



# SouthWinds

## DECEMBER 2018

### Highlights:

Ramblings from the Office	1
2018 Advent Events	2, 8
Origin of Christmas Carols	3
News from the Wider Church	4
Going Deeper	5
Note from the Editor	8

### Councils & Groups:

Board of Trustees	5
Outreach	6
Kids in Care	7
Thursday Morning Group	7

### Leisure Time:

Movie Reviews	7
Sounds of the Season	8



## Windsor Park United Church

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### Ramblings from the "Big" Office

I find it difficult to process that it is already the beginning of Advent, the start of another church liturgical year, almost the end of 2018, and the start of 2019. This really highlights how busy we are all are in our lives because time just seems to fly and you turn around and another year has come and almost gone. I was reading an article online by **Carey Nieuwhof**, on a completely different subject, and I ran across this quote which really struck me as so appropriate for our lives today, but also something that each one of us might want to consider as we enter this season of Advent; "You can fill your life with activity, or you can fill your life with purpose. It's your choice." The question that we might want to ask ourselves is; "Which will we choose?" While it is true that there are things that we need to accomplish and that there are also things that we really want to do in our lives, but I think that this quote is asking us to think about what we do and how might that be a reflection of who we really want to be in the world. There is no shortage of things that we can get involved in and many of them are worthwhile, but do they all speak to a deeper sense of meaning in our lives?

This Advent once again we will join with Mary and Joseph on that journey to Bethlehem, a journey that each of us has taken a number of times in our lives. What makes this year's journey different? Let's be honest with each other here. We live in a world that has become increasingly polarized. Whether it is economic, social, ethnic, or cultural differences, there are so many things that are working to create deep divides between us that we can sometimes feel so overwhelmed with no idea what to do. The prophet Isaiah challenged the people of Israel with the coming of God incarnate; "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." We as Christians are called

to follow along with Mary and Joseph not because it is a quaint story that we get to tell ourselves at Christmas, but rather because there is some deeper meaning and purpose to this story. God incarnate, God among us, God with us, Emmanuel. This one individual who was born almost 2000 years ago and who spoke out in the face of injustice, hatred, divide, challenging all who heard to live a new life, a life based on love and inclusion. It can be a nice story, or it can be a call to all of us to continue to challenge ourselves to live each day in love. To live in love, to live into God's love for us and to love those around us, our families and our communities. As this Advent is unwrapped let it bring each and every one of us a renewed purpose to love deeply in a world that so badly needs it.

I wish to extend a personal invitation to you all to join us at Windsor Park United Church this year for Advent as we journey towards Bethlehem together finding meaning and purpose in our lives. Our Sunday worship begins at 10:30am and you will see that there are also a number of special activities scheduled throughout the 4 weeks (listed on the next page). Know that you are all welcome to join us for one, some, or all of these activities.

May the love, peace, joy, and hope of this season be with you all.

Peace,



Rev Patrick Woodbeck

## 2018 Advent Events

### December Calendar of Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT
December 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10:30am	First Sunday in Advent - Communion Service
	12:00pm	Advent Kick-Off
December 8 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	TBA	'Thinking of You' baskets
December 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10:30am	Second Sunday in Advent - White Gift Sunday
	3:00pm	WPUC Christmas Concert
December 15 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	10:00am	Packing and delivery of Christmas Hampers
December 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10:30am	Third Sunday in Advent
	1:30pm	Carolling at St. Boniface Hospital
December 18 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	6:30pm	Carolling at Windsor Park Place
December 19 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	7:00pm	Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service
December 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10:30am	Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Monday	7:30pm	Christmas Eve Service



## Origin of Christmas Carols

Laura Steidl

Have you ever wondered why we sing Christmas carols and how that tradition got started?



Originally a carol was a round dance, accompanied by a flute and no words. Such dancing was very

popular among ancient Greeks and Romans.

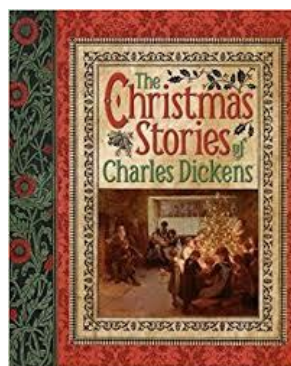
Hymns, such as the angels' song "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" were definitely religious. Carols, however, were very different. Early medieval carols were on any subject, religious or non-religious, even unreligious, and were suitable for dancing. They had great popularity among the common people, for whom the plainsong chanting and Latin hymns of the Church held little interest.

The birthplace of the true Christmas carol was Italy. St. Francis of Assisi was the first to introduce the joyous carol spirit into the Church. He had a particular affection for the mysteries of the holy childhood of Jesus. In 1223, as the Christian Church struggled to change pagan customs, Francis arranged to re-create the setting of the first Christmas night, complete with music telling the story. Nativity pageants and manger scenes all stem from St. Francis's presentation.

From Italy, the carol spread quickly to Spain, France, and finally all over Europe. In medieval England, "carol" meant a ring dance accompanied by singing. Gradually, the meaning of "carol" changed, and the word was applied to the song itself. The earliest known English carol was written at the beginning of the 15th century.

The rise of Puritanism brought the greatest opposition to carols, and to the entire tradition of Christmas. In 1647, the observance of all festival days, including Christmas, was abolished by Cromwell's Parliament. During the twelve years of the ban, the spirit of the carol virtually died in England. A few survived, such as "The First Nowell," and "The Boar's Head Carol."

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, it seemed that the old carols would die out completely. Then in 1822, Davies Gilbert published "Some Ancient Christmas Carols with the Tunes to Which They Were Formerly Sung in the West of England." He was followed by William Sandys who published "Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern" in 1833. Together, Gilbert and Sandys saved such carols as "The First Nowell," "I Saw Three Ships," and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." Their publications inspired a revival of popular interest in carols.



Charles Dickens soon followed with numerous Christmas stories, and an interest in all things Christmas returned carols to their former state of popularity. New carols services were created and became popular,

as did the custom of singing carols in the streets.

Radio, television, movies and the internet have ensured a lasting presence for Christmas music, and the carol is undoubtedly more popular now than ever before.





## *News from the Wider Church*

Rev. Patrick Woodbeck

Did you know that there is a new United Church of Canada congregation in Winnipeg? **Prairie Spirit United Church** began on October 1st, 2018 and is worshipping in the former Sturgeon Creek United Church building. *Prairie Spirit is the amalgamation of the former Sturgeon Creek United Church, Kirkfield Park United Church, and Silver Heights United Church.* This new congregation is in the midst of a time of intentional interim ministry as they come to understand their new identity together. We offer our prayers on their faithful work in Winnipeg and the world.

Winnipeg Presbytery is working at winding down operations as the new Church structure comes into effect on January 1st, 2019. It is a time of transition as many are celebrating memories of the past and looking forward to a future that can sometimes seem a bit nebulous. One thing is certain we continue to journey together. The final worship of Winnipeg Presbytery will take place at the **United Church in Meadowood** on Tuesday evening, December 11th, 2018. All are welcome to join in for this service of celebration. More information will be coming.

### **Our New Moderator**



*“The United Church of Canada has a wideness of its theologies and its practices of faith that’s enriched, not only as we learn our own stories, but as we listen carefully and celebrate and learn from each other’s understanding of Creator”.*

United Church’s 43rd Moderator,  
the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott

Born in Marathon, ON, on the traditional and unceded territory of the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, and ordained in 1994, the Rev. Bott has lived his life “as a beloved child of God” within the United Church. He has served communities of faith in Ontario and British Columbia, most recently Pacific Spirit United Church in Vancouver, and is well known for his skills as a leader, writer, and educator, and an active user of social media.

Elected at the 43rd General Council in Oshawa, ON, in July 2018, Bott spoke about the need for the church to build trust, and to not be afraid to talk about our collective purpose. He offered this as a starting point: “To help people to enter into and deepen their relationship with God ... through the stories and person of Jesus of Nazareth. How do we do that? With the most radical love that we know: a true love of Holy Mystery, a true love of ourselves, and a true love of all other parts and people in God’s creation.”

Moderator Bott is passionate about the possibilities that we have in front of us as a church, and encourages all of us to ask and attend to both the pain and the joy that is being expressed, and then to take action on what we’re told. Entering the role of Moderator at a time when significant changes to church structures are underway, he believes that the purpose of those structures is to help the wide diversity of communities of faith across the church live into their ministries.

He is also taking on the role at a time when the Executive of the General Council has defined the triennium’s focus as one on discipleship, a focus he welcomes. “I believe that each of us needs to explore what this faith in God means to us; and what Jesus means to us,” he says. “As we explore it as individuals, I hope that we can find way of exploring it as communities of faith and fellowship.”

## *Going Deeper*

*Rev. Patrick Woodbeck*

We hear the term prophet used a lot in biblical circles and churches but I wonder if we understand what a prophet really was in biblical times.

Craig Greenfield says that prophets; “punched up. Not down. They spoke truth to power, not condemnation to the downtrodden and marginalized.”

A well-known prophetic statement goes like this; “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”-Micah the prophet (Micah 6:8)

So what does the Lord require of us and what might it mean to walk humbly with our God in today’s world?

Yet Isaiah speaks the following prophetic words; “Seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.”-Isaiah the prophet (Isaiah 1:17) It almost appears as if these two prophetic statements might be at odds. Micah speaks to our humbleness, while Isaiah is all about the action, “bring justice,” and “plead the widow’s cause.” Are they really at odds? You see the prophet was speaking prophetic words, not for themselves but rather for God. When we speak these words for our own gain, even if it ends up helping others, are we being the humble purveyors of truth. To speak words of truth to power humbly is our call as Christians, a challenge yes, but in this alone do we become those conduits for God’s love, justice, and mercy.

Who do you see as a prophet in today’s world? What truth do you think that they are speaking to power?

## *Board of Trustees Report*

*Doug Waldron, Chair*

*Greetings Friends,*

In my Fall article I mentioned that **Dale Napper**,

our long time Treasurer, was stepping down from that role. It turns out that he didn’t get his PGA tour card so he has decided to return as the renewed Treasurer. I still cannot thank Dale enough for his outstanding contribution to this congregation; we have been truly blessed by his time and talents.

If you have been blessed by a talent or extra time we always seem to have a means for you to share it with this congregation. While we wait for direction from the new UC Manual on Church Governance we will maintain our current structure to the best of our abilities. I believe all the Councils could use some extra help to fulfil their mandate. **Council chairs - don’t forget your 2019 budget is needed soon.**

I was overwhelmed by the response to the invitation of the Potluck Supper on November 3rd. It appeared on the prior Wednesday that we would have 80 participants but it turned out to be 120+. There was just enough food for everyone with plenty of desserts. For future potlucks I would suggest a P.A. system and setting the food up in the North room for better flow.

For those who are wondering - we are expecting the pictorial directory soon. They advised it would take 4 - 6 weeks from when the final edit was submitted and we are in that expected time now.

We are still exploring our signage options. We want to make sure the signage is most effective while our spending is most efficient. I believe Bill is still looking for help in mounting the TV in the Narthex as well.

Did you hear the church bells ringing after church on November 4th? With **John Lwiwski’s** help and outdoor speaker we explored the idea of adding the sound of church bells to connect with the neighbourhood. Since we were hosting a luncheon that day only a few heard it as they were leaving.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS.**



## *Outreach Council*

*Gwen Polak, Co-Chair*

Members and friends of your Outreach Council have been involved in several activities during the past few months. We continue to support West Broadway Community Ministry on an ongoing basis and lend a hand (or more) to other organizations in the area when the opportunity arises.

**Shirley and Gord Goossen** regularly collect grocery and hygiene items donated by WPUC members - including those donated at Thanksgiving- and transport these to West Broadway. The items are used in their kitchen for meal preparation or offered to clients who visit their emergency food bank. The staff and volunteers there are always touched by the generosity of our donors and we regularly receive notes of appreciation from them (which are posted on our bulletin board at WPUC). If you are able to contribute items such as peanut butter, tinned meat or fish, coffee, tea, or sugar, please leave these in the storage bin located between the two sets of entrance doors at WPUC. Between 100 and 160 guests come for the mid-day meal at WBCM, so the need is constant.

We are grateful to the many members of our church, including our minister, for helping us prepare and offer a hot meal each month at West Broadway. **Derek Read** organizes most of the volunteer crews who bake, prepare, or serve the meal to guests. If you are interested in assisting with a meal, please contact Derek or myself for further details.

A hearty THANK-YOU to **Judi Olson Chiswell** who has been kindly donating her time and talent to give haircuts to WBCM clients. Everyone who visits her temporary salon comes away looking and feeling fabulous. While Judi does not charge for her services there, clients are invited to make a good will offering in support of WBCM.

In November, some of our members recently participated in a Blanket-Making Bee at Prince of Peace Church. A total of 25 fleece blankets were made. These will be given to **Morberg House** which is a shelter for the homeless in St. Boniface.

In conjunction with the **Winnipeg Cheer Board Feed-a-Family program**, we will again be preparing and delivering 20 hampers containing food and gifts for recipients in our area. Included amongst the recipients are many low-income pensioners (singles and couples), as well as the family of refugees most recently sponsored by WPUC. We encourage everyone at WPUC to join in this project as it is a very tangible way to share the blessings of Christmas with our neighbours.

Depending on your talents and resources, you may wish to provide a gift for one of the hamper recipients, pack items in the hampers on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, or deliver a hamper to a family in the community. If you wish to help defray the costs of this project (estimated to be about \$1500 this year), you can place your donation in the stamped envelope which will be inserted in the church bulletins on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

We thank you in advance for any support you can bring to this project.



## Movie Review

Rev. Patrick Woodbeck

### THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PIE SOCIETY

Okay, I must confess when I saw that this was a Netflix original movie I did not hold out much hope that it would be a good way to spend a couple of hours. Well I will be the first one to say that I was wrong. The movie stars Lily James playing the lead character Juliet Ashton. I only ever recall seeing James in the live action version of Cinderella, which came out in 2015 and so my expectations that she might even be able to carry a drama were exceedingly low, but I now have a whole new level of respect for her as an actress as she was wonderful in this movie. Lily James, as the author, played this role with compassion but also with a determination to dig into the stories and lives of those whom she was writing about, treating their stories and experiences with the respect they deserved and still challenging them to reveal more of the deeper story.



The movie takes place mainly on the island of Guernsey, a British island just off the coast of France, one of the Channel Islands. The movie moves back and forth between the present time of the movie, 1946, and the past 1941, during the German occupation of the island. Ashton arrives on the island to write a story about this “Society,” after a receiving a letter from one to the society’s members Dawsey Adams, which piques her interest in this particular group of people. In the course of the movie Ashton is gifted with the stories of the members of the society and their experiences during the war. The movie moves through times of pain, suffering, conflict, companionship, and joy, but none of these is overpowering, but rather balanced with each of the others. This movie itself is by no means fast paced, but draws the audience into the stories and experiences of the characters.

The movie does not rely on “happily ever after” ending but rather ends with joy being found in the midst of loss. I would recommend this movie as a great way to spend a couple of hours on a cold winter’s evening. As a final note, from the look on the face of Juliet Ashton, I would not recommend trying a potato peel pie.

## *Kids in Care*

Gloria Saindon

This spring WPUC embarked on an ongoing project called “Kids In Care”.

The suitcase project has now come to an end. They have collected more than enough and have been overwhelmed by all the generosity!

Thank you to all those that donated backpacks, small duffel bags and suitcases to this worthwhile project!

## *Thursday Morning Study Group*

Alice Hastings

Thursday Morning Study Group began this fall with **Andy Stanley’s** DVD “Conversations about Faith”. He is an interesting narrator who has a unique take on how to begin a conversation about faith. As with anything we do, there is a starting point that will usually tweak our interest. This presentation did that. The questions and conversations that follow each session are so interesting, informative and have many “AH” moments. These conversations are shared over a cup of coffee and with Patrick, as our fearless leader keeping us on topic, there was much for us to consider.

Starting in January 2019, we are planning to continue our journey of reconciliation with the First Nation People by viewing and discussing the APTN series “First Contact”.

This group values everyone’s opinion, there is always room at the table, so don’t miss out - come - be a participant - we all have something to contribute.”





## *A Note from the Editor*

John Lwiwski

### **The Mini-SouthWinds !**

Even though we had the Fall edition of SouthWinds in October, we like to keep you informed of the activities in the upcoming Advent season, hence - the “Mini-Southwinds” for December.

As always, 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!**

Windsor Park United Church  
Presents

*“Sounds of the Season”*

On Sunday, December 9  
At 3 p.m.  
1062 Autumnwood Drive  
Free Will Offering

Join the Christmas Choir,  
Praise Team and Joyful Noise for an  
afternoon of Christmas music!