

## THE MESSENGER

Celebrating God

Being in Community

Reaching Out to Others

JANUARY 2012

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

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### **A New Baby...now what?**

Christmas has brought us the gift of a new baby in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Well, a new baby is fine and good, but what are we to do with it? We might take some direction from some of the familiar carols we've been hearing in the malls and singing in church lately.

First, **"O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord"**. Gather with the church family for adoration of God in Christ. We call that "worship", and it continues to happen at Forest Hill each Sunday morning at 10 a.m. It really is not enough just to adore him in the manger on Christmas Eve. Fellowships of faithful people, Christians among them, through many centuries have recognized the inherent value in being "in fellowship" with one another. When we gather as community to pray and praise, to study and serve, all of it is made stronger as we support and encourage each other. Of course when we as Christians give ourselves over to God and confess "Christ the Lord", God's will and God's way in our lives are much more likely to be realized.

We do have to be careful, though. Sometimes the church gets its signals crossed. It seems we come to believe that **"sleep in heavenly peace"** is an instruc-

tion for us. Of course those are words of a Christmas lullaby and while we do want the newborn Christ to rest up for the life ahead of him, we can't be sleepy headed followers. Lots of times the church does find itself content to rest or sleep in the heavenly peace found within its walls. We have to be careful not to forget that we are called to be the hands and feet, the eyes and ears, the mind and heart of Christ in, for and to, our world today. **"Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere"** is the direction we need to heed. That is a call to reach outside the walls of the church to share the message of God's loving and to serve to meet the needs of God's people everywhere.

So as we head into 2012, let the new baby make a difference in your life. Let's all pick ourselves up, brush off the tinsel and glitter, re-examine our commitments to God and the church and step up to take an active role in the life, work and worship and fellowship of Forest Hill. Together we can build a church that brings "heavenly peace" to our community.

May your Faith be strong in this New Year!

Blessings!  
**m&m**

**UCW**  
**Tuesday, January 10, 2012**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**McIntyre Hall**

**(Note change of time and location)**

Come, gather to celebrate the New Year!  
Join in fellowship, worship, afternoon tea  
and an interesting program. Everyone is  
welcome to attend.

**A Thank You from the Food Bank  
of Waterloo Region**

Gwennanne Jorgenson, Donor Relations Manager and Wendi Campbell, Executive Director of Waterloo's Food Bank wish to thank all members of the congregation who have generously supported the Bank in recent weeks. They say, "It is our hope that you will experience joy in knowing your gifts have provided meals for many."

**Ada's Farewell**

A sincere "thank you" to a wonderful, caring congregation. I was truly surprised and speechless (well, not quite) in your loving "good-bye". Many thanks to my United Church Women friends, who once again organized in their great, capable way.

To the dedicated knitters in the Prayer Shawl Group, your kindness is so meaningful through your active fingers. I will always be surrounded with loving and caring memories of Forest Hill United Church.

Many thanks to everyone. May God bless and keep you in his care always,

With love,

**Ada Gropp**  
(in Kingston)

**Happy New Year!**  
**Blessings!**  
**Good Health!**  
**Peace on Earth!**

**An Update on Dut**

We haven't seen as much of Dut Anyuan around Forest Hill lately as we used to. He gets to worship whenever he can, but he has been attending school and working two jobs that require shifts most Sundays. It was August 2010 when Dut was led to Forest Hill. He had arrived in Canada and made his application for refugee status just a week earlier. At that time Refugee Hearings normally happened within four or five months of application. Just three days before Christmas, 2011 the immigration lawyer received word that the hearing has finally been scheduled. It will happen in Toronto in the afternoon of

Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The long delay in the scheduling of this hearing is neither good nor bad for Dut's case, which the immigration lawyer believes is "winnable".

Dut is a strong believer in the power and presence of God and in the power of prayer, and so we ask all the Forest Hill United Church family to keep Dut, his lawyer, and the Refugee Hearing Panel in your prayers for a just resolution that will see Dut reunited with his wife and children here in Canada soon.

**Watch for further word of a prayer vigil at Forest Hill through the morning and afternoon of February 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Something to Consider...  
(from Rev. Murray)**

Rev. Murray recently misquoted FHUC's Mission Statement. Instead of "Celebrating God...Reaching Out to Others...**Being in** Community," he said "**Building** Community" Now, he wonders if the misquote might not be a better version.

He suggests that "Being in" sounds "exclusive", and implies there's an "in" and an "out", and we're "in"; the rest are "out".

"Building community" may be more appropriate to what goes on here at FHUC. "We are open and welcoming, wishing to be growing and striving to be inclusive," he says. "We are reaching out to others and we *do* invite them *in* to the community we *are* building.."

"What do *you* think?" he asks.

**Reception of New Members**

There will be a Reception of New Members and Members by Transfer and Profession of Faith on **Sunday, February 12**. If you are interested in becoming a member of Forest Hill, please contact the church office.

If you are a new member, or perhaps thinking of becoming one, the Congregational Life Committee is hosting a New Members' Potluck on **Friday, February 3**, starting at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. This annual event is great fun. Lots of games and good times. **Everyone** is warmly invited to attend...and, except for new members, bring along a potluck dish to share.

**Forest Hill UC JNAC update**

*Below is a communiqué from Chris Pieters. He and the following are members of Forest Hill's JNAC Committee:*

*Murray Gordanier, Judi Knetsch, John McMullen, Chris Robinson and Kate Seely.*



The JNAC (Joint Needs Assessment) has not met as of this time. We have been assigned primary and backup Presbytery contacts, and we expect Presbytery to call the initial meeting (as they must) early in the new year. Until that time, we cannot "pick a leader" nor set any timelines. We (the 8 JNAC members) have documentation (pre-reading) to teach us about and guide us through the process. From that, rough guidelines emerge showing that JNACs vary in length of time, but can take up to 24 months.

There were some JNAC-related workshops in mid-November, which some of our JNAC members were able to attend.

We will be engaging the congregation during the JNAC process.

**Chris Pieters**

**Update from "The Solar Panel":  
"To Roof...or ~~No~~ to Roof?"**

Our church building needs roofing maintenance. The pitched roof above the sanctuary must be replaced within 3-5 years and the flat roof over the addition within two years (several existing leaks are being repaired immediately).

What kind of roof should we consider? Should we add insulation to the sanctuary roof as recommended when we replace it? In light of recent provincial incentives to micro-generate electricity, should we add solar panels when we replace the sanctuary roof? When should we make these replacements? How much will each option cost? How will we pay for the work?

The Church Board has convened an

ad hoc committee, The Solar Panel, comprising Ken Carter, Scott Davis, Martha Leibbrandt, Rev. Murray McLeod, Bryan Perkins and Rob Steele (Chair), to investigate and report on the options available to our congregation.



Your written and signed comments or suggestions regarding this investigation are welcome. Kindly drop them by the church office, and we'll arrange for Connie to forward them to us.

**They're Ba-aaack!**

The driveway at Forest Hill United Church is once more lined with Greentec cages for e-waste recycling. Last June and July we gathered and saved almost 8,000 pounds of electronic wastes from finding its way to local landfills. That's almost four tons! We not only helped care for creation we also received nearly \$500.00 into our General Fund from Greentec Recycling Solutions in payment for the e-waste they took away.

Please pass the word along to family, friends and neighbours that the collection bins will be in place at

Forest Hill until the first week of February. All sorts of unwanted electronics can be dropped off, at any time of the day or night: amplifiers, televisions, computers, monitors, photocopiers, digital cameras, fax machines, cell phones, printers, projectors, radios and more.

At Forest Hill we continue to collect some of the smaller items, like cell phones, digital cameras, laptops, ink cartridges, i-pods in the cabinet in the foyer. We'll be paid a much higher premium for some of those items.

Thanks for caring for creation.

## WHAT A LOAD OFF AT FOREST HILL!

**The Great Forest Hill Ten Week Fall Fat-Off Weight Loss Cooperative Challenge** ended in early December!

Have you noticed how much more room there is in the pews these days with all the thinner folk among us?



Some 37 participated as “losers”, and many more provided financial sponsorship.

Final results are not in yet but it looks like over **400 pounds** were lost, and nearly **\$4,000.00** should come in for the General Fund from this fun fundraiser.

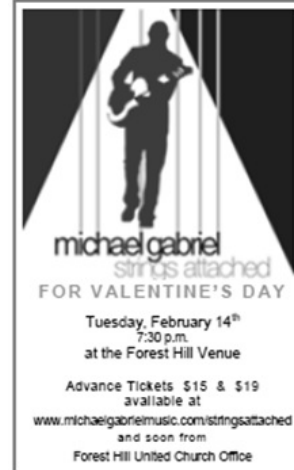


Well done, “Losers”!

## Michael Gabriel: A Return Engagement

People are talking, and Forest Hill United Church is quickly becoming known as, a local concert venue with stellar acoustics and intimate setting. Our work to have ourselves firmly established so that we may secure future concerts, continues. We are

happy to announce the return of **Michael Gabriel with a “Strings Attached” for a Valentine’s Day Concert.** Something a little extra has been added for this show: the ensemble will be joined by “Shades of Blue”, a choir from Bluevale Collegiate. Bring your valentine and get your advance tickets at \$15 (student) and \$19 from the church office, or \$25 at the door for the February 14, 7:30 p.m. Show at Forest Hill. (Reception afterwards.)



## From Chris Robinson:

Forest Hill's Scout Troop and Venturer Company participated in the CTV/105.3 KOOL-FM/ Zehrs/Grand River Transit "Stuff-A-Bus Food Drive" recently, collecting donations from residents of the Forest Hill neighbourhood and then delivering them to the GRT bus parked at the Laurentian Power Centre.

Chris wants to send, "A heartfelt thank you to all the Scouts and Venturers, leaders, and parent volunteers—a special shout-out to Carol Binkley and Rose LaRose who braved becoming inebriated from the alcohol fumes emanating from the empties in the back of their vans—who participated in our combined 'Stuff-A-Bus Food Drive' and Fall Bottle/Can Drive".

"When it was all tallied up, we managed to collect in excess of 756 lbs of food for the Region of Waterloo Food Bank through the "Stuff-A-Bus" program at Laurentian Hills Power Centre. This slightly exceeded our total from last year. Well done, and a big thank you to the Forest Hill Community for their enthusiastic support!"



## CHURCH BOARD REPORT

December 14, 2011

### The following are highlights from the Church Board meeting held on December 14 from 7:00 -9:00

- The Board expressed its concern and support for Rev. Marian as she begins her disability leave. We are asked to respect our Ministers' privacy at this difficult time. Cards are a suitable expression of our best wishes along with our prayers for Rev. Marian, Rev. Murray and their family.
- Connie Bieth has been our probationary Office Administrator for the past three months. The Board has approved that Connie become our official Office Administrator. Congratulations to Connie.
- At this time of staff change, the Ministry and Personnel Committee has major responsibilities. Jennifer O'Connor has graciously volunteered to return as Chair of this committee. The Board elected Jenn to the Board for a period of one year under "exceptional circumstances."
- Rob Steele, Chair of the ad hoc committee investigating our plans for replacing the roof, reported to the Board. At the present time, we have to repair the flat roof and in the near future that roof will have to be replaced.  
The life expectancy of the roof over the sanctuary is from two to five years. Rob's committee is investigating the possibility of incorporating solar panels into our roof replacement plans. We have applied to be on a waiting list for grants, but there has been NO financial commitment. If we were ever to consider such a commitment, this commitment would be made at a congregational meeting. A flyer with important in-

formation will be available in the foyer. (See also article on page 4.) The committee invites your written, signed comments.

- The Board received as information the financial report of November and the proposed 2012 budget.
- The budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting on February 26.
- We now have two new computers in the office, one for the Office Administrator and one for the church records. We also have a new computer in the sanctuary. The Lunch Bunch donated funds for one of the computers, and a donation from an individual paid for the second one. We appreciate their generosity.
- The Board accepted the report called "Seven Principles to Guide our Worship" from the Worship and Music Committee, as a guideline for our worship. This report was mandated from the Reference Group on Worship and Music and will now go the Communications Committee for distribution.
- The Board expressed its thanks to Jen O'Connor and Sandi McMullen and all those who helped with our soup and sandwich luncheon.
- We need more volunteers on our committees and on the Church Board. Please consider prayerfully how you can help.

The next Church Board meeting is on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

**Ken Carter**  
Chair of the Church Board

## JANUARY 2012 AT A GLANCE

### WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sundays: 1, 8, 15, 22\*, 29**  
Morning Services: 10 a.m. only.

**Mondays: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**  
Maycourt: 1 p.m.  
Girl Guides: 6 p.m.  
CGIT: 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.  
Cubs: 7 p.m.

**Tuesdays: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
Quilters: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Beavers: 6:30 p.m.  
Venturers: 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday: 4, 11, 18, 25**  
Mmuffin Mmoments: 10-11 a.m.  
Girl Guides: 6:30 p.m.

**Thursdays: 5, 12, 19, 26**  
Explorers: 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.  
Choir: 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday: 3**  
Congregational Life: 7 p.m.

**Wednesday: 4**  
Worship and Music: 7 p.m.  
Pastoral Care: 7 p.m.  
Communications: 7:30 p.m.

**Thursdays: 5 & 19**  
Prayer Shawls: 10 a.m.

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

**Tuesday: 10**  
UCW: 1:30 p.m., McIntyre Hall. Note  
change of time and place!

**Wednesday: 18**  
FHUC Board Meeting: 7 p.m.

**Thursday: 26**  
Lunch Bunch: 12 noon. Reserve by Fri  
day, January 20.

### MONTHLY EVENTS

### SPECIALS

**Sunday: 22\***  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Pulpit  
Exchange: Rev. Das Sydney will preach at Forest  
Hill, 10 a.m. (Rev. Murray will be preaching at  
Highland Road Baptist.)

### Some "Heads Up" from Elizabeth Cresswell

1. There will be no **Kids' Church** or  
**Youth Class** January 1 and January 8.  
Regular classes will begin again January  
15.

2. We need two more volunteer leaders  
for the next unit which runs January  
15 to February 19.

3. **Friday Youth Drop In** will begin  
again on January 13. We will need volun-  
teers to help supervise.

4. January 20 is the next **PA Day**.  
Please try to sign up early to allow us to  
plan. Also, we will need an adult volun-  
teer to help supervise

If you can assist with any of these vol-  
unteer positions please contact Judi  
Knetsch.

There will be no **Junior Choir** practices  
until Sunday, Jan. 15.

### **Volunteers for Board Positions?!**

Forest Hill needs volunteers for a number of positions on the Board and its various committees. **Take note that at the Congregational Meeting in February the Nominating Committee will present the names of nominees for the 2012 Board.** So we urge you to become involved.

Here are a few facts to consider:

- Our Board consists of a maximum of 30 members including the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Secretary
- The Chairs of the various committees are also Board members along with members at large
- The Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month, except for December and June. There are no scheduled meetings in July and August.
- The Board, as a court of the United

Church, has "deliberative and decision making" (*Manual 001*) responsibilities for all aspects of the pastoral charge

- The usual term on the Board is two years, with the option for an additional two years
- In order to serve on the Church Board, you must be a member in good standing of Forest Hill United Church

If you want to have direct input in the decision-making process, you should consider serving on the Board. If you have been on the Board before, we need your experience; if you are new to the Church, we need your insight and expertise.

If you are interested, please contact one of the following: Linda Nelson, Lawrence Cresswell, Jean Knetsch, Scott Davis, Chris Pieters or Ken Carter.

### **Many Thanks to Mitten Tree Contributors!**

Thanks to all of you who made the tree so festive and full of warm mitts, scarves and hats over the Christmas season. The fruit of your labors has now been distributed to a variety of agencies in the Kitchener area. Many thanks again!

### **A Christmas Celebration**

Thank you to all who purchased "A Christmas Celebration" on CD this past holiday season. Within the four weeks of December 37 CD's were sold. From the sales a total of \$185.00 will be given to the M&S fund. Thank you for your support, and I trust you enjoyed the music I have endeavored to share with you.

Blessings

**Lawrence Cresswell**

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](mailto:mariangmcl@bellnet.ca)

**Murray McLeod:**  
[murraymcl@bellnet.ca](mailto:murraymcl@bellnet.ca)

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**Deadline for the February Messenger will be Sunday, January 22 in order to have it in the boxes for pick up on Sunday, January 29. Please leave items in the envelope outside the church office or email Martha Leibbrandt: [mcleibbrandt@rogers.com](mailto:mcleibbrandt@rogers.com), or phone 519-568-7375.**