



# The Link

February 2010

OTTAWA, Jan. 14 (UPI) -- A specialized Canadian military team arrived in earthquake-ravaged Haiti Thursday aboard a C-17 aircraft containing a portable hospital. The 20-member Disaster Assistance Response Team took off from Canadian Forces Base Trenton (Ontario) in the morning and a second C-17 took off in the afternoon .....The magnitude 7 earthquake flattened much of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas Tuesday afternoon, and death toll estimates range from 10,000 to more than 100,000.



**Happy New Year...**  
**....but not for everyone!**



The Faith Box Office  
905-448-1320



Book ahead - it can save you money and helps us to plan catering for larger events.



Every year as the church gears up for Christmas through Advent I say to myself that I'll be able to rest up in January. But I forget how busy January is! I had one of those months when it felt like I was in meetings every day.

Now, usually the thought of being in so many meetings is a real negative for me, but it wasn't this year. The difference was that the meetings weren't business meetings, or governance meetings, but rather planning meetings for all sorts of wonderful, faith formative things. There is an incredible energy afoot around here. It's God's Spirit flowing through Faith and the wider church empowering us to dive in ever deeper, and grow.

And yet nearby some of our sister congregations are struggling. The sad reality is some of them will no longer be viable churches in the near future. These are churches with good people and good leadership and still they are

struggling. There may be reasons for it, but they are complex.

I'm telling you this because over the next couple of weeks you are going to hear about the deficit that we had in 2009 at Faith and I want to be sure we discuss it in context. Yes, our expenses exceeded our income, and not by a little. Yes, there are things to be done about that. But I absolutely do not think there is any need for alarm, and I'll tell you why.

Faith United is an incredible place. Walk in and take a deep breath and look around. You'll see all generations represented. You'll see familiar faces and many brand new ones. You'll see delight in peoples' expressions through worship and coffee time. You'll hear joy and laughter resounding in the sanctuary. You'll see caring hugs and deep conversations happening. You'll have to watch where you step as all the little kids run around gleefully. You'll see people gathering night and day just about every day of the week to grow deeper in faith. Sometimes it's hard to find a room!

This church is alive! This church is energized! This church is a going concern! Yes, our money is a little tight right now – and we need to talk about that – but this church is healthier and more vibrant than any United Church I've ever encountered. What a gift to be a part of it!

I absolutely believe that 2010 is going to be a very special year for Faith United. Big things are happening. The Spirit is moving – and we're moving with it. I pray that as you journey through Lent you will feel that Spirit moving you, drawing you ever deeper into the Way of Jesus, filling your life with Communion, Compassion, and Connection. If I had to choose between a deficit in those things or a deficit in finances there would be no contest. The finances will flow, have no fear, because the Spirit is here!

Shalom,  
Rev. Larry Doyle

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Our Congratulations to:

- Diana Chappell on receiving her Master's Degree on Adult Education.
- Millie and Buck Vetzal who are celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary on February 10th.
- Pearl Johnson on her 85th birthday.
- Anne Fowler on her 95th birthday.
- Don and Marion Jose on their 86th birthdays.
- Kevin Woodcock and Wendy Dupont on their engagement.

*Continued opposite*

[www.faithunited.ca](http://www.faithunited.ca)

**Check us out online! Now better than ever!**

## YOUTH ON FIRE



Youth on Fire is a fabulous group of teens who get together every Sunday night for lots of learning and fun. We are outgoing and enthusiastic and love to do things together.

In the fall we went to the ROM and saw the Dead Sea Scrolls. We also toured around the museum and saw tons of other cool things.

We are now planning a spring camping trip to Balsam Lake Provincial Park and are putting

together a web site that will be linked with the Faith United web-site so that everyone can see what we're doing.

Like last year, we will be staying at the church one weekend for the 30-Hour Famine to raise money for World Vision and we will also be collecting Change for Haiti to help with earthquake relief.

If you are in grades 7-12, why not check us out? Sunday evenings from 6:15 to 8:15 - we'd love to have you join us!

Jocelyn Doyle  
Youth on Fire

### Thank you:

The knitters of Faith United heard of a need for mittens, hats, & scarves at some of the schools in Oshawa. Thanks to many people we have been able to distribute 60 pairs of mittens, hats, scarves, socks and even coats to two schools in the last month. If you would like to be a participant in this project bring the knitted items to the church and put them in the basket or call Donna Bignell 905-728-7749 and they can be picked up and delivered to the schools. Children like bright colours, so don't worry if you use more than one colour to make a pair. A very big THANK YOU to all who have contributed and helped to keep many hands warm.

### Thinking of You:

Millie Vetzal

### Our Sympathy to:

The Breen family on the death of Edwin Breen.

Gail and John Sylvestervich and family on the death of Gail's brother

## FAITH GREEN CORNER

Canada Blooms, March 17 -21, doors open at 10:00 a.m. at the Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place.

Price Chopper's has a container for the disposal of your unwanted plastic bags, milk bags included.

Bowmanville Horticultural Society meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Trinity United in Bowmanville. All are welcome.

*"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle....a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream." Barbara Winkler*

## FAITH MISSION & SERVICE



Our budget for 2009 was \$30,00.00. Although we did not reach our budget target for the year, the gap was narrowed and we did reach \$24,260.91. Thank you to those who gave so generously throughout 2009.

We have planned a Ham and Scalloped Potato Dinner for April 17th, so please mark this date on your calendar. Proceeds will be sent to the Canadian Landmine Foundation. Tickets are priced as follows: Family (2 adults & 2 children 13 and over) \$40.00. Tickets purchased in advance from the Faith Box office are \$13.00 for adults. At the door \$15.00. Children 12 years and under eat free. To help us plan our catering requirements please book early by calling the Faith Box Office on 905-448-1320. We hope to see you there.

Loonie-toonie Sundays will start at the beginning of Lent and will continue until Easter. A basket will be placed at the back of the sanctuary for those who wish to place coins in it. A receipt will be provided for any offering over \$10.00.

## FAITH JOYFUL NOISE



On the last Sunday of the month at 10 a.m., families (adults and children) are invited to gather in the sunroom and our minister, Larry Doyle, will present a story and music for 20 minutes.

At 10:30 there will be an intergenerational service held in the sanctuary where the children may stay for the whole service. There is no Joyful Noise that week. A children's corner is set up where a number of quiet activities (in individual plastic bags) are available to the children who stay for the service. They are welcome to exchange the bags quietly during the service if needed.

The nursery is still available for the very young children.

The Joyful Noise program will resume on the first Sunday of the month in the Sun Room immediately following the children's time in the sanctuary.

A different teacher each week will lead the children in follow up activities to reinforce the story of the month (such as cooking, drama, games and crafts).

We have a planning committee, and we encourage anyone who is interested to come and meet with us. We appreciate your ideas. Please come and share them.

If you would be interested in attending the next planning session, please call Enid DeCoe at 905-436-2729 for the date and time of the next meeting.

Thank you.

We have some good news to share with you, we exceeded our \$10,000.00 fundraising budget for 2009 by \$2,290.00! Kudos to the committee and to all of you who worked so hard to make this possible.

The Spaghetti Supper was very successful this year raising \$1,000.00. We were blessed with many pairs of helping hands. It was a pleasure to initiate Colette Cauchi in Spaghetti Sauce Making 101 and Kathleen Pearce in Prep of Romaine Lettuce for Caesar Salad for 100. Also, fairly new to "putting on a spaghetti dinner" were Renate Belzing and Bob Bisschop. We hope it was as enjoyable for them as it was for us veterans. The entertainment was great! Thanks to our very talented "church folk".

We have also catered two workshops for the KPR School Board and have been booked to do three more before June.

The Irish Dinner is on Saturday, March 13 starting at 5:00 p.m. This is a popular event, serving delicious Irish stew, salads and desserts. There will also be musical entertainment, a craft table and a used book sale. We've had to increase the price to \$15.00 this year as we will be purchasing all the ingredients to make the stews "in house" in compliance with the Board of Health Regulations.

We hope that you have bought your copy of "Soups, Chowders and More" for a toonie and that you are enjoying some of the delicious recipes. It is our plan to gather your favourite recipes for muffins and loaves as we would like to publish another booklet during 2010.



# CABARET NIGHT

**May 15, 2010, 7:30 pm**

### ***Coming in May to Faith United.....***

Cabaret Night, featuring some of Durham Region's finest talented singers, musicians and entertainers. Of course, we mean you!

If you're interested in participating - if you have a song to sing, an instrument to play, a joke to tell - let Brian Stevens know and we'll get you on the program. Solos, duets, ensembles - create your own or join with others looking for someone to play with!

We have a lot of talent in this church. Let's show what we've got!

**Faith United Church (Courtice) & St. Paul's United (Ajax)**  
are pleased to sponsor the following event:



## **'The Sensuous Senator'**

an action-packed madcap comedy

Wednesday, March 24th, 5:45 p.m.

### **Admission includes an Award Winning 5 Course Buffet Dinner and the Live Show**

Class Act will give \$30 of the proceeds from each ticket sold to the sponsoring churches to support their respective Outreach Programs.



**Tickets \$65 tax included**

**Call Faith Box Office**

**905-448-1320**

**Book early to avoid disappointment!**



**CLASS ACT DINNER THEATRE  
101 Consumers Drive  
Whitby, ON L1N 3C4**

More information at: [faithunited.ca](http://faithunited.ca)

## **FAITH FINANCE**



Faith United has established the practice of holding an annual Stewardship event to review our finances and help plan budgets for the coming year. You will receive a detailed booklet on our status on Feb 7, 2009. You will note that the deficit is larger than projected last year. We are fortunate that we were able to meet expenses from our capital fund again this year. Our ability to do so on an ongoing basis is limited. We are grateful for the generous support we are receiving and have received; unfortunately it has not met expenses. We are optimistic that with your help and the grace of God, we can meet this challenge.

*What you can do:*

*First*, review the contents of the stewardship booklet, and if possible move up a step or part of a step in offerings. *Second*, please complete an intention card even if your offerings remain the same. It is not binding but gives us a valuable tool to more accurately estimate income. *Third*, If you are not already taking part, consider using our Funscrip card programme. *Fourth*, We have many wonderful things happening at Faith. Share the good news. Invite friends, neighbours, family, and workmates to come and see. *Fifth*, We're already blessed with wonderful volunteers, thank you for all your work.

New ideas for events; activities and fund raising are always welcome.

We are optimistic since, in spite of a deficit, we have increased our assets (net worth) by over \$28,000 last year.

*Imagine the possibilities.*

## FAITH COMMUNICATIONS

Our plans for a winter flyer have been deferred, due to budget constraints. Also most of events are of a regular nature that are covered through our other promotion methods i.e. email, posters, newspaper "What's on" columns and our web site. Our next issue will be in August to promote our fall startup.

We encourage you to keep sending us information for the Link and our other promotional initiatives.

A new digital video camera has been obtained to replace the broken tape camera and is functioning well. Thank you to Charles Labelle for donating a surplus tape camera to replace our broken one as well. With two cameras we hope to have more flexibility in future productions.

The committee has reviewed a Photo Directory supplied by Ron and Elizabeth Lambert and is completing plans for producing our own hopefully in May.

As my term of office of chair is finished this year, I am pleased to welcome Victoria Girling who has agreed to stand as chair of Faith Communications at the annual meeting.

We also welcomed Larry Hatchey, who has been a regular helper in the sound booth, to our committee.

I wish to thank all of the committee members for their efforts and support during the past several years. I will remain on the committee to assist where I can.

John Sylvestervich

## FAITH MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

On behalf of the M&P committee members I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was called upon to participate in filling in the questionnaires for our annual staff reviews. Your comments and insights are important, both to us as a committee and to our staff in helping them to fulfill their roles here at Faith.

My 3-year term as chairperson of the M&P committee will end at the Annual Congregational Meeting this month and I must say I have enjoyed serving in this capacity, learning curve and all. I would like to thank my fellow committee members, past and present, for their support, their compassion and their willingness to step up and get the job done, whether the road was smooth or a bit bumpy. I could not have chosen a better group of people to work with. Thank-you everyone!

Finally, I must say we at Faith are most fortunate to have a staff that is caring, capable and cooperative. This for the most part, has made our job as a committee very easy. The best part being, these very talented and dedicated people have chosen to become part of our Church family. We are blessed.

Sincerely, Pat Long

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### \*\*\* MILK BAG MATS \*\*\*

To date we have taken over a dozen mats to St. Therese Catholic Church, Courtice for shipment to Africa. Thanks to all who are participating. We do not need any more milk bags though since we have a huge supply. There is a need and a pattern to crochet tote bags. Please see Linda Walsh if you are interested.

### PLEASE HELP US SAVE POSTAGE & ENVELOPES

Can you deliver a copy of the Link for us? If so, please pick up copies at the front door for anyone you know and drop them off for us. This will save us postage and if you can manage without an envelope as well this will help the environment.

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Custodian: Bruce Milliken

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs. 8.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.  
Friday, 8.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.

Worship Services Sunday Mornings, 10.30a.m.  
We celebrate Communion on the first Sunday  
of every month.

## EVENTS AT FAITH

**Tuesday, February 16th, 2010**

**5.30pm**

**Shrove Tuesday**

**\*Pancake Supper - \$7**

**Saturday, March 13th, 2010**

**5:00 until 6:30pm**

**\*Irish Dinner**

**Saturday, April 17th, 2010**

**5.30 pm**

**\*Ham and Scalloped Potato Supper**

**Proceeds to Canadian Landmine Foundation**

**Music by St. Mark's Blessings Choir**

**Saturday, May 15th, 2010**

**7.30 pm**

**Cabaret Night**

**(See advertisement Page 6)**

*\*We recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment.*

Tickets for these events are available from:

The Faith Box Office

Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm

**905-448-1320**

