

SouthWinds

Windsor Park United Church,

1062 Autumnwood Drive, Winnipeg MB R2J 2C7

Phone: 204-256-8792

Fax: 204-256-9148

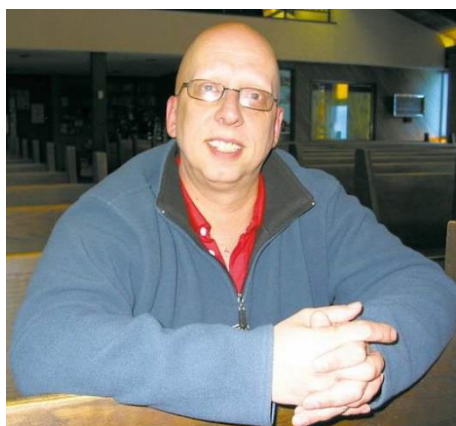


PATRICK'S POINTS TO PONDER

"Faith is about doing. You are how you act, not just how you believe."
Mitch Albom, Have a Little Faith: a True Story.

We are now almost three months into a new season at the Church and everything seems to be humming along. There is a sense of energy in this place, a sense of renewal. This Fall we have almost 50 individuals signed up for Christian educational programs, and it seems as if that number could continue to grow. A new energy is present. We have allowed ourselves to continue to experiment with worship and what that means, and it has been invigorating. A new energy is alive. We are living and breathing as a community of faith.

One of the questions that came up this summer and has been brought to the Executive for all of us to ponder is the question of "Why?" Why are we here? Why do we meet? Why do we have this thing we call church? If we can begin to examine these questions, as well as many others, we can work towards an even deeper understanding of what it means to be Christian in today's church and today's world. These are not always easy questions and, if we are honest, there is no easy answer. I think that it is in asking these questions and entering into open dialogue with each other that we come to learn more about what we each believe.



From this deeper understanding we might just be better able to hear Christ's call in the world and from there we can act. As the opening quote states, our faith is a faith of action and we, as people of God, are being called to action. To know what form that action might take, that is the tough part.

..continued on page 3

NOVEMBER 2016

Patrick's Points to Ponder	1
...continued on page	3
Our Church Family	2
Finance & Stewardship	3
Congregational Involvement	4
Chili Supper, Bonfire	4
Outreach Council	5 & 6
Property Council	6
The Bible for Dummies	7
Thursday Morning Study Group	7
Country Christmas	8
Cookie Walk	8
WPUC Garden Club	9
Christmas Events	9
Christian Development	10
Christmas Music Program	10
Bible Adventures	11
Art Group	11
Youth Events	11
Membership & Pastoral Care	12
United Church Women	12
More Thursday Morning Study	13
Tot Time	13 & 14
Official Board	14 to 16

December 31st is fast approaching, Please ensure that any donations you wish to appear on this year's tax receipt are received and dated on or before December 31, 2016. Thank you!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



We welcome by baptism:

Avery Seanelle Hamilton (March 12, 2015)
daughter of Sean & Jobelle

Grant Robert Proctor (February 6, 2016) son of
Derrick & Leanne

Dorian Graham Arbutnot (May 22, 2012) son
of Darcy & Brittany

Spencer Riley Andrew Mah (January 10, 2016)
son of Hugh & Amanda-Lynn

Kaelyn Grace Anne Cherewick Wiens (June 15,
2004) daughter of Arlen & Dianna

Logan Shawn Wiens (November 18, 2009) son
of Arlen & Dianna

Dianna Lynne Wiens (March 10, 1977)
daughter of Donald & Karen

Kelsey Shannon Dewiele (July 2, 2008)
daughter of Mark & Shannon

Erin Eleanor Irene Dewiele (April 20, 2002)
daughter of Mark & Shannon

Rebecca Taina Wilson (June 9, 2001) daughter
of Joel & Colleen

Kelsey Leigh Noakes (Feb. 19, 1987) daughter
of William & Judy

Brysen Shawn Robert Vince (May 12, 2003)
son of Robert & Corinne

Levi Allan Laramée (April 5, 2016) son of Rheal
Stephanie

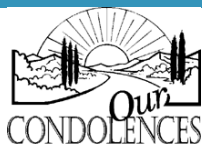
Julie Anne Donna Gautron (March 10, 2016)
daughter of Mathieu & Joanne

Jacob Jonah Lavalée (July 1, 2016) son of
Jonah & Kemberly

Rheal Marc Joseph Laramée (September 26,
1984) son of Marc & Jeanette

Hattie Alana Brown (June 22, 2016) daughter
of Bobby Carman

Emmett Peter Grayson Kehler (July 2, 2016)
son of Murray & Maria



We extend our sympathy to:

The Aird Family on the passing of Lil

The Cairns Family on the passing of
Noreen

The Tebbe Family on the passing of
Elizabeth

The Hayward Family on the passing
of Richard

The Byron Family on the passing of
Peggy

The Smith Family on the passing of
Joyce

The Dunsmore Family on the
passing of Dorothy

The Blair Family on the passing of
Betty

The Harder Family on the passing of
Vivian

The Kerr Family on the passing of
Diane

The Pattle Family on the passing Cal

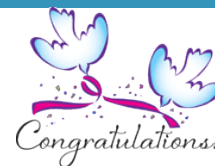
The McLennan Family on the
passing of Jim

The Harrison Family on the passing
of Bill

The Mack Family on the passing of
Harold

The Farysey Family on the passing
of Don

The Andree Family on the passing of
Lorraine



We congratulate on their marriage:

Matthew Sieffert and Kayleigh
Jephcote on December 31, 2015

Peter Larson and Margaret Gibb on
March 12, 2016

Scott Markham and Laura Guerrero
Martinez on March 17, 2016

Brent Sunley and Tiarra Cale on
April 30, 2016

Dylan Sawka and Karissa Bateman
on June 25, 2016

Brian Finlay and Almira Krahn on
July 23, 2016

Joel Boissoneault and Michelle
Worrell on September 29, 2016



Be a **PART** of the family!

The WPUC Mailing List is used to
correspond with the Windsor
Park United Church
congregation.

Congregation@windsorparkunitedchurch.com

Unsubscribe:

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



For all those people who are planning an extended winter vacation, consider this an opportunity to become

a **PAR**ticipant. Our stewardship campaign asking for more **PAR** givers has seen eleven new **PAR**ty members. Thank you for helping us keep the heat on, the lights burning and the choir singing while you are away! If you are **PAR**tial to this idea, contact Luci for more information to add a **PAR**tridge to our pear tree!

This past Sunday, our stewardship campaign introduced "Our Gifts Catalogue". This is a simple way for our friends near and far to share in all the gifts that Windsor Park United Church provides all year long. "Celebrating our gifts and mission is an excellent way to help sustain our church and the good works that we do within our congregation and community." Celebrate our programs and the talents of our members by purchasing a gift on behalf of someone you love. This gift is in the true spirit of Christmas and can also be a way to acknowledge someone's birthday, anniversary or any time you feel moved to embrace the gifts of WPUC. Drop by the church for your catalogue or contact Luci for more information.

Please remember to submit your "gifts" by December 31, 2016 to receive a tax receipt for 2016.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from your Finance and Stewardship Committee!!!



Winter's coming, put on your **PAR**ka!

PATRICK'S POINTS

...Continued from page 1

If we continue to invest energy and excitement into our community of faith, the questions become more an adventure than a critique. This adventure can consist of looking deeper into our hearts to find God waiting there for us.

Yes, churches all across the world are struggling! Yes, it is difficult to be a Christian in the world today! I truly believe that God is not done with the church yet. I believe that we have a vital role as bearers of hope in a world that needs a whole lot of hope. It is up to us to find out where God is leading this community and to faithfully follow in the footsteps of Christ.

So let us ask the question "why?" As we explore the possible answers we learn more about ourselves, our faith, and our hope. We learn more about what God wants for each and every one of us.

Are you ready for the question?



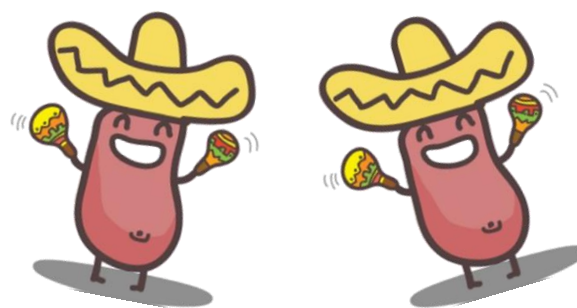


On September 11, 2016 , we started off with our 'Welcome Back Lunch' and 88 people attended. We served pork on a bun, hot dogs, beans, coleslaw, veggies, cupcakes and ice cream. Everyone enjoyed the lunch!

On September 18th , we hosted the 'Golf Tournament' at the Canoe Club with 21 golfers. The golfers came back to the church and we served lasagna, salad, buns, cookies, cake and ice cream. Claude Grenier organized the golf and the rest of our committee prepared the meal.

On October 1st , we hosted the Craft Sale. We rented 27 tables to various crafters. The sale was well attended. The young people ran the canteen. Jan Nazarko was the Co-ordinator.

Submitted by
Deanna Kernaghan



**Kicking off ADVENT with a
CHILI SUPPER, BONFIRE
AND Caroling
FAMILY FUN NIGHT!**

This year new chefs will be preparing a delicious chili supper for us on Sunday November 20th from 5:30-8:30 pm.

Bring your family and friends!

Some help is needed and we need to know the number attending.

The sign-up sheets are in the lobby.



Come join the **PAR**ade!



Since our last update in the spring, the O.C. has been keeping busy in support of West Broadway and the Winnipeg Christmas Cheer Board.

Each week, donations of food and hygiene items are picked up and delivered to West Broadway Community Ministry by Shirley and Gord Goossen. These items are used in their emergency food pantry.

During the summer months, four lunches were prepared and served to the guests at WBCM. This activity will continue throughout the coming year. Thanks to Derek Read for assuming the duties involved in organizing the lunches this fall. On the last Monday of each month, lunch will be prepared and served by WPUC volunteers to the guests of W.B.C.M. 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 Community Ministry. 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.

For those of you who donated funds in memory of Lil Aird last winter, we are pleased to give you an update about the use of those funds. As Lil was a loyal supporter of WBCM, we felt all donations should be used for items that would support the work that is done year-round by that organization. A **washer** for the WBCM laundry room, **two coffee urns** for the dining/hospitality area, and \$150.00 worth of **non-perishable grocery items** (for the Emergency Food Pantry) have been purchased to date. Currently, a **clothes dryer** is being purchased. We have lately been asked to provide **45 pairs of warm socks** that will be distributed as gifts to the WBCM guests during their Christmas supper. Sincere thanks to all who contributed in Lil's memory and to Lil, herself. WBCM is a busy place and the work that is done there has continued in part this year because of your ongoing support.

The Mitten Tree will be 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 \$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 who will be helping us get organized for White Gift Sunday on December 11th.) 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

purchasing a gift for one of the children, helping with hamper packing or delivery, or making a donation of money. Donation envelopes will be available with the church bulletins on November 27th and December 4th. A sign-up sheet for drivers (and trusty sidekicks) will be posted in the WPUC foyer. Hampers will be packed and delivered on Saturday, Dec. 17th.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill McQuat for his participation on the Outreach Council for the past two years. Bill organized volunteers for monthly WBCM lunches, transported supplies, and served at the lunches himself. He has gotten to know the staff and many of the regular lunch guests there and they have, in turn, met a loyal supporter and advocate. In addition to his work with WBCM, Bill assisted with the preparations for Christmas Hamper deliveries last year. He contacted volunteer drivers, recruited help with packing, and communicated with the 20 families who were recipients of the hampers. His humour, clear-thinking, and patience made him an irreplaceable part of our team. We miss you, Bill. Take care!

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

PROPERTY COUNCIL

As mentioned in our last SouthWinds, upgrades have been completed and the monies from Community Places has been received. The window wells have been installed, new lights were installed in the kitchen and south room. New ceiling tiles were installed in the south room also.

Earlier in the year, the lower oven failed and the replacement parts were no longer available. New stacking ovens were installed and paid for by United Church Women (UCW). We hope the new ovens last as long as the old ones – 13 years.

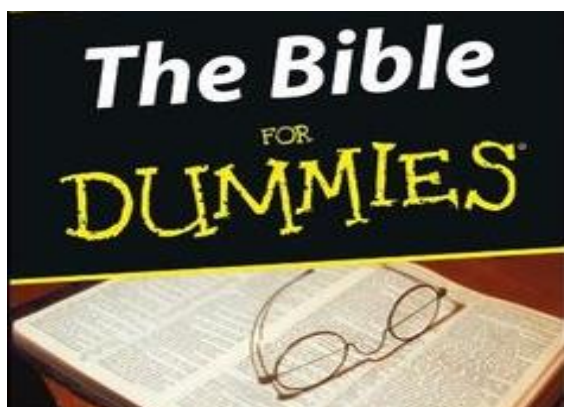


Property Council

Basic maintenance and repairs are, as always, completed as required.

Wayne Baldwin ----Bill Belsham

Be a **PAR**agon of the church!



**Just what we've been waiting for!
Open to all, Dummies or not!**

***'THE BIBLE FOR DUMMIES'*
or (How to open your Bible
without fear or embarrassment!)**

**This course will be held on
Wednesdays
beginning on October 19th
through to December 7th
from 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

**The big Dummie teaching this
class... is Rev. Dr. Bob Galston.**

**Please add your
name to the sign-
up sheet in the
lobby or contact
Luci at the
church office if you have any
questions!**



204-256-8792 officewpuc@mymts.net

THURSDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP

FAITH IS LIKE WIFI

It's invisible but has the
power to connect you to
what you need!

Join us for the Thursday
Morning Study Group as we
reset ourselves in our Faith!



Thursday 9:30_{am} — 11:00_{am}

Windsor Park United Church

A welcoming group engaging
in open
conversation using books and
video studies.

All are welcome to attend.



Windsor Park United Church presents
COUNTRY BLEND'S

'CHRISTMAS AND CLASSIC COUNTRY CONCERT'

WHEN: *Friday December 2, 2016*

WHERE: *Windsor Park United Church,
1062 Autumnwood Drive*

SHOWTIME: *7:30 p.m.*

TICKET COST: *Adults: \$20.00*

Age 15 & under \$10.00.

Money raised will go to our General Fund.



PARtake of this opportunity!



Cookie Walk

YOU ARE INVITED
TO OUR

COOKIE WALK

ON

SATURDAY

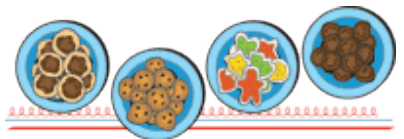
NOVEMBER 26, 2016

- 10 A.M. TO NOON

**THIS IS NOT A
NUT-FREE
ENVIRONMENT.**

FILL A COOKIE
CONTAINER FOR
\$8

THE LID MUST
CLOSE



Cookie Walk

WPUC GARDEN CLUB

DID EVERYONE ENJOY THE FLOWERS THIS YEAR?

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped plant, weed and water the flowers throughout the summer.

Each pair of us had only to water weekly two or three times during the summer.

- **Geraniums were supplied by Eric Schroeder.**
- **Zinnias were grown and supplied by me.**
- **Morris & Joyce planted the petunias in the two flower pots near the steps.**

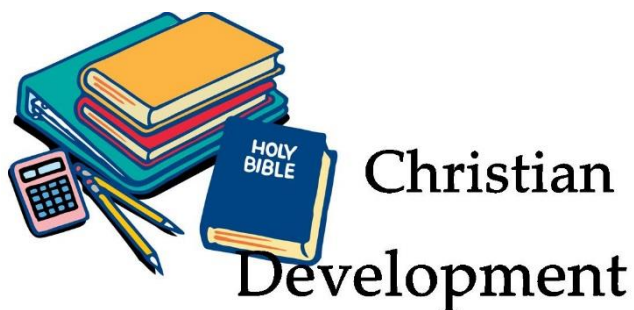
It is Nov. 9th and we are still enjoying the geraniums, petunias and alyssum!

**Submitted,
Bill Belsham, WPUC
GARDEN CLUB**



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

November 20, Sunday	Advent Kick-off
November 27, Sunday	First Sunday of Advent
December 2, Friday	Country Blend's Christmas and Classic Country Concert
December 4, Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent
December 11, Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent, White Gift Sunday
December 11, Sunday, From 1:30 -3:30 pm	Christmas Carolling at St. Boniface Hospital
December 13, Tuesday From 7:00 – 8:00 pm (tentative)	Christmas Carolling at Windsor Park Place
December 17, Saturday	Packing & Delivery of Hampers
December 18, Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, Sunday	WPUC's Christmas Concert
December 21, Wednesday	Blue Christmas Service
December 24, Saturday 5:30 pm and 9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Services
December 25, Sunday 10.30 am	Christmas Day Service
December 26, Monday	Boxing Day Office Closed
December 27, Tuesday	Office Closed
December 31, Saturday	New Year's Eve Celebration Family Party – tentative
January 2, Monday	Office Closed



Your Christian Development Council oversees Christian education opportunities for all members of our congregation, including 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.

This fall, our two study groups - Wednesday evening's Bible For Dummies and Thursday morning's Vanishing Grace groups have engaged over 50 people in meaningful conversations about why, how and what we believe.

Bible Adventures (Sunday during worship) and Tot Time (Wednesday mornings) are both up and running with activities for children. The Bible Adventures group has been studying The Lord's Prayer and have interesting and fun activities planned for Advent!

Our first intergenerational event of the season was the Corn Maze held on October 21st, with over 25 coming out for fun around the fire and in the corn maze! At this event we also got to meet our new youth group leaders, Craig Gibb, Meghan Makiw and Kristen Ashdown! Watch the bulletin for more events to come!

Congregational caroling will be held at St. Boniface hospital on Sunday, Dec. 11 and at Windsor Park Place on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Make sure to sign up in the church lobby so that we know how many to expect!

Save the date! CDC will be hosting another Quiz Masters Event in the afternoon February 5, 2017. Tickets will be available in January.



All of our music groups are busy getting ready for our Christmas concert on December 18!

If you would like to be part of the Worship Choir for the Christmas season, practices are on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. All welcome!

******Especially for the kids!***

Do you have children who would like to be part of the Christmas Concert? Bring them to our Children's Christmas Choir!



This special group will practice on the following dates:

Thursday, Dec. 1 from 6:30-7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 8 from 6:30-7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 15 from 6:30-7 p.m.

and will sing at the Concert on December 18!



*Need more information? See Laura at church or email: laura.wpuc@gmail.com



Hard to believe we are almost at the beginning of Advent, as it seems we just started the year.

We have a full complement of dedicated young adults teaching the young children of WPUC this year.

We started off the year learning the Lord's Prayer. The children are each learning by a different means from colouring pages, to a prayer tree and a power point demonstration!

We will then be starting Advent with "Follow the Star" and working with the congregation upstairs to replicate the same downstairs.

White Gift Sunday will be on December 11 with more details to follow

If you have any questions or concerns about Bible Adventures or just want to have a say, just stop anyone of the coordinators -- (Heather Karavas, Sarah Closen, or Gloria Saindon) -- we always have an open door.

Until next time.....

Bible Adventures Coordinating Committee

Howdy **PAR**dner!



WPUC Art Group

For 10 years, the WPUC Art Group has been meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. from Sept.- May.

We have at least a dozen members. We mainly do watercolour but some do acrylics or pastels. We have done alcohol ink paintings also.

We learn from each other plus use instructional DVD's. Occasionally we bring in an instructional artist.

You are welcome to come and join us anytime or just come for coffee. Membership is \$15 this year.

Submitted by,
Carol Belsham



The next **YOUTH event** will be on Friday, Nov.18th from 7 to 9, at the church.

At this event, we will be hosting a Board Game Café. There will be a number of board games set to play, hot chocolate, tea, and snacks.

Bring yourself and bring your friends for a fun evening of playing games!

All are welcome!

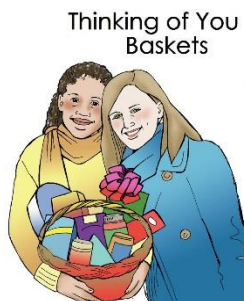


BOARD GAME CAFÉ

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

MPCC is on coffee this month which is going quite well.

We are also collecting items for our "Thinking of You" baskets and I have left a list of some items we would like to have for our baskets on the easel by Luci's



office. We will be packing the baskets on December 10 and I will be putting a sheet up for drivers for this day. Last year the helpers also delivered the baskets and that was way too much for us in one day.

We sent out many cards since September to congregational members. A huge thank you to all those you have donated cards for this committee – it has cut down the budget a lot and I am able to purchase a few items for the baskets.

We are hosting the "Blue Christmas" on December 21 with dainties and apple cider and juice to be served just upstairs in the foyer. I can put a name to a few of the faces after sending out cards, so it is getting easier to know people.



Also, we are looking for three new members to help out on this committee. We are down to three and it is a lot work for just three people. So, please think about it

and maybe this is something you would like to help out with.

Come and join Mavis Willson, Joyce Muir and myself. We are pretty easy going ladies.

Submitted by
Patricia L. Todd Chair
Joyce Muir Secretary
Mavis Willson Treasurer

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

I have certainly enjoyed these fall days with all the glorious colours and the warm sunshine. Now, I see folk are beginning to light up their homes for the cold winter days ahead.

The Cookie Walk will take place November 26th from 10:00 till Noon. The cost is \$8 for a container. This is not a nut-free environment.

To any women reading this who might be interested in joining the UCW, meeting times are as follows:

- Unit 2 meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm.
- Unit 5 meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 1:00 pm.
- The YAH'S meet the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 pm.

We all meet at the church. Please give Luci a call at 256-8792 and she will get you in touch with someone who attends at the time that works best for you.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!
submitted by Alana Davis



Thursday Morning Study Group

We have just finished Philip Yancys' Vanishing Grace video presentation, where he suggested that we should pay more attention to our own life when looking at the big picture.

Continuing in that theme of discovering faith in everyday life, we are going to begin Barbara Taylor's study - An Alter in the World.

This will begin Thursday mornings 9:30 am until 11:00 am. Each morning will be a different topic, so come for a few and stay for them all.

After being inundated with the American Election over the past many months – I, personally, am looking forward to a more harmonious outlook to my world. So come and discover for yourself the many gifts we are blessed with.

Coffee is on – the atmosphere is welcoming – it's a safe place to just be.

Why not **PAR**ticipate?



Thursday Morning



Windsor Park United

TOT TIME

Wednesday mornings

9:30^{am}—11:30^{am}

This program offers parents the opportunity to 'build community' together while volunteers joyfully engage with the infants & toddlers!

WE ALSO HAVE A WEEKLY STORYTELLER!

No charge to attend!

For information or to register please call

Luci at the church office

204-256-8792



Tot Time began the fall season on Wednesday, October 12. The program gives the Moms a time to enjoy coffee and conversation with other Moms and share their interests with each other. The

children and babies are cared for by volunteers from our Church. It is a wonderful way to share our love and a way for the Church to reach out to the community around us.

After a bit of a slow start, we now have twelve Moms that are busy planning events for the year while enjoying some fun and laughter. They are taking pictures for our Tot Time album, as well as making plans to do sessions on card making, painting pottery, a breakfast out and, of course, looking forward to a visit with Santa in December.

There are nine little ones upstairs that are keeping the caregivers very busy and we are in need of two more volunteers. If you would enjoy holding a new baby or playing with a toddler, please let Luci in the office know by calling 204-256-8792. This is a wonderful program and the volunteers really love the children and get to know and enjoy each other's company.

Eight children downstairs are delighted with toys to play with, play dough, a snack and a wonderful story teller. We also have a lady that comes to do crafts with the children every second week. They have a great time interacting with the caregivers and love their time with Grampa Bill.

If you would like to participate in Tot Time , please call Luci at the Church at 204-256-8792 or Ruth at 204-256-6390 .

For Tot Time

Ruth Klein

Your **PAR**son agrees!



Great Volunteer Opportunity!

Are you looking for an interesting way to get involved with WPUC and the wider Winnipeg Church Presbytery? We are seeking Presbytery reps. You will be with Patrick at the meetings and be our liaison at and between the meetings. This is a great way to get involved in our evolving Church. The commitment:

- One meeting, only once per month
- 8 times per year
- The second Tuesday of the month 7-9 pm.
- You will connect with the WPUC Board Chair about information flowing back and forth.

If you are interested, please let Patrick or Laurie Ringaert (Board Chair) know. (ringaert@telus.net).

Wouldn't you like to **PAR**ticipate?

Becoming an Affirming Ministry

Seeking Committee Members

At our October Board meeting , we passed a motion to begin exploring becoming an Affirming Ministry. We are now seeking committee members to help us begin the education/discernment process.

- The Affirming Ministries Program is a network of United Church of Canada congregations and ministries that declare themselves to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. And it asks each Ministry to take action. The program encourages all United Church bodies (congregations, presbyteries, conferences, educational centres, camps, chaplaincies) to study and discern what it means to be publicly welcoming and inclusive in their context. The program provides support for sexual orientation and gender identity issues. It also encourages the study of other United Church resources that promote the inclusion of other marginalized groups. For more information on the Affirming Ministry Program see: <http://affirmunited.ause.ca/affirming-ministry-requirements/>.
- If you are interested in helping us move forward on this journey, please contact Laurie Ringaert (ringaert@telus.net) or Nancy Sulkers.



Message from the Board Chair

I am honoured to serve as your Board Chair at this wonderful, dynamic, vibrant and welcoming church. As many of you know, Dana and I moved back to Winnipeg in June of 2014 and chose WPUC as our church home. I am originally from Winnipeg. From 2003-2014 Dana and I have lived in various places. We were quite active in various United Churches (United Church of Christ in the USA) in Cary, North Carolina, Bainbridge Island, Washington, and Vancouver, BC. I was quite honoured to be asked by Sharon Wilson to join the Board as your Vice Chair in 2015.



I am blown away by all the important ministries and by so many committed and dedicated people that volunteer their time to make WPUC a thriving place. I want to deeply express my sincere heart of gratitude to all of you that contribute all you do to make this our church home.

I ask each of us to reach out to anyone who you have heard has volunteered in any way:

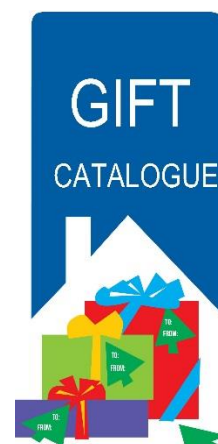
- chaired a committee,
- sat on a committee,
- cooked a meal,
- organized an event,
- set up tables,
- folded bulletins,

- served a meal,
- set up the Sunday service,
- greeted people at the doors,
- served as offering counters,
- served as an ear to hear our sadness or joy, etc. etc.

The number of things that are occurring here is countless! Please remember to say **THANK YOU** to these people.

I was pleased to be there to help Sharon transition to her well-deserved retirement. I bet she is already having a fun time skiing as we speak! I am also very pleased to be able to work with Patrick who is providing us with incredible leadership for our Church. I would like to thank all the people who are serving to support Patrick as a student minister. I would especially like to thank Dr. Reverend Bob Galston in his supportive role. We are so lucky to have Bob here at WPUC. Many of us are also truly enjoying his Bible for Dummies course and his great jokes!

As you know ,we are facing a deficit right now, but I know with your support of **PAR** and of our new Gift Catalogue, we can continue the great service we do both internally at WPUC and externally in our Winnipeg and Global communities. I would like to thank the Finance Committee for all the hard work they are doing to help us move forward. Our Stewardship thinking began this fall with thinking of stewardship as much wider than how much money we have in the bank. Our sustainability is directly tied to how relevant we are to our members and to our wider community.



As the larger United Church is evolving, so are we at WPUC. Some of us attended a recent workshop put on by the Winnipeg Presbytery: "Church Re...". This workshop helped move our thinking of some of the reflecting and visioning work we will be doing at WPUC as we reflect on how to ensure we are relevant and sustainable for years to come.

I am excited that we are also going to be starting our process to discern about becoming an Affirming Church and that we will begin exploring indigenous themes over the next year. We are planning a Board retreat sometime in February when we will do some collective reflection and visioning and then this process will become wider with the larger WPUC community in subsequent months in 2017. If any of you are interested in helping in planning for our reflection and visioning thinking, please let me know. Exciting times.



Share Your ideas

In closing, I am honoured to serve as your Board Chair. Please feel free to connect with me about any ideas, thoughts, suggestions you have to help to continue to make WPUC a great Church home for all.

Blessings to all of you

Laurie Ringaert