

### Sunday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Finance meeting – Lower Centennial Hall  
 10:30 Service - Sanctuary  
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour  
 12:00 p.m. Epiphany Party – Centennial Hall

### Monday, January 6

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. Beavers - gym

### Wednesday, January 8

9:30 a.m. UCW - Chapel  
 2:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Chapel  
 6:30 p.m. Meditation Group –James' office  
 7:30 p.m. Board meeting - Chapel

### Thursday, January 9

7:00 p.m. Scouts – gym  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

### Saturday, January 11

8:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast – gym/Parlour  
 9:30 a.m. Women's Spirituality - #302 - 67 Richmond St., RH  
 3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Lower Centennial Hall

**Minister's message:** 2020. It will quickly become a tired trope, but there is something about the number that invites us to approach this year with clarity of vision. This applies to us as individuals, but also as a community of faith. We named our vision in our 2018 Mission Action Plan, especially being a "centre for community". Last year we focused a good deal of energy on this as we interviewed community stakeholders, held a large roundtable, engaged SHS Consulting to help us discern the viability of our facilities, and called together a working group to start planning a concert series. This coming year will bring greater clarity as we make decisions about all three of our buildings. Being a "centre for community" is our goal regardless of final decisions about property, and so we tasked the communications team to engage in a renaming process for the CD Building. Keep your eyes open for an online survey that will help us narrow from 10 to 3 possible names followed by a community focus group. This will help us share our vision with our neighbours and partners. Connecting to the wider community is more than sharing space. It is also sharing who we are as a congregation and so we held a Community Welcome Sunday in the fall. More than a one Sunday strategy, it is important that we keep inviting friends and neighbours to join us. With this in mind, I recently signed up for a congregational development course to help us build on our initial success. One part of the course is developing a "why statement" rooted in our history. I will be asking for help from long-time members, so stay tuned. All of these together will help us to see more clearly not just who were to be but how we will get there. But we aren't alone. We are guided by the Holy Spirit. May we continue to be open to her prompting as we each pray for clarity not just for ourselves but for RHUC.

## worship and music

**Sunday, Jan 5:** This coming Sunday is a fun day for the whole family. Beginning with our worship service at 10:30 am, we will reflect together on 3 epiphany stories - the coming of magi, Jesus' baptism, and the miracle of water being turned into wine. This is a service for all ages as we dramatize these stories, connect with one another and share in communion. Then, in Centennial Hall we are having a party. Join in crafts, play some games, decorate a star cookie. And have a piece of king cake. If you find the almond you get to be queen or king for the rest of the day! It's going to be lots of fun.

**Sunday, Jan. 12:** Having reflected on the baptism of Jesus a week early, we get to reflect on his time in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11) early too. We usually hear this story in Lent but it is recounted as taking place after Jesus' baptism, so why not hear it now?

## programs for all

**Bible Study:** We will resume in January should there be interest. Please let James know if you want bible study to continue.

**H.A.I.R. –** Our Monday evening study group (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and other Rif-raff), which welcomes and explores questions, doubts and uncertainties about the relevance of our faith, will resume on Monday January 6 at 7:00-8:30 in the chapel. On the 6th we will watch and discuss one last TED talk (on the subject of science and religion) before beginning on January 13 an 8-week study of John Spong's provocative and definitive final book, Unbelievable. This book argues that Christians need to replace rigid, problematic and outdated dogma with a radically new kind of Christianity connected to human experience and the advances in our knowledge. New participants are welcome at any time, but January 6th or 13th are good obvious starting points.

**RHUC Book Club:** Please join us on **Wednesday, January 29th at 7 p.m.** in the RHUC Chapel to discuss two books: **The Story of Arthur Truluv** by Elizabeth Berg AND **Now That You Mention It** by Kristan Higgins. Both of these books are more light-hearted than the 'heavier' books we have been reading this fall. New members are welcome to join us at any time. No previous book club experience is necessary - just a love of reading and discussing books. We are a friendly bunch! For more details about the group, please speak to Deb Fratin in the church office (905.884.1301) or Sandra Loughton, Book Club Facilitator.

**Shalom Seekers:** On **Monday, January 6th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** in the Chapel we will start a discussion of the book "Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I've Loved)" by Kate Bowler. For that session, please read the Preface and Chapter One: Diagnosis. New members are always welcome. Please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton (Co-Facilitators) for more details. We hope you have a wonderful Advent and Christmas season. See you in the New Year!

## outreach activities

**Out of the Cold:** This is just a heads up for anyone who would like to help out on Mondays in February and March with making a dinner at St. Mary's Anglican for our Out of the Cold friends. We get together from 11:30 to 1:30 on four Mondays - two in February and two in March and make a home cooked winter dinner. It's fun for us and we know how appreciated it is by the diners! Let me or the office know if you would like to join us or help out in any way (cookies anyone?) Lyn May

**Minute for Mission:** The clinic, marked by a small sign, is located on a small side street in Gaza. Five years ago, Israeli and Palestinian forces fought in this street. Today, mothers and older siblings hold babies and small children, some squirming, some sleeping, while waiting for medical care. The Shija-ai Clinic is one of three clinics operated by the Near East Council of Churches. It is also one of the few places that still functions in Gaza as medical resources become scarce. It monitors the weekly, monthly, and yearly development of 22,000 children. Even before they are born, their mothers come to the clinic for prenatal care. The staff say that about 38 percent of the children have serious anemia and need the iron supplements that are available only at the clinic. The staff and mothers work together on treatments and programs to keep the children healthy despite their dire surroundings. Gaza's 1.8 million people are locked in on all sides by Israel and Egypt. Unemployment is over 50 percent, nutritious food is expensive, and at any moment, air strikes can happen. Trauma is a daily experience for these children and the staff who treat them. Nevertheless, the doctors and nurses continue to heal and support the children in their care.

**Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser on Feb. 22:** Marj Andre is this year's co-chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coldest Night of the Year walk in Richmond Hill. There are walks all across the country this night. The funds support the amazing work of Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold. Thousands of volunteers and many faith based communities across southern York Region give to the hundreds that are homeless here a place to sleep in the cold months, warm meals, clothes, showers, medical attention and caring. Despite the generosity of the community the costs to operate a shelter each night is about \$2,000 (transportation, security, insurance.....). Funding is given by the Region but it is not enough. You can get your own team, sponsor a walker or join a team. Speak to Lyn May for more information at [lynniemay@gmail.com](mailto:lynniemay@gmail.com).



## Richmond Hill Winter Carnival

### Do You Love To Volunteer?

We'd love your help with activities such as:

Button Sales Trainers	Children's Craft Supervisor
Ticket Sales	Stage Crew
Face Painting Supervisor	Food Tent Supervisor
Fire Pit Attendant	Kitchen Assistant
Hockey Timekeeper	Parking Lot Attendant



Register online today at [www.wintercarnival.net](http://www.wintercarnival.net)

Richmond Hill Winter Carnival - Mill Pond, February 1-2, 2020

**Volunteer for Breakfast Club:** Volunteers are needed to prepare breakfast at Walter Scott P.S. We would love to hear from you if you have 90 minutes before school one day a week from 7:15 – 9:00 a.m. Call Deb in the church office at 905-884-1301 ext. 5.

## church news

**Volunteer Counters Needed:** After service each Sunday, teams of 3 counters gather in the office to count, record and prepare the offering for deposit. We're looking for 3 volunteers to fill vacancies. The commitment is around 30 minutes every 5 weeks. Please speak to Dianne McLeod after the service if interested.

**Finance: 2020 offering envelopes** are available for pick up in Centennial Hall.

**Are you planning to move away?** Do you know of someone who is? Problem: the church finds out that someone attends RHUC has moved, often well after the fact! We feel badly that their life and contribution to our worship and work has not been recognized and our goodbye and best wishes have not been expressed. Please let me or Deb in the Church Office of any such moving plans. Thanks, Donna Smith, 905-884-6307

**Ladies - circle this date:** Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2, 2020 because that's the **Women's Winter Weekend**. More info will follow the beginning of January or phone Donna Smith, 905-884-6307.

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.

