

A decorative border in black ink surrounds the text. It features large, stylized flowers at the corners and smaller floral motifs at the midpoints of each side. The border is composed of elegant, swirling lines and circular patterns.

INSIGHT

SEPTEMBER, 2009

ROSEDALE UNITED CHURCH

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AT A GLANCE**September**

17, 24 – Film Nights
 15 – 7:00 pm – Board Meeting
 20 – Sunday School startup, BBQ
 21 – 7:30 pm – Pastoral Care
 22 – 7:30 pm – Worship & Music
 23 – 7:30 pm – Men's Group
 27 – Baptism
 28 - 5:30 pm – HBF Meeting
 28 – 7:30 pm – Book Club
 29 – 7:30 pm – Prayer Circle
 30 – 7:15 am – Breakfast Series

October

1 – 4:30 pm – Jr. Choir begins
 1, 8 – Film Nights
 4 – World Communion Sunday
 12 – Thanksgiving Mon. – bldg. closed
 13 – 7:00 pm – Board Meeting
 18 – UCW Thank Offering
 19 – 7:30 pm – Pastoral Care
 27 – 7:30 pm – Worship & Music
 28 – 7:30 pm – Men's Group
 31 – Red Door Hallowe'en Party



INSIGHT is published four times a year. Submitted items may be subject to editing. The next publication deadline is November 6, 2009. r-jgilbert@rogers.com

**Editor's Note:**

Welcome back to you all and I know you'll be inspired to get involved in many of the activities listed herein. We are a very busy 'family'.

R-J

November

3 – 7:00 pm – Music Recital
 3 – Out of the Cold begins
 4 – 7:15 am – Breakfast Series
 5, 12, 19, 26 – Film Nights
 9, 14 – 7:30 pm – Book Club
 16 – 7:30 pm – Pastoral Care
 17 – 7:00 pm – Board Meeting
 21 – 10-3 – Holly Berry Fair
 21, 28 – Canned Food Drive
 22 – New Members Sunday
 24 – 7:30 pm – Worship & Music
 25 – 7:30 pm – Men's Group

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On Behalf of the Staff - from Doug Norris

What a delight, this week, to sit down to our first staff meeting of the year with the whole team back in place!

No upcoming vacancies, no interim positions – we have a committed and experienced team, rested up and ready to join back in with the many faithful members who make up the heart and soul of this community. Good things are ahead.

Wayne and the choir will be back in their usual places this Sunday, and the music will lift us. Karen, Joe and Brent will have the building and the administration running smoothly so we have a fine and beautiful place to gather. Kristin Philipson is gearing up for a creative season with the children, youth, and young adults. Karen Bowles and I are looking forward to the privilege we have to bring spoken messages and to share with all of you in the mysteries of the experience of God through conversation, worship, study, meditation and our many other practices.

It is a time of challenge, and we have many resources to rise to it.

As I listen to the swirl of voices in the city and the country I hear two competing rhythms – one is the increasingly marginalized place of the so-called ‘organized religions’ (in other words, folks like us), as our beliefs and our histories come under the scrutiny of modernity, and post-modernity. We are easy to lampoon, doubt arises. We are getting used to life away from the centre.

And the other is the longing, verging sometimes on a weeping, for a meaningful and hopeful and life-giving path on which to relocate ourselves. The old ways may not always be what people are looking for, but there is a hunger for spirit and we have both a very fine tradition, and an open intent to see what lies ahead for a community such as ours.

So from the strong and faithful platform of our ancestors we are invited to imagine our new place among the future generations – exciting work. Not for sissies.

Some of my summer reading was a trip through the book of Ecclesiastes, in the wisdom literature of the Hebrew scriptures. Here is a lovely thought that ancient writer offers us:

“Go, eat your bread with enjoyment, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has long ago approved what you do. Let your garments be white; do not let oil be lacking on your head. Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your life that are given to you under the sun...”

May it be so. See you soon!

Doug



**Clerk's Report
September 2009**

Hello all, and welcome back to another Fall. Since summer did not start until August, shall we all take September off and begin really in October? Don't we wish!

I thought we ended in June on a good note. Kristin Philipson was confirmed as our new minister supporting children, youth and their families. We are really blessed to have her back with us. She has lots of ideas for keeping this area vital.

Our Endowment Task Force brought in a well-thought-out and important set of recommendations on the present and future use of endowment funds. We will follow a careful balance of maintaining our assets for fiscal health, and deploying all we can to other work in the world. HUGE thanks are due to Larry Ward, Don Lenz, Mary Lee Laing, Jeffrey Parker, Joy Gray Donald, and Stephen Mabee. Also huge thanks to Warren Laing and Jim Pitblado who helped craft the solution and devoted a great deal of time to helping resolve the real estate issues.

And we as a congregation agreed to once again support the CRC Christian Resource Centre as a key outreach focus for Rosedale by raising over \$600,000 to help with the '40 Oaks' building project. We will hear more soon on how much was finally raised and contributed, and the status of the construction.

Which brings me to this Fall and our upcoming priorities.

First, all of the above makes me think of the many, many contributions of time, talent and money we make as a congregation to contribute to a better world. Out Of The Cold, Refugee sponsorship, Prayer Group, pastoral care, yoga nights, Habitat For Humanity, Millennium Youth Award—I could go on and on. As Clerk I have come to realize that I don't know the half of what our community contributes. And I think I am not alone. We need to change this. So stay tuned for hearing and learning more about all the ways we as a community contribute to a better future world.

Second, it is time for us to renew our missional investigations. As we can all see around us, the church is changing. Who comes, who doesn't, what each is seeking, how they are finding it, or not - these are all evolving in our world. Of the things we do at Rosedale, the first is to nurture the soul. But what are the best ways, perhaps the new ways to do that? The Board will begin this exploring journey this Fall. For the first 30-45 minutes of each Board meeting, Doug will lead us in learning- what's happening out there? What are others doing? What might we consider as appropriate for us? How can we involve the congregation in this discovery? We think this will be both exciting and challenging. Let us know your ideas for how to do this.

Third, we need to get our financial house in better order. As you all know, we started the fiscal year with a budgeted \$50,000 deficit. At a Board meeting last April, we reduced

some expenses and brought the deficit down to \$25,000. We thought that going further would harm our priorities and our programs. The deficit is covered by our reserve funds for this year, but then they are used up. As we prepare for our Stewardship Campaign in November, we need to understand where the congregation wants us to go. What combination of raising more revenues or reducing expenses further is right? Please let us know your views.

And finally, we will celebrate our vibrant community. Whether it is powerful Sundays, a packed Holly Berry Fair, honouring the Remembrance Day fallen or the gorgeous Christmas decorations, we are surrounded by occasions to live with wisdom and to have fun. Let's do it!

On a last note, because of work I will have to travel a great deal this Fall, so you may not see as much of me as usual. I apologize, but no choice. I will be very attentive behind the scenes and Clare Barry, Deputy Clerk, will fill in for me chairing the Board meetings.

I wish us all the best.

Mark



MIRACULOUS MIGRANTS: WHY SONGBIRD CONSERVATION BEGINS AT HOME

Christina Sharma, founder of Project CHIRP!, whom many of you heard speak at a RUC Breakfast Talk last year, will be doing a presentation at the Royal Ontario Museum on Sunday, October 18th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, along with Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, Professor of Biology at York University.

"For the next month, 3 billion miraculous, colourful songbirds are migrating through the city of Toronto en route to Latin America to spend the winter. They will stay there for 7 months and then head back north in the spring to the boreal forest – 'Canada's songbird nursery of the North!'

At daybreak, they come down to rest and may be seen darting expertly among the foliage of your trees and shrubs in search of tasty insects – Warblers, most likely. They move fast and can seem quite tiny. You may see some flashes of yellow, their predominant colour. They are refueling! By the time they reach Latin America, they will have flown approximately 5,000 km in the black of night!"

Christina invites you to attend this presentation and learn how you can help these songsters. Send in a songbird question you want addressed for a chance to win some fantastic, bird-friendly coffee!

'Finding God in the Dark'



Film Nights at Rosedale

Low key, entertaining, thought-provoking. Again this fall we will be offering two series of film nights, four Thursdays in each session.

The format is simple : we gather and the film begins, with little intro, at **7:00 pm sharp**. (*very helpful to plan to be here early or on time please!*). We select films that run under two hours, and we leave time for 20-30 minutes of conversation after the film. We are looking for glimpses of insight, meaning and spirit through the work of these artists, and our experience of their work.

The Schedule : Following our early fall theme of reconciliation and the recovery of community, we have selected films that contemplate humans in community.

Sept 17 - O Brother, Where Art Thou? Creative story, great characters, music is a delight. George Clooney on an 'odyssey' to recover his lost love.

Sept 24 - Crash – a collision of human dramas. Premiered at 2004 TIFF, won several Oscars.

Oct 1 - The Hours With ample recourse to Mrs Dalloway (V. Woolff's novel), a complex story of the lives of three women and the communities they seek, or lose, as they struggle to stay sane.

Oct 8 - The Full Monty. A moving study of how difficult a time men have forming community, even when most needed. Disguised as a hilarious human misadventure in post-industrial England. You can enjoy this at a couple of levels.

Second Session : **November 5, 12, 19, 26**

Film titles to be announced – we will explore the late fall themes of abundance and gratitude, loss and lament. (*suggestions are welcomed*)

All films shown upstairs in the Clark Hall Theatre, with high quality projection and superb surround-sound. Mediocre popcorn is provided.



THE RETURN OF A FAMILIAR FACE: KRISTIN PHILIPSON



To our great delight, Kristin Philipson agreed to become our new minister of the Children and Youth Program at Rosedale United Church. She is no stranger to our children and youth, and is now the permanent and enthusiastic leader who has exciting ideas for children and parents of all ages.



Kristin's Past: Kristin was born and raised in Edmonton. She travelled to Toronto 9 years ago. She graduated from English Literature at the University of Alberta and has a Masters of Divinity from Emmanuel College, University of Toronto.



Kristin's Family: Kristin is married to a film and television editor named Steve who is keen to work his magic with the Christmas Pageant and our youth group. You will see both their children at Sunday school - Nicholas is 5 1/2 years old and Emma is 3 1/2 years. Her parents live in Edmonton and she has 2 brothers, one of whom often comes to Rosedale United.



Kristin's Philosophy: "Children and youth ministry needs to support the entire family. I want to support parents in how they model their faith at home and in the greater community. My hope is the kids feel church is a comfortable place to be; that they feel included and accepted, and they build friendships. My work will focus on creating a supportive environment where they are genuinely challenged. Jesus' ministry was hands-on and compassionate. He talks about helping the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison. He stresses how important it is in the life of faith to always reach out to others and Rosedale United already does this through its work with the Out of the Cold program, at the Lourdes Food bank with the 30 hour famine, with the Refugee committee welcoming strangers from other countries, through building shelters with Habitat for Humanity, and through Pastoral Care in helping the sick. My goal is to get children, youth and families involved in this work as well."



Kristin's Goal: Kristin wants to get the children and youth involved in our outreach programs. She intends to meet with various committees to discuss how the children and youth can participate with the goal to encourage and broaden our children's experience and expose them to the basic touch stones of compassion. She is also committed to helping the parents support their children's developing faith through workshops and one-on-one discussions.



Kristin as Staff: According to Doug, Kristin has been a part of the team in several roles over the past few years and is a great fit within the staff. She is an excellent collaborative partner.



Kristin on the Christian Development Committee: Kristin has made a long-term commitment to both the youth and children of our church. She will be working with the youth every week as well as the children and parents. She is very approachable and interested in working with the congregation.



Please help us welcome Kristin and her family back to our congregation.



Thanks to all members of the Joint Search Committee who gave of their time and energy to the process of hiring our new minister – Tim Peters (Chair), Jane Dickson (Presbytery Rep), John Hill, Maureen Bulley, Janet Zenwirt, Clare Barry, Caroline Duncanson, Kim Barwise.



Submitted by Kim Barwise on behalf of the Christian Development Committee (Janet Deacon, Joannah Lawson, Julie Wildgoose, Katherine Lake Berz, Maureen Bulley).



CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT CHURCH

Our mission at Rosedale United Church is to nurture the Spirit, build community, honour the past and contribute to a better future. What does that look like for our children and youth?

How are we Nurturing the Spirit?

Nursery – We try to make church a safe, fun and accepting environment for our nursery-aged children. The nursery is a place to celebrate the joy and energy of our youngest members. Children have room to move, healthy snacks, and engaging toys. If your child is more comfortable staying with you we have quiet games and toys located at the back of the sanctuary to occupy nursery children during the worship service.

Children – For children ages 4-12, Children's Church nurtures the Spirit through song, prayer, creative and engaging lessons, healthy snacks and free play. Lead by a core group of adult mentors responsible for each age grouping (3-5, 6-8, and 9-11) and assisted by teens.

Youth – Youth in grades 7 to 9 are invited to hang out every Sunday at the "Youth Café" (upstairs in the youth lounge) for hot chocolate, snacks and talk. Friends are always welcome. Junior youth group (gr. 7-9) meets the 4th Sunday of every month, from 12-2pm and for special outings and events, starting October 25.

Youth in grades 10 to 12 grow in faith and their sense of being a part of a wider faith family by deepening their connection to the congregation. Older youth participate regularly in worship, in Children's Church programs, and at coffee hour. Senior youth group (gr. 10-12) meets the 2nd Sunday of every month, starting October 11.

How are we Building Community and Honouring the Past?

Our junior choir (starting Oct. 1 – contact Kristin for more info) brings together children from the congregation and neighbourhood. A new initiative this year is the Church Family Lunch, offered the first Sunday of every month, following worship and starting November 1, brings together people of all ages and celebrates our church "family". Intergenerational Services (usually paired with the Church Family Lunch) bring children and youth into active leadership in the congregation.

How are we Contributing to a Better Future?

Concrete compassion is at the heart of Jesus' ministry. Living a faithful life as followers of Christ means first and foremost that we reach out to others as Jesus did, reaching out to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, and those who are sick and in prison. Children, youth and parents can be more fully integrated into the outreach work at Rosedale United. Over this new season we will reach out and get more involved with the Lourdes Food Bank, the Out of the Cold program, the work of the Refugee and Pastoral Care committees, along with participating to the extent that we can in initiatives like Habitat for Humanity builds, fundraising for education through Canrad, and supporting those imprisoned for human rights abuses through Amnesty International. We also contribute to support and fund our World Vision sponsored-child, Baly.



Important Dates

September 20 – Annual Children’s Church start-up BBQ, outside following worship
 September 26 – Youth Group Kick-Off
 October 1 – Junior Choir starts up
 October 4 – Worldwide Communion Sunday; Intergenerational service
 October 18 – Pageant Sign-Up; following worship
 October 25-November 29 – Pageant Rehearsals; following worship (no rehearsal on Nov. 15)
 October 25 – Youth Foodgrains Field Trip
 October 31 – Youth Hallowe’en Party for the Red Door Shelter (in the afternoon)
 November 1 – Church Family Lunch; following worship
 November 14 – Youth “Bowling for Babies” Fundraiser for the Massey Centre
 December 6 – Christmas Pageant and Church Family Lunch following worship
 December 20 – Last Children’s Church before the Christmas holidays
 January 10 – Children’s Church resumes
 April 17-18 – Youth 30 Hour Famine for World Vision



BOOK CLUB

We look forward to another great year of interesting books and engaging discussion. We are a relaxed group who meet about once a month, usually at the church, to discuss chosen books from a variety of genres, and would love to see some new faces. No long term commitments required! We meet on at 7:30, at the church unless otherwise indicated in notices or on the website.

Sept. 28 Good to a Fault by Marina Endicott

Shortlisted for the 2008 Giller prize, and well deserving of that honour. The story explores the concept of good. The main character, Clara (a United Church member), cares for three children of a woman who is stricken with cancer. Clara comes to care about the children immensely and, in her heart, wants to keep them because she feels she can best care for them. Real, conflicted characters, humour, and some thoughtful questions. Is it possible to be "too good"?

On Sept. 28 we will also be setting dates for the winter and spring, and setting on the titles for most of the year.

Oct. 26 Still Alice by Lisa Genova

Alice is a 50 year old professional woman whose life changes with the early onset of Alzheimers.

Nov. 9 Title tbd

Dec. 14 Title tbd

Any questions can be directed to Caroline Duncanson at cduncanson@sympatico.ca or 416-465-6315.

Here And There, Now And Then...

Shalom שלום

The Hebrew word Shalom is, at its simplest, a word for Peace. For Jews and for Muslims it is a greeting, 'Shalom' or 'Salaam' meaning 'peace be with you'.

It also carries a wider meaning – 'Shalom' is a way of being that is marked by wholeness, integrity, wellbeing, hope. It is what some have called 'the dream of God'. People and communities of faith sometimes seek an inner Shalom – a personal wholeness and inner peace, and other times are active in seeking a more earthly Shalom – paying attention to injustices, human needs and the desire to heal the earth. Perhaps, at best, it is always a dance between the two, a search for inner peace that will lead us to living differently in the world. And we find these, on occasion. *Here and there, now and then...*

A theme for our Sunday gatherings.

Through the next 10 weeks we will be guided by this search in our Sunday gatherings, with the following sets of messages :

Reconciliation (Sept 13, 20, 27, Oct 4)

We are returned to community, rejoined after being apart. On October 4 we will celebrate World Communion, and hopes for the whole human community.

Gratitude, Abundance & Generosity (Oct 11, 18, 25)

A Harvest and Thanksgiving sequence, celebrating the goodness of the earth.

Lament and Longing (Nov 1, 8, 15)

We will honour All Saints Day, Remembrance, and the expectation of a Messiah, in Advent.



SPRING HABITAT BUILD DAY

**Back Row: Jim Pitblado, Mary Morison, Ian MacIntosh.
Middle Row: Michele Scholes, Mandy Macrae, Michael
Vuchnich, Larry Ward, Blair McRobie, Charlie Deacon,
Trevor de Haan, Susan MacIntosh.
Front Row: Norm Sabapathy, Judy Roberts, Claude Hould.
Absent: Bill Macrae.**



