

# FLOCK TALK

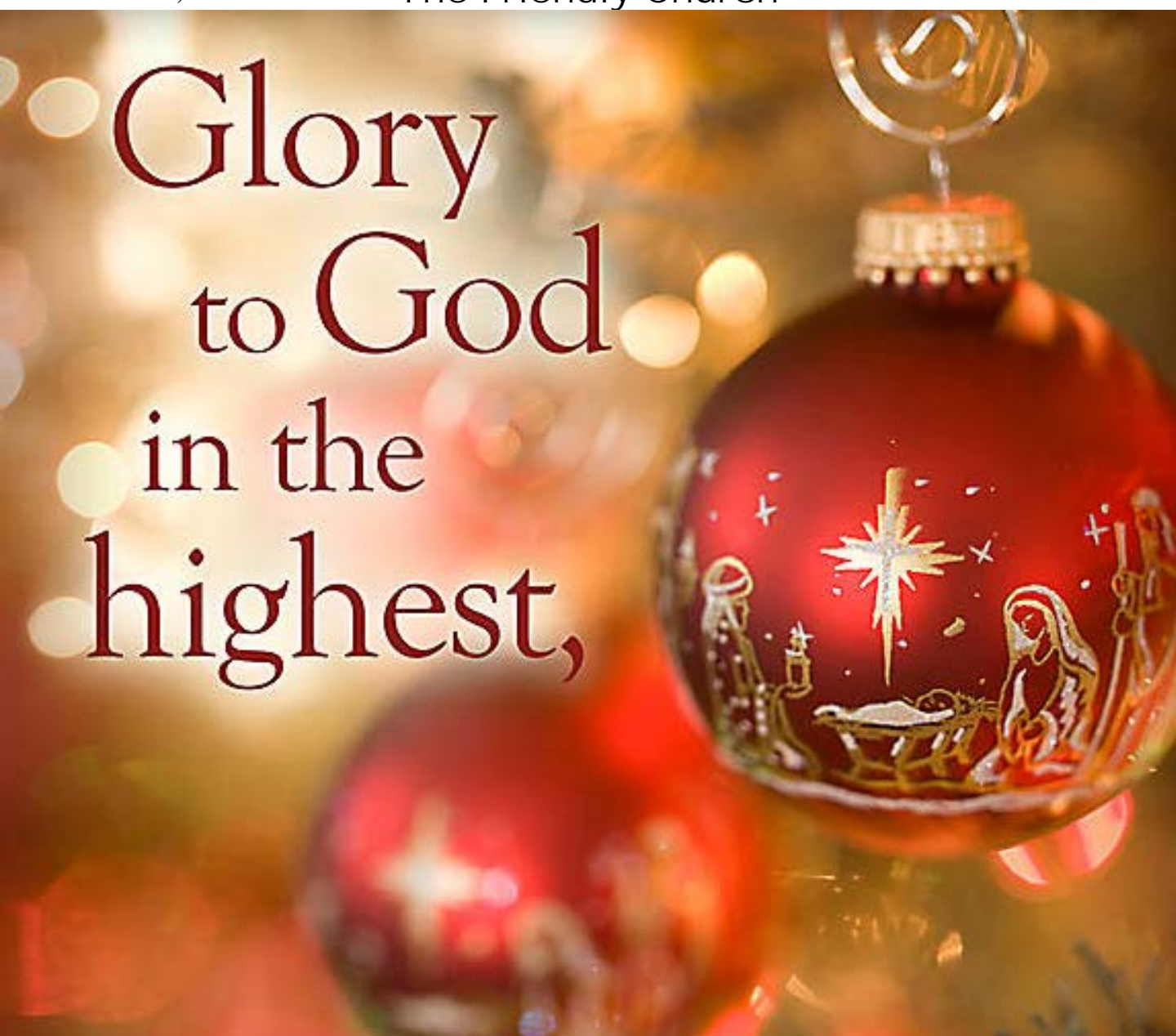
Asbury and West United Church

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

December 21, 2014

"The Friendly Church"

Edition 140



Glory  
to God  
in the  
highest,

And on earth peace,  
goodwill toward men!

- LUKE 2:14



## THE PASTOR'S PEN

*Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens  
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens  
Brown paper packages tied up with strings  
These are a few of my favorite things*

Christmas is a time of memories. Some of us have wonderful memories of times with family. Still others remember that perfect gift. Others might remember when the weather made everything like a picture postcard. Even last year's horrible ice storm made for some stunning photos on Christmas Eve when the ice sparkled like diamonds under a cold blue sky. Some have special ornaments that always go on their tree. Some might have special baking that they do at only this time of year. For some people they might remember words to familiar carols, or even songs from favourite movies that play at this time of year- even Julie Andrews singing, "My Favourite Things." For many of us, Christmas is a time of fond memories.

Others though have difficult memories of Christmas. Family gatherings sometimes are not that peaceful. Or maybe they might be spending the holiday alone. Or maybe they can only remember the Christmases of the past in all too perfect ways (forgetting that they were always far from perfect) and the Christmases of today just can't compete. For many people, Christmas is a season they just wish would go away.

I think Christmas has always been a time of memories. On that first Christmas Eve, the people remembered the stories that the prophets had told about the one who is to come. The prophets from long ago had promised that the lamb would lay down with the lion, promising comfort to all people, promising that a virgin would conceive and bear a son. The poor shepherds in the field that night remembered the angels words of "Peace on earth and good

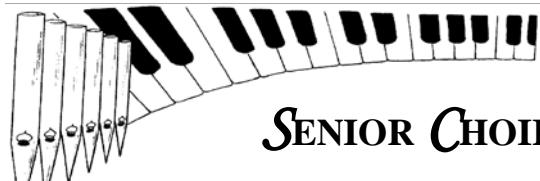
will to all people." The Magi remembered Herod's threat against the new born king and went home a different way then they came. Even that first Christmas was a time of memories.

As my Intentional Interim Ministry comes to a close in a few months here, I am remembering my Christmas services here with you. I remember my first Christmas with you. We were nervous as we were trying to meld the traditions of Asbury and West together with Northminster. The second year was easier but we were still trying to do a dance trying to make everyone happy. And last year was the Christmas that wasn't. We were supposed to have our first Christmas service alone, but the weather had different ideas. And now this year will be our first Christmas service back. My time here will bring me many fond memories. Blessings to you and your families during this Christmas.

Blessings  
Rev. Darren Liepold







## SENIOR CHOIR



The choir has been very busy learning new music and welcoming new members. We are blessed in our membership: Joyce who shines hospitality on every rehearsal with her big smile and cups of coffee and tea; Glenda who knows where everything is and knows who's having a birthday and who needs a card; Phoebe, whose artistic background brings with it an open and youthful mind combined with wisdom; Janis, who knows the alto part to every hymn in Voices United and laughs quietly at every practice; Llewellyn, our sole male vocalist, who has so many to charm at each rehearsal but who saves his winks for Joyce; Ariadne, who will most certainly succumb to Paolo's endless suggestions that she bring her cello to church and play; Lisa, who can make anyone laugh with her quick wit; Lola, who's just joined, is happy to sing anything and we feel like she's always been with us; Catriona, who can keep singing even when baby Lorenzo is eating her music; and finally, did I mention Pauline? Pauline likes ideas, she says 'yes', she's unflappable, quietly enthusiastic and always does whatever it takes to help us succeed...this is the Asbury and West Choir...join us and sing.

### 'Tis the Season

We had our first Asbury and West Concert. We joined forces with the Columbus Community Choir, the Korean Emmanuel Methodist Choir, and solos from: Tenor, Nic Rhind; Soprano, Jennifer Mizzi; Tenor, Daren Liepold; and our Music Director, Paolo Busato, who performed on the organ, piano, and sang. The music was simply

spectacular.

While Black Friday Shopping and The Grey Cup affected our attendance, we still had over 100 guests and nearly 60 performers in total. Everyone was singing carols by the end.

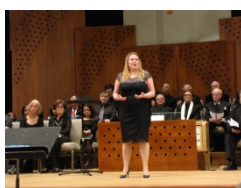
The Columbus Performing Arts Council (CPAC) sponsored the event by covering costs associated with conductors, accompanists, paid rehearsals, and rehearsal space. Those costs exceeded \$1,000. Asbury and West coffers covered the printing and poster design costs which were low. Our own Paolo provided his serves for free. Consequently, the \$1080 (including revenue from the Hospitality team) that was raised will go almost entirely to support Asbury and West programs.

Our thanks to CPAC for partnering with us. Thanks to the Hospitality Ministry for sharing their delicious treats with us and to Jocelyn and Sylvia for taking donations at the door. A special thanks to Pauline McKenzie, who once again said an enthusiastic 'yes!' to the idea of a concert and worked diligently towards its success.

If you missed the concert this year, you should definitely make a point of coming next year. Not only did the music and joy light the spark of the Christmas season in all of us; it brought home another important message: vibrant music lives at Asbury and West United Church.

The Asbury and West Choir sang at the Villa Colombo Seniors Home on December 7th, in an Italian service where they sang in English, Italian, and Latin.

*Paolo Busato, Music Director*



## CHURCH COUNCIL

As I look back I ask "December already? Where has the year gone?" It seems that much of it was spent talking about and planning for the move, packing up for the move, The Moving Day, unpacking from the move and endless organizing. Thank you to everyone who helped with this enormous task and thank you for your patience with the ongoing process of getting better organized.

It should also be noted that everyone worked very hard (and still are!) to become familiar with our building. Which way do I go? How do I get to the parking? Where is the washroom? What floor? What's the name of that room? Do I really sing O Canada while I wait for the lift? Where are the light switches? How does the stove work? What is a servery? Do I really need a security code? Thank you to the members of the Renovation Committee and Property Ministry for calmly and patiently

answering questions and for repeatedly giving helpful instructions and training.

The 2015 Pledge Campaign was held in October. If by chance you were missed or were not in a position at that time to make a financial commitment, it is never too late. Thank you to those who were able to make an increase. Thank you to those who were able to hold the line - every dollar is appreciated. Stewardship is also about giving the church your gifts of time, talent, enthusiasm, scripture reading, ushering, greeting, providing refreshments, singing, teaching, good advice, support, leadership and, most importantly, positive participation. Thank you for all you give to Asbury and West.

Wishing you and your circle of family and friends a blessed Christmas season.

Blessings,  
*Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson*  
Chair, Council

Mark your calendar:  
Sunday, February 22, 2015  
Annual General Meeting  
Lunch provided



## 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 REPRESENTATIVES

Sheila Mascoll







## Fine Tuning Our Building

We are almost there!

The past months since we came home have been busy ones. The building systems have been fine tuned and things are almost complete. The heat and air conditioning have been checked and adjusted several times under the supervision of the engineer who designed them. A faulty component in the fire alarm system took a lot of time to track down and replace. The burglar alarm has also needed some adjustments to programming.

At last, we can say that our building is secure. **What does this mean?** Any one of us who is first in or last out of the building, has the responsibility of **arming** (turning on) or **disarming** (turning off) the alarm. Please ask a member of the Property Ministry if you need some training.

## The Lift

Congratulations to everyone for learning to operate this machine! You will note that the second stop has been

disabled. This will prevent accidental entry to the daycare level, causing the alarm to sound, which has happened twice when someone new to the building has used the lift.

Property Ministry sees the lift as a potential security problem, since anyone getting through the garage entrance can gain access to the whole building via the lift. To prevent any problems, the outside key will be removed from the lift at the parking level when the building is closed. This means that first person in must fetch the key from the key safe and put it in the lock in the parking level. That person will have to walk up 33 steps, but can ride down!

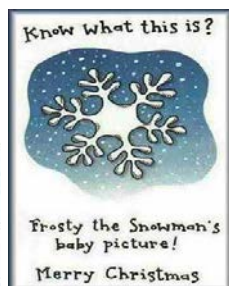
## Volunteer Opportunity.

The Property Ministry can offer ways for members of the congregation to serve our church that will not require any cash, but will still help our "bottom line." You are invited to join the Property Ministry to help in setting policies for our building. We also invite volunteers to supervise rentals, mostly in the evenings.

We are grateful to our current group of 8 volunteers, but a larger group would reduce the workload for everyone.

*Pauline McKenzie, Chair*

## WINTER HO HO's !!



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Founded 1985

It was another first. Not for the event, but for the location. About 50 people came to the Upper Hall of the church on Saturday December 6 to join in the traditional Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and to celebrate a modern "Victorian Family Christmas". The buffet tables were full to overflowing with a delicious feast. Tables paired to play a "parlour game", putting together the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" line by line. There was lots of laughter when it was realized that hearing the poem and putting it in order were two different things. A "family devotion" telling the Christmas story using Scripture, song and the flannel graph board ended the evening. There were carollers leading the singing and a pile of gifts for the North York Women's Shelter. A truly festive and wonderful time was had by all.

The Christmas gifts were delivered to the shelter on the Monday after the dinner, and were very well appreciated by the administration. Thank you all for your donations.

Our Christmas party on December 15 was held at Pauline McKenzie's condo. Again food, fun and fellowship made for an enjoyable evening. Thanks to Pauline for the delicious treats and her hospitality.

Several members have signed up to lead various meetings in 2015. We never know what the evening's program will be, which is half the fun. Why not join us? All women are welcome. We meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7:30pm in the meeting room.

We wish you a wonderful and peaceful Christmas.

*Cheryl Holliday, Chair*







## BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE

During the last several months we have welcomed numerous visitors into our new church home. All of them are impressed with the design, functionality and versatility of the building. Please take the time to become familiar with the new features of our church home. Here are a few things to remember.

1. Underground Parking: The ample underground parking is warm, safe and well lit. You need a code to enter the underground parking, the same code to enter the church from P1 and the same code to leave the church when going back to your vehicle. You must remember the way that you entered and leave. Several people have found themselves on P2 because they chose the wrong garage exit. (The green exit signs are for pedestrians; not vehicles.)
2. Heating: We have economical heating for the winter and air conditioning for the summer. Remember the rattle-trap old system in the old building that frequently broke down as we enjoy our new environment.
3. Security: Our building has sophisticated safety systems to protect us and our \$6 ½ million investment. If you are the first person entering the building or the last to leave you need to know the proper alarm codes to disarm or re-arm the security system. Property Ministry members can show you the simple steps needed to arm and disarm the alarm system.
4. Sharing our building with others: We have two new tenants, Forest Hill Montessori and Toronto Emmanuel Korean Methodist congregation. We also have groups that rent parts of our building for meetings, parties and special events. This rental income is a crucial source of revenue for us. After your church meetings, please make sure that your group puts away your belongings and leave the area the way you found it.

5. The Lift: The wheel chair lift requires some training and understanding but can save us climbing the stairs. Instructions are posted inside the lift. Please take the time to read and follow the instructions. REMEMBER TO TURN THE INSIDE KEY TO THE "OFF" POSITION when you reach your destination. Failure to turn the inside key to "OFF" means the next user must walk up 33 steps. Then they will be asking who it was that last used the lift so please be considerate.

We have been back in our own building since June but it is taking time, money and patience to complete the final stages of the project. Thanks to Pauline McKenzie for all the time and effort that she is exerting to make sure that every last detail is completed according to instructions.

The Building Renovation Committee will continue until June 2015 when the building warranty period expires. I sincerely thank everyone who helped make this major project successful. I hope that we can enjoy the building for many years to come and welcome many new people into our church home.

Blessings,  
*Alan McKenzie, Chair*



**CARE  
LINK**

Our Home Members are taken care of by the CARE LINK Group. Phone calls, and or visits are made. As in the past poinsettias, and cards will be taken to each one.

The Care Link Group members are Reverend Darren Liepold, Melvyn Beckles, Lucille Hunte, Sheila Mascoll, Lou Rhoden, and Ianthe Spencer.

*Ianthe Spencer*



GAMES PLUS MORE

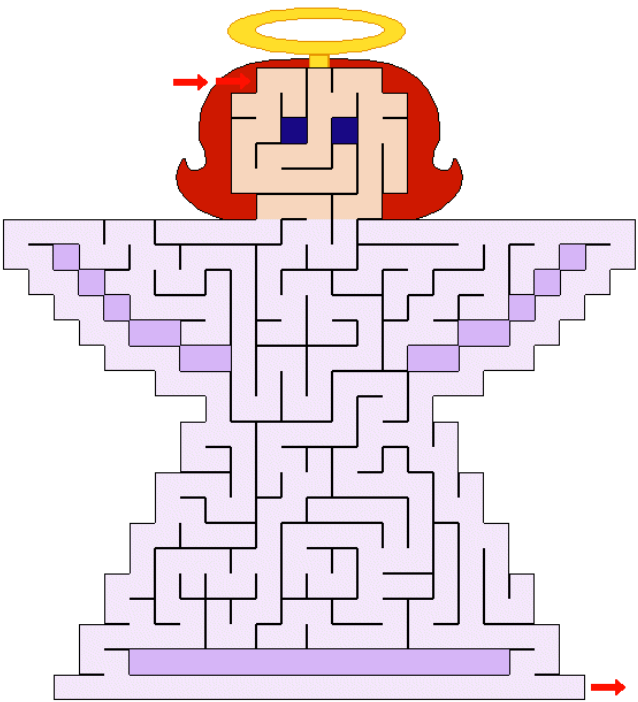


WORD SEARCH

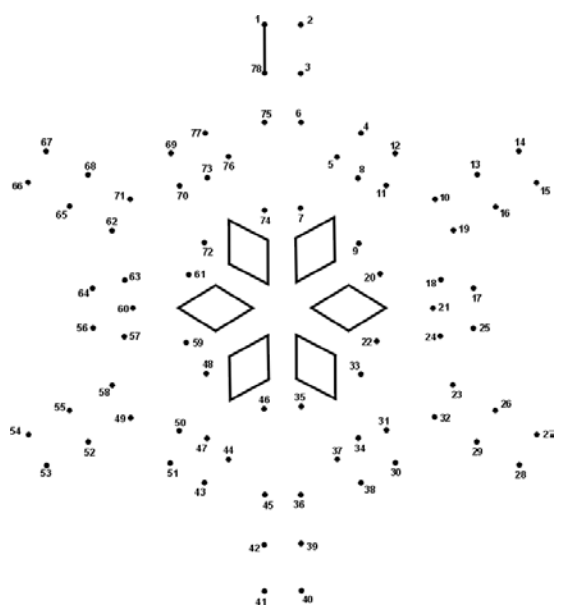
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Caroline  
Cate  
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Darren  
Derek  
Emma  
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Gabriel  
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Janelle  
Jeremy  
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Kayla  
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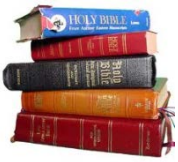
Kim  
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Lydia  
Mel  
Melissa  
Michael  
Miranda  
Nicholas  
Olivia  
Paolo  
PitPit  
Tessa  
Trinity  
Tristan  
Ysabelle



Connect the Dots to see what I am







## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

### Church School

The Advent season is always a festive time for the children. Last week we presented our Nativity Play. Today is our Christmas Party with a visit from Santa. We stuffed stockings for the North York Women's Shelter. We made Christmas cards for Noemy. We will be watching a Christmas movie next week. And of course we celebrate Christ's birth by retelling the story and using an advent calendar to count down the days to Christmas.

Our lessons prior to Advent were about Daniel and his friends. Many of us know the two most famous stories, The Fiery Furnace and Daniel in the Lion's Den. But thanks to the flannel graph board, the less familiar stories came to life. These lessons lasted for 5 weeks and ended with the children making lion head cracker snacks.

Our numbers vary from week to week but often only 2 or 3 attend. We hope as we get more established in the neighbourhood more children will join us, as well as youth.

Wishing you all a very merry and blessed Christmas.

*Cheryl Holliday and Staff*



Look at the Candy Cane  
What do you see?  
Stripes that are red  
Like the blood shed for me  
White is for my Savior  
Who's sinless and pure!  
"J" is for Jesus My Lord,  
that's for sure!  
Turn it around  
And a staff you will see  
Jesus my shepherd  
Was born for Me!

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would remind people of the true meaning of Christmas; so he made the candy cane to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and the firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker then shaped his cane into the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to the earth as Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down to reclaim the fallen lambs who, like sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.



The Young at Heart Seniors met for the last time at Northminster United Church on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 to set their agenda for the fall session.

The first event back at 3180 Bathurst was a trip to St. Jacob's market. Our next meeting was a Thanksgiving luncheon that featured a turkey baked by our hostess Shirley Beckles. We watched the movie "Fried Green Tomatoes" and played Bingo for prizes. In addition we had Lisa Hunter

from Revera Retirement Living as a guest speaker. We are looking forward to a bus trip to Burlington and our Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon with entertainment by George Heldt.

We hope you will join us in the months ahead. Shirley and I would like to wish everyone in the congregation a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Melvyn and Shirley Beckles, Group Contacts*

*And the Angel said unto them,  
FEAR NOT; FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU  
good tidings of great joy...  
FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY  
in the city of David a Saviour,  
WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.*

*Luke 2:10-11*



## FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

*Jocelyn & Sylvia*

and  
suddenly  
there was with  
an angel  
a multitude of  
the heavenly host  
praising God  
and saying  
Glory to God  
in the highest, and on earth  
peace, goodwill towards  
men  
Luke 2  
13-14



## MEMBERSHIP AND PASTEROL CARE MINISTRY

Our goal is to continue to reach out to all members. We are inviting residents of the community to join us for Worship, and to all activities going on in the Church.

We Welcomed three new Members by confirmation at our Re-launch Celebration. DEREK CAMPBELL, HERMUS JOHNSON JUNIOR (HJ), and MELISSA NIELSEN.



Our Sympathies go out to the families of Gloria Everson and Lloyd Ostrom, who lost dear members of their family during this year .

We wish you your families and friends a very blessed Christmas, and continued blessings in the New Year.

As in the past poinsettias, cards and Flock Talk will be taken to our Home Members.

*Ianthe Spencer, Chair*





## FINANCE MINISTRY

Money and finances are a critical part of the life of any family, including the Asbury and West United Church family. Here is a brief summary of our debts that need to be repaid:

Mission through Finance	\$157,500
Interim Minister Sabbatical (estimate)	\$ 9,000
Repay manse Fund	<u>\$233,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$422,100</b>

We anticipate receiving some money in the future related to the building renovations but it will not be enough to cover all our debts.

Fund raising events such as our walk-a-thons, sales concerts and dinners help our financial situation. Our modern and versatile church building provides us with new opportunities to serve our community and improve our finances.

Our building is sought after by people wishing to have family parties and hold special events.

You can help by assisting Property Ministry "baby sit" these parties and events. We need to

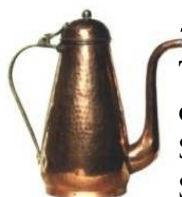
develop new events that our new neighbours and old friends will enjoy attending. We can have a lot of fun while we are serving the community and improving our finances. What can you do to help?

The 2015 pledge campaign was a disappointment. I had hoped that there would be a significant increase in pledges. That was not the case. Instead of pledges increasing, the total monthly amount pledged DECREASED by \$271.68 per month for 2015. It will be far more difficult for AWUC to pay our bills and reduce our debt unless this changes. It is not too late to make a pledge and increase your donations for 2015.

We are about to start our first full year back in our renovated building. You all have time, talents and treasures. Please be generous with them and do your part to make 2015 a successful and rewarding year.

Best Wishes for the New Year and have a blessed Christmas!

*Alan McKenzie, Chair*



### LOONIE BIN = COPPER KETTLE

THANK YOU for your continuing contributions of loose change and folding money.

\$482.50 - 2014 (YTD)

\$444.50 - 2013

*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.





# Asbury and West United Church

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Blog: <http://asburyandwest.blogspot.ca/p/announcements.html>

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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

Lilla Jaleel

Evelyn Lyon

Gerry Moore

Helen Smith

Fred Sunahara

Viola Warford

**NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday, March 22, 2015**

**Next Edition – Easter, Sunday, April 5, 2015**



# POWERFUL

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