



SouthWinds

DECEMBER 2017

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Windsor Park United Church

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Windsorparkunitedchurch.com

Patrick's Points to Ponder

Change! I find myself sitting here in my office and I am struck by the word, change, and all that it means for each of us. In a most basic sense I look outside and I see change all around. It is, after all, November 15th, 2017 and snow covers the ground. We have moved from the green of summer, into the browns, yellows, reds, and oranges of fall and now, into the white of winter. Change, indeed!

Here at Windsor Park United Church we have begun a process of exploration. We have started to talk about who we understand ourselves to be right now. We are also asking questions around who we might want to be, as a community of faith, in the world today. These are important questions to explore for any community, but they can also be difficult questions because they too can lead to places of change. The last few weeks we have been talking a lot about change in a community and I realized something, which I believe is rather important. We all have relationships with other people in our lives and we understand that each of these relationships will change over time. What is our church community but a community full of relationships and as we grow together our relationships will grow and change as well. So although we might be facing change, we face it together, surrounded by those with whom we are in relationship. I find this idea rather comforting.

I am also acutely aware that I too face change in this coming year. I will be moving from being a student, through ordination (if all goes as planned), to a call as a minister with a community of faith. This is just another change in a world full of change.

Why do I speak of change right now? We are about to enter into another season of Advent. The time of year when we prepare ourselves for the coming of love incarnate into the world. But what might this also be about? You see the birth of that baby, those many, many, years ago, changed everything. It changed our relationship with our God, as it went from one of an understanding of God as remote and somewhat distance, to an understanding of God with us. As our understanding of God changed in the birth of a baby, it continued to change as Jesus grew and taught what it truly meant to be in authentic relationship with God.

So although we seem to be in a world where change is the norm, we can take comfort in the fact that God is with us in the midst of any such change. Actually maybe we can even think that God is challenging us to change and grow in our relationships with God, or relationships with each other, and our relationship with ourselves. Change really is a given in our world, I just know that as we enter this season of Advent, this season of coming change, I am blessed to be journeying with all of you through this time.

Peace and blessings,



Patrick Woodbeck
Student Minister
Windsor Park United Church

Advent

Laura Steidl

The word 'Advent' comes from Latin and means "coming;" its purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth; it was a season that focused on waiting.

So, "Advent" means something new is coming. The dawn of a new and better era. This is really what the **Christmas** season is all about, isn't it? It's the celebration of the ADVENT of a new era. God broke into time and space and entered our world (Daniel Darling, "What Advent Is and Why We Should Celebrate").

Through prayer, we can enter into God's world and ask Him to prepare our hearts for something new. Ask God to use this time during Advent to cut away the distractions and make your life a place of warmth and openness.



Some Simple Things to Pray For During Advent

1. Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
2. Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
3. Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill God's purposes in your life.
4. Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
5. Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of loving community.
6. Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
7. Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.
8. Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.
9. Pray for joy and a sense of humor.
10. Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in God's power to work things out for the best in your life.
11. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
12. Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.
13. Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
14. Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.
15. Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

Edited from Whitney Hople's "Pray for Simplicity this Advent"

The 2017 Advent Event

Doug Waldron

All are welcome to our family friendly
2017 Advent Event on the evening
of **December 3rd**.



- ★ Doors open at 6:30pm at WPUC
- ★ Bonfire singing to start around 6:45
- ★ Cookie Decoration around 7:00
- ★ Wrap-Up around 8:00

Indoor carols will also be available for those who enjoy a warm nose to go with their warm heart. Hot chocolate and other beverages will be served throughout the evening.

Cookie decoration will commence around 7. We have a wonderful collection of CHRISTmas stories which will be read by a 'special' guest once we have settled down with our beverages and cookies.

We anticipate the evening will be winding down around 8 so the wee ones can have visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads. Please bring friends and neighbours along with your family.

December Calendar of Events

| DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|----------------------------|---------|---|
| December 3rd Sunday | 10:30am | First Sunday in Advent - Communion Service |
| | 6:30pm | Advent Event (Bonfire) |
| December 9th Saturday | 9:30am | Packing and delivery of Thinking of You Baskets |
| December 10th Sunday | 10:30am | Second Sunday in Advent - Contemporary Service White Gift Sunday |
| December 16th Saturday | TBA | Packing and delivery of Christmas Hampers |
| December 17th Sunday | 10:30am | Third Sunday in Advent |
| | 1:30pm | Carolling at St. Boniface Hospital |
| | 7:30pm | Young Adults get together |
| December 19th Tuesday | 7:00pm | Carolling at Windsor Park Place |
| December 20th Wednesday | 7:00pm | Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service |
| December 24th Sunday | 10:30am | Fourth Sunday in Advent |
| | 7:30pm | Christmas Eve Service; Candlelight and Communion |
| December 31st Sunday | 10:30am | New Year's Eve Day service |

Lay Supervision Team

When Patrick became a student minister at Windsor Park United, he was required to have a Lay Supervision Team, made up of members of the congregation. The purpose of the Supervision Team was to support Patrick in achieving his goals and to provide reports to the Atlantic School of Theology, his educational supervisors and to the national church.

The LST has met once a month throughout the academic year. During this time, we have provided feedback to Patrick on his learning goals. For the last four years, the LST members had to write individual goals, and for this final year, we are working on a group goal "To engage in an intentional education program with the congregation around the impact of being a member of the LST and of the congregation being a learning site".

We are submitting this article to encourage the congregation to speak to members of our team to bring forward any comments or suggestions. The *Lay Supervision Team* is made up of: **Pat Lumsden, Gail Paton, Kent Stewart and Angela Moodie.**

Patrick is coming to the end of his academic requirements. He must complete one more course in the spring. He will be having his ordination interview before Christmas. At that point, his ordination committee will decide whether to recommend him for ordination. His actual ordination will not take place until he has a call to a congregation.

We encourage you to chat with us after church or if you prefer, by email. Pat's email is lumsdenpa@mymts.net and she will pass comments to the team.

Gratefully submitted by the Lay Support Team

Thursday Morning Group Study

Alice Hastings

On October 12th this year, we once again came together for the DVD study: - "Follow" narrated by Andy Stanley.

This speaker interprets biblical accounts into today's terminology. Jesus teachings are for everybody who seeks a relationship with God. This study will help us to turn discipline (conforming to a set of ideas) into Discipleship (believing in and following the teachings of a leader "Jesus").

Join us **Thursday mornings at 9:30am** downstairs, for coffee and lively discussion in a safe, friendly atmosphere.

Building & Property Council

Bill Belsham & Wayne Baldwin

There were a few things that had to be addressed for Property:

- ★ New taps had to be replaced on the triple sinks in the downstairs kitchen.
- ★ New entrance door lock cylinders are being replaced and restricted keys will be used also the locks on the two doors to the admin office are being changed.
- ★ Quotes are being received to have all the Christmas lights replaced on the two spruce trees at the Memorial Garden.



Property Council

Board of Trustees Report

Derek Read, Chair

A new appraisal of the church was conducted in February 2016, and an inventory of church contents was carried out by the Trustees in June 2016. In light of this information the Trustees conducted their annual review of our insurance policy to ensure adequate coverage. Some questions arose with the valuation of the stained glass windows, but the total coverage was signed off in June with related changes to be made.

The WPUC Constitution was reviewed, with some minor editorial changes noted. The Constitution has been issued with the noted 2017 revisions.

The annual review of the Child Abuse Registry is to be brought up to date now that groups are underway.

Recently the Trustees assembled the interim donation statements and helped with their distribution.

For your information, the Trustees of WPUC are: **Derek Read, Angela Moodie, Morris Deveson, June Kaan, Bunny Reid, Linda Dart and Norm Cassie.**



UCW Report

Alana Davis



Well, with this last blast of cold and snow, I think winter is here to stay. A warming thought is Christmas is coming!



The Cookie Walk has come and gone and we wish to send out a BIG Thank You to all involved.

If there are any women who might be interested in joining a UCW unit or would like to come out to a meeting to see what goes on, you would be most welcome.

- ★ Unit 2 meets the *1st Wednesday* of the month @1:00pm
- ★ Unit 5 meets the *3rd Monday* of the month @1:00pm
- ★ YAH's meet the *3rd Friday* of the month @7:30pm

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Finance & Stewardship Council

This past month our Stewardship Council compared Windsor Park United Church with the Winnipeg Jets hockey team



(as Patrick would say “Really!?”). We tried to show that an organization operating within a restricted budget requires the coordinated effort of all its members to be successful. Sustaining our church demands our combined experience, talent, leadership, youth and innovative ideas if we want to continue as a caring and helpful team in our community.

Currently, WPUC is examining our “internal transformation” to see how we can do things differently and allow a more varied opportunity for people to participate in the work of our church. We are attempting to set both short and long-term goals by asking questions such as:

- ★ How can we restructure our committee and council model?
- ★ How do we approach fund raising and event planning better?
- ★ How do we want our Worship Service to look and feel?
- ★ How do we extend the presence of WPUC in our neighbourhood?
- ★ How do we grow our congregation to better reflect the changing demographics of our community?

These are just a few of the areas we need to explore to ensure WPUC will be sustainable, viable and relevant for generations to come.

A huge **Thank you!** to all who have re-evaluated their givings, joined PAR and participated in the “Our Gifts Catalogue” program.

The 2017 year-end budget and financial statements should show a more positive situation than at the end of 2016.

Please continue with your stewardship, not only with monetary support but also with your ideas and volunteer help. It is essential that we work as a team to ensure 2018 will be an exciting and transforming year at WPUC.

Thank you from the Finance & Stewardship Council!

Congregational Involvement & Communication Council

Deanna Kernaghan



We started the Fall of 2017 with our **Welcome Back Lunch** on September 10th to which 64 people attended.

- ★ We served hamburgers, veggies, coleslaw, cupcakes and ice cream
- ★ We realized a profit of \$160.39

We held our Craft Sale on October 21st with 17 Craft tables booked.

Thanks to **Jan Nazarko** who took all the reservations for the tables and also had someone look after the Canteen.

- ★ We made a profit of \$433.00
- ★ Eight tables have been booked for 2018

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to make the sale successful.

Ministry & Personnel Council

Gloria Saindon, Chair

Ministry and Personnel has had a busy quarter since February. Our committee of 4 has managed to get all contracts signed for the 2017-2018 year, posted and hired an Administrative Assistant to replace **Luci Toews** upon her retirement and began working on communication within the staff at Windsor Park.

We welcomed **Heather Karavas** on September 11 as the new Administrative Assistant at Windsor Park United Church and she definitely jumped into this role with both feet! We are currently working on some new policies to be adopted, job descriptions to be placed in a file in the office and will start on job performances in the New Year.



I would like to thank the outgoing committee members: **Sue Turley**, **Eleanor Lwiwski** and **Angela Moodie** for their support during the transition.

I would also like to thank **Angela Moodie**, **Sue Turley** and **Betty Ann Orr** for their hard work during the interviews and reference checks for the Administrative Assistant position it was very much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank my small but mighty committee made up of **Betty Ann Orr**, **Sarah Closen** and **Melissa Davidson**. We were given a mighty task right from the get go and we got it done! Thank you!

Worship Council

Nancy Sulkers, Chair

The Worship Council has had a busy Fall. On **Welcome Back Sunday**, we were literally out on the street handing out cookies and lemonade to WPUC attendees and passersby alike. We have completed planning for *Advent* and *Christmas* and have started planning for *Holy Week*. Come join us for the next few weeks as we move into *Advent* and watch the sanctuary light up. This year Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday so we will be having two services:

- ★ The first one will be at our regular time of 10:30am.
- ★ The second will be at 7:30pm. Bring your family and friends!

You may have noticed a few changes on Sunday mornings. Our ushers and greeters are now part of our *Welcome Ministry* which better reflects what we are trying to do each Sunday. If you are interested in participating in this Ministry please contact **Edna Erickson** or any of the Council members. Also, we have made some small changes to the order of service to better accommodate the little ones in Bible Adventures.

Your Worship Council is always looking for new members. If you are interested in helping out, even if you can only commit for a few months while we plan *Holy Week*, we would love to have you.



Worship
Council

Outreach Council

Gwen Polak, Chair



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 W.B.C.M. 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.

We have lately been asked to provide funds for the purchase of tuques that will be distributed as gifts to the WBCM guests during their Christmas supper. Monies that remained from donations made in **Lil Aird's** memory were used for this purpose. 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 **Caitlin Saindon**.



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 Knowles Centre.

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. (Please contact **Heather** in the office if you wish to purchase a gift for one of the children.)

White Gift Sunday will take place on December 10th.) 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 26th and December 3rd. A sign-up sheet for drivers (and trusty sidekicks) has been posted in the WPUC foyer. Hampers will be packed and delivered on Saturday, Dec. 16th.

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

Many hands make light work!



Tot Time

Ruth Klein



Wednesday, October 11th was our “welcome back” day. Fifteen moms gathered to enjoy some coffee and conversation. There are lots of new moms and children to get acquainted with and it was also exciting to see those

that returned from last season. Many of the twelve children downstairs are around two. They are keeping the volunteers busy as they settle into a routine of playing with the toys, enjoying a snack, play dough, and listening to the story tellers. There are still a couple of children that need to have some Mom time.

The moms have enjoyed some chat time as well as planning the program. So far they have participated in making cards, doing yoga and having fun with a guest from Sweet Legs.

Upstairs, Carol Nichol organizes the volunteers that take such great care of the eight babies that love to be held and cuddled.

Thanks to all our volunteers who come out each week and enjoy the time with the children. We are looking for some extra volunteers that would be available when our regular volunteers are away. If you would be able to help out in this way, please call Ruth Klein at 204-256-6390 or Heather in the church office at 204-256-8792.



Church Library

Laura Steidl

Thank you to Jan Shiaro for her work as our church librarian for many years!!

Jan has decided to move on to other interests and so we are looking for a new volunteer librarian!

The job involves reshelving books as they are returned and cataloging new books. If you are interested, please call the church office.

The A, B, C's of our church library!

A

Did you know that our church library has books for **ALL AGES**? That's right - we have children's books, books about faith and family and books about life stages and health issues!

B

BOOKS can be **BORROWED** by signing out the card in the **BOOK** and putting it in the **BASKET**. **BROWSE** through the library at the **BACK** of the sanctuary to find the right **BOOK** for you!

C

Looking for a book on a specific topic? Use our **CATALOGUE**, which can be found in the binder, to help **CHOOSE** your book. It has a listing of all of our books and where to find them! Read your book and return it to the basket when you're done! It **CAN'T** be easier than that!

You'll love our library!



Our kids' favorite Christmas joke:

What do you call a person who is afraid of Santa Claus?

Claustrophobic!

Book Review by Laura

Laura Steidl

Earlier this fall, I attended a workshop where I was fortunate to meet two Indigenous writers and learn about their work. The first author was **David A. Robertson**, a Winnipeg writer, who has written the book **“WHEN WE WERE ALONE.”** This story is about a girl who questions her grandmother about things that make her curious. For example: Why does her grandmother have long braided hair and wear beautifully coloured clothing? As the grandmother answers, she reveals things about her life in residential school. This book is a gentle introduction to the topic which would be suitable for both adults and children.

The second author was **Melanie Florence**, who is a Toronto-based writer of Indigenous descent. Her book, **MISSING NIMAMA**, is a story about a missing and murdered Indigenous woman and her daughter. On each page we first hear from the daughter and her wonderings as she grows up. On the same page is her mother’s response for each phase of the daughter’s life, which she is unable to share. The beautiful artwork by **Francois Thisdale** adds to the story. This book is a powerful introduction to the topic of missing and murdered Indigenous women, personalizing the effects on both the women and their families.

While both books are picture books, the concepts are clear and powerful. Both books can easily be read in 20 minutes, yet the stories will stay with you. Both books contain words in Cree - try reading them aloud and imagine what it must have been like for children to speak only English at residential school when they had never heard it before. A must-read if you are interested in learning more about Reconciliation, both books can be found in our church library.

Book Review by Judi

Judi Olson-Chiswell

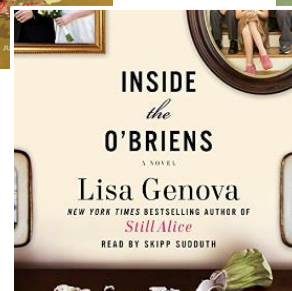
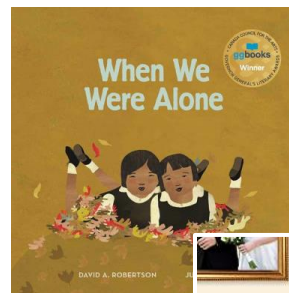
INSIDE THE O'BRIAN'S

Huntington’s disease, a genetic family disease, doesn’t seem like a good idea for a novel but **Lisa Genova** tackles this topic tremendously!

Joe & Rosie O’Brian are hardworking parents with 4 adult children, when Joe has a health issue & Rosie insists he see a doctor. Seemingly suddenly, he is diagnosed HD positive, his childhood memory of his (institutionalized) mother is re-evaluated & it changes his perspective of his own relationships with his children.

Much of the story is relayed by the youngest child whose own life becomes paralyzed by fear of discovering she too, may be HD positive. Unable to make decisions as she watches her father deteriorate, she becomes his ‘mirror’ as well as his window of what “may be”, convincing Joe to see clearly his own mother’s battle with Huntington’s and is able to compartmentalize his disease and his children’s’ future in order to really live.

The story weaves fictional characters with the facts of HD & it’s progression as well detailed data on statistics of people who live with this gene mutation into a compelling novel well worth reading!



Restaurant Review by Heather

Heather Karavas

Harth Mozza & Wine Bar

1-980 St Anne's Rd, Winnipeg, MB R2N



This new restaurant is so popular that they kindly ask their patrons to keep their sitting to two hours, so the next reservation can enjoy the delicious foods and wines on offer!

They serve a lot of their dishes in a traditional Italian family-style, to be shared by the whole table. Three mom-friends and I needed an evening, a girl's night out to spoil ourselves and visit. This is where we started.

I ordered Fettuccini - it was Carbonara, with soft egg and Guiancale (cured pork cheek) for \$22, and so, so good!

Shannon ordered one of their Neapolitan Style pizzas; it was so big it was almost coming off the plate! Family style indeed! She ordered the Prosciutto, it also featured Caramelized Onions, Arugula, Fig Jam (YES!), Gorgonzola, and Fior Di Latte (a mild white Italian cheese) melted on top for \$22.

Jen, who has IBS and a restricted diet, had the Margherita Pizza, featuring Sea Salt, big leaves of fresh Basil, and Fior Di Latte for \$16.

Joanne went with a pasta dish as well, ordering the Tortellini, with a Ricotta, Herbs, Lemon, Kale and White Wine sauce. It was \$24

and mouth-watering. Had I realized at the time that they offer bottles of Dr. Loosen, a German Riesling I love, I would have ordered one for the table, as it was, we arrived after our table mates and there was a bottle of red on the table already.

Shannon and I also shared a cannoli dish for dessert! There were 2 and they were only \$4.

In conclusion, the atmosphere is conducive to visiting without the next table over hearing you, the food is delicious, as is the generous wine menu, the wait staff was speedy and very polite, and helping us with the Italian terms on the menu we were trying to google the meaning of, my only critique would be the two hour sitting! We would have stayed and visited longer, but I can understand why this is necessary!

Make a reservation by calling 204-255-0003, or visiting their website at harthwpg.com.

- ★ Their lunch hours are Tuesday - Friday: 11:30-2pm
- ★ Dinner hours are Monday -Saturday: 5-11pm
- ★ They are closed Sundays

You will find this unassuming looking restaurant at #1-980 St. Anne's Rd South at Warde Ave. If you appreciate local, the three owners, one being the head chef, are local guys with Red River College training. Check them out!



*Special Thank You to
MEL BRAUN*



A Note from the Editor

John Lwiwski

Welcome to a new era of SouthWinds !

After serving as the Windsor Park United Church SouthWinds editor for the past 18 years (since 1999), **Mel Braun** has decided to hang up her editorial cap and pass the torch onto the next editor.

We would like to thank Mel for her superb years of service as editor and I look forward to follow her well placed footsteps.

SouthWinds has been the Church's publication to bring you up-to-date with the happenings of WPUC and its Congregation. You will notice in this issue that we have added a new "Leisure" section. This includes some different interest articles like book reviews and restaurant reviews.

We welcome your ideas as to what you would like to see in the future SouthWinds. Please call or email Heather at the church with your suggestions.

Enjoy the Advent season, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

