

THE MESSENGER

Celebrating God

Being in Community

Reaching Out to Others

NOVEMBER 2011

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

The Bible in 50 Words!

God made
Eve bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled

Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided

Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked

Prophets warned
Jesus born

God Walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died

Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

It's interesting. Those 50 words really do capture the essence of the top selling book of all time. And what an interesting book it is...or rather what an interesting anthology of books it is. There are 66 books in all: 39 of them make up the Hebrew Scriptures and 27 books are part of our New Testament. Together they record a history of over 2,000 years, written over hundreds of years and still manage to be relevant in 2011. It is interesting.

And it is with interest that people of faith continue to study those ancient writings. At Forest Hill these days a group of adults gathers monthly to get back to the basics of the faith. They began their study and reflection with the Holy Bible. There is also a group of seven Forest Hill teenagers who have just begun to journey together as the Confirmation Class. They, too, spent their first gathering working toward an understanding of how this holy book came to be and what its place is in their lives and times.

We recently celebrated the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Holy Bible. That really was a milestone in the Bibles' history marking the place where the Holy Scriptures finally became accessible to all people in a language they could actually read and understand. Today we are privileged to have access to over a thousand versions, translations and paraphrases of the Bible. God's word grows more and more accessible and readable every day. You should check it out.

If you'd like some guidance in choosing a version that's right for you, stop in and look through some of the many available in our offices. We're always happy to share God's word with you.

Blessings!

m&m

Canadian Women's Role in the Armed Forces

**Tuesday, November 8
7:30 p.m.
Fireside Room**

UCW invites all to share in a program of Remembrance. There will be a brief worship time, followed by a short video about Canadian service women in World War II.

Refreshments follow. All are welcome and, if you wish, stay for the business meeting.

Pastoral Care Committee

Do you have any cares, concerns, joys or celebrations? Please be in touch with Rev. Marian or Glenna Murray, Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee at 519-744-1405 or murrays@golden.net.

Pastoral Care is changing their meeting time to the first Wednesday of the month but there will be no meeting in November. The next meeting of Pastoral Care will be held Wednesday, December 7th, 2011 at 7 p.m.



**"Good Words for Africa"
SCRABBLE BENEFIT**

**Sunday, November 13
2-4:30 p.m.**

Parkminster United Church, 275 Erb Street E., Waterloo

Omas Siskona, the Grandmothers to Grandmothers organization, that raises money under the Stephen Lewis Foundation to help children in Africa who have lost their parents to AIDS, are holding a Scrabble Benefit in November. There will be crafts, a silent auction, baking and refreshments. You are invited to come, play, sponsor and donate. Two of Forest Hill's congregation who are "grandmothers" and have been very much involved over the long term are Marg Spencer and Nancy Zuk. Marg will be playing scrabble at the Benefit and you can sponsor her play. Nancy has made hundreds of crafts which she will have on sale, all proceeds going to the Foundation. For further information, contact Marg at 519-576-6954, gar.spence@sympatico.ca or Nancy at 519-954-1119.



Junior Choir

Please note that the Junior Choir will rehearse after service each week. All children and youth are welcome to join us.

Elizabeth Cresswell

Mitten Tree

Please note! The mitten tree goes up in the foyer on Tuesday, November 1. So bring along woolies—mitts, hats and scarves—to deck the tree!



**Forest Hill United Church Fall Stewardship Campaign
"Operation Clean Sweep 2010"**

That's right. It does say 2010 despite the fact that we are nearing the end of 2011. We still owe close to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) on our 2010 Presbytery and Conference assessments, and we are looking for everyone's help in clearing the books. We are asking **all Forest Hill families** to bring in **\$20** at some point over the next 10 weeks. Please mark on your donation **"Presbytery Plunge 2010"**.



If each family commits to \$20, we will clean up a large chunk of what we still owe.

Thanks in advance from the Stewardship Committee!

Cross Cultures presents...

**Panorama
of Sacred Expression**

**Saturday, November 19,
2011
from 4:30-7:30 p.m.
at Forest Hill United
Church**

Cross Cultures, under Gehan D. Sabry, Editor/Publisher of *Cross Cultures Magazine*, has presented SEASONS OF LIGHT for over five years, celebrating the Christmas season, the light from many faiths, denominations, traditions and spiritualities. It also has organized the SACRED WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL since its

inception in 2000, an initiative by the Dalai Lama to universally hold an event to mark the new millennium. Now organizers are merging both events in *Panorama of Sacred Expression* at Forest Hill.

If you would be interested in an uplifting evening of sacred music, followed by refreshments, please contact the Church Office for more information, or just come along on



Lunch Bunch

The next Lunch Bunch date is **Thursday, November 24, 12 noon in the Fireside Room**. Twenty-eight people heard an inspiring talk, October 27, by Marg Spencer on the *Grandmothers to Grandmothers'* initiative in Africa, browsed crafts by Nancy Zuk and enjoyed a delicious meal. Call the office to reserve your place by Friday, Nov. 18.

From Deedy...

Presbytery Report

Dorothy Ann Carter and I attended the bi-monthly Waterloo Presbytery meeting and supper on Tuesday, September 27th on your behalf. Our host congregation was First United Church in Waterloo, so we did not have far to travel this time.

We are both members of the Education and Students Committee (E & S) which met from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. as is usually the case. The Presbytery meeting always starts at 5 p.m. and lasts until around 9 p.m. Our new Chair, Rev. John Lawson, has as his theme "Building up the Body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12) for his year at the helm. You may have heard about his street ministry in Guelph.

Apart from the business part, there was a spiritual growth time and a delicious sup-

per provided by First UC. A motion was passed to initiate the Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) as accepted by our congregation at the July 10th meeting. Also, a motion of support was passed for Norfolk UC in Guelph. They have invited the United Church's General Council to relocate their office to Guelph when their 20-year lease in Toronto expires in 2015.

The next meeting and supper will be at Trinity UC in Elmira on Tuesday, November 22nd. **Forest Hill UC will be host for April 24th, 2012.**

Currently, there are two of us but Forest Hill UC is entitled to four reps. If you are interested in joining us, phone me at 519-571-0896.

Deedy Vandenberg

Fanny Fund Update: The Pew Cushions



The November, 2010 50th Anniversary "Special Project" for Forest Hill was to install pew cushions in our sanctuary.

Charter member Hilda McIntyre received hers as a gift on her re-

cent 90th birthday, and since then other members of the congregation have shown interest in acquiring them.

The material and foam have been purchased and paid for with previously donated monies, and the contractor is awaiting orders to proceed with more cushions. As stated previously, we will NOT move forward with this project until we have the funds to pay for the cushions, which will cost \$120 each. Anyone wishing to donate the cost to cover one or more cushions may contact Liz Cresswell, 519-748-5288 or lizcress@sympatico.ca.

Rev. Murray promotes Forest Hill...

Local Church Expands Its Horizons

Editor's Note: Rev. Murray sent along a copy of an article he wrote for a local paper. It's too long to reproduce in this space, but here are some of the highlights.

Forest Hill, he points out, like many other churches these days, is struggling to meet budgets and allow ministries to continue to grow. The churches, therefore, are "challenged to think outside the box and look to expand their horizons."

Fortunately, Forest Hill is "blessed with an acoustically superior church sanctuary" which it is now working to establish as an extraordinary venue for secular concerts and shows. "Over the past few years the talent-blessed congregation has staged the musicals, 'Godspell' and 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown' to sold-out audiences. In June, 2011 we were the venue for Juno nominee, Royal Wood's Kitchener show."

"Coming November 18th and 25th, Forest Hill's...sanctuary will be transformed into an intimate concert hall with Michael Gabriel's 'Strings Attached—An Orchestral Concert Series'." Forest Hill is "working with him to develop a template for his concert series that will be able to travel with him to other intimate venues." Two new local restaurants, Sushi Boat Japanese Cuisine Sushi Bar and Black Sea Bakery Café will be promoting their businesses by catering refreshments after the show in the church hall. "Local lighting designer, Ted Acorn of MT Support will provide magic through programmed lighting and sound master, Brian Clemens of Broadcast Engineering is fine tuning all the appropriate channels of audibility." "From the moment the lights go down," believes Rev. Murray, "the whole audience will be lifted...to new heights of delight."

FUNDSCRIP

To date we have raised, through the Fundscrip program, \$1744 for Forest Hill's General Fund! What a great way to buy what you need and at the same time contribute to Forest Hill!



Please consider buying your gift cards for the upcoming Holiday Season through Fundscrip. Cards are available for groceries, gas, restaurants, tools, clothing and other items.

The next dates for orders of cards is October 31 and November 14.

For more information about how to use Fundscrip, contact Bob Elliott, Glenna Murray or JoAnne Willison.

UPDATE from THE BOARD

- The October Board meeting was on Wednesday, October 19. The Board meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month except in December and June. There are no scheduled Board meetings in July and August. All are welcome.
- The Board welcomed Bruce Hannah as the representative from Men's Breakfast.
- We received Randall Templeton's resignation from the Board for health reasons.
- Planning is beginning for the family day "Bring on the Sunshine" in February. We had over 750 participants last year.
- In accordance with the regulations in the United Church *Manual*, we shall use the "Notice to Reader" approach for the audit in 2012.
- We reviewed our policy regarding the distribution of minutes from the Congregational meeting. The Communications Committee will prepare a motion for the next congregational meeting to clarify our approach.
- Coming November 18 and 25, Forest Hill's acoustically sound sanctuary will become an intimate concert hall with Michael Gabriel's "Strings Attached – An Orchestral Concert Series". Tickets are available at the office.
- The Board is assessing our progress in relation to the recommendations in the "Pries Report," "The Reference Group for Worship and Music," and "Walking With God". We plan to complete this task in November.
- Planning has begun for the 2012 budget.
- The Stewardship Committee has reviewed the comments from the stewardship campaign and is making recommendations to the appropriate committees.
- The Stewardship Committee is also planning to have a Presbytery Plunge in November to raise money for our Presbytery assessment.
- We are reviewing our computer needs. The Board will receive a report in November.
- Waterloo Presbytery has not told us when the first Joint Needs Assessment Committee meeting will be. We hope that meeting will be announced soon.
- The next Church Board meeting is on November 16 at 7:00.

Ken Carter
Chair of the Church Board

Changes to Committee Times

Committee members please note that the Congregational Life Committee will meet on **Tuesday, November 8 at 7 p.m.** this month, rather than on November 1, and the Communications Committee will meet at its usual time of Wednesday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m., but **will not meet in December.**

NOVEMBER 2011 AT A GLANCE

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays: 6, 13, 20, 27
Morning Services: 10 a.m. only.

Mondays: 7, 14, 21, 28
Maycourt: 1 p.m.
CGIT: 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Tuesdays: 8, 15, 22, 29
Quilters: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mmuffin Mmoments: 10-11 a.m.

Thursdays: 10, 17, 24
Explorers: 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Choir: 7:30 p.m.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Wednesday: 2
Communications: 7 p.m.
Worship and Music: 7 p.m.

Thursdays: 3 & 17
Prayer Shawls: 10 a.m.

Tuesday: 8
Congregational Life: 7 p.m.
Canadian Women's Role in the Armed Forces, UCW, 7:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Wednesday: 16
FHUC Board Meeting: 7 p.m.

Thursday: 24
Lunch Bunch: 12 noon. Reserve by Friday, November 18.



SPECIALS

Fridays: 18 & 25
Strings Attached—An Orchestral Concert Series, featuring singer/songwriter Michael Gabriel, 8 p.m., Forest Hill's sanctuary. Refreshments. (See ad below.)

Saturday: 19
Panorama of Sacred Expressions, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Forest Hill United Church sanctuary. Refreshments to follow.

Remembrance Day is Friday, November 11, 2011.



**Strings Attached
An Orchestral Concert Series**

Singer/songwriter Michael Gabriel will perform two concerts in Forest Hill's sanctuary, on Friday, November 18 and Friday, November 25, starting at 8 p.m. A reception will follow.

For more information or tickets, at \$15 (advance) or \$19 (at the door), contact the church office at 519-744-3481.

Happy Autumn! Happy November!



Turkey Dinner a Great Success

Thank you to all who helped out at the Turkey Dinner on October 26. The delicious food was much appreciated. A huge thank you, too, to Lois Brown who coordinated the event.

Margot White

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 December Messenger will be Sunday, November 20 in order to have it in the boxes for pick up on Sunday, November 27. Please leave items in the envelope outside the church office or email Martha Leibbrandt:

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