

Don't Forget!

Lunch Bunch meets this month on Thursday, November 26. If you want to attend this popular event, be sure you let Wendy Irvin know you are coming at 519-744-3481, by Friday, November 20! See you there!

It's Christmas Shoeboxes Time!

It's that time when the Explorers, under the watchful eye of Dorothy Ann Carter, pack Christmas shoeboxes with all sorts of wonderful things to send to children around the world. If you would like to help provide the "wonderful things" please have them at the church by **Thursday, November 19**—they stuff the boxes that evening! Here's the list—**all small to fit in the boxes:** toys (no war toys), stuffed animals, writing pads or notebooks, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, pencil sharpeners, other school supplies, wrapped hard candy (no chocolate), toothbrush (no toothpaste), comb, brush and soap (no liquids).

Thank you!

If you have any questions, call Dorothy Ann Carter at 519-578-5088.

If you wish to contact **Marian or Murray** by email, their Forest Hill email addresses are as follows:

Marian Gils-McLeod:
mariangmcl@bellnet.ca
Murray McLeod:
murraymcl@bellnet.ca

Do you know your current Forest Hill Board members? Here they are!

Executive:

- *Chris Pieters: Board Chair
- *Amanda Mathewson: Vice Chair
- *Linda Nelson: Secretary
- *(Scott Davis: Past Chair)

Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs:

- *Shelley Steele: Chair, Congregational Life
- *Dave Lemke: (non-Board)
- *Andrew Mathewson: Chair, Property
- *John Hummel: (non-Board)
- *Judi Knetsch: Chair, Christian Development
- *Karen Pieters: (non- Board)
- *Jen O'Connor: Chair, Ministry & Personnel
- *Sandi McMullen: Vice Chair, M & P
- *Steven Schmelzle: Chair, Outreach (no Vice Chair for Outreach)
- *Judy Funkenhauser: Chair, Finance (no Vice Chair for Finance)
- *Glenna Murray: Chair, Pastoral Care (no Vice Chair for Pastoral Care)
- *Pending: Chair, Special Gifts & Memorials (no Vice Chair for Special Gifts & Memorials)

Other Board Members

- *Margot White: UCW Rep
- *John Wilson: Men's Breakfast Rep
- *Dorothy Ann Carter & Deedy Vandenberg: Presbytery Reps
- *Martha Leibbrandt, Sue Hummel, Ann Furlotte, Dennis Dechert, Jeff Senior and Bill Lemon: Members at Large

Deadline for the December Messenger is November 22 in order to have it in the boxes for pick up on Sunday, November 29. Please leave items in the envelope outside the church office or email Martha Leibbrandt: mcleibbrandt@rogers.com, or phone 519-568-7375.

THE MESSENGER

Celebrating God Being in Community Reaching Out to Others

NOVEMBER 2009

Forest Hill United Church, 121 Westmount Rd. E., Kitchener, ON N2M 4Y6
Tel: 519-744-3481 Fax: 519-744-7674
Email: foresthilluc@bellnet.ca Website: foresthillunited.org
Ministers: Rev. Marian Gils-McLeod and Rev. Murray McLeod
Director of Music: Peter deSousa
Youth Coordinator: Donald (Donnie) Langley Office Administrator: Wendy Irvin

The Ministers' Message

"Because we bear the name of Christ"
Grace and Peace to all!

There was an icy-cold wind blowing through the church parking lot yesterday. But, inside, Forest Hill was warm and comfy. Outside, a beautiful grey squirrel who resides in one of the pine trees on the lot sat perched on a rock in the garden with his eye on the door, waiting for someone to toss out some crumbs of the leftovers from consecrated communion elements, Mmuffin Mmoments, and after church fellowship cookies. He isn't fussy and gratefully gathers whatever is offered each day. Inside frozen turkeys are name-tagged and wait to be picked up, and the lists of names of folk signing up to help prepare, cook and serve the Harvest Dinner fill several pages.

Fall has arrived! ...and still we are blessed at Forest Hill with warmth, comfort, food and fellowship. As a community of faith, living by faith on the foundation of God's word, bearing the name and following in the footsteps Jesus Christ, our ministry and outreach continues to include care for our earth, its creatures, and each other.

Fall brings annual Financial Stewardship Campaigns to many churches, and Forest Hill is no exception. Stewardship is a natural thing. Simply put it is our response to God in our lives. It is the attitude and action of caring and compassion

that flows out of each of us as followers of Christ. As followers of Christ we are called to exercise our response-ability faithfully.

We share in the ministry and outreach of Forest Hill United Church simply *"because we bear the name of Christ"*. That's a slogan from an old United Church fundraising poster. It is also a single line Stewardship sermon.

"Because we bear the name of Christ" there are no other necessary words, no multitude of reasons required to ask for you to give financial support to the mission and ministry of Forest Hill.

You are not asked to give because there is a budget to be met, and we are faced with a line of deficit figures. You're not asked to give because we all spend extravagantly, and we don't want to feel guilty at the reminders of hungry children and homeless wanderers. We shouldn't give so that we can feel good about ourselves, or even just because its expected or the thing to do.

We give, *because we bear the name of Christ,*
with joy...delighted to be able to offer with outstretched hands, gifts in abundance;
in hope...for the gift will be blessed and multiplied;
in faith...that this blessed gift will be enough, *because we bear the name of Christ.*

**UCW Meeting
Tuesday, November 10
7:30 p.m.**

Jean Haalboom, a Regional Councilor for Kitchener, will speak about "Front Yards in Bloom" and how the theme relates to our own gardens. She will also talk about some of the heritage designations of buildings in our community. Refreshments and business meeting to follow. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.



-Pastoral Care-

You know the saying, "It takes a whole village to raise a child". We certainly see that here at Forest Hill when it comes to Kids' Church. But it also takes a whole congregation to care for one another. It cannot be done by one or two. Because we realize that pastoral care cannot be done well without the help of everyone in the community, and so that we may continue the fine tradition at Forest Hill of caring, we invite you to come to our next **Pastoral Care meeting on Tuesday, November 17 at 7 p.m.** Come and share what you see as the pastoral care needs of Forest Hill and how these needs might be met. We look forward to hearing from you. Hope to see you there.



Attention Knitters and Crocheters!

Gather your wool oddments and your needles! Christmas is coming, and the Mitten Tree will be up in the church foyer at the end of this month (November). Let's get it Christmas-



ready with all sorts of goodies: mittens, hats, scarves, slippers, booties.... It's a wonderful sight!

The Prayer Circle

Are you aware of someone's need for prayers in a difficult or joyous time? Would you like to have others join their prayers with yours? Then, let the Prayer Circle know. These people pray on a daily basis in their own homes for the needs of others and would be glad to include your request for prayer. You may email Rev. Marian at mariangmcl.ca, fill out a prayer request form and place in the box on the wall beside the quiet room, or call the church at 519-744-3481 and ask to speak to Marian directly.

We're Off to the ROM!

There's a trip in the making to see fragments of the Ten Commandments and the Dead Sea Scrolls at the ROM on **Tuesday, December 1, leaving around 9 a.m.** If you would like to go, too, the entry ticket is \$27 with transportation yet to be arranged. We plan to stay for lunch and take in more of the ROM. Sign up on Marian's door **ASAP!** Thanks!

NOVEMBER 2009 AT A GLANCE

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sundays: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**
Morning Services: 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- Mondays: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**
Maycourt: 1-3 p.m.
CGIT: 6:30 p.m.
Cubs: 7 p.m.
- Tuesdays: 3, 10, 17, 24**
Quilters: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mmuffin Mmoments: 10-11 a.m.
Beavers: 6:45 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 4, 11, 18, 25**
Guides: 6:30 p.m.
Scouts: 7 p.m.
- Thursdays: 5, 12, 19, 26**
Explorers: 6:30 p.m.
Choir: 7:30 p.m.



MONTHLY EVENTS

- Sunday: 1**
Men's Breakfast: 8 a.m.
- Monday: 2**
Probus Bridge: 1 p.m.
CISV: 7 p.m.
- Tuesday: 3**
Congregational Life: 7 p.m.
Property Committee: 7 p.m.
Special Gifts & Memorials: 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 4**
Worship and Music: 7 p.m.
- Thursday: 5 & 19**
Prayer Shawls: 10 a.m.
- Tuesday: 10**
UCW: 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: 11**
Christian Development: 7 p.m.
Finance: 8 p.m.
- Saturday: 14**
Junior Youth
- Tuesday: 17**
Pastoral Care: 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 18**
Board Meeting: 7 p.m.
- Sunday: 22**
Junior Youth
- Thursday: 26**
Lunch Bunch: 12 noon.

SPECIALS

- Sunday: 8**
Remembrance Sunday, 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- Saturday: 14**
Open Call Auditions for "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"©, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Sunday: 15**
The 49th Anniversary of the Founding of Forest Hill United Church, the Kick-Off for the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebrations, 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- Tuesday: 17**
Pastoral Care Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Friday: 27**
CAYAMN, Come as you are Movie Night, "Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian", 6:30 p.m. Family rated.

Christmas Services to Note in Your Calendar

- *Christmas Candlelight Memorial Service, Sunday, December 20 at 7 p.m.
- *Christmas Eve Family Service, Thursday, December 24, 7 p.m.
- *Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion, Thursday, December 24, 11 p.m.

Trip to Eastern Peru

Shirley Westlake will be leading a volunteer trip to Eastern Peru during the March Break, 2010. Join Shirley for an Information Night on **Sunday, November 15 at 7 p.m.**

Senior Youth Group: Are you in High School? Want something fun to do? Join us on the First and Third Sunday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Normally we meet at the Church.

**Peace in Our Hearts,
Peace in Our World**

In 1986 an elderly lady in Russia asked a visiting clergyman, Dr. Blair Monie, to take a candle as a symbol of peace, back to his home church, First Presbyterian Church, in York, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. Upon receiving this Peace Candle, as it now was called, that church made these candles available to members of their congregation, inviting them to give them to other churches with which they had contact. From there, a candle found its way to Wylde Green United Reformed Church in Sutton Colfield, Eng-



land and from there the tradition was passed on to a number of English churches including Tylagwyn Baptist Church of Bridgend, Wales. A member of Tylagwyn Church, sent a Peace Candle to a church in Canada where it continued to be passed

along across the country..

In the summer of 2009 the congregation of Emmanuel United Church, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario presented the Peace Candle to Forest Hill's Joanne Willison, who brought it back to us, and now we in turn are pleased to carry on the tradition and make these candles available to others. Our prayer joins that of the congregation of Emmanuel United in Sault Ste. Marie, and countless congregations and faith communities across North America and Europe, that the elderly Russian woman's simple act for peace, be spread far and wide.

It is our hope that members of our own congregation or visitors to Forest Hill, will take one of these Peace Candles and present it as a gift to another faith community so that the desire for peace which is represented by the Candle might be shared with many churches and communities throughout the world.

May there be peace and friendship among all peoples throughout our world.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

For the period ending September 30, 2009

	2009 (Current) Year to Date Actual	2009 (Current) Year to Date Budget	2008 (Prior) Year to Date Actual
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME	205,283	241,388	204,410
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	237,711	263,894	231,332
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(32,428)	(22,506)	(26,922)

There are unpaid expenses of approximately \$10,000, making the actual deficit closer to \$42,000.

OPEN CALL AUDITIONS FOR FOREST HILL'S 2010 MUSICAL!

There will be an Open Call Audition *for all ages*, on Saturday, November 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Come out and learn about next Spring's Musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, ©" and find out how you can become involved! SING! DANCE! BUILD SETS! HANDLE TICKETS AND PUBLICITY! FEED THE CAST AND CREW! GATHER PROPS! There are *endless* possibilities and opportunities for you to get involved! See you on November 14!

And while we are on the subject... The cost for getting "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown ©" off the ground and rolling is \$1500. The Worship and Music Committee invite you, once again, to join our "Company of Angels" and make a donation toward these start-up costs. If 60 families or individuals could donate \$25 each we would be well on our way!

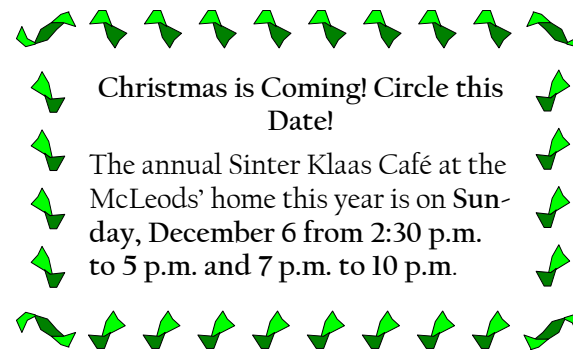
This production will warm your hearts, but also warm our coffers, we hope. Last year, "Godspell©" was so successful that we were able to donate \$1000 to the Forest Hill United Church congregation. So please help us! Your cheque should be made out to Forest Hill United Church, with an indication on the memo line that the funds are designated for the "Charlie Brown Company of Angels." Thank you for your support!

For further information contact: **Elizabeth Cresswell, lizzcress@sympatico.ca or telephone 519-748-5288.**

From the Board...

The Forest Hill United Church Board is looking for another volunteer or two to join as Presbytery Rep. For more information about what the role entails, please contact Dorothy Ann Carter, 519-578-5088.

The Board has taken the next steps towards resolution of issues identified in the February 2009 report with the creation of a task group with a Worship and Music focus. Betty Pries is coordinating and moderating the meetings, with a March 2010 target to identify possible changes. Group members are; Betty Pries, Reverend Murray, Peter DeSousa, Ken Carter, Bette Jean Martin, Tammy Schmelzle, Emerson MacMillan and Danielle Dechert.



Christmas is Coming! Circle this Date!

The annual Sinter Klaas Café at the McLeods' home this year is on Sunday, December 6 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In the works:

Forest Hill Stars Come Out for Christmas: Christmas Cabaret

Proposed date: Sunday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. with an "After Party", well...after.

-2010 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN-

“Join Our Joyous Jubilee” is the Forest Hill’s 50th Anniversary Year’s slogan and theme and it has also been adopted for this year’s Financial Stewardship Campaign which begins Sunday, November 1. As in past years, each member and adherent family will be receiving a letter with an **Intention Form** on which we mark our intended financial contribution for the operating expenses and Outreach expenses for the coming year. *This is very important as we plan our budget for the year ahead.*

The letter in the envelope with your name on it may be picked up in the foyer on Sunday, November 1 and Sunday, November 8. After that date all those envelopes remaining will be mailed out. The filled out forms should be re-

turned *no later than November 29.*

(Mail Deliverers: Please note that you can pick up the ones for people on your list—it will save on postage!)

You will also find in the letter an opportunity to make a separate donation for a **Special Anniversary Project.** The letter explains that a special envelope will be available for making these donations in the New Year. What that Project will be will depend on how much money is collected.

May your financial intentions flow from a cheerful heart, filled with the presence of God in your life.

The Financial Stewardship Committee

Golden Nuggets for the 50th

Our Jubilee Begins!

I want to extend a BIG THANK YOU! to all the “Forest Hill Folks” who offered their time and energies to help St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church begin their 50th Jubilee Celebrations with a Special Mass and Reception on Sunday, October 4. The afternoon was also a happy reunion for our long time inter-denominational neighbours from Calvin Presbyterian. Thank you to Ken and Dorothy Ann Carter, Scott Davis, Lillian Underhill, Marg Shantz, Barb Ready, Deedy Vandenberg, Marg Spencer, Linda Nelson, Sue Hummel, Joan Sinclair and Ada Gropp. You made all the difference!

An “All-of-Us-Together” Time

As the 50th Anniversary Committee continues its work, one thing is clear, the year ahead is going to involve all ages and appeal to everyone, with so many groups not only within our

**The Big 50th will arrive on
Sunday, November 21, 2010!**

church, but cooperatively between the three 50-year-olds—Forest Hill, Calvin Presbyterian and St. Francis of Assisi—planning to make it memorable. Look for more news in future columns about the Quilters’ anniversary banner, the UCW Sunday’s Congregational Soup and Sandwich Lunch, Christian Unity Week, Calvin’s 50th in April, the Musical “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown©” at the end of April, beginning of May; the Quilters’ Strawberry Tea and Quilt/Art Display at the end of June, an Afternoon Open House and Reunion of Forest Hill “alumni” on Saturday, November 20, 2010 and, of course, a Service of Worship and Thanksgiving, Luncheon and Program to follow on the Big Day, November 21, 2010. There’s lots more to come! As things are finalized we will share with you other golden nuggets of news.

CAYAMN

What does it mean?

It’s Come As You Are Movie Night!

Are you tired at the end of a busy week? Do you need something relaxing to do before starting an even busier weekend? Or...are you loose-endish? What better reason than to join us on the fourth Friday of the month for CAYAMN!

Wear something comfortable, even jammies are okay. Bring a snack to share and then settle down with friends in comfortable chairs or a floor of pillows and watch a movie on the big screen. That’s it!

Our next movie night is November 27 at 6:30 p.m. where we will be showing

**The Chronicles of Narnia:
Prince Caspian**

In this the Pevensie siblings return to Narnia, where they are enlisted once again to help ward off an evil king and restore the rightful heir, Prince Caspian, to the land’s throne. This is a family-rated movie. So, come join us!



OMAS SISKONA

The group known as Grandmothers to Grandmothers are holding a **Scrabble Tournament** to raise awareness and funds for the grandmothers in Sub Saharan Africa who are raising children whose parents have succumbed to HIV-AIDS.

The event will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m. at Parkminster United Church.

**O Christmas Tree,
O Christmas Tree,
Your branches green
delight us...**

At least they used to delight us. But the small artificial tree that used to sit up behind the pulpit served its time and has gone to be recycled.

So we’re looking for a new tree, maybe two, to delight us all, standing proud and tall in front of the two windows in the chancel.

Bette (Whyte) Clemens, our own florist/ decorator extraordinaire, has been searching out new trees and has her eye on some pre-lit twelve-foot-high beauties.

All we need to do now is round up the funds to pay for the trees. If you would like to contribute to the cost of a tree or trees, in honour or memory of a loved one, or just because you yourself love Christmas, please be in touch with Murray through the church office.



There will also be a “market” with lots of handmade items for sale. Refreshments will be served.

Please contact Marg Spencer at 519-576-6954 or email her at gar.spence@sympatico.ca if you would like to play Scrabble or sponsor Marg in her game.