



# Centennial United Church

## Christmas Newsletter 2010

### *Happy holidays*

*Special events in our  
Church's life:*

December 5<sup>th</sup> -  
White Gift Sunday

December 11<sup>th</sup> - Centennial  
Christmas Dinner & Dance  
Starts at 6:30, dinner at  
7:00. Cost \$25/person

December 21<sup>st</sup> -  
Longest Night Service  
at 7:30 p.m.

December 24<sup>th</sup> -  
Family Christmas Eve  
at 7:00 p.m.

Communion Service  
at 10:00 p.m.

Centennial United Church  
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In two weeks we will be celebrating our first Sunday of Advent. The Advent season is the four weeks prior to Christmas. Four weeks to prepare ourselves for the Christmas season. This preparation requires readiness for Christmas day as well as readiness for time with family and friends. This time of year asks us to focus on both our religious life, and our social life.

Christmas, or Christ mass, is the time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Jesus is the one whom we claim has revealed God to us - "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". This revelation is about seeing the kingdom of God in the here and now. Jesus lived and taught that our relationships with others is what really shows our true values. Our Christmas, as well as all of the other days of the year, gives us opportunity to celebrate the presence of God in our lives. Christmas becomes a yearly reminder that God is always being born in our midst, that the divine is always found in the ordinary, that the eternal is found within the temporal, and the holy is found in the mangers and stables of our world.

The Christmas story could be used as a model to help prepare ourselves for Christmas.

- What road must we travel to get to the place where we can give birth to new ideas and new ways of living?
- What hardships will we endure when the world is not as inviting as we wish and we are forced to settle for less than ideal situations?
- Will we, like the shepherds, be surprised to see the "divine" the "holy" in the ordinary?
- Will we, like Herod, refuse to accept anything that does not fit into our own way of thinking?

Our spiritual pilgrimage includes our families and friends. Christmas is always about family time and enjoying the holiday season. In the midst of this hustle and bustle may the holiness of God's love be ever present in your life and in the life of your family. May we not be so busy, so exacting, so idealistic that we miss the holy moments spent with others in meaningful and wonderful ways.

May your Christmas be filled with moments of holiness for you and your loved ones.

*Blessings!*

*Wim & Joy*

## *Merry Christmas from The Board to the whole Centennial Family.*

This is a very busy time of year at the church with bazaars, special services, and outreach. These are the times that make a church come together and remember the love and hope that comes from our faith and faith family. Please be safe during your holiday travels and enjoy your friends and family as you get together to celebrate the season.

Ken Dutka,  
Board Chair

### *A Word or two from the Treasurer*

Some of you seem to be unaware that this is my last bit of time as Treasurer. I announced at the annual meeting in February that I would finish out this year, if necessary, but that I was going to be leaving my position. Stewardship, Property and Finance Committee and Ministry and Personnel Committee have done some preparation regarding this. I am sure you will hear soon about any decisions that have been made. I will work with and guide our new Treasurer as Muriel did with me.

I have worked with many wonderful and dedicated people on our committee and on the Official Board. Holding this important position in the Church has brought me in contact with just about everyone who is part of our congregation. I am privy to their financial wishes and challenges. I have gotten to know who the "angels" are, who the "quiet working souls" are, who the "characters" are and yes, even who the "bullies" are. I appreciate that you have all let me learn this role by performing my duties to the best of my ability.

I would be remiss if I did not thank my husband John, for his unwavering support. John has an amazing ability to look at a column of numbers and pick out what I might have been looking at for hours.

As I write these few words, I want to thank you for following our family trips and babies and adventures through my newsletter reports. They are all well, happy and wonderful.

As always, I am going to remind you to be as generous as you can be when it comes to preparing your envelope for giving to the church. Every little bit helps. PAR is a great way to keep your contribution to the church current even if you miss a few Sundays. Let me know if you would like an application form to get set up on PAR.

The financial situation of Centennial United Church as of October 31, 2010

Year to date income	\$102,776.17
Year to date expenses	<u>\$130,552.31</u>
Deficit	- \$ 27,276.14

### *Someday, Perhaps*

It begins long before the first frost –

Somewhere between memory and reality.

It touches us with compassion and whispers to us of hope.

It tiptoes into our hearts with elation

and opens our souls to faith.

Its name is Christmas and we have yet to learn

How to keep it close for more than this one brief, shining moment.

Someday, perhaps...with love.

*by Judith A. Lindberg*

*Thanks and Merry Christmas  
Sandra*

### *Stewardship Finance & Property Committee*

How quickly a year goes by. The busy Christmas season is quickly approaching, and we have been busy trying to set a budget for the upcoming year of 2011.

The latest project to be completed is the Power Point system which has been paid for by funds raised and designated for it.

As I look over the report for this year, I notice that our expenses have been higher than our income all year. At the end of October we were some \$27,000 in arrears.

We have had three good fundraisers in the month of November but are still falling behind. In this season of giving, I hope you can find it in your heart to continue to support your church if you are able. On behalf of this committee, I would like to thank everyone for their support, both physical and financial.

As we worship during this Christmas Season, may we be blessed and feel the spirit in our hearts that the tiny baby brings from the stable in Bethlehem.

*God Bless and Merry Christmas*  
*Doug Dickinson - Chair*

### *Worship & Music Committee*

I think the past warm sunny days are a gentle reminder to finish up those outside tasks and make preparations for colder days to come. Farmers are busy harvesting the last of the crops and plowing the fields. In the evening you can see the lights of the machinery out in the distance. We have already had several short blasts of snow, enough that the snow plows have already been called out on top of Blue Mountain. Just a sign of changing seasons. A week ago there was rain in Duntroon & three inches of snow on top of the hill ~ all within a 2 minute drive. Just shows how quickly you have to adapt when living in this area!

I took advantage of the warm weekend and put my Christmas light out - a very enjoyable experience when the wire is not brittle and fingers not frozen. All ready to be turned on the first of Advent.

Christmas is about preparation and anticipation. Even though the retail sector has been pushing Christmas sales since early fall, I find most people are really not ready to embrace the season until the first of Advent. A slow economy means families are finding ways to celebrate Christmas without spending themselves into debt. Maybe a back-to-reality check.

After a year of hard work and stressful times, I am ready take in the sights and sounds of Advent. Christmas can be a time of emotional confusion as excitement and sadness frequently blend. Hopefully, our Advent services will provide some middle ground for the highs and lows.

- ❖ November 28<sup>th</sup> - Advent 1 HOPE
- ❖ December 5<sup>th</sup> - Advent 2 PEACE - White Gift Sunday (financial donations for our Christmas Family)
- ❖ December 12<sup>th</sup> - Advent 3 JOY
- ❖ December 19<sup>th</sup> - Advent 4 LOVE
- ❖ December 21<sup>st</sup> - 7:30 **Longest Night Service** for those who are saddened by loss and find Christmas a difficult time
- ❖ December 24<sup>th</sup> - **Christmas Eve** ~ 7:00 p.m. Family Service  
~ 10:00 p.m. Communion Service
- ❖ December 26<sup>th</sup> - Music Service
- ❖ January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 - Communion to celebrate the New Year

We are excited to see new faces in the congregation, and look forward to seeing you.

*Merry Christmas*  
*Dave Hopper*

## Centennial Women

*Come in, come in and sit down.  
You are part of the family.*

If you are up for a fun, social time, and maybe even want to learn something new, then Centennial Women is the place for you!

After a great birthday party to start us off in September, we were able to give the local Food Bank two cartons brimming with personal items.

In October, we had Monica Mencola come and speak to us about osteoporosis, which can affect both men and women in later life, and sometimes earlier rather than later.

In November Kendra Holt, a high school student, used our new Power Point system and told us about her recent trip to France and Holland with other Canadian High School Students to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War Two. Kendra, a thoughtful, insightful young lady, told us of the impact the Canadian soldiers had on the general population of Holland, and how the Dutch, three generations later, still respect and are grateful to our soldiers. We were all proud to be Canadian and wear our poppies.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the church at 6:15 p.m. to go Carol singing at Stayner Nursing Home and Blue Mountain Manor, then return to the church for refreshments.

CW is open to all women of the congregation, and meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Call Valerie Willock at 422-1201 if you require a lift.

May Hope, Peace, Joy and Love be yours this Advent Season and throughout the New Year.

Valerie Willock

## Outreach & Social Action

Outreach and Social Action are again this year sponsoring the Christmas Family program. This year we have two families that need our help to have a comfortable Christmas with each family having Mom, Dad and children. We do this through the direction of the Salvation Army who have selected the families through application made to them or referred to them by another organization. We would appreciate your monetary support so a member of our committee can purchase the gifts that the Salvation Army has considered a high priority for each member of the family. On White Gift Sunday (*December 5th*) we will have a food drive to support the Stayner Food Bank and selected items will be set aside for the Christmas Families so we can top up their pantry shelf to ensure that they have a great Christmas Dinner and enough for the Christmas week. Please send all donations in your regular Sunday envelope designated under "Other" or in a separate envelope marked Christmas Family with your name on it if you would like a receipt issued to you.

*Thank you for your generous donation.*

*Don Coutts*

## Communications, Pastoral Care & Visitation

Well, another Turkey Dinner has been served. So much of what our committee represents was accomplished during this undertaking. We **communicated** with each other while preparing, advertising and spreading the word. We performed some very valuable **pastoral care** in that we specially targeted younger people to help us out. By in large, all the people that we approached for help were happy to be asked and very willing to assist if not at this dinner, a future one. We also accomplished a great deal of **visitation**. We reached out to the community and showed how welcoming and hospitable Centennial United can be. Congratulations to all that donated their time, their produce and energy. We served 324 people and raised \$3,200.00 for our general fund. Thanks to all.

Thanks to the committee chairs for submitting their regular reports for the newsletter. Everyone reads this newsletter. A special thanks to Kim McArthur for putting it all together.

Please communicate with the church office about any individuals that are hospitalized, in ill health, or who may require a card, a call or a visit.

*Have a wonderful, joyous Christmas.*

*Les Beattie*

## *The Good Food Box*

*Would you like the opportunity to buy  
fresh fruits and vegetables at a very reasonable rate?*

***The Good Food Box is for you!!***

*A large box (approx 32 lbs) costs \$14 and a medium box  
(approx. 22 lbs) costs \$10. To order your Good Food Box call  
Carol and Richard Marsden at 428-3945.*

## *From the Library*

Thank you to everyone who made a donation for books at the Used Book Sale. A grand total of \$90.50 was raised and will be put toward new books.

The sorting and discarding of books from the Resource Centre is ongoing but will hopefully be completed in the New Year.

A few new titles have been purchased and are on the NEW BOOKS shelf on the north wall of the library and are clearly marked NEW:

### Non-Fiction

- True Compass: Edward M. Kennedy *A Memoir*
- Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson & David Relin  
*One man's mission to promote Peace one school at a time.*
- The Power of Intention by Dr. Wayne Dyer
- We're All in this Together - Red Green  
*Steve Smith in conversation with Meg Ruffmann*

### Fiction

- One Simple Act: Discovering the Power of Generosity
- Gettin' Old Still Ain't for Wimps by Karen O'Connor  
*laughing your way through senior minutes*
- Circle of Quilters - Jennifer Chiaverini
- Minding Frankie by Maeve Binchy

### Children's

- The Best ~~Worst~~ Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson
- Too Much stuff by Robert Munsch
- Manners Matter by Marc Brown

Check the NEW shelf for other titles that will be processed shortly.

The Christmas Books will be out shortly including adult & children's fiction, non-fiction, crafts, skits & pageants. Look for them on the Book Trolley.

The annual sale of new books from UCRD will start at the Christmas Bazaar and continue in the Round Room for several weeks in December. There will also be a selection of Christmas Cards, serviettes, and other seasonal items.

I will be in the library every Tuesday. Come and look at what is for sale and enjoy a cup of tea and a cookie.

*Ferne Allen*

*for the Education & Program Committee*

## *Food Grains Project Success*

Centennial United Church has completed another successful growing project to help alleviate world hunger. This year a field of soy beans was planted on the farm of Donna Allen on Klondike Park Road across from Wasaga Beach Sports Park. This event named as Wasaga Sands Growing Project is just one of many across Canada for the Canada Food Grains Bank. This organization, sponsored mainly by Canadian churches, grows grains and donates cash to help feed a hungry world.

Not only are food grains sent to needy areas but seed and expertise are also provided to help these countries produce their own food.

One of the great aspects of these projects is that all monies raised are supported 4:1 by the Federal Government through CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) thus a \$10 donations becomes \$50. Centennial's project is also supported by an imaginary "Field of Dreams" which is divided in ¼ acre parcels and sold for \$10 each.

The field on Klondike Park Road has been reseeded to wheat for next year's crop. The success of these projects is only made possible by very generous sponsors who come forward with seeds, spray, fertilizers and planting, harvesting and cultivation equipment. Thank you so much to these sponsors:

*Holmes Agro Ltd., Stayner Farmers Co-op, Andy Van Niekirk, Dan Kneeshaw Farms, Dunlogan Farms, Way-Nan Farms, Owen Brooks Farms, McLeod Brothers Farms, Wyant Seed Cleaning, Donna Allen, Ministry of Natural Resources, Doug Culham, and Highways Farms.*

Lloyd Somerville

*Merry Christmas from all the teachers and children of the Sunday School.*

Time has flown by this year. We are thrilled to welcome Valerie Willock to our list of teachers. She has been a blessing. The older children are so excited to have her as a teacher. Yes, that is right, we have been able to split into two classes, junior and senior, for most Sundays. This has been wonderful; we are able to challenge our older children with faith discussions while still helping our younger children understand the basics of church and faith. We are still looking for teachers to help ease the time requirements on our existing teachers. If you are interested please contact Jen. We will also be holding a Teacher's meeting on November 22 at 7:30 if you are interested in finding out more.

We were thrilled with the turnout of our Halloween Centennial Kids. We had 24 children from our church and community join us as well as 10 parents and 4 fire fighters. We were so glad to have the fire department come and show the children the new fire truck as well as review fire and trick or treating safety. We also decorated cupcakes and made crafts. There were very happy ghouls that day. This outreach is wonderful to expose families to our church and our people. It also allows us to demonstrate Centennial's love, welcoming and outreach for young families. I want to thank Christa Johnston for her help in organizing this event.

***Up coming events for our Sunday School:***

Please join us on December 4th for the Santa Claus Parade. Manfred Leimgardt has once again offered the use of his wagon and we thank him. We are looking for a few people to help supervise the children and hand out candy along the parade route. Following the Parade we will host our Sunday School Christmas party. We welcome any assistance with this event such as set up and food preparation. Please contact Jen or Christa Johnston if you are able to help.

We are once again hosting the White Gift Service on December 5th and we are looking for a few members of the congregation to assist the children and teachers in this service. We will stay in the sanctuary for the service and your white gifts will be collected by the children during the service. Outreach has asked that we bring financial gifts and/or food donations. This will allow the church to purchase the needed items while protecting the family's identity.

We wish you many Christmas blessings. May the hope and joy of the season be yours now and always.

Jen Gerrior  
Sunday School

***The Child is Born Again***

*Each year the Child is born again,  
Each year some new heart  
finally hears  
finally sees  
finally knows love.  
And in heaven  
there is great rejoicing!  
There is a festival of stars!  
There is celebration among the angels!  
For in the finding of one lost sheep,  
the heart of the Shepherd is glad, and  
Christmas has happened once more.  
The Child is born anew  
and one more knee is bowed!*

*Kneeling in Bethlem by Ann Weems*

## *The Door Youth Center*

A Very Merry Christmas from the Staff, volunteers and youth of The Door!

First of all I would like to thank Centennial and the congregation for all of the support you have shown since the start of this ministry. You are truly living out the love of God in our world today.

I would like to invite you to our Annual Dessert Auction at 6:30 pm on November 26th at The Missionary Church in Stayner. This is a wonderful evening full of sweet treats and great entertainment. We are looking for bakers and for those to just enjoy the evening of entertainment and very yummy desserts. Please give me a call if you are willing to bake or would like tickets to this wonderful event. Tickets will also be on sale this Saturday at the Centennial United Church Bazaar.

We are also offering The Gift of Hope once again this year. You are able to make a charitable donation on behalf of someone else as a Christmas gift. Forms & Cards are available from Jen Gerrior. This is a wonderful way to support Clearview's youth as well as shop for those who care for their community too.

This past Friday we welcomed eight new youth to the center. We are now serving about 200 youth and their families. We have been able to support them through struggles and sadness, school issues and broken friendships. It has made me realize just how needed this type of program is, having a place where they feel free, a place where they feel heard, a place where they can express themselves. The teenage years are so confusing. They are facing life decisions earlier. They have access to so much more information, both positive and negative. They are growing up so much faster than we did even when I was a teen. During this time many just need someone to talk to or some constant in their lives that they can hold on to when the world seems to be spinning out of control. BUT, we can't be there for our community's youth without the community's support. Due to financial reasons, our landlord is graciously allowing us to break our lease and go on a month-to-month basis until a new tenant is found or we find a new location. We are also having difficulty raising our director's deputation, which means that only partial paycheques can be issued. This also affects our programs, as we often must make do with what we can find to run our groups. We have heard from many of you that what we are doing is great, but we need more than just words of encouragement, we need you to become involved. We have a number of ways you can do this. You could become a member of our Steering Committee, donate financially to general fund or deputation fund, you could Volunteer with our youth, help at events or attend events, or you could hold a fundraiser on our behalf. The ways to help are endless. Please contact us if you are able and we will find the type of support that suits. Every little bit helps.

### *Other upcoming events:*

**November 28th, 12-3pm - Community Clothes Closet** - Due to the donations of Nine Lives Boutique, Barb's Clothes Closet and various individuals we are proud to have been able to offer clothing to our youth at no charge. Working with the food bank and ministerial we are opening this opportunity to the community to make sure that those in need of clothing receive it. We will make the clothing available as needed after the 28th.

**December 4th** - Santa Claus Parade

**December 8th, 1-3 and 5-9pm** - Open House and Youth Art Show at The Door

**January 10<sup>th</sup>, 7pm** - Town Hall meeting on The Door. We are asking the Community for advice on how to continue and improve our outreach.

We are delighted to share the news of our centre with you, if you have any questions or comments about this article or our programs, please contact us at 1-705-428-3733 or [gerriordutka@rogers.com](mailto:gerriordutka@rogers.com). Click on <http://www.wix.com/clearviewdoor/the-door> to keep up-to-date on our events and programs. Thank you for your continued support.

*Seeing the hope and potential in every youth...*

Jennifer Gerrior  
Director, The Door

## *NORTHERN WATERS PRESBYTERY REPORT*

On Saturday, November 13th, I attended the Presbytery meeting which took place at Trinity United Church in Thornton.

A more rural church was chosen for this meeting to introduce all Presbytery members to a smaller church community since there is much diversity within our expansive new Presbytery boundaries.

Since this church is not yet fully accessible, Merissa Armstrong was not able to attend. The Government of Ontario is requiring all congregations by January 2012 to have a published accessibility policy and also provide related training to congregation members who interact with the public.

Two presentations were heard; one by Alex Leith of the Queen's Bush Rural Ministries and the second regarding "Best Practices Around Stewardship and Congregational Viability" presented by Barb Fullerton, Program Coordinator of Stewardship Development.

Alex Leith is the Coordinator for Queen's Bush Ministries. He provides compassionate listening to farmers' crises offering short-term support, advice or resources in a dignified manner. Their pamphlet is on our Bulletin Board in the hallway.

The Stewardship presentation outlined the best practices of stewardship strategy including operational management; integration of stewardship in worship; stewardship formation and leadership development/support; spiritual-nurture opportunities, and engagement in social justice concerns. Centennial is doing its part well in many of these areas.

Presbytery is an important facet of the life of our churches. While it organizes and oversees the churches within its boundaries, it also provides support and enrichment to its members, ordained and lay, which in turn are passed down to the individual church communities.

Greta Horton  
Presbytery Representative

## *EMERGING SPIRIT REPORT NOVEMBER 2010*

Edith Eedy and myself recently attended an Emerging Spirit workshop at the United Church in Caledon Village. The presenter, Rev. Lesley Harrison is the Coordinator of Welcoming Ministries for The United Church of Canada. Lesley took us on a journey through hope, faith and change, giving us some tools and information to ready us for the future in the church.

"We are at the front edges of the greatest transformation of the church that has occurred for 1600 years." So says Loren B. Mead of The Alban Institute. People are looking for a community that is safe, real and authentic. It is an age where "belonging" comes before "believing".

Three years ago we introduced the Emerging Spirit concept to our congregation and had workshops on being an intentional welcoming community. Emerging Spirit is an initiative of The United Church of Canada to prepare our church communities to be open and understanding of the needs of the age 30 to 45's that our congregations are largely missing. The mandate of Emerging Spirit was later enlarged to include the present and future state of the church as a whole.

To be open for change in the faith community, we learned that we need to appreciate the use of social media (i.e. the Internet) as a means of people connecting and sharing faith discussions. Wondercafe.ca is one such site. This website will remain available.

Intergenerational ministry is a model of ministry which emphasizes and nurtures relationships between people of all ages. We know that Jesus connected across the boundaries and generations. Conversation, connection and community create opportunities for faith building.

Although Emerging Spirit workshops will cease at the end of this year, Rev. Lesley Harrison and a colleague will continue to be available to assist congregations in their follow-up Emerging Spirit endeavor's. We ask for your support as we all as a congregation go forward accepting some new ways of being faithful Christians.

Christmas blessings from the Emerging Spirit Team,  
Jenny Marlatt, Valerie Willock  
Edith Eedy and Greta Horton, Chairpersons