

# Streetsville United Church

Fall Tidings 2010

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## CALENDAR

**Sunday Services** 10 a.m.

### Special Services

**Oct 10** Thanksgiving

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Oct 17 (Sunday) -- Fall Potluck Luncheon**

Each fall our congregation has a welcome back event to have a longer opportunity to visit with friends and share the events of the summer. It's also a great opportunity to welcome newcomers into our church family. This year a potluck luncheon will be held after church on Sunday, October 17. Please save this date on your calendar. Plan to bring a special dish to share, as well as your own dishes and cutlery. Beverages will be provided. Watch for further notice in the weekly bulletin.

### **Christianity 101**

An invitation to anyone exploring the Christian faith or church membership. A one evening 2 hour session Thursday November 4 at 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the church library. Speak to Rev. John for more information.

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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
for His steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 106:1

Thanksgiving weekend is upon us and always marks a transition time in many ways. Of course, we think of the weather, which becomes noticeably cooler as we move towards the upcoming winter months. The leaves on the trees have turned brilliant and will soon be falling to the ground. For many people this is a time to close up the summer cottage and begin spending more weekends at home. It is a time of transition for students as studies and assignments begin to pile up. It is a time of transition in the church too, as we notice increased attendance in church on Sundays, especially after the Thanksgiving weekend. I am pleased that our Sunday School is off to a good start with a new leadership team, a new curriculum and a good number of students involved. And there is room for more! We welcome all those who are new to our church family this fall and look forward to your involvement in the congregation's life. It is good to have you among us!

Thanksgiving is a time to turn our thoughts towards God, to thank him for his goodness and steadfast love, and for his bountiful creation which gave overflowing crops in many Ontario fields and orchards this year. Our lives are so much richer when we acknowledge by word and deed the Giver of all our blessings, including his only Son for our salvation unto eternal life. In times of joy or sorrow, in good times and in hard times, the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases and his grace is abundant. So let's give God thanks and express our thanks by abundant acts of love and generosity. I would especially invite you to keep in mind our Streetsville United Food Cupboard and its needs which are listed in the bulletin weekly. I also invite you to the Welcome Back Potluck Lunch to be held after worship on Sunday October 17. If you have been away from church for a time, this event is a wonderful time to become reconnected with your church family. And we must mention our Women's Fall Harvest of Crafts Sale (with a very popular lunch room!) on Saturday October 30. This is a major annual fund raising event which needs our support in whatever way we can.

I thank God for all of you here in this congregation and pray that God may bless you with a sure faith and continued faithfulness. May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving.

**Rev. John**

## CALENDAR continued

**Oct 30 (Saturday)**

**9:30 am - 3 pm**

### **Harvest of Crafts Sale**

The UCW's major fund raising event – our Annual *Harvest of Crafts Sale*, promises to give everyone the opportunity to come and enjoy a wide range of activities. A CRAFTERS MARKET in the Auditorium will offer a broad range of hand made crafts. Our own Gift Shop in the Fellowship Lounge will have a good assortment of nifty, crafty items for you to purchase. Freshly baked pies, tarts, squares and cookies will entice you to our BAKE SHOP in Heritage Hall. Come to our ALL DAY CAFÉ for a fresh cup of coffee and a muffin to start your morning or refresh your mid morning. We will try to help you in your search for treasures amongst our recyclables in ATTIC TREASURES. Preserves, pickles, and other goodies coming from our bountiful Harvest will be found close by in the Bake Shop, and we hope will challenge you to let your taste buds explode. See you at 9:30 am.

### **Regular Features:**

#### **APOLOGIA BIBLE STUDY**

Every Monday night 7:30 to 9 pm meet in the Library. All welcome.

#### **THE CAFÉ**

Every Wednesday 9:30 to 11 am – The Café meet in the Fellowship Lounge. Please join us for refreshments and friendship.

#### **SENIOR CHOIR**

Every Wednesday from 7:30 to 9 pm the Senior Choir practice. They are looking for voices!! All voices welcome! Experience or no experience, ability to read music or no ability to read music. Come and join us, we are a welcoming group.

## **SUC Youth & Young Adult Ministries Report**

I was sitting at our local *Tim Horton's* here in Streetsville with a few people who planned to attend our *CrossWalk* Worship Service. Our conversation was mainly about the way our various youth/young adults programs/ministries are going at Streetsville United Church. One of the young adults at the table said "Well, that's why I keep coming back ..." That comment intrigued me as did the concurring comment from another young person at the table who is attending the 8<sup>th</sup> grade right now and nodded saying: "That's exactly why I want to come out to this youth group ..." Their comments were relating to a larger conversation we were having about a good balance between structure and freedom. Both these young people were expressing their love for a certain amount of freedom and random activity which they find unique to this youth/young adult program. Most youth programs they both said have way too much structure and they find that restrictive.

Over the years in which I've been involved in ministry I have always struggled with the right balance of structure versus freedom. I have to admit that most youth/young adult programs that I have encountered over the years are structured simply for the convenience of the leadership and not open to random individual needs and personalities. I continue to meditate on the life of Jesus and have over the years become comfortable with giving youth greater freedom of expression and activity in the programs I've been privileged to lead. Unfortunately, our lives are so filled with structure that some youth/young adults are uncomfortable with the sudden exposure to too much freedom ... while others see it as a welcome change and thrive in it ... others of course take this new freedom to new heights and I find myself having to set boundaries!! As I look at the life of Jesus I see how greatly he tried to build relationships and not programs. He attended to each individual's needs exclusively ... and not as if they were part of a larger program in which they had to fit. I am in awe of how Jesus related to others and ministered with such ease, looking to meaningful, life changing encounters rather than large volumes of people committing themselves to routine meaningless activities week after week ... Jesus' ministry was infused with meaning and purpose and godly encounters!

This fall we are in discussion over lifestyle Christianity and faith. We are watching the movie, *End of the Spear*, which recounts the true story of missionary Jim Elliot and his friends who gave their lives in order to share God's love with unreached people in remote areas of Ecuador. Jim Elliot's famous quote is "**He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.**" We are meditating on this awesome quote as well as another one where he said, "**The man who will not act until he knows all will never act at all.**" This quote was made in relation to the story of St. Stephen who spoke the truth boldly and acted out of his great faith and as a reward visibly saw the glory of God and Jesus in the flesh as he looked up into the sky for affirmation. Stephen was actually commissioned by the 12 apostles who were the leaders of the early church to wait on tables and feed widows. However, Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit and could not be contained

**YOUTH REPORT** cont'd on page 3

### **GOD IN THE DARK**

Every last Sunday of the month the **GOD IN THE DARK** group meet in the Fellowship Lounge at 5:30 pm to view a film and discuss. Feature film is announced in the bulletin each month [optimally the week before]. Everyone is welcome to join us.

### **UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

Streetsville United Church Women meet every month in **four different units**. The meetings consist of worship, a program and fellowship over refreshments. Three group meet afternoons and one group meets on an evening. If you are interested in joining a unit speak with Katie Powell 905-824-6851.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**

Every second Friday in the month the men of the congregation have a breakfast fellowship in the Heritage Hall at 7 am. If you would like to inquire about speak with Rev. John or Chris Monk.

### **THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

We welcome our regular patrons and encourage those of you who have seldom or never visited the library to drop by for a look at the resources we have on hand. We have purchased a number of new books, CDs and DVDs over the summer including *"Have a Mary Heart in a Martha World"*, also *"Against All Odds – the Chuck Norris Story"* and *"What Every Christian Should Know"*. In addition, we have purchased some books on tape that you can borrow to listen to in your car or a home. One of these is the popular *"The Purpose Driven Life"* and the other is a book that deals with living life in light of eternity. It is called *"When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box"*.

We look forward to seeing you in the library in the near future.

### **YOUTH REPORT** cont'd

by the routine structure of his job description. Wisdom and truth spilled from his life wherever he went until his final encounter with those who lived their lives by meaningless religious structure and routine and were unwilling to let the truth lead them. Stephen gave his life to gain something he could never lose ... relationship with God, faith that was built on truth, and life eternal. The blood of Stephen was the beginning of the great growth and the spread of Christianity to all corners of the earth.

May we too live our lives like he did.

#### **For Stephen**

It's hard to believe in that other world  
Way beyond the sky  
And yet living deep inside my heart  
The very breath that I breathe  
This truth burning inside me like a fire  
Words that consume my mind and life  
Invisible  
Unassuming  
Yet gloriously real  
And when the sky parted that day  
The clouds moving as if in awe  
Everything I knew inside me to be true  
All the words still echoing in that arena  
Where truth became an all consuming necessity  
Appeared in glorious radiance before me  
The God of the Universe  
Both in Glory and in Flesh  
Words rose from somewhere deep within me  
And burst into the air around me  
Declaring this truth which I knew to be true  
But now saw with my own eyes  
It was as if the truth had unleashed a hidden fury  
Consuming anger filled the crowd as they rushed at me  
Dragging me outside the city walls  
And then the stones came  
Their strength and rage threatening to end me  
I could feel my spirit yearning for eternity and the truth  
I looked out at the angry crowd  
Stones and anger characterizing them  
And I saw who they really were  
Filled with fear, hurt and loneliness  
Unsure of who they really were  
I longed from them to see the truth and know forgiveness and peace  
Peace surged through me now  
And sweet sleep consumed me  
Outside these broken city walls  
Outside the world I once knew  
Into that Kingdom Eternal  
Into the arms of limitless love and mercy  
Waiting for me

**Joanna Williams**, Youth Leader

## B.E.L.L.S.

By Michael Frost

Imagine if we all practiced these things from week to week. It would cost but it would be worth it. What we could accomplish!

- Seek to BLESS 3 people each week. One from the community, one from beyond and one from either. This might take the form of an encouraging note or email, a phone call, a gift, an act of kindness, ...
- Seek to EAT with 3 people each week we don't live with. One from the community, one from beyond and one from either. This might be a full meal, meeting for a coffee ...
- Seek to LISTEN to God. Developing a practice of listening so that we take time, at least once each week to listen to God's voice. This might take the form of a prayer, walk along a beach, meditation ...
- Seek to LEARN Jesus each week. Developing a discipline of studying the Scriptures or reading other literature to gain insights into the nature of God. A priority being given to the Gospel stories.
- Seeing life vocation as being SENT by God. Looking for ways in which daily routines are expressions of God's calling on our lives and recognising the ways in which we have been SENT to do his work.

## Sunday School Report

*A church does not grow by addition, but by nutrition.*

**Warren Wiersbe**

The new Sunday School Leadership Team (Vivian Aspinall, Kelli Charky and Dee Hopkins) look forward to working with parents and the congregation in the teaching of our children the Christian faith. We are all responsible for teaching our children and making life-long **disciples for Christ anchored in God's Word** (Mission Statement of our Church).

We wish to provide teachers and parents with support and opportunity for more interaction with each other. To facilitate this we will arrange for time each term to discuss curriculum with the teachers. Parents are always welcome to attend. In addition we will be in touch with teachers and parents via email on a weekly basis. We desire to keep you aware of what the children are being taught and to help you to reinforce and develop themes for discussion with your child at home.

Open Session is led by Dee who continues to work with the children learning a collection of worship songs. Kelli is leading Outreach activities and preparing a monthly newsletter. Vivian has assembled lesson packages. We have signed on to a new curriculum from the online site *Kids Sunday School Place* for lessons and resources for Preschool to Grade 6 students, and *Teen Sunday School Place* for grade 7 and 8 students. Access is available to all teachers, parents, Youth Leader Joanna and anyone in the congregation. User name is Streetsville United and password is succss.

Lessons are arranged on a biblical time line. We hope that by putting biblical events and people into time and space we will assist the students to a more solid comprehension of God in history. Each classroom has a time line chart. It will be used as a visual aid from week to week. We will add events & people to the appropriate time frame week by week. Inserting more detail year to year. Much like adding hangers to a closet. This is a five year plan that would allow for increased depth as students go through Sunday School. Memory work and a take home sheet is included in weekly lessons for Grade JK to 6 students. These take home sheets provide reinforcement to the week's lesson that can be done with parents. We strongly encourage parents to attend regularly so that your child can grasp the time line of God in history. Weekly Lesson Schedule is posted in the bulletin as well as emailed to parents. Schedule for year is available – contact church office.

We thank all involved in the nurturing of our young. Please keep this in your prayers. This year's teachers are:

JK/SK	Randa Tadros / Pam Tume / Wendy Dowling / Julie Tapscott
Gr 1 / 2	John Nowoselski / Emily Ryan
(Please note we are looking for two assistant teachers to help, 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off with the Grade 1 / 2 classroom)	
Gr 3 / 4	Vivian Aspinall / Dee Hopkins
Gr 5 / 6	Beth DeYoung / Kate Sparrow
Gr 7 / 8	Wendy Dowling / Doug Hitchcock