



Fall 2014

Volume 39, Issue 1



Out on a Limb

The Newsletter of Applewood United Church

New Beginnings

As I write this article, there is a chill in the air and the days are getting shorter. As fall arrives though, I have to wonder: what happened to summer?!

With each fall, we face new beginnings: a new church year and, for the younger set, a new school year. This fall, we also welcome a new minister Rev. Joanne Hedge, as we bid farewell to Rev. Carolyn Miller who has shepherded the Applewood family over the past year following the departure of Rev. Cynthia Stretton.

As with any new beginning, whether it be a church year, a school year or, in this instance, a new minister, we look forward with eager anticipation as to what lies ahead in the year before us. Will Rev. Hedge settle into her new role with ease? How can we, the Congregation, make her feel welcome? And, of course, the oft asked question at Applewood: will there be cake?!

By now, many of you will have noticed the new grading, paving and grass outside the church along Stanfield Road, as we finally recover from the springtime construction mess that caused flooding and other damage. The Administration Committee continues to pursue compensation from those responsible for losses incurred by Applewood.

Fairly soon, the Stewardship Committee will be outlining their plans for the coming year. At the same time, there will be new fundraising initiatives in the works to fulfill the financial commitments that were made when the 2014 budget was approved by the Applewood Congregation earlier this year.

The Marketing Team continues to explore new ways

to promote the many things that Applewood United has to offer, some ideas arising from a case study of the church by students at Trent University.

And, it wouldn't be fall without hearing from the Outreach Team about the many new opportunities in the year ahead to help others in our community and around the world.

Our new Affirm Committee (including some new members) will be continuing its work this fall, following on the heels of the overwhelming vote (91% in favour) back in April of this year for Applewood to become an affirming congregation.

And our Duty of Care team (a small, but dedicated group) continues to implement the policy and protocol that were adopted a few years ago, including the establishment of a new risk management team, to ensure that Applewood United continues to provide a safe and secure environment for all.

I am certain that the many other committees, teams and groups that are not mentioned above, but that also play a vital role in the life and work of Applewood, will have their own new initiatives to share with us in the weeks and months ahead. One read of the Annual Report reflects the incredible engagement of our Congregation.

Some new (and not so new) beginnings as we welcome another year in our collective faith journey as the Applewood family!

Yours in the Spirit,

Scott Perkin, General Chair

Welcome!

Please join us in welcoming to the Applewood United Church family, our new minister, Reverend Joanne Hedge, who begins our journey together on October 6th. Here is a brief introduction from Rev. Joanne:



I make my home in Mississauga with my husband Steve, two of our four children and three cats!

I come to AUC after three years of ministry in my first Pastoral Charge on the shores of Georgian Bay north of Owen Sound. I bring with me a passion for worship, a love of music, and a keen interest in sharing both our life stories and the stories of our faith tradition. When I am not 'ministering' you might find me in the kitchen baking, walking on one of Mississauga's many trails and pathways, or enjoying a movie and popcorn at the local theatre. I look forward to returning to the city I had called home for over 20 years and making re-connections with friends and places as well as making new connections with the AUC family.

Whirlwind Living - by Carolyn Smith

Sometimes our feet don't touch the ground, and being exhausted is a competitive sport with a shiny badge. Whether you're called to church for a light in the darkness of life, to share good community, or to breathe in Spirit when you're out of breath, you can find some way to connect and grow. Better lives, better families, better future.

Families at Applewood: Come ask me about...

- **The ARK** - our Sunday program for **Applewood's Rainbow Kids**, with good resources and great leaders. Includes **Intergenerational Worship** and events.
- **Soul Food** - supper events, alternative worship & learning, strengthening families & friends
- **The Bridge Cafe** - upstairs, casual conversation on challenging ideas, coffee, early Sundays
- **Youth Group** - grade 7+ - safe space, fun space, every other Thursday, starting September 11, 2014
- **LPLC Library** - current books you want, inviting space for Book club, Study groups, & more
- **Moms 'n Tots** on Thursday mornings, **Day Camps**

in March & Summer, **Pageant** & seasonal events, **Sharing opportunities** - Food bank, Women's Shelters.

On our new path together with Rev. Joanne, watch for new things. Find God's light here: a place to rest and connect and participate. Join us on Facebook (look for the apples!) and please, drop me a line.

PEACE!

Carolyn Smith

Minister of Family & Youth

A Word from the Affirming Committee

This fall we are excited to begin addressing ideas on the Action Plan that we submitted to Affirm United last spring.



The first three items we are looking at are:

- A brainstorming arts session where we will invite members of the congregation to explore possible symbols to be used to show that we are an Affirming Congregation.
- An LGBT Social event that will be open to the whole congregation and advertised in neighbouring churches and the community.
- A Mental Health Information session.

We would also like to acknowledge and give thanks for the bannisters in the sanctuary, which allow for easier access to the dais for all members of the congregation.

We are hoping that our group will be an activity based planning team. We have some ideas, but if any member of the congregation has suggestions for events, activities or needs that might fall under the 'Affirming Umbrella', we would be pleased to meet with you to discuss them. If you are interested in helping to organize any of the above events, we would also love to hear from you! Please feel free to approach any one of us.

The members of the committee are Brenda Bridges, Sophie Cook, Evelyn Carriere, Elaine Holden, Grant Jones, Joan Marshall, Anne Moore, Katie Smith, Zina Skocylak, Rick Wilson, Carolyn Smith and Marilyn Hayden.

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendar Now :

Will You be an Organ Donor?

The Compassionate Care Team is conducting two seminars on just this very topic. It is a question of relevance to us all and one we should be considering. Members of the **Trillium Gift of Life Network** will assist us in understanding the importance of registration as an organ donor and its impact in saving and enhancing lives! The process for registering will be discussed as well as any questions you may have. Remember one donor can save eight lives!! We hope you will join us on:

Tuesday, October 21, 2014
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. or 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Applewood United Church Parlour

Remember the life saved may be your own!

News from the Outreach Team:

Special Visitor, Sunday, October 26:

Please mark your calendars to listen to a real live African missionary! Sue Silva, Kathrine Gayman's daughter, is home on furlough and we look forward to hearing from her after our church fellowship time in the parlour. Sue has served in Malawi and has recently returned from Sierra Leone. Sue looks forward to her visit to Applewood to share some of her experiences. The Outreach Team will provide a snack.

Christmas Outreach:

Outreach to our Mississauga community begins the month of November.

Survivors of Abuse (Interim Place):

Monetary support (for which you will receive a tax receipt) is through special envelopes. All the money donated goes toward helping women and their children begin new lives after abuse. Carol Culbert purchases gift certificates for food, clothing and household needs, which helps several families to get

a start at a better life. Look for the specially marked envelopes - *Survivors of Abuse*.

Gifts & Cookies for Elizabeth Fry Society:

Small gifts are donated to help with Christmas celebrations at Ellen House and Marjorie Amos Houses along with many cookies for all the women served by the Elizabeth Fry Society. Women, who have been in trouble with the law are helped to lead productive lives. We also provide the women's children with a small gift. Marg Boutnikoff will be in the narthex, asking for your help.



Mitten Tree/Gifts for Others:



This special worship service usually takes place the 2nd Sunday in Advent. Our many gifts of warmth and a myriad of general gifts and certificates helps The Salvation Army, Interim Place and Our Place Peel cope with the many families in need of help at Christmas.

It's a FUN/D-Raising Event!

Come join us for a Silent Auction with Dessert and Coffee followed by a Live Auction:



Saturday, November 29, 2014
Bidding: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Bidding closes at 7:30 pm
Dessert and Coffee: 6:30 pm - close
Live Auction starts at 8:30 pm

It will be a fun evening for everyone. Proceeds will go towards balancing our budget.

Watch for details on all of these events in the weekly Applelog!

Applewood Social News



Congratulations to Bev and Gus Peebles who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on July 25th. With family and friends, they celebrated at a "Dinner and Memories" evening hosted by

their daughter and son-in-law. Then, in the last week of August, their immediate family of ten continued the celebration with a long-awaited cruise in the Caribbean on Royal Caribbean's newest ship, the Allure. Good wishes to both of you!

Sophie and Dave Cook are proud to announce their son, Jonathan, was awarded a 2014 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship which supports students who demonstrate both leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies. He is completing his PhD at the University of Toronto in the Dept. of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology.



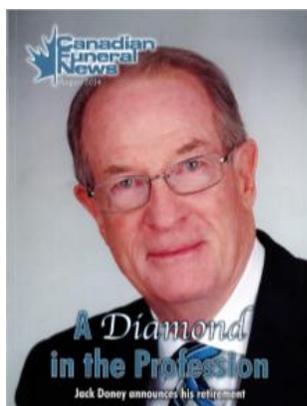
Lynn and Wayne Detcher celebrated their 30th anniversary with a trip to Europe in August. Starting with four days in Barcelona, Spain, they then took a twelve day cruise with stops in Marseilles, Monte Carlo, Livorno, Civitavecchia, Naples, Taormina, Kerkira, Kotor, Dobrovnik and finally to Venice where they enjoyed three days of sightseeing and a wonderful apartment right behind St. Mark's Square. Wayne said, "We were quite the jet-setters on the way home - breakfast in Venice, lunch in Paris and supper in Mississauga." Congratulations and many more!



Sarah Harding, daughter of Mel Harding and granddaughter of George Renfrew, shown here with her grandfather at the Toronto Police Graduation ceremony on September 10, 2014. This was a very proud moment for the family. The Toronto Police Services training consisted of 2 weeks at the Toronto College and 3 months at Ontario Police College in Aylmer. Toronto cadets are pulled back to the college after OPC for 6 more weeks of training and are then assigned to their divisions at graduation time.



After 59 years in the funeral business, Jack Doney retired at the end of June this year. His lengthy career began right after high school and during the next almost 60 years, Jack made a name for himself in the funeral profession as a knowledgeable and sincere man capable of building long-lasting relationships. Jack was featured in the August edition of the Canadian Funeral News magazine! In the article, Jack says that he plans to spend more time engaged in family activities and travelling with Marie, who was always a support during his lengthy career and is as highly regarded as her husband in the funeral profession.



The full article can be found on the Canadian Funeral News website: <http://www.otcommunications.com/cfndownload.html>

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 Note from the Editor:

The Christmas edition of Out On A Limb is scheduled to be published electronically around November 28th and available to those who receive paper copies on November 30th. **The deadline for submitting articles for inclusion in the Christmas newsletter is Monday, November 17, 2014.** A reminder will be sent to Committee Chairs closer to the deadline.

Thank you,
Nancy Garvie

Book Reviews by Shirley Webb

During the Summer I read several light reads. Then as August was drawing to a close I read two books which may be of interest to others. The first was "Proof of Heaven" by Eben Alexander, M.D. a neuro-surgeon. The doctor developed a very severe case of meningitis, went into a coma and was not expected to live. After seven days he returned to the land of the living and had a startling story to tell. There is a lot of technical medical information in his story but what was of interest to me was his description of heaven and his experiences there. If you read his story you will find much of what he says in fact makes sense.

The other book "Heaven is for Real" by Lynn Vincent, Todd Burpo and Sonja Burpo was written over an extended period of time as the Burpos, parents of a four year old son began to document what the child told them of his trip to heaven. This also has information which seems to authenticate what the young boy talks about while visiting heaven.

It is very comforting to read these two stories and gives encouragement to the Christian belief that in fact when we leave this life we go on to the next and better one. If you read these books - and if you go to the internet you will find several others with the same theme - I'd be happy to talk with you.

***Ready? GET SET... Work!
(RGSW) Needs Your Support***

Did you know that **RGSW** (formerly called SMART) has been helping under/unemployed people for over 20 years?

RGSW is an outreach effort of Applewood United Church that has provided 52 weeks a year support for

all this time to Applewood members, the Mississauga community and beyond.

Over these many years **RGSW** has been able to sustain itself - initially with grants from the United Church of Canada and then fund-raisers with UCEM and Applewood United. Finally with donations from Suncor, past **RGSW** members, Applewood's Outreach Committee, the Applewood Home Owners Association and weekly collections (recently raised to \$2/meeting).

Careful oversight of budget has permitted **RGSW** to continue despite a significant drop in funding over the last several years but now, the accumulated savings that carried us from year to year have been depleted and your help is needed.

Many businesses and companies encourage charitable giving by offering a donation matching plan to past and/or present employees. You make a donation and the company will match all or part of it. Other companies, like Suncor, will accept grant applications from employees/past employees who are actively involved in worthwhile causes.

RGSW cannot directly provide tax receipts for donations but donations made to Applewood United and directed to **RGSW** will receive an Applewood tax receipt.

Please check into your employer's/past employer's policy and you may discover a program that will help keep **RGSW** afloat!

Contact Ken Calder (905-274-8297) with any questions.

Lynn Williamson
RGSW Facilitator

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