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# THE LINK

A newsletter serving the people of Caledon East United Church  
Spring Edition                      Volume 32 No. 1                      March 2016

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## The Season of Lent

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## Inside This Issue

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3 Words from Warren

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4 Chair's Message

---

5 Finance Committee

---

6 Godly Play Update

---

8 Music and Worship

---

8 CWC

---

9 UCW

---

10 Membership

---

11 Outreach Report

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## **Words from Warren for the Link – February 2016**

*“For everything there is a season: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to reap; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance” (Eccl 3:1-4).*

This, unquestionably, is the most difficult article that I’ve ever written for our newsletter, our Link! I say that because this will be my final article – as I announced in church back on January 10/16, I’m headed to St. Matthew’s United in Richmond Hill, effective May 1<sup>st</sup>.

As the ‘Teacher’ in the Old Testament points out – that’s what the word ‘ecclesiastes’ means in ancient Hebrew: teacher! – everything in life has a season. Of course, the widespread materialism we experience in the brave new world of our 21<sup>st</sup> century might suggest that we can know (or buy!) permanence but, ultimately, change is inevitable. And so, as I wrote in the email that went out on our email distribution list just after my resignation, we’ve had nine years of laughter and joy as we’ve celebrated so many events, nine years of hard work as we’ve brought new plans to life, and nine years of tears and sorrow as we have walked together through many valleys of death and grief. And, as CEUC has changed who I am as a person and minister, so CEUC will always be part of who I am and what I do!

I thank you all for the great gift that you’ve given me and write this with every prayer for your health and spiritual well-being,

Warren (a.k.a. Rev. Ball!), February 2016

# **A short message from the Chair**

By Roger Crathern

Congregants and Friends,

Just a quick note to say I am very happy to be the new chair of Caledon East United Church council. I look forward to working with you all in keeping CEUC the warm, friendly and vibrant church that it is. Our first challenge is to find a replacement for Warren, who has been such a great influence in the church for the last 9 years. With the help of the selection committee and your valued input we will find the right person to keep our church moving forward. The selection committee will provide regular updates as to how the search is going and again will appreciate your further input when we get to the final decision.

I thank you for your support and as we can only continue to grow when we work together.

## **Upcoming Special Days**

Friday, March 4, 2016  
World Day of Prayer

Tuesday, March 8, 2016  
International Women's Day

Monday, March 21, 2016  
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Sunday, April 24, 2016  
Earth Sunday

# Finance Committee

By Peter Robinson, Chair

We ended 2015 with a surplus of \$655, due to a last minute gift from the Community Women's Circle of \$1,500 and several large private donations. We met our Mission and Service obligation of \$6,500 with a total contribution of \$6,865, due to the United Church Women's contribution of \$400, with the congregation's contribution being \$6,465.

As is usual we were in a very large deficit until the waning hours of 2015 when several large donations uplifted the Operating Account to just above break even. It seems that we rely on large year-end donations, when of course we should not.

The Ruth and Murray Fallis Scholarship fund increased in value due to the usual investment policies governing the fund, and fortunately for 2015, there were 2 strong applications that each deserved to be awarded. The amount was \$750 each, totalling \$1,500. The disbursements reduced the year end value, but because last year there was no award, the trending value of the fund is increasing.

The various accounts that we Steward overall decreased in value approximately \$1,000 for the year 2015. The surplus amount is included in that figure.

The physical assets all depreciated in value as a whole approximately \$6,850 for the year 2015.

The 2015 budget estimate was \$105,350 and actual was \$103,216. A budget was presented at the Annual General Meeting in January 2016 for the amount of \$105,424. This was voted on and passed.

The Membership did vote to continue the Mission and Service obligation for 2016 of \$6,500.

## Annual Caledon East United Church BBQ

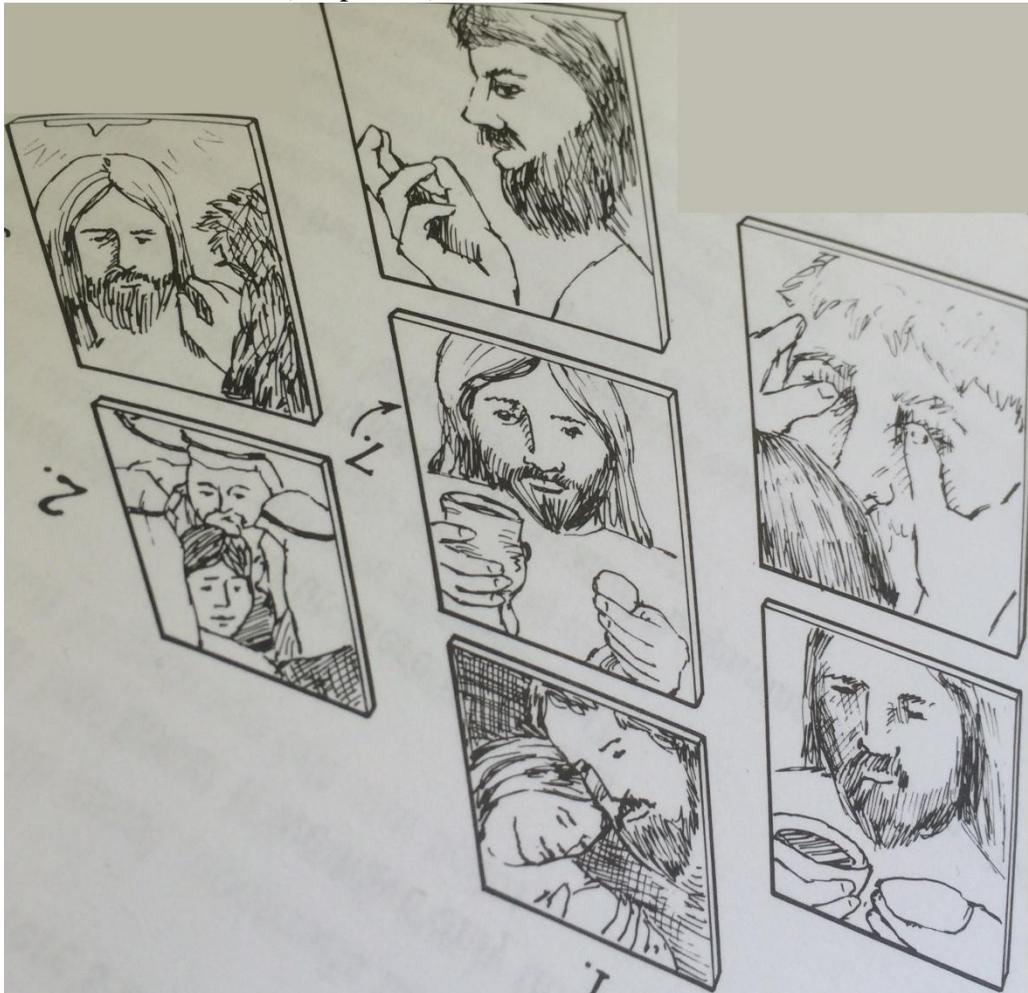
We've placed our order for good weather for **Friday June 3rd, 2016**.

Please book your calendars now and plan to attend our evening of good fellowship amongst the community, and good food too of course!

# Godly Play Update

By Deborah Judge and Anne Kozluk

In the season of Lent we present several of the stories of the life of Christ, to help children prepare for the mystery of Easter. The material consists of a set of seven plaques illustrated with faces of Christ and purple and white underlay. The following scripture stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection are included in the "Faces of Easter" lessons: Christ's birth, lost in the Temple, meeting John the Baptist, desert and discovery experience, healing the blind man, offering the bread and wine, faces of Christ on the cross and on Easter (see picture)



At the end of each “Faces of Easter” lesson, the children are invited to choose materials from the room that will help tell more of the story. This activity provides movement and action to the stories and integrates the classroom with Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection.

The “Faces of Easter” also works well as a presentation for family storytelling around the table during Lent. Instead of inviting listeners to bring other materials to the story, finish by asking special wondering questions. For example, you could ask: I wonder if there was anyone here who was ever born? I wonder if there is anyone around this table who was ever lost? Found? I wonder if there is anyone in this family who was baptized? Our Godly Play team is planning two family events to be held in Friendship Hall during the March break to introduce Godly Play to children ages 3 and up and their parents/grandparents. Plan to join us on Monday March 14 and/or Thursday March 17 at 10:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m. for a presentation of a story, a time to work with storytelling materials or art supplies and a time to share a feast- such as juice, fruit or cookies. On January 31, Lori Ball presented the congregation with a beautiful book that she created featuring photographs of our new Godly Play Worship Centre. Have a look at this wonderful resource written by Lori. The book has been placed on the worship table in the Paisley Room.

Our Godly Play team is currently looking for volunteers to teach the Godly Play programme at Caledon East United Church on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Please speak to Lori Ball, Deborah Judge, Anne Kozluk or Cathy Pley if you are interested or if you have any questions about this program. For more information check out the website: <http://www.godlyplay.ca/>. We will look into Godly Play Core Training for you.

**“At Caledon East United Church, we welcome all as we grow together in Christian community and serve the work of God’s love at home and abroad.”**

## **Worship and Music**

By Nell Crathern

I have not a great deal to report as I have just taken on the roll, however I would like to thank Bob Pillar for helping to take down and store the Christmas décor from the windows and from outside. They were down just before Lent arrived!

Please consider adding your name to the list on the bulletin board for greeting and reading if you haven't done so already or if it's been a long since the last time. With Easter and spring coming soon there will be many things to prepare and look forward to.

## **Community Women's Circle**

By Sheila Freitag

We will plan to host a Spring Breakfast on Saturday, April 23rd. This is a community event open to both women and men. A traditional buffet breakfast of egg casseroles, fruit, muffins, breads and beverages prepared by our volunteer members will be offered at a cost of \$10.00 a person. Following the breakfast, there will be a live auction of donated items. The proceeds will be donated to Caledon Community Services who support local needs.

Later in the months of May or June there is the possibility of the CWC holding their annual Yard Sale on the church grounds. We need interested vendors to rent space and volunteers to assist with the day's activities. When a specific date for this event is decided upon, more information will be available.

# United Church Women's Report

By Nell Crathern



Our first meeting of 2016 was a huge success 28 women, 17 from Caledon East United Church and 11 guests from Palgrave United Church, crowded into the Paisley room to share dessert and tea. Our speaker was the reason for the large attendance. Betty Ward invited Patricia L Sproule Ward to speak to us about Wills, Estate Planning and Power of Attorney and the necessity of updating your wills on a regular basis. She gave us much information to think about and many of our questions were answered.

Next month, March 8, our speaker will be Brenda Evans the community police officer from Caledon. All women are welcome to attend.

This month we donated to Massey Centre as we do every year at this time.

The next Presbyterian meeting will be held on March 9, 2016 at Knox United Church, Caledon, ON. It's only a short drive and promises to be an enjoyable day and open to all women in our church.

## Patchwork Quilt

From the book Coffee Time Prayer by Lynn Sallee

“You’ve got to get rid of all those fabric scraps,” my husband said firmly, viewing the corner of the basement where shelves were lined with boxes, and bags stuffed full of leftover material. Being a person who saves anything which might still be usable, I replied in most practical voice, “I’m planning to make a patchwork quilt someday.”

“Then get started on it right now!”

So here I sit with 940 small squares of fabric to join. Gay gingham and calicos, pretty prints, stripes, and plaids wick back at me. That nice vague “someday” has arrived. I wish now I’d given all my material scraps to the lady down the road who makes Barbie doll clothes!

FATHER, I am so much like a tiny scrap of leftover material. On my own I am really not very valuable. My use to You and others is limited by my human faults and failings. Remind me occasionally, as You did today while I was working on the quilt, that beauty, size, and strength come from many scraps joining together into a greater whole. Teach me to join with my fellow church members, neighbors, family, and friends to serve You better. Let me be one small square in that glorious patchwork quilt made up of Your faithful servants her on earth.

# Membership

By Betty Ward

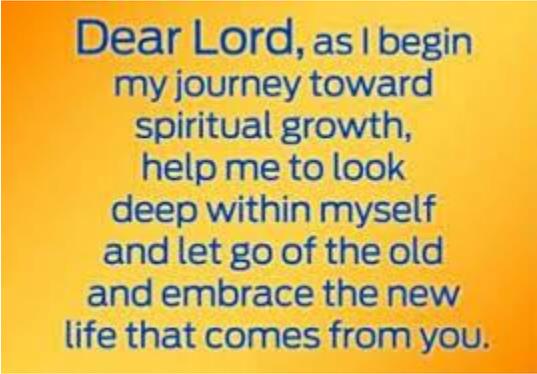
Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ross Leighton who passed away suddenly on January 28th, 2016. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Brenda, son Darrell and daughter Tiffany.

Our good wishes are with Wayne Wood as he recovers from a broken leg, also Barry Kozluk as he recovers from a snowmobile accident. We wish for them all the best.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mary-Lou Bacci, Doug Johnston, Peter Kozluk and Bob Bailey as they continue with their treatments.

William Kozluk has just begun his second semester of grade 12. He is a candidate in the Co-Operative Programme with the Canadian Armed Forces. William started his training in February 16th at Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Beckett Armoury in Mississauga. We wish him all the best.

With much sadness I report that Gerald Proctor passed away on Saturday, February 27th at Headwaters Hospital. Gerald was a lifetime member of Caledon East United Church and was active in all aspects of our church. He was our councillor for Caledon East as well as Reeve in the late 60's and 70's. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Marion, son Paul and wife June as well as the grandchildren Elizabeth and husband Giancarlo and Mark.



Dear Lord, as I begin  
my journey toward  
spiritual growth,  
help me to look  
deep within myself  
and let go of the old  
and embrace the new  
life that comes from you.

*Did Noah Fish? A Sunday school teacher asked, Johnny , do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark ?' ' No,' replied Johnny . 'How could he, with just two worms.'*

# **Outreach Report**

**Submitted by the Outreach Team**

## **The Mission and Service Fund**

The Minute for Mission (M4M) readings continue on the first Sunday of the month to let the church family know how their generous donations support local, national and international projects. During the coffee hour, donations may be put into the Mission & Service (M&S) Fund basket. For those who would like to read one of the short articles from the M4M booklet, there is a volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Paisley Room. The booklet is in the Outreach mailbox in the Paisley Room.

Easter Sunday is early this year - March 27<sup>th</sup>. Special gift envelopes for the M&S Fund will be found in the narthex, pews and church bulletins.

Our goal for the M&S Fund this year is \$6,500. Thank you to everyone who continues to give to the Fund. As you know, a little can go a long way. If you have any ideas for future fund raising, please inform The Outreach Team (Karen Hilliard, Cathy Pley, Margaret Konert, Cheryl Pillar and John MacRae).

## **Food Drives for Caledon Community Services**

Food drives are scheduled for May and November. A list of needed items for The Exchange, which is part of Caledon Community Services, will be provided in due time.

## **Vegetable Garden**

This will be the fourth year of providing fresh, organic produce for The Exchange. We are thinking of growing spinach, beets, white and red onions and zucchini. Squash is also a possibility. We will be planting seeds and any seedlings in May and June.

If anyone would like to participate in the vegetable garden, please contact The Outreach Team.

**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 Summer edition is May 15, 2016**

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