

# FLOCK TALK

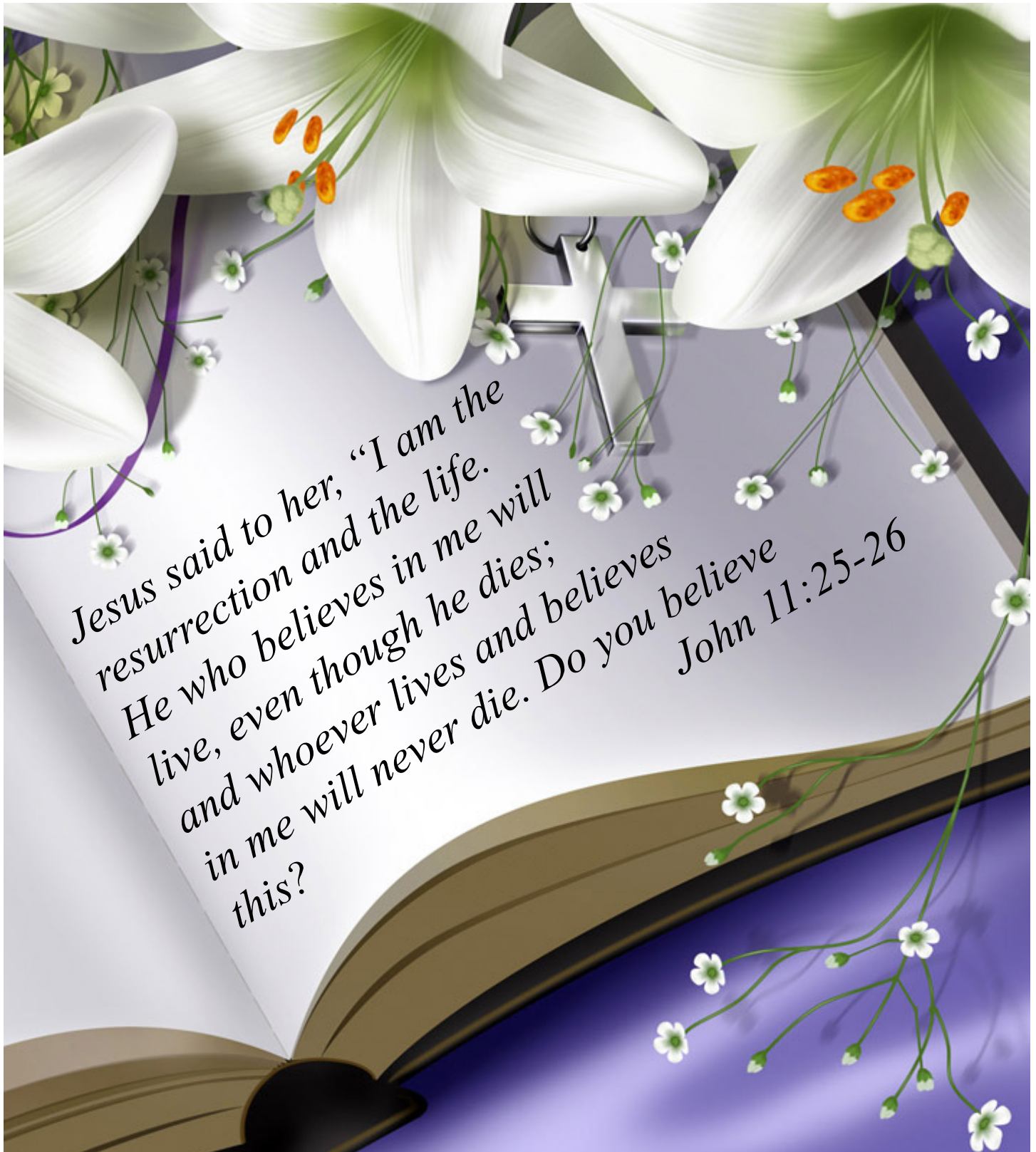
## Asbury and West United Church

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

April 8, 2012

**"The Friendly Church"**

Edition 130



Jesus said to her, "I am the  
resurrection and the life.  
He who believes in me will  
live, even though he dies;  
and whoever lives and believes  
in me will never die. Do you believe  
this?"  
John 11:25-26

## THE PASTOR'S PEN

Did you ever have one of those days? You know the type of day when you really believe that it would be so much easier if everyone shared the same opinion. Certainly it would be save a lot of time. Meetings would be very short. We would come to resolutions of issues very quickly. There would never be any disagreements. And we would always be very happy. But luckily life is not like that. Because there are many people sharing different opinions we are able to learn from one another. We are able to do a lot more together, because of our varied opinions and experiences than we could separately. We are able to grow because of these differences. It may take more time, but in the end, I think that we by sharing in differing opinions and by having the occasional disagreement we are better because of these differences. Besides, wouldn't it be a bit boring if we all thought the same way.

When I was a young boy, Easter meant one thing. The Easter bunny would come. The bunny who visited our house never brought too much, but I was always amazed at the few chocolates and coloured candied eggs that were hidden throughout the house.

Of course, as I have grown older Easter has become much more. In Sunday School, I learned of the story of Christ's last week and how through his death on the cross, the world was forever changed. Easter, at least for us in the Northern Hemisphere, comes to us during the springtime. It is a time of new life and rebirth. With the wonders of Easter we are given new life and our world is forever changed. Easter is a time of magic, magic much more powerful than any candy bearing rodent can ever be.

One of my favourite Easter stories comes from Martin Bell's book, "The Way of the Wolf". It is called Wood, Nails, and Coloured Eggs. The last part of the story is particularly poignant. Bell says that for many of us it is easy to make the beautifully coloured eggs. But some people cannot see the colours because they are blind. Some people cannot hold the eggs because of some other infirmity. He says some people even do not have the ability to even imagine the beauty of the coloured eggs. But Bell tells us not to despair. Because both God and Jesus see that there is value in all things and will colour the eggs for these people. The story demonstrates that the wonder of Easter comes to all people, not just those who we deem worthy or of value. Easter comes to all.

And isn't that the good news of this season. That no matter who we are, no matter what our station in life, the Easter message has come for us as well. All of us have different talents and abilities. All of us struggle with our own temptations and weaknesses. All of us, no matter who we are, are in need of God's grace. And that's the wonder of Easter. Whether we deserve it or not, whether we can appreciate it or not, whether we want it or not, the love of Easter changes us forever. Easter comes whether we share similar views or disagree. Easter is for everyone. Thanks be to God.



*Rev. Darren Liepold*

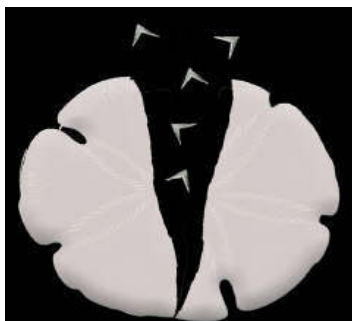


## SENIOR CHOIR

The members from Asbury and West are working hard with their Northminster members in preparing for Easter.

The William R. Shewalter Memorial Organ Fund is now at \$35,168.47. Recently a donation came in for \$50, so we are hoping that more donations will keep coming in, since our new organ will be around \$70,000.00. Your help in obtain the amount will be needed.

*Mel Beckles*  
Choir President



## THE LEGEND OF THE SAND DOLLAR

There's a pretty little legend that I would like to tell  
Of the birth and death of Jesus found in this lowly shell.  
If you examine closely, you'll see that you find here  
Four nail hole and a fifth one made by a Roman's Spear.  
On one side the Easter Lily, its center is the star  
That appeared unto the shepherds and led them from afar.  
The Christmas poinsettia etched on the other side  
Reminds us of His birthday, Our Happy Christmastide.  
Now break the center open and here you will release  
The five white doves awaiting to spread good Will and Peace.  
This simple little Symbol, Christ left for you and me.  
To help us spread his Gospel, through all eternity.

*Anonymous*

## MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE



We are continuing to reach out to Members and Adherents. We are encouraging Adherents to become members. Our goal is to be in touch with all absent members. We have been very successful in speaking to people, who for some reason did not come to Northminster. We are assured that they will return to Asbury and West once it is completed.

The Care Link Committee continues to keep closely with our Shut Ins, and out of town Members.

We are excited about our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and looking forward to see many of our former Members.

*Ianthe Spencer*



## THE LONG-HANDLED SPOON



A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.' The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell.' They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, 'I don't understand.' "It is simple," said the Lord. 'It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves.' When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you. Remember that He will always share His spoon with you.



## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE (LRPC)

Great News! We received payment for the sale of approximately 70% of the two-acre site at 3180 Bathurst Street. Now that the money is in the bank, we can proceed with renovations which we estimate will take 12 months. We issued a tender for a General Contractor to perform the renovations to the 1958 church building. The older parts of the original church building are already demolished and the interior of the '58 building is ready for renovations to start in May.

The proceeds of the sale will allow us to complete the renovation of the ground and second floors of the '58 church building but we will not be able to complete the basement renovations. We estimate that we will need an additional \$600,000.00 for the completion of the basement as a daycare. We received a \$50,000.00 grant from the Federal Government which will help a little. We hope that The City and The Province can provide us with financial assistance but we know that we will still be short of what we need to complete the basement. Finishing the basement is critically important. Our Congregation needs the rental income that the daycare will provide and the Bathurst and Lawrence area needs the 104 daycare spaces.

Can you help? Please consider a generous donation to our building fund. Your donation is tax deductible but more importantly, you will help Asbury and West United Church continue their 200 year service to the Bathurst and Lawrence Community.

*Alan McKenzie, Chair  
Long Range Planning Committee*



## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Because this report is submitted *before* the festivities, I am going to tell you where we are now.

The committee is made up of an amazing, hard working and imaginative group of individuals. People have poured heart and soul into planning this incredible weekend, and it's going to show! I think everything has been thought of, from food to entertainment to past and present members, from parking issues on the weekend to who the Emcees will be.

Friday evening, the kick-off to our fun, is a wonderful audience participation event! Choosing hymns, singing and meeting people we may not have seen in years.

Saturday night Asbury and West Cookbook potluck supper followed by a mixed-bag of entertainment will be delightful!

The weekend ends with a warm service, which includes ALL our church family, not just Asbury and West United Church, with special activities during worship, including Darren's Covenanting with our congregation and the opening of a time capsule from 1951.

I'm so excited, I can hardly wait!! See you there.

*Lisa Crawford, Chair*





## FINANCE MINISTRY GROUP

Our Congregation faces many financial challenges. Until we are back in our own building, we have no rental income. We appreciate the generosity of Northminster United and the hospitality that they are showing us but we must pay our rent to them. Our 2012 budget will be in deficit by \$32,000.00. Now that we have received payment for the sale of land to Dell Park, renovations can begin and the day when we will be back under our own roof draws nearer. The proceeds of the sale of land will cover the cost of renovating the ground and second floors but we will not have enough to complete the renovation of the basement. We depend on the rental income from the basement to balance our books.

The members of Asbury and West United Church are generous. We donate to Mission and Service, Philippine relief, the food bank and many other worthy causes. There is great need where ever we look. Sometimes charity must begin at home. Please consider increasing your donations to Asbury and West local expenses. We need to keep the ship afloat!

*Alan McKenzie, Chair*



## COMMUNICATIONS

The group is working hard to keep our congregation up-to-date on the progress of the 3180 Bathurst building. The website has been updated to include new names and events. The regular "Progress Reports" are a big success, thanks to the attendance of our congregation! We look forward to keeping the congregation informed the best we can! Thanks for all the support.

*Lisa Crawford, Chair*

## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN



The United Church Women are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. We are planning a special Sunday service with Northminster UCW later this year, to mark this special event.

In celebration of this anniversary, the National UCW has undertaken a project that will fund midwife training courses for women of the Morogoro Women's Centre in Tanzania. The maternal death rate in Africa is alarming. There are over 1000 deaths each day due to complications from pregnancy and childbirth. Each course at Morogoro will train 25 women. One course costs under \$20,000, and covers travel, accom-modation, food, classes, a medical kit, and a solar LED lighting system. If the National UCW could raise \$50,000, an appropriate goal for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary they would be able to fund two courses and part of a third. Our UCW is pleased to send our donation to help with this project.

*Lucille Hunt, Chair*

## HOW IS THE DATE FOR EASTER CALCULATED?

Easter Sunday typically falls on a different date each year. Easter is always the first Sunday after or on the first full moon, after the Spring (vernal) Equinox in the Northern hemisphere and the Autumnal Equinox in the Southern hemisphere.

The date is determined by a combination of events centered around the lunar cycle, the solar cycle, the division of each year into 365 days and a 1,700 year old Church ruling.

The explanation starts with the fact that early Christians elected to link the date of Easter to the Hebrew calendar. The New Testament states that the Resurrection took place on the first day of the week following Passover. Sunday is the first day of a Jewish week; the Passover falls on the day of the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which can fall on either March 20 or 21.

Chaotic, or what? The result was that different churches ended up celebrating Easter on various days. And to try

to clear up the confusion, the Roman Emperor Constantine I organized a major summit meeting.

The first Ecumenical Council was held at Nicea in present-day Turkey in the year 325. It decreed that Easter would be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon that occurred after the Spring Equinox. This retained a lunar connection as a sort of "memory" of the Jewish calendar system, and ensured that the feast would be on a Sunday. Because lunar phases occur independently of the solar year, this means that there is a "window" of several weeks during which Easter may be celebrated. By this reckoning, in our calendar, Easter must occur between March 22 and April 25.

So, go to your calendar, and find the first day of spring - then find the first full moon immediately following that. And Easter will be the first Sunday after (or on) that first full moon. Note the difference in the southern hemisphere: Easter falls on the first Sunday on or after the first full moon after the Autumnal equinox, not after the first day of Autumn.

The system that was slowly developed throughout the Middle Ages is the base for what we use today.



*Carrying the Cross*



*The Empty Tomb*



*The Resurrection*



## FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

During this Easter, we invite you to remember our beautiful stained glass windows and the story they tell us. Take time to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, walk the road to Calvary, and rejoice at the Empty Tomb.

*Jocelyn & Sylvia*

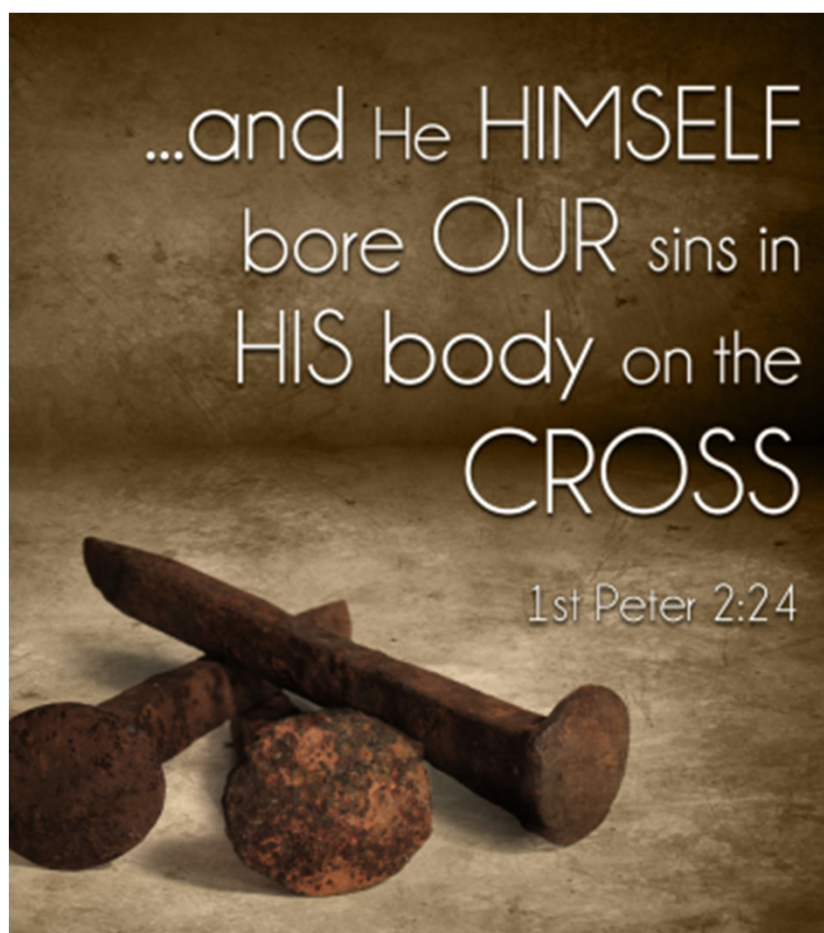
## WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC

We continue to meet and plan with Northminster and will continue to worship together on most Sundays. However, The Northminster congregation will be going to Newtonbrook on more Sundays in the future as they plan their amalgamation, which will be finalized in July, 2013. On those occasions, we will have the opportunity to worship as our own family group, and also take opportunities to plan for our return home to 3180 Bathurst Street.

Plans are under way for our Anniversary Service on April 15, 2012. It will be a great celebration of thanksgiving for our 200 years of worship and service in the community. We hear that former members and community leaders will be attending to share the day with us. Be sure to plan to be there!

We continue to look for volunteers to usher on Sundays. Clayton Johnson is a great help to the volunteers, and gives training in the “how to’s”. This is not a difficult job. The ushers give out bulletins, help people to seats if needed, and take up the offering. Ushers do not count the offering; someone else does that! At present we need two volunteers each Sunday. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hall.

*Pauline McKenzie, Chair*



## MOTHER'S DAY TRIVIA (MAY 13)

- In the Bible, Eve is credited with being the 'Mother of All the Living.'
- In the vast majority of the world's languages, the word for "mother" begins with the letter M.
- The modern version of Mother's Day in the United States was first observed in 1907.
- Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia decided that it would be a wonderful way to honor her deceased mother. Two years later, Jarvis and friends began a letter-writing campaign to create a Mother's Day observance.
- Soon after, in 1914, the US Congress passed legislation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.
- Mother's Day is celebrated on different dates according to history and traditions. In Portugal and Lithuania it's celebrated on May 6 and in Kenya it's celebrated on the last Sunday in June.
- Carnations are the flowers most associated with Mother's Day. White carnations are worn in the memory of deceased mothers, while red and pink carnations are worn for those mothers who are still alive.
- Mother's Day is the third-largest card-sending holiday after Christmas and Valentine's.
- Hallmark has been producing Mother's Day cards since the early 1920's.



### *AS I LOOK BACK...*

As I look back on my life  
I find myself wondering...  
Did I remember to thank you  
for all that you have done for me?  
For all of the times you were by my side  
to help me celebrate my successes  
and accept my defeats?  
Or for teaching me the value of hard work,  
good judgement, courage, and honesty?  
I wonder if I've ever thanked you  
for the simple things...  
The laughter, smiles, and quiet times we've shared?  
If I have forgotten to express my gratitude  
For any of these things,  
I am thanking you now...  
and I am hoping that you've known all along,  
how very much you are loved and appreciated.

*Author Unknown*

Happy  
Mother's  
Day



**Founded 1985**

We continue to have thought-provoking discussions on a variety of subjects and look forward to welcoming any women who are interested in joining us on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday evening of the month. Our annual BBQ is coming up in June, which will be held at Irene Fair's home.

We were honoured to once again serve lunch at the Annual Meeting. Just a note of interest – one of the chili recipes is in the new Asbury and West Bicentennial Cookbook.

And again we thank you for your wonderful donations of gifts to the North York Women's Shelter over Christmas.

We all wish you a very Happy and Blessed Easter,

*Cheryl Holliday*  
Group Contact



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



The Young at Heart seniors are continuing with their program though we are small in numbers.

We had our annual Valentine Potluck lunch; visited Roy Thomson Hall for a noon concert by the Orpheus Choir of Toronto; had our St. Patrick's Iris Stew. At our last meeting we had Constable Wayne Pierce from 32 Division of the Police Services Community Relations as a speaker on Cyber Fraud and other aspects of safety to seniors.

We are looking forward to our visit to the City Playhouse to see "Hairspray" at a Saturday matinee, and is awaiting brochures from the Tripsetter to set our spring bus trip.

Once more I am appealing to the members of Asbury and West who have reached senior age and have Thursday's free to join us at our meetings.

*Melvyn and Shirley Beckles*  
Committee Contacts

## OUR CHURCH COUNCIL --- VISIONING SERVICE

On January 22, 2012, when the Northminster congregation was worshiping with the congregation of Newtonbrook United, we had a very special service for Asbury and West. It was a Visioning Service during which everyone was invited to participate and speak freely. Unlike other Sundays, the children and their teachers stayed in church and sat at a table right up in the chancel in order to participate. Lisa Crawford took notes so we would not forget any of the great comments. After the service Council, with the generous help of many, provided lunch for the congregation where fellowship and thoughtful conversation continued.

Our congregation is going through a period of tremendous change. Change has a lot to do with identity: if we know who we are, then we can see who we want to be. To that end, Rev. Darren had three very distinctive topics to ask us about and many members shared their thoughts, feelings and beliefs. Listed below are the questions asked and the answers given:

### ***What is your talent and what gifts do you bring to Asbury and West?***

- sleep
- sense of humour
- helper
- Bible study
- cooking, baking, eating
- play violin, piano
- soccer, hockey
- writing
- exercising
- driving
- minute taking
- secretarial tasks
- photography
- management
- good with children
- singing
- video games (wii)
- quilting, crocheting, knitting
- organizing
- drawing
- administration
- caring
- loving

### ***Who are we? What do you enjoy about our church? What brings you here? What ministries are special to our church?***

- faithfulness to the Word of God
- welcoming congregation
- extended fellowship
- hugs
- different intercultural
- loving – love each other
- supportive
- picnics
- teachers
- stories
- learn about God
- family, feels like home
- varied learning
- child care – Christian Education
- youth
- memories
- recharge memories
- fellowship
- cookies
- acceptance

### ***How do we reach out to the community? How do we make a difference? What do we have to offer?***

- accessibility
- telephone ministry
- offer youth programs
- community BBQ's
- food bank
- join in
- community programmes
- invite people

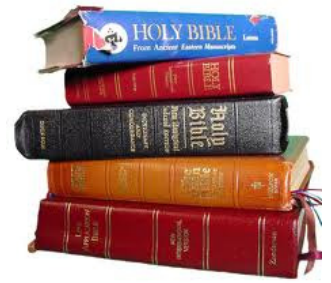
On behalf of Council, I thank you for your participation during our first Visioning Service. If you missed it, there will be many more Visioning Services in the coming months and I invite you to bring your voices. We are blessed to be travelling together along the path that God has planned for Asbury and West.

*Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, Chair, Council*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY GROUP

Church School and Youth Program:

The children, including the nursery, have started their new lessons on the stories of Jesus from Matthew and will move into stories from the Acts of the Apostles after Easter.



Anyone interested in Youth Retreats and Summer Camps? Registration forms are available in the church hallway on the magazine rack. Subsidies are available. Please talk to Darren. Thanks to the congregation for your support of these programs.

Mark your calendars for the June 2 Celebration Sunday at which time we will recognize the participation of our children in the Church School program, and the dedication of our teachers. A hot dog and ice cream lunch will follow – all are welcome.

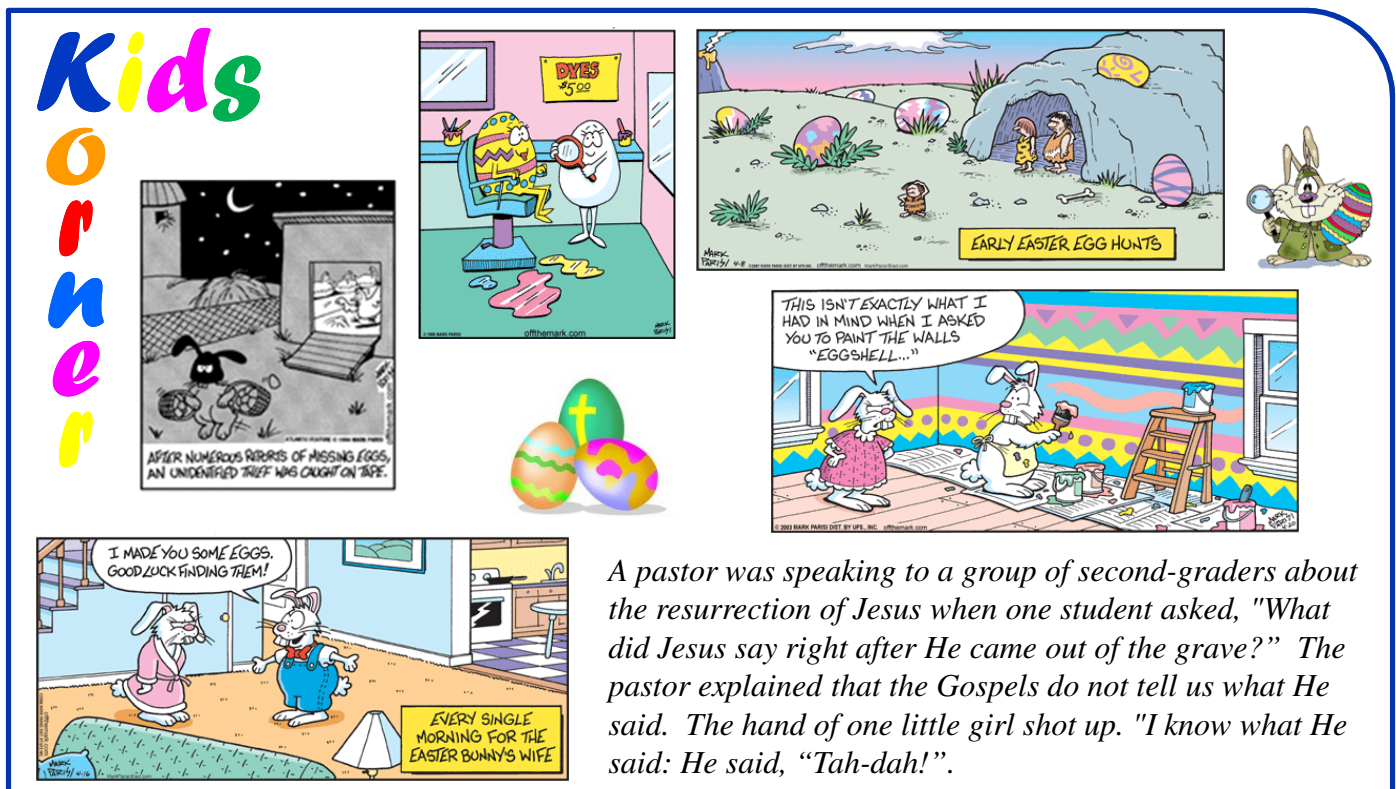
Volunteers are needed to help teach in the summer **KFC:SE** program. Watch for the posted sign up list.

Adult Program:

Darren will be holding a 5 session study on the religions of the world starting Monday April 9. Both congregations are welcome.

# Easter Blessings,

*Cheryl Holliday*  
*Superintendent*



# COME CELEBRATION THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ASBURY AND WEST UNITED CHURCH

## Family Hymn Sing

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

Do you have a favourite hymn? Sponsor your favourite hymn or hymns for \$5.00 or more each and join in the singing. Please see the enclosed flyer for details.



## Pot Luck Dinner and Entertainment

**Saturday, April 14 – 5:30 p.m.**

Bring the dish you put in the cookbook, one that you have shared with us over the years, or simply your family favourite. Entertainment following.



## Worship Service

**Sunday, April 15 – 10:30 a.m.**

Guest speaker, Rev. Michael Blair  
Executive Minister, Communities  
in Ministry Unit of the General  
Council



We will be opening the time capsule found in the cornerstone of the 1951 building!

Available this weekend will be:

## 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 and your presence at the 200th Anniversary celebration.

\$5.00 each

## 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. Purchase one for yourself and for gifts.

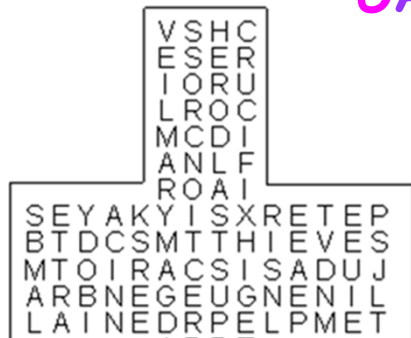
\$10.00 each



# GAMES PLUS MORE



HELP THE BUNNY GET  
TO HIS CARROT



Ascension	Mary Magdalene
Body	Peter
Cross	Resurrection
Crown	Robe
Crucifix	Rock
Denial	Salvation
Empty tomb	Simon of Cyrene
Gethsemane	Sins
Herod	Stone
Lamb	Temple
Last Supper	Thieves
Linen	Veil



## JOKES

What do you call a line of  
rabbits walking backwards?

A receding hareline.

Why shouldn't you tell an  
Easter egg a good joke?

It might crack up!

What kind of beans never  
grow in a garden?

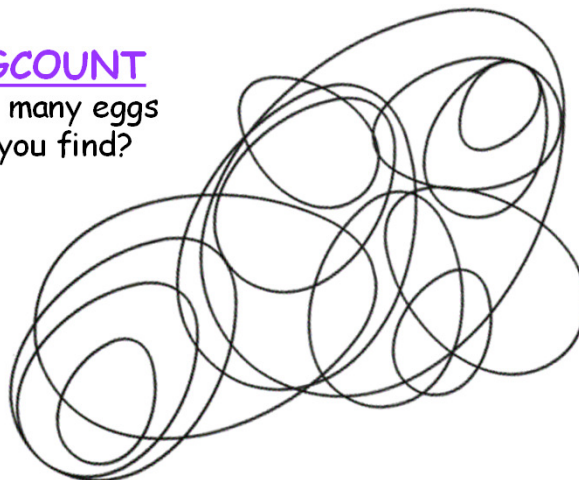
Jelly beans!

What do you call a rabbit  
with fleas?

Bugs Bunny

## EGGCOUNT

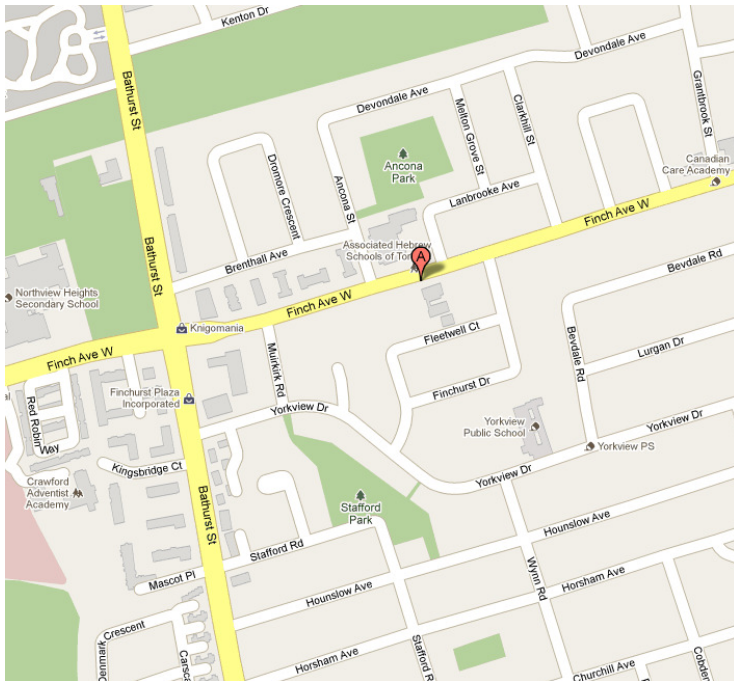
How many eggs  
Can you find?



## Asbury and West has Relocated ...



**While we're renovating**  
**Please join us at**  
**Northminster United Church**  
**located at**  
**255 Finch Avenue West**  
**Willowdale, Ontario**  
**Tel: (416) 225-7941**  
**Reverend Irene Ty**



### Location

Northminster is located on south side of Finch Avenue, 1 block East of Bathurst.

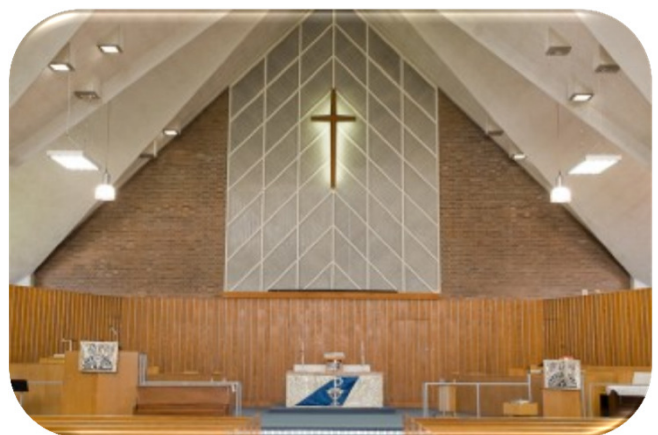
Sunday morning services begin at 10:30. If you're coming by public transit, you can take the subway to Finch station and then a 36 bus west approximately 1 kilometre. If you're coming by Bathurst Street, get off at Finch and the church is a short walk east along Finch Avenue. For those of you coming by car, there's parking on the south side of the church around the back.

### Building accessible

Yes (except for our washroom). There's a driveway off Finch Avenue where you can park. From there, go along the west side of the building to the side entrance (which is really the main entrance) where you'll find a ramp.

### Children

If your children are infants, we have a nursery where they'll be well cared for. Just ask a greeter or an usher about the nursery and they'll be glad to help you out. If your children are school-aged, bring them into the sanctuary with you. About 10 or 15 minutes into the services, there's a time for sharing with the children. After that, they'll go out to Sunday School with our volunteer teachers. Our teachers are here all summer long.





*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.*



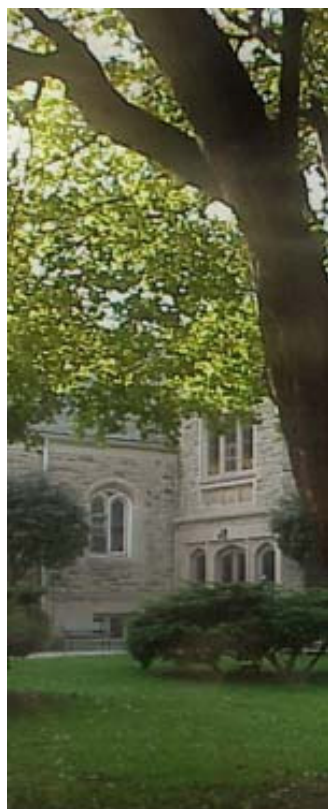
## HOME MEMBERS

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 . . .*

3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario M6A 2A9  
Office: 416-783-6503 / Toll Free 1-877-226-2242  
Office Hours: Tues - Friday 9:00 - 1:00 pm, closed Monday  
Email: [secretary@asburyandwest.org](mailto:secretary@asburyandwest.org)  
<http://www.asburyandwest.org/>

Rev. Darren Liepold

Interim Minister

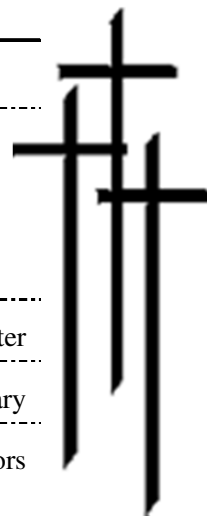
Cate Billinger

Church Secretary

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson (416-239-5821)

Flock Talk Editors

Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen (905-770-7457)



**NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday, June 3, 2012**  
**Next Edition – Father's Day, Sunday June 17, 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.

