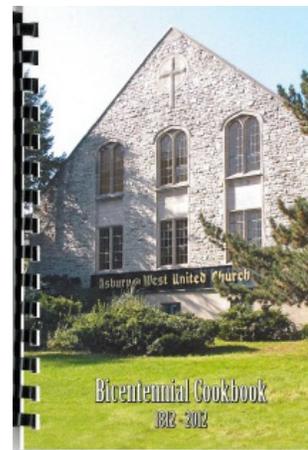
More visiting and reminiscing.



Throughout the weekend a room was set up with Historical documents and artifacts. Definitely a trip down memory lane.



The Asbury and West United Church 200th Anniversary Cookbook - This book is filled with recipes from present and past members. Many of them are the ones we have shared at Pot Luck Dinners or other functions throughout the years. Many recipes were enjoyed during the refreshment time at the Friday night family hymn sing and at the Saturday night pot luck supper. Purchase one for yourself and for gifts. \$10.00 each

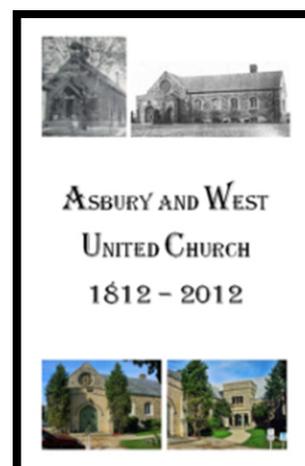


The Asbury and West United Church Logo Lapel Pin - The logo for the church was created several years ago by Dennis Tuck. This pin will serve as a reminder of your time with Asbury and West. \$5.00 each



Cookbooks and lapel pins are still available. Be sure to keep them in mind whenever you need a little gift.

Historical Book - To commemorate the 200th Anniversary the formal documented history of Asbury and West was updated. Incorporated into this book is the information published on the 175th Anniversary. Copies of this book are always available at no charge.



A FORMER MEMBER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY

I welcome the opportunity to share this special anniversary's meaning as I perceived it. After more than forty years of active membership at Asbury and West, serving as Clerk of Session for a time and on search committees for two ministers to join us here, it was refreshing to bring back memories of a few of those 200 years. Also I bring thanks from those no longer members of Asbury and West who were present, for the many hours of energy and time that must have gone into preparing this weekend of looking back by those who ARE here.

None of us were in Toronto in 1812, yet a great many people were, 430,000 according to one survey. This city was big enough at that time for a war to be carried on within its boundaries; can you imagine a battle raging just outside the present C.N.E. grounds? That would be quite a long way from our minds today, even in our wildest imagination.

As well, however, there were many churches here at the time; again another survey suggests there were 94 of them at that point in our history, most of them south of Steeles. I think it speaks well of our predecessors that although most likely there was the hatred, the distrust, the unhappiness that goes with war, there was also a searching for spiritual answers. One senses that there must have been at least an awareness that there is a dimension to life that is beyond the physical, the everyday, the day to day immediate. In general, as Rev. Darren indicated in the anniversary booklet about Asbury and West, there was so much that they just did not have in those days; we can better appreciate what they did possess.

The Internet touches on some history (the whole world can read it): "Asbury and West United Church is a United Church of Canada church in the Bathurst and Lawrence area of Toronto, Canada. The congregation has one of the longest continual histories of any in Toronto. It traces its history back to 1812 and meetings of small groups of Methodist settlers in what was an area being newly settled by Europeans. The first services were held in the farmhouse of Henry Mulholland, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Battle of Lundy's Lane (who first came to Canada from Ireland in 1806, settling in

the area that would later be named Henry Farm after him. He later moved further west to what is now the Bathurst and Lawrence area.---The original small congregation was served by circuit preachers who rode out of the small nearby village of Eglinton, Ontario." Mulholland began to clear land for a permanent church building, but he died in the 1833 sinking of the Lady of the Lake. His widow, Jane, donated the land that was being cleared to the church, and a small wooden chapel was erected. The church was named after Francis Asbury, an early U.S. Methodist leader. It became the Asbury United Church in 1925 and, as we know, it amalgamated with the West Presbyterian church in 1947.

And so we looked back on April 13, 14, and 15. People liked the hymn sing. "What a good way to raise funds at \$5 for your favorite hymn!" said one. "They should have charged an extra dollar for the chorus if you wanted it" said another. And a potluck supper is always welcome. But the service on Sunday was extra special and its highlight was the sermon by the Rev. Michael Blair from General Council. One may be imagining this interpretation of his words but a certain idea was very much there. Jesus in the New Testament said to Peter one day, "Upon this rock (that Jesus was and is the Son of the living God) I will build my church," suggesting that a church is a group of people who are His followers, not just a building. The preacher's mention of this with careful explanation made me think "How could that be more true of any church right now than Asbury and West United!" It emphasized for me that 3180 Bathurst is not "where the Asbury and West Church is," but rather "where that church meets and worships". Nor will remodelling of the building change that fundamental idea. There is a sense right now that while Asbury and West "borrows" a building, it is very much relying on its people to be the church, much as it was originally intended to be. As the next century passes by, may this supreme truth never be forgotten.

Thanks again to all who helped prepare this special weekend.

John Sullivan



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

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



HOME MEMBERS

*George Breen
Fran Cairns
Bea Cares
Betty Enta*

*Gloria Everson
Cliff Firmin
Linda Garland
Lilla Jaleel*

*Gerry Moore
Aldythe Newton
Ethel Quinlan
Helen Smith*

Fred Sunahara



Asbury and West United Church

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

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Visit Darren's blog at:
<http://asburyandwest.blogspot.com/p/ministers-musings.html>

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Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen (905-770-7457)



NEXT DEADLINE – September 23, 2012
Next Edition – Thanksgiving Sunday, October 7, 2012

Material accepted ANYTIME (the earlier the better !!!).
Please place all materials in the "Flock Talk" folder on the Secretary's desk in the Church Office. Articles are subject to editing for length and clarity.

