



WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

July 2: Canada Day: 150 years. Message: "What are we celebrating?" Scripture reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Through a series of reflections on Canada's 150th anniversary, we will take time to ponder the different ways of looking at this national milestone.

July 9: Reading: Matthew 11:16-30

Bringing flowers on Sunday morning

You can share the beauty of your garden with many by bringing a bouquet for a Sunday service. There are many vases to use; please don't bring blooms with a scent as some have strong allergies. Thank you!

Call for your photos!

Want to see your photos on our Sunday order of services? Please consider submitting your best photos of Canadian scenery and nature, photos that convey Mission & Service and stewardship, or church life: lighting candles, hands holding hymn books, etc.

Format:

- Bright, colourful, crisp pictures.
- Vertical photographs preferred.
- Digital jpeg files required: sent to office@rhuc.org or send on CD/DVD/USB key.

Labelling your submissions:

- Put the photographer's name in the file name (e.g., HenryLee-nature-2.jpg)
- Remember to label your CD/DVD/USB key.
- Include a typed list of all submissions, including photographer's name, photo location, and any helpful information (e.g. species of bird) for each.

Minister's Message

Unlike the hype of Canada's Centennial (so I've been told) for many people there is less enthusiastic flag-waving as we celebrate our nation's sesquicentennial. Chalk it up to an extra 50 years of maturity. It feels that many of us feel more reflective, willing to pause and give thanks for what is special about Canada while at the same time looking honestly at our failures, recognizing that we have more than a few dark chapters that we need to reread if we are going to live into the narrative we hope for. May this Canada Day be one of thanksgiving. And may we also be understanding of the many who don't see the point in celebrating.

Worship Notes

It has been a while since I wrote a "Worship Notes" article letting you know what the Worship Committee is working on at present. Currently, we are busy planning summer worship services and arranging for coverage during James' holiday time. When the details are all planned and confirmed, I will submit another update. We have confirmed speakers or plans for all the non-preaching Sundays in the fall.

- Sunday, September 24 – Ian Wilgus of our congregation will be speaking to us about his experience working at a United Church in Regina in the Explorer Program.
- Sunday, October 22 – In honour of "Canada 150", we will be holding an all-Canadian hymn sing. Barry is already working on this!
- Sunday, November 26 – Pioneer Minister, Bri-anne Swan, will be our guest preacher. More details to follow.

Finally, here is a list of those who are on the Worship Committee, so feel free to pass on your comments or celebrations to them about worship at RHUC: Linda Clark, Anne Dunn, Craig Lee, Anne Leyton-Brown, Sandra Loughton (Chair), Dawn Moon, Barry Peters, Harry Ramsaran, James Ravenscroft, Dominick Shelton, & Joan Verner. *Sandra Loughton, Chair*



Bible study

Bible study will resume in September.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Thank you!

The Pit Clean – up on Sat., June 24 was a huge success!! Thank you to all the volunteers that helped out!!

Memory Garden at RHUC

The spring bulbs and blossoms have been wonderful this year in our church gardens. We have a special section (at the steps on the north side of the Yonge Street CD wing of the church) named our Memory Garden. Each year, those who would like me to plant an annual flower in memory of a loved one can give me \$3 and I will purchase and plant one in a colour you choose. When completed, a marker will be posted with the names of those remembered.

Donna Smith 905-884-6307

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Christian Development

We would like to thank the leaders of all our groups for their commitment and dedication this year.

After two years of co-ordinating Discovery time, Vanessa Armstrong (May) is stepping away. She has been such a valuable member, an energetic, enthusiastic presence. Thank you for your time and talent!!

Joanne Scofield and Jenn Townsend are continuing on as co-ordinators of the Nursery and Youth Programming. Thank you for your time and talent!!

We are now looking for a co-ordinator for our Discovery Time programme. Please contact Joan Verner at 905-539-1222 or Susan Greene at 416-994-5065 for more information. We would love to hear from you!

H.A.I.R.

HAIR has concluded for the summer and will resume on Monday, September 11.

RHUC Book Club

Members of the RHUC Book Club are taking a break for the summer, but please join us on **Wednesday, September 27 at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss the non-fiction book, **THE PRISON BOOK CLUB** by Ann Walmsley. New members are welcome at any time! Please speak to Sandra Loughton for more details or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301. Happy summer reading!

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.



HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

URGENT: Can you help?

Urgent need for housing for a family of 4 - preferably 3 bedroom - in north Richmond Hill, Aurora or Newmarket on the Yonge corridor. The start date would be August 1st. Rent to be not more than \$1500 - including utilities.

In 2009, Rosilin came to Canada under the Live in Caregiver program which has a 2 year work requirement before she could apply for permanent residence. She left her husband, daughter (4) and son (9) in Kerala, India and came to live initially in Markham. The process has been much longer than usual - and it has been a very challenging time. As a Register Practical Nurse, she is currently working in 2 Long term care facilities in Aurora (where she has lived in a 1 room basement apartment for the past few years). Her daughter is now 13 and her son 18 - while she speaks to them every day, she has probably only seen them 4 or 5 times in 8 years. At the end of August she will be going to India to bring them all to Canada. She is looking in all the right places for housing and finding fierce competition for rental accommodation. So I am seeking the help of this wonderful congregation to see if anyone knows anyone who could help find them a place to live.

Please contact me if you have any leads. I have known this woman since 2009 and her journey has been so difficult. Many thanks. Jane Wedlock Email: jane.wedlock@sympatico.ca

Volunteer needed at Breakfast club – Walter Scott P.S.

After nearly 20 years of co-ordinating the Breakfast Club Programme at W.S. School I have decided to retire and give this over to someone a bit younger and whom would enjoy this rewarding position providing breakfast for 35 – 40 kids at school. It involves:

- Weekly grocery counts for grocery buying.
- Arranging for sufficient volunteers for each morning (We currently have a roster of 18 capable devoted volunteers).

You don't need to be there on a daily basis! I would be willing to work with you until you feel comfortable in the position and will be delighted to pass along this rewarding position. Thank you! Enid Mann 905 884 8868

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support university students on campus. Let us hear a story of one space for University of Toronto students. "Faith and queerness have not always been natural friends," says the Rev. Ralph Wushke, chaplain at the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto. In 2005 the chaplaincy created Qu(e)rying Religion. The program creates a safe space for students of all faiths to explore gender identity, sexual orientation, and religious belief. It has grown to become a meaningful and life-giving program for students. When students arrive at university it is often the first time they are able to explore who they are. Many come from tight-knit communities and find that at university they are free to explore their identity as well as their faith. Qu(e)rying Religion holds pub night discussions on such topics as online dating, gender identity, and coming out to friends and family, and it hosts seminars and workshops on queerness and faith. We sing thanksgiving for the support of safe spaces for university students on campus. If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

Net Zero Committee

The Net Zero Committee thinks we need to talk seriously and loudly about climate change. The current calls of warning about climate change have reached a crescendo. Timeframes have dropped significantly so that the serious impacts are now expected within our lifetimes - and also the possibility of reaching the point-of-no-return. This is not fake news nor unsupported news - it is based on hard scientific evidence. Our faith community needs to speak together and to speak up on this issue. While the news is bleak, there are also many simple solutions that can change the negative course. Each of us is probably attempting some of these and we should be sharing ideas with others and encouraging each other to make the changes necessary. We would love to hear your suggestions! To learn more, please head to the RHUC blog and look for the post on Climate Change: <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com>



CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Titanic, the Musical

A flagrant plug: Are you looking for something to do the weekend of July 13-16. Why not go see **Titanic, the Musical** at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Glen Warren (that's Rev. James' husband) is in it. Tickets are available at www.wavestagetheatre.com/titanic or at the box office.

Volunteer nurses needed at Camp Big Canoe

It is our mission at Camp Big Canoe to provide a safe and fun experience for the 400+ campers that join us each summer. To carry out this mission, we rely on a group of generous nurses who volunteer their time to care for our staff and campers. At this time, we are still searching for registered nurses to serve our community for July 23-28 (the second half of Session 2) and August 6-12 (Session 3B). If you or someone you know is a licensed nurse who would be willing to join us at Camp Big Canoe as our camp nurse for either or both of these weeks, please contact us via email (director@campbigcanoe.ca) or via telephone (705-645-4963). Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this email. We are looking forward to a safe and happy summer.

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RHUC INFORMATION MEETING RE FACILITIES – JUNE 25 2017

I was asked to explain the recent decision that has been made by Council regarding investment in RHUC facilities. The following information was provided to the congregation on June 25th 2017 after worship.

I want to remind everyone who may not realize, that the responsibility for care, maintenance and upkeep of our facilities - the historic sanctuary, CD building and the manse, rests with this congregation. It is both an enormous task and responsibility and requires extensive resources in terms of knowledge, maintenance, and investment to look after these structures. Over the years – different individuals have stepped forward to offer leadership and hours and hours of time and effort.

We acknowledge on behalf of the congregation the members of the property committee who currently work alongside with our custodians Dan and Paulette: Peter DeVita, Mark Baker, Bill Warrick, Kathleen Crosbie, Brian Moore, Wendy Thomson, David Crowley and Harry Ramsaran.

THE IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE

We have a number challenges – you will have seen leaks/internal damage in a number of places in both the sanctuary and the CD building

On June 14th 2017– Council had an extensive presentation by Peter Devita – Chair of Property. The committee has been working to understand the scope of the problems with the flat roofs of the CD building (there are 7), which are causing severe leaks reaching down into the upper floor rooms and some of the main floor rooms. These must be stopped to avoid significant damage to the building.

OUR APPROACH TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM

- Identify the scope of the problem
- Seek expert advice
- Decision to repair or replace
- Determine scope of work
- RFP sent out to 8 qualified vendors as certified roofers
- Quotes received

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THE DISCUSSION AT COUNCIL

We had long and thoughtful discussion at Council as we wrestled with what to do. The scope of work is significant – we believe that if we don't fix the problem in a substantive way, we will continue to sustain major damage that will impact our ability to both use the facility and make space available for the community/tenants and have major implications in terms of choices we have for the future of this congregation

We are in the process of determining our new mission through our listening circles process and within that context determining how our facilities can and will enable that mission – and what might need to change. The direction we are seeking will likely not be clarified until later in the fall. A quick fix of the roof is not doable – we believe that we must invest appropriately to ensure continued use of the facility and prevent further damage. By choosing this route – it will give us breathing room as we determine the future.

We were informed that after extensive analysis, the property committee determined that it would cost as much to do patching of the roof with an uncertain solution to the leak problem than to replace the roof. Our final latest technology choice will add roofing insulation to meet the latest Ontario building code, will add sloping to prevent ponding of water on the roof (a major source of roof damage), and will cost about \$15,000 less than doing uncertain patches! The extra insulation will reduce our heating costs and keep the upper gym cooler in summer.

The question of how we will cover the costs for this substantive work was central to our conversation. You are all aware of the financial challenges we have been facing.

Very recently we were made aware of 2 unrestricted bequests to RHUC from the estates of Jean Cafley and Dianne Barrow, totaling just under \$210,000. These gifts have meant that we have been able to restore all funds to wholeness and as of our last financial report, are slightly ahead of where we thought we would be in our general fund. We are by no means out of the woods – but these generous gifts have created a window of opportunity.

If we had not received these gifts – we would be having a very different conversation. We determined that the timing is allowing us to proceed with this urgent work that will allow us to continue on our journey to determine the future of this congregation. We have significant decisions ahead of us – but it is likely that if we had any major decision related to the future of the CD building, it likely wouldn't happen for the next few years.

COUNCIL DECISION

RHUC Council decided that we would proceed with the following:

- Repair of the CD west stairwell inside and out to a maximum of \$20,000 excluding HST and this will include remedial repairs to the Sanctuary eaves trough that is the cause of water seepage into the Sanctuary - northwest corner of the balcony
- Repair of the CD roof as specified within the RFP issued for the project to a maximum of \$140,000, excluding HST.
- Work awarded: to Aimg, to do metal work; and to Superior Spray Foam, to do the main roofing work. Repairs to all outside steps and railings to a maximum for \$15,000.

The majority of the funding for these 2 projects is covered within the existing capital budget for 2017.

TIMELINES

The work on the roof is already beginning and is expected to be completed by the end of July.

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GOING FORWARD

The property committee will turn attention to the Sanctuary building to identify the major issues and begin to get costs.

[We will complete our discernment process with the congregation through the listening circles](#) this fall and determine together our priorities for the future. We will have a clearer sense of implications for our facilities and the way forward.

Over the summer and into the fall, we will be exploring additional revenue sources/grants that might be available. We will also engage in fundraising.

This is not easy work. It is messy – we don't always have a clear path forward but we are doing everything in our power to make thoughtful, intelligent decisions. We have a strong Council – and the Listening Circles have demonstrated the commitment and energy that continues within RHUC as we feel an important role for this church in the community going forward.

Jane Wedlock

Member at Large, RHUC Council

