



INSIGHT

DECEMBER, 2011

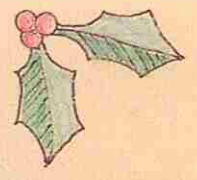
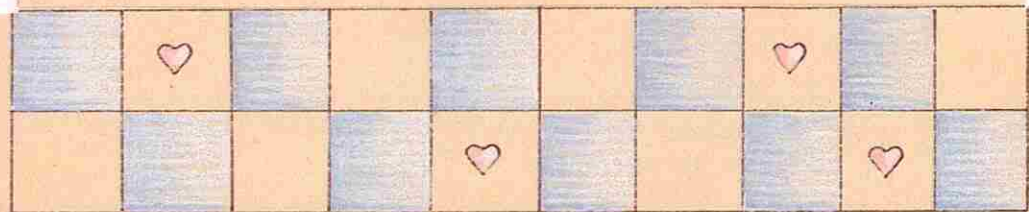
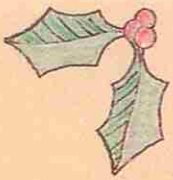
ROSEDALE UNITED CHURCH

159 ROXBOROUGH DRIVE, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M4W1X7

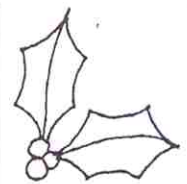
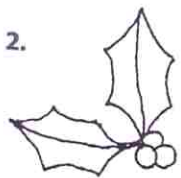
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JOY · TO · THE · WORLD



AT A GLANCE

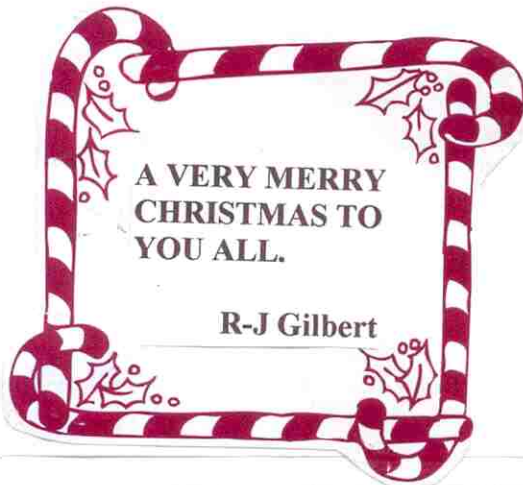
November 27 - 1st Advent Sunday
28 - 7:00 pm – Advent by Candlelight
29 - 7:30 pm – Worship & Music Mtg.

December 4 - Pageant Sunday – 2nd Advent
Soup Lunch
HBF Mini Sale
5 - 7:00 pm – Lay Visitation Mtg.
8 - 2:00 pm – UCW Steering Mtg.
11 - 3rd Advent Sunday - Music Service
11 - 7:00 pm – Taize Service
13 - 7:00 pm – Prayer Circle
14 - 1:30 pm – UCW Christmas Service
18 - 4th Advent Sunday
24 - 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm – Christmas Eve
25 - 10:30 am – Christmas Day Service

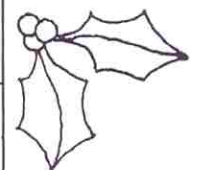
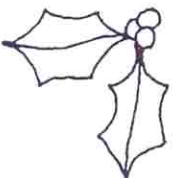
December 26-January 3, 2012 - Church Office closed.

January 16 - 7:00 pm – Lay Visitation Workshop
17 - 7:00 pm – Prayer Circle
24 - 7:00 pm – Board Meeting
26 - 7:00 pm – Social Justice Advocacy

February 13 - 7:00 pm – Caregivers Workshop
20 - Church Office closed - Family Day
22 - Ash Wednesday
26 - RUC Annual General Meeting
29 - This is leap year.



INSIGHT is published four times a year. Submitted items may be subject to editing. The next publication deadline is February 24, 2012.
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KAREN BOWLES

Sometimes when you are in the midst of a challenging situation, you feel as if there is no way out. Everything seems to be falling in on you. You wonder what to do and how you will ever manage. You may even ask, "Where is God in all of this?"

As a parent with responsibilities outside the home, I sometimes feel this way. When I have had a long day, I feel exhausted. After that, moving into my pastoral role as a minister for an evening church meeting takes a little time. But once I get to the church, take a few breaths, something happens and I settle anew into an awareness of God's embracing presence – I look forward to being with others who are reflective – who make space for the divine to fill – who value community – who yearn for social justice – who seek to understand. And I realize how much I have come to value and to depend upon the gift of church – and to value and to depend upon the gift of those with who I am in community – the staff team and those we serve.

And I am grateful for the last six years. Years in which, by example, you have shown me the necessity of trust, of reciprocal accountability, of openness to the Spirit's working, of vulnerability, of forgiveness, of accepting ambiguity and of recognizing moments of grace.

Recently I had my final Conference Interview for ordination. After 2 hours of in-depth theological questioning by a panel of five, the last question was asked: Are you willing to join the Pension Plan?! After beginning this journey some 15 years ago, I will be ordained in May. I would not be in this place without the assistance and guidance of our congregation. And I am grateful. We are blessed with a strong and thriving and faithful church community. We are challenged by an intelligent, caring and involved church community.

There is much offered in the pages of this edition of Insight. Enjoy!

And as we enter the Advent season, on behalf of the staff team,

Peace, Love, Joy and Hope to all.

Karen



Celebration of Doug's 25 years in the United Church and 10 years at Rosedale

Clerk of Session Clare Barry spoke:

Although Doug has requested that it be a 'low key' celebration, we do want to recognize his commitment and leadership during these years as a minister.

"Doug, we want to thank you for continually challenging and encouraging us, individually and as a church to "Learn, Grow and Serve". We are blessed to have you as our team leader at RUC. You help us to honour the past, while working to live in the present in a caring community that loves, respects and looks for ways to find the meaning of the mystery of God, and at the same time, help us to look for new ways to contribute to a better future. May you enjoy this celebration of your years of dedication in your role as a United Church minister."

The Celebration:

Doug, Heather, his mother Elaine Norris and daughters Kathy & Sarah gathered at the front of the church and delivered the Call to Worship. Sarah read one of the scripture lessons. Following the service, Clare hosted the celebration. She spoke the words highlighted above and recognized his family members who were all presented with posy bouquets.

Kristin and Karen gave words of blessing for Doug and presented him with a new stole. Clare announced that a gift had been made to Doug, namely a contribution toward the Haiti trip. Jim Harbell, Mary Lee Laing and Erik Mathiesen paid tribute to Doug. The choir sang. Then everyone was invited to join Doug and family for chocolate cake. There was a large congregation in attendance and not a crumb of cake was left at the end of the reception time.



ROSEDALE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The UCW wishes to thank those members of the congregation who generously supported the Annual Thank Offering Appeal. Your donations will continue to help the work of Sistering, Fred Victor Women's Hostel and Massey Centre.

The traditional CHRISTMAS GATHERING will take place on Wednesday, DECEMBER 14th at 1:30 p.m. There will be a short Christmas service, followed by the filling of 100 gift bags for the recipients of Mid-Toronto Community Services Meals on Wheels Programme. Please come and join others in the fun of filling the bags while singing festive songs. The UCW really needs your help to do this job! Afterwards, stay and enjoy a cup of tea with friends.

The CHRISTMAS GOODIE PLATES, for special members of the church, will be ready for delivery after the service on Sunday, DECEMBER 18TH. In past years, we have been blessed by many who so willingly deliver these plates to those who are unable to attend regular Sunday services. Again, we need the congregation's help.

God's blessings on you all.

Mary Eleanor Morris and Patricia Phair



HOLLY BERRY FAIR BAKE SALE

How can we (MacGregor Unit) thank the many members of our congregation who so wonderfully baked and wrapped the delicious goods they donated for our sale!

It was a great success and we all had a good time. Thank you very much.

Guusje Parks



CLERK OF SESSION - Clare Barry



RUC is blessed to have so many talented and dedicated volunteers along with an excellent staff team. This was certainly acknowledged in the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Pastoral Oversight Committee review of Rosedale United Church. This report was very insightful and positive. The full report is available on the RUC website at <http://rosedaleunited.org/about-2/congregational-policies>

The following are a few quotes from the report:

- “The first thing that needs to be said is that Rosedale United Church is a vital and effective Christian communion within The United Church of Canada, faithfully and conscientiously living out its vision and mission in the ministry of Jesus Christ.
- The next thing that can be said is that leadership at Rosedale United Church, by lay people and ordered ministry, staff and volunteer alike, is industrious and capable, responsible, conscientious and effective.”
- In conclusion, “Rosedale United Church is a high-functioning, faithful United Church congregation. It is well positioned to engage with the challenges of being the church in these fast-changing, modern times. It is intentional about recognizing and adapting to the needs and priorities of this present generation, seeking new understandings, and exploring and designing strategies in order to convey Christ’s promise for life’s meaning and Christian values for life’s abundance. The congregation enjoys a depth and breadth of resource, both financial and in people, and a well-functioning leadership team that is engaged, hard-working, conscientious, responsible, committed, capable, respectful, faithful, adaptable, creative. Rosedale United lives out a vital and vibrant ministry as followers of Christ.”

The commitment and team work by so many to provide “caring and respect to all” whether inside or outside the church walls is evident.

We welcome two new coordinators for two of our outreach programs.

- Bri-Anne Swan is now the Out of the Cold (OOTC) coordinator. (Thank you to Norm Sabapathy and his committee along with the Section Heads for guiding the selection process.)
- Aaron Fenton has agreed to coordinate the RUC Habitat for Humanity teams. Blair McRobie has very skillfully coordinated the RUC Habitat for Humanity projects for several years but has decided it is time to encourage someone to replace him in this role. We thank Blair for his many years of commitment to this project.

Honouring the past and present: The 100th anniversary celebration of our church building is in 2014. We are delighted to announce that Gail McNaughton and Marjorie Lenz have agreed to co-coordinate the 100th anniversary celebration of our building.

Thank you to:

- Mandy and Bill Macrae for leading the Stewardship Campaign
- Janet Stubbs for coordinating the celebration for Doug's 10 years at Rosedale and 25 years as an ordained minister.
- Jason Meyers and Laurie Young for assisting in assessing and recommending an effective communication strategy to the RUC Board.
- Gordon Sopleet for being a RUC representative to Presbytery and also coordinating the Community Canned Goods Drive.
- Judy Brown and Karen Byrant who have been busy organizing the process for having an updated church photo directory. Please book a time to have your photo taken.
- John Hill and the ad hoc committee that reviewed the Associate minister role (pastoral care) to verify it reflected the current needs of the congregation for this role.
- The dedicated team of many people working with Carolyn and Bob Duncanson to create a successful Holly Berry Fair. It is a wonderful beginning to the Christmas season.
- All of you for your ongoing commitment to realize our vision either through your committee work, board work, providing music, involvement in the Sunday services, children and youth programs, pastoral care, praying for others, UCW programs, specific projects identified and "caring for others and self". (This is not an all-inclusive list.)

To "Learn, Serve, and Grow" we continue to be refreshed by thought-provoking services to assist in our personal and collective spiritual explorations. Discussion groups such as the pastoral care education series, the Bible study group, the film series evenings and other small group discussions assist in our reflections. We look forward to learning and being challenged from the group who went to Haiti to do "Habitant for Humanity" builds.

As we move into Advent season may each us reflect on what "hope, love, joy and peace" mean for us individually and collectively in today's world. Advent can be a difficult time for some. Let us be sensitive to others and provide them with cause to experience hope, love and joy also.

May this season be filled with joy for each of you.

Merry Christmas and a spiritually fulfilling New Year.



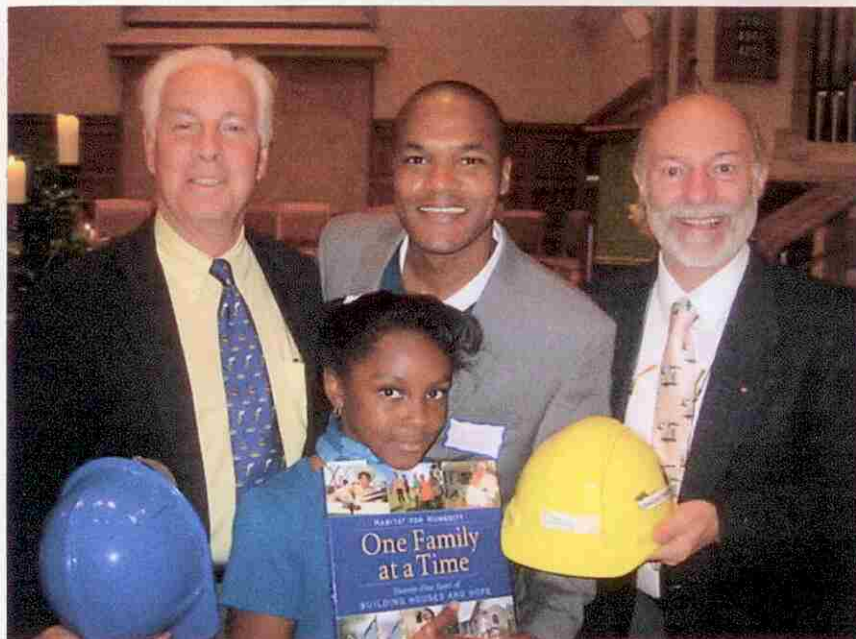


RUC HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD DAYS

Oct. 22, 2011 – Larry Ward, Peggy Mahon, Fraser Zenwirt, Warren Morris, Steven Philipson, Katie Fenton, Claudia Wicks, Dave Wicks, Aaron Fenton.

Nov. 3, 2011 – Margo Mingay, Jason Meyers, Steven Philipson, Aaron Fenton, Jim Pitblado, Blair McRobie, Penny Richards, Gary Ashby.





Enloe Wilson, Faith & Community Relations Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity, Toronto and his daughter Arbor were part of our recognition of Blair McRobie for his initiative and support of Rosedale United's commitment to Habitat for Humanity. Thank you, Blair.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY

"Is this not the worship that I choose? To loose the bonds of injustice, to untie the chains, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house? Then, light shall break forth like the dawn and your healing shall spring up quickly." (Isaiah 58)

Please join us on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Clark Hall for a facilitated discussion about Rosedale United Church's new social justice advocacy initiative. As a first step to developing a group committed to social justice advocacy within the congregation, the meeting will focus on a number of important questions including:

- What is social justice?
- What is the theological rationale for RUC's involvement in social justice advocacy?
- What is the relationship between social justice advocacy and our existing compassionate response programs?
- How can RUC intelligently and compassionately engage in effective social justice initiatives?

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to your participation. If you wish to receive discussion materials in advance of the meeting or if you have any questions, please contact:

Jennifer Wootton Regan at: jwoottonregan@rogers.com or 416-929-1826

Pastoral Care Associates Training



LEARN

GROW

SERVE

Pastoral care is the outward expression of inner spiritual strength.

Quiet dependable acts of loving kindness and restorative compassion at the right time in the right manner are the marks of a caring congregation

In keeping with our vision, a team of trained lay persons serving with the staff team as pastoral caregivers we will be continuing our **visitor training** with those in our community with a view to providing the tools needed to feel more comfortable and competent in making such visits. The first Workshop was held in October. Thereafter, we met in October for a community presentation on dementia and in November for a community presentation on dementia. The balance of the course will be offered as follows:

- Monday Dec. 5, 7-9, Integration of Presentations on Dementia and Grief for Visiting, Recognizing Loneliness and Depression
- Monday Jan. 16, 7-9, Visiting: Prayer, and Praying with Others
- Monday Feb. 13, 7-9, Care for the Caregiver, Self-Care
- A Winter Sunday Worship - Commissioning & Blessing

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Karen Bowles at the church (ext 29)

REFUGEE COMMITTEE REPORT

CURRENT REFUGEE FAMILY

Our official support for Shirin and her daughters Hazah (21), Shakar (16) and sons Hakar (19) and Karo (6) ended in February.

Shirin is continuing English as a Second Language (ESL) courses and has found part-time employment cleaning offices.

Hazah attends a high school focusing on ESL immigrants. After school, she has 2 jobs at a local mall.

Hakar is a high school student, plays soccer and works part-time with his uncle, Sabah, who has a painting contracting company.

Shakar continues to excel at school and is seeking part-time employment.

Karo is becoming so fluent in English that his surprised relatives complain he seems to be losing some of his proficiency in Kurdish.

NEXT REFUGEE FAMILY INITIATIVE

Shirin and Lava still have 2 other sisters living in exile in Syria. Kajal, husband Omar & 4 children, and Shilan, husband Ayub & baby are seeking refugee status in Canada.

Representatives of the Refugee Committee met with Ian McBride of AURA (Anglican United Refugee Assoc) in June to review these 2 applications. Both files are in final AURA review process to then be expedited to Immigration Canada for consideration & processing. The best estimate of their arrival time in Canada would be late 2012.

Kajal and Shilan and their families are forced to change location frequently to avoid scrutiny by the Syrian officials. The current unrest in Syria underscores these precarious living conditions and reinforces our resolve to assist, within our financial means, those who require assistance to immigrate to Canada.

Our Board-approved commitment is to provide partial financial support to both families within the same budget as we would have for one family. AURA would co-ordinate the remaining financial support.

Please join us in praying for the safe, early arrival of these two families. Reuniting these 2 sisters and their families with their mother, 2 sisters, brother and other relatives in Toronto has been our objective since 2009 when the Rosedale United Church Refugee Committee was first presented with Shirin's case.

Claude Hould
Chair, Refugee Committee

