

# Streetsville United Church Lenten, Easter Tidings 2009

274 Queen St. S.  
Mississauga, ON L5M 1L8  
905-826-1542  
info@streetsvilleunited.ca



## CALENDAR

Sunday Services 10 a.m.

### Special Services

**April 5 Palm Sunday**  
Holy Communion & Youth  
Confirmation

**April 10 Good Friday**  
10 a.m.

(with breakfast served by the Men's Group in the auditorium beginning at 8:30 a.m. All welcome.)

**April 12 Easter Sunday**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 18** - "Coffee House" in the auditorium from **7 - 9 p.m.** We invite any congregational member to join us in providing the entertainment. So we are calling all singers to provide a solo, duet, etc and all instrument players. We wish to highlight the wonderful TALENT we have in our church and encourage you to participate. Please speak to Adelaide for information and enquiries.

**April 15** - Adult Christian Education Course:

### **CHRISTIANITY**

**THE FIRST THREE CENTURIES**  
From Christ to Constantine - How could a tiny sect ever conquer the world? DVD series with teaching by **Dr. Paul Maier** - Discussion led by **Rev. John** and members of our Christian Education Committee.

**April 23 - Spring Pot Luck**

The UCW Spring Pot Luck event, "Wedding Belles". On **Thursday, April 23rd at 6 p.m.** in Heritage Hall. (See attached invitation)

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

On Saturday, March 7, many of us enjoyed the 2 hour Elvis "Gospel" concert put on by the award winning Elvis Presley impersonator Roy LeBlanc from St. Thomas, Ontario. We also enjoyed singing some songs led by our own Boomer band. It was a fun evening and a successful fund-raising event for Streetsville United. Over 300 people from our congregation and the wider community were in attendance and we heard many positive comments about the beauty of our sanctuary and the warmth of our welcome. Roy LeBlanc himself offered several kind and appreciative remarks about our church during the concert.

After the performance I thought about the many and varied ways God reaches people with the Gospel message. Music is certainly one of those ways, and we are blessed weekly by the musical and worship gifts of many in our congregation. But God uses music to bring the message of his love and salvation to people who never go to church. Certainly that seemed to be the case with Elvis Presley's music. Despite the checkered nature of his life, Elvis Presley was a Christian believer from childhood and a witness for Jesus Christ. He sang many gospel tunes in his career, including such favorites as "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art." Roy LeBlanc told a story of the 20 year old Elvis performing a concert in Indiana one night. People crowded the stage yelling out "Elvis is King!" Elvis took the microphone and said, "I'm not King. Only Jesus Christ is King!" God sometimes works through the most unlikely people and places to present his truth.

In this Lenten season we focus on Jesus unflinching desire to do the Father's will, his determined journey to Jerusalem and his entry into the city on Palm Sunday, his cleansing of the Temple, his confrontation with the religious and civil authorities, his institution of the Lord's Supper, his betrayal, his trial, his death, and his resurrection. During his last week in Jerusalem Jesus taught many things in the Temple including the truth that one day he will come again as Judge and Lord and King of creation, to take God's people home and to complete God's Kingdom. In Mark 13 Jesus says, "*In those days, after that tribulation ... they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory ... He will gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven ... But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in*" [cont. page 2]

## CALENDAR continued

### May 3 – Celebration

The family of Wes Durie invite the congregation to a reception to celebrate the 90th birthday of **Wes Durie**. Reception in Heritage Hall from **2 to 4 p.m.** Light refreshments to be served.

**May 3** – *Mississauga Choral Society* presents the world premiere of *Creation – A Jazz Oratorio* by composer and baritone saxophonist **David Mott**. The first jazz oratorio ever composed in Canada giving a modern interpretation to the themes of Haydn's 18th century masterpiece *The Creation*, on which it is based.

**David Mott**, has created a highly imaginative work. Mott's affecting libretto is inspired by the sacred biblical story of the Creation following the unfolding of the seven days.

The performance also features a visual display of photographs by the Head of the Canadian Space Agency, **Steve MacLean**, taken while in orbit on his missions as an astronaut. Award-winning designers **John Cook** and **Scott Wise** have created interpretive moving imagery to compliment the performance.

... and on the same program .... *Missa Gaia Earth Mass* by **Paul Winter**. *Earth Mass* is a contemporary ecumenical and ecological Mass celebrating the earth. It features lyrical melodies with dynamic rhythms from African, Brazilian and American gospel traditions, incorporating traditional Mass and biblical texts. **Sunday, May 3 at 3 p.m.** at *Hammerson Hall, Living Arts Centre*. Box office: 905-306-6000 / [www.livingartscentre.ca](http://www.livingartscentre.ca).

**May 9** (Saturday) – *Mother's Day Tea 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.* in the auditorium. Tickets will be available by mid April.

[**MINISTER'S MESSAGE** continued from page 1] *charge, each with his work, and he commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ...".* The message of Jesus' parable is clear. He is coming back, when or how, we don't know. But his return is a certainty.

And until then, his followers are to be alert and awake, trusting him fully and remaining faithful to the work he has given each of us in the household of God. Christians are those who keep the fires of faith burning and the Gospel spreading until Christ returns. The Lenten season is a good time to examine how we're doing and to recommit ourselves to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, and to the work he has given us. And have no doubt, will meet him, whether he comes before we go, or whether we go to meet him before he comes again. May God grant us the grace to be found as faithful and trusting servants on that day.

**Rev. John**

**P.S.** Please take the opportunity to read the story of "**Why Did Jesus Fold the Napkin?**" [on page 4] -- an interesting confirmation of his promise to come again. Thanks to Wendy Johnson for forwarding this to us.

## YOUTH REPORT

It is March, spring is in the air, the birds are chirping and the sun is shining bright. The long hard winter seems behind. As I write a few reflections from the youth and young adult ministry program I am struck by the many warm personal encounters I have had since the start of the year that have been monumental like the thawing of winter into the beauty of spring. I want to share a few with you.

- A young person who continues to come out to our youth program and learn about God, despite fears that God is not real and doesn't seem to change circumstances.
- A young person who recently shared a story in my *God and the Economy* sessions in our high school Sunday School class about salmon who swim upstream and then die due to the fatigue as an analogy to how God desires us to move against the flow of logic and thereby live a life of faith despite the struggles.
- A young person who has quietly asked me for prayer for a friend at school who is struggling.
- A young person who has texted me and asked for prayer to deal with a break up in relationship with a friend ... and troubles with money that family is experiencing.
- A young person who has sent me a video on facebook asking me some spiritual questions about the historical nature of Jesus' birth.

[continued on page 3]

## OFFICIAL BOARD CONTACT LIST

Official Board Chair  
Jennifer Honsa 905-826-7735

Executive Committee Chair  
Cathy Hitchcock 905-564-0139

Board of Trustees Chair  
James Courtney 905-812-0202

Christian Education Chair  
Rob Gravelins 905-858-2253

Finance Co-Chairs  
Roger Esdon 905-403-1281  
Deanna Hodges 905-819-1164

Ministry & Personnel Co-Chairs  
Lorene Bodiam 905-858-4494  
Cathy Hitchcock 905-564-0139

Outreach Chair  
Bill Powell 905-824-6851

Pastoral Care Chair  
Bev Mathew 905-826-5005

Property Chair  
David Faulkner 905-826-9309

Worship Chair  
Diane Wilton 905-826-2672

Secretary of Official Board  
Ev Courtney 905-826-5665

Church Treasurer  
John Wilton 905-826-2672

UCW Liaison  
Gail Boulton 905-824-4683

Sunday School Superintendent  
Bev Oag 905-819-1253

Church Office Secretary  
Vivian Aspinall 905-826-1542

Minister  
Rev. John Tapscott  
905-812-9483

Please feel free to call any  
Committee Chair with inquiries or  
concerns.

[**Youth Report** continued from page 2]

- A young person who is worried about his cousin's faith and asked for prayer for him and asked me if I could contact him and get involved.
- A young person who recently borrowed a line from a song we sing in senior worship band and listed it as her status on facebook.
- A young person who handed me a bag of things recently and asked if I could give these things away since he stole them to feed his bad habits but wanted to give them away now.
- A young person who brings friends out to Bible study and Youth Group because they want them to have God in their lives.
- A young person who brought their best friend to our program in the hope that they too find God and have Him bring change to their life.
- A young person who admitted to bad choices but asked for prayer for wisdom.
- A young person who admitted to being agnostic but wanted to stay open to the possibility of a God.
- A young person who texted me recently asking me about a person in the Bible and what role they played.

At times like these I feel the warmth of God smiling down on us and melting away all our fears, doubts, confusions and worries in the beauty of His truths ... much like the Spring coming to us after a long hard Winter. Be blessed and do continue to pray much for our young people who are finding God in the reality of their lives.

**Joanna Williams**  
**Youth & Young Adults Ministries**

## GRADUATION

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gown flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt. Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears. This class would NOT pray during the commencements – not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it. The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. The speeches were nice, but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation.

A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and [continued on page 4]

[**Graduation** continued from page 3] then it happened. All 92 students, every single one of them, SNEEZED!!!! The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, 'GOD BLESS YOU'. And he walked off stage. The audience exploded into applause.

This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval. Isn't this a wonderful story? This is a true story. It happened at the University of Maryland.

### **EASTER OFFERING**

An offering envelope is attached in order to give our members and friends the opportunity of making a Good Friday/Easter gift towards the church's work. Strengthening our finances now enables the church to enter the spring and summer months in a sound position and to move forward with the planned projects which were outlined in our annual report. Your generous and consistent financial support is much appreciated.

Also in light of the Finance Report at the Annual Meeting each supporting household is once again asked to consider joining the PAR program. If you are already on PAR it is very easy to adjust your monthly contribution amount. Please give the request your prayerful consideration. PAR forms are available in the Narthex or from the church office.

### **WHY DID JESUS FOLD THE NAPKIN?**

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? I never noticed this ... The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes.

The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!'

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Is that important? Absolutely!

Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew that tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it.

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch the table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table.

The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done.'

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because .....

The folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'

**He is Coming Back!**