
FLOCK TALK

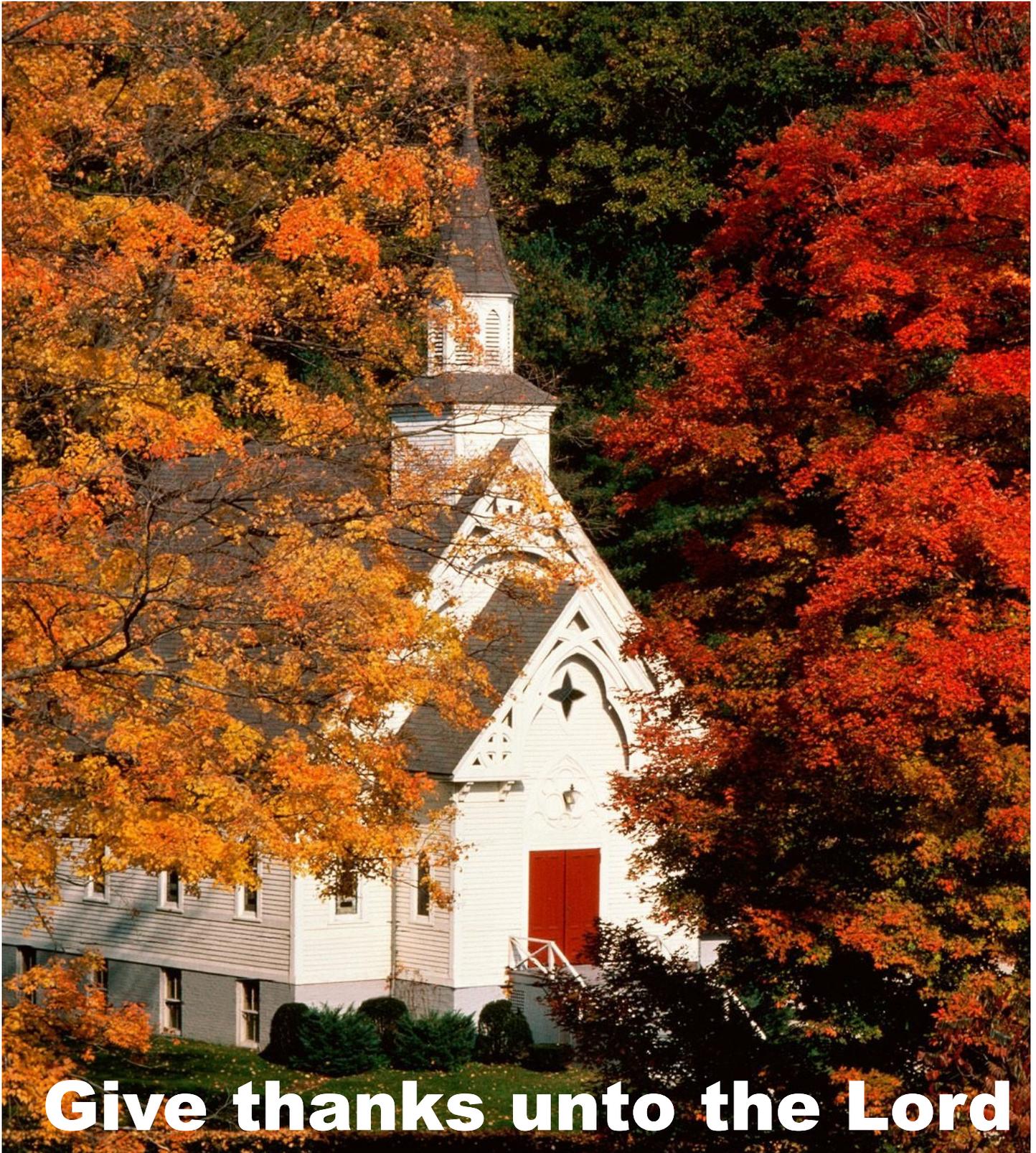
Asbury and West United Church

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

October 7, 2012

“The Friendly Church”

Edition 132



Give thanks unto the Lord

THE PASTOR'S PEN

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

(NRSV Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Summer has gone and with the passing of summer, our first year "in exile" has passed. Now it is not a bad exile. We aren't facing hunger, or oppression, or violence here. We are living with friends. Oh sure sometimes the path between our two congregations has not been completely easy. But for the most part, we have been able to get along. But even though it has been fairly pleasant, this year has been a time away. We have been away from our church home. We have missed people who couldn't quite make the journey up here. We have had to change and give up traditions in working with our Northminster partners. This change is never easy. Yes there have been good times. Yes we have gone through big celebrations here like our 200th anniversary. We marked occasions like Mel and Shirley's 50th wedding anniversary. During our time here we have had a baptism. But also there have been hard times. We have said good bye to many good friends through funerals. We have had to deal with delays and budget problems with our project. We have shed some tears. All this has happened in one year.

I am not sure if any of you have ever felt exiled. Sometimes it can be a self imposed exile that gets us thinking about how things have changed. After years of working in Toronto, I had the occasion to go back to Vancouver in 2007. Vancouver is a city that I had lived in for 15 years before coming to Toronto in 2000. In some ways, the city had not changed. Stanley Park, the North Shore Mountains, the Lion's Gate Bridge, Pacific Centre Mall and the Downtown Eastside were all still there.

But even though many things had stayed the same, my impressions of Vancouver had changed in the 7 years since I had lived there. Vancouver seemed small compared to Toronto. Traffic problems were

different. The beautiful mountains separated me from home. And Vancouver had changed- it had evolved in new ways since I had left.

Maybe that is something for us to think about in this year when we hope to be moving back to 3180 Bathurst Street. In one way it will be wonderful to get back. Back under our own roof. Our committees will establish a way that they need to operate. We won't have to share offices, or bulletins, or kitchens etc. Won't it be great.

But it won't be exactly the same. We will have changed in our year away. We will have learned new ways of doing things, some of these which we might want to adapt when we get home. And our neighbourhood will have changed in the time when we have been away. Certainly we will have new neighbours from the condo next door, but I am sure our neighbourhood will continue to have evolved during our exile.

Certainly the bible can relate to stories like that. We know how the best and brightest were taken to Babylon during the captivity. Then it was time for them to come home. I am sure most were excited to go back home. But things had changed. The captives had learned much during their time in Babylon. The Babylonian culture, for good and bad, had become part of the Jewish culture. And when the captives got back home, they realized that Jerusalem had not stood still. It had evolved as well. It took some time for all of these differences to be worked out.

So I wish us well, as we go through this last year before we get home. The road will not always be easy, but together and with God's help we will survive. Blessings.



Rev. Darren Liepold

Sing Praises of Thanksgiving



SENIOR CHOIR

The choir members from Asbury and West continue their hard work with the members of the Northminster choir.

Lloyd Ostrom has tendered his resignation from choir due to recent health issues. We appreciate the many, many years of faithful membership Lloyd has given.

The William R. Shewalter Memorial Organ fund continues to grow with two recent donations in honor of Melvyn and Shirley Beckles' 50th wedding anniversary. In addition, the choir will be making a donation from choir funds in the amount of \$3849.31. This will bring the total amount in the fund to \$39,117.78.

As you may be aware the cost of a new organ exceeds the funds on hand and your help is needed to help us raise additional money; please do so by contributing to the organ fund.

Mel Beckles
Choir President



Editors' Note:

We will truly miss Lloyd's wonderful solos.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Well, Autumn's officially here. It's a time to get back to routine and connect with friends we may not have seen over the Summer, like perhaps our Ministry Groups.

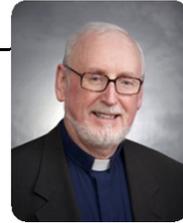
Communications will be off to a good start. We are planning to give more updates on the life of our church at our Progress Reports on selected Sundays after church. This coming year, we will be asking the chair of each of the Ministry Groups, in turn, to address the congregation and let us know what the group does, who's in it, and anything new that they are doing. It will be a great way to keep the rest of the congregation involved in our Ministry Groups.

If you have access to a computer, please take the time to see the Asbury and West United Church website. There are links to Darren's blog on this site.

Don't forget: any and all suggestion and requests are always welcome. Please contact me through email at communications@asburyandwest.org or leave me a message in the red accordion file in the Narthex.

Lisa Crawford
Chair





THE REV. DOUGLAS MCKENZIE MEMORIAL WALK

September 23, 2012

What a wonderful time we had on this walk of remembrance in honour of our past minister and friend. We started off after lunch and stepped out into the brisk air and sunshine. Then the fun began – the skies opened up and down came the rain – a blessing from heaven. Yes, we scrambled to stay reasonably dry but mostly to no avail. Then, just as quickly as it came, the sun came shining through again. When we congregated back at the church parking lot there was a sense of accomplishment, lots of laughter and sharing of stories. We were happy that Heather, Scott and Peter could walk with us. What a great day!

Thank you to all the walkers and supporters. Signed to walk were:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Veronica Ennis | Irene Ty | Marjorie Lavine |
| Yvonne Lampkin | Nidia and Jose Polo | Kamano Gashoka |
| The Masih Family | Ray and Brenda St. Germaine | Annabelle Paz |
| Heather McKenzie | Charlene Watson | Melvyn Beckles |
| Scott McKenzie | Janiss and Clayton Johnson | Lou Rhoden |
| Peter McKenzie | Pauline McKenzie | Lynsia Panthaki |
| Joel and Bonnie Nasimok (family friends) | Lydia Cariaga | Darren Liepold |
| Melissa Nielsen | Nancy Sison | Sheila Mascoll |
| Raneem Abu Itham | The Johnson Family | Margaret Stark |
| Irene and Lynn Fair | Norma Holmes | Yvonne Wilson |
| Myra Seyfried | Ianthe Spencer | Marina Macklin |
| Lee Holland | Phoebe Cleverley | Ele and John Taylor (Doug’s sister) |

Thank you as well to Cheryl Holliday (organizer and driver), Linda and Louise Cobon (refreshment station), Melvyn Beckles (route organizer), David Tuck (cemetery guide), Dorothy Ostrom (luncheon helper), Darren Liepold (scavenger hunt creator), and Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson and Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen (lunchroom clean-up crew).

Proceeds (amount to be announced in the Sunday bulletin) will go to the future of our church building. Great job everyone. Let’s do it again next year!!

Cheryl Holliday, Chair, Christian Education Ministry





ASBURY AND WEST LIVING MEMBERS WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II

Louise C. Cobon, WRCNS	1943-1945
Jacqueline Davison, Land Arm (UK)	1941-1943
Clifford Firman, RCAF	1940-1946
Robert E. Ince, RCAF	1941-1945
Jack Warner, Queens Own Rifles	1942-1945

If we have missed anyone, please let me know.

Margaret Stark

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

Mildred Franklin from our congregation has been awarded a Life Membership in the Central Ontario Christian Ashram. At the presentation, her many years of attendance and service were mentioned. She was described as a "Prayer Warrior" and a person who allows God to shine through her. At 96 years Mildred was the oldest attendee at this year's Ashram. The Ashram began in 1960 with members of Asbury and West who met together each summer for a retreat in Belleville. Two years ago another Asbury and West member, Joan Guinn, had also been awarded a Life Membership.

Margaret Taylor

WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC MINISTRY

Our congregation is in our second year of sharing worship with Northminster. The services are outlined for the whole year, until June 30th, 2013, when our friends at Northminster will move to their new home on Cummer Avenue. During this year, we will share in special services planned to celebrate Northminster's service in their community. And while Northminster celebrates their history, Asbury and West have work to do in planning our own future. We have decisions to make about worship services in our renovated church. On some Sundays during the coming months, we will again gather on our own as our minister leads us in making plans.

*Pauline McKenzie
Chair*

With the pledge campaign just around the corner.....

"Budgeting is telling your dollars where to go instead of asking them where they went." ~ Roger Babson

"No church is a spiritual success that is a financial failure." ~ Author Unknown

"Every Christian needs two conversions; one of his heart and one of his pocket book." ~ Martin Luther King

God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7



Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff -- including the seeds of doubt, hate and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.





FINANCE MINISTRY

“The problem with our church is that they are always asking for money.” How many times have you heard that, or thought it yourself? The truth is: our church lives in a material world and there are bills to pay. Our building renovation plans are coming along and we are looking forward to returning to 3180 Bathurst at the earliest possible moment. However, we still need to pay the bills. We must pay our fair share of the upkeep of Northminster United Church while we are here, but we no longer have rental income from our tenants. Please pledge what you can to help the Finance Committee balance the budget in 2013.

Our annual Pledge Campaign will start Sunday November 4th. We will be asking you to help us by contributing on a regular basis. The traditional donation envelopes are available or you may prefer to give what you can when you can. The best way to provide financial assistance to our church is through the PAR system.

PAR means Pre Authorized Remittance

When you enroll in PAR, your bank will automatically transfer your pledged amount once a month. You may already have automatic debits from your account so this would be nothing new for you.

There are many advantages to PAR:

- ~ PAR is convenient. There is no cheque writing and less work filling out donation envelopes.
- ~ You are able to support your Congregation even when you are away.
- ~ You may change the amount of your contribution at any time with 15 days notice.

PAR authorization forms are available in the Narthex or fill out the Pledge Form below and give it to Cheryl Holliday or Alan McKenzie in a sealed envelope marked Pledge Form. No matter which method of donating you choose, you will receive a tax receipt.

Alan McKenzie, Chair

2013 PLEDGE FORM

Name: _____

Realizing the needs of our church and in thankfulness for all that God has given me; I would like to pledge for the year of 2013 the following:

Please circle the appropriate time frame.

Local: _____ (weekly, monthly, yearly)

Mission & Service Fund: _____ (weekly, monthly, yearly)

Building Fund: _____ (weekly, monthly, yearly)

My/our preferred method of giving is:

- Offering Envelopes
- I wish to donate by way of PAR (auto monthly debits to my bank account) and will complete a PAR Enrolment Form
- I will contribute when I am able

_____ Signature

_____ Date

We must remain supportive to each other and we must maintain our levels of stewardship so that our ministry with Christ is enabled. Remember, you are loved, needed and wanted.

FEDERAL GRANT

On August 31, our MP, the Hon. Joe Oliver visited our renovation site at 3180 Bathurst Street. Mr. Oliver presented our minister, Darren Liepold, with a cheque for \$50,000. This cheque is a grant towards making our building more accessible, and will be a great help with ramps, accessible washrooms and elevators. A small but enthusiastic group of our congregation and friends came to express our thanks. We must be grateful to Mr. Oliver for his continued interest in our church and our future.

Pauline McKenzie



A LOOK AT 3180 BATHURST STREET



OUR CHURCH COUNCIL – WHERE DO YOU FIT IN ?

In an effort to ensure everyone understands the structure of the Ministry Groups (all the chairpersons make up Council) we are once again publishing the details. Outlined are the basic responsibilities of each ministry and the names of the volunteers from our congregation who serve. Don't be shy to speak to any member if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. As you will see, opportunities exist where vacancies appear and you are always welcome to join. Where do you fit in? Will you find a place to serve?

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, Chair, Council

THE WORK OF OUR COUNCIL MINISTRY GROUPS

COMMUNICATIONS

- Keep the congregation informed through: Website, Flock Talk, Bulletin Boards, Sunday Bulletins and Announcements
- Reach out to the community through: Website, Advertising

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Ensure that children and adults have Christian Education
- Evaluate and choose study materials for all ages
- Work with the minister to involve children & youth in worship services

FINANCE

- Develop and administer the overall budget for the congregation
- Keep the congregation informed about financial matters

HOSPITALITY

- Organize greeters before services
- Invite visitors to sign the Visitors' Book
- Facilitate companions for new persons during service
- Ensure that secretary has names and addresses of newcomers in order to send a letter
- Organize refreshments after service
- Sparkplug social events

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Maintains confidential oversight of our staff
- Salary, working conditions, concerns

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

- Help individuals to become members
- Keep the church membership roll up to date
- Help Carelink to keep contact with sick and shut-ins

MISSION AND OUTREACH

- Ensure that the Benevolent Fund is collected, counted and used
- Make decisions annually about grants to community organizations
- Co-ordinate the Food Bank
- Inform the congregation about peace and justice issues

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES

Our presbytery brings together over 100 churches. Our representatives attend six meetings a year on our behalf. They speak for us to the larger group, and also bring us news of what is going on at other churches. There are also opportunities to become involved in work for peace and justice and mission at a wider level in our community for those who wish it.

WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS AND MUSIC

- Ensure that worship takes place
- Help the minister in planning services
- Make sure that the sanctuary is decorated and prepared.
- Prepare and assist at Baptism and Communion
- Take attendance at services, usher and collect offering

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

- United Church Women
- Joybreak
- Assist other women to form fellowship groups



OUR CHURCH COUNCIL (continued)

Communications

Chair: Lisa Crawford
Secretary: Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson
 Pauline McKenzie
 Ken Oleksiuk
 Sylvia Shewalter- Nielsen

Christian Education

Chair: Cheryl Holliday
Secretary: Dorothy Ostrom
 Karen Barnes Melissa Masih
 Lydia Cariaga Joseph Massih
 Dorina Datt Trissa Massih
 Michelle Datt Jocelyn Villamayor
 Kim Davidson

Finance

Chair: Alan McKenzie
 Judy Gillingham
 Lou Rhoden
 Yvonne Wright

Hospitality

Chair: Lou Rhoden
 Veronica Ennis Joyce Rhoden
 Yvonne Lampkin Myra Seyfried
 Carole Rhambarat Harel Smith
 Janiss Johnson

Human Resources

Sheila Mascoll
Needs minimum one more person

Membership and Pastoral Care

Chair: Ianthe Spencer
Council Rep: Mel Beckles
 Shirley Beckles
 Phoebe Cleverley
 Janiss Johnson
 Yvonne Lampkin
 Lynsia Panthaki
 Ianthe Spencer

Mission and Outreach:

Vacancy
 Vacancy
 Vacancy

Presbytery Representatives

Sheila Mascoll
Needs one more person

Worship, Sacraments & Music

Chair: Pauline McKenzie
 Lisa Crawford
 Judy Gillingham
 Clayton Johnson
 Glenda McBroom
 Jose Polo
 Connie Shewalter
 Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen

Women's Ministries

Chair: Lucille Hunte
Council Rep: Ianthe Spencer
 Cheryl Holliday
 Marina Mackin
 Dorothy Ostrom
 Kay Roffey-Dampier
 Yvonne Wilson

Renovation Committee

(will exist until end of renewal project)

Chair: Alan McKenzie
 Lou Rhoden (co-chair)
 Yvonne Wright (co-chair)
 Joyce Bullock
 Judy Gillingham
 Cheryl Holliday
 Sheila Mascoll
 Pauline McKenzie
 Dorothy Ostrom
 Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen
 Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson



SURVEY SAYS.....

During the summer months our congregation had occasions to worship alone. In the course of these services Rev. Darren talked about our journey as the people of Asbury and West and gave us two detailed survey to complete. (If you did not complete the surveys, it is never to late to speak with Rev. Darren.) The results of the surveys are on the following pages, word for word as written by the individuals. Please note that all names and initials have been removed for this publication to protect our members' privacy.

When you take time to read through the answers, you will learn so much about the people who sit with us each Sunday or attend mid-week programs. You will gain insight into the hopes, dreams and visions our members have for the congregation and the community. Most of all, I believe you will feel the profound love we have for our church and see how deeply committed we are to the future of Asbury and West.

In the coming weeks and months, Rev. Darren will continue to guide us on our journey with special services and workshops. I ask that you be sure that your voice is heard as we determine how we will turn our vision and commitment for our church into practice.

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, Chair, Council

SURVEY RESULTS

1. What Brings you to church each Sunday?

to worship the Lord * for fellowship with other worshippers * to worship our Lord by serving our Lord / my friends are here / Asbury and West does many worth-while things * I want to be a part of what we do * when I was a kid, I was taken to church and continued up to this day and will continue until I leave the earth * to praise and worship God and have fellowship with other church members * worship God * worship and praise the Lord. He said where two or three are gathered he is in the midst * the joy in the opportunity to worship in the house and of the Lord and fellowship with others * worship music fellowship * I like the service and enjoy singing in the choir * my love of God * for fellowship both spiritual and social * habit Sunday is for church * to hear the word of God and meet other members and friends * for fellowship, to sing praises to God for his goodness and mercy * the people music and the message * I was told by a family member that church is just a prop. I have been attending church over the years to prop up my faith in God * fellowship * the children teaching fellowship * seeing young children and Sunday School meet family and friends

2. What do we do well as a church?

donate money to good works * spread the word of the gospel in a very special way / reaching out to all attendees * survival 200 years at Bathurst and Lawrence / serve over those years we have been good neighbours and good contributors / adapt we have the ability to change and meet the future * we are friendly to each other * we are a friendly church * make everyone welcome * the minister visits the sick and shut ins regularly. They take care of the unwed women's shelter, also give food to hungry through the food bank * we cater more so to the body than to spirit * social occasions emergency fund raising Haiti, listen to one another * we are welcoming friendly and supportive * we help people in need * caring for others * bring people together * looking out for each other * help the needy * eat, help each other * the friendships, I have found and formed over the years have brought me through many tribulations of life * continue to strive in spite of challenges pitch in and help mostly



3. What are our struggles?

getting new members * declining membership * ingratitude and or apathy from municipal and provincial leaders who value our building more than what we do for the community / we battle a municipal bureaucracy that is byzantine in nature * to keep coming to church * we have no strategy for ensuring that visitors are welcomed and looked after * to bring people into our church and to sustain ourselves financially * to get more young people in the church. We have to find ways to get them to participate in the church activities. * music will bring them out, they love music. So we have to find ways to get music in. I am quite willing to start a fund raising to help with getting instruments and teachers * too much focus on seeking material solutions and neglecting spirituality * responding positively to change encouraging leadership in new members, welcoming new people * it would be good to have youth programs aside from church school and have the youth to attend such programs * we struggle because only a few people are in the know * loss of members, lack of faith and thanksgiving, honesty * lack of money * we focus too much on money * keeping the united churches alive in today's setting money * negativity, fear, a sound definition of who we are * our struggles at present are to keep the joy in our hearts and souls while going through the building process * we have become very uptight I see lots of grim faces we should be happy about our future let go let God * communication: I would like to hear more about council decisions as they apply to the ongoing ministry of now * communication is poor * communication, finances, bring in new members and keeping them * not seeing the Sunday school assist in the service, youth, we need more teachers for Sunday School

4. What opportunities are we missing? And what will you do to help make these changes?

more outreach opportunities / lack of younger members nothing noted about what this person would do * we need allies in our struggle. We fail to tell our story, preferring to struggle on in silence / what will I do everything I can * I don't know * we should always have a plan B so that if there are road blocks we will be prepared for them. I am willing * to assist in planning for our return to our church * not devising effective ways to attract young people * engaging youth - will encourage doing specific jobs * communicating council

SURVEY RESULTS (continued)

4. What opportunities are we missing? And what will you do to help make these changes? (CONTINUED)

decisions discussions with the rest of the congregation * I do not know. As I am unaware of what opportunities we had * the boat has already sailed and we have missed it. I am willing to do whatever is needed of me. The congregation needs to know of pending changes, so that they can feel as a member of the church family * need to work on friendliness * attracting young people * this person would help greet, usher, and counting * our youth and all they have to offer - I like their talent of music. Church not alive enough to motivate them. This person would be willing to help fund raise for youth minister * making our church more community user friendly inviting in secular groups * missing opportunities to rejoice in our faith by singing more joyful hymns that uplift us during Sunday worship * more fundraising something for the youth worship that is relevant not ritualistic and boring

5. Name three things you love about this church?

friendly fellowship, members friendly, helpful, warm environment * the many genuinely good Christians who I hope are my friends/our determination to survive/our desire to move forward in difficult and uncertain times, instead of looking backwards at what used to be. We cannot be the first generation in 200 years to fail to keep our congregation serving our Lord in our community * very friendly to each other, meet on Sundays weekly, worship God all together * not too structured-flexible fellowship with others support of other members * fellowship I love most of the hymns we sing Sunday to Sunday. I love how the minister greets everyone that walks by him before and after the service * friendliness co-operation, willingness to do God's will * the people the history the opportunities to serve * music, welcoming atmosphere, many friendships * I love Asbury and West, the friends I have made, the minister * our minister, the sermons and singing the beautiful hymns. Close to my home * people and music especially familiar. Hymns. Warm atmosphere * friendship, minister, UCW * friendship, togetherness, songs of praise * people dedication * remember this is our church we need to stand up for Jesus and onward Christian soldiers we need to feel the faith like Asbury and West has always done over the years * friendship and fellowship * the people, our heritage, our flexibility * friendship and love

6. Name three things you like about our church

The worship service singing and sermon/involvement of the minister with the members/the caring congregation fellowship with others * welcoming and positive atmosphere and incorporation of modern theology/location/Sunday school * flexible in worship not rigid fellowship with others support of others * the enthusiasm we bring to worship especially our hymns/the loving people I meet/our willingness to help others in emergency (eg. Haitian Refugees) * people hard workers emotional support * always there for people, our ministers, good fellowship * fellowship our heritage people * friendly welcoming people, supportive atmosphere church services and variety of same * music, sermon children's involvement * the dinners, the Sunday School picnic, the yard sale

7. Name three things you would like to change

I would like to change the way in which information is passed on to the congregation/I would not use the sanctuary as a concert hall/I would like to see more sharing and less secrecy * more outreach/youth ministry/more senior programs * women's fitness program needed * prepare for roadblocks in our planning/have a formal method to welcome visitors and have fellowship/more involvement of our committee members in stewardship * clinging to the past, probably because of fear/negativity/hurtful comments made to others * more hymns, pew bibles so we can follow the reader * I think we should not have a stock of food in our food bank over the summer when the food can be used elsewhere. I don't see the necessity of owning a fancy organ when we can't afford it. Maybe later we could upgrade the congregational meeting people aren't attending and we should have everyone there. so we should be finding ways to include everyone and not have it be so boring use more visuals power points during the service also announcements on PowerPoint * consult the congregation on decisions, too many committees, the church being made a conference centre



SURVEY RESULTS (continued)

8a. Name three ministries that are essential to our work.

Communications/worship sacraments and music/women's ministry * local support for the disadvantaged (eg. Children, women and children, young unemployed, at risk youth, children overseas * children's /care link/spiritual leadership * caring for each other/encouraging our youth/reaching out to meet the needs of our local community * M&S, outreach, youth * worship, communication, pastoral care, finance, but really all are essential * care link, outreach, youth and seniors ministries * hospitality group, worship and sacrament and music * Christian Education * stewardship, women's ministries, choir *

8b. If you were to drop a ministry what would it be?

Membership but keep pastoral care and care link * not sure * we need to increase our ministries not reduce * camps * not sure if it is a ministry but maybe drop the choir - it is the only ministry not essential in my opinion * I do not know

9. We are all busy people. However the church is the sum of all its parts. What is one extra thing you would be able to contribute to the church? What is one thing that you would be happy to handoff to someone else?

nothing more * I can read scriptures * I am willing to assist in planning for the return to our renovated church. We should plan to have an open house with refreshments and invite the condo residents and residents from the senior's building next door. * I'm feeling stretched right now. Once the building is finished, I would gladly help out with property administration- used to run a very large building (which included underground parking). I would be very happy to turn over enlisting ushers and readers to someone else * I have a hearing problem so I am not much use * to contribute office help to hand off chair of inventory but I won't * Just now I am unsure about what extra thing I could contribute. I have already stopped taking minutes for a number of meetings. * I am giving my all to the church. I do not know what I will head up. So few people already doing so much

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

The Committee continues to work with members by encouragement. We are checking with absent members constantly. We work closely with the Care Line group. We are in touch with shut ins by phone, and, when necessary visits are made. Sadly within the last 2 months our Sympathy go out to the families of Aldythe Newton, Harry Hepburn, and Ethel Quinland.

Ianthe Spencer, Chair





UCW CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN 2012



During 2012, the UCW, across Canada have been celebrating their 50th Anniversary, called “Our Tapestry of love” The symbol of a threaded cross unwoven at all ends.

On Sunday September 16th, 2012, the UCW of Asbury and West, Newtonbrook, and Northminster, held a joint service, in celebration of 50 years of the UCW. The service was conducted by the UCW of the three congregations. The guest speaker was Mrs. Eleanor Nicol. She has been active in many areas of the United Church Women. She was President of her UCW at Royal York Road United Church, and from there became coordinator of the former Toronto West Presbyterial UCW Advisory Board. She was President Toronto Conference UCW from 2006 to 2008. She spoke on Daring to Hope. We were blessed to have her speak to us. The Flowers placed in the sanctuary were in memory of our past UCW members. The service was followed by lunch. Our Special Thanks to Eleanor for her long standing service in the UCW, and for sharing in this Celebration with us. Thanks to Joy Break for their eagerness to assists us with the lunch. We appreciate all your donations, and the time you spent serving and helping. God bless you all.

Ianthe Spencer, Council Rep Women’s Ministry



Glenda McBroom



Ann Dilbey



Dorothy Ostrom



Guest Speaker
Eleanor Nicol



Some of the original UCW members from 1962



Scenes from the celebration service



*Back Row: Mary Embree, Lucille Hunt
Middle Row: Dorothy Ostrom, Ianthe Spencer, Joyce Rhoden, Joy Boggs, Margaret Stark, Shirley Beckles, Marina Mackin, Glenda McBroom
Front Row: Marjorie Lavine, Louise Cobon, Connie Shewalter, Mildred Franklin, Eleanor Nicol, Evon Rudder, Barbara Marshall, Irene Tuck, Martha Blunt*



50



50



50



50



50



50



50



50



50

ASBURY AND WEST ON THE INTERNET

Just to remind you that Asbury and West is on the internet. The church's web site www.asburyandwest.org has been operating for about 2 years now. Because of our current situation in terms of our temporary location and ongoing renovation, our web site is being minimally maintained. The site contains our minister's Bio, Flock Talk issues, Location Map and Contact Information.

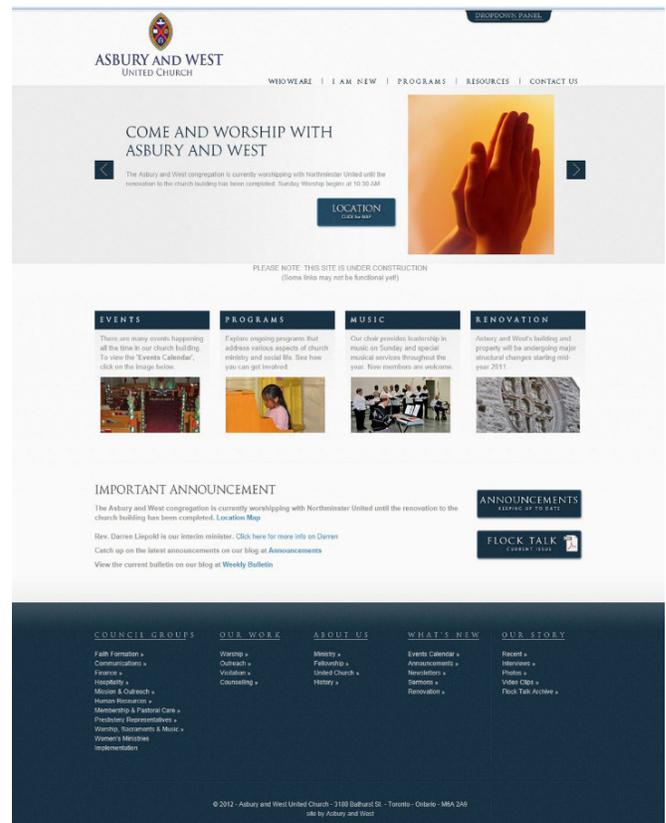
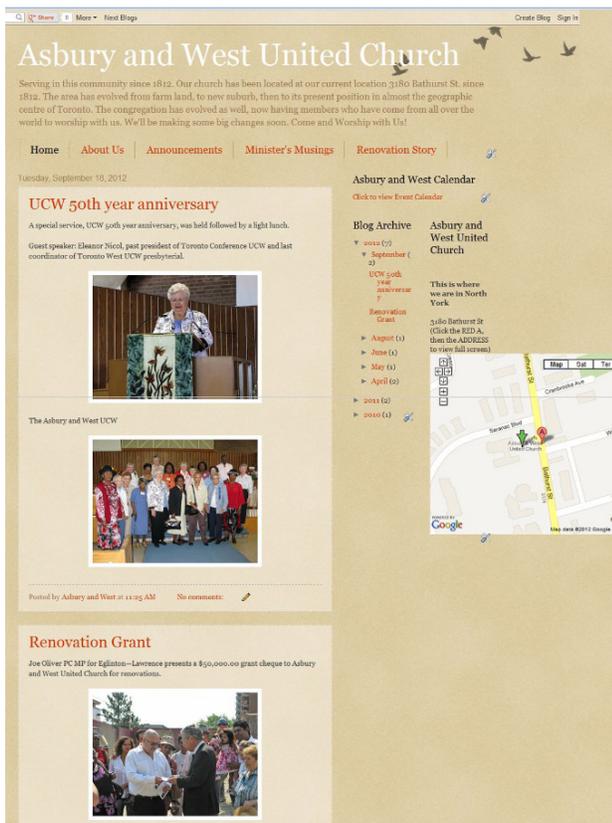


Once we are in our new location, the site will be re-developed to reflect the changes to our worship services and programs. We also have the Asbury and West blog at asburyandwest.blogspot.ca where you can get the latest information on what is happening now, Announcements, Minister's Musings, Renovation, Location, etc. As of September 30th 3,300 hits had been received on our blog.

Need to email the minister or secretary to have questions answered or events to announce?

Minister: minister@asburyandwest.org
Secretary: secretary@asburyandwest.org
Communications: communications@asburyandwest.org

*Ken Oleksiuk
Communications*





BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE

It's finally happening! We received our Building permit for the renovation of our Church Home at the end of July and Kembic Construction moved in to start renovations August 1st. Our general contractor, Kembic Construction, estimates that the work they have to do will be completed sometime in June 2013. Watch the bulletin board in the hall of Northminster for photos of the work in progress.

Members of the Renovation Committee researched church organs and sound systems over the summer and are about to place orders for these important items. Plans are in the works for a new kitchen which will be located on the 2nd floor.

We started the process of identifying who will operate the daycare in the basement. We visited Arpi Nursery School in their new location in Downsview and let them know that they will be given the opportunity to match the best offer we receive for the daycare space. Redeemer Baptist Congregation expressed their wish to return to our building as a second congregation so we will be discussing that possibility with them.

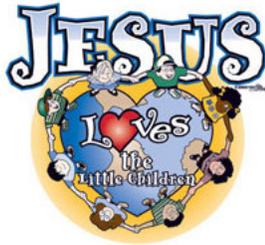
Our biggest challenge now is finding the money to complete the renovations. Our committee is doing everything they can to keep costs under control

without compromising the quality of the renovations. We met with Councillor Colle to ask for financial assistance and discussions are ongoing. We are grateful to the Federal Government who through Human Resources Development Corporation provided us with \$50,000.00 to help make the renovated building more accessible to those with mobility difficulties (see page 8). Fund raising events for the building renovation project are in the works. Please participate and give generously to the renovation project.

Our committee has undergone another name change. Years ago we started out calling ourselves the "Long Range Planning Committee". Once plans were established, we changed our name to the "Implementation Committee" because that best described that phase of the project but people outside the Congregation were not sure what was being implemented. We are now calling ourselves the "Building Renovation Committee" which everyone can understand. The committee name may change but it is still the same group of dedicated individuals who are determined that Asbury and West United Church will have a bright future in our newly renovated Church Home.

*Alan McKenzie, Chair
Building Renovation Committee*





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Over the summer, the children participated in the Kids for Christ: Summer Edition and I would personally like to thank all those who volunteered to teach. There were some new volunteers this year and we are so grateful to them for their help and support. A job well done.

We'd also like to thank all the walkers, donors and helpers for their support of the Rev. Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk (see page 4).

At the end of August we sadly accepted Alan McKenzie's resignation as Nursery Coordinator. Alan has worked with babies, toddlers and preschoolers since 1982 and we are so grateful to him for his many years of dedicated service and commitment. Many of our children both present and past, got their start in Church School with Alan, and even after they "graduate to the big Sunday School" we find that they have a hard time leaving Alan's side. Tough shoes to fill, for sure, but we are so happy that Dorina Datt has stepped up to take on this responsibility, with Melissa Masih assisting and others helping on occasion. We know that the children are once again in capable hands.

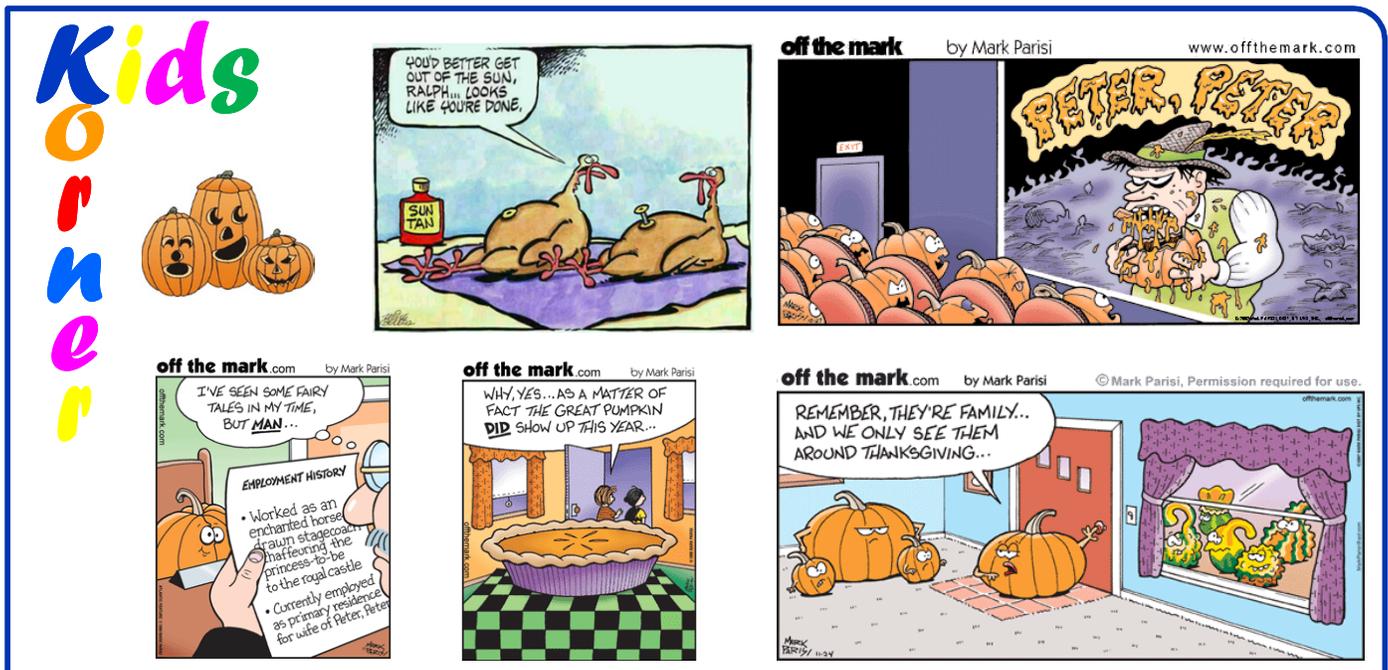
Returning teachers this year are Kim Davidson and Trissa Masih (grades SK-3) and Lydia Cariaga and Jean Birch (grades 4-7). Wendy Jang of Northminster has returned to lead the Youth Class. We are very thankful for the many hours these teachers put in to instruct our children and help them along their faith journey.

For adults – Darren will be leading a study starting in November. Check future bulletins for dates and times. Members of both churches are welcome.

And finally two important activities in the Christmas season to remember. Our Christmas Party will be on December 16, during Church School time with a visit from Santa. Christmas Eve Service we will once again present a nativity production. We encourage all children and youth to participate. A rehearsal will take place during Church School time on December 23.

Thank you again for all your support,

Cheryl Holliday
 Chair, Christian Education Ministry
 and Church School Coordinator





Founded 1985

This month marks 27 years for the Asbury and West alternative women's group, now officially registered with the United Church of Canada as part of the Women's Ministries Network. Hard to believe we have made it this far, but we have a way to go before reaching the milestone that the UCW just celebrated. We were very privileged to be a part of their 50th anniversary celebration and want to add our thanks for their many hours of dedicated service over the years. Keep up the good work.

This being Thanksgiving Sunday, we want to thank you once again for your donations of toiletries to the North York Women's Shelter. We have been supporting this worthy service since our beginnings and know that they appreciate all our help.

A little early, but believe it or not we are already planning and looking forward to the congregational Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. This year it will be held on Saturday, December 1. Look for more information in future bulletins.

We invite all women to come out and join us. Our meetings vary in content - we may have a learning time or a social time. We all do our part to develop and lead a monthly program. We meet on the 4th Monday night of every month except January, July and August.

Thank you for all your support.

Cheryl Holliday, Contact

TRUSTEES

It has been over a year since we vacated our church building for renovations. We frequently hear, "when will work commence, or will we ever get back to our building?" However, after all the obstacles satan threw in our path we can take a deep breath and shout "**Hallelujah, Hallelujah**". The Building Permit was received on July 29, 2012 and work is now in progress.

On August 12th, members of the committee approved listing and conditions of Agreement in respect to leasing the church basement to a daycare operator. Many thanks to committee member Alan McKenzie for his tireless efforts to secure the most suitable Real Estate Broker, Collette Skelly, of ReMax Hallmark Realty. The listing was signed by the chair, and issued for August 27th. September 25th was set for the bids to be in and opened. Our present operator, Apri Nursery School, will be given the "Right of first Refusal" as we want to have the highest bid for the space. This is critical as we have over-run our renovation budget due to the many delays.

We also want to say a big "**thank you**" to Pauline McKenzie who was instrumental in looking to various government departments where grants were available to help with our renovation. So far we have received \$50,000 from the Human Resource Skill and Development. (see page 8 for feature article)

There is a great deal of work to be done, but the task is not beyond us and on the eve of this Thanksgiving as we sing "Come, You Thankful People, Come". We appreciate all those who journey with us and continue to have faith in the project.

Yvonne Wright, Chair

"Blessed are those that can give without remembering and receive without forgetting."

Author Unknown

United Church 41st General Council in Ottawa August 11-18, 2012

Rev. Irene Ty attended the General Council meeting and highlighted the event during her sermon on Sunday Sept 23, 2012. Following is an edited excerpt from her sermon:

"I was honoured to be one of the commissioners at this year's General council which was held in Ottawa. It was my first time at a General Council. I was awed by the sheer size of it. Over 350 commissioners, in one big gymnasium, plus over 300 people who represented staff of general council, reporters, visitors and volunteers who helped to make this event happen. Six days of meetings, with one day in the middle of the week to take an excursion of our choice. I joined a busload of people to go on a hike in the Gatineau Hills and lunch at a local United Church in Quebec.

The over arching theme of General Council, was "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God", based on Micah 6:8. Former moderator Mardi Tindal in her opening address called for unity in the context of an action-oriented and intercultural church. She spoke about the humility required as our church moves into the future. She reminded us of the importance of listening to those who are vulnerable, including the young people. She spoke about the pain suffered by those who attended the Indian Residential School system. I quote: "When we have the courage to share in the sorrow of Aboriginal People, we allow the community to practice compassion".

An inspiring worship service began each of our days. The singing of a blend of traditional hymns and more contemporary music was led by a local church band. However, at the opening and closing worship, a 65 member mass choir from Ottawa-area United Churches came to add to the sound and rhythm of the gathering. On the last day, at the closing worship, youth led us in a spontaneous line dance that allowed us to move through the whole worship space.

There was also spontaneous singing. This came at a difficult time during the discussion on the Israel/Palestine report. People in one part of the room started singing "Lord, listen to your children praying". {Voices United #400} The singing and humming of this piece was soothing. It helped to calm us, so we could pause and take a deep breath, and the singing helped to invite the Spirit to guide and lead us.

There was time to share in table groups. There were 8 people at my table. We came from different parts of Canada, and one person was from Cuba, Miguel Castor from the Emmanuel Baptist church in Cuba, a partner of UCC. Our table also had a "young" man, who was under 25. The person that had the biggest impact on me was Marlene, an aboriginal person from Manitoba. She was always very honest, and what she shared always came from her heart, from deep inside her. She brought a perspective that was different from the others, a perspective that included her Indigenous community and a concern for the earth.

A momentous event took place at General Council. This was the signing of a covenant with our First Nations brothers and sisters that is to be read alongside the Basis of Union, a recognition and an honouring of their presence at the very beginning of the United Church, way back in 1925. As a symbolic statement of that truth, our Church crest was changed to include the four traditional colours and the phrase in Mohawk "akwe nia Tetewa:neren", which means "All my relations".



Many proposals come before the General Council. Proposals come locally, from congregations, from presbyteries, and from conference. There are always too many for the plenary alone to handle, so we were divided into 3 groups called commissions. Each commission was assigned proposals to deliberate and decide whether or not to accept. It was exciting for me to see what can happen to proposals, started by one person or a small group at a local congregation, then gain momentum and going through the different courts of the church, and then finally to General Council for deliberation and action. This gives me a lot of hope indeed!"

The Young at Heart seniors group met on September 13th to plan for the upcoming fall-winter session. Following is the programme:



- September 27th - Entertainment by Lisa Crawford
- October 4th - Bus trip, Big Chute fall colour cruise
- October 25th - To be announced
- November 8th - Pot luck lunch and movie
- November 22nd - Lunch and games
- December 13th - Entertainment and pot luck lunch

Once more we are appealing to members of Asbury and West who have reached their senior years who can spare a few hours on the Thursdays when we meet. All are welcome to join us.

Melvyn and Shirley Beckles
Committee Contacts



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

We'd like to know what you think of Flock Talk. Is there anything you'd like to see in your newsletter. Would you like to receive it by email? Please contact us in person or by email at:

communications@asburyandwest.org

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson
Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen

COPPER KETTLE

Ease yourself of the burden of carrying around all that loose change by placing it in the Copper Kettle that sits on the table in the hallway. The money in the kettle is used to help pay Asbury and West's ongoing expenses. During the summer we collected \$157.50. Please drop your coins either wrapped or unwrapped into the jug each Sunday. Folding money is also very welcome.

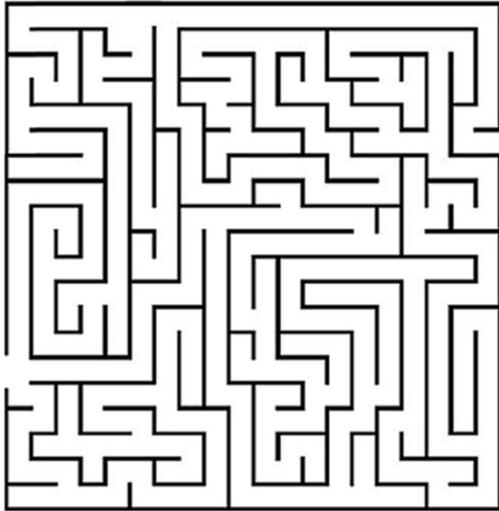
Alan McKenzie



GAMES PLUS MORE



Help Dracula get back to his coffin before the sun rises!



Happy Halloween

Help the Witch unscramble the words inside her crystal ball.

Haelwenlo _____

hwict _____

sokypo _____

mpkipun _____

lensketo _____

cdany _____

srcay _____

ostgh _____



HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

S P I D E R S B K W N R A K B A T S
 A U K G J A H K D G H K M A N A R D
 S M N Z O M B I E K J G R H A D I S
 A P N H W A Q M V L Y S R O A K C N
 K K G O V A M P I R E B G A W A K P
 K I J S F H A G X O W T E N I W O W
 C N E T P P V R B P G H O S T M R G
 O T G L K H A L L O W E E N C N T L
 S C K N D G A O W I N G A K H W R W
 T P T E B M A U K T J M K A S G E Z
 U S O O F I M O N S T E R W F P A A
 M F G O B A H T K T S J U Y F O T F
 E S L M K E H N Y L E D Y L K E A M
 D F M H A Y R E C A N D Y N S O A O

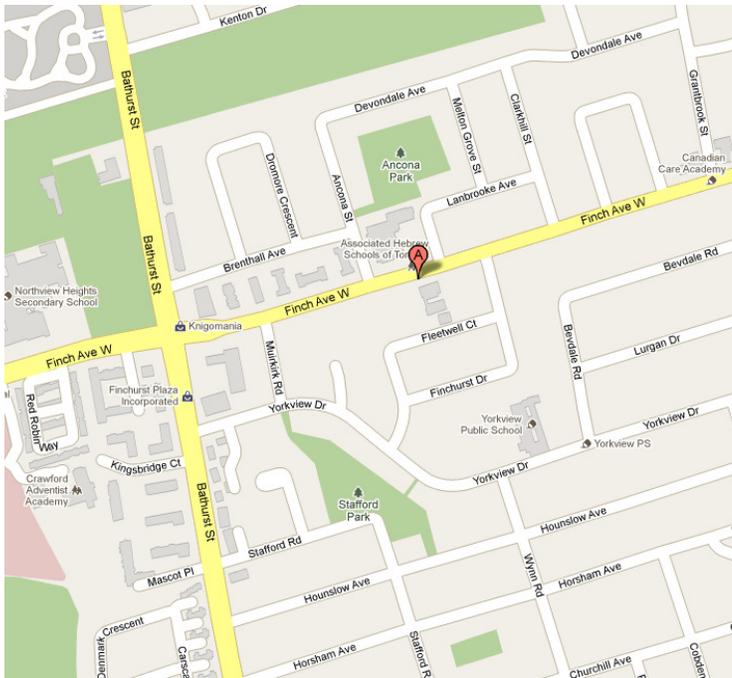
1. Candy
2. Pumpkin
3. Vampire
4. Spiders
5. Skeleton
6. Ghost
7. Halloween
8. Witch
9. Haunted
10. Monster
11. Costume
12. Trick or Treat
13. Spooky
14. Zombie
15. Bats
16. October



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
Joyce Bullock
Bea Cares*

*Betty Enta
Gloria Everson
Cliff Firmin*

*Linda Garland
Lilla Jaleel
Gerry Moore*

*Lloyd Ostrom
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 - 12:00 pm, closed Monday
Email: secretary@asburyandwest.org
<http://www.asburyandwest.org/>

Rev. Darren Liepold Intentional Interim Minister

Cate Billinger Church Secretary

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson (416-239-5821) Flock Talk Editors
Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen (905-770-7457)



NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday December 9, 2012
Next Edition – Christmas, Sunday December 23, 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.

