



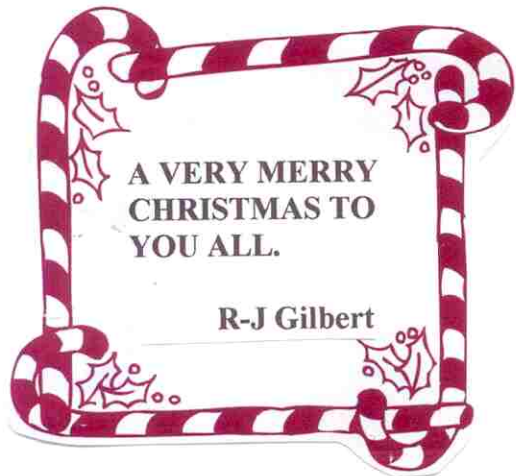
INSIGHT

NOVEMBER, 2009

Rosedale United Church
159 Roxborough Drive
Toronto M4W1X7
416-924-0725
www.rosedaleunited.org
Fax: 416-924-9505



*Hark
the
herald
angels sing!*



A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS TO
YOU ALL.

R-J Gilbert

STAFF LISTING
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INSIGHT is published four times a year.
 Submitted items may be subject to editing.
 The next publication deadline is February
 26, 2010.

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AT A GLANCE

Nov. 16 – Fireside Evening

- 16 – 7:30 pm – Pastoral Care Mtg.
- 16 – 7:30 pm – Book Club
- 19 – 7:00 pm – Film Night
- 21 – 9:30 am – Canned Foods flyers
- 21 – 10:00-2:00 pm – Holly Berry Fair
- 23 – 7:00 pm – Board Mtg.
- 24 – 7:30 pm – Worship & Music Mtg.
- 25 – 7:30 pm – Men’s Group
- 26 – 7:00 pm – Film Night
- 28 – 9:30 am – Canned Foods collection
- 29 – Advent I

Dec. 1 – 7:00 pm – Advent Candle Service

- 6 – Christmas Pageant
- 13 – Music Sunday
- 14 – 7:00 pm – Prayer Circle
- 14 – 7:30 pm – Book Club
- 16 – 1:30 pm – UCW Christmas Gathering
- 20 – UCW Goodie Plates
- 24 – 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service
- 24 – 10:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25-Jan.4 – Church Office closed

Jan. 11 – 7:00 pm – Prayer Circle

- 11 – 7:30 pm – Book Club
- 14,21,28 – 7:00 pm – Film Nights
- 18 – 7:30 pm – Pastoral Care Mtg.
- 26 – 7:00 pm – Board Mtg.

Feb. 4 – 7:00 pm – Film Night

- 8 – 7:00 pm – Prayer Circle
- 8 – 7:30 pm – Book Club
- 15 – Family Day – Church Office closed
- 21 – Annual Meeting – after the service
- 22 – 7:30 pm – Pastoral Care Mtg.

STAFF REPORT

This edition of Insight is published just as we enter the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany – easily the most beloved seasons of the Christian year for their rich traditions and festivities.

November 29 – the first Sunday in Advent – marks the beginning of a new church year. “Advent” is a Latin word that literally means “coming” or “arrival,” and since it comes before the season of Christmas, we naturally assume that the anticipated and celebrated “arrival” is the new babe born in Bethlehem. But the texts we hear in Advent are actually talking about what is popularly known as the “second coming.” You didn’t think we talked about Jesus’ second coming in the United Church, did you? You might be surprised to hear that the concept of an end time is one that we share with all Christians; though I would say that for most of us in the United Church it doesn’t look anything like a scene from the Left Behind series. Rather than mapping the specifics, the season of Advent celebrates the bold promise that God is at work in creation, that history is headed in God’s direction, and that one day Christ will bring an end to all that is contrary to God’s justice and love.

The season of Christmas is the twelve days from December 25 to January 5. We move from thinking about end times to celebrating a new beginning. For Christians, Christmas celebrates a distinct instance of God’s involvement in human history; for us it is the beginning of the story of God’s being with us in a new and incredible way. Christmas is the story of God become flesh – of God’s participation in the painful, ugly, and finite dimensions of human life. Christmas is the first step towards Advent’s promise of redemption.

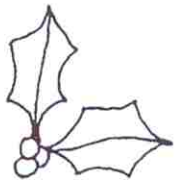
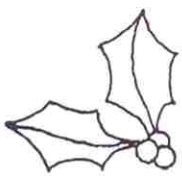
In the western Church, Epiphany is celebrated on January 6 and the season lasts until the beginning of Lent. The inaugural Epiphany story encapsulates the essence of the season; the Magi and their gifts clearly identify Jesus as a Messiah in the cosmic sense, as more than a political pariah or earthly king.

It’s all very interesting theology to try to wrap your head around, but what does it do to your heart? My challenge to you in the coming months is to listen for God’s personal message to you. When you hear the scriptures read during Advent, or at a Christmas Eve service or on Transfiguration Sunday, let God’s promise speak to you, in your life, in your circumstances, right now. Our focus during Advent and Christmas naturally extends outward – as it should – but there is also a lot for us to discover within. Where is your hope this year? What gives you peace? When do you experience joy? How are you giving and receiving love? Our focus during Advent and Christmas is so often on others, that we don’t hear a personal message for ourselves; God’s work in creation is work that involves you and is for you.

Let the promises of this new season speak to you. May the One whose coming we anticipate and whose birth we celebrate encounter you afresh and speak to you the words you need to hear.

~Kristin Philipson





THOUGHTS FROM THE CLERK

Three things stand out for me these days.

One, we are a community of ministries. Even after my 30 months as Deputy Clerk and Clerk, I continue to find another gem to which some member of our congregation is contributing. Here is a quiz; 5 points for each correct answer. What is Camp Cucumber and how do we contribute? What is Reiki and how do we contribute? Who leads the Men's Group? What is its purpose? And these are just a few!

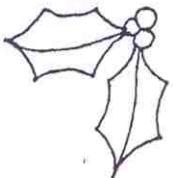
Two, we are a community of ministers. Our strength lies in our diverse team. Nobody is everybody's cup of tea (including Clerks). As I stand at the back, I am amazed at all the people who come up to me to comment on some aspect of the service, the building or the church's functioning that is meaningful to them. Together our team - Doug, Karen, Wayne, Kristin, Joe, Karen and Brent - make an attractive and powerful unit where there is something, and someone, for everybody.

Three, we are in the midst of our Stewardship Campaign, where we are asking our community to fund these communities. To keep us whole, and our building intact, we need everyone to give, and to give a bit more. We have heard from 2/3 of our pledgers, and so far so good. We need to hear from the other third, and from our people who give at the plate and/or through PAR. If all come through, our finances will be in good shape. Let's pray that will be the case. To quote Mike who quotes Yogi Berra: "We gotta finish strong!" (Greg's and Mike's reports go into this in a bit more depth.)

In summary, it takes a community to build a community. We are very blessed at Rosedale that we have both.

As always, please feel free to contact me.

Mark Smith



Put Your Christmas Shopping Dollars To Work For Others!

at the annual
Holly Berry Fair

Saturday, November 21 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Rosedale United Church

159 Roxborough Dr. (at Glen Rd.) | Info: 416.485.4992

**Supporting Rosedale United Church's Outreach Service Partners
 Locally - Nationally - Internationally**

Books

Home Baking

Handknitting

Treasures

Deli Lunch

Silent Auction

Santa

Outside vendors with unique gifts

**Donations still needed: valuables, event tickets, attic or
 basement treasures**

Contact Michele Scholes

416-485-4992

mfscholes@gmail.com



Stewardship Update

As this is being written, the Stewardship Campaign is entering its final and most critical stage. If we keep up the momentum generated by our early pledgers and finish strongly, we will have completed a successful programme. However, I must caution, as our pal Yogi Berra says, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

At the moment, there are two areas on which to focus. First, the church has not heard from approximately 50 families who have pledged in previous years. When we hear from this group (and to be frank, the sooner the better), we will be within striking distance of our goal.

Second is dealing with this year's budgeted deficit. As an adjunct to the Stewardship Campaign, families were invited to consider topping up their 2009 contribution to reduce or eliminate our current deficit. The response to this invitation has been encouraging. To state the obvious, all who are able and wish to help with the deficit elimination effort are welcome.

It is has been a joy to be the Chair of this year's Stewardship Campaign. Thank you to each of you who has responded (or plans to respond) to our "Building Community – Contributing to a Better Future" theme, and a very special thank you to those who have added a Church Community Moment. I hope you have had a chance to read some of these moments in the calendar or at coffee hour. All are heartfelt. Some are poetic prose.

Finally, please remember our pal Yogi. We must finish strongly!

Mike Vuchnich

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CANNED FOODS COLLECTION

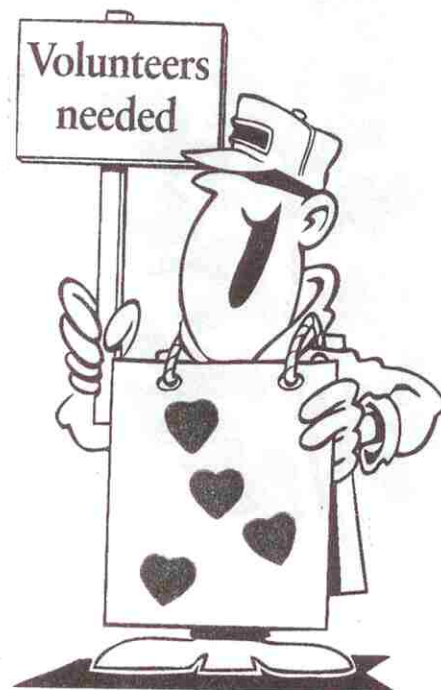
Sat. Nov. 21st - deliver flyers.

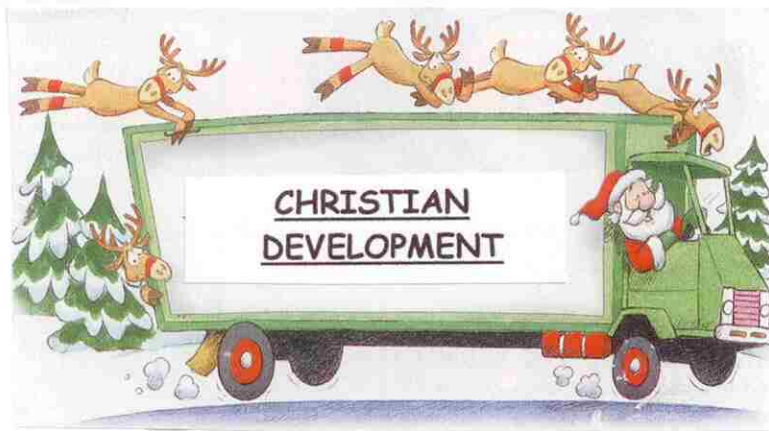
Sat. Nov. 28th - collect food items.

Students earn Community Service Hours.

**Please meet at Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Church on each Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
Bring the whole family.**

**For further information, please contact Bob
Wilton at 416-920-1623.**





NURSERY NEWS

Did you know that Regina Rioflorido has been taking care of the babies and toddlers in our community for fifteen years!

Join us in giving Regina a much-needed thank-you at our next Church Family Lunch on Sunday, December 6 (after the Christmas Pageant). There'll be cake!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We are hard at work on our Christmas Pageant, which we will present on December 6th.

In the New Year, we will start a new Outreach Project for the Children's Book Bank in Regent Park. We will be collecting your old books to donate to this project that allows children who otherwise couldn't afford it to build up their own libraries. As new books come into your homes this Christmas, take time with your children to set aside books that you might consider donating.



YOUTH GROUP

We look forward to participating in the Canned Food Drive on November 28th along with our friends from Rosedale Presbyterian.

Saturday, December 12th will be our year-end Christmas party. The youth have talked non-stop about how much fun they had with Jen at last year's "Youth Eventz" Christmas service in Hamilton - so I've decided we should go again this year. The service has moved to St. Jacob's; we'll attend the 5:30 pm service, and then return to the church for a sleepover. Should be fun!



8.

These boots are made for walking!

Barring precipitation and absent ice, the walking group will continue through the winter to go for an hour's walk on various routes leaving at 9:30 from and coming back at 10:30 to Rosedale United Church.

Monday: faster pace, hills

Friday: slower pace, more level territory

Nourish your Spirit

Reflections will be provided to stimulate discussion or simply tuck away to read later.

Exercise your Body

The benefits of walking are numerous. Walking can help you:

- Lower low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol (the "bad" cholesterol)
- Raise high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol (the "good" cholesterol)
 - Lower your blood pressure
 - Reduce your risk of or manage type 2 diabetes
 - Manage your weight
 - Improve your mood
 - Stay strong and fit (*Mayo Clinic Health Newsletter*)

Contact Karen Bowles @ 924-0725 Ext 29 for more info and/or to sign up.



ROSEDALE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The UCW wishes to thank those members of the congregation who so generously contributed to the annual Thank Offering Appeal. Your donations will help, especially this year, the work of Sistering, The Fred Victor Women's Hostel and Massey Centre. For those who missed our special Sunday, it is not too late to donate.

The traditional Christmas gathering will take place on December 16th at 1:30 pm. There will be a short service followed by the filling of 100 gift bags for the downtown recipients of the Mid-Toronto Community Services Meals on Wheels Programme. Please come and join others in the fun while singing festive songs. We do need people to help the members of the UCW do this job! Afterwards, stay and join friends, new and old, for a nice cup of tea.

Christmas "goodie" plates for special members of the congregation will be ready for delivery after the service on Sunday, Dec. 20th. We have been blessed by many who so willingly deliver these plates each year to those who are unable to attend regular Sunday services. Again this year, we need the congregation's help.

Merry Christmas and may God's blessings be on you all.

Mary Eleanor Morris and Patricia Phair

Administration & Finance Committee Update

While the response for our 2010 Stewardship Campaign (wonderfully coordinated by Michael Vuchnich) is extremely encouraging, our actual giving to date was \$32,000 behind the pace of 2008 as of September 30th.

This has been partially offset by keeping our expenditures under control; however this becomes more challenging as the cold weather approaches. Within the coming days we will be faced with an extensive repair to the eavestroughs and snow guards for the sanctuary roof. While we might be able to hold off for another winter, there is a strong likelihood of reducing our costs if the work is completed this fall, as a limited time donation of equipment has been offered to the congregation, but is likely to expire by year-end.

Based on our current giving combined with a committed reduction in discretionary spending and a significant reduction in our sponsorship to the United Church Mission and Service Fund, we are still faced with a deficit of approximately \$15,000. We are fortunate that 5 families to date have heard our plea and contributed an additional \$6,000 to reduce our revised projected deficit of \$25,000, with the difference of \$4,000 comprised of cost savings and postponed acquisitions. Should we be so fortunate as to enjoy a surplus by the end of the fiscal year, the Board has stipulated that the surplus funds be directed to increase our congregations' contribution to the United Church Mission and Service Fund.

We have largely maximized our revenue generated from all other resources but our donors. In order to meet our preliminary budget for 2010, the giving by our congregation needs to increase by approximately 11% or \$50,000. With approximately 2/3's of the anticipated 2010 pledges received, we are almost 70% there.

The Committee has encouraged the Board to re-introduce a visitation to those in the congregation who have not responded by November 23rd. I look forward to the opportunity of hearing your thoughts in the coming weeks.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Gregory Deacon, Treasurer



BAPTISMS AT ROSEDALE

Olivia Grace MacNaughton, daughter of Adeline McNaughton & Nicholas Raymond.
Charlotte Johnston Conacher, daughter of Trish Magwood & Bryce Conacher.

FUNERALS AT ROSEDALE

Gladys Ada Eleanor Alexander, age 97, died September 12, 2009.
Marc Voaden Ricketts, age 34, died September 16, 2009.
Arthur Holmes Crockett, age 92, died September 18, 2009.
Albert Walling Ruby, age 94, died October, 2009.





Our visit to
Kirkton Woodham
United Church.

Lunch provided

And

Llamas sighted!



Over our 15 year
partnership we
have together
raised over
\$100,000 for the
Canadian
Foodgrains Bank!

Calling all Distaff* members of the congregation and their female friends.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT
Tuesday December 1 in Copp Hall

We are getting together to begin this busy and joyous season with a candlelight service where we will sing and break 'cake' together. The way it works is this: each table of 6 will have a hostess. Sign up to be a hostess next week in coffee time. After we have eaten together we will have a service of candlelight and song. This year's service will be around the theme of Christmas Traditions.

The committee for Advent by Candlelight needs your help. We are in need of women to serve in the following areas:

- ❖ Registration for Hostesses or Guests
- ❖ Room Set-up/Kitchen Needs
- ❖ Decorating Copp Hall
- ❖ Join the Committee



Please let us know where you would like to serve. Complete the form below and return it to the Church office, or email your name and service choice to karenbowles@rosedaleunited.org . Thank you!

Your Name _____

Phone # or Email _____

I would like to serve in the following way(s):

*a woman or women collectively

