

# *The Meeting Place*

Advent 2009

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## *Centretown United Church Newsletter*

### **From the Minister Desk**

*Friends,*

*What a privilege it is to have been called to be here among you at Centretown United! What an exciting time it is to be the Church. We live in a time that cries out for hope, meaning and purpose. We have strong roots and the awareness of God's abundant love to guide us as we explore what it means to be the Church today.*

*I look forward to being part of the Centretown community, working with you as we discover anew God's dream for us and our community. David.*

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**Welcome Rev. David Illman-White** to Centretown United Church. November 1st was a wonderful first day and service conducted by our new minister. David, which he likes to be called whether you are mad at him or not, comes to us directly from St. Paul's Eastern and before that, Grace United Church in Arnprior. All members of Centretown will find something compelling in our new minister. His very interesting style of preaching, his stories with the youth, (young and old), his kind disposition, his patient attitude, his many years of experience, and his thoughtful listening and helpful responses.

The Joint Search Committee hosted the fellowship time following the service on November 1<sup>st</sup>, Rev. David's first Sunday with us. It was an opportunity for us to meet David and for him to meet us, and for all of us to enjoy some delicious sandwiches and squares. Many thanks to Mert Fraser for organizing the Fellowship time and to all who brought food and drinks, set up the hall, and stayed to help clean up afterwards. Thanks to Nancy Desjardins for her "Welcome" translation questionnaire, we didn't know you knew so many languages. The JSC thanks you for all the kind comments we received from the congregation following that service. We agree, we did a great job in choosing the right minister for Centretown United.

### **News from the Sunday School**

Hallowe'en is over, the leaves have fallen, it goes down to zero at night now, the time change has occurred, little flakes of white stuff will soon be seen falling to be shoveled off the driveway, Advent is just around the corner...it must be time for the Annual pageant Sunday at Centretown United. The youth are learning their lines and are ready to sing their little and big hearts out. Who knows, the parents might join in the singing as well! This year, the youth and leaders will be making the sandwiches for a free-will offering luncheon following the Pageant Service and short Carol Sing afterwards. Please come on Sunday, December 13th and relax, watch the soothing Christmas Pageant, eat the delicious sandwiches and desserts, and enjoy singing the Carols.

### **SPECIAL ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

- Nov. 29 - Advent 1 with Communion
- Dec. 6 – Service of Lessons and Carols led by the Choir
- Dec. 13 - Sunday School Pageant and White Gift Sunday
- Dec. 20 - Christmas Sunday Service.
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Family service at 7:00 pm with Communion.
- Dec. 27 - Regular Sunday Service.

As we celebrate the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, may we listen for God's voice in our services, in the songs of the choir, in the laughter of the children and offer praise and thanks for an Infant born in a stable.

### **THE BEST SONGS COME AT NIGHT - AN ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP**

Would you like some quiet time during the busy pre-Christmas season to reflect with friends on the meaning of Jesus' birth in our lives today? The Faith Formation Committee is offering a scripture based, 4-week study for Advent. Each week, over

coffee and snacks we will share thoughts on a seasonal passage of scripture and on a short reflection related to the scripture.

Facilitation will be shared between, Karen Fee, Lenore Porter, Linda Pollock and Rev. David Illman-White. Copies of the resource booklet will be provided to participants.

The group will meet in the morning from **9:30-11:00** according to the following schedule:

- Tuesday, Dec. 1, 8 and 15 in the Kindergarten Room,
- Monday, Dec. 21 in the sanctuary.

Please join us for conversation about our faith, fellowship, coffee and snacks. All are welcome to each or any of the 4 gatherings. Please confirm your participation with Linda, 613-232-0370 or [Linda.Pollock@sympatico.ca](mailto:Linda.Pollock@sympatico.ca) so that we can plan appropriately. Please let us know if you need transportation to the gatherings.

### **CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**

During the holidays, our thoughts often turn to those less fortunate than ourselves. For more than 30 years, the **Christmas Hamper Project** has supplied thousands of Ottawa families and individuals with boxes of food, toiletries and small gifts to help make their Christmas season a little brighter.

Hosted by Centretown United Church, hampers will be delivered to 160 families and individuals who have been referred by a number of Centretown emergency food providers.

This worthy project relies on the generosity and the goodwill of the community. How can you help? There are many ways:

**To adopt a hamper** contact Sue by November 30<sup>th</sup>, at [sue.allan@sympatico.ca](mailto:sue.allan@sympatico.ca).

**To pack hampers** and help wrap gifts between December 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, contact Sharon at 613-237-3033.

**To deliver hampers or drive** on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, contact Linda at [linda.pollock@sympatico.ca](mailto:linda.pollock@sympatico.ca), or by phone if you don't have email, at 613-232-0370.

Or, have a crazy schedule? We gladly accept donations! Please send a cheque made out to "The Christmas Hamper Project", to **Centretown United Church**, 507 Bank Street, K2P 1Z5. Thank you for your support!

### **Financial Update**

All present indications are that we will come in under budget this year. We now expect our expenditures to be about forty thousand under estimates. This is because we have not had a full-time minister since the end of June and one of our choir directors took unpaid leave this Fall. This means we will be transferring less money from our trust funds than originally predicted. We had expected to transfer close to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) to balance the budget. We will probably only have to transfer sixty thousand. This is a transfer of capital so it reduces the size of the trusts.

With respect to congregational givings, we are down about seven thousand, close to ten percent, year-to-date. Any little extra that you might be able to contribute, would be a great help in reducing that shortfall.

Our draft budget for next year will go to Council for review in November. We are working hard to have a balanced budget for 2010. For us, a balanced budget includes income (return on investment) from the funds the trustees manage, but does not include the use of any capital. This is certainly much better news than we had at this time last year. If we can balance our budget we can focus on finding a bit more money to be used specifically to achieve our mission and vision, not just to keep the doors open.

We thank everyone for their continued generosity.

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### **A challenge**

One member of our congregation put aside a toonie each week and at the end of the year was able to give an addition \$104 to the church. She challenges others to do the same and, if you take up the challenge, we will tell you who that person is.

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

The Ad-Hoc Committee, which needs to find a new name, is delighted to report that both the Anniversary Dinner and Fall Celebration were a great success. Our aim is to have a social activity once a month. Some events are traditional; some may be new. Some are strictly social; some are focused around part of more worship based events.

The **Anniversary Dinner**, held on September 14, was well attended and all reports were that it was very enjoyable. The dinner was catered, at a reasonable cost, which allowed those who usually cook and clean-up to sit down with everyone else for dinner and participate in the sing-song afterwards. Thanks to Mert Fraser for arranging for the catering and to Marjorie Morgan for organizing the pies. And a special thank-you to Jim and Karen Fee for organizing and leading the sing-song. The small profit was given to the fellowship petty-cash.

The **Fall Celebration**, held October 18<sup>th</sup>, was also a success. There was no charge for this event. Participants were asked to bring sandwiches, pies were donated for dessert. Many from the congregation stayed for lunch and about 30 to 40 remained to participate in the games. A great time was had by all solving puzzles, playing bingo, winning prizes, and most important of all, getting to know each other. Thanks again to Marjorie Morgan for organizing the pies and to Nancy Desjardins and Myrtle Fraser for the decorations. Thanks to all the committee for clean-up.

The **Future**. We hope to have a social event each month. Some will have a charge attached to cover expenses and/or raise some money for a specific fund or cause. We would like anyone or group who would like to sponsor an event to let any member of the committee know. If there is to be a charge, we would appreciate knowing how much and where the proceeds will be directed towards. To date activities are planned through February.

**Nov. 22: "We Cannot Keep from Singing: Doing Mission and Outreach at Centretown"**. The Mission and Outreach Committee will sponsor a light (but tasty) lunch, sharing in some fellowship and spending an hour exploring how the Spirit is calling Centretown to serve in our broader community. Please join the Mission & Outreach Team for food, fun and faith.

**December 7:** UCW and Ark-M dinner to which all are invited. For further information see notice below.

**December 13:** Children's Pageant and luncheon. The youth of the church will be preparing a sandwich luncheon to follow their pageant. There will be a free will offering to defray costs.

**January:** Robbie Burns Day. Sponsored by UCW. Date, time and cost to follow

**February;** Sing song led by Jim and Karen Fee.

**February:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

**April:** Easter Breakfast - to be confirmed.

**June:** Picnic.

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### **UCW & ARK M Christmas Dinner and Worship**

All members of the congregation are invited to this Christmas Dinner and time of worship hosted by the UCW and Ark M, Monday December 7<sup>th</sup>. The evening activities will start at 6pm and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Dinner includes salad, rolls, stuffed roast pork, mashed potatoes, roasted root vegetables, chocolate cheese cake and sliced fruit, and tea and coffee. Following the dinner the Christmas Story will retold through worship led by Jean Cameron in the Sanctuary. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from Peg Craig, Myrtle Fraser, Phoebe McLelland or the church office.

#### **Thank you from Rev. Stewart A. Hewlett**

*I want to thank you most sincerely for allowing me the privilege of sharing my faith with you during the last few months while you were awaiting the arrival of your minister, David Illman-White. It was an honour to allow me to have fun, to do pastoral visiting, and to get to know the congregation. I was humbled by the gift of fruit that you so graciously presented to me by the Chair of Council. You all have been so good to me, accepting me into your homes, writing letters of thanks, that I have been blessed in more ways than one. The fruit was a bonus, and was it ever good. We savoured every bit of it. Thanks again for allowing me to be "me." Thanks for the memories, and I promise that you will see me again, as one who worships with you.*

### **From the Pastoral Care Committee...**

- If you, or someone you know, would attend church more frequently if you/they had a drive to church please speak to Barbara Potter-Angus at Fellowship Time, call her at 613-838-5678 or email [potter.angus@gmail.com](mailto:potter.angus@gmail.com). If you have room in your vehicle to drive someone to church each Sunday we ask that you also contact Barbara. We will attempt to match up drivers with those needing a drive so that everyone who wishes to come to church has an opportunity to do so.

- Once a month, at Fellowship Time following the worship service, we will celebrate all birthdays in that month with a cake and birthday wishes. This will start in January and will take place the first Sunday of each month.

- Did you know that a taped copy of each Sunday's service is available to anyone not able to attend our weekly worship service? If you would like a copy please speak to Pauline Barnes, call her at 613-824-3268 or email [paulinebarnes@rogers.com](mailto:paulinebarnes@rogers.com). Please note that these are tapes and a tape player is necessary to hear them.

- If you are interested in becoming part of the Communications committee, a sub-committee of the Pastoral Care Committee, please speak to Jean MacAllister at Fellowship time or caller at 613-225-9108. We would like to get this sub-committee in place so that advertising about the arrival of our new minister and our upcoming Advent activities can take place.

Please note that you do not have to be on the Pastoral Care committee to be on this Communications sub-Committee.

### **Church Humour....**

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled. "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

### **Centretown United Church 507 Bank Street Ottawa, K2P 1Z5**

Minister - Rev. David Illman-White  
Organists: Brenda Beckingham & Elaine Graham  
Church Administrator – Nancy Desjardins  
613-232-9854  
[office@centretownunited.org](mailto:office@centretownunited.org)  
[www.centretownunited.org](http://www.centretownunited.org)

### **Council for 2009**

Council Chair - Ian MacAllister  
Vice Chair - Joan Fletcher  
Past Chair - Harold Curry  
Secretary - Barbara Potter-Angus

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Faith Formation - Linda Pollock  
Finance/Stewardship - Margaret (Peg) Craig  
Membership/Pastoral Care - Jean MacAllister  
Ministry and Personnel - Jim Fee  
Mission and Outreach - Susan McIntyre  
Property – Nancy Desjardins  
Worship - Harold Curry

### **Other Groups**

Ark-M Club - Carol Ambridge  
UCW - Nancy Desjardins