

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 20, 2014

"The Friendly Church"

Edition 137





THE PASTOR'S PEN

Moving. I hate moving. It always means such upheaval in my life. Although my messy desk might speak against this, I like to have things organized. At night, I put my glasses, my keys, my cell phone, and my wallet in the same place each night. That way I wake up and I don't have to spend time trying to find them. It saves me half an hour of panic time each day (especially looking for my glasses because without my glasses on, I can't see them to find them). Just a few minutes of organization saves me much heartache.

But when moving starts, my good organizational skills seem to be for not. I do try to label my boxes. But I am constantly aware that boxes should not be too heavy and so things get shifted from one box to another. Smaller items get placed into the nooks of crannies of the boxes. This goes fine as everything gets packed. But then it comes time for the unpacking. Inevitably, I will be looking for something that should be in one box. Eventually it will turn up in another box or it won't turn up at all. Moving means days and weeks of being unorganized. Moving means upset.

Moving is always exciting though as well. Making the space one's own is very important. Deciding where to put things. Changing the building from a shell of empty rooms into a home. All of these things make moving exciting, despite the chaos it causes.

There are always the surprises that occur after a move has occurred. Brian told me once of a move he made 30 years ago, when he was unpacking one time, and when he got to one box there was his garbage from his old house (luckily it was not anything that smelled). Or maybe you are like me. You might have a box

or two that you have never unpacked from a move. And then years later you have to go into that box and suddenly you discover long lost treasures. They bring back memories. I remember when I bought this or so and so gave it to. Maybe you are left with questions- why did I ever keep that? Or maybe it might help you make a decision- I have managed without it for years, do I really need to keep it? Unpacking can always be quite an adventure.

We will be moving as a church community in the next few days. With Cheryl's help, we will try to keep the move as organized as possible. Hopefully the boxes will be labeled well and my personal items won't get mixed up with the choir materials. We will also be moving things back from storage and from people's houses. We move into a building that looks somewhat the same, but is also quite different. We won't have the storage space that we used to have. As we unpack, there will be the surprises. "Oh that is where that got to." "I remember this- it was bought during so and so's time here." "Why did we keep that?" "Do we really still need that?"

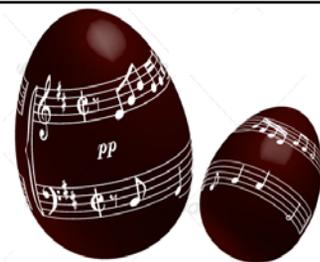
It will be chaotic. It will be exciting. Yet in the midst of all that we know that God is with us. We won't be alone. Thanks be to God.

Rev. Darren Liepold





SENIOR CHOIR



Buona Pasqua a Tutti / Happy Easter to All from your Music Director!

The choir is looking forward to the blossoming spring that follows our Easter Season. We've spent much of the winter struggling through snowy roads and icy conditions, broken hips and surgeries, nasty coughs and laryngitis to rehearse and provide for our congregation the most dulcet of sounds. At times, we couldn't meet because of black outs and cold weather and came very early on Sundays to bring it all together. We've been refining our entrances and exits and service protocols so that we move in synchronicity. With a focus on blending and timing, we have kept our eyes glued to our choir master, rising and sitting, releasing our voices together and melodiously fading away when instructed (at least that is our goal).

This past season, we've enjoyed learning new pieces and dusting off some old favorites. The choir hopes to ensure that all congregants hear the music they most love, while learning beautiful new pieces in the spirit of building new traditions. We are looking forward to raising the rafters in our Asbury home and singing a fond farewell to Northminster that has inspired us during this time of re-birth for both choir and church. Change is good and with the warming of the weather, and our health renewed, we hope to bring you even more!



Don't forget Sunday, May 11.



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

May the Risen Lord strengthen your faith, renew your hope and fill your heart with love at Easter and always.

Jocelyn & Sylvia



OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

On behalf of the members of Council I wish you and your family and friends all the blessings of this Easter season. I share with you below an Easter Prayer by Peter Fayter as found in Voices United.

Blessings,
Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson,
Chair, Council

Easter Prayer

God of grace and glory, by the death and resurrection of your Beloved Child your reign of wholeness has been unleashed within our bent and broken world. Open us up to your empowering grace that we may be bearers of your world-redeeming love; through the resurrected Christ, our dignity, our power, and our peace. Amen.

MINISTRY GROUPS and COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Lisa Crawford

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Cheryl Holliday
Council Rep: Kim Davidson

FINANCE

Chair: Alan McKenzie

HOSPITALITY

Chair: Lou Rhoden

HUMAN RESOURCES

Chair: Sheila Mascoll

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Ianthe Spencer
Council Rep: Mel Beckles

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Chair: Vacancy

PROPERTY

Chair: Pauline McKenzie

STEWARDSHIP

Phoebe Cleverley

WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC

Co-Chairs: Lynsia Panthaki & Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Chair: Cheryl Holliday

MEMORIAL Committee

Cheryl Holliday, Darren Liepold, David Tuck

RENOVATION Committee

Chair: Alan McKenzie

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES

Linda Cobon, Sheila Mascoll



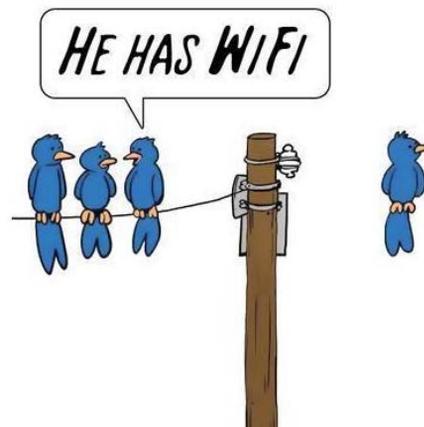
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

We are excited and anxious to get back to our new home. To prepare for this new adventure, we are organizing a Community Directory consisting of local businesses and services. As the weather improves, the Ministry Group and helpers will take to the area of Bathurst and Lawrence to find those willing to participate in our venture. We hope that this will get the name of Asbury and West United Church into the community and therefore draw new people, groups and services to our beautiful and accommodating new home! We are very happy to have the help and support of the generous people at Options for Homes, who have offered financial aid to the project as well as contacts and expertise. We hope to update the Directory annually.

The Asbury and West website is in the process of wonderful upgrades. The site will be easier to navigate and visitors to it will see who we are right from the home page. Exciting stuff, indeed!

We are looking forward to the big celebrations planned for June. We are working with the Relaunch Committee to prepare information and welcoming packages for this special time.

We look forward to sharing our enthusiasm with all!



*Lisa Crawford
Chair*



REJOICE!

He has been raised.
— Mark 16:6

Dorothy Ostrom will continue to be our Kitchen Coordinator for both the kitchen and the servery. Thank you Dorothy, for your faithfulness and efficiency in keep our kitchens in order.

How Much is an Easter Sermon Worth?

One Easter Sunday Pastor Jones announced to the congregation, 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons.....
... A \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes
... A \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes
... And a \$20 sermon that lasts a full hour.
Now, we'll take the offering and see which one I'll deliver.'

Editors' Note - NOT submitted by Rev. Darren.



PROPERTY MINISTRY



We're back! While our church family has been on an extended visit with friends, there has been nothing for the Property Group to do. But now that we are going home we will take up again, responsibility for our own house. It is not expected that our Property Group will be doing hands-on

repairs as in the past, because everything is new, but there is plenty to do. Our job description includes oversight of rentals, tenant relations and developing property policies. Our newly formed group would really benefit from the experience of members of the congregation who have worked on property committees in the past, or who have experience in building administration. Anyone who feels called to this service for our congregation, is asked to speak to Pauline McKenzie, Lou Rhoden, Yvonne Wright, or our minister.

Pauline McKenzie, Chair

All I need to know I learned from the Easter Bunny!

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
 Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
 There's no such thing as too much candy.
 All work and no play can make you a basket case.
 Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
 Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.
 Keep your paws off of other people's jelly beans.
 Good things come in small, sugar coated packages.
 The grass is always greener in someone else's basket.
 To show your true colors, you have to come out of the shell.
 The best things in life are still sweet and gooey.
 May the joy of the season fill your heart.



Founded 1985

Our small but spirited group continues to meet on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm. We always seem to have lots to talk about. We could be discussing our business (such as planning the annual meeting lunch) or we could be giving our thoughts and opinions on any one of the variety of programs we enjoy. Recently we have been kicking around a very practical fundraising idea which we hope to be able to introduce to you shortly after our return to 3180 – so very soon!! Stay tuned.

It's been several years since we presented a life membership to our one and only life member – Heather McKenzie. However, we are happy to announce that at our grand opening service we will be presenting life memberships to three of our members who have faithfully served for 25 years or more. It's hard to believe we've existed that long, especially for those receiving this honour. But here's something even more amazing. Next year Joybreak will celebrate our 30th Anniversary!

Cheryl Holliday, Contact

WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS & SACRAMENTS MINISTRY

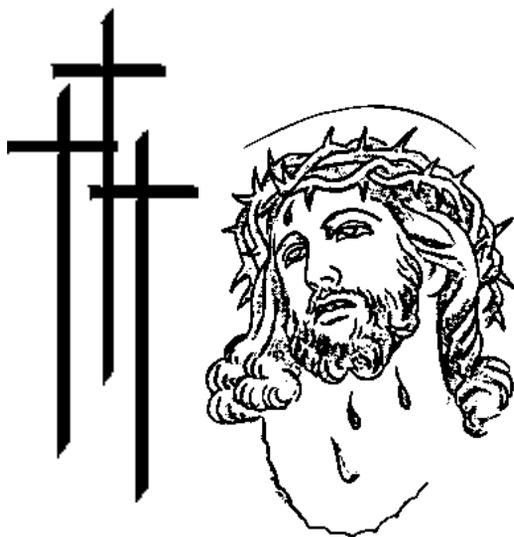
December is a month when we look forward to the birth of our Lord through special worship services and traditional celebrations. It is a time of great anticipation. Multiple snow and ice storms worked against Asbury and West and the City of Toronto resulting in the cancellation of meetings, practices, Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday services. We thank Paolo and the members of the Choir for rearranging musical selections to make sure we still were able to enjoy the music of the season.

In early January we welcomed Braeden Villanueva into the Church of God through Baptism. In the waters of baptism we are lovingly adopted into God's family which we call the Church. We are reminded that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ.

While Rev. Darren was on his long awaited trip to Australia, the pulpit was not empty. Karen Rodman was our speaker on Sunday, February 9th. Karen had just recently left her 30 year career with the Ontario Government and was using this time as a sabbatical to attend school full time to finish her Master of Divinity. On February 16th we welcomed Rev. Linda Levin as our guest speaker. Linda retired in June 2011 after serving for 29 years at Runnymede United in Toronto. Her passion is to provide for Kenyan families in the slums of Kibera and give love and care to AIDS-orphaned children. For three weeks we welcomed the Rev. Bob Raymont and his wife Nancy. Rev. Bob lead us in worship and provided us with words of love and understanding. We thank these individuals for being with us and providing leadership and spiritual guidance.

We thank all the volunteers that helped, and continue to help, with scripture readings, communion preparation and serving, announcements, ushering and helping with the other numerous duties associated with Sunday worship. The load is much lighter with your participation. For those of you that would like to lend a helping hand, please sign the volunteer board in the narthex.

Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen
Co-Chair



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



Karen Rodman



Rev. Linda Levin



Rev. Bob Raymont



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

In these past months the children have been learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. Pictured here are Julia, Olivia and Emma making Banana Arks, reminding us of Noah's faith.



Thank you for attending the Spaghetti Lunch we hosted in January to help with church funds. We had a good turnout and a free will offering realized \$57 after expenses. Maybe we will have more of these lunches in the future.



We are planning ahead for the Rev. Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk, to be held in September. The date of our fundraising project will be announced shortly.

Two other important events are coming up so please mark your calendar. Our **Celebration Sunday** will be on June 1 followed by the church picnic, and a **Confirmation** will take place on June 8 at our grand opening service.

We are still looking for someone to lead our Youth Class/Group. Please let Cheryl or Rev. Darren know if you are interested.

Like everyone else, the children and teachers are looking forward to returning to 3180 and all the excitement that comes with it. Classes will meet in the new multi-purpose room located on the second floor. The Christian Education office will be located on the first floor and house a small library. Thanks for all your support.

Cheryl Holliday, Chair

Kids

corner



A couple walks into a Chinese restaurant to have dinner. After studying the menu they order the special of the day for two. The waiter brings out a cast iron pot and places it in the middle of the table. The wife looks over as the lid opens up slightly and two beady little eyes peer out at her. She is shocked and asks her husband, "Did you see that?" He says "See what?" The wife replies, "Watch the pot". Again the lid lifts up and two beady little eyes peer out at him. Shocked he calls the waiter over and asks, "What did you bring us for dinner?" The waiter asks, "What did you order?" The husband replies, "The special". The waiter says, "So sorry, I thought you ordered Peeking Duck!"



The new year looks promising for the "Young at Heart Seniors". We opened with the movie "Unfinished Song" a poignant tale about a grumpy pensioner who honours his deceased wife by joining the unconventional local choir to which she used to belong, a process that helps him build bridges with his estranged son.

This event was followed by our Valentine's pot luck lunch and our St Patrick's day Irish stew luncheon. We also hosted Carolyn Neblett who spoke about the diseases of Alzheimer and Dementia and the effect on the care giver.

At our last meeting we welcomed back the Reverend Darren Leopold after his sojourn to Australia. Darren wowed us with pictures of his journey and adventures. We had a very good turnout at our last meeting and with the good weather approaching we are hoping to see more of the congregation joining us.

*Melvyn and Shirley Beckles
Committee Contacts*



RELAUNCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Our long time of planning is soon coming to an end. Soon we will be back home at 3180 Bathurst. Soon we will be back in our building. We didn't quite spend the 40 years in the wilderness that Moses did. But 10 years of dreams will go into the re-opening of our doors. So now what? What will be our next steps?

The question of now what reminds me of a professor at seminary who considered himself to be a great preacher. He came home one Sunday, after sharing what he thought was a particularly wonderful sermon. His wife though thought differently. So, now what? was her only comment to him when he asked her what she thought. Obviously the professor's words meant little to her.

We have built a new building. So, now what? This is the task of the relaunch committee that was formed last year. How will we relaunch ourselves into our neighbourhood?

First the relaunch committee has planned a grand opening weekend. On Saturday June 7th, we are planning a gala opening house. This will be a chance to show off our new home and to describe the work that we do. Each ministry group is asked to prepare a display of their work. Gift bags will be made available to our neighbours at Cranbrooke Village. Then at 2 pm on June 8th, we will be having our official grand opening service. All are invited. This weekend will be a chance to show off our church with pride.

Second, we are seeking to be a resource to our community. A neighbourhood directory is being prepared. We are talking with community partners to offer programmes and space for community needs. We are seeking ways to become a vital part of the Bathurst-Lawrence community.

Our committee will be meeting quite frequently in the next few months. New members are always welcome. Many hands are needed to successfully launch our church. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Darren.

Rev. Darren Leopold



BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE

Spring is a time of birth and new beginnings. The spring of 2014 our Congregation will have a significant “new beginning” as we return to our church home at 3180 Bathurst Street. It is our hope that our renovated building will be a place where both old and new members can begin to make new memories.

We plan a tour of the building this afternoon (Easter Sunday) and have our first worship service sometime in May with the grand opening celebration early in June. Our new church home may look a little bare when we first move back as there is still much work to be completed including such things as purchasing furniture, receiving the items from storage and Northminster, delivery of chairs, arranging our furniture and supplies. It will take time to get things organized and completely settle in but that is part of the fun of moving into a new place. You can do your part by volunteering to help with this process. Outside work on the landscaping has been delayed waiting for sunny dry days.

We want to thank Northminster United Church, now Cummer United Church, for their hospitality during the last three years. They are our dear friends and we truly appreciate their patience and generosity. Our renovations would not have been possible without the support of the members of Cummer United Church.

I want to thank the members of the Building Renovation Committee for their work and for being there to meet each challenge. The Building Renovation Committee hopes that you are pleased with our new church home. It will be wonderful to meet old friends that could not join us at 255 Finch and it will be exciting to meet and make welcome new friends from Cranbrooke Village and the neighborhood.

We all have rebirth and new beginnings in all aspects of our lives. Nothing is ever the end. We can always make a new start and find a new way of doing things. One thing that the last three years (and longer) have taught us is that the Congregation of Asbury and West United Church is ready for challenges and changes. We hope that you are as excited as we are to serve our Lord and our community and to make a new beginning.

Have a blessed Easter.

*Alan McKenzie
Chair*



WHY DID JESUS FOLD THE NAPKIN?

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection?

I never noticed this....

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes.

The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed separate from the grave clothes.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!'

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see.. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely!

Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it..

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table.

The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done'.

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because ...

The folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'

He Is Coming Back!





FINANCE MINISTRY

We have been on quite a journey. For 10 years we have been planning and waiting as our home is being renovated. Now as our building is nearing completion, we can sit back and relax. Well not quite. We all need to do our part to make Asbury and West a wonderful place.

Transition times are often tough times. And we know that we have had many challenges. Thanks for all your support to the recent special offering to cover General Expenses and the payroll. Your generosity is much appreciated and helped us get through a tough period. During the next few months your continued generosity will ensure the smooth running of our congregation.

Our church budget for the year 2014 is \$279,000. Some of this will come from rentals. We will soon welcome Forest Hill Montessori School and hopefully another rental congregation into 3180. We also will soon be able to rent out our building to outside groups.

Some money will come from your generous donations to our work. Thank you. The rest of our funds will need to come from fund raising events. Your gifts of money, time and talent will make our church a place that we can be proud to call home.

We are very grateful to envelope users when you keep your donations up-to-date, especially if you plan to be away during the summer. Choosing to donate through the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program is a great help meeting those monthly bills when people are away. If you would like to sign up for PAR, please see the information pamphlet in the narthex or talk to Cheryl Holliday or myself. If your circumstances change, you can adjust or cancel your PAR donation.

*Alan McKenzie,
Chair*



COPPER COIN KETTLE



The Copper Kettle donations are \$101.00 so far this year. Thank you for giving your loose change.

It is rare to see a one cent Canadian coin nowadays! Is it time for Finance Ministry to switch from a Copper Kettle to a "Loonie Bin"?

*Alan McKenzie
Chair, Finance*

TEN THINGS KIDS DO AT COMMUNION I WISH MORE ADULTS WOULD DO

1. Run down the aisle. It is okay to run down the aisle for communion. In fact, shouldn't we all be running to feast with Christ? Next time - don't walk, run.
2. Take communion with a stuffed animal. This should be acceptable as long as the stuffed animal is served communion too. Children are told that everyone is welcome at the table.
3. Drink every drop. It is critical that every drop of juice and morsel of bread is consumed. Do not Dunk the whole piece into the cup. Refer to #'s 3 and 4 for justification.
4. Look for the leftovers. The bread of life is too good to discard in the trash or feed to the birds.
5. Being shy is okay. Being shy to kids is like being humble to adults. Humility at the table of God? Great idea.
6. Laugh. Partaking in the banquet of God is a joyful event. Smile, laugh and if you have to, put a crocodile on your head and make the minister laugh too.
7. Express thanks. One thumb up at the meal is something, but two thumbs up is great.
8. Save some for later. Putting bread in your pocket seems like a reasonable way to take Christ into the leave until you take every last moment with Christ you can.
9. Ask for a big piece. Why settle for just a bit? Don't we want a big piece of Christ? world.
10. Then I had another one. Clink your glasses. A toast to God for all his goodness to us. Cheers!

*Submitted by
Cheryl Holliday*



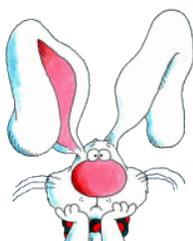
GAMES PLUS MORE



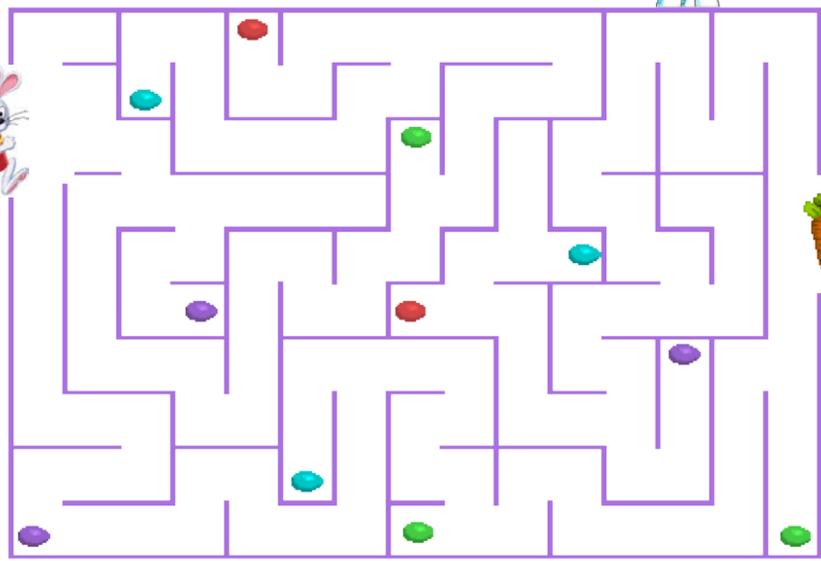
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- Bonnet
- Bunny
- Chocolates
- Daffodils
- Hunt
- Jellybean
- Lily
- Parade
- Easter
- Eggs
- Flowers
- Gumdrop
- Hopping
- Rabbit
- Spring
- Sunday
- Tulips



Help Thumper get to his carrot



Spot 10 Differences



EVERY YEAR IT'S THE SAME, SOME ONE STEALS MY EGG COLLECTION!



Carrying the Cross

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



The Empty Tomb

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



The Resurrection

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

Asbury and West United Church

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Have you taken a few minutes in the past week to pray for members of our congregation who are in poor health, or who are unable to get out? Take a minute to phone one or two, or call to make some personal visits, or send out a couple of cards just to let them know we care about them. Please let the church office know if we have forgotten any one.



HOME MEMBERS

Cecil Anderson

Fredrica Cameron

Evelyn Lyon

Viola Warford

Myra Badley

Bea Cares

Gerry Moore

George Breen

Betty & Fred Enta

Helen Smith

Joyce Bullock

Lilla Jaleel

Fred Sunahara

NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday, June 1, 2014
Next Edition – Father's Day - Sunday, June 15, 2014



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