

FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

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

April 5, 2015

"The Friendly Church"

Edition 141

He is not here, for he is
RISEN



ALLELUIA!



THE PASTOR'S PEN

It seems to be the great equalizer. Yesterday, it was the first day of spring. In Toronto, there were the same hours of daylight and night. In fact all around the world, there were the same number of hours of daylight and night. It didn't matter if one was in Peru, or Tanzania, or Mongolia, or Hawaii, everyone in the world received the same amount of daylight yesterday. No one got more; no one got less. Everybody got exactly the same.

Few things in life seem to be that equal. Some people are privileged to have a university education. This opens doors to them such as higher paying jobs, and being thought of as authority on subjects. Some people are privileged to have been born in countries such as Canada, the US, or the United Kingdom where we have access to schools, hospitals, infrastructure such as paved roads and safe water, living in a relatively peaceful environment. Children in many parts of the world have little or no access to schools, to doctors, to electricity, to safe water. Some people have economic privilege. They never have to worry about getting enough to eat or about how they might find shelter. Others in our world go to bed hungry, can't afford to go to school, have no access to doctors, or have had to flee their homes because of war. Even though things are getting better, men still have advantage over women, those without physical challenges don't have to work as hard as someone who is blind or who finds themselves in a wheelchair, someone who is Caucasian and speaks English sails through life easier than a recent immigrant from Asia or Africa who has no working knowledge of English or French.

Jesus seemed to be someone who broke down barriers. Even though tradition taught that Jesus should minister only to those who were righteous and who were Jewish, Jesus reached out to those that were unrighteous- the tax collectors and the

Gentiles, Jesus reached out to those that were not accepted by the religious authorities of the day- the Samaritans, those filled with demons, and women. He reached out to those that were uneducated, those who were poor, and those that were ill. Jesus was not at odds with the religious authorities of the day because they viewed him as unfaithful to the teachings of his faith. In fact, Jesus lived and died his life as a faithful Jew. But what did cause some dissension was that Jesus pushed the religious authorities to open their doors to the outcast and become a place of radical welcome.

Things have changed much since the United Church was born in 1925. For the first 40 years of the United Church's existence, the phrase was if you build it they will come. Churches were bursting at their seams during the 1950's. Since then though all churches whether they be United, Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal, or Roman Catholic have all seen decreases in their attendees and membership. No longer can we be places of privilege where only the saints belong, or folks from one class or folks who have other advantages find people just like them in the seats or pews beside them. Rather, the church can only survive if we model the radical hospitality that Jesus showed during his ministry. We need to push beyond our comfort zones and throw open our doors to those who might challenge us. My prayer is that we can become a church for all peoples where no one will be turned away.

Rev. Darren Liepold

*Easter
Blessings*



SENIOR CHOIR

Here we are already close to Easter but still freezing. This winter has been challenging with the cold weather affecting all of choristers at some point. Scratchy throats and nasty coughs have not stopped us and we still show up and sing each week. We're working on a few things...another fundraising concert for the fall, the development of the children's choir, and some added instruments to our music program. So stay tuned...or better yet, join us on Wednesday evenings and lift your voices and your spirits in song.



Paolo Busato, Music Director

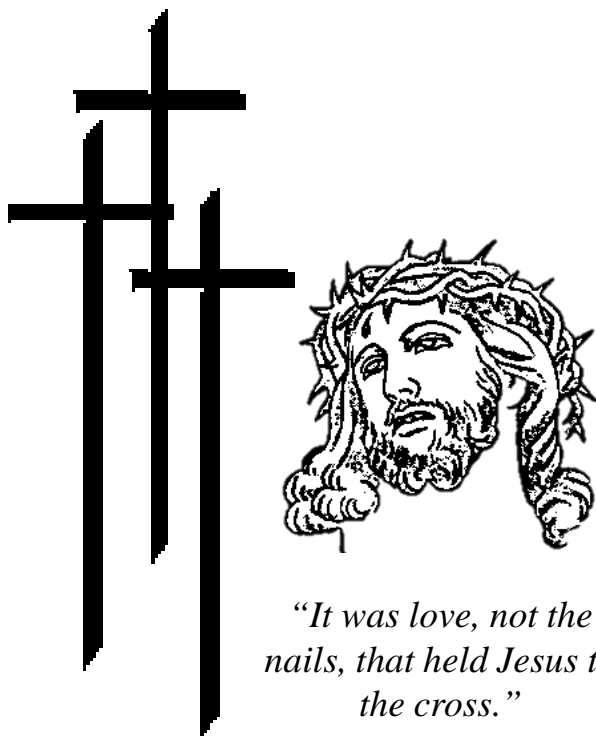


FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

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

Jocelyn & Sylvia

He is risen! SAVIOR
CROSS Alleluia THIRD DAY
Lord of Lords
RESURRECTION
HALLELUJAH
Jesus Christ
Crown of Thorns



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

LEGEND OF THE FIRST ROBIN

One day, long ago, a little bird in Galilee saw a large crowd gathered around a Man carrying a heavy wooden cross. On the Man's head was a crown made from a thorn branch. The thorns were long and sharp. The little bird saw that the thorns were hurting the Man. It wanted to help Him, so it flew down and took the longest, sharpest thorn in its tiny beak. The bird tugged and pulled until the thorn snapped from the branch. Then a strange thing happened. A drop of blood fell onto the bird's breast, staining it bright red. The stain never went away. And so today the robin proudly wears a red breast, because it helped a Man named Jesus.

CHURCH COUNCIL

How nice it is to celebrate our risen Lord here in our church building. The sanctuary is beautifully decorated with our Memorial Spring Flowers that pay tribute to those we have loved. Many of these flowers have been donated for delivery to our Home Members as a sign that they are valued members of our congregation and not forgotten. Thank you to everyone who got involved in any way with our Memorial Spring Flowers.

Another thank you is in order regarding our Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday February 22, 2015; the delicious lunch provided by the members of Joybreak, the sound system provided by our Choir Director Paolo Busato and your excellent attendance and participation. Thank you for being involved. (If you missed getting a survey they are still available. If you did not return yours, simply bring it next Sunday.)

Similarly, it is not too late if you wish to put your name forward to be considered to serve on an Interview Committee for a supply minister or a Search Committee for a permanent minister. We

will need a supply minister until a permanent minister is secured. Please consider this a gentle tap on your shoulder to become involved.

And speaking of getting involved.....Thank you to Melvyn Beckles, Jonathan Francis, Lucille Hunte, Veronica Ennis and Lola Pinnock who spoke at our Black History Month service Sunday February, 5, 2015. Be sure to read Jonathan's poem published in this issue.

On Sunday March 22, 2015, four women of our congregation got involved in our service. Thank you to Dorothy Ostrom, Kay Roffey-Dampier, Margaret Stark and Yvonne Wilson who shared their memories of Asbury and West. This issue of Flock Talk is featuring the typed notes from the women.

Catch the spirit....get involved!!!

Blessings,
Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson
Chair

MINISTRY GROUPS and COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Vacancy

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Cheryl Holliday
Council Rep: Kim Davidson

FINANCE

Chair: Alan McKenzie

HOSPITALITY

Chair: Lou Rhoden

HUMAN RESOURCES

Chair: Sheila Mascoll

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Ianthe Spencer

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Chair: Vacancy

PROPERTY

Chair: Pauline McKenzie

STEWARDSHIP

Chair: Phoebe Cleverley

WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC

Co-Chairs: Lynsia Panthaki and Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Chair: Cheryl Holliday

MEMORIAL Committee

Cheryl Holliday, Darren Liepold, David Tuck

RENOVATION Committee

Chair: Alan McKenzie

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE

Sheila Mascoll



Happy Easter

KAY ROFFEY-DAMPIER'S MEMORIES OF ASBURY AND WEST

My husband Al and I came to live on Fairlawn Avenue on February 1950 just north of here where there were only farm fields. There were no buses north of Glencarin. All young families were moving into the area. The church services were held at Saranac Public School which was in the lot south of here. Bruce was our only child then. Rev Stenlake was our minister from 1947-53 and he baptised Bruce. In April 1950-1951 we saw the first phase of Asbury and West being built. It consisted of the library, office, minister study and auditorium, where the church services would be held. Rev. G. Hunter came to be our minister in 1953 and our son Brian was baptised in 1955. We had a good sized congregation by this time. Bible study groups were formed, some held in the evening, and some in the afternoon. Weekend retreats were held at Carleton Farms.

April 1958 the second phase of our new sanctuary opened. We had Stewards and Elders. There was a Junior choir as well as a Senior Choir. Joyce Bullock worked with the junior choir and later Janice Alexander took over conducting. There was a WMS and UCW and men had their AOTS. There was CGIT, Boys Scouts, Paul Weldinson and Dale Younge became Rover Scouts. There was baseball and hockey, our son Brian played hockey. Dick Duff was there when they won the cup. There was fast ball – which Bruce played, and coached by Howard Martin. Sometimes the Sunday school picnics were held at Boyd Conservation Park in Woodbridge. Our Easter breakfasts were prepared by the men consisting of pancakes, bacon, sausages and hot cross buns made by Myra Badley.

Our Christmas dinners had a host and hostess at each table. Bruce helped me after my husband died in 1970. Each couple were given a turkey to cook. Of course I was working – I gave a key to my neighbour to put the turkey in the oven, but I gave her the wrong key so I rushed home, turned the oven to 500 to cook the turkey, made stuffing and gravy and got it to the church to serve it by 6:30. We took the turkey to the church on his wagon. Some ladies took the turkeys carcass home and made turkey soup to serve at our congregation luncheon. Joyce Bullock was one of the ladies.

Asbury had a bus service to transport families from Flemington Park and Lawrence to church on Sundays. No one can forget the Sunday night church services at Lawrence Plaza.

There were many services when we had special speakers like Moderators. Once we had Malcolm Muggeridge and Bruce Lison from the US. Our daughter Donna was baptised June 8, 1958 at the first baptism in the new sanctuary. The speaker was Margery Wilkinson. She

presented the baptismal families with a book she had written entitled "The Sun in our House".

Asbury had a nursery school, Oliver Swift and Dorothy Walters were leaders teachers were Megan Sumi (played piano), Mrs. Stapleton and myself. After Mrs. Walters died it was run by Mrs. Schnater.

There's been an Ashram (Christian retreat) held each year since 1960, brought to Canada by E. Stanley Jones. He was an evangelist and missionary. It's for families, youth, singles and children. It was held for years at Geneva Park outside Orillia. (This year it's being held July 24-26 at the Queens of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga. For more information please see Ianthe Spencer.) Stanley Jones died in 1973 at the age of 89.

Rev. Moffatt became our minister in 1967. My husband Al died May 24, 1970. I remember one Sunday morning Bruce came to me and said he was doing to church early as he wanted to talk to Rev. Moffatt. During the service Rev. Moffatt announced that Bruce had decided to go into the ministry. You could have knocked me over with a feather, I was so pleasantly surprised.

Asbury and West had many student ministers in the 60's and 70's, they helped in the service. A few I remember were Bob Duthie, Robert Brown, Bruce Gregorson, Tom Sherwood, and my son Bruce.

Rev. Douglas McKenzie became our minister in 1978. Bruce was ordained June 10, 1979. After ordination he preached at Asbury on a communion Sunday. As an elder I was one of the first to be served the communion elements by my son – you can imagine how proud I felt. The congregation presented Bruce with his clerical gown at this service.

Our daughter Donna was married by Rev. McKenzie with Bruce officiating. Donna's soloist sang Cat Stevens's song entitled "Morning has Broken" and our late beloved organist Bill Shewalter asked "is that a religious song?".

Tom Dampier and I were married by Rev. McKenzie and Bruce in August 1991, unfortunately Tom passed away only six months later.

Asbury still have the Sunday School picnics, the Easter Breakfast, Christmas carol services put on by our wonderful choir and our Christmas suppers. I remember at one of the picnics a game for the children – they were told to run and touch the tree and run back. One little boy ran, touched the tree and ran backwards.

Asbury and West was always been known as a "Friendly Church" and I know that when people come into our sanctuary they feel the love and friendship poured out to them and let's continue that.



Our group understands that our chief responsibility is to give leadership in keeping the building in good working order. We see a second responsibility in assisting with outreach and fundraising.

There is a lot to learn about maintaining the building as we transition from renovation to maintenance. Systems that require regular maintenance include the heating system, fire alarm, burglar alarm, elevators, sprinklers, plumbing and drains. Our work over the next two months will include signing a contract with a maintenance company for the HVAC (Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning.) We have received one proposal so far and will be looking at more before we make our decision.

Our ongoing outreach and fundraising include maintaining relations with our two long term tenants, Forest Hill Montessori School and Korean Emanuel Methodist Church, and supervising casual rentals. Speaking with members of the community who come to rent is an excellent opportunity to make personal contact with our neighbours.

Latest!

Property is installing a large bulletin board in the lower Saranac entrance. This is intended for use by the community. Notices may be put up for two weeks, then taken down. Members of our congregation and the wider community, may put up notices once they have been approved, dated and signed by someone in the church office. Forest Hill Montessori will govern any notices put up by their staff and parents.

Pauline McKenzie, Chair



LOST BUT FOUND

I was young, but my heart felt old
I was alive, but my skin so cold

I had friends but in truth I was alone
I was on my way to a place unknown

Only self destruction, dark path, dark class
Independent living, young love don't last

Moving every year, my one and only fear
Death would be calling and I wouldn't even hear

The difference was missing, inexistent
Free willing, self-governing, self sufficient

Love is lost, darkness was the definition
Slave to sin Satan brought me through repetition

But new life, different times, opened my eyes
Full of light, darkness here no longer resides

Beauty of Christ, He brought me through
weary nights
Frightening sights, going to heaven no fear
in heights

My heart cries for His mercy, may He never
abandon my side
In Christ alone, cornerstone, that's where my soul
will abide

His holiness is so graceful, power divine and
glorious
Son of Man's committed work, ascension
complete & victorious

His everlasting faithfulness reaches to me
With more beauty than a dove
My magnificent King, full of power, O how He
never has, or will reject my love.

Jonathan Francis



Jonathan shared his poem when we celebrated Black History month on Sunday, February 5th.



Founded 1985

We are happy to report that a new shipment of chocolates has arrived. Chocolate covered almonds (peanut free) and Mint Meltaways (completely nut free) are available any Sunday after the service for \$2.00 a box. Your

support of the church is very much appreciated.

Our programs continue to be varied, interesting and informative. In January we enjoyed hearing stories about historical Toronto, inspired by the "Murdoch Mysteries" TV series. Last month we shared our personal family stories and thoughts as we remembered the sacrifices and struggles of Canadians in the two world wars and others.

Joybreak meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday evening of every month except February, July and August. All women are welcome.

Have a *Blessed Easter* everyone!

Cheryl Holliday

Contact

HE IS RISEN
Forgiven

For God so Loved the World

LAMB ^{of} God

love

He is Risen Indeed

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

HALLELUJAH

Eternal Life

Redeemer

my savior



The young at heart seniors meet every second and fourth Thursday from January to December from 11:00 am 2:00 pm, with the exceptions of the summer months of July and August.

We have a varied program with speakers, movies and games, visits to shows, coach tours and pot luck luncheons.

All members of the congregation are welcome. Bring your friends and join us at our meetings and upcoming events.

April 23rd - Lynne Gallagher from Family Service Toronto

May 20th - Coach tour to Hamilton

June 11th - Pot luck luncheon and farewell To Rev. Darren Liepold, featuring music by George Heldt.

Shirley and I hope you will join us!

Melvyn and Shirley Beckles, Group Contacts

HAPPENINGS IN THE WIDER CHURCH

Several big changes are proposed for this year's General Council meeting to be held in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland this August which could impact the work of the United Church of Canada. The General Council meets every three years to decide future directions for our United Church of Canada. About 300 commissioners from across the country will gather to discuss and vote on these proposals.

One major proposal to come forward is called the Comprehensive Review. Basically it is looking at how the church governs itself. Right now the United Church has four levels of government—the Pastoral Charge, the Presbytery, the Conference, and the General Council level. This 4 level governing structure seems to be unworkable especially when the membership of the United Church stands at about 500,000. The idea being proposed is that the presbytery and conference level be phased out and replaced with five regional councils.

A second part of the comprehensive review is looking at the work that we are doing as a United Church of Canada. In 1988, gifts to the Mission and Service Fund stood at \$30,000,000. We were able to do much work with this money however we still had to draw from reserves to do what the church felt called to do. 27 years later, gifts to M&S remain at \$30,000,000. Inflation has continually eaten though at the value of these gifts. The reserves of our national church are but a fraction of what they once were. So tough decisions will have to be made about what the national church is able to fund, what it needs to give up, and what work the church can do. Many more staff from Presbytery, Conference, and General Council will be losing their jobs.

Thirdly, it was felt that the way ministers are supported and disciplined needs to be changed. A proposal is coming forward that we establish a college of ministers and an association of ministers that would carry out these functions. This will be akin to the college of physicians or royal conservatory of organists and how they govern their members. The association of ministers would be a supportive body who would help ministers deal with things like conflict in churches, deal with problems with payroll, and support ministers who are facing disciplinary action.

A fourth proposal also deals with ministers in our denomination. At present we have many categories of ministers in our church: ordained ministers like myself, diaconal ministers who are ministers trained with a special focus (like social justice or education), designated lay ministers (ministers who don't have a seminary degree but have gone through another program of study). Basically 95% of Diaconal ministers and 98% of designated lay ministers do the same type of work as I do. This proposal would make all these ministry personnel the same. We would be treated alike, earn the same salaries, and all be granted the same sacramental privileges.

All churches of all denominations are going through difficult times right now. One church is closing everyday in Canada. The United Church is not immune to these difficulties. It is hoped that the decisions made this summer will help to support our church and to allow it to be a vital force for years to come.

Rev. Darren Liepold



LOONIE BIN = COPPER KETTLE

Part way through 2012 we introduced the Copper (coin) Kettle and received \$359.00. In 2013 we received \$444.50. In 2014 we received \$482.50. So far this year we received \$136.00. Let's keep those loonies rolling in!

Contribution Range Report for 2014

During 2014, 192 people made donations to Asbury and West United Church.

114 of those donations were under \$100.00 for a total of \$3,950.00.

29 people donated between \$100.00 and \$500.00 for a total of \$6,871.00.

37 people donated between \$501.00 and \$2,500.00 for a total of \$45,448.00.

12 people donated over \$2,500.00 for a total of \$57,129.00.

Let's all move up a range!

If 100 persons increase their weekly Givings by \$2.00 a week, the result will be an increase in revenue of \$10,400.00.



Alan McKenzie, Chair Finance

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



EASTER CHURCH SIGNS

- + We use duct tape to fix everything... God used nails.
- + 3 Nails + 1 Cross = 4 Given
- + Believing Christ died is history... Believing He died for you is salvation.
- + Christians celebrate Easter every Sunday!
- + Easter is more than something to dye for.
- + The Tomb of Christ is famous because of what it DOES NOT CONTAIN.
- + He came back from the dead! Meet Him this Sunday at 10:30!
- + LENT: Spring Training for Christians EASTER: OPENING DAY.
- + Spring is in the air – God is everywhere!



MARGART STARK'S MEMORIES OF ASBURY AND WEST

In July 1973 part of our family moved to Toronto where my husband was transferred from Edmonton. We were very active in our Church there as we were charter members and Bob was Clerk of Session and it was a very friendly Church. We arrived July 1st weekend and were sure nobody would be left in the city when we saw the line of bumper to bumper cars going up the 400.

On Sunday we went to the nearest United Church and were disappointed no one spoke to us. The next Sunday we tried another local church no luck there and after the third try with no friendliness, I looked at the Toronto Star which at that time listed names and times of church services. Asbury and West caught our eye so there we went. **Irene Tuck** greeted us and made us feel welcome as did **Rev. John Moffat** the minister then. We had a little chat and later the next week John called on us at our house and he had remembered the names of our children, he had a fantastic memory for names. So here was our new church home.

Clarence Taylor was clerk of session, **Vivian Dampier** secretary, **Bill Shewalter** organist, **Tom Mumford** custodian. We had a large adult choir and a children's choir under the direction of **Joyce Bullock** and they took part regularly in Church services. The nursery which was well equipped with cribs and toys was a very busy spot. **Don Guinn** a young man was the Sunday School pianist and Jean our daughter taught Sunday school having the **Beckles'** twins in her class

Being a member of the UCW I joined Unit 1 there were four other units as well. A number of ladies lived in my area so we car pooled to meetings and became good friends. At that time the UCW provided refreshments after the funeral of a member. The number of ladies available grew smaller and one week we had three funerals with the same ladies involved which was too much so we voted to discontinue this practise, this caused some hard feelings. The ladies decided we needed new chesterfields so I went to Cambridge with two other ladies to pick out the new furniture. We also had the parlour chairs recovered. When the coffee urn broke down we had a collection of Dominion Tapes collected from the congregation to purchase a new one.

In 1974 Care- Ring was formed, seven churches and two synagogues with H.Q. at Armour Heights. The idea was to drive people to medical appointments etc. I volunteered as a driver. Unfortunately this did not last long.

Doug McKenzie became our new minister and moved here from Quebec, with **Heather** and two sons **Scott** and **Peter**.

He was responsible for the installation of the Stained glass windows, depicting the life of Christ. Some were family donations and others from groups.

A trip to Israel was planned by **Doug** but not many were interested and it ended up with four of us going. **Kay Roffey, Petrie, Bob** and I. A few years later **Doug, Heather** and their two boys took quite a large church group which went well. A wonderful experience.

Bill McCartney a member donated "The Last Supper" and "Woman at the Well" which we still enjoy today. **Anna Hunter** the late **Rev. Gordon Hunter's** wife painted several pictures which we can see on the walls today.

Ruth Taylor and I formed the Seniors group which was strictly recreational meeting second and fourth Thursday of the month. We had many bus trips with full loads especially Christmas but all enjoyable. We had many city tours too and we took part in **Joyce Bullock's** Rank Amateur Concert held in the fall using the choir and individual talent all very good. Seniors sang two songs and put on a skit, all had to be practiced.

John Sullivan Clerk of Session and former school teacher put on the Bethel Bible series which ran weekly for two years and covered the Bible from Genesis to Revelations. I think ten of us took the course which involved memory work plus at home reading parts of the Bible. We were tested regularly and the final exam was several hours long. Bob and I completed the course and could teach which we did a bit but there was not a great interest.

We had a good library which was well used on the honour system. **Helen Sanderson** did a lot of work here.

Connie Shewalter and I got together to sell geraniums to raise money for the church. We found a nursery who told us colours available and prices and agreed to deliver to the Church the Friday evening of the long weekend in May. We took orders, which were prepaid and we worked after seeing you got what you ordered. We did this for several years until the owner died and his son did not wish to continue, but we made hundreds of dollars.

One year UCW decided to donate a flower in memory of a friend or loved one. These look well at the front of the Church today. I remember two young men going into the Ministry from Asbury & West **Bruce Roffey** and **Bruce Gregorson**.

My memories of Asbury & West are happy and I am glad we chose to attend here.



*"Sharing the Gifts We
Have Been Given"*

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Part of our mission is fundraising in order to carry out our responsibilities in our church and our community. We are looking for ideas and also for one or two volunteers who are comfortable with electronic media to help publicize the facilities of Asbury and West United Church as a venue for concerts, rehearsals, presentations, meetings, or conferences for cultural and community groups. If you have ideas for artwork and for assembly of a flyer with information about what we can offer please get in touch with me or leave a message at the church office.

Phoebe Cleverley, Chair



BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE

During the 2015 budget, we calculated that the Building Renovation Project would be able to return \$82,800.00 to Church Operations. Building Renovations has already transferred over \$66,000.00 to Church Operations. Provided that there are no more expensive surprises, the Building Renovation Project will be able to return at least \$17,000.00 more to Church Operations.

Kembic Construction and Black & Moffat Architects are now paid in full. We still have a few expenses and there is still some "fine tuning" to be done to the building systems. There are a few more items that we need to purchase but it is almost time to close the Building Renovation Project. The building is under warranty until June 2015. Property Ministry is working hard to make sure that everything is fully functional before the

end of the warranty period. The Building Renovation Committee will continue its work until the end of the warranty period.

Thanks to all of the Building Renovation Committee members, the Long Range Planning Committee, the Implementation Committee and the Property Ministry and each of you for all that that you have done to make this lengthy and complex project a success. We have a beautiful, safe and very functional Church Home. Let's use our building to serve our Lord and the Bathurst and Lawrence Community. Let's keep it in good repair for all the future generations of Asbury and West United Church!

Alan McKenzie, Chair



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Church School

We have spent the last several weeks learning about Jesus' last days on earth and will continue after Easter with Christ's appearances to his disciples, Ascension and Pentecost. We had fun assembling the symbolic Easter luncheon and hanging the "He is Risen" message for all to see.

On May 3 the lesson is titled "Breakfast with Jesus". After church we are planning to serve refreshments in the Upper Room.

Looking ahead – our *Celebration Sunday* is June 14. Please watch for more details in upcoming Sunday morning announcements.

Adult Studies:

Rev. Darren led an enthusiastic group of 10 through a Lenten study using the book "Diving In". We are very thankful to Darren for the many adult learning sessions he has led during his time at Asbury and West.

The staff and children wish you all a Happy Easter!

Cheryl Holliday, Chair



DOROTHY OSTROM'S MEMORIES OF ASBURY AND WEST

When Sylvia asked me to participate in this Sunday Service, it started to bring back many memories of my family's years at Asbury.

Lloyd and I transferred from Leaside United in 1963, 52 years ago. Where has the time gone? Rev. Gordon Hunter was in the last years of his ministry here. At that time Glenda McBroom and I would sit up in the balcony (now our Upper Hall) for the service, so we could pick up our daughters Anne and Carol from the Nursery when it was over. Rev. John Moffat came in 1967. One of the special services I recall during his time was the Mother's Day or Family Day Service. He would have a family do all the readings. We were asked to do it when Karen was 11 and Anne 7. The girls did us proud with their readings. Rev. Moffat performed the marriage of our daughter Karen in 1977. In 1978 Rev. Douglas McKenzie came to our Church, intending to stay 10 years and stayed 32. He performed the marriage of our daughter Anne in 1990.

Lloyd was on the Baptismal Committee for some years, and was proud to present our grandson, Stephen, son of Karen and Rod, for baptism in 1990. Stephen is now 25.

I was on the Manse Committee when Doug McKenzie came to the Church. Harry Hepburn was instrumental in the purchasing of the Manse for the McKenzie's. Heather McKenzie was very easy to work with through the years, in matters pertaining to the Manse.

Music has been important in our family. When Lloyd joined the Senior Choir, Bill Shewalter the Director, brought him forward into solo parts. Lloyd loved singing. Remember "Birthday of a King"? Anne was a part of the Junior Choir led by Joyce Bullock, and she was also a soloist. Joyce besides being in the Senior Choir and leading the Junior Choir, was the guiding light behind our Rank Amateur Nights, which many will remember, were performed for many years in the old Gym. I still have the videos from 1996 to 2000. It is interesting watching people like Herb McNaught, John Sullivan, Heather McKenzie, Cheryl Holliday, and Lloyd performing.

In the 1970's and 80's the UCW had a membership of over 50 women. The women were divided into 6 units who met once a month. There was also a General Meeting held once a month which everyone attended.

We are now down to 15 women and we meet once a month in the Upper Hall as 1 unit. Times change, but we still have good fellowship, still are able to support charities, and help out around the Church when we can. In the early years of the UCW there were some tasks the women were required to do for the larger UCW, such as supplying at least a dozen loaves of sandwiches for the Fred Victor Mission, every few months. A group of women would gather in the basement kitchen at the appointed morning with dozens of boiled eggs to be mashed and meat spread to be applied to the many loaves. A job we were always glad to finish. Also Glenda and I would spend many mornings in the Board Room sorting or discarding old clothing donated for charity. (This was long before our Yard Sales). Glenda would bring her younger daughter Linda along, as she was not yet going to school.

I was a teacher in the Primary Dept. for ten years. The Primary children's ages were 6 to 9. You can tell how long ago that was, as one of my pupils, Kim Davidson is a teacher in our Church School and has a grown-up daughter. Ruth Taylor was our Superintendent, followed by Margaret Taylor. Don Guinn was our pianist.

I've been on the Christian Education Committee for quite a while. I remember when Rev. Clare Geddes our long ago Assistant Minister was our Chair, also John Sullivan. Our present Chair Cheryl Holliday, has led us very ably for over 10 years, as well as being Superintendent of the Church School. The C.E. Committee has looked after many BBQs held over the years. Remember Alan McKenzie, David Tuck, and Rudy Simon serving up those delicious hamburgers and hot dogs on the front lawn.

Speaking of Alan, I was a small part of the Renovation Committee and saw the hard work and long hours Pauline and Alan McKenzie put in to the remaking of Asbury into this beautiful Church. Thank you both.

These have been just a few of my personal memories, but the best of all are the friends I have at Asbury. Thank you.



Q: What day does an Easter egg hate the most?

A: Fry-days.

Q: Where does the Easter Bunny get his eggs?

A: From Eggplants.

Q: What kind of bunny can't hop?

A: A chocolate one!

Q: How do bunnies stay healthy?

A: Eggercise



Q: Why couldn't the Easter egg family watch T.V.?

A: Because their cable was scrambled.

Q: What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school?

A: He was eggspelled!



HAPPY
EASTER

Q: How should you send a letter to the Easter Bunny?

A: By hare mail!

Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

A: Bugs Bunny!

Q: What do you call a bunny with a large brain?

A: An egghead.

Q: What happened to the egg when he was tickled too much?

A: He cracked up.

Q: What do you call ten rabbits marching backwards?

A: A receding hareline.

Q: Why was the Easter Bunny so upset?

A: He was having a bad hare day!



Q: How did the soggy Easter Bunny dry himself?

A: With a hare dryer!



FINANCE MINISTRY

Our Church Family's finances are improving but we still face challenges. Our Congregation received a gift of \$175,000.00 arranged for us by the President of Options for Homes, Michel Labbe. That gift enabled Finance to repay a loan that we received from the United Church's Mission through Finance. It also allowed us to pay monies that we owed to the United Church. At the beginning of 2015, our debt was \$413,000.00. During the first two months we repaid \$164,000.00. This is great news! We still need to raise \$249,000.00 to replenish our reserves and be debt free.

Our greatest challenge is the Operations Budget. During the first two months of the year, our Expenses exceeded our Revenue by \$12,000.00. We all work very hard to keep our expenses as low as possible but we have been in our building for less than a year and that makes it difficult to know our true costs of operation. We recently completed our 2015 budget and here is what we found:

It takes approximately \$310,000.00 per year to operate our church and all our programs. We expect to receive about \$93,000.00 from the money that comes in through the collection plate. We will also receive \$114,000.00 from our two main tenants and hope to get a further \$10,000.00 from short term rentals. That's roughly \$217,000.00 in regular and reliable revenue. Our expenses for 2015 are expected to be \$93,000.00 higher than our anticipated revenue. Reduction of some of the shortfall will come from fund raising events such as our Yard Sale and Walk-a-thon. There will be a small

surplus from the Building Renovation Project that will go to church operations. With luck, we should end 2015 with a balanced budget because of these special one-time receipts. However, as we look to the future, we must find new sources of revenue.

What can you do to help?

Share your treasure: Please increase your donations if you are able. Please consider using PAR, the Pre-Authorized-Remittance program. It makes donating easy for you and for Finance.

Share your Time and Talents: We need new and exciting fund raisers! Do you have an idea for a new way to raise funds? Do you have training and skills that will help our Church Council? We need you to help with Human Resources, Finance and Stewardship.


Invite a Friend: We would love to see new friends that want to be part of the Asbury and West United Church family. They will receive a warm welcome.

Our Church Family has a lot of potential. We have a beautiful modern building in a great location. We have a core of hard working and dedicated people that are determined to make people feel welcome and provide an uplifting experience during Sunday Service and through our many outreach programs. We need new ideas; your ideas in order to overcome our financial challenges.

Now is the time to act! We must make sure that our Church Family's budget will be balanced in 2016.

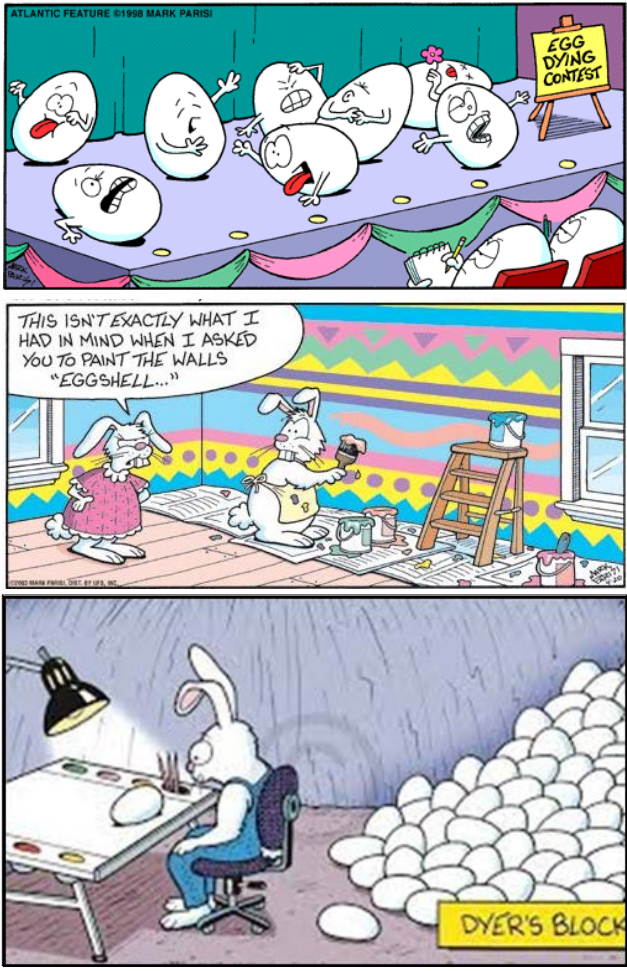
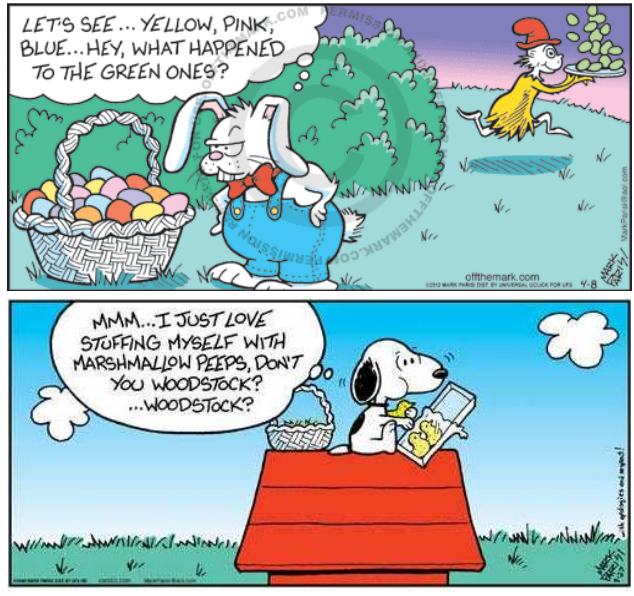
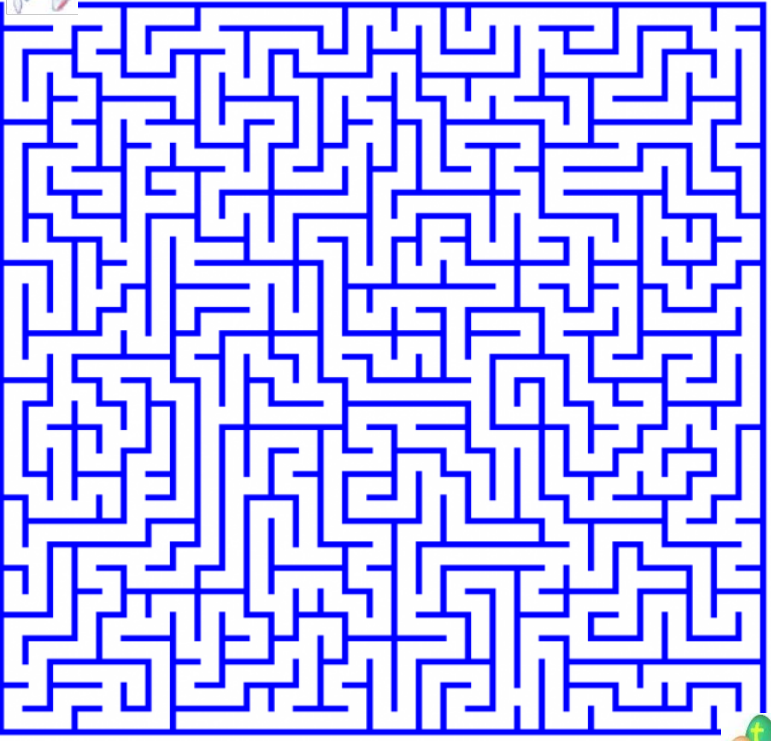
Alan McKenzie, Chair



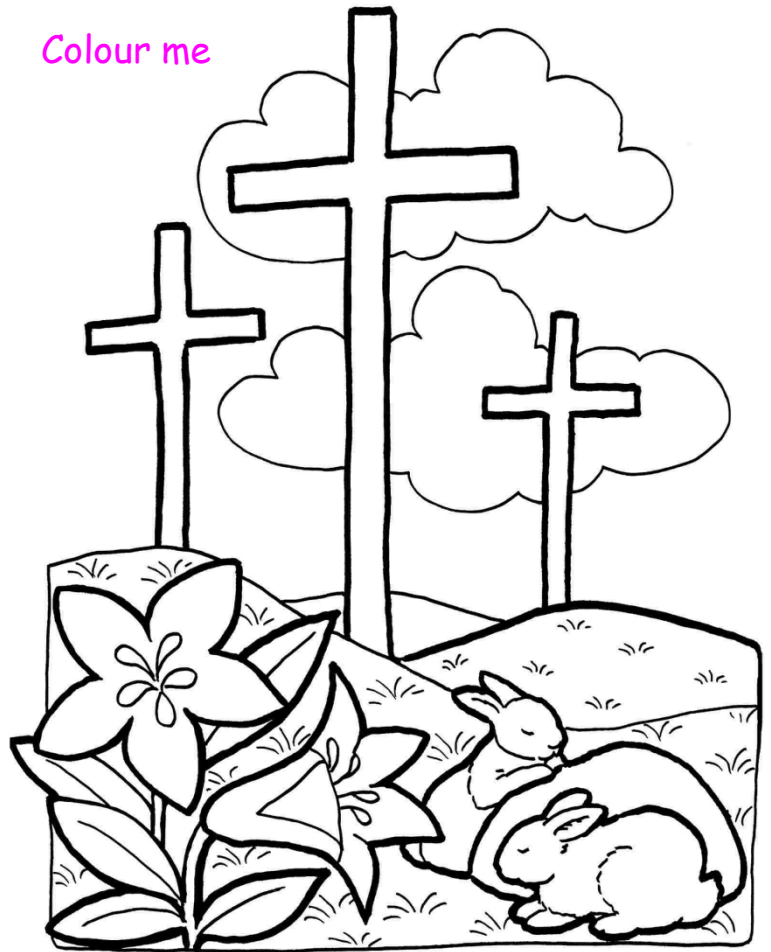


Help Thumper
collect his eggs

GAMES PLUS MORE



Colour me




YVONNE WILSON'S MEMORIES OF ASBURY AND WEST

In the early 1960's I was a young mum with three children. I came to Canada in 1956 from Scotland. My husband Peter and I settled in Lawrence Heights. During that time I felt that something was missing from my life, that being my church. At that time we were getting the Toronto Telegram newspaper. I was looking through Saturday's edition with lots of ads about churches. I noticed one for Asbury and West. I wrote a letter to Rev. Gordon Hunter. I told him I had been very active in my congregational church in Cambuslang Scotland and I was looking for a church. A few days later while walking with my children I noticed a gentleman walking briskly toward me. He smiled and asked Mrs. Wilson? and offered me a firm handshake. He said "your husband told me where to find you, my name is Rev. Gordon Hunter". I've come to welcome you and your family to Asbury and West United Church. From then on it was Sunday services, and Sunday School. At that time we had a bus to bring us, and each Sunday it was filled with mothers and children coming to church. From then on it was cubs, scouts, CGIT, Explorers run by my Friend Irene Tuck, the Junior Choir run by Joyce Bullock, Bethel Bible Studies led by John Sullivan and others, the UCW, Sunday evening services at Lawrence Plaza. Time has past and I have been blessed with happy memories and many friends. We still worship together over 50 years later. I have been enjoying the changes we have made at Asbury. I now can enjoy our multi-culture friends and learn about places I have never traveled to and of course our international pot luck dishes of food. One other change, being I have since moved onto our seniors Young at Heart group, where our programs are in the capable hands of Melvyn Beckles. So Onward Christian soldiers.



HOW IS THE DATE OF EASTER CALCULATED?



The Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon that falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox.

We know that Easter must always occur on a Sunday, because Sunday was the day of Christ's Resurrection. But why the paschal full moon? Because that was the date of Passover in the Jewish calendar, and the Last Supper (Holy Thursday) occurred on the Passover. Therefore, Easter was the Sunday after Passover.

The Church does not use the exact date of the paschal full moon but an approximation, because the paschal full moon can fall on different days in different time zones, which would mean that the date of Easter would be different depending on which time zone you live in. For calculation purposes, the full moon is always set at the 14th day of the lunar month (the lunar month begins with the new moon). Likewise, the Church sets the date of the vernal equinox at March 21, even though it can occur on March 20. Both approximations allow the Church to set a universal date for Easter.

CHOOSING A GOOD MINISTER

One of the toughest tasks a church faces is choosing a good minister. A member of an official board undergoing this painful process finally lost patience. He had just witness the pastoral relations committee reject application after applicant for some minor fault, real or imagined. It was time for a bit of soul searching on the part of the committee. So he stood up and read this letter purported to be from an applicant.

Gentlemen, understanding your pulpit is vacant; I should like to apply for the positions. I have many qualifications. I've been a preacher with much success and also having had some success as a writer. Some say I am a good organizer, I've been a leader in most places I've been. I'm over 50 years of age and have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places I have left town after my work cause casual riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times but not because of any wrong doing. My health is not too good though I still accomplish a great deal. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in some large cities. I've not gotten along well with religious leaders in the towns I have preached, in fact some have threatened me and even attacked my physically. I'm not too good at keeping records and I have been known to forget who I baptized. However if you can use me I promise to do my best for you!

The board members turned to the committee and said, "Well what do you think? Shall we call him? The good church folks were appalled. "Consider a sickly, trouble maker, absent minded ex-jailbird?" Was the board member crazy? Who signed the application? Who had such colossal nerve?

The board member eyed them all keenly before he replied. "It's signed by the Apostle Paul."

Author Unknown

Found in a "Chicken Soup for the Soul"

Submitted by Yvonne Wilson

It is not too late if you wish to put your name forward to be considered to serve on an Interview Committee for a supply minister or on a Search Committee for a permanent minister. We will need a supply minister until a permanent minister is secured.

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson
Chair, Council





Carrying the Cross

On Palm Sunday, April 8, 1990 "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 on December 18, 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

Myra Badley

George Breen

Joyce Bullock

Fredrica Cameron

Bea Cares

Betty & Fred Enta

Mildred Franklin

Evelyn Lyon

Gerry Moore

Helen Smith

Fred Sunahara

Viola Warford

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Next Edition – Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, 2015



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