

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

#### Sun., January 8th - Epiphany

**10:30 a.m.** We remember the coming of magi from the East, a recognition that the path of Jesus is for all people. The sacrament of communion will be celebrated. Last week we celebrated the one year arrival of the Makhoul family in Richmond Hill. Wasseem and Rasha Samar and Nabeel, Reem and Nasser and all their children are invited to celebrate with us in Centennial Hall after the service. We hope you will be there too - to pass on your good wishes, to share in their good fortune and to eat cake!

Message: "Journeying in Faith" by Rev. James Ravenscroft Scripture Readings: Matthew 2:1-12 and Matthew 2:13-20

#### Sun., January 15<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of Jesus

**10:30 a.m.** We say good bye to Christmas and turn our attention to the season of Epiphany. We will renew baptism promises.

### Upcoming Baptism Celebration

Is there a new (or not so new) little person in your family? Were you considering the possibility of baptism? We have a celebration coming up on **February 19, 2017**. Contact James ([james@rhuc.org](mailto:james@rhuc.org)) to find out more, including details about preparation sessions leading up to the celebration. In addition, January 15, 2017 is Baptism of Jesus Sunday. Given that this is a traditional choice of Sundays for baptism, we will mark this day by taking time to renew our baptismal commitments.

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, January 9th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** in the Chapel for a lively morning of discussion. We will be continuing the DVD series Violence Divine: Overcoming the Bible's Betrayal of Its Non-Violent God featuring John Dominic Crossan. This week's topic will be "Undecided Justice". New members are welcome at any time. Please speak to one of the facilitators for more details: Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

### Special Occasions

Writing to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul urged them: "rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep". While we include in our prayers, the names of people who are ill or mourning, we are not always aware of the special occasions which give rise to rejoicing. This column is an effort to rectify that situation. Don't hesitate to add any special occasions you know about.

### RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 25th at 7 p.m. in the Chapel** for our first meeting of 2017. We will be discussing the novel **CIRCLING THE SUN** by Paula McLain. We will have three or four copies of this book available to share with the group in January. This novel is based on the life of a female pioneer in the field of aviation and here is a short description of the book: Paula McLain, author of the phenomenal New York Times bestseller *The Paris Wife*, now transports readers to 1920s Kenya. **Circling the Sun** breathes life into a fearless and captivating young woman--Beryl Markham, a record-setting aviator whose passionate love triangle with safari hunter Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*, awakens Beryl to her truest self and her fate: to fly. For more information about the group, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Book Club facilitator, or call the church office at 905-884-1301.

### Women's Retreat

This will be RHUC's seventh annual Women's Winter Retreat at Loretto Maryholme: [www.lorettomaryholme.ca](http://www.lorettomaryholme.ca) - a beautiful estate home on the shore of Lake Simcoe, just outside Keswick. This location is nice and close, about a 45 min. drive from the church. We gather for a program, with group and individual time, to discuss and reflect about our faith and get to know others. And we eat and have fun also! Sitting at a warm fireplace or a walk in the snow will bring relaxation and rejuvenation. Date for 2017 is evening Friday January 27th to afternoon Sunday January 29th. Some come for the two nights, some for one night and some for Saturday only. The cost for accommodation and food for two nights is \$110; for one night \$55; and for the day only is \$30. For further information contact Donna Smith, 905-884-6307. All women are warmly welcome to come!

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Fabric Sculpture Workshops



**Fabric Sculpture Workshop on Saturday Jan. 28!** CREATE A MERMAID for your home or garden and help make a difference for African Aids families. Andrea Chan of Creative Genius Within will be our teacher and will show us how to create a lovely piece of art out of tee shirts, foil, wire and Paverpol.

Date? Sat Jan 28

Time? 9-4

Cost? \$125

Anyone 16 to 96 is welcome. Children aged 14 and up with an accompanying adult are also welcome. Andrea would appreciate signup as soon as possible to help her plan ahead. Please see Peg Hiscoke after the service or contact her at [handsandhearts@live.ca](mailto:handsandhearts@live.ca). We regret that the Three Birds workshop on Jan 21 has been withdrawn.

Linda Clark will be at a sign up table in Centennial Hall after the service. She may have a sample mermaid to show you.

### Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Message from the Editor: The theme for Minutes for Mission 2017 comes from A Song of Faith, the United Church's 2006 statement of faith: **We sing thanksgiving**. When we sing thanksgiving we are singing a song of gratitude for God's presence in our lives and world found in community ministries, global partners, theological training, camps and retreat centres, communities of faith, and the justice and healing work of reconciliation. We sing thanksgiving because we know that as the United Church's A New Creed says, "We are not alone, we live in God's world." In the life of The United Church of Canada, we are faithfully trying to sing of thanksgiving as we live into this time of transition. One of my favourite book series is Harry Potter. The books are filled with wonderful characters, including Fawkes the phoenix. According to legend, phoenixes are fiercely loyal birds, immensely strong, and have healing powers in their tears. They are best known for their ability to catch fire and rise again from the ashes. The United Church is going through its own renewal, and while we are transforming ourselves, we can be assured that we will stay firmly grounded in God's mission that we support through Mission & Service. This year we have added a number of stories about our past, of missionaries, an army chaplain, and our Mission & Service history. The ripples from all who have gone before us are still being felt. I hope you enjoy these stories. We sing thanksgiving for God's presence in our history and in this time of renewal and transformation.

Blessings, Ruth Noble Mission & Service Engagement Coordinator

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Blog post

Soc Hop - Saturday, February 25, 2017 <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/05/soc-hop-saturday-february-25-2017/>

### Counselling available

Joanne Scofield is currently doing a Counselling Internship at RHUC. This is in conjunction with a course she is taking at the Toronto Centre for Pastoral Care Education. The counselling is confidential and free of charge. If you are interested in counselling, please contact Joanne directly at 416-618-5597.

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