

Wesley Mimico United Church

www.wesleymimicounitedchurch.org

September/October 2011

Issue 15



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WHAT DOES STEWARDSHIP MEAN?

The United Church believes that stewardship means everything we do, after we say, “we believe”. One aspect of stewardship is the way that Christians respond to God’s love “by giving their money, spending their time, using their abilities in service to Christ, often by supporting Christ’s church—specifically, the congregation.” * At Wesley, being part of the congregation means being part of a centre of faith and action, care and healing. It involves being part of many communities. These communities have been incorporated into the Wesley Stewardship Plan for the year.

On June 19th and 26th, we were introduced to the learning and caring communities at Wesley. The **Learning Community** is essential to develop faith for all ages and to equip people for the various ministries we share within the congregation and in various aspects of living. A congregation that is a **Caring Community** is strengthened for its part in God’s Mission. We care for our families, friends and neighbours by providing love and mutual support during celebrations of happy times as well as through challenging times.

In October we will learn about other communities within Wesley. We will celebrate being a **Grateful Community** on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 9th. We will focus on the **Reaching Out Community** on October 16th, highlighting the Wesley Food Ministries, Christmas creche and partnerships with other Faith Communities and Networks in Mimico.

On October 23rd the **Worshipping Community** will draw our faithful lives together, highlighting our purpose for being a part of the **Wesley Community**. We will celebrate all the **Wesley Ministries**.

In order to enable the Wesley Ministries and all these Communities, the offering is received each Sunday and PAR –preauthorized remittance - is collected once a month. A thoughtful, focused approach to supporting Wesley Mimico United Church is necessary for the congregation to continue to be a community of Faith, Action, Care and Healing in this community.

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communicate
educate
celebrate

Thanks to

- Deen Rochefort and Karen MacPherson for organizing the Strawberry Social after the outdoor worship service in June. It was a pleasure to have some members of St. Paul’s Restitution Church participate in the worship service and the refreshments following
- Don Liptak and Cyril MacPherson for their musical contribution to both the last Community Supper of the season and the outdoor worship service
- all those who provided leadership and support for the combined worship services with Mimico Presbyterian Church this summer – greeters, ushers, readers, homegrown and guest musicians, refreshment servers.
- the many helping hands that cleaned cupboards, scraped paint, installed carpet, moved pews and polished furniture at the Spring Clean-up.
- Carolyn Baker, Karen MacPherson, Deen Rochefort and Peggy Guest for staffing the WMUC booth at the Party in the Park. The origami folding was a particular hit, with many children taking part.
- Susan Milankov and Maureen Newby with helper Murdo Campbell for “taking care of (daily) business” in the WMUC building while the congregation has been away worshipping down the street.
- The Lau family of Mimico Baptist Church for contributions to the Food Bank

Transitions

- Congratulations to Marion and Murray Seeley who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 14th. Special events to mark the occasion included a trip to British Columbia and Alaska.
- Kevin Ackerman and Averil Bruce were joined in matrimony on July 24th in a warm (in every sense) and joyful ceremony in the WMUC sanctuary with Harry Oussoren presiding. We wish Kevin and Averil blessings in their life together.
- Joel Huws-Oussoren, elder son of Glenys Huws and Harry Oussoren, was married to Erin Reed on July 8th in a ceremony held in a pasture at the farm of Erin’s parents near Norval Ont.
- Condolences are extended to Donalee, Ian and Gavin Williams and other family members on the death of Donalee’s mother, Dorothy Campbell Wettlaufer, in Dunnville Ont. on August 20th

Announcements

- a Search Committee consisting of Patti Franklin, Pat McPhail, Collen Pringle, Dale Pringle, Mary Rule and David Tyler (plus two presbytery reps) is beginning the important work of finding the right person to fill the WMUC ordained minister position
- work will soon be underway to install a ramp at the side/back entrance to the WMUC building
- the Heintzman piano in the current choir room is for sale, as is. Contact the church office.
- more than \$8300 dollars has been donated to the Doors Open fund

.... Stewardship (continued from P. 1)

The Bible tells us “that our giving is an expression of something bigger and more profound than our church. In terms of money and giving, Scripture’s greatest gift is to keep before us the reason we give to God. We give to God in response to all that God has given us—particularly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—and as a way of sharing in God’s own will for and work in the world. In other words, we give in response to the gospel.” *

On October 23rd, the Finance for the Future Committee, will be hosting a Commitment Luncheon to thank everyone for their response and for their commitment to the communities of Wesley and to focus on the future support for the ministries of Wesley.

Karen MacPherson, Co-chair Finance for the Future Cte.

* *Quoted material from The Alban Weekly Aug. 4/11*

LAUNCH in September

Worship resumes in the Wesley building at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 11th. A special family service will provide opportunity for all to re-acquaint, re-affirm, re-orient, and enjoy just being together as the WMUC household (with visitors, we hope!). All ages are welcome to be part of this launching time. After worship, a congregational picture will be taken for posting on the new WMUC website.

On September 18th, Church School led by April Rocha will begin the autumn term. The children and boys will be accommodated in the room behind the balcony which being prepared to ensure noise doesn't disturb sanctuary worshippers and to help the children feel this is their space!

Nursery care for infants and toddlers will resume as well on September 18th. Kendal Franklin will coordinate the care for the congregation's youngest in the nursery room on the ground level.

To get things into shape for launching, **a WORKBEE is being planned for Saturday, September 10th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** There are jobs for everyone and you are invited to help get the various spaces ready for the programs needs of the congregation.

Among the spaces undergoing re-think are the choir room on the ground level and the food bank room behind the chancel area. The visitors to the food bank will have no stairs to contend with when the change is made and the access ramp at the back door of the church is constructed. As well, the choir will have readier access to its library and gowns near the chancel. A win-win for all concerned.

Some other fall events

Wed. Sept. 7th: UCW Potluck Lunch at 12 noon at the church – all welcome



Sun. Sept. 11th: Family Service with congregational photo afterwards. Come and be part of the picture that will be posted on the new WMUC website.

Thurs. Sept. 15th : The Food bank* re-opens at a **NEW TIME 11-2pm**

Fri. Sept. 16th at 6 pm: The Community Supper* resumes



Sun. Oct 9th : Thanksgiving Service with focus on being a Grateful Community

Sun. Oct 16th: Sunday worship will celebrate the Reaching Out Community, highlighting the Wesley Food Ministries, Christmas creche and partnerships with other faith communities and networks in Mimico

Sun. October 16th at 3pm: The **4 Men Musical Concert** - to support the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada and the ministries at Wesley Mimico. See notice on P. 6

Sun. Oct. 23rd: Celebrating the Worshipping Community and all WMUC Ministries with a Commitment Luncheon following the service

* These Food Ministries will continue to be supervised under the competent and compassionate leadership of Marilyn Maskell and Kim Whitaker respectively. Thanks to them for their leadership and to all who contribute goods, time and energy to the Food Bank and the Community Supper. And thanks to Southwest Presbytery for the supporting grant.

New plans are underway to host the Food Bank on the first floor to better meet the needs of clients with mobility issues. Kim also has plans to serve a small number of guests with mobility issues on the first floor.

The Food Bank will be closed October 27 November 24 December 22 and 29

Wesley Mimico House Teams

There are many responsibilities that need to be filled on a monthly basis by congregation members at Wesley Mimico United Church.



A similar model (formerly called the Kenora Model) was introduced at the 'Second Cup, More Franchises' event presented last summer, as one of the processes needed in the ongoing life and work of the church.

I will outline a purposed 'new' way of providing all the duties, in an organized manner, by the people, allowing them to have fun while completing all the tasks.

Congregation members could be divided into 5 groups of 8 who are responsible for the many duties needed. On a rotating basis with a minimum of 2 times a year they would be responsible for some of the duties listed below:



Opening the Church on Sunday morning, coffee hosting, greeting, ushering, taking up and counting the offering, ringing the bell, lighting candles, passing out bulletins, ensuring wearing of name tags, reading scripture, ensure availability of hymn books and numbers posted, set up of electronics, be communion servers, reading minutes for mission and closing the church.

Teams would have a variety of people on their team, of more experienced congregation members and neophytes, both young and old, both male and females. Teams will include the children who can help with some of the less complex duties. Currently these duties are being done by a few faithful souls, who are willing to be part of the house teams, but need help by others in the congregation to get the many tasks done.

Full explanation and duty lists will be provided and newer members will never be left on their own. People can indicate the type of duties they like to do, and I am sure that the complete list of duties will be covered by the group of 8.

This new model will be introduced to the congregation this fall and a trial run organized for the New Year.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Kowal, Chair of Council



Ways for Children to be involved at WMUC

Here are some ways children can be involved in the life of the congregation (and there are others): be a bell ringer before worship; carry the Bible to the lectern for the "little entrance"; create your own name tags; serve as communion assistants; help take the offering; greet people as they arrive and hand out orders of service; read scripture; light and extinguish the Christ candle; bring an item for the Food Bank on Sunday; join in a music program for children (being considered) and/or a "family choir"; be part of the "family time" in worship; participate in the Church School program; be "leaders in training" for the Church School and Nursery programs; be part of the Work Bee Sept 10th. Signup sheets for participation will on tables in the back of the sanctuary. Talk to April Rocha and Kendal Franklin.

Church Signs

**Honk if you love Jesus;
Text while driving
if you want to meet him**



**Church Parking
Trespassers will
be baptized**

150 Years WMUC in Mimico: 18

In 2012, Wesley Mimico United Church will celebrate 150 years of faithful presence in the Mimico-Lakeshore area.

In 1862, Christian settlers in the community bought a piece of land on Royal York Road to be the site for building a Methodist church. This land purchase – at the cost of \$25!! - was the first tangible sign of the Methodist congregation's permanent presence and ministry in the community. It took about a year to complete the simple structure which was dedicated for church use in July 1863.

In 1927, the former Presbyterian congregation in Mimico, which began as a Presbyterian Mission in 1889, joined the Methodists to form Wesley Mimico United Church.

Meanwhile, the original Methodist site and building had been sold in order to acquire another site at the corner of Station Road and Mimico Avenue so that a larger facility could be constructed. This became the home of the united congregation. On June 3, 1922, the first sod was turned and on September 23, the corner stone was laid. In the 1950s the building was enlarged to accommodate the growing congregation.

For 90 years this building has provided space for worship, learning, and important outreach ministries in the community. God has blessed us to be a blessing.

In its 150th year, the small, but hopeful congregation will be considering how the current church property can continue to be the setting for effective and faithful service in the Mimico-Lakeshore community.

***** **Cross Communication: Heir of a long and lively tradition** by Joan Hewitt *****

The tradition of Wesley having a newsletter actually started 55 years ago as the Wesley News with the first issue published by the Couples Club in the spring of 1958. Helen Byers was the editor and the Rev. James Telford was the editorial adviser. Editorial staff included Bill Byers, June & Stu Jamieson and Margaret & Norm Wice. The first issue had information on various church groups as well as coming events, such as the Congregational Picnic at Heart Lake on June 14.

In May 1963, the editorial staff changed to Mary Stephen, editor and staff members Mrs. M. Bishop and Mrs. M. Cooke. The editor wrote an introductory article explaining how she got the job. "Just over a year ago, I wrote a very amateur script for a Couples Club party. Had I known then what I know now, the fun I had pounding that effort to shape on the typewriter would have been tempered with a large grain of caution, because some citizen (and if I were writing for anything but a church paper I'd be using a far more expressive word) put the finger on me as a literary genius who would be just dandy as editor of the new Wesley News."

In that issue, an anonymous poet wrote:

*When the congregation's singing
There's one thing I would like
When Mr. Telford joins us,
Would he kindly sing "off mike."*

*This is not a critique
of his manly baritone,
But the amplified production
Drowns the voice I love – my own*

One special find in the archive box was a programme for the retirement party of the Rev. Larry Mould and his wife Marion held June 9, 1982. The party included the choir singing "Gonna Build a New Life", a tribute and presentation by Harvey Hogle and the closing song "Edelweiss" featuring the congregation and the choir. (For those not aware, Larry and Marion Mould were Charlotte Sharkey's parents.)

By the year 2000, the name had changed to Cross Communication with Christy Temple as the editor and Nina Darrell was writing the Minister's News column. Barb Dye wrote the front page column about Mother's Day and the joy of finding her son after a 28 year search. By 2003, Bob Sharkey was the editor and the front page was a column by Bob about his thoughts on the war in Iraq. Also, there were articles on

the Lakeshore housing crisis and the gap between the rich and the poor in Canada – things that, unfortunately, we are still talking about today. In the fall of 2008, as Bob and Charlotte were winging their way to England for two plus years, Glenys Huws became the new editor.

The layout of our newsletter may have changed over the years but the goals have remained the same – for the congregation to be better informed about Wesley, the wider church and the community of Mimico.

Backyard Books by Dale Pringle



As I write this review, summer's upon us, friends. It's the carefree season when we hope to find time for relaxation and a bit of self care. And in truth, there's nothing quite as peaceful or as restorative for the soul as sitting in the sunshine with a good book. And possibly a glass of wine.

I've just finished reading *Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda. The gold sticker on the front cover declares it a #1 Canadian Bestseller. The author was born here in Toronto to Indian parents and so knows a thing or two about Indian culture. The fictional story is told simultaneously from two perspectives: An Indian mother grieves the loss of an infant daughter she gave up for adoption and at the same time, we read about the daughter who's been adopted by a California couple and raised in America. The characters are believable and the juxtaposition of Californian affluence against the impoverished slums of Mumbai lends a realism to a story that's hard to put down.

Asha is the Indian girl who, although raised by wealthy adoptive parents, yearns to know her Indian roots. Kavita is her birth mother, living half a world away with regret and remorse for giving away her tiny baby. In a culture that favours sons, giving her newborn daughter away was the only way to save her life. For Krishnan and Somer, a childless California couple, adopting a baby is the only option.

Secret Daughter is really a tale of familial love and explores what it means to be part of a family. It's a story about the unwavering and unending love of a mother for her daughter. And it doesn't seem to matter whether the relationship is biological or adoptive. The book held my attention until the heartrending final page which I struggled to read through my tears. *Secret Daughter* is easy to read, thought-provoking, and educational. And it pairs well with a French Merlot.

Did you know that our eyes remain the same size from birth but that our nose and ears never stop growing?



4 MEN MUSICAL CONCERT - VOICES UNITED FOR A CARING WORLD

The 4 Men is comprised of the Minister – Brian McIntosh, the Musician – Mervin Fick, the Professor – Lambert Zuidervaart and the Executive – Rudy De Paoli. They are united in their obvious enjoyment of singing together and share a commitment to channel their music into making a difference towards a caring world. The group is committed to advocacy and education of the work of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

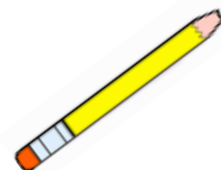
The 4 Men Ensemble's repertoire draws from a rich and varied compositional traditions, including men's chorus, the Barbershop tradition and famous "guy groups" from the 1950's including the 4 Lads.

Please refer to concert flyer for details of concert – Saturday, October 16th/11 - 3-5 pm.



Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil. It has no point.

WELCOMING COMMUNITIES



By January 2012 every organization, including churches, that interacts with the public must develop policies, procedures and practices on providing programs, goods and services to participants with disabilities. This requirement allows for compliance with the Accessibilities for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005. The United Church of Canada, Toronto Presbytery, provided an information session, which Karen Kowal and Karen MacPherson attended, to learn about what is required for churches to comply with the Act. A task force at Wesley led by the two Karens will be meeting this fall to develop a standard, practices and procedures to meet the requirements of the Act. Training and information sessions for the congregation will follow.

Basically the standard relates to customer service for people with disabilities. This will raise awareness of barriers people face, on a day- to-day basis. There is a wide definition of disabilities. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. A simple question - "How can I help you?" - allows the person with the disability to explain how you can help if needed and gives the person independence, dignity and respect.

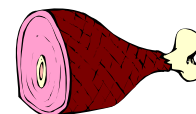
More information will be disseminated in the fall. If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please contact either Karen.

The Picnic

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter .

"This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."



The Smallest Acts of Kindness: by Dale Pringle (#1 in a new series: Observing God's People)

"Excuse me Miss? Are these your keys?" I watched as the woman turned back toward the coffee shop to face the man who'd spoken. "Oh, yes. Thank you," she said and accepted the keys. "I left them on the counter, didn't I?" The man nodded his head. "I thought you might need them."

A smile lit her face and she thanked him again. Then she turned and hurried toward the stairs and the train. I looked around at the others in the coffee shop. Most had witnessed the interaction and some were smiling quietly as was I. It's the little things, eh? We had seen the man's thoughtfulness and derived a moment's pleasure from it. His simple act of kindness had brought a little joy to perhaps half a dozen people, strangers all. I marveled at how it had rippled and spread.

He didn't have to take the woman her keys. He could have chosen to ignore them and leave them there by the cash register. But he didn't. He considered the inconvenience it would have caused her and chose to intercede. We say he was considerate, because he *considered* her.

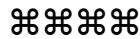
I'm an actor. I enjoy observing people in natural environments, doing what they do in ordinary and sometimes no-so-ordinary situations. I see little acts of kindness every day. Every single day. It pleases me so to see it, that I actually watch for it.

Someone will pause to hold a door for the person following. Someone will stoop to retrieve a coin and return it to its owner. A young man accepts his change at the store, then moves aside while he puts the money in his wallet to allow the next person to conduct their purchase. I even watched once as a man parked his car and raced off into a shop without putting money in the parking meter.

"Uh-oh," said a man standing nearby. "There's a cop just down the street and he's writing tickets." He extracted a coin from his pocket and fed the parking meter. It was only a dime, but the point is not his generosity, but rather his consideration for someone else. That's the part that thrills me.

Sure, I participate sometimes. I hold doors for people, and consider their feelings (usually) and try to think beyond the end of my nose. I do it and of course it feels good to help others. But for me, the real thrill comes in witnessing the kindness of someone else. That's what turns me on.

It doesn't take much, really. Only the smallest act of kindness. Try it sometime. Watch the ripples.



MOST OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN THE WORLD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE KEPT ON TRYING WHEN THERE SEEMED TO BE NO HOPE AT ALL.

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 Nov/Dec 2011.

Wesley Mimico United Church
2 Station Road
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Easter Sunrise Service



Outdoor service, strawberry social, farewell to Kay Bowles



Summer worship at Mimico Presbyterian





Work bee



Community Supper



Alpha Unit Lunch

