

# South Winds

Windsor Park United Church

November 2013

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## From the study ...

Jesus matters. As we enter the season of Advent and anticipate the excitement of Christmas, it's a good time to contemplate this time of year. As Donna Harris, spokesperson for the Humanists Atheists and Agnostics Association of Manitoba told me, you can give gifts, have family dinners, work for charity and not be a Christian. This is true, of course. Many non-believers are good people. So, why believe in Jesus?



This hugely important question is something that Patrick and I will tackle on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, our fourth Advent service. To call ourselves Christians and to follow the teachings and ways of Jesus separate us from those who are merely 'good people'. This question of what we believe was the topic of the cover article in the November issue of the United Church Observer magazine. If you don't already receive it, you can view it online at: [http://www.ucobserver.org/features/2013/10/beyond\\_belief/](http://www.ucobserver.org/features/2013/10/beyond_belief/)

Two ministers from the Toronto area were interviewed about their faith. For me, as I think it was for many readers, it was a troubling article. In it the ministers set out a theology that is more humanist than Christian. It is a view of the world with or without God and most certainly with a revisionist approach to Jesus. For me, this is bad theology and an irresponsible approach to ministry in our United Church of Canada.

Through the season of Advent and Christmas we focus on the monumental shift the entire world experienced in this man, Jesus of Nazareth. Whatever you may argue about Mary and the mythology around the birth of Jesus, there is no denying that the world was a different place because of his life, death and resurrection. Even more relevant to us is the influence Jesus has on us today: what we believe of God, of our place in Creation, what we are doing to bring God's vision for our world to reality. Our faith in Jesus can inform the values we hold, the way we raise our families, how we behave in our workplaces, how we interact with our neighbours, and how we respond to tragedy, disaster and injustice. Our faith tells us what we should do and why!

This year our Advent and Christmas services will celebrate how the life of Jesus has pointed us to a different world built on the values of peace, hope, joy and love. We'll reflect on the contributions of an interesting and eclectic group of people who have fostered these values in our time. Jesus is God in the flesh, God on earth, God among us. This changed everything for the better.

...continued on page 2

From The Study...continued

The kick-off to the season is our bonfire and chili supper on November 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 pm. Wear warm clothes so that you can join us around the roaring fire to sing carols. There will be cupcakes to decorate and fun crafts plus a 'special visitor' for the kids.

Remember, we are far more than just nice people, we are Christians and, in the famous words of Martha Stewart, that is a very good thing!

Yours in faith,

*Sharon*

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## **UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| November 29 <sup>th</sup> | - Chili Supper / Bon fire (5:30 - 9 pm)    |
| November 30 <sup>th</sup> | - Cookie Walk (10 am - Noon)               |
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>  | - Advent 1                                 |
| December 8 <sup>th</sup>  | - Advent 2                                 |
|                           | - White Gift Sunday                        |
| December 14 <sup>th</sup> | - Christmas Hampers (packing & delivering) |
|                           | - Congregational Caroling                  |
| December 15 <sup>th</sup> | - Advent 3                                 |
| December 17 <sup>th</sup> | - Congregational Caroling                  |
| December 20 <sup>th</sup> | - Blue Christmas Service (7 pm)            |
| December 22 <sup>nd</sup> | - Advent 4                                 |

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

5 pm - FAMILY

7 pm - CONTEMPORARY

11 pm - TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

## Our Church Family

### We extend our sympathy to

The Cohoe Family on the passing of Benjamin  
The Cote Family on the passing of Garth  
The Wirth Family on the passing of Gunnar Thorvaldson



### We welcome by baptism

Kieran Thomas Laramie (January 18, 2012) son of Rheal &  
Stephanie



### We congratulate on their marriage, the following

Tony Dilello & Maria Markewich on September 27, 2013  
Justin Morris & Jennifer Obirek on October 19, 2013



### Worship Council

The Advent season will soon be upon us and we invite you to join us as we journey towards Christmas. Advent begins December 1 and this year's theme is "a different world" which will be explored in relation to the four candles of the Advent wreath - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Come join us for Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. As well, there will be several special services during this joyous time. Some special services to make note of are:

November 24 - Contemporary Service

December 1 - Advent begins - Communion

December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent - White Gift Sunday

December 15 - Third Sunday in Advent

December 22 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22 at 7:00 p.m. - Blue Christmas Service

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

- 5:00 pm - Family Service
- 7:00 pm - Youth Service
- 11:00 pm - Communion Service



For those who find the Christmas Season to be a difficult time, please join us for our Blue Christmas Service on December 22 at 7:00 p.m.

We hope that you will join us in worship at any (or all) of our services. We look forward to seeing you.

*Jennifer Rentz- Wright*  
Worship Council Chair

## Ramblings from the “Other Office”

Here we are at the end of another year for me as a member of the community of Windsor Park United Church and what a year it has been.

This past year has been full of ups and downs and yet through it all, there has been one constant and that has been the sense of belonging that I and my family have felt as part of this family of faith known as Windsor Park United Church.

This past spring, my father was sick, Douglas' mother was sick and in the midst of that, I was preparing to go away to Halifax for six weeks for my first summer term of my Masters of Divinity. Throughout this time, the one constant was the care and concern from the people of this community and that has helped us come through this difficult time.

My summer away in Halifax was a wonderful yet challenging experience. I took three full courses in the six weeks, each course being two weeks long, with much reading and homework to be accomplished every day. The community at the Atlantic School of Theology was amazing and I know that I have made some life-long friends. I have continued my education this fall with online distance courses and will be back in Halifax in the summer of 2014.



This fall has once again been a busy time at the church, as programs get into full swing and we start a new year. The youth group has



been good, with over 30 youth joining us for the Corn Maze in October and there has been a request that we begin weekly or bi-weekly youth

group meetings, which we hope to begin in the next couple of weeks. There seems to a great deal of energy around youth group and I am

looking forward to the future with these amazing young people.

Goodness and Grace 2 was another learning event for me as I had never been involved in putting on something like this event. It was amazing to work with such a great group of people who volunteered so much time and energy to ensure that everything ran smoothly and that it did. I had a great time meeting our keynote speakers and must say that the experience exceeded my expectations. Would I do it again? Maybe! Ask me again in a year or two.

I have officially begun, in this church, my first year of oversight by The United Church of Canada. I imagine that many of you will hear more about the work of my Lay Supervision Team, a requirement for this year, and what it means for Windsor Park United to be my learning site.

This is going to be another year of learning for me and I must say I am glad that I have you all along for the journey. I look forward to the next year with you all.

Peace,  
*Patrick Woodbeck*

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## A Reminder!

If you are not receiving the SouthWinds and wish to receive our newsletter, along with emails from the church, go to the following site to **Subscribe** to our bulk email list:

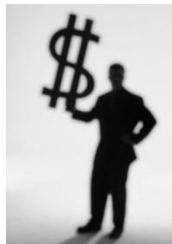
<http://www.windsorparkunitedchurch.com/congregation-email-subscribe/>

If you have changed your email address, go to the site below to **Unsubscribe** your old email address. Then go to the above link to **subscribe** with your new email address.

<http://www.windsorparkunitedchurch.com/congregation-email-unsubscribe/>

## Finance and Stewardship Council

As most of you saw from your givings-to-date letter, we still have a deficit situation. We are currently projecting a shortfall of \$6,000 at year end. The 40-for-40 campaign has currently stalled at around 30. We need another 10 folks to commit to giving \$40 more each month for the next two years.



PAR is doing really well with 118 current subscribers. Our goal is 125. Our counters have noticed it is a little easier on Sundays as more people have their monthly donation transferred straight from their bank accounts. We are looking for a few more counting teams if you are interested.

We have fundraisers either on the go or being planned.

- The always popular Safeway and Sobeys gift cards will be on sale for the next few months.
- We will be taking orders for Lacoste Poinsettias during November for delivery on December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Don't forget to pick up your Co-op number tag so you can have a "tither-in-your-tank".
- We have also booked Applebee's for a breakfast get together with friends and family on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, **2014**. There will be a request for 15 volunteers in May along with tickets being available for sale.



It is also time to start thinking about the 2014 church budget. Preliminary budget package will be ready by November 22<sup>nd</sup> for those on various councils.

Finance and Stewardship Council

## WPUC Art Group

The Art Group started up again in September with 13 members meeting every Tuesday from 1:00 to 3:30 P.M.

On Sept. 28, some of the art group participated in the Church craft sale. The participating artists had cards, shrink wrapped art and a few framed art for sale. They were pleased with their sales.

October 1<sup>st</sup>, Linda Olzewski instructed us in a different way to paint leaves.



On Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> we are having another guest artist, Melaney Robbins come for an all day session on water colour "pouring".

Everyone is welcome to join us or just come to observe. If you want to join us, membership is \$45 annually.

Respectively submitted,  
Carol Belsham

## WPUC Garden Club

Garden Club Meeting's were held starting March 5<sup>th</sup> and ending May 21<sup>st</sup>.



Talking with a few of the members we would be willing to give it

a try for 2014 if we can encourage enough participants to make it worthwhile. We all know that people are very busy, and priorities must be set, but a short term activity might be a pleasant break. (Please keep us in mind for 2014)

### Helpful Gardening Tip

If you are not sure when to transplant your perennials, follow this basic rule of thumb:

- If it blooms in the spring, move it in the fall.
- If it blooms in the summer or fall, move it in the spring.

Most perennials need to be split or transplanted every three or four years to keep them healthy and blooming.

*Ken Craig*

## Membership and Pastoral Care Council

*Why Membership matters, as stated in the UC Manual:*

"Church membership records are important. The names on the roll are people, not just statistics or names on a list. One congregation refers to its members as the number of "souls" on the congregational roll. Your church has the responsibility to provide pastoral care for its "souls." To do so, you must have a system that allows you to know who and where your people are in order that you can provide them with Christian nurture and outreach."

We pay Presbytery a fee for every person on our roll. This is our Congregational Assessment and is payable each year, therefore it is important for us to know exactly who is on the roll.

When people have not been "active" for a period of time, they will get a letter from the Membership & Pastoral Care Council asking them to check the appropriate answer to the following questions:

- Do you wish to remain on the historic roll of WPUC,
- do you want to support the church financially,
- do you want your membership transferred
- or do you no longer wish to be part of the UC of Canada and ask to be removed from the historic roll.

The person who is deemed inactive is a person who has not been seen at worship, does not contribute financially, and is not active in any area of church life. That person is put on the inactive list and after being inactive for three years, they will get a letter as described above.

We, as a Council, think we are giving the individual as much grace as is possible because, remember, that we are paying Presbytery for them and must keep our lists as clean and up to date as possible.

Keep in touch and help us keep our membership roll up to date!

*Judy Kuffner, Chair*

## Bible Adventures

It's hard to believe we are already approaching Advent and an exciting time in Bible Adventures. The children have already learned so much and are experiencing a new and exciting time downstairs -- from our weekly singing with Laura, to planning their own unique Youth Service, which will happen on December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Sunday after the Contemporary Service. You are welcome to come and see how well the children do in planning their own service.

Our teachers and youth teachers are eager to teach and create new ways of teaching your children. If you have not yet registered your child or children, please see Maria, Leanne or Gloria for a form to complete (even if it just once in awhile, we need to know who the children are for safety reasons).

The library continues to be open for your children to take home books and return the next time they come to church. The older children-, grades 7-9, have put aside the books related to Christmas and the birth of Jesus for your children to read and enjoy.

We welcome any assistance for the older grades. If you can help out for a 6 week block, please see Maria.



We will have our usual holiday celebration on December 22 and then the teachers take the same break as the schools in our area and will resume on January 12, 2014.

**Bible Adventures Coordinating Committee**

## Moms 'n Tots

The Moms and Tots group began the fall season on Wednesday October the 16<sup>th</sup> with 13 moms, 13 children downstairs and 5 babies upstairs.

Our first couple of weeks back the moms enjoyed visiting and reconnecting with each other after the summer. This time also provided an opportunity to get to know the new moms as well as do some planning for the rest of the year. Thank you to Kerri Nelson for taking on the leadership role with the moms.

Some of the activities planned included card making, aerobics, breakfast out, a guest from Crockadoodle as well as some gift making and a potluck breakfast.

Moms and Tots will end on December 18<sup>th</sup> with a Christmas party and a visit from Santa.

The children down stairs continue to enjoy doing crafts provided by Lillian Aird. They are also enjoying some new toys, play dough and snacks, Thanks to Cathy Hall for coming each week to tell wonderful stories to the children.

Thanks to Carol Nichol for organizing the caregivers that look after the babies. A special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers that come out every week to share their time and love with the children. We do have space for a few new moms so anyone that is interested in becoming a part of this group please call Windsor Park United Church at 204-256-8792 or Ruth Klein at 204-256-6390.

We wish you a Merry Christmas. May Gods love and peace be with you all.

**Ruth Klein**

## United Church Women

It seems like I just wrote out the SouthWinds for August and here we are approaching the busiest time of year in the life of Windsor Park United.

The women of this congregation continue to serve in many different ways and are always welcoming new women to join their Units (Please call the church office for more details).

The Annual Cookie walk will take place on Saturday November 30 from 10 am to noon. For \$8 you can have your holiday baking done in a snap, or maybe you need a hostess gift for those holiday parties. If you wish to donate cookies for the walk, they are looking for 6-10 dozen per person and they can be dropped off on Friday November 29. Christmas puddings will also be for sale at the walk and a blow out of YAH's -Yum Yum Cookbooks for \$5 each or 2 for \$8.



At this time I would like to thank the UCW Executive team for all their hard work and support during my time as Chairperson. Diena Rodd, Alana Davis, Margo Baldwin and Maria Will, I could not have done it without you.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Saindon  
Chairperson UCW Executive

## JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL BONFIRE, CHILI SUPPER AND CAROL SINGING



Bring the whole family for a fun night full of food, song, story and magic to kick off the Advent Season!



on Friday November 29th  
from 5:30 - 9 pm  
here at Windsor Park United  
Church



## Congregational Involvement and Communications Council

Summer was sweet but fall was a frenzy! Our Welcome Back luncheon was a beautiful day and we were very fortunate that a (free) BBQ miraculously arrived in time for our event and can be used again!

We followed with a great day for our Golf Tournament but our luck ran out for the Craft Sale! Pouring rain meant our customer traffic was low but we had filled all 30 tables so we felt successful.

We are gathering firewood for November 29th's ADVENT BONFIRE and Chili dinner. Please join us for supper and songs.

We then have some breathing space to plan our Curling Bonspiel and there is talk of bringing back Mardi Gras! So keep your eyes open and watch for notices on these upcoming events and enjoy a warm and joyful Christmas season!

### Judi Olson Chiswell

Chair CICC

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## Thursday Morning Study Group

The book we are using is - Bad Girls of the Bible – Exploring Women of Questionable Virtue by Barbara Essex.

We have just finished learning about Eve. She was the first wife – the first mother – the first person to experience temptation and the first time God was disobeyed. This resulted in embarrassment for being naked – banished from her world as she knew it - but – it also gave her the courage to start a new way of life.

The next woman we will be reading about is Lot's Wife – all we really know about her life is that she looks back and becomes a pillar of salt. What circumstances brought her to disobey God – where was she going – why was the term “a pillar of salt” used in this story – what is the significance of looking back?

There is so much for us to learn from these women who struggled with situations that are not unlike the situations we still struggle with today. What are your thoughts about the lives of the early women in the Bible?

Come and share your ideas with us on Thursday mornings. We meet downstairs at 9:30, in the main room, with a cup of coffee to start us off.

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## Communication Cluster of Winnipeg Presbytery

The Communication Cluster of Winnipeg Presbytery is excited to share that the Presbytery & 1HopeWinnipeg Social Media presence is now vibrantly active. As well, both the 1HopeWinnipeg & Presbytery websites are currently being refreshed – so that's exciting too (watch for more updates).

For those Sisters and Brothers currently making use of Twitter and Facebook, please do Like, Share, Follow & engage. We know that the effectiveness of sharing the Good News in these media are directly connected to participation, so we invite you to come hangout with us!

### Twitter

- 1HopeWinnipeg: <https://twitter.com/1hopewinnipeg>
- Presbytery: <https://twitter.com/wpgpres>

### Facebook

- Presbytery: <https://facebook.com/wpgpres>
- 1HopeWinnipeg: <https://facebook.com/1hopewinnipeg>

**Note:** Be prepared for games and fun to learn about how we can share the Good News with social media and our ministry to the city of Winnipeg in 2014!

With Light & Blessings,

### Communication Cluster

(Kathryn Basso, Jordan Basso, Ken Murdoch, Michael Hartley, Tim Crouch, Gordon Taylor, Richard Manley-Tannis)

Thank you very much!

Maggie Zoske  
Administrator  
Winnipeg Presbytery

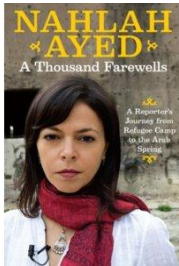
## Chapters and Conversation

There were no cats at the first gathering of Chapters and Conversation but Ms. Bailey did grace us with her presence and added her take on Charlotte Gray's *The Massey Murder*.

Please note that everyone is welcome and the only requirement is that you have read the book. Come to one or join us for all. The dates are subject to change so watch upcoming Sunday bulletins or check with Luci at the church. The first three locations are listed and the others will be announced as they become available.

We look forward to seeing you in December.

### December

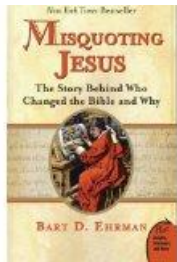


*A Thousand Farewells* by Nahlah Ayed.

Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Location: 204-35 Weatherstone Place (directly behind Boyd Autobody)

### January

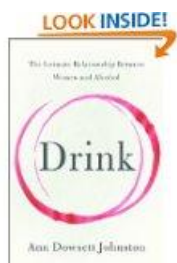


*Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why* by Bart Ehrman

Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: 6A-229 Wellington Crescent

### February

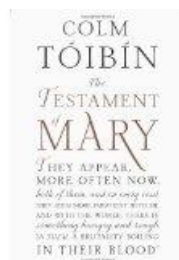


*Drink: The Intimate Relationship Between Women and Alcohol* by Ann Dowset Johnston

Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Location: 216 Cliffwood Drive

### March



*The Testament of Mary* by Colm Toibin

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.

Location TBD

## December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent 1	2 6:15 PM Sparks & Brownies 7:00 PM UCW Executive Mtg.	3 9:30 AM Fr. Healthy Babies 9:30 AM Art Group	4 9:30 AM Moms 'n' Tots	5 9:30 AM Study Group 1:30 PM Little Moccasins 7:45 PM Choir Practice	6	7
8 10:00 AM Used Book Sale Advent 2 White Gift Sunday	9 6:15 PM Sparks & Brownies	10 1:00 PM Art Group 7:30 PM UCW Unit 2 Mtg.	11 9:30 AM Moms 'n' Tots	12 9:30 AM Study Group 1:30 PM Little Moccasins 7:45 PM Choir Practice	13 7:30 PM UCW (YAH) Mtg. Packing Xmas Hampers	14 Congregational Caroling Delivering Xmas Hampers
15 Advent 3	16 1:00 PM UCW Unit 5 Mtg. 6:15 PM Sparks & Brownies	17 9:30 AM Fr. Healthy Babies 1:00 PM Art Group Congregational Caroling	18 9:30 AM Moms 'n' Tots	19 9:30 AM Study Group 1:30 PM Little Moccasins 7:45 PM Choir Practice	20 7:00 PM Blue Christmas	21
22 Baptism Advent 4 7:00 PM Blue Christmas	23 6:15 PM Sparks & Brownies 6:30 PM AOTS Dinner Mtg.	24 1:00 PM Art Group	25	26	27	28 4:00 PM Private Function
29	30 6:15 PM Sparks & Brownies	31 1:00 PM Art Group	1	2 9:30 AM Study Group 1:30 PM Little Moccasins 7:45 PM Choir Practice	3	4