



Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

"Nurturing the Spirit"

Advent 2017

Ministry Message

Irene Greenwood

***Please join us for worship -
Sundays at 10:30 am***

Sometimes, when we follow the same pattern of doing things year after year, there is a level of comfort that lulls us to sleep. That is often true as we head through Advent into the Christmas season. There is a time for putting up decorations and a time for baking, a time for buying presents and a time for wrapping, a time for turning on the Christmas carols – and a time for turning them off! It all follows a pattern, year after year. And sometimes the pattern is so familiar, we no longer give it much thought.

As someone who leads worship services, it sometimes feels like it is the same old, same old, year after year in church as well. The prophets foretell, the Baptist prepares the way, the angels appear, Mary sings, Joseph dreams, shepherds watch, kings follow, a baby is born – and there is still no room at the inn. Starting with the first Sunday in Advent we hear these stories – the same ones we have been hearing for a long, long time. They are challenging stories – and they are meaningful stories, but because we have heard them so often, they sometimes fail to wake us up.

The pattern of reading these stories year after year is set for us in what we call “the lectionary” or in particular, the “Revised Common Lectionary” (RCL). The RCL is a three year cycle of scripture readings that many churches use as the basis for their services of worship. Last year, at Crescent Fort Rouge UC, I made a decision to switch to a different lectionary – the “Narrative Lectionary.” This is a four year cycle of readings in which the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from the creation stories through to the early Christian church. The focus is just a wee bit different than that of the RCL.



And I have to say that it was during Advent that I really began to appreciate the difference with this lectionary because Advent began, not with Isaiah proclaiming “For unto us a child is born, a son is given...”, but with Daniel in the lion’s den. When I first realized this I wondered “what on earth does Daniel in the lion’s den have to do with the birth of Jesus?” What is the Christmas or Advent message in this story?

Well, there is not enough room in this newsletter to answer these questions, but the long and the short of it is, I had to do a lot of research and thinking to see that there really was a connection. The story of Daniel is about an act of defiance in the political arena. The story of Christmas is of a baby born in poverty, who became a refugee, and who would grow up to defy the norms of society and speak out against the religious and political authorities of his day and bring a message of hope to the world. But

the point I want to make now, is that it was the act of using a different lectionary that helped me hear the same old story in a new way. It woke me up anew to the Christmas message. It broke the pattern of lulling myself to sleep with the story that I have heard so many times. It was a small thing that made a big difference in my own way of going through the season.

So this year, I find myself looking ahead with a certain level of anticipation and a little fear as I wonder what the narrative lectionary has in store for us this Advent season. I would encourage all of us to approach Advent and Christmas, with our senses open to experiencing new things. Shift a tradition, try offering a different ministry to the community, find new stories, change your guest list, do something new and awaken our senses and our hearts to an old message in new ways.

From The Pew

Dorian Phillips

The days are getting shorter... the hats, scarves and mittens are now out. We all know winter is upon us. Some people like it, some not so much.

Fall/ Winter also means Advent, waiting for Jesus. While we wait life continues - work, school and the business of life. It reminds me to slow down, cherish loved ones and to remember Jesus and all of those involved in that miraculous birth.

Ideas for family advent activities at home:

Week 1: Hope ~ Discuss people's hopes

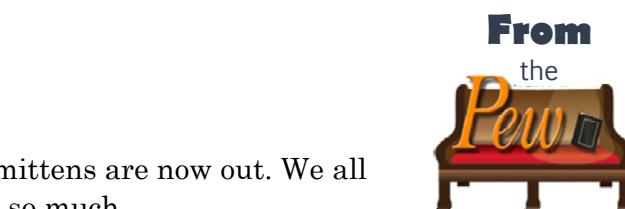
- As individuals
- As a family
- As a community
- As a world

Week 2: Peace

- What is peace?
- How can we as a family help create peace?
- Why is peace hard to find in our world?
- What prevents peace in the world?

Week 3: Joy ~ Spread joy around

- Bake together and share with neighbours, family
- Help a member of your family or a friend who needs help getting out, do some Christmas shopping, attend a Christmas concert
- Volunteer with the Christmas Cheer Board



Week 4: Love ~ I Love you

- Show each other love
- Do kind things for each other, in secret
- Spend time together, playing games, decorating, reading, skating, tobogganing

Merry Christmas



Their annual Christmas gift store is fast approaching and they need your help to make it happen, through donations and volunteering!

stmatthewsmaryland.ca

volunteers@stmatthewsmaryland.ca

Check In with the Chair

Murray Gibbings, Leadership Team Chair

As we enter the season of Advent, waiting and celebrating the arrival of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas, it reminds me of the reason that I go to church. The conclusion of the year makes me look back at the events that have happened through the year and the ones that are about to happen. The Fall Supper, Wind Chamber Concerts, and Artfest are some of the events which are special because of the people who attend and help at these venues. I would like to applaud the work done by our Leadership Team and church staff - without their help our church would not function as smoothly as it does. By supporting our church financially and through volunteer work, our parishioners form an essential part of the church. The group effort has made this a very successful year for our church by allowing us to offer concerts, events, and programs to our community while following in the path of Jesus Christ.

This year will also be unique as Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday so two services will be offered that day. The Christmas season ushers in my favorite church campaign “Say it with Stars” that allows everyone to honour someone in their life from the past or present through the purchase of special stars, which are hung in our sanctuary. Our sanctuary will soon have a different look as new carpet tile is about to be installed because of a generous donor. I’m sure other positive changes will accompany our church in the upcoming year and with your help I look forward to continuing the great tradition that Crescent Fort Rouge UC has in our community.

Finance Committee Update

This 3rd Quarter Financial Update was prepared by the Finance Committee to show you the financial health of our church.

Please note that Fundraising is now being shown as a net income with the Expenses associated with fundraising removed.

Income has fallen behind expenses by \$22,918. Donations to M and S continue to be generous

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Crescent Fort Rouge United Church Quarterly Financial Update Financial Summary for January to September 2017			
	Totals for Year to Date (Jan - Sept)	2017 Annual Budget	Percentage of 2017 Budget
Income:			
Local Church	\$113,054	\$167,975	67%
Building-Critical Repair	\$21,286	\$3,000	710%
Fundraising (Net)	\$4,221	\$7,500	56%
Other	\$43,672	\$77,850	56%
Total income	\$182,232	\$255,825	71%
Expenses	\$205,150	\$255,825	80%
Income less Expenses	-\$22,918	\$0	-9%
M and S	\$25,507	\$40,000	64%



"The Stars are Coming"



Say: "Happy Birthday" or "Congratulations" or "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Anniversary"



Say: "Thank you for all the good things I have"



Say: "I miss you, and think of you often"

Say: "...your own words..."

"SAY IT WITH STARS" gives you an opportunity to purchase a star to be hung from the balcony and grace our sanctuary over the Advent and Christmas season. By purchasing a star, you may honour a special person or event, at the same time helping Crescent Fort Rouge UC continue to engage in the many and varied ministries within these walls and beyond our doors. The stars come in gold, silver, blue or red; you may designate a colour if you wish. Amount of the gift is also your choice. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount of your gift. Donors will be listed in the bulletin but individual gift amounts will not be published.

Star gift forms are available in bulletins and extra forms are available from the church office or at the back of the sanctuary.

All donations for the 2017 tax year must be in the office (or postmarked) on or before December 31.

Pastoral Care Ministry Group Life Story Project Update

Marlene Beaty

In the past year, many folks have been busy telling their life stories to others who record them and print them into "books". Watch for news of another "Celebration Event" coming early in the new year when we unveil the new stories! There promises to be some very interesting material!

In the meantime, don't forget that we have Life Story booklets for borrowing. They are located in a shelving unit just outside Irene's office. Please be sure to sign out the book or books on the sheet provided and return it in a few weeks.

Passages

Baptisms

November 12 • Joanna Frances Fleming
{Daughter of Lauren Sawchuk and John Fleming }

In Memoriam

November 16 • Barb Cook

THANKS for supporting the recent sale of **Safeway/ Sobeys Gift Cards**. Without donating any extra money and without spending hours of time, you helped contribute an extra **\$1730** to the CFRUC operating funds. Combined with the proceeds from a similar project in February we brought in **\$2657.50** for the support of our congregation.

Alleluia Singers Ministry Group

Donna Fillingham

The Alleluia Singers have been engaged in our musical ministry for over six years, rehearsing on Monday evenings and sharing our Gospel Music in a variety of ways and occasions. Emily Harasen has been our organizer and treasured director since the beginning, providing us with the guidance and zest which we can then pass on through songs such as, "Find Us Faithful", "Just a Little Talk With Jesus" and "Be Strong in the Lord".

We have performed in concert once or twice per year since 2012, to fundraise for CFRUC. In addition, for the past few years, our choir of about a dozen singers has participated in an outreach program where we sing for appreciative audiences in a few seniors' residences. These have included The Waverley, Thorvaldson's nearby on Stradbrook Avenue, The Poseidon, and Sterling House. We perform free of charge.

Our membership includes community plus Crescent Fort Rouge UC folks. If anyone is considering a comfortable yet meaningful spiritual music venture, simply inquire. Our choir welcomes new voices.



Gardeners Ministry Group

Barb Masterman

The CFRUC Gardeners include: Barb Masterman, Jane Nattrass, Alex Anderson and her daughter Maddie, Sharon Silcox, Lisa Haley, and Shannon Reed. We were also aided in one specific project by the willing hands of Doug Holroyd. It is true that '*many hands make light work*'.

The CFRUC Gardeners have had a busy season! We've planted a few new perennials and bushes, prettied up the gardens with colourful annuals, and added donated hostas, as well as dividing some of our larger hostas and transplanting the divisions. We are so pleased when we hear positive comments from the congregation or from strangers walking past - or when we see people sitting in the Memory Garden, enjoying the peace & beauty.



New lawn edging

We took on two larger projects this year: improving the appearance of the Agnes Saunders Stone at the entrance to the Memory Garden and putting in lawn edging along the Nassau and Wardlaw gardens. The stone was sent to Westwood Memorials for power-washing and letter repainting. It looks so bright and welcoming now! Hopefully the edging will now keep grass and weeds from invading the gardens.

This fall, the CFRUC gardens were gifted with 30 daffodil bulbs thanks to the Brown family. These were planted in the Memory Garden in October, in the hope that they will brighten our spring gardens. Covered with chicken wire & blood meal, we feel sure that the squirrels won't get them!

Now we'll leave the job of beautifying the CFR gardens to Mother Nature for the winter.

Planning and Transformation Hub (PATH 2) UPDATE

We continue to hold the following questions in mind as we move through our next commitment to the congregation which is to analyze the feasibility of expanding our activities.

- Is it what God is calling us to do?
- Does it provide benefit to us and others?

PATH 2 is following a fairly standard list of factors in a business sense which are examined for feasibility. For example, we are looking at the financial requirements of new ideas and sources of income to implement and sustain new activities. We currently have a list of funding or granting sources and we are making contact with each to determine if they are applicable to CFRUC. We are considering each new potential activity for how it will engage and serve community both within and outside the church, alternative scenarios, other locations where it has been implemented and what it will take to implement.

PATH 2 is working as quickly as time allows us without sacrificing any thoughtfulness. It is our goal to provide a well-researched and articulated presentation on our work early in 2018. Our team thanks you for your input, wisdom and patience as we continue to move forward.



“The Welcoming Tree
...so named by Dora Bonner who said,
“No matter what you end up doing, please
preserve the Welcoming Tree”.

“That the congregation of CFRUC approve the concept of expanding our outreach to children, youth, families and seniors in the neighbourhood while also expanding our hospitality to the arts community.”

~ Motion passed January 22, 2017

PATH 2 Team: Sandi Howell, Irene Greenwood, Bill Gillis, Doug Holroyd, Ian Fillingham, Linda Thorlakson and Colin Reed.

Hospitality to the Arts is Thriving!

In the last twelve months, at least 30 different groups have used our space for music and performance, practice, workshops, a film seminar and a flower festival. On top of this, 47 different bands have attended All Ages/ Emerging Performers events! Add to this Artfest and you can see that the Ministry of Hospitality to the Arts is thriving at CFRUC.

CFRUC wishes to be open and welcoming to all by using all aspects of our being. Art via CFRUC’s Ministry of Hospitality to the Arts engages the mind, body and spirit, in turn embodying love and deeper connections with others. Through this we recognize the spirit’s artistic call to creation.

Hospitality to the Arts helps us to live out the concept that CFRUC does not have conditions on coming into this place – our church. It is an act of opening the door on behalf of the congregation.

Hospitality to the Arts is one way of being a welcoming presence in the Osborne Village community.

Artfest Update

Time is moving quickly! Artfest has made several grant applications to date as we do every year. We expect to receive news about these by the end of January. However, this does not stop us from moving forward, planning the Art Show and also considering events. Plans include:

- Zabathon III
- Art Show
- Connie Kaldor concert
- Films by Indigenous Women of Winnipeg III
- Diana MacIntosh (performance artist)

We want to ensure that everyone in the congregation, children and youth included, know that they are invited to participate in the art show and to suggest other events. For example, we have a great suggestion about a potential author's reading event from a congregation member. Please see our website [cfrucartsfest.weebly.com] for a Call to Artists for the art show or approach Sandi for a copy.

There are several other events under discussion. A full schedule will be included in the next newsletter.

The Keep Theatre is a small artist run centre that will develop and produce original theatre works and adaptations of contemporary and classic texts.



The Keep was created by **Carson Nattrass** and **Sharon Bajer** who are currently artists in residence at CFRUC. The vision for *The Keep* is to design productions which run first in Winnipeg and then tour nationally and internationally. Amongst other things, *The Keep* will also provide workshops and create bridges between other groups in the immediate vicinity of CFRUC such as the Deaf Centre, retirement homes and the daycare.



CFRUC is thrilled to have Carson and Sharon in our building and to support this new and innovative theatre.

We look forward to their first production, January 31 to February 17.

Winnipeg and Crescent Fort Rouge are getting “crankie”!

A local musician, Andrew Galloway, has partnered with Crescent Fort Rouge UC and ArtFest to create some magical moments next season! A *crankie* is an old storytelling art form. It's a long illustrated scroll that is wound onto two spools. The spools are loaded into a box which has a viewing screen. The scroll is hand-cranked while the story is told. It can be accompanied by a narrative, song or tune. Maybe you remember crankies from Sunday School days way before technology came in. Are you interested in getting “crankie” (involved)? We can connect you with Andrew. Check out this website for more information on crankies.

www.thecrankiefactory.com



Partnership between Crescent Fort Rouge UC and Reaching Out Winnipeg

CFRUC has recently partnered with Reaching Out Winnipeg (ROW). For almost six years, ROW has been helping people from other countries who face serious discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity.

In 72 countries, LGBT people can be punished with imprisonment or public torture and in at least eight countries they face the death penalty. Because of these terrible circumstances many LGBT people flee their homes to nearby countries that are only marginally safer and that allow for temporary refuge. These people must therefore seek permanent placement in countries like ours that can provide lasting security.

ROW has helped seven refugees to settle in Canada with most living in Winnipeg. As one who has actively participated in this resettlement process, I can tell you that these new residents are amazing people who are becoming contributing members of our society. I have felt privileged to be a part of the work of ROW.

The reason for ROW's partnership with our church - Obtaining charitable status can be a protracted and difficult process. We are working in this direction, but it is currently difficult to inspire people to donate to an organization when the donor will receive no tax relief in the bargain. Bill Gillis wanted to find a way the church could help. The result was that a "memorandum of understanding" was created between CFRUC and ROW. This agreement allows folks to contribute to the work of ROW, but to make their donations to CFRUC. They will therefore receive an income tax receipt. CFRUC maintains absolute control of the moneys that are given and designated to ROW, but will disburse the funds to ROW for all reasonable requests related to its purpose and work.

This new relationship serves to expand CFRUC's outreach ministry. As there are so many projects related to the life and work of the church that seek your financial support, ROW will work hard to seek support from the larger community. If, however, this work inspires you to make a small donation, it will be gratefully received and will be put to good use. Simply make a notation on your remittance that designates the donation to ROW.

Thank you to our wonderful church that seems to rise to every opportunity to make the world a better, kinder place.

Doug Holroyd

UCOBSERVER



This is an early reminder to *Observer* subscribers that subscriptions expire in January. The cost is unchanged at \$25.00 per year. *Observer* rep, Diane Gillis, will receive your money directly, or cash or cheque may be put in an envelope and placed on the offering plate. New subscriptions are, of course, always welcome. If you are not familiar with this monthly magazine, you might want to check out some past copies on the table in the Fellowship Hall.



FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA & CHOCOLATE make great

Christmas gifts! There is always a supply of tea and chocolate available for purchase in the church office. Just speak to Shirley Nicol or Donna Fillingham.

Crescent Fort Rouge United Church
525 Wardlaw Ave at Nassau St N
Winnipeg, MB R3L 0L9
Phone: 204-475-6011
Email: cfruc@mts.net