



Rev. Dr. Sharon Wilson

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From the study

²²*This makes Jesus the guarantee of a far better way between us and God—one that really works! A new covenant.* (Hebrews 7:22 The Message)

Advent and Christmas are on the way. The city raised its Christmas tree in front of City Hall and celebrated turning on the lights. Stores are awash in green and red and promises of happiness. The annoying loop of holiday music forms the accompaniment of our lives for the next month whether we like it or not!

For those of us who believe, there is a much more significant meaning to this time. We are marking a change that happened in the world. A time when yearning for a better way was actually replaced by a more hopeful, positive, merciful era. This is what the Apostle Paul sought to impress upon the Jewish converts to Christianity. He wanted them to appreciate that the beliefs and doubts they had formerly held about God, particularly that they would be judged and would fail to meet the standard, had been replaced with a new covenant. This word means an agreement, a contract, an arrangement between parties. The life of

Jesus, God with us, marks a new beginning for humanity when the prevailing sentiment will be grace. This is the far better way.

As I write this, I am preparing to leave for China on a delegation with the United Church of Canada. We have been invited by three organizations in China: the China Christian Council, the Three-Self Patriotic Movement and the Amity Foundation. They want to show us the better way they have sought for Christians.

Many wondered if the church would survive the Communist Revolution in 1949 or the vicious Cultural Revolution in the 1960's – 70's. The departure of Canadian missionaries in the '40's was seen as death knell of the Christian movement. Instead, we will be guests of the fastest growing Christian community in the world. We will be observing and learning from the better way they have found to be church.

They call Christianity in China today post-missionary and post-denominational. It is different from what was brought to them in the mid-1800's but, the church today is thriving and is a blessing to

believers and society. I am so honoured to be a part of this delegation and look forward to sharing my experiences with you.

Like all the significant events in our lives, Advent and Christmas is a time for celebrations, special gatherings, reconnecting, fun times and the blessings of life acknowledged. So much of this happens around the church in our worship and in our acts of love and friendship for others. If you can, please consider helping with the delivery of Thinking of You Baskets or Christmas Hampers. Bring some cheer to those in hospital by carolling with us. Offer a friend or neighbour an invitation to worship or a drive so that they too experience the better way of grace and peace.

Most of all, I wish you the blessings of 'the better way'. May you know the love of Christ as a strong, sure presence that grounds you, guides you and enables you to live with hope and meaning, purpose and joy, now and always.

Faithfully,
Sharon



Tot Time

Tot Time began the new season on Wednesday, October 14th. We welcomed 17 moms, 14 children downstairs and 8 babies upstairs into our program.

Wednesday morning has been filled with lots of laughter and activity as the moms get to know each other and the children discover a room full of toys and caregivers to entertain them. The babies are held and cuddled by nine wonderful ladies. Thank you to Carol Nichol who organizes the program upstairs and all who come out to care for these little ones.

Thank you also to the eight Grandmas and our one Grampa who come out every week to spend time with the children downstairs. Thanks to Chris

Smith who comes early to set up the toys and to Cathy Hall who gathers the children around her to tell such marvelous stories.

The mom's plan their own program and take turns bringing a treat to have with coffee. The moms also bring the snacks and juice for the children.

Chat time and coffee begins each morning. The ladies have done some pine cone crafts, painted their nails, enjoyed a guest from McNally Robinson and a guest who taught them card making.

Some upcoming events include Baking exchange, a Christmas Party with Santa and a Christmas potluck. Thank you to Jennifer Jobin for providing leadership for this group.

The caregivers will gather at the Bistro in the park for a Christmas lunch on December 4th.

During January and February we are always looking for people to help care for the children while our regular caregivers are away. If you can help on a Wednesday morning even once or twice during these two months, please call Ruth Klein at 204-256-6390.

We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season with friends and family.

Many Blessings.

Ruth Klein for Tot Time



"Look for a new option to worship in the New Year."

Worship Council

This season has been very busy for us! In October we partnered with Sunova Credit Union and Best West Pet Foods to host a Blessing of the Pets. It was a huge success, raising donations for The Winnipeg Humane Society, Darcy's A.R.C. and Manitoba Underdog Rescue. It was wonderful to meet Gallagher and all of your pet friends.

A dramatic reading of "Sola Fide" was held on Reformation

Sunday. This is the doctrine that helps to distinguish the Protestant religion.

Hiroshima was the focus of our Remembrance Day Sunday Service. We learned that taking the time to remember War helps us to focus on Peace.

During Advent, take a trip and travel back in time to explore Jesus' family history. Join us for Blue Christmas and a selection of Christmas Eve services.

Look for a new option to worship in the New Year!

Sincerely,
Worship Council
Chair,

Linda Stewart



Our Church Family

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We extend our sympathy to:

The Roberts Family on the passing of Allen

The Edmonds Family on the passing of Donald

The Falconer Family on the passing of Terry

The Berft Family on the passing of Deborah

The Stephen Family on the passing of Allan



We welcome by baptism:

Owen Charles Jordan Shiaro (July 15, 2015) son of Kelsey

Sophie Elizabeth Jobin (July 28, 2015) daughter of Remi & Jennifer

Lucas Christopher Bacon (December 14, 2013) son of Brent & Alana

Jackson Rome Angus (August 18, 2015) son of John & April

Liam Micheal Reidy (September 23, 2015) son of Wade & Kara



We congratulate on their marriage

Kelly Cook and Sarah Markham on October 3, 2015



Building and Property

The two new boilers have been installed and they have passed inspection.

Prior to signing off on the installation the water pressure had to be increased for ten minutes to check for leaks on the new water lines.

The new boilers are wall mounted and very compact.

Now that we have

signed off, the final paperwork for the Community Places grant can be completed.

There is still grant money available and we have a year to include other projects to collect the remaining monies.

What can be included is the two large window wells (quoted \$600.00 to be done in the

spring), also updating the downstairs fluorescent lights to more efficient fixtures. No quote has been received yet.

Regular maintenance is completed as required.

Wayne Baldwin
Bill Belsham

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 fact the new boilers are now installed and working. We are hopeful it will be paid for by the end of this month but we haven't seen the final bill.

On the surface we should have hope because our current deficit is better than our budgeted deficit but we still have a deficit of \$19,000 at the end of October which is \$4,000 more than in 2014. At the time of this writing it appears that we will finish the year with a \$7,000 deficit.

Upon closer scrutiny we are in this fiscal position because of a drop in Envelope and PAR givings. PAR has lost about 10 regular givers and \$1,000 per month since the beginning of the year. Some PAR givers have dropped off because they gave a single annual amount, usually in the form of shares. Please pray that some special angels will appear this Advent season bearing gifts for us.

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 is still selling the choice of gift cards from either Safeway or CO-OP. Look for the order forms in the bulletin and the pick-up table at the South end of the basement during coffee.

Remember to be credited as a 2015 donation it must be received at WPUC no later than December 31st, 2015.

Doug Waldron



Congregational Caroling

Let's raise the roof in song at an afternoon of Congregational Caroling on December 20th at the St. Boniface Hospital. Meet at the church at 1:30pm. Caroling is from 2:30 to 3:30pm at the hospital.



Blue Christmas!

Christmas can be a hard time...when you miss someone you love, when you're facing illness or uncertainty, or when you have to be far away from family and friends.

Come for a service of song, prayers, candles and hope.

Refreshments and fellowship to follow.

Join us for our Blue Christmas Service on Monday December 21st at 7 pm.

Christmas Eve Services

On December 24, 2015 beginning at:

5 pm – Family friendly service – a non-traditional traditional Christmas Pageant

7 pm – Through the time machine to Jesus' birth

11 pm – Candles, Communion, Carols – a Christmas like you remember

Dec. 27, 2015

You are invited to join Sharon & June Kaan for regular Sunday Worship on December 27, 2015 beginning at 10:30am.

December 31 – New Year's Eve Party

New Year's Eve is a time to say goodbye to the old and ring in the new. So now for something completely "new," we are hosting a family New Year's Eve party at Windsor Park United.

- Bring the family on December 31st from 7 to 9 in the evening.
- Bring snacks and finger food to share.
- Bring sleeping bags and pillows, in case you want to lie on the floor and watch a family friendly movie.
- Bring some board games for an evening of games and laughter.
- Bring your pj's, because you know it will be casual (not mandatory).
- Bring yourself and join in the fun.

Bible Adventures

We are off to a great start to the year with an average of 15 children per week. We are learning stories from the Old Testament this half of the year. We are gearing up for a great Advent Season! As we work through the timeline of Jesus' life the children will be creating decorations from times gone by downstairs on their Christmas trees. These trees were donated by members of Windsor Park United and we are so grateful. Come down for coffee each week during Advent to see each class transform the trees!

White gift Sunday will be on December 13 and we are anxiously awaiting the ages of the children from the hampers. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

There will be no formal Bible Adventures on December 27 or January 3 (open sessions) as the teachers take a little break. Bible Adventures will resume on January 10 with stories from the New Testament. We wish to take this time to wish everyone a blessed holiday season.

Bible Adventures Coordinating Committee

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, Bill McQuat- 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 September, some friends and members of Outreach participated in "Walk a Mile in my Shoes", a fundraiser/informational event in support of West Broadway. A lot of good work is happening in the community around WBCM

and we encourage everyone who is interested to participate in this event next year.

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

The Mitten Tree is standing tall at the back of the church again, thanks to Lori Pattle. Hand-made or purchased mittens, gloves, scarves and tuques may be placed on the branches at any time during the month of December. After the holidays, the donated accessories will be delivered to children at an inner-city school.

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 \$125.00 (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 13th.) We also want to thank Units 2 and 5 of the UCW for contributing items for the moms, as well. 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 22nd and 29th. A sign-up sheet for drivers (and trusty

sidekicks) is posted in the WPUC foyer. Hampers will be packed and delivered on Saturday, Dec. 19th.

During the next few months, we expect to hear more about ways in which we can support the refugees from Syria who will be welcomed to Canada. As we learn more about our part in this endeavour, we will share the information with the WPUC congregation.

A sincere word of thanks goes out to everyone who has supported Outreach activities during these past months. Many hands make light work!

Respectfully yours,
Gwen Polak
Outreach CO-Chair

Ramblings From The Other Office

Hope can be a really interesting thing. There is false hope, like as I looked out of my office window up until last week hoping that there might not be any snow this winter, which can let one down.

Then there is real hope, this sense of expectation, that something is afoot, that there might be more than we will ever be able to see. I had come to this community 4 years ago, yes, I know 4 years already, with the hope that I would learn and grow. What has happened has been beyond imagining.

It is fitting that I write this just as we enter Advent a time when we really look with hope towards remembering the birth of Christ, when God incarnate came into the world and walked among us.

I have been busy this year again with school and work in the church. Sometimes that busyness can become overwhelming, other times it seems much more manageable. In the end I seem to get through the work

and then comes the process of trying to assimilate what I have learned. Sometimes that is a much longer and a more complicated process, but it is within that process that I truly begin to grow.

This community has helped me with the process of integration as this has been a safe place to explore new learning, new thoughts, and new ideas.

Youth Group this year has seen a core group of regulars and we have begun to dig deeper into our understanding of the world and they have really engaged in these activities and conversations.

The Thursday Morning Study Group has continued to be a place which challenges me to think and grow and I look forward to continuing with this group in the New Year.

Bible Adventures, community worship, and growing pastoral relationships have all given me the opportunity to feel like a real part of this community.

And so as we enter into Advent, what do I hope for? Well, if I were an extra in the movie "Miss Congeniality" my immediate response would be "world peace!"

But in actuality what I hope for is that we continue to love and support each other, that we work together to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, and that as we journey through this thing called life we feel the presence of God with us. We are a part of something much larger than each one of us. There is more going on here than we can perceive.

During this season, let us live into the unknown, let us live into the hope as we celebrate the birth of a baby in a cold, dark manger.

May the grace of God be with you.
The love of God enfold you
And the Peace of God carry you through the days.

Peace and blessings,

Patrick



"There is more going on here than we can perceive."

Thursday Morning Study Group

On October 15th this year we started a DVD study based on Philip Yancy's book - What's so Amazing About Grace.

This study poses the questions - what is "grace" - what does "grace" mean to you - how can we receive "grace" - how can we give "grace"?

These are difficult questions to try to come to terms with. One thing is certain "grace" cannot be earned. I think "grace" is God's gift to us thru living out our faith in Jesus.

What does "grace" mean to you? You would be

most welcome to join in the conversation that goes on every Thursday morning at 9:30 until 11:00 am. There are many varied opinions about how "grace" is given and received. This makes for very interesting discussions, giving each of us food for thought for the week.

This study is such that each section is an individual program related to but not part of the previous section, there are three sessions left until December 17th, that is when we break for Christmas and will finish this study with the last session on January 7th, 2016.

There have been a few suggestions for our next DVD study - Vanishing Grace with Philip Yancy - and- If You Want To Walk On Water You Have To Get Out Of The Boat with John Ortberg ... both quite interesting titles - so join us on December 17th for a session and some goodies with coffee afterwards and help us decide which one to study first.

Thank you to Patrick Woodbeck for facilitating our studies.

Alice Hastings

A.O.T.S.

Well our men's group continues to have good meetings. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M. at the church.

We start with a good meal provided by U.C.W. groups unit # 2 or Young At Heart. This is followed by a guest speaker who we find quite interesting. So far this year we have had

- Bruce Fourschau from United Church half way homes.
- Patrick Woodbeck, who explained proposed changes to United Church structure.
- Dave Cunnin, Executive Director, Agape Table.

After the speaker leaves, we conduct our business meeting. This year we are once again able to make donations to West Broadway and Agape Table.

Our next meeting will be January 25, 2016. On February 14 our member and their Valentines plus widows of past member will enjoy a lunch at Maxime's Restaurant.. Always a good time.

We were saddened by the loss of two long time members. Jim Lawrence, a life time member of district and our club, passed in November and will be missed by us all. Then we had the loss of our Allan Stephen, a friend and long term member. Allan served on the Executive for several years. God's blessing on them and their families.

A.O.T.S. wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Gary Garvey and Bill

United Church Women (UCW)

Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year to All!

This years Cookie Walk was a huge success selling out in about 3/4 hour. The profit realized was \$1400.

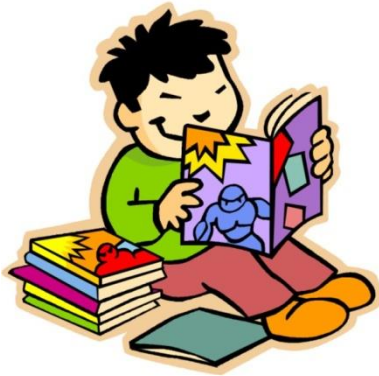
A big "Thank You" goes out to the convenors and all those involved in getting ready for this event.

A big "Thank You" also goes out to all the willing cookie bakers and to you who came out and purchased!

In January members of the UCW will be greeters, ushers, communion servers and liturgists.

Submitted by *Alana Davis*

Library



This is a reminder that our church has a library which is housed on the shelves located at the back of the sanctuary. It contains some great reading material, both religious and non-religious, fiction and non-fiction.

And a special reminder to parents and children, that we have a number of books relating to the Christmas season in our children's section, which is kept in a drawer beneath the counter to your right as you are leaving the sanctuary.

Also look for some Christmas books on the travelling shelf which can be found in the narthex.

There have been some new and interesting recent additions to the library.

Two new books are "A Dignified Life" and "Caring for a Husband with Dementia", both of which deal with the subject of Alzheimers, and are catalogued in the Pastoral Care section.

Also new, are "I Am

Malala", "Heart Matters", and "What Do You Do If You Don't Die". These are biographies from Malala Yousafzai, Adrienne Clarkson, and Steven Fletcher respectively.

Please note that some of these books may currently be located on the travelling shelf.

If you want to check out a book, fill in the card at the back of the book and leave it in the basket on the counter. When you make a return, just leave the book in the basket.

Also, If you would like to recommend something from our library, you can submit a short paragraph to Luci, and she will see that it is featured in one of our Sunday bulletins.

If you have any questions about our library you can contact me, Jan Shiaro, or Pat Lumsden from CDC.

Please use and enjoy our library.



Greetings from CDC

Back by popular demand!!! Start thinking about getting a team organized for this year's Windsor Park United Quiz Night evening that is fun for all ages. Build your 8 person multi-generational team for your best shot at the cheese cake prizes. Friday, January 29th @ 7PM. Tickets will go on sale after church beginning January 10th. We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Follow the dots and learn about your WPUC friends' earliest Christmas experience this advent season???

If you feel you might be interested in joining our council, we would love to have you! Please contact Luci at the church and she will put you in touch with one of us.

We would like to express our appreciation for all our dedicated volunteers and staff working on Bible Adventures, the Library, Technology, Youth Group, Intergenerational Events, Tot Time, Adult Education, Baby Fold and Confirmation. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and blessings for a peaceful 2016!

Miscellaneous Items

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

If you're an adult and have never been baptized or confirmed or, if you were baptized but haven't yet been confirmed, or... if you found your way to the United Church of Canada from another Christian denomination and want to join us, then these classes are for you.

We'll learn about history, beliefs, programs, projects, the controversies and the characters that form the story of the United Church of Canada.

If you're just curious, you're welcome to join in.

The service of Adult Baptism, Confirmation and Reception of New Members will be held on May 15, 2016.

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who has donated or brought cards in, items for the "Thinking of You" baskets, and to Wilma Hunnie for finding those wonderful gift baskets for us.

I have sent out many cards in the last few months. I hope I haven't missed anyone! The donated cards have kept our budget down except for the purchase of the stamps.

I am now the "Coffee Supply Person" for the church. So, please be patient with me until I get the hang of it and purchase the right kind of coffee and the supplies to go with it.

Thank you again for everyone's donations and help with this committee.

Patricia
Todd,
Chair of M&PCC

Saturday Services in January

Have you felt that struggle between your or your children's extra-curricular activities and attending church on Sunday morning? If so, please join us at Windsor Park United Church for "OPEN DOORS." "OPEN DOORS" will take place every Saturday in January at 4:30 pm when we will be gathering for a time of music, conversation, and kids activities; a half hour to recharge your life each week! Join us, join with community, join with the Spirit!

QUIZ NIGHT!

Because of its' popularity... we are planning another Quiz night! Jot down the date and gather your friends and family to make a team and join us on Friday January 29th. Please watch for more details.

JAZZ CONCERT!

Please mark your calendars for a Jazz Concert on March 15, 2016 here at the church at 7pm. The name of the group is Harmonic Convergence. Additional performers to be determined.

CURLING!!

Join in for an afternoon and evening of great entertainment, fellowship and food! Windsor Park United Church would like to invite members to join up for Curling on Sunday March 6, 2016 from 2pm until 4pm. Following curling there will be a supper held here at the church! Watch for the sign-up sheets in the lobby. ROCK ON!!



Bible Study Group – "IT ALL GOES BACK IN THE BOX"

This 6-session study group will be held here at the church starting on Wednesdays March 2 through to April 20. For more information contact Sharon at wpucwpg@mymts.net or call 204-256-8792.

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

WPUC Art Group

We continue to meet every Tuesday from 1 - 3:30 P.M. While most of us do watercolour, some are doing acrylic now. Watch for our cards in the church bulletin periodically with an inspirational message. We are a fun group and encourage you to come and join us. We charge an annual fee of \$40 and this includes bringing in the occasional instructional artist.

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

Respectively submitted by

Carol Belsham

