

• Do you want to receive our newsletter by e-mail? Contact Mary Frances Laughton.

• The WUC Uniter is published 3 times per year, November, January, and May. If you have articles to contribute please contact Brenda Hodgins.

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Christmas Eve midnight service was always held at the Anglican Church in Smithville, where I grew up. I recall the cold wind that settled over the village, but what I remember most of all was the peeling of the bell in the church tower. The Anglicans were the proud owners of the only bell in town and Christmas Eve was a night to let it ring out its loudest announcing the birth of a child in a manger, Jesus the Christ.

We have left the age of the bell calling us to worship. Alarm clocks and computer generated reminders now call us to gather. But there is something about the ringing of the bell that seems primal to our experience. On

Christmas Eve midnight as the bell's call rang across the village we knew that something special, something out of the ordinary was about to take place. The Anglicans only rang it on Sunday mornings or Saturday afternoons for weddings. The midnight bell was rung but once a year.

What bells ringing do you recall: Where were you: For what occasion do you remember something unique about a bell ringing near or far? Our mind associates those times and places with the ringing of a bell. It joins the memory of the sound with a time and place of joy or of sorrow.

Listen, my friends, this Advent/Christmas season for the bells ringing in our neighbourhood and in our city. Their sound breaking through the noise of traffic, and the eternal background of busyness that infects our world like a virus, will cleanse the soul for a moment so that we can hear in their ringing the announcement of good news for the world, that a Saviour has come, that peace comes down from heaven to earth, and that in the midnight sky angels will sing for all to hear. May this Holy Season of Christ's birth be blessed for you and all whom you love.

Brian

DID YOU KNOW?

As we proceed with the Woodroffe Family History, we are discovering a lot of fascinating tidbits of information about the early days of Woodroffe United Church. We thought you might like to hear about some of these as we go along, so we intend to share a few with you in issues of the *Uniter*. So, since we have just completed another

immensely successful bazaar....

Did you know that we have been holding a fall bazaar at Woodroffe from the very beginning? The first one was organized by the Women's Association (who else?) on December 3rd, 1949 and raised over \$500, a huge amount at a time when the total church budget was just over \$5,000

(in fact, a greater percentage than at present).

If you have any interesting facts about the period from 1947 to 1967, we would be delighted to hear from you. Thanks to all of you who have assisted thus far.

John Patton

From the Church Library

Three books for children and parents you might like to read:

- X **What is God?** by Etan Boritzer 1990
 BOR (An exploration of major world religions and people's yearnings for an understanding of God. Picture book format.)
- X **Does God Hear My Prayer?** by August Gold 2005
 GOL (Using simple, everyday examples that children ages 3 to 6 can relate to, this book guides children down their own path to a personal relationship with God.)
- 305.235 **Why Boys don't Talk - and Why it Matters** by Susan Shaffer & Linda
 SHA Gordon 2005
 ("This book sheds light on the cultural reasons boys frequently don't talk and then shows how to encourage conversation and when to respect the necessary silences.")

Don Mutch

Whatever happened to ... the Nuhijaj family?

From June 1999 to June 2001, the Woodroffe congregation provided support to the Nuhijaj family, who had chosen to come to Canada among several thousand refugees from Kosovo. Members of the refugee committee were privileged to come to know this family, Islam and Zoja, son Leotrim, and nephews Jeton and Muhammed. Leotrim has since been joined by younger brothers Nentor and Albin.

Today, you will find Islam and Zoja working long days in their bakery (The Bakery) at the Loeb Plaza, 250 Greenbank Road. This is a return to the family business for Islam. Many of you sampled their products when you ate at the Copper Kettle on Bazaar day – the buns were fresh from their bakery that morning. But if you want a treat, drop by the bakery in the morning for a piping hot burek, flaky pastry filled with your choice of cheese, meat or spinach. Say "hello" from the Woodroffe family. Don't forget your appetite!

New Choir Collars The choir members are wearing new collars which were dedicated during the October 23 Sunday service. The material for the collars was donated in recognition of Peter Curd's 35 years in the choir, a gift from his family. Appreciation is extended to Sandra Copeland and her talented team of seamstresses Sandi Bain, Diana Baird, Shirley Hockin, Joan McLeod, Darlene Patton, Jane Sargent, June Smith, Joanne Tuttle and June Woodend.

Ask Joe

Lot's of interesting questions this issue. Here they are -

Question 1

Dear Joe

Why is it bad luck to open an umbrella indoors?

Signed, Soaked

Dear Soaked,

You might not know this but the umbrella is an ancient African innovation and was intended as portable shade against the sun. The umbrella appeared in Europe around the twelfth century and was used more often as protection from the rain. The superstition of bad luck if opened indoors came from the African belief that to open an umbrella in the shade was an insult to the sun god and would cause him to bring down his wrath on the offender. I think it's more about poking someone's eye but that's covered by running around with scissors. I recently opened an umbrella at church and sure enough the sun god showed his wrath on me – I didn't win the lottery. So, wait until you get outdoors to open that umbrella! Signed, Joe

Question 2

Dear Joe,

Why is Thanksgiving celebrated six and a half weeks earlier in Canada than in the United States?

Signed, Tom Turkey

Dear Tom,

Thanksgiving in the U.S. started in 1863. Canada went along with this holiday in 1879, but because of the shorter growing season, changed the date in 1957 from the end of November to the second Monday in October. I think it also has something to do with turkeys maturing faster in Canada than in the U.S. Goes to show that our farmers are smarter than theirs.

Signed, Joe

Question 3

Dear Joe,

I am faced with a very delicate situation and therefore, seek your highly respected advice. I am 30 years of age and have two brothers, one is a lawyer in Ottawa, and the other one is serving ten years at Kingston Penitentiary for several counts of assault and armed robbery.

My younger sister is working to support my father, who is unemployed. Recently, I have met this most charming lady, an ex-prostitute. She is a single parent and the mother of three darling children.

Here's my problem. Due to our unique relationship and the overall closeness of our family, should I tell my future wife about my brother who is a lawyer???

Signed, A Family Man

Dear Family Man,

That's quite a group you've got there. I guess Thanksgiving dinner must be really interesting. I don't think the problem's your lawyer brother. Here's my advice.

Move as quickly as you can to Winnipeg by yourself. Winter in Winnipeg should clear your head out a bit. Only then would I consider returning to your unique 'family'. And your future wife, if you should marry, should be told that you have a brother who is a lawyer. She needs to know all the gory details.

All the best, Joe



Bulletin Board

(*Note - please check the weekly Bulletin to confirm time and place)

November 2005

13 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 18 Friday Reflection Group 7:30 a.m.
 20 Pledge Sunday Celebration Service 10:00 a.m.
 Stewardship Lunch - noon
 25 Friday Reflection Group 7:30 a.m.
 27 Sunday Advent I Service 10:00 a.m.
 Communion

December 2005

4 Sunday Advent II Service 10:00 a.m.
 White Gift
 Deck the Halls 11:30 p.m.
 Potluck Supper 12:45 p.m.
 Carol Sing 2:00 p.m.
 10 Saturday – Stairwell Carolers Concert – 7:30 p.m.
 11 Sunday Advent III Service 10:00 a.m.
 Lessons & Carols
 Kindle-a-Flame 7:00 p.m.
 17 Saturday – Strings of St John's Orchestra – 8:00 p.m.
 18 Sunday Advent IV Service - Pageant
 24 Saturday Christmas Eve
 Family Service 7:00 p.m.
 Communion 10:00 p.m.
 25 Sunday Christmas Day – Family Service 10:00 a.m.
 26 & 27 Church closed
 31 Friday - church closes at noon

January 2006

1 Sunday New Year's Day – Service 10:00 a.m.
 2 Monday, Church closed
 8 New Members Breakfast 8:45 a.m.
 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 Communion
 Reception of New Members
 15 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 21-22 Saturday & Sunday Adult Ski Trip
 22 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 29 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 Stone Soup Lunch

February 2006

3 Friday Men's Dinner
 4 Saturday Men's Dinner
 5 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 11-12 Saturday & Sunday Youth Ski Trip
 12 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 17 Friday, Spaghetti Supper Games Night
 19 Sunday. Scout/Guide Service
 24-25-26 Fasting in Faith Weekend - WYG

February (continued)

26 Sunday Service – 10:00a.m.
 28 Shrove Tuesday

March 2006

3 Friday Reflection Group 7:30 a.m.
 6 Sunday Lent I Service 10:00 a.m.
 Anniversary Sunday
 Annual Financial/Stat. Meeting
 10 Friday Reflection Group 7:30 a.m.
 12 Sunday Lent II Service 10:00 a.m.
 17 Friday Reflection Group 7:30 a.m.
 19 Sunday Lent III Service 10:00 a.m.
 24 Friday Reflection Group 7:30 a.m.
 26 Sunday Lent IV Service 10:00 a.m.
 31 Friday Reflection Group 7:30 a.m.

April 2006

2 Sunday Lent V Service 10:00 a.m.
 9 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 New Members Breakfast 8:45 a.m.
 Sunday Lent VI Service 10:00 a.m.
 Palm Sunday
 Reception of New Members
 13 Maundy Thursday
 14 Good Friday Service 10:00 a.m.
 Office Closed
 16 Sunday Easter Service 10:00 a.m.
 Communion
 Sunrise Service (at sun rise)
 17 Monday – Office Closed
 22 Saturday – Scouts Pancake Breakfast
 23 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 30 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.

May 2006

6 Saturday – GST Auction & BBQ
 7 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 14 Sunday Christian Family Service 10:00 a.m.
 21 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 26 Friday - Strings of St. John's Concert – 8:00
 28 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.

Christian Education Committee

It is a new program year and the Christian Education Committee (CE) is off to a very active start. The CE committee has oversight of adult educations, the church school, the library, the youth group the 96th Ottawa scout groups as well as community building activities. The Members of our committee include Jacinda Bain, Sandi Bain, Patricia Hassard, Don Mutch. Jamie Chapman chairs the committee and Jan Lougheed is our staff resource. Our meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month from August to June, excluding December and guests are always welcome.

Following is a list of highlights of the upcoming CE activities:

- Reflections Study Group October 17 – November 25
- Coffee Service – November 27/ 05
- Christmas Pageant – December 18, 2005
- Adult Ski trip – Jan 21 & 22/ 06
- Annual Statistical Report – Jan 31/ 06
- Youth Ski Trip – Feb 11 & 12/ 06
- Spaghetti Supper and Games Night – Feb 17/ 06
- Youth Fasting and Faith – February 24 – 26/06
- Reflections Study Group – March 3 – April 14/06
- Shrove Tuesday – March 28/ 06
- Maundy Thursday – April 13/ 06
- Easter Coffee Service Church School – April 16/05
- GST Auction – May 6/ 06

Jamie Chapman

Ad-hoc Committee on Marriage Policy at Woodroffe United Church

Earlier this year, Woodroffe United Church Council established an Ad-hoc Committee on Marriage Policy.

As you may be aware, the United Church of Canada has sanctioned same-sex marriage. However, it encourages each local pastoral charge to study and address this issue within its overall Marriage Policy.

This ad-hoc committee has been charged with designing and conducting a process for our congregation to consider the issue of same-sex marriage and establish a Marriage Policy for Woodroffe United Church.

The committee has developed a four-step process for our congregation to study and discuss this issue:

1. November 30, 2005 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. a panel discussion on the Biblical/ Spiritual perspective. Our panelists are Reverend Martha ter Kuile, Bell's Corners United Church and Father Lindsay Harrison, St. Patrick's Basilica.
2. January 28, 2006 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. a panel discussion on Justice and Faith Issues. Our panelists will be Reverend Brian Cornelius, Reverend Allan Bennett and Reverend Allan Churchill
3. February 26, 2006 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. an Open Forum Discussion
4. Late April or early May 2006 a congregational meeting to consider the recommendation from Church Council

We have made every effort to invite speakers who represent broad and diverse perspectives. The emphasis of this process is to be that of reflection, respect, sharing and listening. There is no hidden agenda. The four-steps are aimed at bringing a balanced perspective to the process. This is an opportunity for growth and learning for all of us as the congregation prepares to make an informed decision at our congregational meeting and it is the congregation who will be final decision maker on the Marriage policy.

New tables for Church events:

You may notice ten new round tables on rolling stands near the back of the banquet room. These tables were purchased by the memorial committee, using funds designated for these. The new tables will enable more congenial get-togethers in the banquet room—many people comment how much easier it is to converse with everyone at a round table, compared to our old rectangular tables. The new tables are also finished more attractively than our existing tables.

As an interesting side note—the creativity of Woodroffe staff and members came through once again, over the problem of how to store the new tables. Initially, a special dolly from the table manufacturer was ordered, which would have carried the tables stacked flat. However, an alert committee member pointed out that this type of dolly is so big that it could not roll through the doors of the banquet hall or auditorium! So it was back to the drawing board.

The solution was suggested by Jan Lougheed, who proposed stands which hold the tables stacked on edge, similar to stands seen at a United Church camp. Jan found materials and organized the construction of these, with help from congregation members. Thanks all!

David Agnew and Percy Hillier

Mission & Service Matters**Mission Theme**

The mission theme which the United Church of Canada (UCC) has adopted for the next couple of years is "**Living in Right Relationship**". We, as United Church members, are being asked to "consider God's call to build relationships that are just, equitable and renewing". Given the fact that it is now 20 years since the United Church of Canada's apology to the First Nations People, it is appropriate that the focus for the first year of the mission theme is establishing a right relationship with **Aboriginal People**. With this in mind, David MacDonald, a former Member of Parliament, United Church minister and a Special Advisor to the Residential Schools Committee, has been invited to speak to us at Woodroffe United Church in the spring of 2006.

Emergency Response by the UCC

Through Action by Churches Together (ACT), the UCC has responded to the October 8th earthquake in Pakistan.

Emergency relief of blankets, water and food has been sent to the Hurricane Stan-affected areas of Guatemala and El Salvador.

As of September 26th, \$26,000 had been donated to the UCC to help the victims of Hurricanes Rita & Katrina.

For more information please check the UCC website: www.united-church.ca . Click on "Justice, Global, Ecumenical".

Judy Chaplin

96th Ottawa Scouts

Since our last newsletter, the Scouts have been outside, enjoying the great summer and fall weather. In May, we invited the senior Cubs who were of age to move up to Scouts, to a cookout. In early June, we spent a weekend canoeing in the Achray area of Algonquin Park's east side, although at times, it seemed like we were on a hike, carrying canoes, with a little bit of paddling between portages! We covered about 15 km, two and a half of which was spent portaging. Our efforts were rewarded with an afternoon of sliding on a natural rock water slide in the park's interior. During our trip, we stopped to admire the site where Tom Thomson painted "The Jack Pine", and on our way out of the park, we stopped to stretch our legs and hiked the Barron Canyon trail for a spectacular view of this natural wonder.

This fall, the troop is operating with 12 regular Scouts (having welcomed 5 new members from the Cub Pack) and 6 Venturer-aged youth in a senior patrol. So far this fall, we've had a fantastic day of outdoor rock climbing on the Eardley escarpment cliffs, been swimming at the Splash Wave Pool, and sold 15 dozen hot dogs at the bazaar. Upcoming events include a fall bike camp on the old K&P railway trail, a Hallowe'en party, and a Remembrance Day service. We've also joined the City's Adopt-a-Park program, to take care of the park next to the church, which acts as our outdoor activity area for many a meeting night.

Peter Morrison

Editor's Note: Contributions to the newsletter

Amusing stories

Thanks to all who have submitted amusing stories for including in the newsletter. They will be kept in a special file and inserted as space permits in future issues of the WUC Uniter.

Photographs

Also thank you to all who have submitted photographs. These will be added to the web version of our newsletter where appropriate. Since the print version of the WUC Uniter is reproduced on a standard black only photocopier, the quality of reproduced photographs is very poor, so they will not be included in the print version. If you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please contact Mary Frances Laughton.

Concerts at Woodroffe United Church

Saturday, December 10, 2005 – 7:30 p.m.

Stairwell Carrolers
“Christmas Carols Concert”

Program to include works by: John Rutter, Taverner, H. Walford Davies, David Wilcocks, J-P Rameau, Martin Shaw,
F. Mendelssohn

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students.
For more information, visit the Stairwell Carollers

www.stairwellcarollers.com

Saturday, December 17 – 8:00 p.m.

Strings of St. John’s Chamber Orchestra

“Songs of the Season”

Featuring Alexa Wing, www.alexawing.com soprano

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (60+) and students.
For more information, visit the Strings of St. John’s website

www.stringsofstjohns.ca

Friday, May 26, 2006 – 8:00 p.m.

Strings of St John’s Chamber Orchestra

“Slidin’ into Spring”

Featuring Don Renshaw, www.capitalbrassworks.com/members.htm trombone

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (60+) and students.
For more information, visit the Strings of St. John’s website

www.stringsofstjohns.ca



Welcome Back to “Take Time To Be Wholey”!

Fall is upon us, and Take Time To Be Wholey has the second year of energizing, exciting, enlightening sessions organized and just waiting for you!

Beginning in October, Edith Carter (THE HOUSE OF CULINARY INVENTIONS - School of Nutritional Cooking) led us in a discussion on Food: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Who knew that soybeans could be eaten raw or that cumin had such a positive effect on the pallet? Edith spent the evening teaching us how a wide range of medical disorders can be traced to unhealthy eating habits. She taught us in quick and easy steps how to utilize food for maximum benefit – and yes, there are benefits to chocolate!

On Tuesday November 8th, Kerry Palframan, a registered nurse and holistic practitioner, will enlighten us with a session on Dream Exploration. Dreams are a mirror to your soul and therefore contain an infinite amount of information about your health, your relationships and the world around you. Dreams also reflect the coming events and situations you are creating with your everyday actions and choices. Learn how to see the deeper meaning in your life, and of those around you, in this thought provoking and insightful exploration of dreams.

On Tuesday December 6th, Barclay McMillan joins us again for an exciting session on Voice Emergent. Barclay has a passion for sharing his innovative voicework that is fueled by his own personal experience of the healing power of sound. He has been creating opportunities for people to discover, or recover, their singing voices and explore them in a context of healing and well-being since 1991.

On Tuesday January 10th, Debra-Lynn Menard, walks us through “**Allowing Yourself to "Just Be"!**” In our very hurried and busy worlds, we forget to give ourselves permission to “just be”. To take time to notice, to appreciate, to be conscious of what is happening in the moment, can lead us to some very powerful conclusions if we only let it. As the author of “**Choices**” (a child and youth weight management program), Debra-Lynn has spent the better part of the last 25 years working as a Consultant, Counselor and Coach.

Monday February 13th, Dana Richardson and Vickie Townson, Life and Career Transition Coaches and co-founders of *Partners in Transition*, will help us discover a structure for managing change and honouring the self, through “**Transitions – Clarity at the Crossroads**”. This session will help us work our way through life transitions – expected and unexpected – both of which can bring lots of angst and uncertainty as we agonize over which direction to take.

If you missed us last year or last month, take time for yourself and learn how to be

W - Wellness
H - Health
O - Openness
L - Love
E - Energy
Y - Yourself

Don't miss the fun! “Take Time to Be Wholey”!

Deborah Poole & Dana Richardson



PAR – What is it and how can I find out more about it?

No, we're not talking golf. Rather, PAR stands for Pre-Authorized Remittance and is a "direct debit" program that allows people to support their church through an automatic **monthly** withdrawal from their bank account. The national United Church administers the program following the giver's wishes ("x" amount for local church expenses and "x" amount for M&S, "x" amount for Outreach, ... etc). Once a month, PAR givings are debited from the givers accounts and then the total, less a small service fee, is electronically transferred to their local church account.

The benefits of PAR to you is that it's a convenient way to take care of your regular commitments to the church, you'll have less cheques to write, you'll not have to worry about 'catching up' with your givings when you've been away and you'll be helping the church out in a number of ways. First, it will help regulate a steady monthly flow of moneys to handle church expenses, it will be less processing and counting of monies following service, and will allow us to plan better for future expenditures.

We will still be issuing church envelopes so that you'll still be able to drop your envelope into the offering plate but you'll identify that your contribution is handled by PAR. This will also allow you to continue to contribute during the year to special events (e.g., Roof Fund, Memorial Window, etc).

On this year's pledge form, we've added a line asking you whether you'd be interest in participating in such a program. If you like to find out more about this program or wish to participate in the program, please check the box on the pledge form. If we have enough interest shown by the congregation, we'll be making more announcements about PAR to the congregation. If you have any questions, please direct them to the Treasurer (Joe Smarkala – 820-4360), or contact the church secretary. Thank you.

Joe Smarkala

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks right to the top, rocks about 2" in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full? They agreed that it was. So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. The students laughed. He asked his students again if the jar was full? They agreed that yes, it was. The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. "Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things - your family, your partner, your health, your children - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the other things in life that matter, but on a smaller scale. The pebbles represent things like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff. If you put the sand or the pebbles into the jar first, there is no room for the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, material things, you will never have room for the things that are truly most important. Pay attention to the things that are critical in your life. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal. Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set our priorities. The rest is just pebbles and sand.

Mary Devitt



Woodroffe United Church

*A church at worship
A church in action
A church for youth*

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.woodroffeunited.org

About Woodroffe:

Woodroffe United Church offers a West-end Ottawa church home within the fellowship of the United Church of Canada. We are a welcoming and caring community which includes a modern Church School program using the Whole People of God curriculum, an active outreach program, a dedicated pastoral care team and a broad variety of opportunities for worship and spiritual growth. The church is managed by a Church Council that operates through committees open to anyone wishing to participate. We have many mid-week activities for youth and adults and we provide a home for other community groups.

Woodroffe United Church operates under a council system, using committees to undertake specific responsibilities and activities. All committees need people to function and there is a job for everyone. Our committees include: Administration & Finance; Christian Education; Membership Relations; Ministry & Personnel; Mission & Service; Outreach; United Church Women; and Worship.

Visit our newly designed website: www.woodroffeunited.org

The Woodroffe United Church web site has been designed to provide information of interest to members and adherents of the congregation as well as to friends, visitors, those new to our community and anyone else who wishes to learn about who we are.

