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# THE LINK

A newsletter serving the people of Caledon East United Church  
Advent Edition                      Volume 31 No. 4                      November 2015



## *Advent*

*Light a candle in the darkness*

*Love*

*Joy*

*Peace*

*Hope*

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## Words from Warren for the Link – November 2015

Jesus once said, “Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find” (Luke 11:9).

In the shadow of Jesus’ koan-like statement, let me use this newsletter opportunity to pose some questions about that very business of asking and searching: how would you like to be involved in a (monthly?) discussion which can come out of, but will not be restricted to, our experiences on Sunday mornings?

Will these discussions be held around a pot-luck meal at CEUC on Sunday at lunchtime? Will they be held on a Tuesday or Thursday evening? If so, are they best held around a pot-luck meal, or simply at 7 pm? (Typically, I’m in and around CEUC on Tuesdays and Thursdays.) If a 7 pm time works for some, is there enough other interest to gather people at, say, 1 pm as well? For that matter, is there sufficient interest to hold these discussions on a weekly basis? Let’s get even crazier: how about holding some of these meetings in people’s homes rather than the church? After all, if people host gatherings like this, would it not prove to be a good way to involve neighbours and friends who may not otherwise want to come into a church setting?

Well, I’ve surely raised a pile of questions, and I don’t know the answers! However, I’d sure like to find out, so can you help me? If this idea of meeting for an hour or two in order to share about life and spiritual wisdom is of interest to you, could you please contact me? Please also indicate when, where, and how frequently you’d like to meet!

The Ancient Greek philosopher once said that “An unexamined life is not worth living.” Are these discussion sessions good ways to find greater meaning through examination? Please email me directly at: [warren.ball@rogers.com](mailto:warren.ball@rogers.com)

May you find the expectation of this year’s Advent Season crowned with God’s love; may you **ask** and **find**, Warren (a.k.a. Rev. Ball!)



# Chairman's Message

By Karen Hilliard, Council Chair

## “Pay it Forward”

Most of us, without really thinking about it, treat others as we would like to be treated. The expression – “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” is probably part of our everyday lives. However, a few weeks ago, when Dave Forbes was our lay guest minister, he had us pause, and challenged us to rethink this basic value. He reminded us about the larger impact we might have when we do random acts of kindness and instead of expecting anything in return, we “pay it forward” – we respond to a person's kindness by being kind to someone else.

Dave Forbes' sermon “Loving God, Loving Each Other” took us on a historical journey starting in ancient Athens, and ending in the United States. Travelling through time, we learned how people and organizations such as Benjamin Franklin, Marvel comics, Alcoholics Anonymous and novelist and film maker Catherine Ryan Hyde interpreted the “Pay it Forward” philosophy. Catherine Ryan Hyde describes “Pay it Forward...as an obligation to do three good deeds for others in response to a good deed that one receives...In this way, the practice of helping one another can spread geometrically through [society](#), at a ratio of three to one, creating a [social movement](#) with an impact of making the world a better place.”

In Caledon East United Church, I am thankful that we generously “Pay it Forward” as we fulfill the life and work of our church. Whether it is sending a note to someone who cannot get out on a Sunday, or as we carry out the numerous behind the scene roles and responsibilities that may go unnoticed by many, we are paying it forward and making a difference.

Many thanks to each of you for taking the time to “Pay it Forward” and show love, appreciation and kindness to those in our church family and beyond.

Warmest blessings for the Advent season.

# Worship and Music

By Anne Kozluk



## Celebrate Advent With Us!

Our Advent brochure has been included in this edition of the LINK. Here are some highlights of our services in Advent and Christmas. Please refer to the brochure for more details.

Advent 1 on Nov. 29/15 (Hope): Sermon: ‘Remembering the Future’

Advent 2 on Dec. 6/15 (Peace): Sermon: ‘Preparing the Way, Part 1’

Advent 3 on Dec. 13/15 (Joy): Sermon: ‘Preparing the Way, Part 2’

White Gift Sunday: Donate a new book or an unwrapped new toy and place it under the Christmas tree. The gifts will be donated to Caledon Community Services.

Advent 4 on Dec. 20/15 (Love): Sermon: “Wondering in Advent”

**Christmas Eve Family Service with Communion on Dec. 24/15 at 7 P.M.:** A service of Lessons and Carols with a choir anthem and a brief meditation, concluding with candle lighting to ‘Silent Night, Holy Night’

Christmas 1 on Dec. 27/15: Sermon: “Losing sight of Jesus”

Christmas 2 on Jan. 3/16: Sermon: “The Word that Dwells Within”

## Poinsettias:

Please 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.

## **A Christmas Concert and Carol Sing:**

Caledon East United Church Choir presents a free concert: ‘A Christmas Concert and Carol Sing’ on Sunday Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. in the sanctuary. (All funds raised will go to the General Fund, Caledon East United Church). A variety of festive music will be performed by the choir and guest musicians: the Rev. Warren Ball, Lori Ball, Peter Davis, Stefani Matis, Mal McPherson, Lucza Svab and Ayleeta Tsvetnitskaya. Join us in the singing of Christmas carols during the concert. A reception will be held following the concert. We hope that you will plan to attend!

# United Church Women's Report

By Nell Crathern

Since my last report we have had two meetings. Our October meeting was a meeting of Thanksgiving as 15 of us got together to celebrate the year with thanks. Cheryl Smith presided this meeting and also prepared the dessert we all enjoyed.



We all brought an item that had special meaning for us. We were asked to bring antiques and talk about where they came from and why they were a part of our lives. Our worship was taken from "Beside Still Waters" a book of readings written by Betty Turcott.

The next meeting in November was our remembrance day meeting, remembering those who fell during the great world wars. Betty Ward read an excerpt from her father's diary, written during WW 1 and we shared some wartime memories. Barb Piper led us in the singing of WW2 songs.

Presbyterial this month will be held on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Tottenham. The speaker for that day will be Pat Macdonald and she will be telling us about the "Open Hands Youth Mission" in Nicaragua. All are welcome to attend.

In November be donated to Caledon Meals on Wheels, Caledon Community Services – heating fund, the the Toronto Conference UCW 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary fund in memory of Mildred Gillespie, the Presbyterial Education Fund, Women's Interfaith – the least coin fund and to Caledon East United Church.

As a matter of interest the, Toronto Conference UCW 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary award now has a market value of \$170,000.

# Membership

By Betty Ward

A pleasant gathering for Margaret and Robert Ohashi was held in September following the church service to wish them well as they move to a new residence in London, Ontario. Their new address is: #612-940 Springbank Drive, London, ON N6K 0E3

A very warm welcome to Judy Grummett who began worshipping with us in September.

A very warm welcome to Ryan and Ashley Bailey who have recently moved to the Caledon area from Toronto. Ryan is the son of Fay and Bob Bailey and is a member of Caledon East United Church.

Congratulations to Jessica Freitag who received her Master's degree in Linguistics from York University in October. Jessica teaches English at Humber College. She is the daughter of Sheila and Randy Freitag and is a member of Caledon East United Church.

Congratulations to Jaime Cannon who graduated with an Honours in Bachelor of Science with a Major in Biology in April of this year from the University of Ottawa. Jaime is the daughter of Barbara and Rob Cannon.

Laura Proctor, daughter of Larry and Margaret Proctor is currently teaching in an elementary school in South Korea.

Jordan Davis, son of John and Joanne Davis is currently teaching math in an elementary school in Hong Kong and is a member of Caledon East United Church..

Daniel Kozluk is a second cook at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto.

Michael Kozluk is working at Perimeter Aviation in Thompson, Manitoba. Both Daniel and Michael are the sons of Anne and Barry Kozluk and members of Caledon East United Church.

Alison and Paul Ward are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Bailey Michelle, a sister for Liam. Bailey was born on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Credit Valley

Hospital. Paul is the son of Betty and the late Ginger Ward and attended Caledon East United Church for many years.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mary-Lou Bacci, (daughter of Anne and Bill Wood), Doug Johnston, Peter Kozluk, (father of Barry Kozluk) and Bob Bailey.

Our sympathy is extended to Alyssa, Meredith and Luke Nebel in the recent death of their father Luke Nebel.

Our sympathy is extended to Nell and Roger Crathern in the tragic death of a dear friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

## **Finance Committee**

By Peter Robinson Chair

Please be aware that the church deficit as of the end of October is \$15,900. For comparison, the deficit at the end of October 2014 was \$11,800 and October 2013 was \$10,600. The Finance Committee asks that you please remember your donations.

## **Property Report**

By Terry Nelson

Last summer, we decided to replace the front doors of the sanctuary. We purchased new 1 ¾" mahogany doors at a cost of \$8,475 including tax. We will keep the existing frame but have it covered in ¼" mahogany at a further cost of about \$500. The cost for the new doors includes, new surface bolt locks, new handicap sill plate, new panic bar, new kick plates, new hinges, handles and deadbolts, staining and protective finish, and one year manufacturer's warranty. The doors will be installed towards the end of November. The new doors will be dedicated in memory of Ginger Ward and Bob Cannon. Both were baptized in our church and served in many capacities within our church during their many years of membership.

The issues with our church sign have been corrected by McCarthy Signs of Shelburne.. The problems were that it was very difficult to open up the sign to change the letters and also the internal lights were burnt out. The cost was \$1053.89 including tax and the work was completed in September.

# **Outreach Report**

**Submitted by the Outreach Team**

## **The Mission and Service Fund**

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our congregation's Mission and Service Fund. Our pledge to the United Church for 2015 is \$6,500, a challenging but attainable goal. Through weekly donations, we now have raised \$4,372 plus the \$112 from our monthly M&S coffee time. Therefore we are going to have to increase our givings during November and December in order to reach our goal. We are blessed to live in a beautiful town in a wonderful country but you know others are less fortunate and struggle to have the necessities of life. As a group of caring people who strive to lead a life as Jesus would have, please continue to give generously so others can experience a better life filled with peace, good health and free of fear.

The special gift envelopes for M&S were available to the congregation during the Thanksgiving period and the givings from them are gratefully received. We will also have the special gift envelopes available for the Christmas season.

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for the Thank You Coffee Hour hosted by Outreach. A cheque from the money collected from the M&S donation basket will be presented to the Treasurer at that time. It is with pleasure that Outreach will serve warm apple cidar and delicious Christmas treats to the church family who have contributed to the M&S Fund throughout the year.

## **October Drive for Caledon Community Services**

The October Drive for CCS was a success with wonderful donations of juice, fresh produce and other needed food items. CCS has expressed heartfelt gratitude for the church family's continued active care for the local community's welfare.

Plus how can we thank Dorothy Mazeau enough for her continued willingness and eagerness to deliver the donated items to The Exchange!

## **Vegetable Garden**

*“On the third day God gave us the gift of dry land. God divided the water and the dry land, and gave us the gift of green and growing things. When God saw the dry land and the green and growing things, God said, “It is good.” - from The Creation Story in Godly Play*

We brought beans, green onions, beets, spinach and carrots to The Exchange this year. The garden has been cleaned except for the bean plants. Outreach also wants to thank everyone that helped and will probably ask for volunteers for next year. The idea is to see if others would like to get 'their hands dirty' for a good cause.

This is the third year of providing fresh, organic produce for The Exchange. So far, for next year, we are thinking of growing spinach, beets, white and red onions and zucchini. Squash is also a possibility.

## **Green Activities**

Outreach is still considering options for a green event for next year plus we will be addressing other green matters when we meet on November 15<sup>th</sup> after the Sunday service. We will inform the church family the results of these items of discussion as soon as possible.

## **White Gift Sunday**

White Gift Sunday is on December 13th. That will be announced soon and we will ask for donations of unwrapped new books and toys, winter hats, scarves, mitts and gloves which will be placed under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. After the service, the donated gifts will go to the Santa Fund organized by Caledon Community Services.

## Life Is an Advent Season

CONNECTIONS, 11-28-93

From [www.appleseeds.org](http://www.appleseeds.org)

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."

As days and nights melt into  
Devotional harmony within the  
Vivid images of our Lord's  
Everlasting love and salvation  
Nestling our hearts in  
The glow of Jesus

(© Steven S. Walsky, December 2013.)

Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,  
**he thought**,  
*doesn't come*  
**FROM** A STORE.  
Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,  
*perhaps,* **means**  
A LITTLE BIT MORE.  
~ The Grinch ~



**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.

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