
THE LINK

A newsletter serving the people of Caledon East United Church
Advent Edition Volume 30 No. 4 November 2014



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Words from Warren for the Link – November 2014

As we close out the longest season in the Christian calendar – the ‘Sundays after Pentecost’ – and as we prepare for the time of waiting and watching that is Advent, let’s realize that spiritual waiting is an active endeavour, not a passive one. Spiritual waiting is about preparation; it’s about getting ready; it’s about developing faith in something that’s not quite here yet. Indeed, to develop that faith is to taste the reality of what has yet to be!

I have experienced much of that to do with our budding Godly Play programme here at CEUC. A lot of people have put a lot of time into preparation – training; gathering materials; watching; praying; planning; reflecting; getting ready. We have yet to have a single new child start to worship in our beloved church building, but can’t you just feel their presence in our midst? As I write this, the two information sessions set for Nov 23rd and 30th are close at hand. Will you pray for their meaningful success? Will you speak to young families that you know who might be interested in our new education programme for children? Will you wait and watch along us?

May you and yours find great meaning as we watch and wait this Advent,

Warren (a.k.a. Rev. Ball!)



Chairman's Message

By Karen Hilliard, Council Chair

"The Greatest Gift"

I recently read a book called "Tuesday's with Morrie" by Mitch Albom. Morrie Schwartz, a highly regarded and much loved professor at Brandeis University, spends 14 Tuesdays with Mitch, a former student, sharing some important life lessons. Though dying from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS - more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease), Morrie is very upbeat about his situation and is a teacher to the end. His # 1 priority is to spend time with current and former colleagues, students, family and friends.

In his home, Morrie is surrounded by "love" – pictures of his family, well read books and items he has collected on visits around the world. Mitch realizes that though he has a successful career as a sports writer, which provides him with a beautiful home and an expensive car, his life is not as "rich" as Morrie's. By "being present", giving each person his undivided attention, Morrie has given his family, friends and colleagues, a very special gift. Morrie explains, connecting with each person - listening to their concerns, challenges, fears, frustrations, joys, hopes and dreams – lets them know they are valued and how important they are to you. Though his time is short, he explains to Mitch that the gift of time, "of being present", is a gift from the heart - one of the greatest gifts one can give another person. "Being present" with friends and family, and not riches and expensive gifts, is where you also will find true happiness.

During this season of Advent, as we wait, watch, prepare and celebrate "God's presence", remember Morrie, and "connect" with someone you care about. Let them know how important they are, and give them your greatest gift - your "presence".



Upcoming events

Sunday December 7, 10:00 a.m. service – White Gift Sunday (bring an unwrapped toy, hat, mitt, scarf, socks for the Santa Fund)

Tuesday December 9, 5:30 p.m. – Women’s Christmas Dinner (hosted by UCW and CWC)

Sunday December 14, 3:00 p.m. – Christmas Concert

Wednesday December 24th, 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service

I hope you will join us for these special events and of course, bring a friend! Warmest blessings for a safe and joyful advent season.

Property Report

By Terry Nelson, Chair of Property

The new storage building is largely completed. A few minor items remain: finish installing the roll up doors, paint the wood trim and complete the electrical. While it may have taken a few months to build, this is a significant accomplishment in that most of the work was performed by volunteers. Rob Cannon, our leader, is very busy with his own construction and renovation business, but set aside time to work on the project as well as providing direction to the rest of the gang. Enzo Villa, Randy Freitag, Bob Pillar and myself, provided assistance to Rob. We brought our individual ‘talents’ to the project to make it a success. All of us gave up substantial time over the summer (usually Wednesday nights and some Saturdays) to work on the building.

Thanks to Marlene Nelson for tending to our flower beds and to Pat Oliver for the planter beside the entrance to Friendship Hall.

Finance Committee

By Peter Robinson Chair

Please be aware that the church deficit as of the end of October is \$11,800. For comparison, the deficit at the end of October 2013 was \$10,600. The Finance Committee asks that you please remember your donations.

Worship and Music

By Anne Kozluk

C.E.U.C. Choir and Friends Present a Christmas Concert:

Come to our FREE concert on Sunday December 14th at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and enjoy a variety of Christmas music including vocal and instrumental solos and duets and new choral music by Don Besig & Nancy Price, Jon Paige and Roger Thornhill & Brad Nix. Join us in a carol sing and bid in our auction of framed prints and homemade pies. The funds raised will go towards the Building Together Fund. A reception will be held in Friendship Hall following the concert.

Poinsettias:

Help us decorate our sanctuary by bringing in a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Please see Pat Oliver or Anne Kozluk for a label for your Poinsettia. You may take your plant home on Christmas Eve if you wish.

Services in the Seasons of Advent and Christmas:

Our Advent brochure has been included in this edition of the LINK. Please refer to it for more details of our upcoming services.

Advent 1 on Nov.30/14: "Hope"

Advent 2 on Dec.7/14: "Peace" (White Gift Sunday)

Advent 3 on Dec.14/14: "Joy"

Advent 4 on Dec.21/14: "Love"

Christmas Eve on Wed. Dec. 24/14: "Fulfillment": a 7:00 p.m. service with Communion

Christmas 1 on Dec. 28/14

Christmas 2 on Jan.4/15



Walk towards God's gift of Christmas love with us... We'd love to journey with you!

United Church Women's Report

By Betty Ward

Mayor Marolyn Morrison (soon to retire) was our guest speaker at the October UCW meeting. Twenty four women including eight women from the Palgrave UCW and our Minister the Rev. Warren Ball enjoyed hearing Marolyn's many accomplishments during her 12 years as Mayor.

The theme for our November meeting was Remembrance Day when Barbara Pipher delighted us again with her piano playing as we sang many of the songs that were sung during World War 11. The refreshments prepared by Jennifer Unger and her mother Gwen were along the theme of what we ate during the war, rice pudding, Queen Elizabeth cake, milk, cinnamon cookies, maple syrup, etc. This was indeed a treat. Twelve women thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and refreshments.

Donations were given to Caledon East United Church, Caledon Meals on Wheels, Caledon Community Services (heating fund), to Molly Hutchinson for cards and gifts that she sends throughout the year, Toronto Conference UCW 40th Anniversary Award in memory of Muriel Thompson, Muriel McLeod and Kay Ford who were all active members in our UCW and our Church. This donation goes to Emmanuel College to assist students who are in the ordination program at Emmanuel.

We appreciate the craft and bake sale that the CWC are planning which will be over by the time you read this report. I will report on the success of the UCW table in the next Link.

PLEASE NOTE The Christmas turkey dinner catered by Bruce Cunnington and organized by the Community Women's Circle (CWC) and the United Church Women (UCW) will be held on Tuesday, December 9th beginning with punch at 5:30 and dinner at 6 p.m. An interesting program and worship will follow the dinner. All women are invited to attend. The dinner is \$20. each. If you wish to attend please contact Marlene Nelson 905-584-2428 or Betty Ward 905-584-2189. Those who wish to participate in the gift exchange please bring a wrapped gift value about \$10, and place it on the table in the Paisley room. The exchange will take place following the worship.

Membership

By Betty Ward

The Congregation of Caledon East United Church joyfully welcomed the following people into full membership at our church on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 12th: Lori Ball, Mary Ann Johnston, Harry and Kay Stevenson, Liz Sutherland, Bill and Anne Wood and Keith Wylie. (See picture below)

Welcome to Mariel Camilleri and Peer Haagensen, also Bob Eastman from Martin Grove United Church who is Barb Cannon's father. We are pleased to have you worship with us at Caledon East United Church.

Allan Bracken has just reported to me that his daughter Michelle has recovered fully from cancer and is playing hockey. Great news Michelle. Jean Proctor is recovering nicely at her home. Welcome back to Ernie Chapman following his hip surgery. If you wish to send Mildred Gillespie a card during the Christmas season you may send it to her home at: 7 Walker Road West, Caledon East, ON L7C 1K4. We continue to send our good wishes to Doug Johnston.

Our sympathy is extended to Cindy Glassford and Allan Bracken in the recent loss of Cindy's mother Twyla (Bracken) Harris. Twyla grew up in Caledon East and is a sister to Allan Bracken. We were saddened by the recent death of Kay Ford. Kay was a long time active member of Caledon East United Church. She was the organist and choir leader for 30 years, also active in the local UCW as well as the Presbyterial and Conference UCWs. Marlene Nelson and I would like to thank all those who have assisted with the coffee hours following the church services. Your assistance is much appreciated. As we begin filling out the schedule for the 2015 New Year we are asking if possible if you could sign up for two consecutive Sundays. This will make the task a little easier for all of us. Marlene and I will look after the month of January. We would like to fill February, March and April as soon as the schedule is prepared.

Thank you for your consideration in advance. Thank you to Leone Beck for keeping our cupboard full of cookies and the fridge full of milk and cream. Blessings to all of you during this Christmas season and for a healthy and happy New Year.



L to R
Anne Wood, Bill Wood, Keith Wylie, Liz Sutherland, Mary Ann Johnston, Lori Ball, Kay Stevenson, Harry Stevenson, Betty Ward (Chair of Membership) Rev. Warren Ball

Outreach Report

Submitted by the Outreach Team

The Mission and Service Fund

Special gift envelopes for the Christmas season will be made available. As always, any amount will be very much appreciated.

Outreach will host a coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 14th to thank the church family for their generosity to the M&S Fund. A cheque of the total donations up to that date will be presented to Randy Freitag, Treasurer.

If anyone wishes to do a Minute For Mission (M4M) reading, please contact Cheryl Pillar. Something new - a sign-up sheet for M4M readers will be posted on the church community board starting in 2015.

Reminder: **Gifts of Vision** catalogues are available in the narthex and Paisley Room so if anyone wants to give to a specific project done by the United Church of Canada, please pick up a copy and share it with others. An order form is found in each of the catalogues or one can call **416-253-5456** or toll free **1-800-288-7365** or go online www.giftswithvision.ca to make your gift order.

Food Drives and Vegetable Garden

The vegetable garden is all cleaned up thanks to Tony Beck. We had another successful year of delivering organic green and yellow beans (36 lbs) and tomatoes (58 lbs). Early in the growing season, we harvested and delivered spinach to the Food Support Program at The Exchange (CCS). There were many hands who cared for the raised gardens throughout the growing season and Outreach appreciates everyone's efforts.

Outreach is very grateful for those who have donated and delivered fresh produce during our October and November food drives.

White Gift Sunday, December 7th

The church family is encouraged to donate *unwrapped new* toys, books, winter hats, mittens and scarves and to place them under the Christmas tree.

The gifts will be delivered to The Santa Fund of the Caledon Community Services. These donated items will warm the bodies and hearts of children and young people who will enjoy Christmas gifts they may not otherwise receive.

Green Activities

In 2015, the Outreach Team will plan some other green activities such as a book and magazine swap and a Walk the Talk workshop from EcoCaledon. Details will be revealed in the next few months.



Enjoy Christmas with Jesus!

Let joy, love, and patience
guide you closer
to Jesus and His Ways.
Let His Spirit fill your heart.

Practice love and patience
by being
a little more kind,
a little more gracious, and
a little more understanding.

Practice love and patience
and you will feel
His joy,
His strength, and
His presence in your life.

Enjoy His Spirit within you.
Enjoy doing
what Jesus would have you do!

Enjoy Christmas with Jesus!

Poem by Ken Pilcher, Jr. © All Rights Reserved/ www.faithclub.org

The Link is published quarterly in March, June, October and December to serve, inform and inspire the people of Caledon East United Church.

All contributions are gratefully appreciated.

Deadline for the spring edition is March 08, 2015

Minister - Rev. Warren Ball,

Phone: 647-295 9651

Email: warren.ball@rogers.com

Editor -Maureen Robinson

Phone or Fax: (905) 584-1231

Email: morobin63@gmail.com

Chair, Executive Council – Karen Hilliard

Phone (905) 584-4435

CALEDON EAST UNITED CHURCH

6046 Old Church Road

Caledon East, Ontario L7C 1H8

(905) 584-9974

caledoneastuc@on.aibn.com