

Out on a Limb

The Newsletter of Applewood United Church



Christmas 2014

Volume 39, Issue 2



First Steps on a Journey

I have always been drawn to the imagery of the journey when thinking of how we encounter God, Spirit and Christ in our lives as individuals and as community. This image seems appropriate to our particular time and place as we begin ministry together and as we look ahead to the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

What will our path together look like? Will it be full of bends and twists as we get to know one another? Will there be hills to climb together? Will we find common ground?

Perhaps we will be like pilgrims sharing stories and concerns and breaking bread together as we travel. There will certainly be times when we walk side by side, and others when we follow one another. Sometimes we may take very different paths, but still be able to share with each other our varied views and perspectives.

There are lots of travellers in our Christmas story and our Advent preparations who might inspire us or help us to think in new ways about our faith journeys.

Like John the Baptist emerging from the wilderness, what do we have to declare about what we believe?

Like the story of pregnant Mary and her partner Joseph travelling to Bethlehem, what are we expectant about?

What amazing thing is God ready to bring to life in our church family and in the world? How can we prepare?

Like the shepherds in the fields, can we find the awe and the excitement to run together toward encounters with the Divine?

May you feel God's presence in your own journeys, may you be guided and enlivened by God's Spirit as you go, and may you encounter Jesus in your own way as you travel.

A sister traveler

Joanne Hedge,
Ministry Personnel

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2014 Applewood United Church

Christmas Greetings from the Staff at Applewood:



May the love of God be born anew into homes, hearts and lives this Christmas. May the hope contained in a simple story continue to reach into the world to bring transformation. May God's joy and peace be with us all throughout Advent, Christmas and the New Year to come.

Rev. Joanne



Wishing you a bright Christmas Season that brings us all closer together, warmed by the Light of the world. Let's shine for this world of ours, finding some hope, sharing some peace, plenty of joy, and most of all, love.

Carolyn



I'd like to wish all of you a blessed Christmas, and much peace and joy over the holidays.

Nancy



I look forward to seeing all of you throughout this festive season, and experiencing the sounds of Christmas!

Christina

Advent Worship Highlights:

November 30 - Advent 1:	9:00 a.m. Alternative Worship Service - Taizé Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Regular Service
December 7 - Advent 2:	Mitten Tree, Gifts for Others and Communion – Come dressed in your Christmas colours
December 14 - Advent 3:	An Advent Treasure Hunt with special participation by the Appleseeds Choir
December 21 - Advent 4:	Choir Cantata "The Winter Rose" by Joseph Martin, Narration by Pamela Martin
December 24: Christmas Eve:	3:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Hope 7:00 p.m. Family Worship 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
December 28:	Joint Service with Stories and Carols – We welcome the whole Community and the United 2 Ring Bell Choir

Keeping the Spirit in Advent and Christmas

The Advent and Christmas season can be a frantically busy few weeks as we stretch our time, energy and resources to create the 'perfect' holiday. While we prepare to feed our physical selves with special goodies, meals and celebrations, what is feeding our spirit, or keeping us connected with God's Spirit in this time? At AUC, you might find 'nourishment for the soul' at one of these events during Advent:

Sunday, November 30 at 9:00 am - A service of Taizé prayer: Taizé prayer services originated in the ecumenical community at Taizé, France and use music, word and silence to create a meditative and contemplative experience for participants. Contact Rev Joanne for more information.



Saturday, December 13 at 4:30 pm - 'Soul Food' "Advent Adventures" - Join us for a family event filled with activities and family "Church", including a festive meal for tots to teens to parents. There will be games, crafts, story & songs. The program and meal are provided by the Family Life Team. Freewill donations will be accepted. Please share with friends!

Contact Carolyn Smith for more information.

'All About Angels' – A short Advent reflection and study group. Choose either:

Monday, December 8 and Monday December 15 at 7:00 pm OR

Tuesday, December 9 and Tuesday December 16 at 1:30 pm

Contact Rev. Joanne for more information or to sign up.

If you feel the pull to renewal or study at home, Hamilton Conference is offering an online Advent retreat – check it out at:

<http://hamconf.org/event/attentive-waiting-online-retreat-for-advent/>.

the WINTER ROSE

By Joseph Martin, Narration by Pamela Martin

Presented by the Applewood Senior Choir



ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 10:30 A.M.

Let the words and music of this cantata remind you that even in the deepest winter, we are people of joy and life...children of the garden.

Services and Special Events in the New Year:

Sunday, January 4 - Communion with celebration of Epiphany (The story of the Wise Ones)

Sunday, January 11 - Regular worship

Sunday, January 18 - Celebrating the music of the United Church (a sing-along service!)

Sunday, January 25 - Regular worship accompanied by our Worship Band

Sunday, February 1 - Communion

Sunday, February 8 - Steel Band (tentative)

Sunday, February 15 - Mardi Gras celebration

Tuesday, February 17 – Pancake Dinner

Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 22 – Scout and Guide Sunday - We welcome all those in the Scouting and Guiding movements to attend in uniform.

Watch for further details in the new year in the AppleLog - your weekly guide to what's happening at Applewood United Church.

...The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of sugarplums danced in their heads...

No matter the age, this Advent and Christmas season touches the hope in all of us for happy childhood memories, loving gatherings as extended families, and everyone safe and sound. What better gift do we give each other than open arms, listening ears, and room for laughter? Of course, a cold stable doesn't sound like the start of a Christmas tradition. "No room in the inn" is very different than our delight in trees trimmed with twinkling lights. But Christmas still happens, and the light shines brightest when it displaces the dark. I have an inkling that a simple thing can brighten all our Christmas experiences – a pause, as you light a candle, or bake cookies, or think of a distant person; a pause while you choose a gift or make a donation, or respond to grumble. Pause and pray, give thanks, ask for love to fill the moment. Ask your kids to try it. Share the moment with your partner. Pause and think of God in the world around you, and all that could happen. God sent the light of the world, not to the biggest brightest place but to shine in the dark. Pause, pray and see your own Christmas light shine.

Peace,
Carolyn

Applewood Social News

At a recent Ryerson Alumni reception (Oct. 18), **Wayne Detcher** was presented with a gold "50 year" Grad pin. He was also honoured with a special, framed certificate which recognizes Wayne's 50 years of dedication to the University's carillon and, as Ryerson University's Carillonneur, for providing beautiful music at campus events and at Convocation ceremonies. A "ringing" testimonial to a fine musician!

Congratulations to **Elina Cook, daughter-in-law of Sophie and Dave Cook**, for receiving her Masters degree in Science from the University of Toronto on November 21. She completed her Masters program doing cancer research at Sunnybrook Hospital. A fine achievement!

Shirley Foster celebrated her 80th birthday with family and friends on November 1.

Rev. Joanne and her husband Steve will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on December 20th.

Congratulations also go out to **Pansy and Ray Marshall** and **Neil and Sandra Watkinson**, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries this year.



Amber Rieder, a PhD candidate in the McMaster Integrative Neuroscience Discovery and Study program, is developing a mobile psychiatric assessment tool for use with children in developing countries. The 'International Mobile Psychiatric Assessment for Children and Teens' app, known as IMPACT, will help non-experts in rural areas assess young people for mental health issues. She will

be spending three months in Kenya in the new year conducting further research on the application. Kenya has fewer than 100 psychiatrists – very few of whom specialize in children – despite having a population of 41 million. Amber has also been raising money to purchase tablets that will be sent to Kenya so the app can be used in multiple villages. Amber is the **daughter-in-law of Marilyn and Dave Hayden, Lois Garvie's granddaughter, and Nancy Garvie's niece!** If you would like more information on Amber's project, you can contact Marilyn, Lois or Nancy.

If you have a milestone you would like to share with the Applewood community, please speak with one of the Out on a Limb's Social Mavens, Sophie Cook and Shirley Webb.

A Reminder from the Editor:

The deadline for submitting articles for inclusion in the Easter newsletter is Monday, March 9, 2015. A reminder will be sent to the Chairs of the church committees closer to the deadline.

Thank you,
Nancy Garvie

Ready? GET SET... Work!

We wish to thank most sincerely those in the congregation who have responded to our recent request for financial assistance and are grateful for the support you have given our program which helps people in transitioning back to, or within, the workforce. We will continue to pursue other funding sources and hope to be able to report back to you with updates of our progress.

DID YOU KNOW...? Many unemployed individuals have received minimal or no outplacement help from their former employers and there is generally no assistance available to those seeking to move from part-time to full-time employment. In fact, most of the people who are RGSW members have not benefitted from any kind of outplacement service but any who have can be a wonderful asset to our group.

RGSW can fill the gap for those with little or no outplacement and those who qualify for limited government assistance. We also assist people who have had transitional help but who feel the need for additional support.

Lynn Williamson
Ready? GET SET... Work! (RGSW)



Affirm United

Our committee would like to thank all those who attended the workshop after church on November the 16th. We had a good discussion about the meaning behind the symbols we see in our society, and how they impact our lives. Please see the display in the auditorium of some of the creative ideas that resulted. This is a work in progress, so there will be further opportunities to participate in logo designs to be used in various aspects of our church life.

Also look for more information, coming soon, about our Affirm Social to be held in January!

Mitten Tree and Gifts for Others:



Advent is here and it's time to gather the mittens, hats and scarves that will help others keep warm this winter. Also don't forget an item or gift card for our Gifts for Others.

Applewood helps Interim Place, Our Place Peel and the Salvation Army help people in our Mississauga community. Our community agencies are most thankful for our gifts! **This special service takes place on the second Sunday in Advent, December 7.**

Gifts for Others Wish List: Gifts for Others supports Our Place Peel (Teenage Shelter for men and women), Salvation Army, Interim Place (shelter for women and children of both sexes, 0 to 15 years old). At this time of year we request new items only. Please do not wrap the gifts. This will save volunteers much time.

Our priority this year is gift cards: Shopper's Drug Mart, Food Stores, Mall Cards, Phone Cards, Movie Passes, Tim Horton's Cards, Craft Stores, Music Stores



Other essential gift ideas:

- Nightclothes – for children, teens and women
- T shirts, all sizes
- Socks and slippers
- Underwear
- Diapers
- Personal Hygiene Items- shampoo, combs, brushes, deodorants, hair dryers, medication for children, hair curlers, hair straighteners
- Children's art supplies, educational supplies, games, books
- For Teens - chocolate, diaries, journals, cosmetics, jewelry, soccer balls
- Towels
- Toys (Salvation Army)
- Clothing of all sizes – new items at this time

Thank you from the Outreach Team!