

CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Even though we have all heard the Christmas story many times it is still a story filled with mystery. It is a story which continues to bring hope to our world, and perhaps someday, maybe even peace. Let's examine some of the mystery around the Christmas story.

John claims that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". The Holy, Divine Mystery is forever being born in the flesh. We only know of the eternal ideas of hope, peace, joy and love because they were rooted in the flesh and blood of some person who lived those qualities. We can look back in our lives and recognize people who exhibited those qualities for us. We can be thankful for people who gave birth to the "word becoming flesh" in our time and space.

The Christmas story is situated within reality. In the Matthew account the birth narrative is set within

astronomical reality. Some learned men, from another culture, who study the heavens and the stars, have reason to believe that some wonderful event will soon take place. Yet reality is not always so very nice. Situated in the Matthew account is the story of a murderous and deceitful king who attempts to end the story prematurely by murdering all the young boys in Bethlehem.

The Luke account of the birth narrative is also set in reality, but the reality for Luke is poverty. The story takes place in a barn, shared with cattle. Think rotting hay, manure everywhere, noisy, smelly animals present (do not, I repeat, do not sanitize the barn!). Within this scenario enter some shepherds to check out what kind of family has to have their child born in a stinking stable!

The link holding these stories together is Mary, a young unmarried girl who finds herself pregnant. Along with Mary we find the stalwart Joseph who faithfully stays with her. Together these two reveal, once again, the sacredness of life!

Once again we are about to delve into the depths of these stories. Once again we are going to hear the reality of Divine Mystery being present in the midst of our living – whether we see that

in grandiose terms like stars in the heavens or whether we see it in the midst of the dirt and chaos of our living. Once again we are going to have to decide whether life is sacred in every aspect or whether life is only sacred when all the rules are being followed. Once again we will have to decide whether we should side with the Herod's of the world, or say a resounding yes to the people in our stables. Once again we need to decide why this story is important to our world in 2011 – 2012.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Many Blessings

Kenneth Dutka, Board Chair

COMMUNICATION, PASTORAL CARE & VISITATION

This Fall has been a very busy, yet very satisfying period for our committee. Our annual "Turkey Dinner" was once again very successful. Because of other events and activities occurring on that same night this year, we decided to set our target for attendance the same as last year (300 people). This turned out to be a mistake which we apologize for. We had to turn people away because we ran out of turkey. Before next year's dinner we will make plans and some changes to address that problem. We raised \$3,250.00 for the church. Thank you to our helpers and food providers.

In the area of pastoral care, we addressed the issue of visitation for people unable to get out of their homes. These people have been faithful members of our congregation for years so it is our duty to provide some much needed companionship and warmth during the latter stages of their lives. Thank you to all the volunteers that have taken on this very important responsibility.

Our next meeting is November 22nd. At that meeting we will discuss our fund raising and visitation results as well as keeping a vigilant eye upon our membership. Wishing everyone Peace, Joy and Love for the Christmas Season!

Les Beattie, Chair

WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

Christmas can be a time of emotional confusion as excitement and sadness frequently blend. As years go by I find my heart gets a little heavier at Christmas. The need to create that "Perfect Christmas" is not so important any more, it just creates anxiety. Time spent with family & friends is what really matters. Each year brings new challenges and changes and nothing stays the same. As hard as we try to recreate that "Perfect Christmas" every year (as all of the media and marketing hype tells us we should) we have to find our own Christmas meaning. As a congregation we have shared in highs and lows. We look to our faith to keep our course steady. Even though we think that the real Christmas message seems to get lost, I am still amazed at the generosity people show at

this time of year. Many people spend countless hours working at fund raising events and charity drives to help the less fortunate. Yes, there is Christmas Spirit out there.....it comes in many different ways.

November winds are blowing cooler air, a reminder that winter is approaching. The last of the crops are coming in from the fields and just as the agricultural industry winds down, the ski industry is busy preparing to start their season. Even though a lot of people are not fond of winter, a large group depend on cold temperatures and snow for their livelihood. We have learned to make the most of the seasons. They prepare and hope for a good start to the season.

The sights and sounds of advent are upon us...anticipation and preparation

Nov 27th – Advent 1 Creation

Dec 4th – Advent 2 Proclamation

Dec 11th – Advent 3 Mary

White Gift Sunday

Donations for our Christmas Family

Dec 18th - Advent 4 Joseph

Dec 21st - 7:30 Longest Night Service

Blue Christmas for those who are saddened by loss and find Christmas a difficult time

Dec 24th - Christmas Eve

7:00 PM Family Service

Dec 25th – Christmas Sunday

10:30 AM Communion

Service with Lessons and Carols

Jan 8th 2012– Communion to celebrate the New Year

We look forward to seeing you at Centennial Merry Christmas!

Dave Hopper, Chair

OUTREACH & SOCIAL ACTION

Members: Nancy Brillinger, Lynne Coutts, Kim McArthur, Don Coutts, Lloyd Somerville, Cathy Dunlop, Edith Eedy, Norm Soules and Wim Kreeft

As we move into the Christmas Season, we are reminded that 2011 will soon turn into 2012. The Outreach and Social Action committee members thank the Centennial family for your many contributions of time and money to our many projects. The Food Grains Project for 2012 is already under way with winter canola planted for next year's project. The 2011 Christmas Family project is being planned and the details are not yet confirmed, further information will be printed in the weekly bulletins. Some upcoming events are the Silent Auction and Penny Sale on April 13/12 in sponsorship of the DOOR, and Centennial's annual Yard Sale on May 18/12.

Submitted by Don Coutts

CENTENNIAL WOMEN

*"Watch, watch and pray,
Jesus the word will come."*

Centennial Women meet the second Tuesday of the month, and all women of the congregation are welcome to come and see what we are all about.

Last September we had a birthday party with everyone bringing in a picture of herself as a child. My, how we have changed: We enjoyed a birthday cake baked by Donna Gerrior and we each brought in a gift for the local Food Bank.

In October we invited Don Belgium to come and talk to us about Native Lore. This was a very interesting evening, both informative and fun.

In November, our leader was away so we had a laid back evening watching the DVD of Centennial's history.

In December we will be going out for a meal at a local restaurant or having it catered for us at the church. Watch the bulletin for further details.

May you pass on to everyone you meet the blessings of Christmas, Hope, Peace and Joy and Love.

Valerie Willock is the organizer of this group ~ call her at 705.422.1201



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School would like to extend the warmest wishes for this holiday season. We invite you to join us on December 11th, for White Gift Service lead by the Sunday School, please watch for details. We Continue to look for

teachers and helpers for the Sunday School Classes, if you are able to spare sometime to spend with these wonderful children please contact Jennifer Gerrior (705) 428 3733 or

gerrjordutka@rogers.com

Jen Gerrior, Sunday School Coordinator

NORTHERN WATERS PRESBYTERY REPORT

Northern Waters Presbytery is now passed two years old having replaced Simcoe Presbyter. The Presbytery encompasses a very large area from Midland, to west of Owen Sound and south as far as Acton. Barrie is not in the presbyter but in the adjoin presbytery of Living Waters.

The mission Statement of the Presbytery was formulated by September this year and is the following:

“Called to serve Jesus Christ in Toronto Conference, Northern Waters Presbytery will work in an inclusive way to build connection and community in order to encourage and challenge the congregations and people of our area.”

On your behalf, I attend the four Presbytery meetings a year and also the Toronto Conference weekend in late May. Besides that, I serve on one committee of Presbyter, that of Pastoral Oversight. We are responsible for visiting the pastoral charges of the Presbytery at least on a triennial basis to serve as support, encouragement and counsel.

To support clergy beginning in a new pastoral charge, I attend, when able, the Presbyter covenanting service for clergy

in their new charges. This fall I have attended two services, one in Midland and the other in Elmvale.

At the Presbytery meeting in Rosemont on Saturday, November 19th, there was a presentation and display of Sunday School Curriculum for both larger and small Sunday Schools. I plan on sharing the pertinent information with our Education and Program Committee/S.S. coordinator, Jennifer Gerrior.

Rev. Bruce Gregersn, Senior Program Officer for General Council spoke to us about "Our Words of Faith" and how they are a living, growing document. In 2012, there will be a remit for all Church Boards/sessions across the national church to decide on the incorporation of the newer statements of faith. A Statement of Faith, 1940; A New Creed (1968, 1980, 1994); and A Song of Faith, 2006, with the original Statements of Faith from 1925.

We are so fortunate to be part of this living church that grows as our spiritual understanding changes and grows.

May each of you have a truly blessed Christmas with your family and friends as we celebrate the coming again of Jesus, the epitomy of love and justice, and teacher of us all.

*Yours in Faith, Greta Horton
Presbytery Representative*

THE DOOR NEWSLETTER

First of all I would like to start by thanking the Congregation and the Outreach committee for all of the support

over the past two years. Without you we would have faced many more struggles establishing this community outreach

Sanctuary. This past week one of our youth came up to me and told me that The Door was his sanctuary. It was a place where he was safe and accepted. He was welcome here. He needed this place. It always saddens me to hear the stories that go along with these statements. Weekly our volunteers listen to our youth tell us of the struggles they are facing. The topics range from not feeling accepted, to drinking, drugs, and violence. The youth know that they can find support at The Door, that we will welcome them in and treat them with respect. They have come to rely on this second home, this Sanctuary.

Now is the time for Gifts of Hope. This annual opportunity gives Door supporter the chance to give a Christmas gift to The Door as well as someone on their list. Pledge forms and cards are available now please contact Jennifer Gerrior (705) 428 3733 or gerriordutka@rogers.com for a card or more details.

In order for us to be able to support the youth, we need the Support of all of Clearview. We need volunteers for events, program and our steering committee. We need donations of snacks for our programs and financial partnerships. We are grateful for the past support Centennial has given, and we appreciate your continued support of The Door Youth Center, our programs, our 265 youth and our volunteers.

*Jen Gerrior,
Director The Door Youth Center*

SPONSOR A BULLETIN

Looking for a great way to further support your church? Sponsor a Sunday bulletin in memory of a loved one or celebrate a birthday, new birth, anniversary, or any other event. Cost is just \$20. Contact the office at 705.428.3711 to get your event into the bulletin!

THE GEORGIAN GOOD FOOD BOX

Seize your opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at very reasonable prices. The Good Food Box is the perfect idea! A large box (approx. 32 lbs of various fruits & veggies) is \$14.; a medium box (approx. 22 lbs) costs \$10. Place your order by the 2nd Tuesday of each month for delivery on the 3rd Wednesday. Call Richard & Carol Marsden at 705.428.3945 to place your order.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Book Club:

For those women interested in joining the Women's Book Club the first book is entitled "Saigon Girls" by Lisa See. If you have a suggestion for the second book or another comment /question, please phone Greta Horton at 705-445-5930. Monday, January 23rd, 2012 at 7:30 PM is the first meeting in the Gathering Place (Ladies Parlor). Snow date is Monday, January 30th, at 7:30 PM. We will meet on the fourth Monday of each month.

HOW TO REACH US

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