

EPISTLE

January 2019



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St. James United Church

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www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

YOUR INVITATION TO
ATTEND PALM SUNDAY COMMUNION
ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

Date: Sunday, April 14, 2019

Time: 10:30 a.m. – Service of Worship

Please advise the church office (416-622-4113) if you wish a visitation from a minister or of any pertinent information necessary to update church records. Updates can also be sent to stjames_uc@rogers.com

Outreach offering in support of:
Ryde Lake Camp and Sparrow Lake Camp (90%)
Minister for Local Outreach (10%)

Next Epistle Deadline: April 7, 2019.

Please email all items to sjepistle@yahoo.com if at all possible, or place in the Epistle mail slot at the church.

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Dear Friends of St. James



I am glad and grateful to be back with you after I trod on black ice while cleaning the eaves and went flying. Thankfully other people were there to break my fall and call the ambulance. Since then I have received great care in the hospital and at home. Thank you for your terrific support of me and for the incredible way Linda Maw, Wayne and Marilyn Myhre, Nancy Violo and others stepped up to lead worship, find guest preachers, visit those in need and keep everything flowing smoothly. We are truly blessed to have so many dedicated and gifted people within St. James. I can't thank you enough.

I am also mindful of many in our congregation who are saddened by the recent passing of special people within their own family circle or within St. James including George Dunkley, Polli Mable, Bill Praskey, Marion Hansen, Betty Thompson, Ann Wright and John Flaxman. Each one has made a difference and leaves a hole in our hearts. Their passing over makes us aware of how vulnerable we are and how quickly life can change. Thankfully we are blessed by a community of faith to support us, love that lasts forever and the promises of God. There is comfort and strength in

knowing we all have angels, guides and a Loving Presence with us.



This Lent I invite you to become more aware of this Divine Love and the spiritual realm. For the past two and half years I have had the privilege of working with and learning from Rev. Jean and Richard Toward. Rev. Jean is a Spiritualist minister who was born with the gift of seeing, feeling and communicating with the realm of spirit. She worked with the British police to find missing persons, is a gifted healer and communicates messages directly from Spirit to help individuals. Her husband Richard is also a natural healer and for the sermon time, rather than sharing a message he prepares, he allows the Divine Spirit to speak through him in the moment, the message God wants our church to receive.

The Towards will be our guest worship leaders on Sunday March 17. They make the spirit realm real and give us an experience of the connection with Spirit that is open to all of us. During worship and during the buffet lunch that follows Rev. Jean will share a

direct message for 12-15 people who are open to hearing a word of blessing, encouragement and guidance specific to them. I hope you will mark this Sunday and come listen to the Spirit.

During Lent the Christian Development team will again host a series of mid-week, small group discussions on inspiring TED Talks with spiritual themes. There will be a unique TED Talk each week and an opportunity to reflect on the ideas presented and share our own experiences.

I am still in the process of choosing the themes. If there are particular TED Talk that have inspired you, please let me know. Two that I have chosen so far include Neil Pasricha: The 3 A's of Awesome and Jill Bolte Taylor: My Stroke of Insight.

Here are some of the special events and upcoming worship services that we hope will uplift and nurture you in body, mind and spirit:

- **Pancake Lunch** – by donation in your choice of plain, chocolate chip, blueberry or gluten-free made by the Richards' family Sunday, **February 17** at 11:45 a.m.
- **Brain Health: Alzheimer's Workshop** Tuesday, **February 19** at 1:30 p.m.
- Learn **Hands-on Reiki Level I** to heal oneself and others Friday – Sunday, **February 22-24**.
- **Chinese New Year Lunch** at the **Mandarin** on the Queensway, Sunday, **February 24** at 12 noon.
- **World Day of Prayer, Saturday, March 2 at 11:00 a.m.** including a simple soup and dessert lunch at St. Philip's Lutheran Church and written by people of Slovenia.
- **Annual Congregational Meeting** with lunch on Sunday, **March 3** at 11:45 a.m.
- **Seniors' Lunch – Thursday, March 7** at 12:30 p.m.
- **Ash Ritual and Spring Clocks Ahead on Sunday, March 10 @ 10:30 a.m.** to mark the start of Lent.
- **Celebrating Polli Mable's life on Friday, March 8 @ 2:00 p.m.** at St. James.
- **"Messages from Spirit"** by Rev. Jean and Richard Toward on **Sunday, March 17 @ 10:30 a.m.**
- **Full-Course Lunch Buffet** by Chefs Julia & Pete on Sunday, **March 17** at 11:45 a.m.

- **Palm Sunday with Holy Communion on March 25** and our **Outreach Offering** to send disadvantaged children and youth to the CGIT and Sparrow Lake United Church Camps.
-
- **Maundy Thursday on April 18**
7:30 p.m. - joint worship at St. James to remember the events on the night of the Last Supper & Jesus' final commandment to us.
- **Good Friday** joint worship on April 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Richview United.
- **Easter Sunday** a joyous celebration **April 21** at 10:30 a.m.

Thank you to everyone whose generosity makes these ministries possible and for all who enrich the life of our church.

With love, joy and gratitude,

Rev. Coral



Editor's Notes



Happy New Year. It's the year of the Pig. For those born in the years 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, this is your year! The Pig is the last of the 12 zodiac signs in the lunar calendar. Goodbye to the poor performing Year of the Dog in 2018 and hello to good fortune in 2019.

Speaking of good fortune, at St. James, the people are our fortune. While Rev. Coral was convalescing, many volunteers have filled the void to ensure all church services ran smoothly and without disruption. Thank you to those who went the extra mile in Rev. Coral's absence.

As many of you know, **Clive and Pat Dunstan** are retiring after many years serving as Music Director and Piano Accompanist respectively. We'd like to dedicate the final issue of the Epistle to the Dunstans. If you have stories or photos to share, please send them our way and we will put together a feature about their numerous contributions to St. James. Even if you just want to wish them

well in the next stage of their journey, we'd like your submission. Spread the word to those who may not be in regular attendance so we don't leave anyone out who would like to contribute.

We would prefer to have your stories e-mailed but hand written copies are fine. If you have a photo to share, please either scan them yourself or bring them to the church office to be scanned and forwarded to the Epistle email.

Let's show our love and appreciation by making the St. James anniversary issue, the one that Clive and Pat will remember. The deadline is April 7th.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.

All submissions can be placed in the Epistle mailbox or via e-mail:

sjepistle@yahoo.com

Your Co-editors,

Jennifer Flaxman, Jennifer Ling

Disclaimer: Some of the articles submitted are intended for information purposes only and do not reflect the views of the St. James congregation.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

*Not
Available
On Web
Version
Due To
Privacy.
Please
contact
church
office for
updates.*

GOOD NEWS!

Coral is on track with her recovery and will begin a Graduated Return to Work as of January 28th. What this means is that in her first two weeks she will work for only 20 hours, in the third week this will increase to 30 hours and by the fourth week; she will be up to a 40 hour work week. Of course, the next challenge will be to help limit Coral's return to the 80 hours per week she usually gives us!!

I want to thank this wonderful faith community for how we came together during Coral's recovery. We celebrated Christmas and ushered in the New Year with an inspiring pageant, moving music, uplifting sermons and skilled leadership. A special thank you to Linda Maw whose unstinting dedication and hard work guided us, to Wayne and Marilyn Myhre, Karen Forgrave and Mhairi Godley who just seemed to know what to do and then did it. We are blessed! To all of you unnamed people who stepped up and leaned in. Thank you!

As for Corals' work schedule, she receives on average 40 emails per day. She is a conscientious person and wants to read and respond to the messages that you send her. This takes a huge amount of her time and I'd like to suggest some ways to streamline this:

If you would like to contact Coral, to offer her best wishes, to let her know about the events and concerns of your life, or just to check in, her preference is that you phone her. If you get her, wonderful, and if you leave a message she promises to return it.

If you have information to pass on that does not require her input, but you think she needs to know, could you please put in the subject line of the email, For Your Information or FYI, so that she knows it is not a pressing matter that needs her immediate attention..

If you have information that requires her input, continue to send that along. On her part, Coral is going to attempt to limit her overwhelming need to edit everything that is sent to her.

Finally, a community needs its members to take part if it is going to thrive. I can tell you from personal experience that you get back more than you give. We are in real need of people willing to be on the Christian Development and the Worship and Music Committees. It requires us to have these inspirational worship services and the many and various activities offered that feed our souls.

The best welcome back to Coral is our engagement in our community. As my mother always said, "many hands make light work".

Submitted by Nancy Violo



Thank you! We appreciate everyone's donation for our gift cards. We distributed 397 Walmart \$10 gift cards to all children whose family attended on the last Wednesday in December, and 82 to both one and two-person families without children. Special thanks go to the Rotary Club of Etobicoke, Graceview Presbyterian Church, Richview United Church, Rehoboth Fellowship Church, and the Charles and Thelma Baker Foundation. These numbers are higher compared to those in 2017. There were more children and more families in 2018, particularly in the fall.

Our January 2019 numbers are higher still and increasing as this report is published. In January 2019 we have averaged 17 more families per week – representing 47 more people per week on average compared to January 2018. We suspect rising rents to be the main cause for the increase in Food Basket use.

We are grateful for our new van! You can see it, with the Kiwanis and Food Basket logos, in the church parking lot.

Donations by Kiwanis Club of Islington Humber and RBC Dominion Securities (Bloor/Islington branch) and 2 individual donors mean that this new van came to us fully funded. This van is safer and more comfortable to drive and has more storage space than the previous one.

Our volunteers are the only reason the Food Basket can successfully help such a large number of people. We work hard to maintain an environment that, despite the many challenges, volunteers find rewarding, inspiring, supportive and personally uplifting. We see this because most volunteers maintain a long-term commitment of several years. They form solid networks within the areas they volunteer. "George" is one example: he used to be a food recipient and volunteer. Now he has a job that keeps him very busy; he volunteers when he has time off, and always wants to catch up with people, especially retired volunteers. He also donates money for gift cards. We are very grateful for all our volunteers.

**Submitted by Marie Truelove,
Chair**



BOOK EARLY!

Girls' Camp Ages 9-16

Session I July 7 - 13 - full

Session II July 14-20 - full

Session III July 21 - 27 - limited space available

Session IV July 28 - Aug 3 - limited space available

CIT - Counsellor In Training

To qualify you must be born in 2003 (16 years old). Only a few spots left! the final date to apply for this course is February 14th.

Contact Fran Sugawara
1-705-684-9813 for more information.

Family Camping starts August 10 for three weeks.

Go to rydelakecamp.com for more information.

Submitted by Marg Arscott

As of year end, December 2018, \$38,579.38 has been received for Mission and Service from our congregation. That is OVER of our 2018 pledged amount of \$38,000. THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

The United Church's new funding structure:

The following is in the January 2019 issue of The Observer from an article titled "A time of change" pp 38 and 39.

"The church has entirely changed the way it handles money. In the old model, individual pastoral charges paid assessments, kind of like taxes, to their Conference or Presbytery. The governance and administration work done by General council, as well as grants to Conferences, came from voluntary donations to Mission & Service – made by only about half of pastoral charges. It was complicated.

Now, communities of faith send tax-like money directly to General Council, which uses it to pay its governance costs and distributes the rest equally among the Regions to pay for their own. **One hundred percent of money donated to Mission &**

Service now goes exclusively to mission work – meaning that on the whole, the church should be able to spend more on mission and ministry.”

Our gifts for Mission & Service enable ministries that embrace the dignity of all humanity and creation. To see with a compassionate gaze and offer compassionate service and advocacy – that is at the heart of our Mission & Service. On behalf of those who are unable to thank you personally, please accept our deepest gratitude.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join us in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith.

Marty Linton - Chair M&S Committee

A L Z H E I M E R WORKSHOP UPDATES

We are continuing with the education program to be held once a month in the lounge. Subjects include brain health; understanding behaviour and communication; building caregiver residence; caregiver stress; unpacking dementia; family dynamics and finding joy and humour in caregiving.

Minds in Motion for Caregivers and Person with Dementia continues into March which includes joint activities, yoga and group word game, chair exercises, table games, non-impact aerobics, singing sessions, and more.

Other programs are being planned for the remainder of the year. Updates will be provided as they become available.

Please contact Luba Romano at 416-622-8089 or Barry Holt at 416-247-0215 for more information.

Submitted By Barry Holt

Come Everything is Ready! Venez Tout est prêt!

Ecumenical Service Worship service information/Renseignements sur la célébration œcuménique

Saturday, March 2nd, 2019

Day/la date

St Philip's Lutheran Church, 61 West Deane Park Drive, Etobicoke.

Location/l'endroit

at 11:00 a.m.

Time/l'heure

All Welcome! This Ecumenical Prayer Service, created by the

Additional Information/informations supplémentaires

Women of Slovenia, will be interwoven with a free lunch of Slovenian soup, salad and dessert. In order to share the feast with the wider community everyone who attends is invited to bring an item to be donated to the local food bank. Come and bring a friend!



 World Day of Prayer
Journée mondiale de la prière **2019**

Service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Slovenia, prepared and adapted for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada
Service rédigé par le Comité de la Journée mondiale de la prière de Slovénie, préparé et adapté pour le Canada par le Conseil œcuménique des chrétiennes du Canada



2019 World Day of Prayer
Sat. March 2nd at 11:00 a.m.
at St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A group of Slovenian Christian women are inviting the world to “Come to the table—everything is ready” (Luke 14:15-24) and asking, “Who is not at the table?” The occasion is World Day of Prayer and on the weekend of Friday March 1, 2019, these Slovenian women are asking people in 170 countries to unite in prayer and immediate action for women touched by injustice.

The World Day of Prayer grew from an ecumenical day of prayer organized by women in Canada and the United States in 1920. This event became the international World Day of Prayer in 1922.

For 97 years, women have bridged social, geographic and political barriers to justice through the World Day of Prayer. Each year, the experiences of women from the host country inform the prayers of Canadians. (The immediate application of those prayers has resulted in a half a million dollars in grants to justice projects over the last 10 years.)

The Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada, who co-ordinates the World

Day of Prayer in Canada, invites you, your friends and family to join us and 1,200 communities across Canada, for the World Day of Prayer 2019.

The World Day of Prayer Service will be hosted this year in St James' area by **St Philip's Lutheran Church, 61 West Deane Park Drive, Etobicoke.**

They are trying something different this year and **inviting us to lunch on Saturday March 2nd at 11:00 a.m.** The service and the lunch will be interwoven together as we learn about the country and people of Slovenia (once part of Yugoslavia now a thriving democracy), and the issues that women of Slovenia are concerned about. “Come, join us at the Table – everything is ready”!

Submitted by Linda Maw

NEW FACES @ ST. JAMES



Hello! My name is Sebastien. I am 11 years old and I started going to St. James in September of 2018.

I have many hobbies. One of the first hobbies I discovered was writing. When I was in third grade, I did a lot of writing for school. Soon, writing became my favourite subject.

In grade five, I started writing a magazine called Top Culture. It covered a wide variety of topics, including my sad attempt at making soap and the eating habits of US presidents. This year, however, I decided to take a break from my magazine and branch out into other forms of writing.

Recently, I have gotten into baking. It all started when I was

home with a nasty cold. My Mom and I were watching Great Canadian Baking Show and that inspired me to start baking. My family doesn't bake a lot, but every Christmas, we make biscotti and shortbread. Hopefully, this year I will get to bake even more.

Thank you for reading and I hope to have a great first year at St. James.

**Written by the future editor of
the Epistle (maybe??),
Sebastien Lee**



GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

Pancake Lunch!



Sunday, February 17th, right after church!

Come and enjoy a steaming stack of freshly-made pancakes, created by our famous pancake chef family – Liz, Peter, Carly and Holly Richards!

Blueberry, chocolate chip, plain, and even gluten-free varieties will be available. All served with 100% pure Canadian Maple Syrup! Yummmmy!

Free-will donations will be accepted to help cover the costs.

Family Fun Skate!

Join us on Sunday, February 10th after church for a free fun skate at the West Mall Rink (just south of Burnhamthorpe on the West Mall). We will skate from 1:00p.m. – 2:00 p.m, and hot chocolate will be provided for everyone at the end of our skating time together!



some church members enjoying skating at the West Mall rink last year

What is Happening in Sunday School?

For the first four weeks of 2019, we have been learning about the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. What a great time of year to talk about resisting temptation, as people are making New Year's resolutions! We know that God is always with us, even when we are tested or faced with difficult choices. God can help us to make the right choice, we can rely on this knowledge - just as Jesus did in the wilderness!

Here are some pictures showing our students engaged in our workshops during our last rotation:

Art Workshop: We used a crayon resist technique for painting, to show how we can *resist* temptation like Jesus did!



Cooking Workshop: Jesus was tempted to turn rocks into bread. We made some rock-shaped cinnamon biscuits – and then offered them to others in the congregation! Talk about temptation!



Games Workshop: JEOPARDY...students impressed us with their knowledge of the Bible story! Younger students tried their hand at Memory! Do you think they were *tempted* to win?



Movie Workshop: Many popular movies show characters dealing with temptation. We watched clips from movies such as *Finding Nemo*, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Toy Story 2* in this workshop. The scene from *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* may have even convinced some students to give up chocolate...!



Thank you to the teachers who volunteered for this rotation: Phyl Hampshire, Cristina Kiss, Todd Miller and James Ty

What's Up Next? We will be doing some special activities together in an open session on Family Day Weekend, and then we will begin our next rotation on The "Beatitudes"/ Sermon on the Mount.

(Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God...). In the computer workshop, the students will be working together to create colourful posters illustrating each "Beatitude" which will be displayed on the bulletin board. The posters will be printed on our new colour printer!

Spring Fling

On: Sat May 11, 2019

At: 10 AM to 1 PM

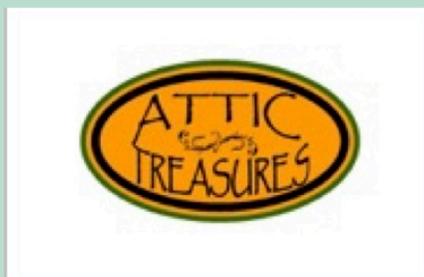
At: St James United Church
400 Burnhamthorpe RD

Lunchroom

come for lunch



Games & Puzzles



SPRING FLING SATURDAY MAY 11

**10 A.M. - 1 P.M. ITEMS
NEEDED**

What a wonderful time of year it is now - perfect weather for de-cluttering, downsizing, spring cleaning, and of course, putting aside those items you no longer need for this year's Spring Fling!

As well as your clean, gently used treasures, we are looking for jewelry and accessories.

There will be **no Children's Corner** this year, but we **are** accepting Games and Puzzles, CDs, DVDs, and Video games, (but please, no cassette tapes.) PLEASE check the correct item is in the case!

Please DO NOT bring hardcover books, and **blue-bin/recycle** your old brown-edged, torn, damp or otherwise unappealing paperbacks!

However, we would **love** to have **your gently used, relatively new, paperbacks.**

If you are thinning out your houseplants, or garden plants, please keep the plant sale in mind! (I need some new ones!) Vases for cut flowers are also needed,

We would also appreciate LOTS of **Baking.** Remember, many of your favourite recipes store well in the freezer. You can also include jams, marmalade, and pickles. Muffins will be needed for the Lunch Room.

The following people will need lots of help setting up on Friday, May 10, as well as during the sale on May 11, so don't be shy, introduce yourself to the team leader of your choice, and ask where and when you will be needed. Thank you.

Treasures - Thank you Lila Bowen, Joanne Atkins

Jewelry - Thank you Marilyn Myhre

Games and Puzzles, etc - Thank you Luba Romano

Books - Thank you Linda Maw

Baking - Thank you, Karen Munday

Lunch Room - Thank you Jennifer Gray, Jean Spencer

When I was a little girl, our church used to have 'Bring and Buy' sales, so get your family and friends involved, and let's all 'Bring, and Buy'!

Stay tuned for dates to bring your treasures to church!

Thank you all! Mhairi ('Varry') Godley

Join us for... GAMES NIGHTS!



Fun for Adults!
Fun for Youth!
Fun for Families!

TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
4th Friday of each month!

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

**Friday: February 22nd, March 22nd
Ma, April 26th, May 24th 2019**



MORE INFO? Family-friendly, all ages welcome - bring your favourite board game, or come without - there will be lots at the church. Apples to Apples, Sushi Go, Dominoes, Cranium, etc. Come and join in a group around a game that appeals to you! Friends are welcome! Still have questions?? Contact Karen at karen_forgrave@hotmail.com

Fun for EVERYONE!

Church Structure Property Upgrades

The Roof, Door and Floor Campaign funds were used to complete some much needed upgrades to the floor of Fellowship Hall and the roof of the church.

It took a lot of investigative work to figure out how the floor was to be replaced. Interviews to find the right contractor were extensive. This summer the badly deteriorated floor tiles were lifted and the old heating system pipes buried underneath were removed by wet saw cutting and then refilled with a new concrete base. Then a new floor surface was installed with a durable polymer floor covering. It was a very dusty dirty bit of repair work and many thanks to the crew of volunteers who helped clean up Fellowship Hall after the installation.

All of the flat sections of the church roof were replaced this year with the final section completed in time for Christmas. The peaked sections of the roof are in much better condition and did not need to be replaced. The flat sections had been leaking in several places due to the deterioration of the roof covering membrane in many places. This was a huge undertaking because the heating and air-conditioning system and duct work on the roof all had to be removed first by crane before the work on the roof could be started.

Some of the roof sections were over twenty-five years old and leaks had developed in the roof membrane that caused severe deterioration of the wood boards underneath which had to be cut out, removed and replaced. Once this was complete, we installed newly designed roof drains to better remove the rain water. Over the wood roof underlay, a vapour retarder was installed, followed by a tapered layer of heavy felt was applied to shape the roof so that rain water flows off the flat surface. The 4-ply hot asphalt, felt and gravel roof membrane was installed using a heavy duty hybrid roof with 2 layers of 15 lb felt and 2 layers of Type 4 fiber glass felt. A layer of pea gravel was then applied to the hot asphalt to protect the surface from the elements.

Once the new roof was installed the heating and air conditioning system had to be re-installed on the roof, some duct work was reused but new duct work had to be installed. The exterior duct work had to be covered with insulation and exterior weather guard in order to ensure energy efficiency.

In the areas where the flat roof was replaced, new fascia, heavy duty eavestroughs and downspouts were installed to move water away from the church foundation. The new roof was installed by Cherry Roofing and floors were installed by Goldwell Restoration. This restoration will give good service for at least the next

twenty years and represents two of the largest expenditures this year in terms of work that needed to be done.

**Submitted by Brian Isard,
Property & Finance Committee**



IS THE UNITED CHURCH TENT STILL WIDE?

I had an interesting upbringing, one filled with belief in miracles, the transforming power of the Gospel and speaking in tongues. My father was a Pentecostal minister in Saskatchewan, Alta., and B.C. Prairie winters couldn't chill the lively and long church services! Daily devotions were a natural practice for our family, and extended family gatherings always involved scripture reading and fervent kneel-down prayer sessions.

In 1958, I married Wayne Myhre, a Bible college graduate, and three years later, he was ordained as a Pentecostal minister. Then in 1966, Wayne met Rev. Don Elmslie, a United Church minister, at the Petrolia, Ont. minister's association. Don's liberal theology was miles apart from Wayne's, yet Don encouraged him to join the United Church, saying the church was strong enough to accept anyone, no matter their place on the theological spectrum. If you named Christ (Don's terms), that was sufficient to be a Christian and a United Church minister. Don's attitude was very surprising. There was plenty of room for differing theological opinions and personal lifestyle. We were drawn by his acceptance and felt God was leading us on a new path.

When Wayne entered the United Church ministry, we were immediately accepted and enfolded in love. No one

took issue with his sermons, although a good friend and treasurer at the church in Conn, Ont. said after one, "That was a good sermon, Wayne, but I didn't believe a word of it!"

Love and honesty, embedded in friendship and acceptance, overrode our belief systems.

Fifty years later, many changes have occurred in the United Church. In the wider church, we hear terms like progressive and post-liberal Christianity as well as traditional, evangelical and charismatic.

I still believe in the power of the gospel to transform lives — I have seen it many times throughout my 81 years. I agree that the Holy Spirit can be manifested in many ways. I believe in the literal resurrection of Christ. I stand with Paul in his statement, "If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty." I also believe in divine healing. Yet, at the same time, I accept others who do not share my beliefs.

Now I wonder if the United Church is still strong enough to accept everyone on the theological spectrum. In the past few years, I have both heard that evangelicals are not welcome and seen them cast in a less-than-brilliant light. I worry that our more traditional Christian beliefs about Jesus might be rejected.

Don Elmslie maintained that our denomination's tent was wide — yet if

it now has room for atheists, then my question is, can there still be room for evangelicals?

**Written by Marilyn Myhre;
Reprinted from the UC Observer**



photo by Julie West

Reiki Level I Training

FEBRUARY 22 – 24, 2019

**Friday 7:00 -10:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 am. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

Reiki is a natural, holistic and complementary healing method involving laying-on-of-hands. It is an easy, effective way to facilitate both our own and others healing. Reiki, a Japanese word, literally translates as *Universal (Rei) Life Energy (Ki)*. It was rediscovered by Dr. Mikao Usui in Japan in the 1800's. While Reiki is not associated with any religious philosophy, it is spiritual in nature. Reiki is a gentle, loving and spiritually nurturing approach that anyone can learn.

The Training will:

- * inspire an appreciation for Reiki
- * offer four attunements to awaken this healing energy within you
- * explain how Reiki works
- * provide opportunity for practice and support.

Instructor: **Coral Prebble** is a Reiki Master with 24 years experience. She trained under Denise and John Crundall of Australia, world renowned Reiki Masters. She initiated a spiritually-based, natural well-being ministry at St. James United Church where volunteers offer Reiki weekly by donation and where she serves as an ordained minister with The United Church of Canada.



Cost: \$150.00 (Charitable Tax Receipt issued for \$125)

Location & Registration:

St. James United Church

400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke, Ontario M9B 2A8

(2 blocks east of Hwy. 427)

(416) 622-4113

On-line registration and secure payment available

www.StJamesUnitedChurch.com



The Jane Finch community ministry, which operates in a low income, culturally diverse community, provides support through literacy programs, advocacy, a micro-lending program, and community support.

Barry Reider has been the community minister for 22 years. He has seen an increase in gun violence and the youth unemployment rate rise to 25%. He has watched children grow into young adults and encourages and offers alternatives to gun violence.

The community ministry invests in youth literacy programs, scholarships and advocacy with the Toronto police. Out of these programs has come the unity barbeque, founded by Andrea Tabnor. The barbeque brings gang members together - Andrea specifically mentions the Bloods and the Cripps - from the north and south along with the Toronto Police. This she says "is to start the healing process by non-violence".

Recently, the ministry had to move office from the Firgrove community housing building because the

foundation is crumbling and the building is slated for demolition. They are now located in Firgrove Public School.

Congregational support is critical to provide funding for ministerial aspects of the community ministry. Hope to youth and community members for a better way of life requires support of Mission and Service from the United Church of Canada for this Ministry to operate their programs.

The Jane Finch Community Ministry was the recipient for the Outreach donation on Sunday January 27 2019.

Thank you for your support.

Submitted by Lila Bowen



From A Child's Point-Of-View

"This is why I don' like churchbecause I have to to home afterwards!"

Kevin Corthay, 7 years old (who was having too much fun in Sunday School!)



*An idea from your Outreach
Committee*

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING
DIFFERENT TO DO ON
YOUR VACATION?

*TAKE A SUITCASE, CHANGE
A LIFE!*

Not Just Tourists receives donations from Canada's largest hospitals, clinics, medical suppliers and individuals. The supplies donated are typically gauze, bandages, surgical instruments, masks, gloves, antiseptics, IV kits, urinary supplies and birthing kits. Volunteers pack the supplies into suitcases during weekly "packing parties". Travellers sign up and are given the suitcases to deliver to remote clinics where they are needed. The project does not accept funding, is non-political, non-religious. Everything is accomplished through volunteers.

Not Just Tourists has a Toronto chapter at Roncesvalles United Church, 214 Wright Ave., Toronto. Tel: 416-459-2506 email info@njttoronto.com

You can gather a group and arrange to help pack suitcases at Roncesvalles UC. You can donate. You can carry a small package (5 kg), a large package (10 kg) or a full suitcase to one of 625 listed clinics around the world. Check out their website : www.njttoronto.com for a map of clinic locations, a history of Not Just Tourists and contact information.

Submitted By Marty Linton