

**Immanuel United Church
Newsletter
November, 2011**



***Journey into the Unknown:
Advent Worship at Immanuel 2011***



***Come with us on a journey into the unknown,
and explore the Advent experiences
of
MYSTERY, LONGING, PROMISE AND ANTICIPATION.
The journey begins with the Pre-Advent Potluck Dinner on Saturday,
November 26th, from 5 to 7.
Please sign up on the bulletin board inside the sanctuary.***

Advent Worship Schedule:

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| <i>Sunday, November 27 at 11:00 a.m.</i> | <u><i>Advent One Worship</i></u> <i>White Gift Sunday</i> <i>Sacrament of Communion</i> <i>Lighting of a Candle for</i> <i>The Mystery of the Advent Journey</i> |
| <i>Sunday, December 4 at 11:00 a.m.</i> | <u><i>Advent Two Worship</i></u> <i>Lighting of a Candle for</i> <i>The Longing We Know on the Advent Journey</i> |
| <u><i>Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 a.m.</i></u> | <u><i>Advent Three Worship</i></u> <i>Lighting of a Candle for</i> <i>The Promise that is Spoken on the Advent</i> <i>Journey</i> |
| <u><i>Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 a.m.</i></u> | <u><i>Advent Four Worship</i></u> <i>Lighting of a Candle for</i> <i>The Anticipation We Feel on the Advent</i> <i>Journey</i> |
| <u><i>Saturday, December 24</i></u> | <u><i>Christmas Eve Worship</i></u> <i>7:00 p.m. Worship Service for All Ages</i> <i> with special music offered by the Choir</i> <i>9:00 p.m. Quiet Christmas Communion Service</i> |

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO WORSHIP SERVICE
ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 25, 2011.
IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND A SERVICE, PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING WITH THE PEOPLE OF
TRANSCONA MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH (209 Yale Ave. W., Transcona) AT 10 A.M.
OR OF GREY ST. UNITED (651 Sandhurst Ave.) AT 10:30 A.M.
THERE WILL BE WORSHIP AT IMMANUEL ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 AT 11 A.M.

A Room with a View

The office continues to be busy and I always look forward to seeing and hearing from people.

As the holiday season approaches, I look forward to spending time with my family and friends. Wishing all of you a peaceful, joyous Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Sharon Vandenberg, Office Administrator



Cookbooks are available at a cost of \$10.00 each. Please see Cindy Smyth or call the office at

669-0220.

They make a great gift!



Giving Envelopes

The 2012 giving envelopes are ready for pick up!

A reminder to fill out the envelopes as to the distribution of the donation and identify where the other givings are to be designated.

White Gift News

White Gift Sunday – November 27

For your fridge

Immanuel Outreach involves the congregation each Christmas season in thinking of, and giving to people in need around Winnipeg. We call this event White Gift Sunday and this year it will be on November 27.

You are invited to participate by bringing gifts of:

Foods - high protein baby food, tinned fish, meat beans , dry goods, juices, whole grain cereals, cookies, coffee etc.

Gifts - unwrapped - for children up to early teens (especially boys) and layettes

Money - to be shared among the organizations we support-Please **mark your donations with your envelope number.**

Your gifts will be shared as follows:

Agape Table will receive a portion of the money raised to support the soup kitchen: serving a **hot meal** daily to hungry adults and children in central Winnipeg, providing the **kids breakfast** program, and **employment reentry**.

Winnipeg Harvest will receive a portion of money and food to assist in their distribution of food to those in need throughout our city.

Raymond Flett United Church (formerly The Native United Church) will use money and some food donations towards their Christmas feast.

L.I.T.E. uses the money you donate to support a collection of inner city small businesses that train and employ local people. This encourages employment and boosts local economy among our inner city neighbors.

North End (Stella) Community Ministry has a covenant relationship with us. Much of the food, money and all of the gifts will be most gratefully accepted for the families connected to this ministry.

Interfaith Immigration which, welcomes new Canadians/refugees, receives blankets money, winter wear etc.



***Please give as you are able
and bring your gifts Sunday November 27***

CHANGES AT STELLA

Renovations are taking place at the old building on Stella Avenue to accommodate new programs run by university students. North End Stella Community Ministry will be sharing space, personnel and some programming to better serve the neighbourhood. The lunch program will continue and so you are encouraged, as you are able, to support Stella Sundays.

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (C.P.R.)

Thanks to all who showed interest in taking a C.P.R. course. The Pastoral Care Committee has recruited a Certified Instructor to teach the course at Immanuel on Saturday, January 21st, 2012 from 9am to 4pm (at the latest).

The course will include:

- Certification
- Adult and child C.P.R. and choking
- Instruction on deliberators
- A take home manual

There is(are):

- No age limit for participation
- A maximum of 20 people per class
- A charge of \$63 per participant
- Two instructors

If this date works for you, please sign up on a new list in the Amen corner or leave your name at the church office. If you have any questions please call Muriel at 663-2504.

The Outreach Committee has designated the third Sunday of every month as “Stella Sunday”, and receive donations of food for Stella’s Sunday afternoon programming. Donations of high protein canned meats and beans, cheez whiz, jams, peanut butter, crackers, juice boxes, baby food, baby supplies and also cookies and buns would be greatly appreciated. The Outreach Committee will make sure these items get to Northend Stella.



WRITE FOR RIGHTS: *"My heart overflows when I see what Amnesty members have been doing for us."* Jampel Monlam was imprisoned for translating the Declaration of Human Rights into Tibetan. *"I wanted a laptop for Christmas, but I got my father back, the biggest Christmas present ever."* - Femi Peters, Jr., son of Femi Peters who was released in Dec. 2010. **Will you join us for an inspiring time of letter-writing immediately after the church service on Sunday, December 11th, the day after International Human Rights Day?** We would be joining with tens of thousands of other Canadians who join Amnesty International supporters in more than 50 countries around the world. Last year, letter writers wrote more than half a million letters urging that human rights of individuals be respected, protected and fulfilled, and showing solidarity with people wrongfully detained. Our letter-writing last year led to a successful outcome in more than half the cases featured! This year is Amnesty International's 50th anniversary, so we expect that this will lead to the most successful Write for Rights ever! Immanuel United Church is signed up again this year, so **please join us to write a letter on Human Rights Day - it's a simple act that can save a life!**

All 2011 donations must be received by December 31st. We are unable to backdate any givings received in January.

Tax receipts will be run and mailed in January. Please check for accuracy and advise Arlene Gendre or Sharen Jost of any discrepancies.

Thank You!

To all who supported the "Just Christmas" project. To Sharon V, to all the cookie bakers, to all who attended the event and all of you who supported me, your representative on the inter-church planning committee.

It was great to have the opportunity to give individuals and groups who financially support such worthy causes a venue to sell their merchandise and to give shoppers an opportunity to shop mindfully this Christmas season. It was also great to work with other United Churches in the area. We partnered with Gordon-Kind, John Black and Transcona.

Muriel Kenyon



OPEN HEARTS

With open hearts, open minds
there is welcome in this place
there is welcome in this space
there is welcome with embrace
with open hearts

(Mary-Ellen Kish)

I recently attended a workshop for Affirming Ministries led by Alyson Huntly. There were close to 40 participants from about 20 pastoral charges and ministries from the MNWO Conference that were interested in exploring and/or becoming “Affirming”. I was proud to say that Immanuel has been on that journey and is now one of the three Affirming Ministries in Winnipeg. Alyson has developed a resource booklet for Affirming Ministries in the United Church of Canada. I have a copy (which I would be glad to share). Copies are available on-line as well.

As we worked through the sessions we discussed what the expectations were for Affirming Ministries. Although they are not dramatically different from other United Church ministries, there are some differences. Explicit and proactive statements of welcome, inclusion and justice seeking for people whose sexual orientations and gender identities have been historically marginalized and excluded are apparent. Beyond signs, there are also expectations that Affirming Ministries actively welcome members of the LGBT community; share in celebrations; work towards inclusion; continuously seek out and participate in learning and growth opportunities; participate in outreach and are available to other community members seeking to become Affirming. From my perspective, becoming Affirming is not a destination – it is a journey. The destination is the journey.

So, how are we doing?

Respectfully submitted
Richard Sawchuk

An Entirely True Story

On the Thanksgiving weekend we had a family reunion at the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre near Beausejour. I missed Church at Immanuel that Sunday, but we had a service of our own, led by (the Rev) Joan McMurtry; my niece. There were 46 of us at the reunion, 34 adults and 12 children. Lots of fun.

Part of the fun was hearing stories told. A lot of them were told by the older ones, and I'm not sure they were all true. I have a brother who always thinks even a true story can be "improved" by being embellished.

I want to tell you a story which didn't get told at the reunion, but I remembered it today (October 24th) because it is my mother's birthday. Also, it is true, no embellishment. My mother, Ethel Jane (Douglas) McMurtry, had an opal birth ring, which she gave to Gwen after our engagement, because Gwen's birthday was in October, too. Not long after Gwen received it, the opal went missing, and lots of looking didn't find it. When I was in Calcutta, before I flew into China to be with the Friends Ambulance Unit, I did some sightseeing. My colleague, Terry Dorland, and I went to an open market one day where mounds of semi-precious jewels were for sale. I looked over the opals, and saw one I thought would be the right size for Gwen's ring. I bought it for 3 rupees, the equivalent of about one dollar Canadian. I sent it to Gwen by ordinary mail, and when the jeweller saw it he said it fit perfectly. As Gwen had my mother's birth ring as long as she could wear it. I still have it in my safety deposit box.

Doug McMurtry



HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Refugee Ministry Inc

1039 Main St

Winnipeg, MB
Canada R2W 3R2

October 24, 2011

The Minister and Board
Immanuel United Church
755 Golspie Street
Winnipeg, MB
R2K 2V4

Dear Friends:

What a pleasant surprise last week to open the envelope that arrived in the post and find your cheque for \$2,000 for the work of Hospitality House. We have been grateful recipients of your generosity in times past, but this gift could not have come at a more opportune moment!

Hospitality House is facing a severe financial crisis that could extend for the next two years. It arises from two factors that are unexpectedly converging at the same time.

The first is the unprecedented number of full-sponsorship refugee arrivals we have been getting since summer began. These are refugees with no family here and who must rely entirely on our support. We usually house them in our residence at 60 Mortimer Place, a place with an optimal capacity of about seven. There are fourteen there now, and our house mother has had to give up both her bedroom and her office. This week, with more arriving we have had to rent another house in the West End. These are hungry young people who come from a background of deprivation; our food and household supplies bill is pushing \$850 a week!

The large number of these refugee arrivals may look like poor planning on our part, but arose because we anticipated the kind of regular in-flow of people we had become accustomed to see over many past years, mainly from Canada's Nairobi office. We have an inventory of cases there, staggered in terms of their submissions to Canada Immigration, with the expectation that they would arrive in a steady and manageable stream. No longer is this happening. The Nairobi office is on a drive to clear up its case backlog and push as many refugees to Canada as quickly as possible. This is of course a commendable initiative but it has caught us somewhat flatfooted, and until our own Nairobi backlog gets cleared up and the refugees get here and beyond needing us – and we cannot predict the dates of arrival – we are in financial trouble as we seek funds for their support.

The second factor you may soon be reading about in the press. The Canadian government has decided to limit, for two years at least, the number of new sponsorships that the sponsors of Canada can file. They are, commendably, bringing in more privately sponsored refugees than we have seen for many years – in fact double the number allowed by previous governments – but they want we sponsors to pause in our new submissions while they catch up on the huge backlog of cases waiting for processing overseas. This is a reasonable request and one we support, but it has serious ramifications in our day-to-day operations.

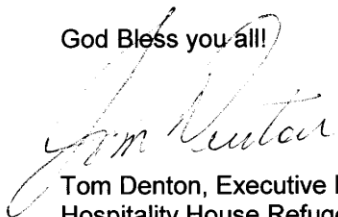
As you are possibly aware, Hospitality House mainly sponsors what we call “family-linked” refugees – refugees with family already here who will support them once they arrive. We are currently the largest sponsor of family-linked cases in Canada. The Canadian government allows us to charge an administrative fee for each of these cases to cover the costs of their processing. Because of the generosity of churches and donors who support our work, and because we are mainly volunteer-staffed, our admin costs are covered by these donations. So the revenue generated by our large volume of family-linked cases we have been able to use to full-sponsor more refugees who have no family here. Now all of a sudden and without warning this revenue stream will stop, but our full-sponsored refugees will continue to arrive and look solely to us for support. You can see our predicament. We are losing about two thirds of our annual budget just at a time when our resettlement expenses for full-sponsored refugees are peaking. It looks like an impending crisis.

Thus in these worrisome times, to open your letter and find the cheque was truly like a sign from God that there will be a way through all this. Just as much as our need for funds was helped by your gift, so also was our morale. We thank you for both the gift and the moral support. It gave us a lift!

We would be remiss if we did not also mention the great support we are receiving from your member Robert Smith, who helps us so much with rounding up donations of furniture and other things. We would not want to try to get along without him, and we deeply appreciate his long-time support of Hospitality House.

Thank you again for your support.

God Bless you all!



Tom Denton, Executive Director, Administration & Sponsorship
Hospitality House Refugee Ministry

Staff

Nancy Sanders, Minister

Sharon Vandenberg, Office Administrator

Jim Goldrup, Caretaker

Eileen Metcalfe, Choir Director

Peter Fyne, Organist

J. Douglas McMurtry, Minister Emeritus

William Hickerson, Minister Emeritus

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