



Rev. Dr. Sharon Wilson

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From the study

"Unto us a child is born". These are the famous words from the prophet Isaiah heralding a Messiah for the people of God in ancient times. Now, they usher in the season of Advent and the chaos of holiday shopping, parties and parades. The tree has been placed in front of City Hall and the cherry pickers helped get the lights to the very top. Kettles and bells on the streets and the shopping malls remind us of this special time of year.

Sometimes lost in all the activity is the promise of this season. The distance and estrangement between God and God's people was finally bridged by the Messiah. In Jesus we were introduced to a relationship with God that is intimate, personal and secure. Jesus brought an understanding of God's love that has fueled the hope of generations of Christians since. And we are part of that proud lineage today!

The Advent plans I began working on in July are now coming to fruition. The theme for our Sunday services is "An Advent Spiritual Adventure" complete with explorers, treasure maps and clues. We will kick the season off with our annual chili supper, bonfire and family fun night on Friday, November 28 from 5:30-8:00 pm. Come and share in the crafts and a visit from Santa!

White Gift Sunday will be December 7th when we share with those in need the blessings

of our homes and work. We are planning to prepare 25 hampers for the Christmas Cheer Board so watch for the list of items needed. You will also notice the mitten tree in the back of our sanctuary. Your donations of socks, mittens and warm hats for children and adults will make winter a bit safer for folks this year.

The choirs of WPUC will be uniting for a Christmas Gala Concert on Sunday, December 14th. Tickets are now available from the office so make sure you have your seat booked!

On Sunday, December 21st you are invited to join Patrick and our Youth for carol singing in the Atrium of St. Boniface Hospital. We hope to fill that space with joyous song!

We have renamed our Blue Christmas Service this year "A Christmas Break". This service will be held on Monday, December 22nd at 7 pm and will feature music, candles, prayers and stories to comfort and encourage you.

Christmas Eve will be busy at WPUC. We will begin at 5 pm with a family friendly service featuring the music of the Joyful Noise and the Praise Team. At 7 pm we will host a traditional service of communion and music with the Worship Choir. At 11 pm we are offering a more contemporary and contemplative service of music, stories and candles featuring soloists.

Looking further ahead, WPUC will be hosting two special events in 2015. On February 7th we are offering "Children at Risk: Partnering for Change", a one-day conference looking at the social issues at the root of problems that place children in danger in our city along with learning about the agencies making a difference and how we can support them. On March 13th we are hosting a concert with a 7 voice cappella ensemble Audio Radiance from The School for Music Vocations at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa. This award-winning jazz ensemble will be on a tour that ends in Chicago so we are thrilled to be one of their venues.

As you can see, this is a busy time for us at WPUC but it is also a joyous time when we celebrate the unexpected blessing of Jesus in our lives. I hope it will be a time for you and your family to reflect on the goodness that surrounds you and, perhaps, be inspired to make a difference in the lives of others.

Blessings always,

Sharon



Christian Development Committee

Your new CDC council is up and running! Our mandate is to oversee Christian education opportunities for all members of our congregation. We oversee Bible Adventures, the church library, confirmation, Youth group, Tot time, Adult education and Baby Fold. If you have an interest in helping others to know God at each stage of their life, please speak to Paulette Cote or Laura Steidl about joining us in this important work.

The Bible Adventures committee is a group that oversees the teachers, and helps in planning the curriculum, gathering materials, etc. The Bible Adventures committee is currently looking for three

people who would like to be involved in the Christian education of our youngest members!



Also concerning our youngest children – Tot Time needs your help! This long-running program at WPUC is an outreach program for new parents. The parents run a program which supports their needs, while the church provides volunteers to care for the infants and toddlers.

There is an urgent need for two or three people to run the program. This involves a "person in charge" being there on Wednesday mornings (can

be a shared duty) to help make sure things are ready for Tot Time, purchasing of the children's snacks, and scheduling of volunteers. If this sounds like a place for you to share your gifts, please contact the church office. The current supervisors would love to help you get started!

Keep an eye on our website or bulletin for upcoming events for Youth group as well as adult education events such as The Jesus Fatwah. Our thanks go to Patrick for his ongoing work in this area!

Save the date! CDC will be hosting another Quiz Masters night on January 30, 2015. Tickets will be available in January.

Membership and Pastoral Care

We are the Council that cares for you. We care that you are well, that you are fed, that you feel your membership in the United Church of Canada is important and that you are not alone when you need someone ... however, we can't do this without the help of everyone in the church. We ask that you call Judy Kuffner (204-256-9101) if you know that someone needs help in any area – if, of course, it requires Sharon's or Patrick's attention, please call the office.

Please call us when someone you know is not feeling well, is admitted to hospital or is simply alone in their apartment with no outside connections etc..

We need more members on our Council and drivers to pick up people and bring them to church. In this regard, we are asking anyone interested in the care of their church family to call Judy Kuffner and please volunteer – you will not be asked to do anything that makes you uncomfortable but whatever you choose to do will be very rewarding!

VERY IMPORTANT!!
In addition, our Council gives "Thinking of You" baskets to anyone who, in the past year, has had issues with health, job loss, bereavement or any other of a myriad of life issues. If you are interested in donating something to this – please feel free to give jams, jellies, home baked

goods (they love those!!), toiletries, etc. We generally do about 40 of these so if you have the "where with all" to contribute 40 parcels – it really helps us make up the baskets but, if not, we will work with it.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL CONTRIBUTIONS!!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Judy
for your M&PC Council



"We are the Council that cares for you...with the help of everyone in the Church."

Our Church Family

3

We extend our sympathy to:

The Shiells Family on the passing of Edith.

The Anderson Family on the passing of Grace.



We welcome by baptism:

Katrina Ann-Marie Faith McKnight (Nov. 23, 2005), daughter of Kevin & Courtney

Michael Austin Jett Woloshyn (March 26, 2014), son of Kevin & Courtney

Brenden Kai Sookhoo (April 23, 2014), son of Ronald & Leanne

Paxton Derek Reece Meilleur (April 3, 2014), son of Ian & Amber

Brooklyn Laurén Will (June 16, 2013), daughter of Shawn & Sandra

Hailey Mae Lashek (July 21, 2014), daughter of Derek & Cheryl



Worship Council

Our fall has been a very busy season at Windsor Park United Church! We enjoyed Patrick's sermons this September while Sharon was away and eagerly look forward for more!

World Wide Communion focused on the Syrian community and a new way to serve Communion with Patrick officiating. It was an eye-opening experience for all.

Congregational support for West Broadway and their ministry was overwhelming throughout Thanksgiving Day Sunday and World Wide Sunday as shown by the amount of food collected. We thank everyone who contributed.

Remembrance Day

Sunday concentrated on World War I to commemorate its 100 year anniversary. Memorabilia and stories comprised the service.

For those who want a quiet break from the Christmas rush, join us for music, meditation and prayer at our Blue Christmas Service. It will be held on November 30th at 7:00 pm.

The Worship Choir will host a Christmas concert on December 14th. Watch for ticket sales in the next coming weeks.

All are welcome to join us December 21st in the evening as we go caroling at St. Boniface Hospital.

Three very different services will comprise our Christmas Celebration on December

24th. At 5:00 pm the Praise Band will join with the Joyful Noise in a family friendly contemporary service. Traditional service at 7:00 pm will be accompanied by the Worship Choir. Communion will be served. Our very talented Kelsey Shiro will be performing at the 11:00 pm quiet reflection/candle service.

In the New Year we will be sending collected donations to our sponsored preschool in Ganobi, South Africa. The amount we raise here amounts to over 9x more in their currency, the Rand. This will provide the school with much needed supplies and repairs.

Linda Stewart, Chair

Finance and Stewardship

We enter into the season of Advent with feelings of joy and hope and our current reality.

Our feeling of joy comes from the early repayment of our Lift Fund loan. We should be very proud of this accomplishment of this hurdled barrier. As mentioned before, any funds designated for the Lift Fund will now be directed to the Boiler Fund unless otherwise instructed.

On the surface we should have hope because our current deficit is better than our budgeted deficit. Upon further review we are in this fiscal position because of extra special gifts from extra special angels, congregational events and funerals.

If you take the time to review our budget you will notice that the combined costs of Property and M&P are greater than the revenue from Envelopes and PAR. The previous surpluses that covered previous years' deficits are now depleted. The next hurdle we face is maintaining the service level we value.

Finance and Stewardship has expanded the choice of gift cards beyond Safeway and Sobeys through <http://www.fundscrip.com/>.



Fundscrip lists more than 70 different retailers; beside Safeway and Sobeys, they have Superstore. They also have PetroCanada, Shell and Esso for fuel, Chapters, Cineplex and many more for entertainment. Their department store selection includes Sears, Hudson's Bay, Walmart and Giant Tiger. Order forms will be available starting on November 16th with complete orders accepted starting November 23rd and final orders due December 7th. Delivery will be on the 14th. This is an excellent way to do most of your Christmas shopping without fighting for a mall parking spot.

Doug Waldron

Bible Adventures

At the time of this writing .it looks like we have survived Halloween and the snow so far. It makes for writing this so much easier when the sun is still shining through the window on an early Saturday morning.

Many of us may still be dreaming of those dog days of summer, but we that teach and coordinate the Bible Adventures are busy preparing for the lessons.

We are blessed to have a full contingent of teachers and assistants and every week it amazes me how well the teachers work together to accomplish the same result. With so many of our teachers involved in with the Praise team, all the rest come together to help with open sessions.

We have started singing with Eleanor Liwoski and Jessica Steidl(Joyful Noise director) at the beginning of each Sunday that the children come down. These voices are powerful when they get together!

With advent quickly approaching, we encourage the children to attend as we embark on a weekly treasure hunt to find missing pieces of a puzzle map! It will prove to be very exciting.



As always we will not have regular lessons on December 28 and January 4 but will resume on January 11.

If you have not registered your child(ren), please see Gloria Saindon for a form to complete as we need to have this information not only for our records but also for your child(ren)'s safety (ie, allergies).

We welcome all children downstairs including under 3 as we do have our babyfold as well.

As always we are available for questions or concerns, both before and after church.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Saindon

**Bible Adventures
Coordinator**

ANNUAL CHILI BONFIRE AND CAROL SING

**Friday November 28th
from 5:30 – 9pm.**

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

**Donations of un-
iced sugar cookies
would be
appreciated that
evening for the
children's crafts.**wo



Songs of the Season



"A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Songs of the Season"

Featuring the choirs of

Windsor Park United Church

Sunday, December 14, 2:00 pm

1062 Autumnwood Drive

Tickets \$10, available at the door

Children 12 and under - Free

Congregational Involvement and Communications Council

Oh to be a child again, and to gaze upon a Christmas tree with amazement for its magical ability to bring love even on the dreariest day. What was once a tangled ball of lights, spools of ribbon, boxes of ornaments, and an enormous tree (albeit fake) can transform one's home into a Christmas wonderland. We push ourselves to see all our family & friends within a restricted time frame & wear our nerves to the nub.

Take time this season to rest as well, so next year you will want to join us for our 1st ever **"WHO WILL WE MEET FOR SWEETS?"** Happening February 8th. Also the annual CiCC **CURLING** is scheduled for MARCH 1st.

Merry Christmas from All us at CICC
Judi Olson Chiswell

Christmas Calendar

November 28	– 5:30 pm Chili Supper, Bonfire & Carols
November 29	– 10 am Cookie Walk
November 30	– Advent 1
December 6	– Thinking of You (packing baskets)
December 7	– Advent 2 White Gift Sunday
December 14	– Advent 3 Communion 2 pm Christmas Concert
December 21	– Advent 4 Baptism 1 pm Youth Group Caroling
December 22	– 7 pm Blue Christmas Service
December 24	– 5 pm, 7 pm, 11 pm Christmas Eve Services

THE JESUS FATWAH

Please join us for a Study Group based on the resource 'THE JESUS FATWAH.'

Much of what passes as information about Islam is weed-like disinformation rooted in stereotype and watered in fear.

In 'The Jesus Fatwah', Islamic and Christian

scholars offer reliable information about what Muslims believe, how they live out their faith and how we all can be about building relationships across the lines of faith.

This study group will be held every 2nd Wednesday from 7 – 9 pm at Windsor Park United Church, 1062 Autumnwood Dr."

Schedule as follows:

- November 19
- December 3
- December 17
- January 7
- January 21
- February 4
- February 18

During the last 2 or 3 sessions we will be watching a Hollywood film and examining

what we have learned in light of popular media.

RSVP to Luci 256-8792 04
officewpuc@mymts.net



Trustees' Report

We have seven trustees to date of which three were added in 2014.

We held a meeting May 4th to outline duties required of us according to the Trustees Handbook and 2013 United Church Manual.

Sept. 24th, 2014, we stuffed and sealed "Givings to Date" with a cover letter which was

distributed to the congregation two Sundays at church.

Oct. 5th there was a special meeting with Rick Woodhouse.

Four trustees were in attendance. A motion was passed to move our investment clearing house from Investors to C.I.B.C. Wood Gundy

The paperwork was done to have four signatories in place.

An investment Policy Statement was created to guide the trustees. This will be reviewed at our January 18, 2015 meeting so that it can be included in our constitution.

Sylvia Mann



"An investment

Policy Statement was created to guide the trustees."

Thursday Morning Study Group

We have been using a CD presentation called Religions of the World which is narrated by Ben Kingsley.

The first of the six religions was Buddhism. You may be surprised to learn that this ancient tradition began in India.

Hinduism was next and is one of the oldest living religions. It has been an influence in other religions with the spiritual and meditative exercises such as yoga.

The group eagerly anticipated the presentation on Islam. With the news such as it is reported daily in all media outlets, learning about the customs of the Islam faith was very interesting and reassuring.

Then we were introduced to Judaism. Here we felt a little more comfortable. As Christians, our beliefs grew out of Judaism.

We then learned about Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christianity. In this presentation there was background on how the division of the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic religions came about.

We are looking forward to learning about how Protestantism came into being. This will be the last of the six religions presentation however it will not be the end of our seeking to understand our neighbor.

There has been quite an interest in learning how customs and rituals have evolved over the centuries. With that in mind, we as a group have decided to review some of the CD's for the next three or four weeks. This will bring the study group through to Christmas and the New Year when we will continue on our journey in faith.

There is always an

interesting discussion after each presentation. This year we are using the large screen and computer in the basement. Viewing is ever so much nicer.

Thank you to Sharon and Patrick for their help setting up the computer.

There is always room at the table for one more so come and join us.

Alice Hastings



A.O.T.S.

Wow time flies. Here we go again.

Our club has had three meeting since last we wrote. Each meeting had a great supper provided by U.C.W. Boy can those ladies cook. I am afraid our guys might put on weight.

We had three interesting speakers.

Sept. Rob Dunsford spoke to us on real estate and down - sizing.

Oct. Dan Vandal spoke to us on city plans and action in our area.

Nov. Jim Hatherly, a padre at Headingly, spoke to us about his work with inmates.

During the month of November we provided members to take wheel chair patients down to the chapel for Sunday service and at the end wheel them back to their rooms.

Due to success with our spring BBQ we were able to make a good donation to West Broadway and Agape Table.

Our members continue to be busy in most activities in the church.

We take this opportunity to wish all a very merry Christmas and a great New Year.

Men come and join us at our next meeting Jan.26, 2015.

United Church Women (UCW)

Unit meetings:

- Unit 2 meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at the church @ 1pm.
- Unit 5 meets the 3rd. Monday of the month at the church @ 1pm.
- YAH'S meet the 2nd Friday of the month at the church @ 7:30pm.

**You are invited to a
Cookie Walk
on November 29th
from 10 am to noon.**

**It is not a nut free environment.
Fill a cookie container for \$8.00 -
making sure the lid must close.
Small butter tarts will be
available 6 for \$3.00.**

Outreach Council

Each week, donations of food and hygiene items are picked up and delivered to West Broadway Community Ministry by Shirley and Gord Goossen.

On the third Thursday of each month, lunch is prepared and served by WPUC volunteers - and our friendly mascot- to the guests of WBCM. While the numbers vary, as many as 200 guests arrive. Your contributions of coffee and lunch supplies, as well as the home-baked goodies, go a long way to keeping food on their plates and smiles on their faces.

In October, volunteers from WPUC provided turkey and pies for the Fall Supper organized by the Rainbow Ministry. The supper is the main fundraiser for the ministry.

A special hot lunch was prepared in November for West Broadway guests. The supplies for the meal

were purchased with funds donated in memory of Ian Aird, Lillian's husband. Approximately 125 very appreciative people enjoyed a warm, hearty meal of pasta, bread and cookies on a very chilly Thursday afternoon. Special thanks to Lillian, Margo, Evelyn, Diena, Joyce, Darlene, and our faithful mascot, Bill, for the hard work.

The Mitten Tree will be once again standing tall at the back of the church. Hand-made or purchased mittens, gloves, scarves and touques may be placed on the branches at any time during the month of December. After the holidays, the donated accessories will be delivered to a day nursery in the area.

Preparations are underway for the Christmas hampers. This year our goal is to prepare and deliver 20 hampers to families in the community. While the size of the hamper varies, the average

cost is approximately \$100.00 (excluding gifts). We will again be partnering with the Sunday School to collect gifts for the children of the 20 families. (Thanks to Gloria Saindon for helping us get organized for White Gift Sunday on December 7th.)

We hope you will consider contributing to this worthy effort by making a donation of money or of your time during this busy season. Donation envelopes will be available with the church bulletins on November 23rd and 30th. Sign-up sheets for drivers (and trusty sidekicks) will be posted in the WPUC foyer in the near future.

A sincere word of thanks goes out to everyone who has supported Outreach activities during these past months.

Respectfully yours,
Gwen Polak



Ramblings from the Other Office

I am sitting here in my office at the church, looking at the snow covered parking lot and I realize that it has now been three years since I joined you at Windsor Park United Church. I have almost completed a third of my courses for my Masters of Divinity. To be truthful, I am looking forward to the end of my current course, and by the end of next summer I will have half of my credits completed. Time sure does fly when you are having fun!

I continue to learn and grow here, I was thinking the other day of my first Sunday morning with you and Sharon called me up front during children's time to introduce me and so I sat on the steps with all of the children and I said to them

that I was there to learn, just like they were. Boy was I right about that!

This year I am focusing on Christian Education, something that I have been exposed to, in a very limited sense, but never had the opportunity to lead and here I am leading an eight week session. What is that old saying "go big or go home." Where many would choose a small simply study, I have chosen, and been encouraged, to do an in-depth study of Islam.

Things seem to be going very well with the study. Those who are attending are engaged and interested, which makes things so much easier for the facilitator.

As many of you know I am now

licensed to officiate the sacraments in the church and we had a complete communion service in Bible Adventures with the children. This was a wonderful experience with one of the parents telling me later that this opened up conversation between the child and parent about who Jesus was and is for us. To know that something that you have done has helped to begin a conversation is one of the greatest gifts that one can get.

I look forward to continuing to grow and learn with you, to deepen our relationships and explore this thing we call church. It has been a good few years and I look forward to more years to come.

Patrick Woodbeck



***"Go big or
go home."***

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windsorparkunitedchurch.com



We're on the Web!
See us at:
windsorparkunitedchurch.com

WPUC Art Group

We continue to meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 - 3:30. Some of our group are working on Christmas cards, some are trying new techniques. Some had cards for sale at the WPUC Craft show in Sept. Three of our artists had their paintings and cards for sale at the Local Colours Art Show Nov. 7-9 th. They were quite pleased with their sales.

Come and join us or just pop in for a visit or a coffee.

Respectively submitted by

Carol Belsham

