



The GrapeVine

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 2015

Christmas Wishes From Your Council

This is the season of waiting as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. During this Advent Season we pray for our world, for the homeless to be sheltered, for war to be abolished, for the destruction of the environment to end. We pray for the refugees in the worst humanitarian crisis since WW2. We wait for God. But God is waiting for us. And – I'm sure God is asking, "What are you going to do about it all?" How are we, Christ's disciples, going to make a difference in the world? What will we do differently as a result of the past year? A group from Erindale met with representatives from Erin Mills United Church and Streetsville United Church to discuss Refugee Sponsorship. We were pleased to have Rudy and Anna Wiens from Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship join us to share their experiences with sponsorship as they have sponsored three families from Eritrea. More details regarding Refugee Sponsorship will follow in the New Year as a proposal will be presented to Council.

First United Church is hosting a Mississauga area United Church Meeting for Council Chairpersons.

The first meeting will be held on the 17th of November. As the Chair of First United Church states "Psalm 133 begins by reminding us "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" This text has always been foundational for the United Church which began as a union of several denominations gathered together for mutual benefit. As at the national level, so too at the local level, there are many projects and programs that would be challenging

for an individual congregation that are within the power of a few congregations acting together. At General Council this past August, the national church agreed to reform its structure by combining Presbytery and Conference into a new Regional Council. As a result of this change, local congregations will have to rely on each other more than they have in the past.

May you share Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love with all you meet, now and in the coming year. May you and yours have a Blessed Christmas.

Margaret McCrae

Joint Search Committee

The Joint Search Committee has begun its work. Our deliberations must be kept confidential but I can give updates of a general nature. Erindale is now on the United Church Vacancy list, which is accessed by ministers interested in a change in pastoral relations from their present churches. We have written an ad for The Observer and you may view it online by going to <http://www.ucobserver.org/classifieds/#Ministers>. Our ad will run online for November, December and January and will be published in the magazine in January.

*Mary Patterson,
Joint Search Committee Chair*

From the Minister's Desk

Dear members and friends of Erindale United Church:-

As I look out of our living room windows on this mellow morning, soft sunshine warms the gold/green/tangerine coloured leaves still desperately clinging to the trees that line our street. An overnight frost however, hints of wintry days waiting in the wings. The early appearance of Santa on television commercials this week, and the Musak carols already accompanying our excursions to the mall, confront us with the sobering reality that the commercialization of this holy season of the year is already in full swing. "It's beginning to look a lot like...."

As you can imagine, the plans and preparations for our spiritual pilgrimage to Bethlehem here at Erindale are also ramping up. Soon Advent candles will become our weekly spiritual signposts for this journey. And how meaningful it will be to mark the beginning of this season on November 29th as we all gather to receive the nourishment of grain and grape.

On December 6th we will be urged to think of others in practical ways by bringing gifts of food, fabric and fun which will then be shared with those for whom these economically challenging days are not easy.

A week later, on December 13th, the Frosty Family Fare bake sale will tempt us with wonderful goodies, and after church on December 20th please plan to linger for lunch and Christmasfest with our children and youth.

At 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15th, the beautiful candlelit peace of our sanctuary will offer a caring refuge for those for whom this season may be difficult.

On Christmas Eve, we will enjoy an informal service at 7:30 p.m. featuring drama, carols and music by Psalm 98. And at 10 p.m. we will delight in a festive Service of Holy Communion - a service flavoured with carols, candlelight, and music by Rob and our choir.

Services at 10:30 a.m. on December 20th and 27th will help us reflect on the significance of the Christ-event for our own lives. And on Epiphany Sunday, January 3rd, we will enjoy the gift of Epiphany Lessons and Carols.

Why do we invest so much time, energy, and imagination in these carefully crafted events and services? It is my hope that somehow, through word, music, drama and reflection, we will be able to ponder more deeply the significance of this baby squirming in some Bethlehem straw. In the midst of these unsettling times, may the holy mystery of God's presence speak to the yearning we feel. As we are attentive to these precious opportunities, let us be open to the blessing of healing and peace which is being offered to us...

It will be a joy-filled privilege to share this journey to Bethlehem with you...

*(Rev.) Don Parsons - Minister
November 9th, 2015.*

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of God – That is for what the Advent season helps us to prepare for: The greatest gift of all. Advent and Christmas can be busy and hectic. We hope that our Worship Schedule will have a little bit of everything for everyone: time for quiet reflection; favourite carols; riveting and meaningful drama; children's and youth Christmas Fest; candlelit prayers; inspiring sermons. This is a season that often brings new and old friends to Erindale; let's welcome them warmly and extend to them the Light of our community.

We wish you the warmth and blessings of the season!

The Worship Committee

UCW News

All women are invited to be part of Erindale United Church Women. There are two units which meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday in the McGill Room:- Mary and Martha Circle at 1.15 and Friends in Faith at 7.30. Details are in the bulletin on the preceding Sunday.

Dianne Drennan and Clarine Dillon lead these groups. They and all the current members will be happy to welcome new women to participate in the fellowship that is UCW.

Our **Cranberry Apple Crisp** desserts were all sold in October and will be available again on Sunday, November 22.

MacMillan products and **Tourtieres** Pick-up Day is Friday December 4th from 1 to 3 and 7 to 8.

Church Calendars, \$6, will be available in the narthex till our supply runs out.

The **Annual Frosty Festive Fare Bake Sale** will take place on **Sunday, December 13** after worship with all the usual cookies, squares, tarts, and preserves for Christmas. We rely on the generous donations of these items from the congregation to make this sale a success. Thank you to all who have provided these in the past and we hope you will help again this year. Items may be brought to the kitchen

in the afternoon on Sat, Dec.12. Please wrap and price your items and note if they contain nuts. A price guide is available in the kitchen. We plan to have an expanded 'Cranberry Corner' this year.

We also welcome small Christmas items (and only Christmas items) such as decorations, ornaments etc. for the White Elephant Table. Joyce Murdoch, Eleanor McIntosh or Clarine Dillon will be happy to answer any questions about the bake sale.

Fellowship of the Least Coin. Sunday Nov.1 was the Ingathering for returning collection cans or making a donation. This international movement began in the 1950s with the idea that the least coin of one's country be put aside each day following prayer for world peace. We collect these monies on behalf of the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada which in turn sends the proceeds on to the International Committee of FLC. This Committee meets each November to prayerfully make grants to women's groups around the world. A list of last year's recipients is in the narthex. Thank you to everyone who participated in our congregation. The total collected was \$840. There are collection cans in the narthex to use at home over for the coming year.

Ann Edge, President

A Note From the Editor

A few months ago, I approached our church council to inquire about the possibility of advertising our congregation's many talents and business interests in our newsletter. I had suggested that if our congregation knew of each other's businesses, it might result in supporting one another and developing some new friendships, bringing us all closer together and strengthening our church family.

Visiting other churches, many of you would be very surprised to see that they sell advertising in every bulletin that is distributed each week. I can't imagine that ever happening here (and frankly, hope not...) but the church council recognized that this would provide a place to advertise for people operating smaller businesses, and how this could help to develop relationships within the congregation. For example, I teach Piano, Organ, Voice, and Music Theory. For me to advertise in the Mississauga newspapers would be out of the question!

Members and Adherents to EUC are invited to submit their business cards for our next edition.

This service will be provided **FREE OF CHARGE**

Worship Schedule, November – January 2015

Date	Season	Lectionary Reading	Sunday Service Reading	Special Events
Nov. 29	Advent I	Jeremiah 33:14–16 Psalm 25:1–10 Thessalonians 3:9–13 Luke 21:25–36	Luke 21:25–36	Communion “Waiting in the Dark” (Don Parsons preaching)
Dec. 6	Advent II	Baruch 5:1–9 or Malachi 3:1–4 Luke 1:68–79 Philippians 1:3–11 Luke 3:1–6	Luke 1:68–79 Luke 3:1–6	White Gift Sunday “What Difference does it Make?” (Don Parsons preaching)
Dec. 13	Advent III	Zephaniah 3:14–20 Isaiah 12:2–6 Philippians 4:4–7 Luke 3:7–18	Luke 3:7–18 Preaching of John the Baptist	“Preaching that Makes us Mad!” (Don Parsons preaching)
Dec. 15 7:30 p.m.	Christmas in a Minor Key	Psalm 121 Luke 2: 1-20		A quiet, gentle service for those for whom Christmas is difficult. Candlelighting.
Dec. 20	Advent IV	Micah 5:2–5a Luke 1:46b–55 or Psalm 80:1–7 Hebrews 10:5–10 Luke 1:39–45, (46–55)	Luke 1:39–45 Mary’s “Magnificat”	“Becoming Young Enough” (Don Parsons preaching) Lunch and Christmas Fest follow Worship
Dec. 24 7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Family Service			Music by Psalm 98 Christmas Drama
Dec. 24 10 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelit Carol	Isaiah 9:2–7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11–14 Luke 2:1–14, (15–20)	Luke 2:1–20	Communion “What’s a God Like You Doing in a Place Like This?” (Don Parsons preaching)

Dec. 27	First Sunday after Christmas	1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12–17 Luke 2:41–52	John 1:1-18	“The Sands of Time” (Don Parsons preaching)
Jan. 3	Second Sunday after Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7–14 Psalm 147:12–20 Ephesians 1:3–14 John 1:(1–9), 10–18		A Service of Epiphany Lessons and Carols
Jan. 10	Baptism of Jesus	Isaiah 43:1–7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14–17 Luke 3:15–17, 21–22	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22	“Being Called by Name” (Don Parsons preaching)
Jan 17	Second after Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1–5 Psalm 36:5–10 1 Corinthians 12:1–11 John 2:1–11	John 2:1–11	“When the Wedding Plans go Awry” (Don Parsons preaching)
Jan 24	Third after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a Luke 4:14–21	Luke 4:14–21	“A Brash Young Preacher” (Don Parsons preaching)
Jan 31	Fourth after Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4–10 Psalm 71:1–6 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 Luke 4:21–30	Luke 4:14–30	“Today...In Your Hearing!” (Don Parsons preaching)

Congregational Care Committee

Quiet Christmas Service - Tuesday, December 15th, at 7:30pm

Please make a special effort to attend this service and show your caring for many of our congregation who have needed our support and prayers throughout this past year.
Light refreshments will be served in the McGill room after the service.

Pat Jenkins

2015 Christmas Basket Program And White Gift Sunday

Once again we are very happy to be offering this program to bring a little Christmas Cheer to a less fortunate family in our local Community.

For the 2nd year, we partnering with both The Deacon's Cupboard and The Open Door.

The Deacons Cupboard

Sponsor a local family by providing gifts of each family member and a gift card for their Christmas dinner. You deliver the items directly to the family.

The Open Door

Sponsor a family or individual by choosing an ornament from the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Each ornament represents a specific gender and age of an individual to sponsor.

On **Sunday December 6th**, please bring your unwrapped gifts or gift cards to the Church. We will be celebrating **White Gift Sunday** and will ask you to bring your gifts forward and place them in front or beside the Communion Table.

Gifts will be delivered the Open Door in the following week.

Please let us know if you can help.

Nicole Hansen and Laura Turner will be available in Gardner Hall with Sponsorship information on November 29th.

Erindale United Church

1444 Dundas Crescent, Mississauga, ON. L5C 1E9

Phone: 905 277 3656 Fax 905 277 3657

www.erindaleunited.org

Minister: The Rev. Don Parsons email: donparsons22@gmail.com

Director of Music: Robert Anderson email: jagmkv@gmail.com

Psalm 98 Music Program: psalm98@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Sarah McEwing email: churchoffice@erindaleunited.org

Wedding Coordinator: Nicole Hansen email: nicoleduncan@hotmail.com

Grapevine Editor: Robert Anderson

Grapevine Submissions to: erindalegrapevine@gmail.com