

OLD WINDHAM UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017/2018

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

2018 Offering Envelopes available for pick up
3 – Advent I
10- Advent II & White Gift Sunday
10 - Christmas Family Pot Luck Dinner 5 pm
14- UCW meeting 1:30 pm-shut-in cookies boxed up
17 – Advent III
24 – Advent IV & Christmas Service 10:30 am
24 – Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

January

4 & 8 – New beginner Tai Chi class starts - 7:30 pm
18 – UCW Annual Meeting & Election of Officers 1:30 pm
20 – Ladies Breakfast –location to be announced
25 - Church Council Meeting
26 – deadline for committee reports for annual congregational meeting

February

13 – Shrove Tuesday
14 – Ash Wednesday
14 – Valentines Day
Annual meeting – date to be determined

March

11 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
17 – St. Patrick's Day
25 – Palm Sunday
30 – Good Friday



JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Ralph Robinson is our chair and Sheila Evans is our secretary for the Search Committee.

The JNAC report is now available on the church website. The committee has an ad for the ministerial position to be posted to the church national availability list. Resumes will be accepted starting December 15 through to February 15th.

OLD WINDHAM UNITED CHURCH

30 Glendale Crescent

Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 4M2

www.OldWindham.ca

Office@OldWindham.ca ~ Tuesday to Friday: 9 a.m., to 1:00 p.m.

Cindy Smith, Church Administrative Secretary ~ Cindy@OldWindham.ca

Lorne Evans, Music Director ~ nosharpsplease@bell.net

Paula Rasokas, Church Council Chair ~ Paula@OldWindham.ca

Thom Davies, Minister ~ thom.davies@me.com

The Question Box

Thom, what's that Benediction you use every Sunday. And where did it come from?

Almost every Sunday for the last 20 years I've used the same Benediction.

**Life is short,
and we do not have to much time
to gladden the hearts of those who
travel the way with us.
So be swift to love, make haste to be
kind
And for Christ sake take care of each
other.
As you do may the blessing of God be
with you all.**

I started using it after I heard Professor Marcus Borg use a Benediction something like this after a lecture. He said his wife used it every Sunday. I wrote what I remembered of his Benediction and then traced the original quote back to a journal entry of **Henri Frédéric Amiel** (1821-1881) a Swiss philosopher, poet, and critic. On December 26, 1868, Amiel wrote in his journal, **"Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. Oh, be swift to love, make haste to be kind!"**

That is were it started and then I added the ...for Christ's sake bit after presiding over a troubled and divided church service at Wesley Center. The mix of a large crowd from a theologically conservative United Church (maybe 40 folks) and a bunch of homeless folks was fairly volatile that Sunday so I just added at the end of the service ... and for Christ sake take care of each other. And it stuck.

Thom

****If you have a question you would like Thom to have a go at, let him know.**

FESTIVE FARE

The Festive Fare was held on Saturday November 25, 2017 and was an amazing Christmas event at the church. Many positive comments were made by the people from the community that attended.

The Festive Fare included vendors in the gym and in the parlour, new and nearly new items as well as Christmas crafts in the parlour, pies, baking, preserves, silent auction, jewellery and the café in the basement.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped in any way to make this event so successful.

The total raised from this endeavour was approximately \$5,500.00!!

Joanne Pond, Jane Drescher, Janice Kochany.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE



CARING CUPBOARD DONATIONS

The last date for non-perishable donations to be placed in our shopping cart for the caring cupboard is December 17. They will be delivered on December 20. Please no expired or previously opened products and no dishwasher detergent.

KEYNOTES FROM YOUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

It has certainly been a busy fall for the choir at Old Windham United.

Old Windham United hosted “An evening of MUSIC UNITED” on Saturday, November 4th, 2017. Choristers, soloists and musicians united in music from Burford, Courtland, Delhi, Lynnville, Jerseyville, Grace (Port Dover), Old Windham and St. James (Simcoe) United churches. The concert included both sacred and secular music. 230 people attended this event and singers from all of the churches formed a mass choir of 72 voices to end the program. I posted one of the final anthems on Facebook and over 650 FB followers have viewed this post. Below, are a few excerpts from feedback received:

- *wonderful*
- *what an incredible night of music at Old Windham United church. Your vision and passion to bring together so many churches with choirs, vocalists, pianists and the mass choir brought such warmth to my heart and many others. Thank you so much! A perfect Saturday night.*
- *thank you for sharing your many talents, time and love of music with so many others, to bring together such an extraordinary evening of music and comraderie. We enjoyed each choir and vocalist, the combined choir (with your choice of music) it was glorious! My husband appreciated your choice of hymns during the interludes; hymns dear to our hearts and reminiscent of church services past. What an amazing evening this was! Bringing many choirs together for an evening to remember at Old Windham.*
- *loved it!*
- *an outstanding, uplifting evening!*
- *it was a fantastic night. Personally, I felt The Holy Spirit in our church more than I have in*

a long, long time. Thank you for infusing Him into our church again.

Due to the positive responses to this concert, I would hope to see this concert continue on a yearly basis. Early November 2018? Stay tuned.

In October, we began our practices for a Christmas cantata “Did You Hear The Story?” Narration will be delivered by Cyanne Allen, Maddie Bard and Eric Bootsma. Several vocalists from nearby churches (who love to sing in a larger choir) asked to join us. Also, I invited Joe Vadasz (percussionist) from Delhi United. We look forward to Emma Robinson’s liturgical dance as well. This cantata will be presented on Sunday, December 3rd – Advent I.

In addition, practice of Christmas anthems for Sunday services in December continue.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part or supported the music program at Old Windham United.

In closing, I wish for you, your family and friends, a meaningful Christmas filled with joy, peace and time to reflect on the blessings of 2017.

Sincerely,

Lorne Evans

 <p>Investment Planning Counsel™ IPC INVESTMENT CORPORATION</p>	<p>Barry Malcolm CFP Certified Financial Planner</p>	<p>71 Thompson Road, Waterford Ontario N0E 1Y0 Tel: 519 443-8218 Fax: 519 443-4167 Cell: 519 428-7091 Email: bmalcolm@kwic.com</p>
---	--	--

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Christmas Shoe Boxes have been filled and sent on their way. Thanks to all who participated.

This year we will be contributing to the Wesley Christmas Store instead of holding a White Gift Sunday. It feels good to get back to active support of Wesley, we can see the results of our efforts and I believe even volunteer in their programs.

We have been studying proposals from Church Out Serving to help in their community service programs. At present they are seeking \$100.00 donations from individuals to develop the Riverside 83 projects as well as a \$6000.00 donation from Old Windham itself over a two year period. There will be a need for volunteers with a variety of skills, we will keep you posted. More information can be obtained from the Outreach Committee or on the Church Out Serving website: <http://www.churchoutserving.org/>

We will be visiting the Sew on Fire facilities in the near future to see how we can assist in their programs.

Please study the Gifts With Vision catalogue of charitable gifts, available from the Church or as received in your United Church Observer magazine. If you do not subscribe to the award winning Observer, check out a few copies from the table by the office and see why we are so enthusiastic in supporting it!

Do you know where your donation dollars go? Perhaps no one place is perfect but some are more efficient than others. It pays to research the programs you are thinking of supporting and especially read the small print. With so many choices we have to exercise discretion to meet our wishes to help.

Lee Whitehead, Chairperson.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

- The heating system is working well. It seems, too well. The registers in the washrooms are much too hot and there seems to be no way to regulate them. Jeff Causyn is being consulted regarding a solution.
- For security and ventilation reasons we may need to remove the shrubs on the East side of the sanctuary.
- Lighting in the Sunday School room is gradually failing. One fixture has already stopped working. Rather than try to repair them, it seems sensible to replace them now. Zortek Lighting has been consulted and they are working up an estimate for replacement with LED panels. Clear Results, a branch of Hydro One, will give rebates for this kind of project. This program runs out in the near future. Report coming later.
- The sump tank that collects waste water from the kitchen has been repaired with a new automatic switch and check valve. The cover has been remanufactured to cut down odour in the furnace room.
- Light bulbs in the parlour have been replaced or will be soon, and the burned out bulbs in the sanctuary will be replaced as well.
- Gord Jamieson will not be cutting the grass next year. We need to consider a plan to replace his service.
- Dave Gilbert is cutting down on his work load but will still be clearing snow from our property this winter.
- Scott Dawson will be monitoring the parking lot this winter and salting it when needed.
- Dave Saltzberry, our caretaker, is on holiday from November 18 to December 4. Hopefully there will be members of the congregation who will help us take up the slack 'til he returns.

We have a beautiful building and it is being kept in good shape. Hopefully, it will serve as our place of worship for some time to come.

Don Daley, Chair.

JUST FOR A CHUCKLE

A young man named John received a parrot named "Chief" as a gift.

The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to clean up the birds' vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up and yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. In desperation, John threw up his hands, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer! For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute.

Fearing that he had hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer.

The Parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arm and said, *"I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can do to correct my rude and unforgiveable behaviour."*

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behaviour, the bird continued, *"May I ask what the turkey did?"*

UCW

First of all, a "REALLY BIG THANK YOU" to many people who have shared time and talent over the past month and more:

Donors of fruit for our frozen pie bees;

Those who came & helped make pies and do the other related jobs;

Those who baked for the bake table for the Festive Fare or contributed to the "new & nearly new table"

We have sold all of the large pies but have a few of the small individual ones left.

We were able to purchase 3 additional extension tables which greatly save the backs of our ladies when rolling dough or placing tops & bottoms in pie tins.

December is somewhat busy with the invitation from St. James ladies to a pot luck supper at 6:00 pm on Dec. 12 followed by our own meeting on Dec. 14. This is our meeting for assembling Cookie trays for our shut-ins and delivery of some following the meeting.

The Exec will meet on Dec. 4 at 9:30 am in the parlour to plan for next year and make recommendations for disbursement of funds.

With regard to Festive Fare, we have left an assortment of wreaths, arrangements and gift baskets in the Parlour. If you find you have a need, drop in during office hours or call 519-428-1178. (J. Daley)

Carter's
Men's and Ladies Wear

"See Carter, Dress Smarter"

42 Norfolk St. S., Simcoe, ON N3Y 2V9
519-426-1551
email: carters@amtelecom.net

FUN & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Our committee helped Lorne with refreshments for his Music United evening on November 4th. Many thanks to everyone on the committee and to everyone who helped provide cookies and squares. We had a lot to serve and what was left was packaged and donated to the bake table for the Festive Fare.

We had a mystery lunch on November 15. 23 of us went to Shelley’s Family Restaurant which was originally Kohler United. A full course meal with 3 choices served.

We organized a Silent Auction and Jewellery Table for the Festive Fare on November 25. Between the 2 we raised \$755.00.

Our congregational Christmas potluck will be December 10 – arrive @ 5:00 p.m. with dinner @ 5:30. Santa will be there and singing of Christmas carols to follow. Please bring plates and cutlery.

Our next lunch will be local on January 24th. Details to follow as well as a sign-up sheet.

Lorne Evans will be the chair for 2018 and Gertrude Nicks will be the vice chair.

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New year from all of us.

Carol Sproule, Diane Hiley, Lorne & Sheila Evans, Murray & June Barnet, Glenna Liles, Gertrude Nicks, Peggy Winter, Jeanne Whitehead

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Music United concert –Although not a fundraiser, we raised approximately \$750 for the General Fund. A DVD will be made and sent to each church or soloist in mid December.

Lorne will be taking vacation Sunday December 31, 2017 and the full month of January 2018.

White Gift will be December 10th
 No service on Christmas Day.
 Thom will be away Dec. 31.
 Baptism will be January 7, 2018.

Mike Sproule



Pilates:

Pilates class started Wednesday, September 20th @ 5:15 pm.
 \$125 for 10 class pass.

Strong Bones Strong Bodies:

A gentle restorative Pilates class suitable for anyone with osteoporosis, arthritis or recovering from injury.
 Strong Bones Strong Bodies - Mondays & Wednesdays @ 11:15 am.
 \$85 for 10 class pass

Mind Body Fitness Program for Cancer survivors:

The Mind Body Spirit program for Cancer Survivors free program
 Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 pm

