

# Wesley Mimico United Church

[www.wesleymimicounitedchurch.org](http://www.wesleymimicounitedchurch.org)

Spring/Summer 2011

Issue 14



# C CROSS M M U N I C A T I O N

## Northern Resurrection

This newsletter comes to you on the Victoria Day Weekend. Although the weather may not always reflect it, the weekend marks a new season in the Canadian calendar. Cottages are opened to remain so until Thanksgiving. Life takes on a different pace, house doors are open, BBQ smells fill the air, and the great outdoors beckon – especially gardens.

Time spent on gardens delivers many rewards. Gardeners strengthen muscles and benefit from the fresh air. Plants add to the verdant scene and blooms colour the natural palette. In the background, children's voices blend with bird calls to celebrate life. The setting invites lingering to sit and settle the spirit. A companion or a book and a cool drink provide a ready excuse.

Summer is a time of resurrection in the northern hemisphere. And what a wonderful gift it is. In this season we are more inclined to worship God in the outdoors. Campers know all about this. They are trained in the art of taking an outdoor space and turning it into a natural chapel.

Doubtless in this season worship patterns will change for many of us. But Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. continues – the Wesley community gathers. All are invited and welcomed. Not all will be there – some will explore churches on trips or in cottage country. We remember that God is spirit. People of God are capable of worshipping the Spirit wherever they may find themselves. Carrying on the ministries of Jesus is never limited to a particular space or place. It is a vocation for all places and all times.

As these warmer, freer days embrace us, may you experience the abundance of the earth, the blessings of God, and many opportunities to reveal the self-giving love of Christ. And may the bugs not be too aggressive or hungry!

Blessings,  
Harry Oussoren



### Summer Worship Schedule

Worship **from July 3rd to September 4th** will take place in **Mimico Presbyterian Church**, corner Mimico Ave. and Royal York Rd. Handicap accessibility provided by elevator. **All services at 10:30 a.m.** with refreshments following. To ensure your offerings are received by WMUC use either Wesley offering envelopes or PAR (Pre Authorized Remittances). Loose offerings go to the congregation hosting that Sunday. The Wesley Worship Committee regards this as an experiment in shared worship to be evaluated by all.

**Sunday, July 3, 10, 17** – led by Pastor Rob Howard, the Presbyterian Congregation

**Sunday, July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 21** – led by Harry Oussoren, Margaret Heney,  
and the Wesley Mimico United congregation.

**Sunday, August 28, September 4** – led again by the Presbyterian congregation.

**All are welcome and invited** to be part of any and all of these summer worship services.

## **Thanks to .....**

- Patricia McPhail and the other Worship Committee members for planning and leading special services during the Lent/Easter season.
- Vivian Harwood for leading worship for four Sundays, including Easter Sunday, during the absence of Harry Oussoren.
- Jordan Auguste, Carolyn Baker, Erin MacPherson, Daniel MacPherson, Gabe Nespoli and Collen Pringle for their musical contributions to the April 3<sup>rd</sup> worship service.
- Karen Macpherson, Deen Rochfort, Joan Hewitt and all the other workers who made the Community Market on May 7<sup>th</sup> such a success (See p. 6).
- Patrick Beirne for playing the trumpet at Easter worship and to the choir for special Good Friday and Easter music.
- Colleen Pringle for leading the Lenten Study group and to both Dale and Colleen for opening their home to the group.
- April Rocha for her leadership with the children of the Church School
- All who donated to the bottle fund for acquiring Family Story Bibles for Church School participants. Over \$300 was collected and the Story Bibles have been purchased.
- Karen Kowal and other organizers of the Card Party on May 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a happy time.
- The congregational members of the JNA Committee – Brent Carey, Glenys Huws, Karen MacPherson , Patricia McPhail and Dave Tyler – for their several months of concentrated work preparing the report that will pave the way for the search and selection for a new ordained minister. Also to the Presbytery reps, Robin Pilkey and Bob Raymont for their help in the process.

## **Transitions**

- Charles (Charlie) Moffatt, a cherished member of Wesley, died on May 6<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. He will be missed in both congregation and community, especially by the Children's Aid Society. Our hearts go out to Charlie's children Patti, Lauri, Nancy, Greg and their families.
- Condolences are extended to Jacqueline Johnson, her husband Marc Auguste and other family members in the loss of Marc's mother, Michèle Théodore, who died in Quebec on April 27.
- Kay Bowles will be moving from Mimico to Sarnia this summer and we wish her every blessing in her new home there.
- Charlotte and Bob Sharkey have returned to their Mimico home after residing for 2 ½ years in Bramley, England. We gladly welcome them back and also congratulate Bob on his upcoming retirement after more than 30 years of service with the Sun Life Insurance Company.
- Condolences are offered to Judy Bower whose mother, Grace, died on May 15 in Nova Scotia. Judy was able to be with her mother for the last few days of her life.

## **News and Announcements**

1. The JNAC Committee has continued to meet throughout April and May and its final report will shortly be presented to the Church Council and given preliminary consideration by South West Presbytery Pastoral Relations Commission. If approved, it will come before a congregational meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> for consideration by the whole congregation.
2. If you would prefer to receive your copy of Cross Communication in electronic form, please inform Susan Milankov in the church office.
3. If you would like to purchase a copy of the Family Story Bible for your own use, they are available for \$20 through the church office.
4. The WMUC website is in the process of being updated. Stay tuned for the new version.
5. A Communications Team of Glenys Huws, Rebecca Ormond and Charlotte Sharkey, with staff support from Harry Oussoren, have begun to implement some of the Strengthening Workshop suggestions about improving Wesley communications both internal and external.

## Practicing the Presence of God in the Summer

### Sunrise Prayer

As I look forward to the warm pleasures of this day, whether I am walking in the woods or digging in the garden or watching children running through a sprinkler, I give thanks to you, Generous Spirit, for the abundance and repose of summer

**Throughout the Day:** Blessed are you, O Daystar of summer's sweet renewal

### Sunset Prayer

As the day's light seeps away and the horizon blushes with delight, I rejoice in your loving care and rest contentedly in your presence this summer night

### Upcoming Events

Tuesday May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Lydia-Rebecca UCW Unit Barbeque and Lakeside Walk. Contact Marg Hansen for more information
Saturday June 4 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Church Building/Property Clean-Up Day. All hands welcome
Sunday June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Congregational meeting after morning worship to consider the report of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee.
Tuesday June 14 <sup>th</sup> 7pm	Forum on Children's Ministry sponsored by the Worship Cte. All those interested in the faith development of our children are invited.
Sunday June 19 <sup>th</sup> :	Pentecost Service to celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church
Thursday June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Last day for the Food Bank until September
Friday June 24 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Community Supper Barbeque to mark the last gathering before the summer closing
June 26 <sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am	Outdoor Service followed by the Strawberry Festival

Dear God,  
*Please put another  
holiday in between  
Christmas and  
Easter. There is  
nothing good in*



Children's  
Letters  
To God

*Maybe Cain and Abel  
would not kill each  
other if they had  
there own rooms. It  
works with me and  
my brother,  
Larry*





We're all Christians. We're all members of the United Church. But what do we believe, exactly? The March issue of the United Church Observer offered an opportunity to have your say. This year's survey was meant not only to inquire but to encourage discussion on the topic of personal belief. It was also available online through the Observer website. The survey is closed now, but the results are being tabulated as you read this. Watch for the report on the survey findings in the July/Aug. issue.

Global warming. Climate change. Everybody's talking about it. A few, I suppose, refuse to accept it as truth. But it is a fact. The earth is warming. It's disturbing, isn't it? But it's easy to ignore. Everything's fine here, isn't it? The sun rises and sets each day. The seasons come and go. The streetcars continue to rumble along the Lakeshore. But all is not well.

The cover story in the April edition of The Observer offers "overwhelming evidence of a planet in peril." Author Alanna Mitchell visited both the Arctic and Antarctica within a span of six months. On both Poles, she found startling and undeniable signs of climate change. "Cataclysmic" change. Journeying first to the Arctic, she found August temperatures warmer than she'd expected. Indeed, the captain of the research vessel used Canada's RADARSAT ice monitoring system, not to avoid sea ice, but to find it to show expedition members what it looks like. He couldn't find any.

On a later trip to Antarctica, the author learned that since scientists first began recording temperatures in the mid-1960's, air there has risen 6 degrees C and water 1 degree C. The world's polar ice caps are melting. Scientists calculate that if all the ice on Earth were to melt, the sea level would rise 70 metres. That would drown the Maritimes, New York, London and Florida. The waves from Lake Ontario would lap at Wesley's concrete steps. YIKES!

The United Church Observer. Always interesting. Sometimes frightening. Subscribe today!

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**Summer Reading Suggestion: August Farewell** by David Hallman\*

In August 2009, the doctor stood at the foot of the hospital bed and with a deliberation that was both efficient and compassionate, looked directly at David Hallman and his partner Bill Conklin and said, "Our diagnosis is pancreatic cancer, stage four." In his thoughtful, frank and deeply personal memoir, David Hallman narrates the sixteen days left to them after Bill was diagnosed with terminal cancer and intersperses vignettes drawn from their thirty-three years together as a gay couple.

With poignancy, humor and affection, David describes the excruciating intensity of caring for Bill during those final two weeks while reminiscing about the joys and challenges of their life together. During their lengthy relationship, both were deeply committed to social and environmental justice, loved the arts and traveling, and embraced faith and spirituality—values that were never more important to them than during the final days of Bill's life. As David sat at Bill's bedside, he shares how the memories of their great love provided him strength and helped him prepare Bill for the end.

August Farewell offers an intimate portrait of a loving relationship brought to an abrupt end and affirms the power of love in the face of adversity.

\* For many years, David Hallman has given leadership on environmental issues to the General Council of the United Church. *August Farewell* is available through the United Church Resource Distribution Centre <http://www.ucrdstore.ca>

## UPDATE ON CHURCH FINANCES

**WESLEY COMMUNITY MARKET– SATURDAY, MAY 7/11** The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual market was a great success in many ways. Saturday was a warm, sunny day for outside activities – Barbecue lunch organized by Kim, Music by Cy and Don, and Go-cart display by TJ and Brook.

In the gym the tables were full of a variety of wares from baked goods, books, butterflies, South Asian root carvings, Cambodian silks, hand made cards, T-shirts, jewellery, home made jams and quilts, and Girl Guide cookies. Storefront Humber, AA and Al-Anon shared community information.

There was a steady stream of people shopping and meeting neighbours. The vendors were happy with their sales and Wesley raised \$900.00 towards our fundraising goal for the year of \$5000.00.



Thank you so much to all the people who volunteered to help on the day (we couldn't have done it without you). Thank you to the Finance Committee for organizing the market. The Finance committee is already evaluating the day and looking at ways to make next year's market even better. Thank you to Toby and Weston's Bakery for donating the buns for the barbecue. Thank you to Dale and Colleen and Deen's neighbour for loaning us the barbecues.

Thank you to Isobel Raven for sharing her book "A Flower for Allie". Isabel has donated a part of the proceeds of the sale to the UCW and the church.



**DOORS OPEN CAMPAIGN:** As of May 8<sup>th</sup> the campaign has raised \$1680 towards the goal of \$15,000. This is only 11% of the total and we are a third of the way through the year. Envelopes are in the pews and were sent out with the quarterly reports. Thank you to those that have contributed and those who are thinking of it.

**FOUR MONTH UPDATE:** We can report we are below by 27% the amount budgeted for a 4 month period for congregational "local" giving. To be on track with the budget local offering needs to be \$5833/month. The short fall up to April 30<sup>th</sup> is \$4978. Adding the short fall to the monthly givings over the next 6 months, means local givings need to increase to \$6663/month to be on track for a balanced budget. We are getting close to the summer months, so this may be a serious problem. A \$10,000 GIC, which was invested from the Restoration Fund last year, came due in March. The principal and interest have been deposited in the general account in order to maintain our cash flow in light of the revenue shortfall.

Thank you to all those supporting Wesley's ministry at this time. Please keep Wesley Mimico in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely, Finance for the Future Committee

**MONEY is not the MISSION - MONEY enables MISSION**

**Mexican Medicine – God’s Healing Hands** by Dale Pringle

“It could have been worse,” Colleen said. “You could have broken your neck. You might have been paralyzed, or killed.” She’s right, of course. The ATV accident that left me needing surgery in Mexico to correct a broken collar bone could have turned out much worse. It might not have had such a happy ending. But as I look back on the incident, I’ve come to see it not as a horrific ordeal, but as a good and positive experience. I know. It sounds crazy, doesn’t it?

We were vacationing in March on Mexico’s Mayan Riviera, sixty miles south of Cancun. I’d chosen an all-inclusive resort with a five star rating. I wanted our honeymoon to be perfect. Hundreds of smiling employees served our every need. There were blue swimming pools, themed restaurants and miles of winding walking paths. A long, white beach hugged the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea. It was beautiful. It was romantic. It was safe. Then, with only two days left to spend in paradise, I crashed an all terrain vehicle on a jungle trail far from the walled resort and we were thrust into the world of real Mexico.

A car took us to the nearest hospital. It was twenty miles away in the town of Playa del Carmen. The driver lived nearby and visited me every day in the hospital. It was a private hospital. A surgeon, an intern, an x-ray technician and a nurse were all waiting for us. I was treated like royalty. Everyone I met was kind and gentle. Everyone was compassionate. Despite a language barrier, warm smiles and reassuring hands made me know that I was safe. A thought came to me from The Bible. These people were the hands and feet of God. All would be well.

As I lay back on the operating table the next day, I looked up into the face of the surgeon. “I feel like I should pray,” I said, only half joking. “Do you think God understands English here in Mexico?” The doctor’s face was beaming behind his paper mask. It showed in his eyes. “Señor,” he said softly, “God understands everyone who asks for help.”

When I woke up, I was back in my bed. Colleen was there. She smiled. There was a nurse there. And she was smiling too. The hands and feet of God were there. God was smiling reassurance, offering me grace once again, and loving me. God is with you too, friends. Always. Everywhere. Believe it.

Adiós.

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Good judgment comes from experience  
and a lot of that comes from bad judgment



*Prayer is not a spare wheel  
that you pull out  
when in trouble.*



*It is a steering wheel  
guiding us through life*

## **We Are Not Alone**

Wesley Mimico United Church [www.wesleymimicounitedchurch.org](http://www.wesleymimicounitedchurch.org) is part of many expanding circles of the church. Here are some web links to remind us of our connection to ministries throughout the wider United Church

### **United Church Connections**

As a United Church congregation in the western half of Toronto, WMUC is part of **South West Presbytery**: <http://www.torontoconference.ca/southwest>. This site offers news about presbytery events and committees as well as contact information for presbytery leaders.

All the United Church congregations in South West Presbytery are part of **Toronto Conference** (which stretches from Toronto to the Owen Sound area) <http://www.torontoconference.ca>. offers news of conference events, links to conference resources as well as current and back copies of Insight, the conference newsletter.

**Toronto United Church Council Green Awakening Network** <http://www.tucc.ca/churchdevelopment/green-awakening-network.html>. is a group of congregations of the United Church of Canada in the City of Toronto who come together to share ideas and experiences, in partnership with others, on how to respond to the challenge of climate change and how to reduce their "carbon footprint." At this time their partners are Greening Sacred Spaces and the Centre for Church Development Leadership

The national level of United Church life is the **General Council** <http://www.united-church.ca>. News about events, public witness campaigns, resources, message from the Moderator and more can be found on this site. <http://www.united-church.ca/communications/newsletters>: News letters and information are offered from various units of the General Council Office such as Uniting Ministries, United for Justice, Emerging Spirit, Camping, Residential Schools Update and more.

[www.wondercafe.ca](http://www.wondercafe.ca) is the home of open-minded discussion and exploration of spiritual topics, moral issues and life's big questions, brought to you by the people of The United Church of Canada

Video glimpses into what is happening in the United Church: [www.youtube.com/user/unitedchurchofcanada](http://www.youtube.com/user/unitedchurchofcanada)

### **National and International Connections**

As a member congregation of the United Church of Canada, WMUC is also part of ecumenical church bodies, both here in Canada and globally.

**Greening Sacred Spaces** <http://www.greeningsacredspaces.net> is a practical program to assist faith communities in taking actions to create a more sustainable and energy efficiency place of worship and to educate members of the community about ecological issues

**KAIROS** [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org) is a Canadian church-based social justice movement which offers networking and resources in the following areas:

Ecological justice; Solidarity in Canada; Human rights and trade; Grassroots action for global justice grounded in the local community

**The Canadian Council of Churches** [www.councilofchurches.ca](http://www.councilofchurches.ca) is the largest ecumenical body in Canada, now representing 23 churches of Anglican; Evangelical; Free Church; Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox; Protestant; and Catholic traditions. Together it represents 85% of the Christians in Canada, including the United Church. Their website offers policies and resources on social justice, interfaith and biotechnological issues.

**The World Council of Churches** [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org) is a global ecumenical organization (WCC) which brings together 349 churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 560 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches. While the bulk of the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, today most member churches are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific. The WCC witnesses to Christ's way through its work in worship and mission, justice and evangelism.

## Four Worms and an Important Lesson

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate cans. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results: The first worm in alcohol -- Dead! The second worm in cigarette smoke --Dead! Third worm in chocolate syrup -- Dead! Fourth worm in good clean soil - Alive!!

So the Minister asked the congregation --What can you learn from this demonstration? Maxine, who was sitting in the front pew, quickly raised her hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke, and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!" That pretty much ended the service.



*Cross Communication, the newsletter of Wesley Mimico United Church, is published 5 times a year. The editorial committee is Glenys Huws (editor) Joan Hewitt and Dale Pringle. The CC committee welcomes articles, jokes and news items for the newsletter. Submissions may be edited for accuracy and length. Next edition Sept/Oct 2011.*

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