



**The W.U.C. Uniter**  
Woodroffe United Church  
613-722-9250  
woodroffeunited.org



## Advent 2016

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### Minister's Message

*Submitted by Rev. Kathryn Peate*

An old abbot was fond of saying, "The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days. The supreme trick of Old Scratch (Satan) is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practising music, and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas, that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos – the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth, can be long, but it is familiar to us all."

I wonder if that's why people so often say, "Don't plan anything in the weeks before Christmas – it's too busy." Of course many things must have already been planned by that point or people wouldn't find themselves too busy to do other things. But are the things we plan actually the things that are best for us to do?

Advent was established by the church centuries ago, at a time that was much less busy than now, to ensure that people made time to deliberately reflect – reflect on who they are, reflect on what Jesus' birth means, reflect on their relationship with God. Now we get so busy, the season of Advent is not even on most people's radars, except as a period of extra activity in preparation for whatever expectations we have of Christmas itself.

I want to encourage you in this season of Advent, to set aside space each day for spending time between God and yourself. Read the bible. Find a daily devotion to do, either from a book, or online. Sit and just rest, asking God to make God's presence and will known to you. Reflect on what the coming of Jesus really means in your life. Take a walk and talk to God. There are any number of ways to use Advent as a time to pause and reflect.

I encourage you not to rush to the manger – you might actually find yourself overshooting it and missing the experience altogether. Instead, enjoy each day of the season that prefaces the manger event. You will probably find yourself more relaxed and prepared for what lies ahead. And it will definitely strengthen your relationship with the Prince of Peace.

*Yours in Christ's service,  
Rev. Kathryn*

## **Stewardship Campaign Kick-off 2016**

*Submitted by Tricia Curtis*

Recently, Tricia Curtis and Suzanne Israel, co-chairs of the Stewardship committee, kicked off the 2016 Stewardship campaign, which ends on November 20<sup>th</sup>, Pledge Sunday. The following is the main part of that presentation.

Last year our theme for the Stewardship Campaign was “The Journey Continues.” And we do continue to journey towards the world that Christ envisioned, of peaceful coexistence, where neighbour helps neighbour, and none are left behind. We must continue to look forward and work toward a bright future for us and for others. But, while this is a theme that could be used forever, we felt we needed to find a theme that describes the realities of Woodroffe United Church. There are challenges in being a church in 2016.

Our challenges include helping our congregation to grow, attracting and keeping younger members and families, and improving junior church participation. We are challenged to maintain the physical building, and ensure our financial viability into the future. But not all challenges are negative. We are also challenged to find ways to effectively be the church, to reach out to the community, to help others through ministry, social justice, or just a helping hand.

The theme chosen for this year’s Stewardship campaign is “Meeting Our Challenges.”

Our church has been under tremendous pressure in recent years to do what needed to be done, and then to pay what had to be paid. Money was tight. But now, with the completion of Scout Hall this summer, almost every space in the building has been well-renovated to create a bright and inviting church. Renovation of such a large church was quite a challenge!

We have recently been blessed with some generous bequests, and therefore are in a better financial position than in previous years. This does not mean that we don’t need your continued financial support, but instead means that we have some funds which can be used for new opportunities. There are many charities which benefit from our current donations to Outreach and M&S, but there may be others which we could also support. We have previously supported a child’s schooling in Africa, through the Chipembi scholarship fund. We have supported a Syrian family through their first year in their new country. We need your ideas for projects so that we can offer more to the community within or outside our immediate area, which could lead to attracting more people to Woodroffe if they like what we are doing.

Think about what you would like your church to do and share your ideas and visions with the church, by contacting any member of council or Reverend Kathryn. Participate fully in any congregational gatherings that may come up this year as part of our attempts to gather ideas to help us move into the future as a vibrant and viable church.

Remember – Stewardship is not just about managing money. Gifts of time and talent are equally important. Ask yourselves what YOU can do to help your church, your church family, and the world. Can you volunteer some of YOUR time and talent to help your church? Our volunteers make volunteering FUN! Office help, help with dinners, game nights, fund raisers, outreach activities, coffee time, visiting the homebound, gardening, maintenance – there are many places where your time and energy and talents can be put to good use, such as the very popular bazaar which brings many volunteers together. Welcome all people to our church – a smile and friendly conversation are always appreciated and may make someone’s day. Talk to your friends and neighbours and invite them to attend the church or its fundraisers. Show the world that we are a loving, generous, and caring community. Invite others to join our continuing journey, as we carry on, meeting our challenges on the way.

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## **Christmas Care Notes**

*Submitted by John Patton, Coordinator, Pastoral Care Team*

The Advent and Christmas seasons, so joyful for most of us, can be difficult for many others – for a variety of reasons. In recognition of this, and in an effort to provide comfort and support, the Pastoral Care Team has replaced its normal rotating selection of Care Notes with a special set, particularly written for this season. A few of the more than a dozen topics include: “Celebrating the Holidays While in a Health Care Facility,” “Feeling Depressed at Christmas Time,” “Facing the Holidays when a Family Member is Ill,” “Holidays are for Giving and Forgiving,” “Your First Christmas After a Loved One has Died,” “Living with Loss when Others are Celebrating,” “Pathways Through Your Christmas Grief,” and “Grieving at Christmas.” A number of these are new. Please take a moment to browse the Care Note rack on the narthex wall, directly across from the office, and feel free to take any that might be helpful for yourself, a family member, or a friend.

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## **Joke du Jour**

*Submitted by Rev. Kathryn Peate*

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. “Where would you like to sit?” he asked politely. The front row please,” she answered. “You really don’t want to do that,” the usher said. “The minister is really boring.” “Do you happen to know who I am?” the woman inquired. “No,” he said. “I’m the minister’s mother,” she replied indignantly. “Do you know who I am?” he asked. “No,” she said. “Good,” he answered.

## Church Financial Status as of October 31, 2016

*Submitted by Joe Smarkala, Treasurer*

Detailed below you will see our unaudited financial results as of the end of October 2016. Final 2016 audited results will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting at the end of February.

	<b>Jan - Oct 2016</b>	<b>Jan - Oct 2015</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
- Envelope Givings	\$145,875	\$147,791
- Use of Building	\$87,916	\$89,235
- Fundraising	\$33,894	\$34,214
- Other	\$4,854	\$6,312
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$272,539</b>	<b>\$277,552</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
- Personnel Costs	\$186,543	\$168,764
- Property & Office Costs	\$58,429	\$59,527
- Other Costs	\$27,527	\$26,525
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$272,499</b>	<b>\$254,616</b>
<b>Surplus for Year</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$22,936</b>
<b>Reserve</b>	<b>\$196,624</b>	<b>\$82,328</b>
Mission & Service Givings	\$26,214	\$27,269
Local Outreach Givings	\$42,421	\$22,874

Thank you for your continued financial support of Woodroffe United Church, Mission & Service, and Local Outreach.

You can see that our revenues for this year are slightly behind last year's numbers. Also, expenses are higher this year mainly due to higher personnel costs as was expected this year. Our operational surplus for the year will probably end up around \$5,000 with holiday givings. Overall, a good financial year for Woodroffe is expected. Thank you.

You can see our reserves have grown substantially this year. This is due to bequests totalling over \$120,000 that our church has received in 2016. These monies are not included in the revenue numbers in the above table. Our thanks have been extended to the families who provided these bequests.

So our church now has a nice reserve to handle future events and renovations. However, your continued financial support is still required to pay for our yearly expenses, and to keep our reserves at this useful level. I thank you in advance for your continued support in 2017.

## **Bazaar 2016**

*Submitted by Doug McKee*

Congratulations to all of us.

Bazaar 2016 was another in a series of community building and hard work events, shared by our congregation.

Renovations made to Scout Hall over the summer were showcased during the 6 weeks leading up to bazaar day. The new bazaar storage area above the old stage quickly filled up with donated items, and the winch bringing donated items up/down from the storage area got a real workout. We had lots of storage room, and the winch worked fantastic!!

The traditional “Bazaar Sorting Sunday” was modified this year into “Moving Saturday” – where all the items were winched down from the storage area to the floor of Scout Hall, and “Sorting Sunday” – where the congregation distributed all the items to the correct locations around the church.

The week leading up to bazaar was (as usual) amazing to watch and be part of. The experience and enthusiasm of our team of over 200 volunteers began setting out china, clothing, fabrics, furniture, books and puzzles, tools, kitchenware, jewellery, and tools, and selecting items for the silent auction, baskets, and a white elephant table. They quickly transformed the piles of items that were in Scout Hall on Sorting Sunday, into organized, bazaar-ready areas spread throughout the church. It was also great to see all the student volunteers who participated this year.

Rain was forecast for Bazaar day and threatened to keep shoppers away. The rain did show up on schedule (just ask the Parking team!!), but so did the shoppers. We had lineups at the doors to start, and a constant flow of people throughout the bazaar. Although the final-final numbers are not in, BAZAAR 2016 was without a doubt successful, and another great team-building event.

This year’s coordinating team, Doug, Marilyn, and George, convey our sincere thanks to all who donated, cleaned, organized, sold, or bought some of the thousands of Bazaar goods – making Bazaar 2016 another great success.

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## **The Angel Tree 2016**

*Submitted by Local Outreach*

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Angel Trees will be set up in the sanctuary, and hung with colourful angels, representing boys and girls from infancy to 16 years of age. These children belong to needy families in our community who register with Woodroffe United for Christmas assistance. Everyone is encouraged to take an angel, and buy a gift appropriate for the age and gender indicated.

Wrapping:

It is a problem when one child in a family receives an inexpensive gift while a sibling receives one that is more costly. To address this, the Outreach Committee suggests that you package the gifts in gift bags this year, instead of the traditional wrapping of white tissue paper. This will make it easier for us to look inside, and be sure that children within a family get gifts of similar value. Be sure to attach your angel to the handle.

Value:

For the same reason, we would like to make the cost of individual gifts more uniform. Therefore we are suggesting a value of about \$20 but not more than \$30 per gift. This is, of course, just a guideline. But it's good to remember that for some children, this may be the only gift they receive at Christmas.

Name Change:

Since the gifts will no longer be wrapped in white, we are recommending that the name "White Gift Sunday" be changed to "Christmas Gift Sunday."

Christmas Gift Sunday:

Please bring your gifts to church on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. They will be collected during the service.

Thanks,

The Local Outreach Committee

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**Youth**

*Submitted by Kim Stewart*

We held a Youth Movie Night at Woodroffe on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. In keeping with a newly-established tradition, we had youth from WUC as well as Britannia United Church.

We showed the movie, *The Intern*, starring Anne Hathaway as the CEO of an online fashion site, and Robert De Niro, who decides being retired isn't all it's cracked up to be, and becomes her senior intern. It was very funny, and the youth really enjoyed it.

A good time was had by all! We enjoyed popcorn and drinks, but the highlight of the night had to be the ice cream sundae bar!

Thanks to all our volunteers who made the evening a great success: Deb Lester, Ray Cuthbert, and Helen Hutcheson (from Britannia), as well as thanks to Pat Pearson for ensuring everything ran smoothly.

Britannia is planning the next youth activity for Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> to make bracelets as a fundraising idea to help with relief efforts in Haiti.



*Youth movie night at WUC*

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### **A Boy and His Clock Tower – A Bazaar Story *Submitted by Kringen Henein***

Leo Greenberg-Henein is four years old. He has a weakness for clock towers. As a toddler, he loved to go to Parliament Hill to see the clock in the peace tower, and to hear it chime the hours.

In September, he went to Europe with his parents. They began the trip in London, so a visit to the British Parliament buildings and Big Ben was high priority. Leo already knew about Big Ben from books, and he was thrilled to see it for himself.

Imagine his surprise and delight, weeks later back in Ottawa, when he was attending the Woodroffe Bazaar with his parents, and there, in the silent auction, was a perfect replica of the beloved clock tower.

But the course of true love never runs smooth. Big Ben had been paired with The Queen (both props from the Downton Abbey Tea), and a lady had bid \$40 for them. Leo's Dad had to explain to him that someone else wanted the items.

But then, Leo's Fairy Godmother appeared (she looked a lot like Shirley Hockin), and in consultation with the Wizard, (who looked rather like Jamie), the set was split, since it turned out that the lady with the bid really only wanted The Queen. A new bidding paper was prepared, and Leo's bid of \$5.00 was entered. And then the suspenseful wait began. Would Leo's bid prevail?

At 3 minutes to 1 pm, all the anxious bidders gathered around the tables for last minute adjustments. Leo's name was still alone on the Big Ben sheet. And then the bell rang, and Leo was the proud owner of Big Ben, the lady was the delighted owner of The Queen, and they all lived happily ever after.

Big Ben now resides in Leo's bedroom, where I am assured it is large, but much loved. Many thanks to Shirley and Jamie for a happy ending.

## **WUC Sponsorship of a Syrian Family – First Year in Canada**

*Submitted by the Sponsorship Committee*

On December 27, 2015, members of the Refugee Sponsorship Committee at WUC met Tamer, Rehab, and three year old Baraa, at Ottawa International Airport, and welcomed them to Canada. The Committee had been working for several months at this point, to solicit financial and in-kind support from the congregation, investigate potential housing possibilities for the family, gather furnishings for this accommodation, secure translators to help with communication with the family when they arrived, and become familiar with the necessary government requirements for the refugees upon arrival in Canada.

Immediately upon arrival, the family moved into temporary accommodation in an apartment building on Carling Avenue, where they stayed for a couple of weeks before moving into their current apartment on McEwen Avenue. Committee members had set up their new apartment with furnishings donated by the congregation and friends.

About three weeks after they arrived, they were enrolled in ESL classes at Bayshore Public School, and Baraa began attending daycare. They had learned how to take OC Transpo to and from school in the mornings, and were beginning to meet new Arabic speaking friends through the school setting, within their apartment building, and by happenstance at Carlingwood Mall. These friends became friends of the committee members as well, and continue to be a great support to Rehab and Tamer.

During these early days, the committee took them on a few outings: Parliament Hill, museums, Winterlude, etc. They were settling in and getting used to winter! We celebrated Tamer and Rehab's birthdays in January with a party at the church, and later in the spring, brought together two other sponsorship groups and Syrian families, for a combined gathering, also held at WUC.

In Syria, Tamer owned two bakeries, and employed 40 people. His specialty was pizza, but he also baked many other treats as well. WUC members enjoyed some of these goodies after church during coffee hour on a couple of occasions.

Since their arrival, young Baraa had experienced many apparently minor health issues: fevers, colds, etc., and, according to his mother, lacked energy. These health issues came to a head near the end of May, when he was hospitalized and underwent major surgery. It was a tense time for all of us, but Baraa came through with flying colours and now has even more energy than he had before!

Baraa is enrolled in Junior Kindergarten at D. Roy Kennedy Public School, and is loving it. He has made some new friends, and hates to miss school for follow-up doctor appointments. He is also attending Saturday Arabic School where his mother, Rehab, is volunteering currently. She hopes to turn this experience into a job at some future point.

Meanwhile, Tamer has found part time work at Kettleman's Bagel Company at Woodroffe and Carling. He is enjoying it and, because he has to speak English with the other workers, is becoming more confident with his own English ability.

The committee feels the family has made great strides forward, and that they are ready to be launched on their own in the new year. However, we have all agreed to be available to them for continued support in the year ahead, should it be necessary. A big thank you goes out to the Sponsorship Committee. They did a great job!

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## **Poetry by Lloyd Rintoul**

*Submitted by Brian Lloyd Rintoul*

Many moons ago, my father, Lloyd A. Rintoul, came up with the idea of putting on an evening of dinner and entertainment. The twist was, that preparation and serving of the meal would be done by the men of Woodroffe United. (It must be said that without the women, including Director of Music Gloria Blain, there would have been no entertainment.) "They" decided, (it being Lloyd's idea), Lloyd should be chair. Also, the chair of "The Men's Dinner" should be allowed to direct half the proceeds to a project of their choice. The project Dad chose, was building a new choir room. He and my mother, having then been choir members for some decades, Dad did not want the job done on the cheap. He wrote a series of ads for the bulletin, poems, under the pseudonym A. Noni Mousse. Reaction to the advertising was very positive. Shortly after, (in January of 1993), "The Power of a Smile" became the first of about ninety-three booklets of, normally, eighteen, eight line rhyming couplets. In November 2003, "Hereafter" (#76) was written. Dad programmed the first mainframe computer in Canada, for the Canadian Pacific Railway, starting in 1956, and was National Revenue Taxation's first Deputy Chief Programmer, but died earlier this year having never touched a personal computer. He produced many copies, using typewriters and the church photocopier. Most copies were given away. In that same spirit, the church webmaster has indicated the poems will be uploaded to the church website – eventually. Until then, if you email me at [dq537@ncf.ca](mailto:dq537@ncf.ca), I'll email you the seventy-six booklets I've found to retype. I can't say which decade I'll find the rest of the booklets to retype, so a loan of any booklets from #77 on, would be much appreciated.

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## **Passages**

*Submitted by Don Mutch*

Since the last issue of the *Uniter* there have been no deaths at Woodroffe.

One new member was received: Barbara Rafter.

One infant baptism: Hailey Elizabeth Schijns.

## Woodroffe United Activities – November 2016 to February 2017

20NOV	Worship – 10 am Babies & Friends Lunch – 11 am
25NOV	Advent Reflections – 7-9 am
27NOV	Worship – Advent I – Communion – 10 am Welcoming Advent – 11 am
02DEC	Advent Reflections – 7-9 am
03DEC	Christmas Cookies & a Concert – Choirs and Strings of St. John
04DEC	Worship – Advent II – Christmas Gift Sunday / Lessons & Carols Sunday – 10 am Kindle a Flame Service and Reception – 7 pm
06DEC	UCW Potluck – 6:00 pm Candle Lighting Service – 7:15 pm
09DEC	Advent Reflections – 7-9 am
10DEC	Shortbread Packaging
11DEC	Worship – Advent III – 10 am
16DEC	Advent Reflections – 7-9 am
18DEC	Worship – Advent IV – Christmas Pageant – 10 am
24DEC	Family Christmas Eve Service – 7 pm Christmas Eve Service – 11 pm
25DEC	Church Closed – service at St. Martin's
26,27DEC	Church Office closed
01JAN	Worship – 10 am
02JAN	Church Office closed
08JAN	New Members Breakfast – 9 am Worship – 10 am
15JAN	Worship – 10 am
22JAN	Worship – 10 am Stone Soup Lunch – 11:15 am
25JAN	Worship Committee Potluck Supper – 6 pm
29JAN	Worship – 10 am
05FEB	Worship – 10 am
12FEB	Worship – 10 am
19FEB	Worship – 10 am
20FEB	Church Office closed – Family Day
26FEB	Worship – 10 am Congregational Meeting – 11:30 am

## Editor's Endnote – Advent Puzzle

Unscramble each of the 12 Advent or Christmas themed words below. Then copy the letters in the numbered cells to the phrase at the bottom which will spell the name of a beloved Christmas carol.

TARS   
4

KOCLSF   
12 16 1

TEER   
5

POEHSJ   
9 19

MAYR   
20

RENGAM   
11 7

LEGNA   
2

MESNEIW   
10 17

SESJU   
14

LIMSAAAN   
6

HIRTB   
13 3 8

SHDERSHEP   
18 15

1     2 3 4 5 6 7     8 9 10 11     1 12     13 14 8 15 16 17 18 19 20

### WUC Uniter – November 18, 2016

Editor: Peter Morrison

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Also available with some additional content on the church web site at [woodroffeunited.org](http://woodroffeunited.org)

Next Uniter Deadline: Sunday, February 19, 2017