



The W.U.C. Uniter

Woodroffe United Church
613-722-9250
woodroffeunited.org



To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is given.

Advent 2013

Advent Journey

Rev. Jan Lougheed

On Sunday November 17, we gathered for our first Woodroffe Café. I had the opportunity to share pictures and stories from my sabbatical last May. With my husband, Peter, I walked along the Portuguese trail from Northern Portugal to Santiago, Spain. This is a modern rediscovery of the ancient spiritual practice of pilgrimage – a journey on foot and a journey of heart and spirit.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are seasons covered with the tracks of pilgrims. Mary walks to her cousin Elizabeth's home to share the news of her pregnancy. Mary and Joseph trek to Bethlehem to fulfill the Empire's request, which offers no exemptions to those in a vulnerable state. Magi journey to offer their gifts to One they recognize as a true authority. And there is even a story of the Holy Family forced to flee their own country as refugees to escape King Herod's cruelty.

Here are some pilgrims' questions that I leave

with you to think about or if it helps you, to journal, as we take the Advent Road.

- Where were the holy places you visited as a child? Describe the magical, imaginative places where you played. Why were they so special?
- List some of the places that you have visited as an adult that helped you to refocus your journey, renew yourself.
- Out of your list, choose one place or one trip to a place that changed you. Who was there with you? Who was not there/who do you miss? What details stayed with you? What was the feeling of the place or time? How did the experience change you? What did you learn?

For the last five years I have watched my now 7-year-old granddaughter act out the walk to Bethlehem. Taking her grandfather's hand, a cardboard walking staff, hat and packsack, they would journey together. Always stopping at the "Jordan River" (on our porch) and kneeling down for a refreshing drink of water. That was an important part of their drama.

I hope Advent this year offers you the refreshing moments that every pilgrim needs.

Christmas reflection

Iain McGilveray, Editor

For me, brought up a Presbyterian, John Lennon's *So this is Christmas* resonates with the guilt of viewing the crass commercial advertising – seen ever earlier in fall on TV, in catalogues and magazines. For me the antidote is the Christmas concerts and carol sing-alongs.

Many are the beautiful carols written to celebrate the birth of Jesus, from 5th century *Of the father's love begotten*, up to the present day. However, Lennon reminds us that as Christians there is a more serious undercurrent - although resolutions to do better are usually associated with New Year.

Advent is certainly a time of joy for many and the spark of anticipation in the children's eyes on Christmas Eve lights up families. Nonetheless, the many charity appeals, such as for the Ottawa Mission and Philippine's typhoon, bring some reality to the season and many people in and out of churches work to provide food and succour for the poor at this time. The message in Dickens's own *Christmas Carol* certainly reflects this, with the ghosts provoking Scrooge's guilt.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to all our readers and congregation.

Christian Education Committee

Ray Cuthbert, Chair

It's been a busy time in the world of the CE Committee and it looks to continue until Christmas!

At the time of writing, the ever popular third Annual Babies and Friends Luncheon is a week away. This event gives a chance for families with young children to get to know each other better while enjoying some yummy food! As a teacher of the youth class in Church School, I am learning a lot and it is pleasure to work with such great people like Louise McRae, Rick Maynes and Sandra Smith, but even more rewarding is working with the children of all ages! Sandra has written a nice article about the Church School and it includes one of our newer members – Charlie the Church Mouse! Beth Junkins is working with the children to create a Junior Church Choir, which will be fun to listen to! At the beginning of November, Jan and Matt led a retreat whose theme was about igniting the congregation through practical hospitality. There were over 45 topics discussed and it created a lot of enthusiasm about finding ways to not only reach out to our congregation in events but to reach out into the community with messages like “bring a friend”. I am sure you are looking forwards to the Christmas Pageant – it's not long now! Paul Hodson has done some great work putting together the next Family Ski Retreat, but I'll let you read his article elsewhere in the **Uniter**. Finally, I would like to thank the teachers, the nursery and toddler room volunteers, the members of the CE Committee (Sue Bodkin, Lyle Campbell, Deb Lester, Denise Wai, Sandra Smith and Jan Lougheed) for all their energy and time in making things work! If any of you are interested in helping out let us know!

Charlie Church Mouse comes to Church School

Sandra Smith, CDA

On Sunday mornings the Church School gathers to worship, learn, grow, and encourage one another. Each week children, youth and adults come together to praise God in song, read and discuss scripture, pray and light our candle, engage in creative hands-on learning activities, and so much more.

This fall, along with our three wonderful Church School teachers, Louise McRae, Rick Maynes, and Ray Cuthbert, we are pleased to have Charlie the Church Mouse with us as part of our team.

Charlie regularly participates during our whole group opening time, sharing in our theme-based discussions.



In December students begin Unit III of the *Whole People of God* curriculum. This unit titled, *Come Walk With Us*, takes students on a journey though the Advent season with such weekly themes as *Walking in Hope, A Child Shall Lead Us, Joy in the Desert, and God with Us*. For

anyone wanting to follow along, an “At Home Leaflet” is available. Feel free to pick one up in the Church School office or contact me at san.smith@rogers.com to receive a copy.

Ski Weekend *Paul Hodson*

New for 2014, the annual ski retreat weekend is going to Bolton Valley, Vermont during the weekend of January 31 to February 2, 2014.

No matter whether you downhill ski, cross-country ski, or don't ski at all, you are welcome! This family-friendly, intimate resort has it all in one package: Ski-in/ski-out (for both downhill and cross-country), pool, hot tub, games room, restaurants and more. Non-skiers will appreciate the tranquil surroundings, fellowship, shopping in nearby towns and much more.

Our group package features 2½ days skiing, 2 nights accommodation, private group meals (dinner on Saturday, plus breakfast Saturday and Sunday) and access to all the resort's amenities. Pricing is reasonable, and non-skiers get a discount. To join in this wonderful annual tradition, get in touch with Paul Hodson.

96th Ottawa Scouts

Candice Armstrong, Troop Scouter

The scouts have been very busy this fall! We went camping in October and the new scouts learned how to safely use the following camp tools: knives, saws, axes/hatchets, stoves, lanterns, matches and lighting fires. In the meantime the older scouts went on a lightweight camp to a different location! A huge thanks to the 3rd Ottawa Scouts for watching after our older youth!

In November we did a 5-hour geocaching hike following the old train line on the Trans-Canada Trail! Then we had some of the leaders out to Remembrance Day Services at a few churches. On the day itself, we participated in our own little service at the Westboro Cenotaph. It was a great service with a lot of participation from the youth and the speech by our own Frank Sullivan!

In the remainder of 2013, we're preparing for the ever popular Klondike Day, and getting ready to go caroling with the cubs! If you'd like to see the cubs and scouts at your door for caroling, talk to Bob Walkington!

Thanks to Woodroffe United for allowing us to meet in the Scout Hall!!

96th Ottawa Venturers

Peter Morrison, Advisor

This fall, the Venturer Company has 7 youth and 3 advisors and we kicked off our year with a Fall camp at *Bon Echo* Provincial Park where we hiked into a Mazinaw Lake-side campsite Friday night with a fantastic view of the famous Rock. On Saturday, we canoed along the base of the rock, looking for the native pictographs, and then hiked the Cliff-Top trail for a panoramic view from the top. In the afternoon, we paddled into an interior campsite on Joeperry Lake for the night, and on Sunday, checked out a number of the hiking trails and the interpretive centre. Also this fall, we've had a cookout on the Lauriault Trail in Gatineau Park complete with an amazing sunset, and during Remembrance Week, we paid a visit to the Canadian War Museum.

On November 11, about 90 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, leaders, parents, and friends joined us at the Westboro Cenotaph for our annual Remembrance Day observances. In mid-November, we held our investiture ceremony at Andrew Haydon Park, complete with some impromptu games under the full moon as we watched a bit of a snowstorm roll down the river valley.

In the coming months, we have a full slate of winter activities booked including volunteering at the annual Scout Klondike Sled Derby, a winter camp, sledding, carolling, a couple of special guests/tours, a downhill ski trip, snowshoeing, skating, and an afternoon of curling.

Christmas Care Notes

John Patton

The Advent & Christmas seasons, so joyous for most of us, can be difficult for 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 Loved One has Died," "Living with Loss when Others are Celebrating," "Pathways through your Christmas Grief," and "Grieving at Christmas." Please take a moment to browse the Care Note rack on the wall, directly across from the office and feel free to take any that might be helpful for yourself or a friend.

The Woodroffe United Retreat

Nov 1-2, 2013

Sue Smarkala, Chair Membership Relations

It is a gift to meet with like-minded people to talk about a subject close to all our hearts – our church. This retreat focused on ways to attract, welcome and build new congregants. Based on Randy Hammer’s book, “52 Ways to Ignite Your Congregation – Practical Hospitality”, we collectively discussed ways we might take advantage of his ideas.

Fifteen of us met over the retreat period from Friday evening and Saturday morning to mid-afternoon. Jan and Matt provided structure to connect to the material; new ideas were discussed; options were evaluated. Good discussion was facilitated.

At Council on November 19th, Matt and Jan presented the rankings of all options considered. Council will receive more information in the next month and will decide how to proceed. Stay tuned for possible changes and new approaches to old activities – like a new greeter for the North and Accessible doors on Sunday. And, maybe, some new activities will slowly be initiated. The

welcome to visitors on the Sunday immediately after this retreat was different – did you hear the changes?

Here are the top 4 ranked items for each of the three areas presented by the author as ways to ignite our congregation:

- I. Anticipating First Time Worshipers
 1. Clear understanding of our purpose and mission
 2. Excellent, representative outdoor signage
 3. Informative and engaging website
 4. Well-designed, informative WUCH brochure
- II. Making People Feel Welcome
 1. Provide well-designed, and signed, accessibility
 2. Provide building signs and maps to direct newcomers
 3. Ensure public spaces are welcoming
 4. Positive, uplifting, expectant worship
- III. Seeing People Return
 1. Worship services that offer hope
 2. Practical, interest-piquing messages
 3. Connecting newcomers with others
 4. Encouraging small group involvement

Financials for 2013

Joe Smarkala, Treasurer

In August, our deficit for the year was around \$29,000. Well, thanks to our Bazaar revenues of over \$23,000, and with continued increased revenues from Use of Space, that deficit has been eliminated. Your Treasurer really loves the Bazaar! The downward trend of Envelope Givings continues, similarly with Outreach and M&S Givings. Our congregation’s diminishing attendance contributes to this decline. Fortunately, our increased revenues from Use of Space has helped keep our church in a good financial state.

The Available Funds figure represents our Cash Balance as of the end of October. In this we still owe \$48,000 from our \$100,000 loan we took out last year. This balance of \$52,000 is what we have to cover emergencies. Our special Building Fund has been depleted. A number of areas in the church need renovations, especially the bathrooms off the Scout Hall and those near the Lower Hall. This year’s

Stewardship campaign is to take care of our Sunday Home. Contributions to our Building Fund would be very welcome so that such renovations can be made to our Sunday Home. Finally, as always, many thanks to all who have contributed so generously of their time, talents and dollars, so far in 2013.

	End Oct 2012	End Oct 2013
Revenue		
Envelope Givings	\$165,048	\$153,842
Use of Space	\$80,903	\$117,178
Fundraising & Other	\$38,141	\$35,377
Total Revenue	\$284,092	\$306,397
Expenses		
Personnel Costs	\$198,420	\$224,524
Property Costs & Other	\$85,891	\$78,654
Total Expense	\$284,311	\$303,178
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$219)	\$3,219
Mission & Service	\$31,033	\$27,629
Outreach	\$27,869	\$27,053
Available Funds	\$50,871	\$52,005

Stewardship at Woodroffe

Patricia Curtis, Chair, Stewardship

For the past month or so we have been running our annual Stewardship campaign, which ended on Sunday, November 17, with our pledge Sunday and Stewardship Fair. I trust that everyone who attended church that morning was able to pick up and fill out their pledge forms, and also fill out their time and talent pledge forms. I hope you all found that the tables set out by the various committees in the church for the fair were interesting and informative. A lot is done by many people in the congregation on a continual basis, and there is more that could be done with more volunteer involvement – and more volunteers would mean less fatigue for those who currently volunteer.

Our fall Stewardship campaign kicked off with a question and answer session during church on October 13. If you are interested in reviewing any of the questions and answers from that day, they are posted on the church website.

We are also undertaking to replenish the funds in our building and maintenance fund, with a special fundraising campaign over the next few months. We cannot continue to make improvements to the building without more funds, and we also will be unable to deal with emergencies such as a leaking basement or roof, without a cushion of funds. Our renovations over the past two years are paying off through more use of space by outside groups, and any further renovations will continue to improve the space that is available to use. The church is our Sunday home, and needs upkeep, so please donate generously to this campaign.

Our normal fundraisers will take place over the next few months. Right now we are selling poinsettias, to be picked up on December 7 and 8. In January, we will be selling frozen berries – purchasing them is a delicious way to support the church. Later in the year, we will have our annual HST auction of Happily Shared Treasures, so keep that in mind and try thinking of something that you could offer for the auction.

If you have any ideas for fundraising that you feel could benefit the church, please let anyone on the stewardship committee know. We could always use some new ideas and energy to put them into action. Current members are Tricia Curtis, Shirley Hockin, Lauren Carson, Sue and Joe Smarkala, Bob Walkington and Matt Gallinger.

Thanks, and Merry Christmas to all!

Bazaar 2013

Marlene Patrick on behalf of the Convenors

The Annual WUC Bazaar was a wonderful opportunity for collaboration between church members and the community at large. We had over 200 dedicated volunteers who truly transformed the church into a delightful bazaar environment. Shoppers could delight in a wide selection of items, from china, kitchenware, electronics, tools and white elephant items in the basement to baking and preserves, gift baskets, jewelry, books and music, knitted items, plants, linens, furniture, luggage and a silent auction – all carefully displayed among the Scout Hall, Banquet Hall, Chapel and Narthex. There were also places for shoppers to gain sustenance, from morning break to a full luncheon, and always having the option of hot dogs and soft drinks provided by the Scouts.

The Bazaar workers were also treated to hospitality in the Friendship Room, and this was so appreciated by everyone. Although the weather started off soggy, the Bazaar still attracted a good crowd, and shoppers came away with many found treasures. Our WUC Bazaar is wonderful in many ways – it promotes fellowship among the congregation and the wider community; it allows re-use of many items at a good price to people in our community; and it saves a large amount of items from the landfill. Even after the Bazaar is over, through our clean-up and recycling team, and the services of our Church Custodian, the church is put back to normal in quick time, and unsold items find their way to other uses through re-donation to such places as missions, women's shelters, and other benevolent services. Kudos to all participants, all volunteers, all shoppers and everyone who provided items for sale.

Until next year....

Remembrance Sunday

Iain McGilveray



Hal Gillis, Ed Cashman, Hugh Adam, Fred Allport, Myra Stacey, Bob Faulkner

On Sunday, November 10, we had a remembrance service with six veterans as our special guests. As well as the national anthem sung by all, and the wreath laying, the choir sang the anthem *Do not Stand at my Grave and Weep*.

After the service at the coffee hour, a cake was cut by the veterans and was enjoyed by them and the congregation.

Local Outreach

Iain McGilveray

Christmas is a busy time of year for local outreach as we register people for Christmas gift cards, knitted gifts and toiletries; sort white gifts, toiletries, knitted toques, socks and gloves. Then we have the joy of giving that is supported by our congregation. The committee thanks you for your support and wish you a Happy Christmas and a healthy peaceful New Year.

Passages

Deaths

11 September, John Walsh

18 September, Norma Smart

11 October, Frank Hylarides

19 October, Helen Wilson

Coming up

Sun Nov 24	Babies & Friends Lunch
Wed Nov 27	Decorate the Sanctuary
Fri Nov 29	Advent Reflection
Sat Nov 30	Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
Sun Dec 1	Communion
Tue Dec 3	UCW Pot Luck Supper
Tue Dec 3	Candlelight Service
Fri Dec 6	Advent Reflection
Sat Dec 7	Turkey Dinner
Sat Dec 7	Glory of Christmas Concert
Sun Dec 8	White Gift / Lessons & Carols
Sun Dec 8	Kindle a Flame
Fri Dec 13	Advent Reflection
Sun Dec 15	Sunday School Pageant
Fri Dec 20	Advent Reflection
Sun Dec 22	Advent 4
Tue Dec 24	7pm Family Service
Tue Dec 24	11pm Communion Service
Wed Dec 25	Church Closed
Thu Dec 26	Church Closed
Sun Dec 29	Family Service
Wed Jan 1	Church Closed
Sun Jan 12	New Members' Breakfast
Sun Jan 19	Woodroffe Cafe
Sun Jan 26	Stone Soup Lunch
Fri Jan 31	Ski Weekend
Sun Feb 16	Remembering Sunday
Mon Feb 17	Family Day - Church Closed
Sun Feb 23	Scout/Guide Service
Sun Feb 23	Annual Congregational Meeting
Sun Mar 2	Anniversary Sunday
Sun Mar 2	HST Auction

Check the church calendar on the web site or in the Narthex for the most current details of services and events.

WUC Uniter Nov. 22, 2013

Editor: Iain McGilveray

Advisory committee: Shannon Avery, Matt Gallinger, Allison Hockin, Jamie Hockin, Sue Smarkala

Also available, with some additional content, on the church web site at woodroffeunited.org

The World is Mine

submitted by Marilyn Jones; author unknown

Today, upon a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman and wished I were as beautiful.
When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg and used a crutch. But as she passed, she passed a smile.
Please forgive me when I whine. I have two legs; the world is mine.

I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm.
I talked with him, he seemed so glad. If I were late, it'd do no harm.
And as I left, he said to me, "I thank you, you've been so kind.
It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see," he said, "I'm blind."
Please forgive me when I whine. I have two eyes; the world is mine.

Later while walking down the street, I saw a child I knew.
He stood and watched the others play, but he did not know what to do.
I stopped a moment and then I said, "Why don't you join them, Dear?"
He looked ahead without a word. I forgot, he couldn't hear.
Please forgive me when I whine. I have two ears; the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go, With eyes to see the sunset's glow,
With ears to hear what I'd know. Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.