



Carlisle
United
Church

Newsletter



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Winter 2011

Dear Friends,

Just last week I watched the sun come up as I stood on the rooftop of the Centre for Christian Reflection and Dialogue in Cardenza, Cuba. On the streets below, the town of 10,000 was already moving. Parents rode their small children on bicycles to school, men and women waited on the street corner to catch a bus or hitchhike by car to places of work, horse-drawn buggies carried people to and fro as did the bicycle taxis, while other people walked. Every night as I lay in bed listening to the sound of hoof-beats, I wondered at the differences between our cultures and situations. Not one of us chose where we would be born—not the country, not the family, not the circumstances of life. We can, however, choose whether we will live by fear or by love.

On a single day I watched the sun come up in Cuba and I watched the sun set over Toronto, flying over the roads and highways that seemed ribbons of light as rush hour traffic moved hundreds of thousands of cars, mostly with one person, at high speed along the roads even as our plane came in to land. My body is here but my soul has yet to catch up with me, as I feel not quite here...so I hope for your patience!

There are many impressions from these ten days that combined a visit with the Centre and other aspects of the Cuban Protestant church with training about leading mission trips.

We were able to accompany the Meals-on-Wheels program one morning. It serves a hot meal, seven days a week, to 120-130 people, mostly elderly people with little or no family and people who

are disabled. While a man in a 3-wheeled bicycle loaded with containers delivered the meals, we boarded horse-drawn buggies to join a social worker and hairdresser on some visits. One elderly man agreed to a hair trim so we visited with him and were entertained by him as that happened. Another woman told us how she relied on her neighbours for help in daily living. That was a common theme—neighbours looking out for one another in very practical ways.

We spent another day at the Farm that the Centre for Christian Reflection and Dialogue has developed over many years of hard and visionary work. The farm grows food used in the Meal program as well as for hospitals and institutions in Cardenza. I was amazed and impressed by the organic techniques that were used so well in vegetable production. They have developed a bio-gas process that uses animal waste (remember all those horses?!) to extract methane gas for use in homes and uses the waste left over as fertilizer for crops. Now they are starting small bio-gas plants in peoples' back yards. I was impressed by how grassroots projects, starting small, are changing lives.

I tend to throw myself into these experiences of being part of life in another country, another Christian community. Now I need to continue to make time to keep reflecting on what I have learned and what our churches can learn from Christians in Cuba. It may be that some of you would like to visit there. I hope that you will pray about this as we discern what God might be calling us to, both in our mission at home and in being part of a global church of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Diane

Worship in November

Saints Alive! – Living Generously



The Giving Tree on the wall near the front of the church needs leaves!

The spiritual practice of giving doesn't happen by magic - we learn how to give from teachers. Who

has shown you what it means to be generous? Write the names of these Saints Alive on leaves and attach them to the Giving Tree!

Reflect on the ministries of our church and how **you** want to support the difference we make. How are we 'saints alive' today? Write that on a leaf and put it on the Giving Tree.

Finally, consider how your life can serve as an **example for others** and how your giving can become a legacy for the future of our church's mission and ministry. Add your leaf to the Giving Tree!

Be sure to check the box if you have a story to share with us, either through writing or telling a story of Saints Alive! Thank you!

Follow our Moderator, Mardi Tindal



Mardi, a former member of our congregation who is now serving a three year term as Moderator of the United Church, is a busy woman! Passionate about our church, about faith and about how we can better live with

respect in creation, Mardi writes about her work in a weekly blog. You can find it by going to www.wondercafe.ca. Why not have it feed into your email or Facebook so you don't miss it!

Worship for Advent and Christmas

Our theme in December will be *Invitation to Wonder: Practicing the Presence of God.*



Advent begins on November 27 and continues to December 23.

Christmas Eve services

- 4:30 p.m. Family service with communion
- 10:00 p.m. Communion and candlelight worship

Christmas Day

- 11:00 a.m. Service at Carlisle for the whole pastoral charge

New Years Day

- 9:30 a.m. Worship at Kilbride for the whole pastoral charge

January 8th – baptism of Jesus and renewal of our baptismal faith

Flamborough Seniors' Days

Come and be with seniors from the area United Churches at a monthly gathering.

The time is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a healthy lunch, light activity, music and a guest speaker, all for \$10.

November 23 – Strabane United

January 25 – Kilbride United

February 22 – Freelton United



You can either contact Jan Park at 905-528-8012 or Rev. Diane to reserve your spot!

Cares and Shares



Our annual food and toy drive will take place on Saturday November 26 between 9:30 and 12:30 a.m.

This is a huge outreach project for the church and requires many volunteers. We'll need sorters, walk and drive teams, and people to make deliveries to Hamilton later in the afternoon.

This project serves Wesley Urban Ministries, the Salvation Army, Drummond House, Inasmuch House and the Flamborough Food Bank with sizeable food and cash donations. Please set aside this morning for them!

Thank you.

Jennifer Trott, Coordinator

Come and visit us on Facebook

Just search "Carlisle United Church" and click the "Like" button. You will automatically receive news feeds to your wall (not many, but they are all timely, we promise!) Re-post to your friends, too!



Mitten Tree

Donations of mittens, scarves and hats are welcome November 13 to 27 to decorate our mitten tree.

These are given to Wesley Urban Ministries for the people registering for the No-Charge Christmas Store. If you can donate gloves or mitts suitable for men, these are especially needed.



\$\$ News



Did you miss a service or two and realize you did not make your regular donation? Get caught up with your donations from the warmth and comfort of your own home...

Carlisle United Church is registered with www.canadahelps.org so you can easily and conveniently make donations on-line.

Canada Helps was created to make giving simple. Since 2000, donors have given over \$100 million through Canada Helps.

It's fast, secure and convenient. (Be sure to choose Carlisle United Church in Carlisle ON. Believe it or not, there are two Carlisle United Church charities listed.)

Theresa Woolley

Are you on PAR?

These days many people find it convenient to look after financial obligations by automatic deductions from their bank account.

Our church offers the opportunity to give regularly by preauthorized remittance. In this way we as contributors can offer consistent support to our church and avoid "catch up" periods. The congregation benefits by receiving a regular flow of contributions, reducing paperwork and bank overdrafts, especially during the summer months. Cards are available at the back of the church so that PAR contributors can "put something on the offering plate" as it is passed on Sunday.

If you are interested in giving in this way, please pick up a brochure at the back of the sanctuary or phone Janet at the church office. Your generous contributions enable us to put our faith into action.

Wesley's No Charge Christmas Store

The "No Charge Christmas Store" doesn't take away the burden of poverty that many in our community face, but it does stretch out a hand in friendship during the Christmas season to people of all faiths and backgrounds. Last year we supported 5,172 adults, teens and children in this program, a 4.7% increase over the previous year.

Like last year, we are welcome to send volunteers. Call or email Janet Heeley at the church office (905-689-8630 or secretary@carlisleuc.ca) if you'd like to be part of our team. This year we are asked to put an emphasis on breakfast cereal, both hot and cold, and baby food and gifts particularly for adult men. Ideas include shaving kits, socks and underwear, alarm clocks, leather or ski gloves, wallets, watches, dictionaries, bed sheet sets (double or twin), tools. Thank you for helping make Christmas better for folks.



Prayer Circle

We have held three prayer gatherings monthly on Monday afternoons this fall. Thank you to those who have participated. We hope it has been a rich time of connecting and sharing. Prayers have been offered for individuals and for the work of our church in this community and abroad. All are invited to join us again on **Monday December 5 at 12:45 p.m.** for our last Prayer Circle before Christmas.



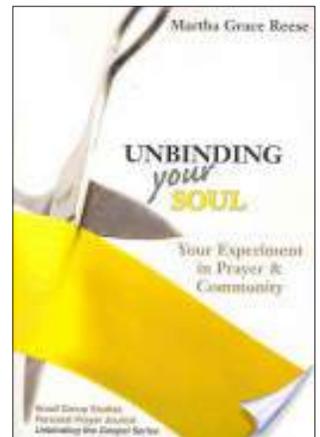
Prayer Vigil

Our sanctuary has been open for personal prayer in the evening on the third Monday of the month this fall. Please feel free to come and enjoy the quiet music and candle light, and spend time listening to and talking with God. Our next date is **Monday December 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Unbinding Your Soul: E-vent Anew for Lent 2012

Last year we had such a wonderful experience with small groups meeting to talk about Unbinding your Heart, practicing daily prayer and bringing great energy to our worship during Lent. It was such a blessing to have so many take part!

This year in Lent, we're inviting you to plunge into a new book: **Unbinding Your Soul!** It's also by Martha Grace Reese and you are invited to sign up for a small group experience. Lent begins on February 23, so stay tuned for news of how to sign up for a small group. Pray about this and ask God if there is someone God would like you to invite to come with you. Let's not keep this chance to talk about real things a secret, but take the risk of inviting someone else to try an experiment in Christian community and prayer.



One thing I love about the prayer journal is that we're invited to try a variety of approaches to prayer. It's not boring or repetitive. The author has suggestions for people who are hyper-active, for people who are artistic, for people who like to move when they think or pray. There's room for you, whether you've always prayed or you've never tried it before.

Do you feel called to be part of the Prayer Team or the Small Group Leader team? That's awesome! Let Glenda Smith or Joan Eagle know about your interest in the prayer team, and Janet Heeley, Ron Goruk or Rev. Diane about serving as a small group leader.

Teens and those in grade 7 or older are quite able to participate.

Rev. Diane

Note from the Board

It's that time of the year when we are finishing our work in the yard, getting ready for winter and getting ready for the Christmas season. The UCW is in what is probably their busiest time of the year, getting ready for their annual bazaar. It's just a busy time!

It's also the time of year when we have to take a close look at the financial situation for Carlisle United Church.

As of the end of September, our income is approximately 62% of the budget we set at the beginning of the year. Our expenses are at 73%. A quick calculation tells me that at the end of September we are 75% of the way through the year.

This is not a totally unusual situation but it is always a concern as we go into the more expensive "heating" months. We have some fund raising planned as you will see elsewhere in the news letter, but the primary income is the generous donations made by the congregation.

I would also like to remind you of the option to make your monthly donation via PAR (pre-authorized remittance). Your preset amount is withdrawn from your bank account and transferred directly to Carlisle United Church. Personally I find this very convenient. I don't have to scramble for the envelopes and cash or cheque book on Sunday mornings and I don't have to "catch up" because I have missed service for a week or more. My regular donation is made every month. For more information or to set up PAR, just contact the office.

There is also the web site www.canadahelps.org where you can donate using a credit card. Similar to PAR, the donation can be set up to be made monthly. Just be sure you pick the right Carlisle United Church. There are two.

Wishing all of you happiness for the coming season.

Dave Walker, Board Chair

Rant Maggie Rant "Frost and Fire" Sunday December 11 at 7 p.m.

Don't miss this lively Celtic Christmas celebration presented by five talented musicians who have performed all over Ontario and in the US. There will be a wide variety of instruments such as pipes and whistles, accordion, harmonica, guitars, percussion. Lots of vocals will be included with hand-clapping, foot-stomping participation that will be great for old and young alike. Refreshments following the show. Tickets are \$20 each or 2 for \$35, so treat some friends to a Christmas outing. Teens and kids are free. Let's fill our church for this seasonal celebration!!



Fundraiser with Connon Nurseries, from November 1 to December 24



When you check out, just say that you are with Carlisle United Church and they will donate 10% of your purchases back to the church.



Christmas Reading

Many books, and articles which are in plastic sleeves, are on display on shelves and ledges to nudge us with thoughts for the Christmas season. Take time to browse the topics for all ages that are available from the shelves in the Library (the small room at the street end of the Gathering Room) and at the side door, and from the ledges beside the front stairs leading to the Sanctuary.



The following are some books you might enjoy during the holiday season:

1. Tracks in the Straw - Tales Spun from the Manger by Ted Loder
2. Rejoice! It's Christmas by Deborah Boone
3. The Mistletoe Girl and other Christmas Stories by Ethel Pochocki
4. A Wreath of Christmas Legends by Phyllis McGinley
5. What Happened to Merry Christmas? by Robert C. Baker
6. A Christmas Story by Brian Wildsmith
7. A Northern Nativity by William Kurelek
8. The Legend of the Candy Cane - The Inspirational Story of Our Favourite Christmas Candy by Lori Walburg
9. The Christ Child - a reverent picture book of the greatest and best-loved story in the world by Maud and Miska Petersham
10. The First Christmas by Rachel Billington
11. The Friendly Snowflake - A Fable of Faith, Love and Family by M. Scott Peck, M.D.
12. Fear Not, Joseph! by Julie Stiegemeier

REMEMBER

- Fill out the card.
- Leave the card in the marked container provided.
- Enjoy your choice.
- Return borrowed materials promptly to the box on the Library desk.
- Read the articles in the building.

Fund Raisers

"The Christmas Shop" Vendor Show, Saturday, December 03 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our vendors offer a wide variety of Christmas, Gift, Personal & Household items. The Country Kitchen will be open all day for snacks & lunch. Finish your Christmas shopping here.

"**A Taste of Carlisle**" cookbooks are full of family-tested recipes. Makes a great Christmas gift. This is an ongoing Church fund-raiser.

Men's Group

You're invited to participate as often as you are able in this fall's men's group at the church. We meet Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11:30.



Our planning meeting decided to offer a variety of videos that will provoke conversation! We're also interested in inviting someone from the local Historical Society to come and talk to us.

Some DVDs we have:

- Paradise Lost: The Religious Life of Charles Darwin
- Our Land, My People: The Struggle of the Lubicon Cree
- The Devil Operation (mining situation in Peru)
- Poor No More
- Farm Workers from Jamaica

Please join us when you can.

Friends of The U.C.W.

Our 2011 Bazaar is now a memory. We work all year to prepare for this one day. Some of the unsold items are donated to "Cares & Shares" and The Mitten Tree. The other goodies and gifts are sold at the "Christmas Shop "Vendor Show".



Earlier this year, the ladies made childrens' and adult lap quilts. These will be donated to charities.

The U.C.W. will again be "Secret Santas" for people chosen for us by the Food Bank.

We hold our annual meeting on December 7. The upcoming luncheon dates are Friday December 09, January 13, February 10 and March 09.

Thanks Ladies, for another great year and a special thank you for doing my job this fall. It's time to take a well deserved rest.

On behalf of all the "Friends of The U.C.W.", have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Judy Parkin