
THE LINK

A newsletter serving the people of Caledon East United Church
Advent Edition Volume 32 No. 4 November 2016



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Minister's Message

By Ross Leckie

With the 'delivery' of this newsletter we will find Advent (beginning November 27) soon upon us. The word Advent means "arrival" or "coming". Outside church circles the term has lost its meaning. Some will remember calendars with windows to open each day. The deluxe versions come with small chocolates. For many people late November and December are filled with a crush of activities and the "holiday season" can be filled with much anxiety.

Advent can be a time of contrasting emotions. We may be eager for the arrival of loved ones. One minute we are excited about the opportunity to see family and friends; the next we may feel utterly lonely. We are hopeful, but we may also be found in despair. There is a sense of deeper meanings of the season, but it is so easy to get caught in desperation regarding the announcements of "only so many more days until Christmas."

I want to invite you, this year, to put in some time of spiritual preparation. Some may wish to do this on your own, while others may appreciate the opportunity to join with others in exploring those 'lead up' stories to Christ's birth. I'd like to invite those who could gather on Wednesday mornings between 10 am and noon to join with others in this quest. We'll meet for three weeks, November 30, December 7 and 14 at the church. You may also wish to use an Advent candle lighting ritual around the dining room table in your home each Sunday during these four weeks of preparation and waiting. Copies of this ritual are available from the church office.

Mother Teresa once said that the first person to welcome Christ was John the Baptist, who leaped for joy on recognizing him, though both of them were still within their mother's wombs. We, in contrast, are often dulled by superficial distractions and seldom hear the voice within, let alone listen to it. In the end the feeling we know as Christmas cheer may lack any connection to that which radiated from the manger. So consider an inward journey of preparation this Advent.

We miss the essence of Christmas unless we become, in the words of Eberhard Arnold, "mindful of how Christ's birth took place." Once we do, we will sense immediately that Advent marks something momentous: God's coming in to our midst. This is not a once and for all 'happening'. It is a recurring possibility here and now. And so Advent can be a yearly opportunity for us to consider the future, second Advent---the promised coming of God's kingdom on earth.

This will make Christmas all the more meaningful, but not necessarily light-hearted. There is a paradox, to paraphrase the modern martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the fact is that God's coming is not only a matter of glad tidings but, first of all, "frightening news for everyone who has a conscience." The love that descended to Bethlehem is a burning fire whose light chases away every shadow, floods every corner, and turns midnight into noon.

Such a transformation cannot be by human intervention, but only by divine intervention. Advent (to quote Bonhoeffer again) might be compared to a prison cell “in which one waits and hopes and does various unessential things...but is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside.” If the essence of Advent is expectancy, it is also readiness for action: watchfulness for every opening, and willingness to risk everything for freedom and a new beginning.*

An Advent without preparation may lead us to be enamoured with scenes of a newborn son of God in a manger, but do we also see the possibility that this child will take upon himself the despair of the world? We might ask, “What grounds are there for such hope?” Well, we could become like children, and believe. Mary did. So did the shepherds and the wise men of the East. I invite you to take such a leap of faith, this Advent.

*thoughts from Watch for the Light, Readings for Advent and Christmas

Church Board engages with National Church Remits

By Ross Leckie

Over the next six months the Caledon East United Church Board will be studying and voting on 5 national Church ‘remit.’ A ‘category 3 remit’ is a vote required within the wider United Church of Canada whenever a substantive change is to be made to the Basis of Union. Such a remit requires the engagement and decision of all levels of the United Church, ‘church courts’- General Council, Conference, Presbytery, and pastoral charge governing bodies. This has arisen because of recommendations made at the last meeting of the General Council, GC42 which called for some major changes to the way certain things have been done in the church, many stretching back to the agreements of Church Union in 1925.

Some of these changes have come about through contemporary trends which have led away from the practices and procedures of the past-i.e. the settlement of newly ordained clergy to pastoral charges distant from their home province. Such changes, if adopted will unify practices across the country. In other cases proposed changes have arisen from a need to streamline national church ‘operations’. Across the country the United Church is feeling the pressure of a reduced number of volunteers to ‘staff committees of oversight and action’ and also must now do the work of the national church with reduced finances. At a recent workshop we were informed that-“The current budget of our national ‘governance and support’ work has been in the area of 38 million dollars. In the next few years that annual budget is expected to be reduced by 11 million dollars.” There will be ‘job cuts’ and committee expense ‘cuts’ too. Some work will be done through video conferencing with reduced travel costs for staff and volunteers.

The remits which will be before the Caledon East UC Board are: 1) a recommendation to move the United Church of Canada from a 4 ‘court’ model to a 3 ‘court’ model 2) the

elimination of the requirement and the 'system' of Transfer and Settlement for new and continuing clergy 3) the establishing of a denominational 'Office of Vocation' which will be responsible for establishing and monitoring standards for United Church clergy in training, preparation, oversight, and discipline (some have likened this to similar institutions for teachers and nurses) 4) a new way of Funding the Administrative Work of the National Church which will involve an assessment formula-currently a portion of the governance and support work of the United Church along with its mission work in Canada and overseas are funded through Mission and Service givings 5) changing from having a number of different personnel classifications-ordained, diaconal, designated lay ministers to One Order of Ministry-currently the only route to the 'ordained' designation has been to have the appropriate academic credentials (now a MDiv degree), a new 'system' would offer different pathways of educational formation and expect an overall equivalency of educational and spiritual formation, all would be ordained to a ministry of word, sacrament, pastoral care, and education.

If a pastoral charge, in our case congregation (through its governing body) does not participate in this process, their response will be considered as a 'no' vote. In order for a category 3 remit to be passed, it must receive a 2/3 majority of 'yes' votes. The overall engagement and voting must be completed by June of 2017. I will be recommending to the Church Board that we begin the process in small 'doses' at our next meeting and accomplish our task in the next 6 months. An overview will be presented at the November 15 evening meeting. We will endeavour to engage the congregation through communication and invite your interest in the process. If you are interested in learning more please come out to attend the introduction part at the upcoming meeting. There is plenty of information available on the GC42 website of the United Church of Canada, www.gc42.ca/remits . Reverend Ross Leckie



Worship & Music

By Joanne Davis on behalf of Worship & Music Committee

Advent is a time of waiting with anticipation for the arrival of the Christ child. Here are some of the events planned for this year at CEUC to help us celebrate the season of advent.

The season of Advent begins on **Sunday, November 27th**

HOPE - be ready for the unexpected arrival. It is also World AIDS Day

This year we will be asking groups of people to light the Advent wreath each Sunday. In the days following this service, the sanctuary will be decorated for the season as we wait with excitement.

December 4- Advent 2- PEACE The arrival of the messenger

During this service we will celebrate **White Gift Sunday**. Please bring unwrapped toys, books, hats, mitts, scarves and gloves to place under the Christmas tree for a child. On this Sunday, we will also begin to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias in memory of loved ones. If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church in memory of someone, please see Sheila Freitag to have the name of your loved one recorded.

December 11- Advent 3- JOY

Join us for coffee after the service as the Outreach Committee organizes a coffee hour to thank the congregation for the M&S support over the year.

December 18- Advent 4-LOVE

Please join the CEUC choir for a Christmas Concert and Carol Sing at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We are asking for monetary donations at the door, which will be donated to the Santa Fund in support of Caledon Community Services.

December 24- a special Christmas Eve Pageant at 4:00 p.m. geared towards the young and the young at heart. The children (and adults) will be able to dress up in nativity costumes and become part of the pageant as Rev. Ross reads a version of the Christmas story.

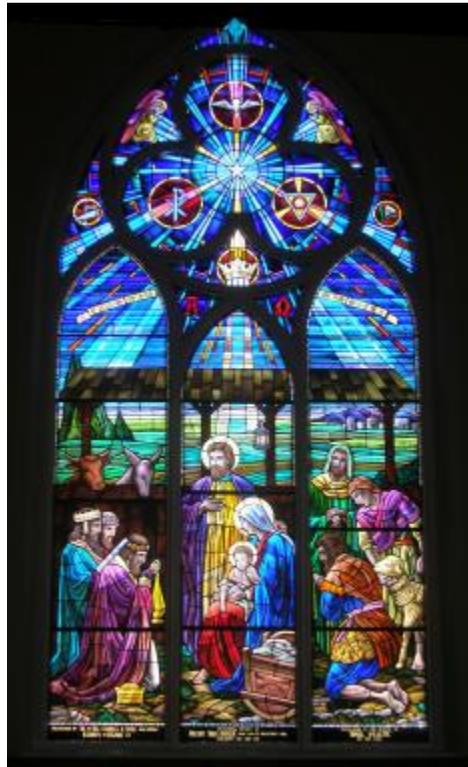
If you would like to volunteer your time and/or talents (sewing , staging etc.), please speak to the co-coordinators Anne Kozluk and Joanne Davis.

A Candlelight Communion service will follow later in the evening beginning at 7:30 p.m.

December 25- Christmas morning- There will not be a service on this day as we celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Day together with family and friends.

Join us again on **Sunday, January 1, 2017** as we ring in the New Year at a more suitable hour of 4:00 p.m. A potluck Epiphany Feast will follow the service.

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate this season together!



Property Report

By Terry Nelson, Chair of Property

Emergency Lighting System:

A complete test of the Emergency Lighting System was performed on September 30th by Bob Pillar, assisted by Al Bracken. All components of the system are in good working order.

Furnaces:

The furnace serving Friendship Hall and the Paisley Room was cleaned on Oct. 6th. The technician's report did not indicate any problems with the furnace.

At last year's cleaning of the furnace serving the sanctuary, the technician indicated that the furnace was nearing the end of its useful life. In fact, should it fail, it would not be possible to obtain replacement parts for some of its components. The prudent action is to replace the furnace before it fails. Two heating company's provided estimates for a new furnace.

The following motion was approved by the Church Council. In light of the better warranty, superior rating, and excellent existing service relationship with Furnace King, purchase a Trane furnace at a cost of \$6,328, including tax. The new furnace is scheduled to be installed in December.

Snow Plowing:

Green Day Landscaping has been contracted for snow plowing and salting this winter at a cost of \$4,407. There is no increase in cost from last year.

Community Women's Circle Report

By Sheila Freitag

Community Women's Circle **CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOPPE & BAKE SALE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2016
9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

**AT
CALEDON EAST UNITED CHURCH
6046 OLD CHURCH ROAD
CALEDON EAST**

**HOMEMADE CRAFTS, HOME BAKING
AND PRESERVES,
ARTISAN CRAFT VENDORS**

**TABLES AVAILABLE FOR RENT - \$25.00
CONTACT PAT - 905-584-2815**

**OR
CHURCH OFFICE – 905-584-9974
caledoneastuc.aibn.com
www.caledoneastunitedchurch.ca**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE CAFÉ STYLE



Ruth and Murray Fallis Scholarship

By Peter Robinson

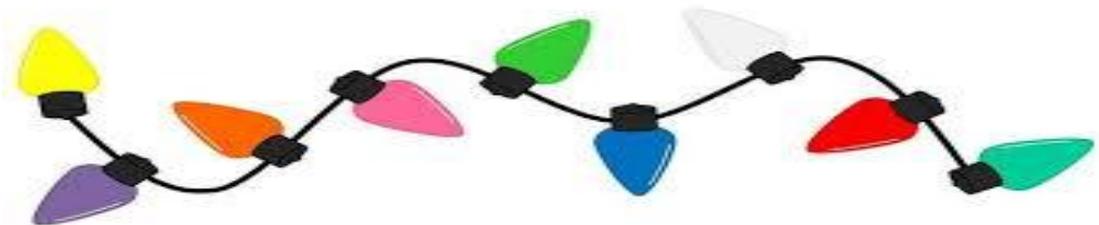
This year's recipient for the Ruth and Murray Fallis Scholarship is **Natalie O'Neill** of Robert F. Hall Secondary. Natalie is attending Ryerson University in Toronto studying a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film Studies. The entire committee believe her to be a worthy recipient and will be an honorable representative of the scholarship . The \$1,000 cheque will be mailed to her.

Scripture Stories for Children

By Anne Kozluk

Children ages 3 and up are invited to join us in our Godly Play Worship Centre on Sunday mornings. The Advent lessons (on Nov. 27, Dec. 4, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18) help children to anticipate the mystery of Christmas. The material consists of a tray of Advent cards (representing the prophets, the Holy Family, the shepherds, the Magi, the birth of Jesus), 4 Advent candles, a container of matches, a candle snuffer, a purple cloth and a model of Bethlehem. Each week during Advent, we move toward Bethlehem, guided by the pointing prophets, with the Holy Family, the shepherds and the Magi. Our presentation on the fourth Sunday of Advent focuses on the wise men and the celebration of Christmas.

Come join us on December 24th at 4 P.M. for "A Walk On Christmas Pageant" in our sanctuary. Follow a group of children and adults as Rev. Ross Leckie narrates the Christmas story. Costumes and props will be ready for you in the Paisley Room at 3:30 P.M. All are welcome to participate. For more information speak to Joanne Davis or Anne Kozluk.



A Handy Reference List in case of Emergency

When in sorrow ... [Call John 14](#)
When people fail you ... [Call Psalm 27](#)
When you have sinned ... [Call Psalm 51](#)
When you worry ... [Call Matthew 6: 19-34](#)
When you are in danger ... [Call Psalm 91](#)
When God seems far away ... [Call Psalm 139](#)
When your faith needs stirring ... [Call Hebrews 11](#)
When you are lonely and fearful ... [Call Psalm 23](#)
When you grow bitter and critical ... [Call 1 Corinthians 13](#)
When you feel down and out ... [Call Romans 8:31](#)
When you want peace and rest ... [Call Matthew 11: 25-30](#)
When the world seems bigger than God ... [Call Psalm 90](#)
When you want Christian assurance ... [Call Romans 8: 1-30](#)
When you leave home for labour or travel ... [Call Psalm 121](#)
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish ... [Call Psalm 67](#)
When you want courage for a task ... [Call Joshua 1](#)
When you think of investment and returns ... [Call Mark 10](#)
If you are depressed ... [Call Psalm 27](#)
If your pocketbook is empty ... [Call Psalm 37](#)
If you are losing confidence in people ... [Call 1 Corinthians 13](#)
If people seem unkind ... [Call John 15](#)
If discouraged about your work ... [Call Psalm 126](#)
If self pride/greatness takes hold ... [Call Psalm 19](#)
For understanding of Christianity ... [Call 2 Corinthians 5: 15-19](#)
For a great invention opportunity ... [Call Isaiah 55](#)
For how to get along with fellow men ... [Call Romans 12](#)
For Paul's secret to happiness ... [Call Colossians 3: 12-17](#)
For dealing with fear ... [Call Psalm 34](#)
For security ... [Call Psalm 121:3](#)
For assurance ... [Call Mark 8:35](#)
For reassurance ... [Call Psalm 145:18](#)

United Church Women's Report

By Nell Crathern



A successful UCW bake sale was held on Sunday, September 25th following the church service. In total we raised \$489.00. Thank you to all who donated and/or purchased baking or preserves.

At our October UCW meeting Ruth Watson invited Alison Hird, who recently retired from the Dufferin Museum in Collections Management. Alison spoke about the importance of documenting the story behind our artifacts and family heirlooms. At this meeting, our UCW made donations to Caledon East United Church, Caledon Meals on Wheels, Caledon Community Services (heating fund), Bethell House and the UCW 40th Anniversary Award.

At our November meeting Doris Porter, a World War II Veteran spoke about her experiences during the war. Doris grew up in the Caledon East area. Although Doris didn't go overseas till after the war she gave an interesting and humorous talk. We welcomed Cheltenham and Salem UCW's as they joined us for the meeting. Thank you to Ann Wood for playing the hymns, to our secretary for putting the agenda on power point and to our minister for operating the power point. Thank you to all who assisted in any way at the meeting. All enjoyed refreshments following the meeting.

To the UCW members please bring a new or nearly new item for the raffle which will be held on November 26th at the Community Women's craft sale and place it in the laundry basket which will be in the Paisley room.

Our December women's turkey dinner, catered by Bruce Cunnington will be on Tuesday, December 13th, beginning with punch at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. Andrew Yorke, a Caledon East Olympian will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$20.00. Please give Maryann Johnston or Marlene Nelson the \$20.00. If you wish to take part in the gift exchange following the meeting please bring a gift valued about \$10.00 and place it on the table in Paisley room.

There will no UCW meeting in January 2017.

The National UCW 55th anniversary will be held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver from July 10th to the 14th in 2017. The theme of the 55th is, "Celebrating Spirit". Registration forms are available on the computer. Google the theme. The UCW 55th Anniversary pins are available. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Finance Committee

By Peter Robinson Chair

The Trustees received direction from Presbytery regarding the disposition of the capital proceeds from the sale of the manse.

The Trustees tasked the Finance Committee with developing investment guidelines for this capital aligning with Presbytery restrictions and keeping in mind the Prudent Investor guidelines of existing investments by CEUC. The Trustees also tasked the Finance Committee with Stewardship of the new Manse Account.

The Finance Committee submitted motions to Executive regarding the investment policy, which were approved.

In the interim, the capital proceeds were placed in a high interest savings account at CIBC with a special high rate of return while these decisions and investment research complying with the approved motions occurs. Upon expiration of the special high rate of return the capital has been moved into a special flexible GIC providing a respectable interest rate and access to the capital to move it to the actual investment once that decision is made.

Final presentations by investment agencies will occur in mid November after which the Finance Committee will discuss and select the agency that is best suited to all aspects of the CEUC investment policies. The Finance Committee expects the capital to be invested near the end of November / early December.

Christmas Acrostic

C is for the Child born that night to be our light. (John 8:12)

H is for holy is His name. (Rev.4:8)

R is for rejoice with gladness & joy. (Luke 1:14)

I is for Immanuel, God with us. (Is.7:14,) John 1:14)

S is for the star that led the Wise men to Him. (Matt.2:2)

T is for the truth & grace that was sent our way. (John 1:14)

M is for Mother Mary laying Him in swaddling clothes in the manger. (Luke 2:7)

A is for angels singing songs of joy. (Luke 2:14)

S is for salvation.

- Johnnie DesRochers.

Membership

By Betty Ward

Our congregation was saddened when we heard the news that Roger Crathern had suffered a stroke at work on Tuesday, October 25th. He was transferred from Sunnybrook hospital to Brampton hospital on November 3rd. Roger is chair of our Council as well as the chair of the recent search committee. We all wish for him a full recovery.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Doug Johnston who received a wonderful report from his doctor in Brampton. He called him a miracle man. Way to go Doug. Keep it up.

Don Nelson, (wife Judy) from Inglewood is now in Bethell House. Our thoughts and prayers are with Don and we wish for him all the best.

Our sympathy is extended to all of the following people: Barb and Rob Cannon in the passing of Barb's father Bob Eastman; to John and Margaret Konert in the passing of John's mother and to Janet and Bill Henderson in the passing of Janet's mother.

Congratulations to William Judge and Katrina Span who were married on Saturday, October 22nd at Whites Road Pentecostal Church in Harriston. William is the son of Bruce and Deborah Judge.

Congratulations to Christine (Pillar) and James Allin on the birth of their new son Graydon, a brother for Carys. Their grandparents are Cheryl and Bob Pillar. Did you know?

Amy Hilliard has just finished her two year accelerated nursing program at University of Toronto in June. She is looking forward to her graduation. She is now busy studying for her National nursing exam that all new nursing grads must pass in order to get registered with the College of nurses (our regulatory body) Amy is excited about starting her new job in the emergency department at the Mississauga Hospital (part of the Trillium partners). Hopefully at the end of 6 months, she will be offered a permanent position. Amy is the daughter of Karen and Chris Hilliard.

Laura Proctor returned to Canada in August after spending a year teaching at an elementary school in Gwacheon, South Korea. Laura is now working towards her Masters in Education with a focus on Equity, Diversity & Social Justice. She is completing the courses online through the University of Western Ontario which is where she did her undergrad studies before completing her Bachelor of Education at Nipissing University. Laura is also interning with the Canadian Centre for Diversity & Inclusion, helping with their outreach program at various high schools.

Laura's brother, Jeremy is living and working in Guelph as a Commercial Analyst for UMI Solutions. He is primarily responsible for inventory and financial analysis. Jeremy is working towards his Certified Professional Accountant designation to go along with his Business Degree from Laurier University.

Laura and Jeremy are the daughter and son of Larry and Margaret Proctor. We are all proud of our young people. Congratulations to all of you!

Christmas Is a Time for Love and Fun

Christmas is a time for love and fun,
A time to reshape souls and roots and skies,
A time to give your heart to everyone
Freely, like a rich and lavish sun,
Like a burning star to those whose lonely sighs
Show need of such a time for love and fun.

For children first, whose pain is never done,
Whose bright white fire of anguish never dies,
It's time to give your heart to every one,

That not one angel fall, to hatred won
For lack of ears to listen to her cries,
Or arms to carry him towards love and fun,

Or friends to care what happens on the run
To adult life, where joy or sadness lies.
It's time to give your heart to everyone,

For God loves all, and turns His back on none,
Good or twisted, ignorant or wise.
Christmas is a time for love and fun,
A time to give your heart to everyone.

Outreach Report

Submitted by the Outreach Team, October 2016

Minute for Mission (M4M) Readings and Donations

On Sunday, November 6th and Sunday, December 4th, Minute for Mission readings will be shared during these services. During coffee hour, the church family may place donations in the basket for M&S. Volunteers who would like to read, may write their name on the sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board in The Paisley Room or talk to Cheryl Pillar.

November Food Drive for Caledon Community Services (CCS)

Please bring in food donations during the month of November. Kim D'Eri of CCS is requesting **canned fish/meat, cereal, pasta and pasta sauce**. Fresh produce and other donated items are gratefully received. Please drop-off the item in The Paisley Room on bench marked Food Support Program.

December Outreach Activities

White Gift Sunday, Dec. 4th

Please bring your donations of unwrapped new books and toys, winter hats, scarves, mitts and gloves and place them under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. After the service, the donated gifts will be delivered to the Santa Fund organized by CCS.

Thank You Coffee Hour, Sunday, Dec. 11th

Please join us for some warm apple cider and delicious Christmas treats. A cheque from the money collected from the M&S donation basket will be presented to the Treasurer. Many thanks to our church family who have generously contributed to the M&S Fund throughout the year.

The Mission and Service (M&S) Special Gift Envelopes for Christmas

Many thanks for your generous support of the M&S programs through your Thanksgiving gift envelopes. During the month of December, you will have another opportunity to provide support for these important M&S programs.

The Link is published quarterly in March, May, September and November to serve, inform and inspire the people of Caledon East United Church.

All contributions are gratefully appreciated.

Deadline for the autumn edition is February 19, 2017

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