

Many thanks...

My thanks to all who expressed their concern by their kind phone calls, get well cards, visits and prayers that I received during my surgery and recovery. They have all been very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Bruce Jackson

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, June 3 has been set for Forest Hill United Church to be the venue for a benefit concert featuring Toronto musician **Royal Wood**!!! Pencil in that date on your calendars and check out Royal's music at www.royalwood.ca then watch your Sunday bulletin for updates on this **Forest Hill Concert**.

Royal Wood musician, songwriter and recent nominee for a 2011 JUNO Award for Songwriter of the Year delivers "heartrending, and honest tales of love, loss and life". Piano is his main instrument, but he also plays guitar. His appeal spans all age groups. You can hear his music on his website www.royalwood.ca and click on the music link.



Japan Relief

For an update on Japan and how you and the United Church of Canada can respond, pick up the pink-coloured flyer from the cabinet in the foyer.

Join Us! For Lunch Bunch!

Thursday, April 28 at 12 noon



Please reserve your place by calling the office at 519-744-3481 no later than Friday, April 22.

Book early as space is limited. If you register, and then find you can't make it, let the office know as there usually is a waiting list!

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

Marian Gils-McLeod: .
mariangmcl@bellnet.ca

Murray McLeod:
murraymcl@bellnet.ca

PLEASE NOTE:

Deadline for the May Messenger will be Sunday, April 24 in order to have it in the boxes for pick up on Sunday, May 1. Please leave items in the envelope outside the church office or email [Martha Leibbrandt](mailto:mcleibbrandt@rogers.com): mcleibbrandt@rogers.com, or phone 519-568-7375.

THE MESSENGER

Celebrating God

Being in Community

Reaching Out to Others

APRIL 2011

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 de Sousa
Office Administrator: Wendy Irvin

Just Around the Corner...a message from m&m

We hate to rush you through Lent and push you into Easter but that historic event which is so central to our faith is just around the corner. And after a long, dark and dreary winter, one that had enough precipitation to satisfy nearly the most juvenile of hearts and spirits, the joys and promises of Easter's new life are welcome notes in the song of life around us.

You have to wonder, don't you, what "the song of life around us" sounds like in parts of the world more distant from us than sunny south western Ontario. Perhaps from places like Afghanistan, Libya, Japan, New Zealand and Haiti it is the sound of a dirge...the heavy sombre notes lamenting the intensity of the pains and passions of the people who struggle there to bring new life to bloom out of disasters, be those the outcome of nature's sometimes peculiar order, or humanity's irresponsibilities.

But maybe not a dirge. From out of the most troubled places in the world we hear, every now and again, a bright note of hope...a story of the compassion and caring of humanity...a story of utter faith, that is, a trusting in God, against all the odds, that things will get bet-

ter...that God will take care.

Certainly that has been the repeated message of our Lenten scriptures this year at Forest Hill. A simple truth. God loves us all and God cares for us all. Always has. Always will. And God gives us the gift and grace of faith to carry us through whatever life puts before us. We can accept that gift and live by it, or not.

The choice is ours. Perhaps as winter leaves us it is time for us to warm up to God, and live by faith.

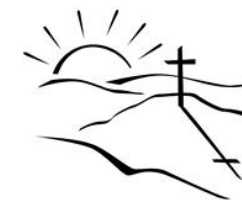
"The great gift of Easter is hope—Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in God's ultimate triumph, and in God's goodness and love, which nothing can shake." (Basil C. Hume)

It is not known who first penned these words, but...

**Blessed are those to whom Easter is not a hunt... but a find;
not a greeting... but a proclamation;
not an outward fashion... but inward grace;
not a day... but an eternity.**

We pray that in the celebration that awaits our world, just around the corner now, you will be blessed!

m&m



UCW APRIL MEETING
A Forest Hill United Church
Visioning Workshop
Tuesday, April 12
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Refreshments ongoing

Note change from the usual time and format! If you didn't sign up for this event, you can still do so! Call the church office.



Thank YOU!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU goes out to all those who donated items in the month of February! They all went to very worthy causes and were much appreciated by the recipients.



Nancy Zuk
Dorothy Ann Carter

Don't Forget!

The next single, blended worship service is **Sunday, April 24 at 10 a.m.** This is **Easter Sunday**.

For early birds and early risers there will also be an **Easter SonRise Service** beginning at 7:30 a.m., meeting in the church parking lot. See separate notice on page 7.

Financial Update

Members and Adherents:

We presented a balanced budget at Annual Meeting in February of this year. The numbers and needs for were realistic with minimal increases and some decreases as well. We are finding ourselves behind in income from all sources.

Our Offering total so far is **\$45,442** with a Budgeted amount of **\$54,943**. A monthly offering of **\$27,500** is required *every month* to remain in a positive cash flow situation. *We are currently behind \$9,500 this year.*

For March we need to make an **additional income of \$9,500** as well as the regular offering of **\$27,500** to bring our earnings back in line. The summer months' givings are traditionally less on the offering plate, and we need to enter June, July and August with a balanced budget. We have **no Reserve Fund or Bank Overdraft**. We pay our bills and staff costs *monthly* and have very limited items that can be delayed for payment.

Please consider your offering to your church. Talk it up among your friends who may have missed a few Sundays due to that winter get-away or winter activities. We need your help and prayers to meet our financial needs as a church.


The goal for March is \$37,000.00.

Yours in Christ,

Brian Clemens
 Finance Chair FHUC
 brian@bclemens.ca

APRIL 2011 AT A GLANCE

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sundays: 3, 10, 17, 24**
 Morning Services: 9:15 and 11 a.m., except for April 24 (Easter Sunday), see **Specials**
- Mondays: 4, 11, 18, 25**
 Maycourt: 1 p.m.
 CGIT: 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
 Cubs: 7 p.m.
- Tuesdays: , 5, 12, 19, 26**
 Quilters: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Mmuffin Mmoments: 10-11 a.m. 
 Beavers: 6:45 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 6, 13, 20, 27**
 Guides: 6:30 p.m.
 Scouts: 7 p.m.
- Thursdays: 7, 14, 21, 28**
 Explorers: 6:30-8 p.m.
 Choir: 7:30 p.m.

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Sunday: 3**
 Men's Breakfast: 8 a.m.
- Tuesday: 5**
 Congregational Life: 7 p.m.
 Property Committee: 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 6**
 Communications: 6:30 p.m.
 Worship and Music: 7 p.m.
- Thursdays: 7 & 21**
 Prayer Shawls: 10 a.m.
- Tuesday: 12**
 UCW, Visioning Workshop: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Note change in program!
 Christian Development: 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 13**
 Finance: 7 p.m.
- Thursday: 19**
 Pastoral Care, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 20**
 Prayer Group: 6:15 p.m.
 Board Meeting: 7 p.m.
- Thursday: 28**
 Lunch Bunch: 12 noon.
- Saturday: 30**
 Saturday Night Club: TBA, 7 p.m.

SPECIALS

- Saturday: 9**
 Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?!: 6 p.m.
- Thursday: 21**
 Maundy Thursday Service: 7 p.m.
- Good Friday: 22**
 Good Friday Service: 10:30 a.m.
- Easter Sunday: 24**
 -Easter SonRise Service: 7:30 a.m. (Meet in church parking lot.)
 -Easter Sunday Service (blended): 10 a.m.
- Easter Monday: 25**
 Church Office is closed.
- Wednesday: 27**
 Ham Dinner: 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$13 (adults) \$5 (children under 10)

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday will focus on the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room on the eve of his arrest.

Good Friday will provide the opportunity for us to meet and hear the women who were closest to Jesus talk of their grief, in a solemn worship experience.

Easter Sunday will begin with an **Easter SonRise Service** at 7:30 a.m. that starts with a warm drink and finger foods, then moves to the garden tomb campfire on the church grounds. Later, a "one service" **Easter Sunday Service Celebration**, at 10 a.m., will be a chance for the congregation to come, sing "hallelujahs" and Easter hymns. The choir will sing the Hallelujah Chorus.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD
March 16, 2011

- As a result of the series of visioning workshops being held this spring, the Board hopes to have a new visioning document prepared by Rally Sunday in September.
 - Our financial report indicates that we are slightly behind in our income predictions for January and February. Inclement weather may have contributed to the shortfall. If you are behind in your contributions, please try to make up the difference.
 - The Board passed a motion presented by the Visioning Committee that recommends a change to the By-Laws. The recommendation is that beginning in 2012, we go to one annual congregational meeting in late February. At the present time, we have two, one in February and one in May. This recommendation will be presented to the congregation for approval at the May congregational meeting.
 - Waterloo Presbytery has decided that on May 1, there will be a pulpit exchange in all United Churches in Waterloo Presbytery. Marian and Murray will be going, along with our presbytery representatives, to Knox Ayr United Church. More information later.
 - We shall continue our summer policy of having one blended service at 10:00 during July and August.
 - The Stewardship Committee continues its preparations for the every family visitation in April. Please extend a warm welcome to the visitors.
 - The Nominating Committee has begun its search for new Board and Committee members. If you are interested, please contact Scott Davis, Chris Pieters or Ken Carter.
 - The Jim Hunt Youth Arts Award Committee is now accepting nominations.
 - The "One Heart/Two Continents" fundraiser will be held on November 12.
 - The Board agreed to become involved again in the "Bring on the Sunshine" activity in 2012, and in the Multicultural Festival in 2011.
 - An *ad hoc* Committee was established to oversee our refugee assistance activities to ensure transparency and accountability to the Board
 - All committees are to give minutes from their meetings to the office and to staff for better coordination of activities.
- The next Board meeting is **April 20 at 7:00**. The Prayer Group meets in the sanctuary at 6:15. All are welcome.
- Ken Carter**
Chair of the Church Board

On Shrove Tuesday, the 32nd Kitchener Scouting Group hosted a Pancake Dinner at Forest Hill. This was a tremendous opportunity for fun and fellowship. The Group put on an excellent meal that just over 120 people enjoyed. A profit of \$425 was realized from the generous donations at the door. This money has been donated to Forest Hill to help offset the costs of the recent fire system upgrades. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts continually benefit from the use of a

safe building in which they meet and are truly grateful to the people of Forest Hill United Church for providing this opportunity.

Scott Davis

(We used almost 400 sausages and 11 boxes of pancake batter! Forest Hill folks have pretty hungry tummies, wouldn't you say!)



AN EVENING OF MUSIC FOR A JUST CAUSE
A Benefit Concert for Forest Hill's Refugee Assistance
SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011

7 p.m.

FOREST HILL UNITED CHURCH

Tickets: \$20 available after service, from Choir members and the Church Office

Our own **Peter deSousa** will bring us a great and varied musical line-up including: **Tim Louis, Carolina Soares, Lawrence Cresswell, Katalin Puscas and Bob Reinhart, Kevin Ramessar, Hannah Clemens, Julia Martin-Lopez, Forest Hill's Choir and others.**

Yummy refreshments at intermission!

IT'S AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!

Guess
Who's
Coming to
Dinner?

Saturday, April 9
(starting at 6 p.m.)

Who? Everyone—be a host or a guest!
What? An evening of food, fun and fellowship!
Where? Dinner at hosts' homes, and dessert (supplied by guests) back at the church
How? Sign up as host or guest after church services or by calling Shelley at 519-745-8101 till April 3! (Guests to be phoned ahead.)

From the Pastoral Care Committee...

Your Pastoral Care Committee wants to know of your cares, concerns, joys and celebrations. Please be in touch with Rev. Marian or Glenna Murray, chair at 519-744-1405 or murrays@golden.net. If you know of anyone who would like a card for any reason from Forest Hill, such as congratulations, sympathy or for just thinking of you, please email Connie Bieth at cebieth@rogers.com. She will require the name of the person along with the address and occasion. Please put "Church Card" in the subject line. You may also leave a note with the same information in Connie's church mailbox #19A.

Next meeting is April 19 at 7 p.m.

The UCW Hamilton Conference will be meeting at Forest Hill United Church for sessions on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16. If you can help to support this event, please sign up on the sheets in the foyer following Sunday worship or contact Margot White at 519-742-6047.

Kids' Notes from Judi

The following is a calendar of important dates and activities pertaining to Kids' Church:

***CD Work Bee - April 2, 9:30-12ish** (followed by lunch). Come out and help finish the renovations. We need volunteers to help us finish up a lot of small jobs. Sign up in the Fireside Room after services.

***The next PA Day program will be April 8,** from 9 -3, for 6 to 12 year olds. The cost is \$10 for the day. Bring your friends and join us for crafts, baking, games, stories and lots of fun. Registration forms are available at the office or contact Judi.

***Two volunteers are needed for the May 1-29 session of Kids' Church.**

***God doesn't take the summer off!** Our kids need to know that worship is not a part time activity. To keep the Kids' Church program going year round we need summer volunteers. Curriculum will be provided in advance and will be simple to follow. So please, check your calendars and sign up for a week or two. Nursery volunteers are also needed. Sign up in the Fireside Room every Sunday until all services are covered.

***Our 2011 Vacation Bible Sensation is SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ.** We need adult and teen volunteers to make this year as successful as 2010! We are aiming for 50 campers, so we need at least 12 volunteers, full and part time. High school students can get volunteer hours. Sign up in the Fireside Room after services.

***Registration for SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ begins May 1.** A display with information up

will set up in the Fireside Room starting the middle of April.

***Please note** if you bring young guests, and would like to have them join us downstairs, you need to fill in a Kids' Church Guest Registration card. This is important as the card contains information regarding allergies and photos. This is a formality that has previously been overlooked, but we need the information for safety reasons. It also helps us make our young guests feel more at home here if we know a bit about them. Cards are available from ushers and will be placed in the pews by the end of April.

***For information about all child and youth programs contact Judi Knetsch at 519-742-3913 or jknetsch@yahoo.ca.**

Ham Supper

Adult \$13.00
Children Under 10 \$5.00

Wednesday April 27th

5:00 TO 7:30 pm

FOREST HILL UNITED CHURCH
121 WESTMOUNT RD
KITCHENER, ON

Tickets available in the church office
and between services on Sundays

Organizers: Sella and Susan Clemens
519-875-9035

Supporting the General
Operating Fund of the
Church

Have a Blast and Join National Service Dogs

Easter Egg Hunt for Dogs and their Families

"Help Give the Gift of Independence
to Children with Autism"

Good Friday April 22 at Bingemans,
rain or shine
Registration \$20 per family (who would
then bring their dog)
Registration 10 a.m.
Hunt begins 11 a.m.

Register today at www.nsd.on.ca and
start collecting pledges for a chance to
win grand prizes!

The site allows you to design a
personal fundraising page and include
pictures of you and your dog. Once your
page has been set up, you can email
your friends and family and invite them to
join your team or sponsor your family. If
you do not wish to register and collect
pledges on-line, you can print off regis-
tration and pledge forms which you
would bring with all donations to the park
on the day of the event.

*Last year 1,200 families in 7 cities raised
\$100,000 for this wonderful
cause. There's lots more info on the
website under Community, then Easter
Egg Hunt, or
contact Lindsay
at lindsay@nsd.on.ca
or 519-623-
4188, ext. 10.*



Kitchener Cooperating Congregations

Here are the rest of the Lenten series taking
place every Wednesday evening. You are
invited to join with other United Churches
for bread, broth and a program provided
by each week's host congregation.

***Wednesday, April 6th - Forest Hill United's**
program and evening focus will be
"Extending Hands - Opening Hearts and
Minds" Building Friendships with the Baha'i
Community. (See notice below.)

***Wednesday, April 13th - Olivet United
Church** will introduce us to the theme
"Chaplaincy in Long-Term Care Facili-
ties" with Lucy Graves, Pastoral Care Pro-
vider at the Village of Winston Park.

***Each evening begins at 6 p.m. and draws
to a close by 8:30 p.m.**

Forest Hill's All Family Visitation

An information letter will have reached the
Forest Hill community by the end of March
telling of this Stewardship initiative to take
place the first three weeks of April. The Stew-
ardship Committee asks you to prayerfully
consider welcoming a visitor to talk to you.

On Wednesday evening, April 6th, beginning at
6 p.m., you are invited to gather at dinner tables
in the Fireside Room with friends from other
Kitchener United Churches and members of the
local Baha'i community for a simple supper of
bread and soup and an evening program we're
naming: "**Extending
Hands—Opening Hearts
and Minds, Building
Friendships with the
Baha'i Community**".
Come along, meet and
make some new friends
and go home with some
fresh insights and understanding.

