

THE MESSENGER

Celebrating God

Being in Community

Reaching Out to Others

FEBRUARY 2012

Forest Hill United Church, 121 Westmount Rd. E., Kitchener, ON N2M 4Y6

Tel: 519-744-3481 Fax: 519-744-7674

Email: foresthilluc@bellnet.ca Website: foresthillunited.org

Ministers: Rev. Marian Gils-McLeod and Rev. Murray McLeod

Director of Music: Peter de Sousa

Office Administrator: Connie Bieth

A little to the people of God at Forest Hill

About a year ago, I wrote a note to the choir at Forest Hill. I told them that I was amazed at their response at the previous evening's choir rehearsal when I walked into the sanctuary with our friend Dut and announced that he had a new Toyota identification badge. The spontaneous eruption into a gathering of applause and congratulations certainly had to make Dut feel that he was part of a caring community. Of course those of you who talk to Dut know that the smile on his face tells us how thankful he is that God has led him to Forest Hill United Church. And if you don't know the story of how Dut came to be among us you should ask him one day.... It is most certainly a story of faithfulness and prayer, talking to, listening for, and being led by God. God bless each one of you for the welcoming love and support with which you have surrounded Dut and become community with him each week. And thank you for your ongoing prayerful support for Dut as his immigration hearing approaches. That is scheduled for February 17 in Toronto. Maybe you can stop by the church that day and say a little prayer that all goes well. The sanctuary will be open to receive you.

Becoming a loving, welcoming, supportive community to each other is something the church does have to work at every now and again. Maybe now, we at Forest Hill, are in one of the "again" times. As we get into the mid-winter blues, and approach our annual congregational meeting, we do need to pray for God's Spirit to come and bring us revival of purpose, faith and community. We are introducing a new worship song "Spirit Come," this Sunday. It is a powerful, prayerful song seeking the revival that God's Holy Spirit brings. I hope that together over the next weeks we can "pray" it with the intensity and enthusiasm of a faith that believes that God's Spirit among us will come with a power to heal any discontent and revive our congregation to be about the work God intends for us. Also this week in worship we observe the Christian church's tradition of Candlemas – the blessing of candles to be taken home and used as a reminder of Christ, the Light of the world in these dark days.

May our prayer together, the song, and the candles brighten your spirits and your faith over the coming weeks.

Be blessed!

Murray

Wanted: Communion Coordinator

The Worship and Music committee is looking for a person (couple) who might be interested in looking after the preparation and organizing of the communion services. If able to take on this service, please contact Brian Carter (chair, Worship and Music committee) at bpcarter@golden.net

A Word of Thanks...

Marian and Murray share a word of thanks to all the Forest Hill folk, for their thoughts, prayers, cards and gifts over the Christmas Season and during Marian's leave.

We do appreciate your patience and the love and support you offer.

Marian and Murray

CANADIAN FOOD **FOR CHILDREN**

Forest Hill United Church is one of many churches from Waterloo Region, who volunteer at the Herb Wittich Depot (843 Guelph St.) and participate in the collection of donated items which are then shipped to Third World Countries. An extensive list of items can be found in the community cupboard in the Narthex, and all contributions can be left in the container marked "Canadian Food for Children". Keep in mind that 4 litre milk bags are no longer accepted, however other plastic bags are most appreciated. As you prepare to do your spring cleaning, consider donating items such as cutlery, dishes, craft materials, bedding, clothing for all ages and climates, shoes, school and hospital supplies.

Anyone who may be looking for a rewarding opportunity, is invited to offer their services, for a couple of hours, along with a small dedicated group from our congregation on the following dates in 2012: Thursdays, April 12, August 2nd and October 18th.

If you are curious and would like more information on CFFC, please contact Marilyn Mylchreest at 519-743-8935.

February Family Day!



"Bring on the Sunshine!"

The African community, its food, culture and sunshine, returns to Forest Hill United

with a **day-long** celebration on **Monday, February 20**. Last year, over 750 people attended and took in the workshops, musical presentations, foods, traditional coffee ceremony, crafts and marketplace. It is sure to be another sunny day!

Forest Hill volunteers are needed to help during the day with parking, welcoming, site-management (traffic directing in the building). Sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board, if you can give an hour or two to the task on the 20th, or help with set up on the 19th. Thanks!

February a Time for Fun and Fellowship

A Celebration of Forest Hill's New Members: A Potluck

Come one, come all and help us honour and greet the 15 folk who joined our church in this past year! Come and enjoy an evening of food, games and fellowship on Friday, February 3 at 5:30 p.m. for 6 p.m. dinner. New members just bring themselves, but for the rest of you we would be delighted if you would bring a main course, salad, or dessert.

Annual General Meeting and Chili Lunch

The church will be holding its Annual General Meeting on **Sunday, February 26 following the 10 a.m. church service.** This will be followed by a Chili Lunch, courtesy of the various Church Committees. Come, taste them all—meat and vegetarian—and decide the winner!

Celebration of Baptism and Reception of New Members, Members by Trans- fer and Profession of Faith

Sunday, February 12 will be the next occasion for the celebration of baptism and reception of new members to Forest Hill. If you would like more information, please call the Church Office, Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon or speak to Rev. Murray.

Michael Gabriel: Strings Attached *For Valentine's Day*

Michael Gabriel returns to Forest Hill again Tuesday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m., joined this time by "Shades of Blue", a choir from Bluevale Collegiate. Circle the date and plan to attend this special Valentine's Day Concert. Tickets, advance, are \$19 and \$15 (student) obtainable at the Church Office; \$25 at the door.

Lunch Bunch Talk a Joyful Interlude

Some 26 people gathered Thursday, January 26, for what is always a popular noon get-together at Forest Hill, the Lunch Bunch. To add to the delight of the day was a talk by Ken Carter about a book that he and Dorothy Ann received for Christmas, *Winterberries and Apple Blossoms, Reflections and Flavours of a Mennonite Year*, by Nan Forler, with beautiful illustrations by Peter Etril Snyder.

The author has taken the illustrations, one by one, and built a story around each, bringing the scene, the

scents and sounds of the Mennonite people and their daily activities to life.

Through Ken's skillful reading we could almost taste the warm dough being baked in the kitchen, the scent of boiling maple syrup wafting on the crisp air—the promise of spring.

For those of you who weren't there, you missed a

treat, but there is always another opportunity to enjoy the joys of the Lunch Bunch. The next one is **Thursday, February 23.** Phone to reserve by February 17.



**Once Again, Help is Needed
for
The Women and Children of
Anselma House
Mary's Place (YWCA)
and St. Monica's House**

The following items are needed: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, razors, new hair combs and brushes, Q-tips, cotton balls, new make-up, nail products, body lotion, face cloths, hand towels, and socks, slippers, T-shirts and underwear for women and children. For a list of baby items and other necessities for St. Monica's House, please check the bulletin board.

Contributions left at the church will be sorted and delivered at the end of February. Look for the boxes to receive these donations in the church foyer.

**The Messenger's On Line!
Check It Out!**

The Communications Committee, ever zealous to improve the way that information gets out there to all members of the church community and beyond, has been particularly interested in improving the church website at foresthilled.org. Thanks to the talents of one of its committee members, Richard Bilson, the website is going through reassessment and a facelift. The online version of *The Messenger* is also going through a change to make it more eye friendly. If you haven't checked it out before, give it a look and tell us what you think!

**A Christmas Celebration, Christmas music on CD: An Update
from Lawrence Cresswell**

A new CD insert is now available to replace the present one, for those people who purchased my CD, "A Christmas Celebration," this past holiday season. The new front cover features a few changes including the artist's name. The insert is available at no cost, of course. However, you are asked to email me at lawcress@gmail.com to give me your name and how many CDs you purchased.

I can then put the number of inserts required into your mailbox. When you get the insert, simply pull out the old one, discard it and insert the new one.



Editor, Anyone?

After six years and some 50 publications of *The Messenger*, yours truly will be finishing her duties as editor with this June's issue. It would be nice if someone were in place in the next while, as it would give him or her a few months to "shadow" in the job and then have the summer break to prepare for the first fall *Messenger* in September.

I have to say, on a personal level, taking on *The Messenger* was one of the smarter decisions I have made. As a new member to the church in 2005, it helped me to get to know, in short order, Forest Hill, its life and people, and make so many wonderful friends. Certainly, it has required a commitment of

time each month, but, believe me, it has been well worth every moment. So? Any takers?

If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Cresswell, chair, Communications Committee, 519-748-5288 or email lizzcress@sympatico.ca



Martha Leibbrandt

A Roof above Our Heads

Well, thanks to the attention of some members of the Property Committee and the Solar Panel Committee, the leaks on the flat roof of the church have been sealed for now and everything is ship-shape and repaired. Thank goodness! But the bill for all this came to \$1,200.

Now, as per the minute message in church some weeks ago we learned that the Men's Breakfast Group have donated \$1,000 to the project, reducing their financial resources considerably in order to do so. Hats off to them and their generosity! Look up, everyone, and give thanks for a dry roof over our heads!



A Change in Policy

As part of its examination of communication effectiveness and economy, the Communications Committee has been reviewing the manner in which *The Messenger* is being delivered to members unable to attend church on a regular basis. Most of these have been receiving their monthly copies through the diligence and care of a team of deliverers who pick up the copies from their boxes each month and deliver them by hand. However, the Communications Committee has found that there are presently about 23 copies that are being mailed out each month. In an effort to reduce the costs of postage, the Communications Committee has regretfully decided that this practice can't continue and, other than in exceptional circumstances, will in future have to apply a fee of \$6.00 per year for anyone wishing this service. If anyone would like more information about these or other matters, please contact Elizabeth Cresswell, Chair, Communications at lizzcress@sympatico.ca or 519-998-0689.

UPDATE FROM THE CHURCH BOARD

January 18, 2012

*A letter from the executors of Barbara McLeod's estate informed us that Ms. McLeod, a former member of our church, had given \$40,000 to Forest Hill. The Board decided to pay our 2011 Presbytery assessment of \$12,504, and to put the rest in our Capital Fund. The Special Gifts and Memorials Committee will determine how we recognize this generous gift.

*The Annual Meeting will be on February 26. The meeting will be held after the service and a chili lunch will be available after the meeting. There will be a good-will offering.

*A potluck to celebrate our new members will be held on February 3. All are invited.

*We are hosting the Presbytery meeting on April 24. Volunteers will be needed.

*According to our agreement with Waterloo Presbytery, we are committed to having one and a half ministry personnel. The Board accepted the following recommendations from the Ministry and Personnel Committee to fill the interim vacancy during Rev. Marian's leave on a month-to-month basis:

1. Rev. Murray will return to full time hours and will pick up some of the outreach, some of the Christian Education support and "walk-in" pastoral care.
2. Katharine Edmonstone will be con-

tracted to do 8-10 hours a week or 32-40 hours a month of pastoral care including hospital and shut-in visiting.

3. We are also seeking an ordered minister to be contracted to work 8-10 hours per week in Christian Development with the focus on children and youth programming.

*The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers for the Church Board.

*The Men's Breakfast is planning breakfast for mothers on Mothers' Day.

***The next Church Board meeting is on February 15 at 7:00 p.m.**

***The annual meeting is on February 26.**

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 * **Pastoral Care Committee** *
 * If you have any cares, concerns, *
 * joys or celebrations, please contact *
 * Glenna Murray, Chair of the Pas- *
 * toral Care Committee at 519-744- *
 * 1405 or murrays@golden.net *
 * If you know of anyone that needs a *
 * visit from our lay visitors or requires *
 * a prayer shawl, please contact *
 * Connie in the office. *
 * **Next meeting will be held** *
 * **Wednesday, February 1st 2012, at** *
 * **7 p.m.** *
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FEBRUARY 2012 AT A GLANCE

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays: 5, 12, 19, 26
Morning Services: 10 a.m. only.

Mondays: 6, 13, 20, 27
Maycourt: 1 p.m.
Girl Guides: 6 p.m.
CGIT: 6:30 p.m.
Cubs: 7 p.m.

Tuesdays: 7, 14, 21, 28
Quilters: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Beavers: 6:30 p.m.
Venturers: 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 8, 15, 22, 29
Mmuffin Mmoments: 10-11 a.m.
Girl Guides: 6:30 p.m.
Scouts: 7 p.m.

Thursdays: 9, 16, 23
Explorers: 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Choir: 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 1
Worship and Music: 7 p.m.
Pastoral Care: 7 p.m.
Communications: 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 2 & 16
Prayer Shawls: 10 a.m.

Sunday: 5
Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m.

Tuesday: 7
Congregational Life: 7 p.m.

Tuesday: 14
UCW: 1:30 p.m., McIntyre Hall. Note change of time and place!

Wednesday: 15
FHUC Board Meeting: 7 p.m.

Thursday: 23
Lunch Bunch: 12 noon. Reserve by Friday, February 17.

MONTHLY EVENTS

SPECIALS

Friday: 3
New Members' Potluck, an evening for the congregation to meet and greet the 15 new members, 5:30 p.m. for 6 p.m.. Bring potluck, join in the games!

Sunday: 12
Celebration of Baptism and Reception of New Members, 10 a.m.

Tuesday: 14
Michael Gabriel: Return Engagement, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: (Advance from Church Office) \$19 and \$15 (student); \$25 at the door.

Friday: 17
Remembering Dut in our prayers.

Monday: 20
"Bring on the Sunshine", a celebration of African culture, on Family Day, all day, at Forest Hill United Church.

Sunday: 26
Forest Hill United Church Annual General Meeting, following the 10 a.m. church service, followed by a Chili Lunch.

Circle these Dates:

Saturday, April 21:
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?!

Sunday, May 13:
Mother's Day Breakfast, 8 a.m.
hosted by the Men's Breakfast Group, for the ladies of the church.

Messenger Distribution

For the time being, *The Messenger* will continue to be given out to members of the congregation with the church bulletin on the last Sunday of the month. For those not attending church that day, and not receiving the newsletter via one of the deliverers, there are always extra copies for pick up anytime on the table in the foyer.

Wannabee Techies Needed!



Volunteers are needed to operate the sound-board during church services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Usually this involves a

commitment of one, or at most two, Sundays a month, and could be less. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact Ted Jacobs at ted-jacobs6@yahoo.ca or call 519-696-2363.

A Thank You...

Ruth Falconer wishes to thank everyone who supported the 2011 UCW Christmas Stocking Project which was very successful.

On a Personal Note:

People are very patient with me. I have a propensity to pass on the utterances of what I, of course, consider a precocious four-year-old grandson. I couldn't resist passing on here one of the latest.

Since his surgeon father had to stay late at the

hospital one evening and wasn't able get home in time to bid Marcus "Good night", they made do by saying it over the phone. "Daddy," said Marcus finally, "the cup of love in my heart is never empty for you."

I thought that was rather wonderful.

Martha Leibbrandt

If you wish to contact **Rev. Marian** or **Rev. Murray** by email, their Forest Hill email addresses are as follows:

Marian Gils-McLeod: .
mariangmcl@bellnet.ca

Murray McLeod:
murraymcl@bellnet.ca

PLEASE NOTE:

Deadline for the March Messenger will be Sunday, February 19 in order to have it in the boxes for pick up on Sunday, February 26. Please leave items in the envelope outside the church office or email Martha Leibbrandt:

mcleibbrandt@rogers.com, or phone 519-568-7375.