

Pastoral Care Committee

Did you know that Lay Visitors, Card Ministry, Communication, Prayer Group and Prayer Shawl Ministry all fall under the umbrella of Pastoral Care?

The Committee is here for you. If you have any cares, concerns, joys or celebrations, please be in touch with Rev. Marian or Glenna Murray, Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee at 519-744-1405 or murrays@golden.net

**The next meeting is
March 15th at 7:00 p.m.**

Join Us! For Lunch Bunch!

Thursday, March
31 at 12 noon



Please reserve
your place by
calling the office
at 519-744-3481
no later than Fri-
day, March 25.

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!

THE MESSENGER

Celebrating God

Being in Community

Reaching Out to Others

MARCH 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

Ministers' Message

Come Back To Me, With All Your Heart

Today we continue along in the season of Epiphany which runs for nine Sundays this year. That doesn't happen very often in the church calendar. But this year Lent doesn't begin until nearly the middle of March. It's all based on the cycle of the moon.

Lent is a season of being invited by God in a deeply personal way. "Come back to me, with all of your heart," God beckons. We squirm, evade, avoid. "We will," we respond, but we aren't quite ready yet, our hearts are not prepared. Our souls not yet perfect. We are not ready for God to love us.

Yes, of course we do want to have a deeper relationship with God, we tell ourselves. And we will...soon. Our relentless God calls to us again: *Come back to me, with all of your heart.*

Okay, Okay, I really will. Just a few more things to do. Let me spend a little more time in prayer first. Let me get to reconciliation. Let me clean my oven, tidy my closets. Sell my yoke of oxen. Check a field I have purchased....

Come back to me, with all of your heart. It is an extraordinary invitation to each one of us. To me in a personal, individual way. God invites me to drop the defences that I hold up between myself and God. All God wants is for me to realize that God just loves me, unconditionally, no

matter what I have done or how much I think I have hidden from God.

From the first day of Lent, the Ash Wednesday readings make God's call to us clear: "Come back to me with your whole heart." "Create in me a clean heart, O God," we respond with the words of Psalm 51. "Give me back the joy of your salvation." And that is exactly what our loving God wants to give us.

The still winter days that are cold and dark, are perfect for hiding ourselves indoors, perfect for hiding from God...or so we imagine. But God is insistent, loving, gently prodding. God is the parent of the prodigal, waiting faithfully, eagerly on the road for our return, night after night. There are no folded arms, no stern, judging stares, only the straining eyes of a parent eager for our return, longing to embrace us and rejoice in us.

Look, up there on the road ahead of us: our loving God is jumping up and down for joy. The invitation to us has been heard. We are returning home!

Come along and travel that road back to God with all your heart, and with all the family at Forest Hill this Lenten season. There will be great rejoicing come Easter!

Blessings!
m&m



Following in the Footsteps of St. Paul and the Apostles

Through Craig Travel (www.craigtravel.ca), Marian and Murray are group leaders for the **GRAND CHRISTIAN CRUISE, November 3 – 20, 2011.** There's still time for you to sail to the lands of the Bible joining the group of more than twenty people from Forest Hill and others to cruise on the Mediterranean and visit Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, and Cyprus following in the footsteps of Jesus, Paul and the other disciples. This trip includes airfare, 16 nights on board the Cristal cruise ship with daily shore excursions, all meals, taxes, gratuities, etc. For more information check out the Craig Travel website or speak with Marian or Murray.

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 April Messenger will be Sunday, March 27 in order to have it in the boxes for pick up on Sunday, April 3. Please leave items in the envelope outside the church office or email Martha Leibbrandt: mcleibbrandt@rogers.com, or phone 519-568-7375.

UCW MARCH MEETING

Tuesday, March 8

1:30 p.m.

McIntyre Hall

Spring is on its way, and Lent is about to begin. Come join us for a happy and reflective time. Our own Forest Hill charter member Elaine Rees, retired high school teacher and, for 22 years librarian at University Heights Secondary School, will speak on



"Books Galore, But Which One?" to help launch our summer reading. Refreshments and business meeting will follow. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Bible Study on Romans

The apostle Paul was the most successful missionary in the Early Church. He was the church's first theologian. During Lent we will explore Paul's life and especially his thoughts through a study of the Biblical book of Romans.

Come join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30, beginning March 9th for 6 weeks of exploration, discussion and learning. Please let Marian know if you are interested in attending.

Don't Forget!

The next single, blended worship service is **Sunday, March 6 at 10 a.m.** This is Transfiguration Sunday. The following single, blended worship service will be on **April 24** which is **Easter Sunday.**

Hungry? Then don't miss
The Annual Pancake Supper
Shrove Tuesday, March 8
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Once again, the 32nd Scouts will be hosting this event, and all proceeds from the goodwill offering will be shared with Forest Hill. Last year the funds were used to provide a working fountain on the lower level of the church. So...come and eat hearty! Seconds are available for the asking!



Mark Your Calendars!

Talks are underway and a tentative date has been set for Forest Hill United Church to be the venue for a benefit concert featuring Toronto musician **Royal Wood!!!** Pencil in **Saturday, May 14th** 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.



MARCH 2011 AT A GLANCE

WEEKLY EVENTS


Sundays: 6, 13, 20, 27

Morning Services: 9:15 and 11 a.m., except for March 6, see page 2.

Mondays: 7, 14, 21, 28

Maycourt: 1 p.m.
CGIT: 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. except March 14
Cubs: 7 p.m. except March 14

Tuesdays: , 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Quilters: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mmuffin Mmoments: 10-11 a.m. 
Beavers: 6:45 p.m. except March 15

Wednesdays: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Scouts; Guides: 7 p.m. except March 16

Thursdays: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Explorers: 6:30-8 p.m. except March 17
Choir: 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 1

Congregational Life: 7 p.m.
Property Committee: 7 p.m.

Wednesday: 2

Communications: 6:30 p.m.
Worship and Music: 7 p.m.

Thursdays: 3 & 17

Prayer Shawls: 10 a.m.

Sunday: 6

Men's Breakfast: 8 a.m.

Tuesday: 8

UCW, 1:30 p.m., McIntyre Hall

Wednesday: 9

Christian Development: 7 p.m.

Wednesday: 16

Prayer Group: 6:15 p.m.
Board Meeting: 7 p.m.

Saturday: 26

Saturday Night Club: TBA, 7 p.m.

Thursday: 31

Lunch Bunch: 12 noon.

MONTHLY EVENTS

SPECIALS

Ash Wednesday Observances

The sanctuary will be open for self-directed observance of Ash Wednesday on Shrove Tuesday, following the Pancake Supper, and, during office hours, on Ash Wednesday, March 9.



Coming up at FHUC!

AN EVENING OF MUSIC FOR A JUST CAUSE

A Benefit Concert for Forest Hill's Refugee Assistance

SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.

FOREST HILL UNITED CHURCH

121 Westmount Road E., Kitchener

Our own Peter deSousa brings us a great and varied musical line-up including:

Tim Louis

Carolina Soares

Lawrence Cresswell

Katalin Puskas and Bob Reinhart

Kevin Ramessar

Hannah Clemens

Julio Martin-Lopez

Forest Hill Choir

and others

IT'S AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

YOU JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!

Tickets \$20

Available soon

from the Church Office - 519 744 3481

and Choir members

**REPORT FROM THE BOARD
February 16, 2011**

- The Board reviewed the team approach that we have been using. It is important that we all understand the role and purpose of the Board. If a Board member has a motion to present, it should come to the Board first, then to the Congregation. Motions are also to be given to the Chair before the meeting.
- We are planning a benefit concert for Dut on April 3 to help defray his legal costs in bringing his family to Canada from Finland. Other music fund raisers are being considered.
- The renovations with the fire department are completed. The cost was \$11,393.21. The installations were more expensive than the estimate because of outdated wiring. Contributions to help with this expense would be appreciated.
- We have a very active interdenominational Ministerial Association with the local churches. The service at Highland Road Baptist last month, was a tribute to the genuine willingness of these churches to work together. Watch for more events
- The Board passed at motion regarding other United Churches who may be investigating possible partnerships. We are not pursuing such relationships, but if another church Board presents a proposal to our Board, we would consider the merits of the proposal. If the Board is interested in pursuing such a partnership, the Board would then bring the proposal to our congregation for consideration.
- The Stewardship Committee is planning an every family visitation in April. Workshops are on February 20, February 27, and March 6 from 1:00-3:00 p.m..
- The Choir and the UCW are planning visioning workshops.
- The Visioning Committee is considering

- our having one annual meeting instead of two. This committee will report back to the Board.
- Bette and Brian Clemens are co-ordinating a Ham Supper on April 27. Proceeds are to go to the General Fund.
- The next Church Board meeting is **March 16 at 7:00**. All are welcome to attend.

**Ken Carter
Chair of the Board**

**Annual Fiscal Meeting Report
February 6, 2011**

The Annual Fiscal meeting was held following the 10:00 service. Our thanks go to Sandi McMullen and Jen O'Connor for co-ordinating the chili lunch, and to Martha Leibbrandt for baking many loaves of bread and to all the committees who made the delicious chili.

There were 96 members and adherents present for the meeting.

Brian Clemens, the Chair of the Finance Committee, reviewed the 2010 financial statement and moved the adoption of the 2011 budget which shows a deficit of \$334.00. This motion was carried. Our thanks go to Brian and to Roxanne Luxton, our Church Treasurer, for all the work that they did in balancing the 2011 budget.

Roxanne Luxton was appointed as our Church Treasurer for 2011.

We also received an encouraging Report from the Independent Reviewers for 2010.

Ted Bleaney, Bruce Hannah, and Linda Thompson were appointed as our independent reviewers for 2011.

The Stewardship Committee is preparing for the every family visitation in April.

The minutes from this meeting will be in the 2011 Annual Program and Governance Report at the next scheduled congregational meeting in May.

Ken Carter, Chair

BRING ON THE SUNSHINE! WHAT A DAY IT WAS!



Family Day at Forest Hill was a celebration of African culture and the wider community. 752 people attended the day long event!



**Searching!
Searching for what?**

Come search with us for calm, peace, satisfaction, deeper meaning, God in the realities of our lives. We will go on this journey on Thursday nights, beginning March 10 at 7:00 p.m. Please let Marian know if you would like to join this search expedition.



ALL FAMILY VISITATION

Forest Hill United Church's Stewardship Committee continues to prepare for April's All Family Visitation. *We can still use your help.* If you are interested in being a visitor, please call Brock Greenhalgh at 519-569-7350 or email him at brock_greenhalgh@wrdsb.on.ca

Do you have any Baha'i friends... yet?

Beginning February 26th after sunset and continuing until sunset March 1st members of the Baha'i community have been observing the days of "Ha" or five. These are days of socializing and fun. Each day of Ayyam-i-Ha is marked by socializing, celebration and a different virtue, such as hospitality, gift giving, or charity. Ayyam-i-Ha has a unique place in the Baha'i calendar which is a solar calendar of nineteen months with nineteen days in each month for 361 days. The period of Ayyam-i-Ha makes up four or five days depending on a leap year and adjusts the Baha'i year to the solar calendar.

Following Ayyam-i-Ha begins the Baha'i Nineteen Day Fast which is refraining from solid food or liquids from sunrise to sunset from March 2nd to March 20th at sunset.

Continued next...

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.



Saturday Night Club, Saturday, March 26

The program is still being set. For more information about the evening's activities, please consult the Sunday bulletin or call the church office.

Deedy Reports

On the New Ministries Interview Day at Five Oaks

On Friday, February 4, seven candidates for the United Church ministry (five women and two men) from Hamilton Conference had their final interviews before being accepted for ordination or commissioning. This ceremony will take place on May 29 in Fergus, during the conference session. Seven teams consisting of two ministers and three lay members from Education and Student (E&S) Committees of the conference's 48 presbyteries interviewed one candidate each for two hours before and after lunch. (Lillian Gohn, the conference secretary, had already mailed out to all team members relevant information about their candidate as well as his/her answers to case study questions pertaining to their future ministry.)

My team interviewed Debra Kigar from Hamilton Presbytery, who completed her courses for the diaconal ministry at the Centre for Chris-

tian Studies in Winnipeg and did her field work in and around Hamilton. We took turns asking for her views and experiences on call and commitment, doctrinal beliefs, the practice of ministry, and personal life and faith. It was a very positive interview. We were happy to recommend her for commissioning.

Debra has chosen to be settled by conference anywhere in Canada for her first pastoral charge, either on her own or in a team ministry. In April she will find out where she will be placed. Not surprisingly, the other six candidates were recommended for acceptance as well.

I am grateful to have been part of the new ministry process for a second time. It is rewarding to meet people eager and ready to further God's cause.

Deedy Vandenberg

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 registration 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

Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 9th, and every Wednesday evening in Lent you are invited to join with other United Churches for bread, broth and a program provided by each week's host congregation.

***Wednesday, March 9th - Zion United Church** offers a "Green" Ash Wednesday worship including ashes for marking foreheads or hands during the service, and reflection on preserving the environment/universe with which God has gifted us.

***Wednesday, March 16th - Trinity United Church** will host an evening on "Compassion"

***Wednesday, March 23rd - Calvary United** will host the meeting at St. Marks Lutheran Church for the Community Supper.

***Wednesday, March 30th - St. James Rosemount United** will present a Taize style of worship service.

***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

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

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

Notes to Add to Sunday Best Recipes!

Two submissions to our cookbook contained an error. Please make the following changes in your copy: On page 71 in the recipe for **Cranberry Oatmeal Butter Cookies**, the flour amount should have read "3/4 cup of all-purpose flour" instead of "1 3/4 cups". On page 88, under the **Lemon Curd** recipe, 1/4 cup of butter was omitted. After the mixture of sugar, eggs, lemon zest and juice has thickened, add the 1/4 cup of butter and blend well. Then cover and store in the refrigerator.

A sheet with these changes will be inserted in books still to be sold..