

Faith United
Welcome - Wellness - Worship

www.faithunited.ca

The Link

December, 2011





This has been an odd December. The time has seemed to go by quickly but the Christmas rush hasn't hit me yet. Maybe it's the milder than usual weather? Or maybe it's because of our focus on the Advent Conspiracy initiative and our well-drilling fundraising? But I suspect it's because our new puppy, Billie, has taken over our lives and we've lost track of everything else.

Advent at Faith has been a wonderful time this year. We began with our annual church pot luck and decorating party (our Advent Event) and as the saying goes, many hands make light work. It was a fabulous day where we ate well and worked side by side to transform our church into a beautiful Christmassy place. I love watching the faces of visitors as they come in and gasp at the giant tree, and then they are bowled

over by the beautiful decorating.

During worship on the second week of Advent we learned that our congregation contributed over 70 angel bags to Gate 3:16. Then on the third week of Advent we presented our turkey tree and mitten tree. Just think of all the families who will be positively affected by your loving generosity. What a beautiful gift!

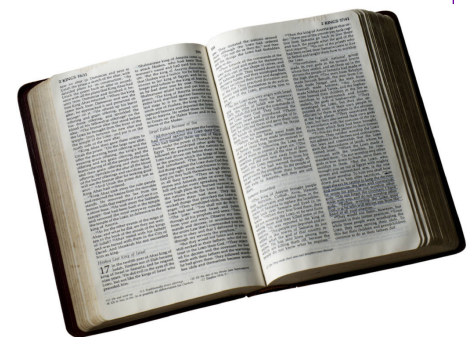
And the biggest gift we'll collectively give this Advent and Christmas season is the gift of life! We will literally give life to desperately poor people in Africa for whom clean water is currently only a dream. One fewer gift given here to someone who doesn't really need it could be transformed into a life-saving gift and the transformation of an entire community in Africa. The phrase we've used is "Spend Less, Give More". Spend a little less on ourselves, and instead give a little more to help those who really need it. If at least half our Faith families gave \$30 toward the well-drilling project we could dig another well this year. The more we share, the more we help. It's our new Christmas tradition!

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. We will definitely still have worship at the church. What better way to spend your

Christmas morning than celebrating the reason for the season! But we know that people have family traditions and family obligations too. So we hope you'll do your best and try to join us at church if you can. Dress casually - even in PJs if you want! The kids can bring a toy to play with if they'd like to (ok, so can the grown ups!) and we'll gather together to hear the story of the light of the world and to sing our favourite Christmas carols. Sounds like fun!

And now, having written this note about Christmas I'm starting to feel more Christmassy! From my family (Cynthia, Ben, Josie, me, and Billie) to your family I wish you a very blessed and holy Christmas and a joyous and healthy new year.

Shalom!
Rev. Larry



www.faithunited.ca

Check us out online! Now better than ever!

FUNDSCRIP

Fundscrip has played an important role in reducing our deficit. Jim and I really appreciate those who are using the program. It is satisfying to see our hard work be fruitful. It is simple to order or buy cards; it costs you nothing extra, and the merchants pledge a percentage of sales to our church. Each month Fundscrip sends our earnings to the church.

The original goal was set at \$6 000 a year in profit. Thanks to the addition of new users, we have had a larger volume in sales but are still not meeting our target. At year end, I anticipate our total at approximately \$4200. We are hoping that we can increase our sales in 2012 and are asking you to

seriously consider buying a card or two every month to boost our profit. Cost of living increases affect us all, including our church expenses. If you are going to buy gas, groceries, and household items anyway, why not support your church at no added cost to you? Merry Christmas to you all and many blessings in the New Year.
Jim and Allana Wright

PROPERTY

I would like to give a HUGE thank you to all those who helped around the church during Bruce's absence. It was helpful that the congregation helped stack chairs after church. It would be appreciated if you continue with this to assist Bruce.
Jim Wright



FAITH MISSION & SERVICE



Greetings from your Mission & Service Committee

We wish to thank you for your continued support of the Mission and Service Fund. At the end of Oct over \$26,000.00 has been received, and our 2011 budget is \$30,000.00 so please continue your support.

The Mission and Service Committee, in partnership with the congregation, are once again planning to have a well dug in a village in Africa. We are asking for everyone's support. One well can save many lives and improve living conditions for the village. Our hope is one less Christmas gift for someone you care about and the money given to this well project. This can make it a reality. Donation cards are available to tell that special someone a donation has been made on their behalf or make a donation just for you.

Our Ham and Scallop Potato Dinner has been planned for April 14, 2012, so please mark your calendar. Have a happy and safe Christmas Season.

FAITH LIBRARY



by Leslie Winston

Check out The Faith Library for your reading pleasure. Here are some of the newly acquired books.

Embraced By The Light. [133.9 01320 / EAD] Donation

Betty J. Eadie

At the age of thirty-one, Betty Eadie died in a hospital after undergoing surgery. The events that followed have been called "the most detailed and spellbinding near-death experience ever recounted". She was given a message to share with others in the hope that it may touch the hearts of others, bring them closer to the Love that awaits us all.

The Dancing Steward: Exploring Christian Stewardship Lifestyles. [248.6 / LEV] Donation

Christopher Levan

In his spirited exploration of the reasons why we find it difficult to relinquish our personal resources, Chris Levan introduces us to the three intertwining steps of "letting go": solidarity, relinquishment, and expectation. This book is a unique and valuable guide into the heart of Christian stewardship lifestyle.

God's Purpose for Every Woman. [248.8 4322 / TER] Donation

Lysa TerKeurst and Rachel Olsen

This collection of devotions is designed to help you connect your real self with God and find your purpose in Him.

Wind and Fire: Living Out the Book of Acts.[[226.6 06 / LAR] Donation

Bruce Larson

In Wind and Fire, Bruce Larson distills the essence of an intensive study of Acts and gives the reader dynamic impetus for continuing the story the Apostles began recounting twenty centuries ago. In reviewing the dramatic story of the early Apostles, the author brings into focus fresh ways to put faith to work.

The Power of Myth. [291.1 3 /CAM] Donation

Joseph Campbell with Bill Moyers

The symbols of mythology and legend are all around us, embedded in the fabric of our daily lives, and the Moyers-Campbell dialogues are a guide to recognizing and understanding their meaning. The Power of Myth touches on subjects from modern marriage to virgin birth, from Jesus to John Lennon, offering a brilliant combination of intelligence and wit.

Please visit The Church Library in the alcove just across from the Nursery and the Children's Library in the Sun Room. Enjoy.



FAITH BRIGHT IDEAS

As the year comes to a close we are happy to report that we have exceeded our target of raising \$10,000. for the Operations Line of the yearly budget.

Since the beginning of September the Courtice Lions Club has been having two dinner meetings a month at Faith. Bright Ideas is one of the teams helping with catering for this Group. The UCW and the Men's Group are also involved. Volunteers are always needed the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

Freshly made Mincemeat tarts, individual meat & potato pies, broccoli & ham quiche and chicken pot pies are for sale at the kitchen or phone Kathleen Littlewood 905-432-6994 to place an order.

Merry Christmas,
Linda Walsh



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Congratulations:

Mr. Clarence Greentree—100th birthday
Alice Hoy—80th Birthday
Allen & Nellie Thompson—50th Anniversary
Bruce Watt—81st Birthday

Shirley & Alex Taylor—birth of Granddaughter
Carol & Ted Sculac—birth of daughter
Alex & Gail Scott—birth of granddaughter
Ken & Meghan Scott—birth of daughter
Ken & Eric Buss—birth of granddaughter
Andy & Lisa-Dawn—birth of daughter
Sandy & Grant Luke birth of grandson
Art Bishop—birth of great-grandson

Sympathy to:

Mrs. Beula Duncan on death of husband Don
The Family of the late Pearl Johnson
The Family of the late Annie Fowler

Get Well:

Shirley Lemon
Aldyth McMurtry
Bruce Milliken
Jan Bathgate
Joyce Fulling
Mr. LaHay
Charlie Durno
Ron Rogers
Peggy McGibbon

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Faith United has began a prayer shawl ministry. Knitted shawls are given to friends in our church community. They can be given to anyone who is sick, a new mom, a student going away to school, or for any other reason you can think of. It is a way to let our people know, they are thought of during, sometimes, a difficult time in their life. If you can knit and would like to help with this ministry, please contact Jackie Tanton or Donna Bignell or leave a message at the office. A very simple pattern is available and other more difficult patterns are also available. What a wonderful ministry this is and we would ask if you know anyone who would benefit from receiving a shawl or need any more information on this to let either Jackie or Donna know. Phone numbers are Jackie 905-725-7692 or Donna 905-728-7749.

A notice has been received for Rev. David & Marcie Smith, they are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on December 29th. If you remember them from our beginning days at Faith and would like to send them an e-mail or card it can be sent in care of their daughter Lisa at lisalefe@telus.net or mail to Lisa Lefebvre 15001 78 Avenue, Edmonton, AB. T5R 3C6

Meals on Wheels:

Faith's next turn to do Meals on Wheels is Jan. 9, 11, & 13, 2012. If you are able to help please contact Carolyn Boyd at 905-576-5816. This is a wonderful way to help in the community.

CHURCH WORK IN DURHAM



Angels and turkeys and mittens....oh my....

The foyer of Faith United has been overflowing with angel gift bags and Christmas trees decorated with turkey decals and knitted goods. The generosity of our congregation has, once again, provided angel gift bags filled with toiletries, gift cards, treats and hats and mitts for the patrons at Gate 3:16. The turkey vouchers provide a meat voucher to be included in the Christmas food hampers given to needy families by Simcoe Hall Settlement House.

Our non perishable food items that are collected every week are used for emergency help to local families with the excess given to Settlement House, Gate 3:16 and AIDS Durham.

We also have a box set up for the collection of items needed by The Back Door Mission and we will continue to accept men's coats, hats, mitts, etc. throughout the winter. A list of needed items is attached to the box.

Our Faith family gives freely. Through that generosity, many families and individuals in our area are able to experience a happier Christmas. From the CWID committee, thank you for your continued support.

Need a committee to join in 2012? If you are interested in joining the Church Work in Durham Committee please contact Karen Bihun at church or at 905-436-1048.



Faith United Operations	Jan - Nov 2011	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Advertising	523.40	2,566.63	-2,043.23
Bank Interest	6.78		
Designated Income	1,500.00		
Fundraising	26,048.04	18,533.37	7,514.67
GstRebate	0.00	3,500.00	-3,500.00
Line 1 (Local Operations)	164,265.0	153,180.50	11,084.50
Line 1B (Capital)	21,550.00	27,958.37	-6,408.37
Loose Income	3,903.59	4,125.00	-221.41
Miscellaneous Income	2,062.27	2,291.63	-229.36
Reimbursed Expenses	245.75	1,466.63	-1,220.88
Use of building	10,316.65	13,750.00	-3,433.35
Total Income	230,421.4	227,372.13	3,049.35
Expense			
Administration	13,378.18	11,412.50	1,965.68
Benevolent Fund	-1,000.00		
Fund Raising Expense	964.69		
HST Expenses	11,690.15	6,416.63	5,273.52
Interest Expense	35,567.93	43,541.63	-7,973.70
Payroll Expenses	124,945.1	134,750.00	-9,804.85
Program Expense	10,401.57	13,629.13	-3,227.56
Property	40,378.82	38,591.63	1,787.19
Reconciliation Discrepan-	-49.91		
Total Expense	236,276.5	248,341.52	-12,064.94
Net Ordinary Income	-5,855.10	-20,969.39	15,114.29
Budgeted from Housing	9,667		
Unused	3,811.90		

The chart below shows expenditure on capital improvements as approved by council fund from our Harmony funds.

(More on page 8)

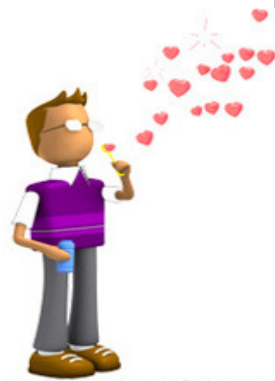
The Link



Knitting with Donna

- first Monday of each month

From October until June a group of ladies join together to knit, ask questions about knitting, learn about knitting, socialize and enjoy a cup of tea. Come and join us at any time. We start about 7:00 pm and end at 9:00 pm in the Sunroom at the church. Any questions call the church or Donna at 905-728-7749. Come out and enjoy.



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Christmas Mitten Tree

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the mitten tree. We needed 160 pairs to be taken to Mary St. School, a downtown school in Oshawa and I think we have that many. If there are extra ones we will find another school to take them to. The tree will be emptied by Dec. 19th as the school closes for holidays on the 22nd and the mitts need to be distributed before that day. Thanks again to all who helped. Donna

Finance report (Cont'd page 7)

The good news is that our Line 1A and 1B combined income is \$4,677 above budget. This is due largely to our new members. Our fundraising is also \$ 6,6647 above budget. This is offset by a shortfall of 7,146 in other budgeted accounts. The net positive income above budget to the end of November was \$3,049. Our expenses also were \$12,064 below budget. This together with the positive income resulted in avoiding the over \$8,000 projected deficit (after full housing draw of \$10,000).

If we experience year end top ups and no undue heating and snow removal costs in December we should be able to achieve a balanced budget.

We still need to complete repayment of the local loans and a number of other outstanding capital projects.

It is important to note that fundraising is a major component of balancing the budget. We thank all who have helped by working and organizing events and all who have supported by coming out to our events. We will be facing additional budget pressures in energy costs and payroll inflation adjustments, Presbytery mandated increases in housing and fees.

The ideal situation is to carry costs through the offerings. We still have a way to go to reach that goal.

This fall we welcome the Lions club who meet 3 times a month , including two dinner meetings per month. It is my understanding that the UCW has voted not to continue providing meals after the fall trial period.

This represents a loss of \$3,500 to \$4000 in income. However we have 4 men's group leaders for integrated teams and Linda Walsh has indicated that Bright Ideas will field a least one team. If we can obtain enough volunteers for 1 or 2 more teams we can limit the work load to 3 dinners per team per year. With our 5 teams each team needs to do 4 dinners per year. Signup sheets will be available in the foyer.

Publisher: Faith United United Church
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Friday, 8.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.

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