

CHURCHILL PARK UNITED PROPHET

November 2015 Issue Number 57

Minister Message



Dear Friends on the Journey,

As we enter this Christmas season, may it be a reminder of not only the birth of Jesus the Christ, but also a reminder of the Christ Presence that is born within each of us. Of course, the season celebrates the birth of Jesus, whose life and teachings have changed the world. His teachings have shown us the way of transformation for our own lives. The love, that Jesus demonstrated shown us a way of living that helps us to live meaningful, healthy, prosperous lives.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we celebrate the birth of the Christ Presence within us. Moreover, may we remember that we may be the only Christ that someone sees this Christmas. I love this old poem by Warren Meyer, and I want to share it with you.

YOU ARE CHRISTMAS

You are Christmas...

Every time you smile and help to make the world a brighter place

You are Christmas...

Every time you laugh and let the sound join with all the happy music of the world

You are Christmas...

Every time you speak a word of faith to some fearful soul along an unpaved road.

You are Christmas...

Every time you prayer a prayer for those who need your very special blessing.

You are Christmas...

Every time your loving hand goes out of the way to give that extra special service.

Be Christmas in your world!

All are welcome throughout the season and on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of the Christ Presence. In this newsletter are the activities that help us prepare our lives for the Christ presence.

I also invite you to make a special year-end gift to Churchill Park's Planned Gift Fund so we may continue to fulfil our mission in the future in a powerful way.

Love and Blessings,

Janet





Applebees' Flapjack Fundraisers raised \$1,846

Building on the success of our September 2014 Applebees' Flapjack Fundraiser, the leadership team chose two dates this fall, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7, with Allison and Graham Bloomer along with Glenn Merritt recruited to coordinate.

Considering where CPUC members and friends would likely have the greatest interest, there was concern that holding two events close together could affect participation, so incentives were introduced. A \$6 price for children added to the \$15 adult price made it more affordable for families. A "two-for" price of \$25 was offered if adult tickets to both events were purchased together to encourage attending both. The value proposition emphasized: no tax and tip were required, a savings of 28%, and beverages were included, which are usually extra at restaurants.

To encourage broader participation, personalized appeal letters to participate were sent to the 25 groups and businesses that use the church, emphasizing that the fundraisers help keep the building open for their use.

One of the biggest sales assets was our efficient and enthusiastic servers – the men of Churchill Park. Thanks to Richard Baschak, Gord Bergen, Graham Bloomer, Glenn Harrison, Scott Harrison, Wayne Jury, John McNairmay, Glenn Merritt, and Alex Sachs along with reception hosts Shelley Bergen, Allison Bloomer and Janet Walker.

Saving the best for last, our financial success: net revenue after expenses was \$1,846 from both events from sales of 81 tickets for Oct. 3, just slightly more than 78 tickets sold for Nov. 7. Eight children attended the first event and five the second. Response to the second event far surpassed expectations, but it likely provided more time for people to work it into their schedules or attend if they were not available in October. The "two-for" price also proved attractive.

As Allison observed, "Considering Churchill Park is a small, older congregation, the Applebees' fundraiser is a good fit for us. It produced healthy revenue without intensive investment of time and labour like the garage sale or stadium project."

The attraction of the fundraiser is it provides a fun and relaxed setting for people to get together with family and friends, and the service is friendly and enthusiastic, (perhaps even a bit excessive at times).

Based on this success, a twice-yearly format is planned with spring and fall dates. We have already booked April 30, 2016 so mark it on your calendars. See you then.

Contributed by Glenn Merritt on behalf of Allison and Graham Bloomer



"The men of Churchill Park in all their finery ready to demonstrate their exemplary serving skills at Applebee's"



CUBA interest group shared ideas for new partnership initiatives

Since Gustavo's visit in May, the Cuba interest Group has been relatively quiet, so on October 15th, Roz Turk hosted a meeting to discuss ideas on moving the partnership forward. Rob Duncan, Scott Harrison, Glenn Merritt, Roz Turk, Janet Walker and Marilyn Waterman were present. Richard Baschak and Jean Hardie sent regrets.

We noted the lack of contact from Cuba, which we recognize is important for maintaining the partnership. Gustavo's only correspondence was a confirmation that he arrived home safely so we don't know how or what he reported about his trip to his congregation. We recognize that restricted Internet access is a challenge we'll continue to face with any correspondence. We also decided that no CPUC group would be travelling to Cuba this year but are looking at 2017.

We came up with several ideas to pursue:

- Ask Varadero to name a new contact, with Glenn Merritt being our contact.
- Share a service of worship where we plan the liturgy together by email.
- Send our newsletters by email, if they are not too large, to share what we are working on and ask them to send their news to us. (We currently get periodic newsletters from the Casa del Carinõ but not from the church.)
- Now that the tourism season is starting, look for visitors to Cuba to take CPUC anniversary pens that Gustavo was unable to take with him that we want to give to every member of the church.
- Encourage the Varadero congregation to send letters letting us know who they are as people. Each Sunday we could showcase a different face and give a little biographical information about them.

Janet emailed the ideas to Joel Dopico Ortega (minister); Gustavo Rodriguez and Nacyra Gomez. Nacyra has replied and is excited with the ideas, but we are still awaiting a formal response from the church. We'll keep you posted.

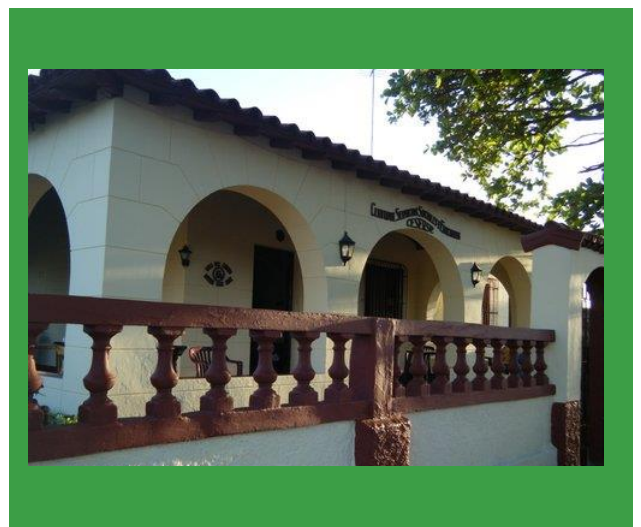
In the meantime, if you or anyone you know is travelling to Varadero this winter and has space in their luggage, please contact Janet because we have the pens and other donated items to send.

Passages

September –
November 2015

Deaths

Maisie Park
William Affleck
Mary Margaret Vanstone
Lloyd Skelding
Margaret Swayze



Angels for Christmas

In this season of waiting and watching, we remember the coming of the Angels, who came to remind us to not be afraid. They brought a message of great joy.

Give an ANGEL FOR CHRISTMAS with a donation to the Churchill Park United Church Planned Gift Fund. This will help continue to offer great joy in our church, our community and our world.

Special envelopes are available.



Churchill Park United

Come and Worship
Family
Christmas Eve
At 7:30 pm with
Carols, Candles and Cheer.

525 Beresford Ave
204-452-8561
www.churchillparkunited.ca

Library news

By Virginia Braid

As I write this the wind is howling and the snow is blowing around- old man winter has arrived at last! It is the perfect season for reading books and magazines or listening to taped stories or songs. These are all available in our library. Unfortunately, only seven items have been borrowed from our library since the beginning of 2015. Don't be shy to take out a book. They are there for your enjoyment and education.

We have some interesting new books that you might like to read. "My Secret Sister", by Helen Edwards & Jenny Lee Smith, "Seven Reasons for Supporting Social Democracy" and "Religious Explorations" both by Donald A. Bailey are a sample of some of the new titles. We also have a book for the music lovers in our congregation. It tells the story of "75 Years of the Winnipeg Youth Orchestra".

Some old books that might be of interest over the holidays are "I Imagine Angels", "The Heart of Christmas" and "Christmas in My Heart". Some good tapes that we have are: "Vinyl Café" by Stuart McLean, "Measure of a Man", by Sidney Poitier, and "The Stone Diaries" by Carol Shields. We also have the movie, "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel", which is a good one to watch in winter time as it is set in the warm climes of India.

I hope people are taking the time to check out our display in the hallway off the Minister's office. It is small but gives us an interesting perspective of our Church's history.

"I like the excuse of winter.

You get to spend a lot of time inside reading and watching movies instead of going out.

But that's an excuse."

Quote By Amanda Pruksa

Up-Coming Worship and Events

- Sunday November 29 First Sunday in Advent – Communion
Study following Worship – Jesus Fatwah – Love Your (Muslim) Neighbour
- Saturday December 5 Gingerbread Lunch and Cookie Walk
- Sunday December 6 Second Sunday of Advent – Commitment Sunday – dedication of pledge forms for 2016
- Sunday December 13 Third Sunday of Advent – Musical Guest Ken Peters
Congregational Meeting - Refugee Sponsorship
- Sunday December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Christmas Eve – service 7:30 pm
- Sunday December 27 – breakfast and service 9:30 am
- New Year's Eve - If you were wondering what to do New Year's Eve, you are invited to a celebration in the Lounge beginning 7:30 to 8:00.
There will be videos, games, a Churchill Park Trivia challenge, singing, fellowship and of course food. There will be no activities scheduled for children, but they are not excluded.
Bring a few snacks that you can share. Please contact Don or Betty Young if you plan on attending. 489-0149 or bdyoung@mts.net
- Sunday January 10 Baptism of Jesus
- Sunday January 31 Study following Worship – Jesus Fatwah – Love Your (Muslim) Neighbour



Messy Church at Churchill Park United Church

Friday January 29, 2016 5:30-7:30 pm
Intergenerational time for supper and fun and learning. All are welcome.



CHURCHILL PARK UNITED CHURCH
525 BERESFORD AVENUE

GINGERBREAD LUNCH



DECORATE A
GINGERBREAD
MAN

KUB KAR
RALLY

CRAFT
TABLE

**COOKIE
WALK**

COME AND HAVE FUN!!!
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 2015
11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM
LUNCH TICKETS: ADULTS: \$10 EACH. CHILDREN UNDER 12: TWO CANS OF TUNA FOR OAK TABLE OUTREACH MINISTRY



M&P Report

By Faye Barsy

It was with sadness that we accepted the resignation of Jennifer Van Wijngaarden from the M&P committee in September 2015. Jennifer gave her time and talent to the committee in a variety of ways. She was always willing to step up and take on anything extra that needed doing. During her time on the committee Jennifer was the staff contact for Arlene and then for Antoniya. This last year she worked hard, in conjunction with Joanne Davidson-Jury and Betty Young, to re-evaluate Antoniya's job description to be more in line with what she is doing and also to add a few duties. With gratitude in our hearts, we thank you sincerely for your generosity of time this past three years.

The M&P committee has been blessed with the addition of Glenn Harrison to our committee. Glenn will take over the responsibility of being the primary contact for Antoniya. Shanon, Don, and I look forward to working with Glenn over the next year and beyond. Welcome aboard, Glenn!

With the first snowfall on the day that I write this insert for our newsletter, I am reminded of the generosity and celebration of the season we enter in our church, our community and with our family. It is a time for me to remember the blessings of the year and to look forward to the seasonal celebrations. It is also a time for us all to recognize and honour those who work so hard to ensure that our church runs smoothly everyday....John McNairnay, Wayne Arklie, Antoniya Tsvetanova, Arlene Baschak, and Rev. Janet Walker. When we walk into a well-cared for church on Sundays, refer to our PPT, listen to the variety of music and get inspiration from the meditation/message, let us remember who has been responsible for each part and give thanks.

M&P would like to wish all our staff the best this season has to offer and a hope that next year will be just as fruitful and exciting as this year.

CPUC M&P Committee: Shanon Stewart, Don Young, Faye Barsy and Glenn Harrison

**Special Thank you to Joan
McKinnon for editing and Marlene
Oldham for proofreading this
Newsletter!**





MUSIC MINISTRY

The spirit of Advent and Christmas is alive and well at Churchill Park! The choir has already begun preparation of music for both seasons. If you wish to join us, it is not too late. We practise every Sunday morning at 8:45 (which only seems early until you get there and feel the energy of the group). ☺

The Men's Chorus will also be making a reappearance at the Christmas Eve service and if you wish to sing with them, those practises are at 11:30 each Sunday after church and after coffee in the upstairs gym.

We will also be having various musical guests join us over the season: Ken Peters and his violin, a flute duo with Monica Bailey and Jen Nembhard, and others.

Please consider this your personal invitation to join the musical fun!

Submitted by
Arlene Baschak, Music Director

Leadership Team (LT) Report By Richard Baschak

Greetings from the CPUC LT! If you have tried to book a space in the building, you have noticed that it is a busy place; space usage is up year over year. This includes many young people who gather in the building doing various activities. Other faith communities are renting the space, as are other regular and occasional renters; all this as we continue to grow our relationship with the Korean United Church. The building is well cared for and attractive and the memory garden is fantastic!

Other parts of this newsletter report on experiences many of you folks have cultivated and shared; whether the Applebee fundraisers, times together at Oak Table, or sharing in song around the piano at choir practice, to highlight a few. Good feelings of solidarity and support characterize our life as people who gather and seek to discover the meaning of being United Church in this time and place.

However, there are more opportunities for all of you. An example is our super-lean leadership team. We have three vacancies on the LT. We are recycling people through the same positions on this governance board, rather than sharing the responsibility/opportunity with others.

I have asked before, and I ask again with greater earnestness – please consider giving of your time, particularly by serving on the LT.



Treasurer's update

Fall came to an abrupt end today with our first snowfall. Hard to complain though given the unusually warm weather we enjoyed well into November. In fact the snow seems appropriate as we make preparations for our next fundraiser, the Gingerbread Lunch and Cookie Walk, which this year will also include the sale of perogies made by one of our kitchen renters.



Financial results to the end of October were very encouraging. Our operating deficit for the year dropped from the previous high of \$11,340 in August to the current level of \$5,780. As a result, no further funds have been transferred to operations from the Planned Gift Fund Reserve since my last report.

This positive development is thanks in part to the fact that by the end of October, rental income had exceeded the amount budgeted for rent for all of 2015, with two months still to go. In the budget approved by the congregation last winter, rent accounted for about 22% of income, whereas it currently represents about 28% of all income.

Given rising building costs, the Leadership Team (LT) has approved a modest increase to casual rental rates as of November 1st, and to monthly rental rates starting in January 2016. Adjustments to the rates of existing renters will be phased in over the next year based on each renter's anniversary date. In future, rental rates will be adjusted annually based on cost-of-living increases ratified by the LT, rather than based on a review of rates every few years.

As well, representatives of Churchill Park and the Korean United Church recently met to discuss matters of mutual interest (such as a common telephone service provider) and needed building improvements for 2016 that will require additional financing through grants. The Leadership Team will be following up on these discussions in the coming weeks.

For those interested in the numbers, total revenue for the first ten months was \$130,997, of which donations accounted for \$86,666, while total expenses were \$136,778.



Regards and best wishes to all this Advent season,
Your treasurer, Joanne



Oak Table Commitment Remains Strong

“Churchill Park volunteers around the original oak table for which the Ministry is named.”



CPUC's commitment to Oak Table has been active this fall and goes well beyond our presence on Tuesdays. Highlights include:

- **Successful Loose Change Sunday:** Our September 27 Loose Change Sunday featured a presentation by Jack Cameron, chair of the Oak Table Board (and Thursday volunteer) who presented a video and spoke about the Oak Table Ministry. That presentation raised \$375 for a total of \$460 donated since Sept. 1. We thank our congregation for its ongoing support.
- **Continuing Scout support:** Our Scout troops continue to be an important lifeline in supplying tins of tuna. Their Halloween Bash collected 110 tins, which should keep us supplied for about 11 weeks. Many thanks to the Scouts for their commitment and support as a key partner in our Oak Table operations.

- **Food Donations always appreciated:** Individual food donations – tuna, mayonnaise, peanut butter, etc. – are regularly coming in and are most welcome. The Korean United Church recently donated a large box of food and supplies. Many thanks.
- **Dakota House to cater Christmas Dinner:** Dakota House assisted living facility will once again cater an Oak Table Christmas Dinner on December 15. Churchill Park volunteers will serve.
- **Volunteer Roster Healthy:** Churchill Park's 16 volunteers comprise the largest single church contingent with almost 25 percent of Oak Table's 66 volunteers. Our current roster includes team leads Betty Sanguin and Eveline Cruise supported by: Richard Baschak, Allison Bloomer, Ginny Braid, Jim Coulter, Gwen Krahn, Judy MacKay, John McNairnay, Glenn Merritt, Marlene and John Oldham, Gord Sanguin, Marlene Serafin and spare Louise Sloan. Kyung Soon Lee of the Korean United Church is also part of our group. This healthy number allows us to easily cover holidays and other absences.

Continued on the next page...



- **Kudos from Volunteer Coordinator:** Oak Table's Volunteer Coordinator Glenda Knoll has high praise for the Churchill Park volunteers: "Churchill Park offers Oak Table a consistent group of volunteers, which is valuable to staff who "NEVER" need be concerned that enough volunteers will be there to serve throughout the day. For our Tuesday guests, it's very important they encounter volunteers with whom they've already built relationships. Churchill Park offers them security and helps them predict what will happen in their day. We are most grateful for that gift of constancy."
- **Guest numbers vary:** This fall Oak Table's Tuesday guest numbers have averaged 88, ranging between a low of 59 and a high of 107.
- **Winter and Christmas Appeal:** Oak Table has issued an appeal for donations of warm gloves/mitts, socks, underwear, gift cards or money towards gift cards and will provide a tax receipt if you submit your sales receipts. Because Oak Table will be closed between Dec. 24 - Jan 3, our guests will be issued \$10 Giant Tiger gift cards to help them deal with the closure.



CHURCHILL PARK UNITED CHURCH DIRECTORY

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