

RHUC CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION MEETING – SUNDAY JUNE 25TH.

You are invited to a very important information meeting at **11: 45 am after worship on June 25th, 2017.**

The purpose of the meeting is to share recent developments related to the condition of RHUC facilities and a plan by Council to address these issues in the short term and to share our approach to next steps in our ongoing efforts to ensure a vibrant future for RHUC in the community of Richmond Hill.

We have already had valuable input from many members of the congregation through our Listening Circle Process which is helping us discern plans for our shared future. Please come out and be part of the information meeting - we value your feedback/input!

Blessings, Brandon Moore, Chair of Council

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

June 25: Aboriginal Solidarity Sunday. Message: "We're All Treaty People" by James Ravenscroft. In his sermon, James will explore the significance of being in solidarity with Indigenous people. Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

11:45 a.m. Congregational information meeting

7:00 p.m. Celebrating Solstice in the garden area

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

Forest Church: Celebrating Solstice (well, almost)

Do you connect with Spirit when you are in nature? Do you seek connection outside when you need to be spiritually recharged? Then we have a gathering for you. On **June 25th** (the Sunday after the Summer Solstice) there will be a celebration of prayer and reflection at **7:00 PM** in the garden area just in front of the CD Building. We will share together and conclude with refreshments. This will hopefully be the first of regular spiritual gatherings outside, sometimes for a meditative walk, sometimes to learn more about the natural world, sometimes to do something which helps to heal the earth (and us), sometimes to gather for prayer and ritual. Come and celebrate the Summer Solstice in a reflective way.

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

This past week on June 21, the country paused to celebrate National Aboriginal Day. This is a significant day to mark each year, not just as a way to give thanks for the resurgence of these diverse cultures, as important as that is, but to stand in solidarity with First Nations, the Métis Nation and Inuit. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Trudeau officially changed the name of the Langevin Block. We need changes like this to help nurture reconciliation. Hector-Louis Langevin was one of the architects of the Indian Residential School system, thus having his name on the building that houses the Prime Minister's Office was an ongoing barrier to right relations. While not as nationally significant, each of us can find personally important ways to stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

Bible study

Bible study will resume in September.

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*

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Pit Clean – Up on Sat., June 24!

The property committee will be disposing of extraneous goods and materials that have accumulated in the pit over many years. **If you know of things that have been stored there that you want kept, please inform Deb.**

Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help for a **2 hour shift either 10:00 – 12:00 OR 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.** on **Saturday, June 24th** please contact: Kathleen Crosbie 905-884-4678 kltcrosbie@gmail.com

If anyone wants skids (old wood and dry - they burn very well) for firewood please contact Deb at the church office at office@rhuc.org.

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

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.

Emma Hart is graduating from Alexander Mackenzie High School on June 27, 2017. She will be receiving the Ontario Secondary School Certificate and is looking forward to her year at Richmond Green Secondary School next year.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Gloria McCavery** on the birth of her grandchild, Beatrice, weighing 5 1/2 lbs.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE**Annual 'Stride to Turn the Tide' Walk – thank you!**

On June 11, six Walkers plus two little ones from Hands and Hearts for Africa joined many Toronto Granny Groups to raise funds for African AIDS families through the Stephen Lewis Foundation. We met at Earl Bales Park and in spite of a very hot day walked 5 kms on tree paths and through a forest. The participants enjoyed a singsong, warm ups, face painting for children and the company of large furry mascots. Check out the photos of our local Granny Walking Group with their mascot buddies on the rhuc blog.

Thanks to all who sponsored us? It was a fun day for fundraising! From Peg, Enid, Esther, Sharon, Donna McErlain and Rose.

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 Registered 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

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>

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Help for Children in Congo: Companion video available Disponible en français! Our gifts for Mission & Service support children harmed by civil war. Let us hear a story from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Marie was 11 years old when she was raped and became pregnant. Her story is that of many girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The country's citizens have been traumatized by a long-standing and brutal conflict. During the civil war that ended in 2003, 5.4 million people died. Localized conflicts continue. Millions of people have been uprooted and displaced. Many social services are not provided by the state, so hospitals and schools are run by churches, like Mission & Service partner Église du Christ au Congo, Department of Women, Children, and Family. This partner has long supported unaccompanied children, many of whom are survivors of sexual violence. Some 150 of these children are gathered at PRENAO Light School. There they continue their education and get help dealing with the traumas they have experienced. Students and teachers receive a meal each day. PRENAO also supports young girls who are mothers, like Marie. They learn a trade or skill that gives them an opportunity to earn a living and make a life for themselves and their children. They also receive psychological support. Marie is one of the girls PRENAO has helped. She now has eight-year-old twin boys. Through PRENAO she received an education, support, and trauma counselling. Her sons now attend PRENAO while Marie continues her studies at university. We sing thanksgiving for our global partners, who are transforming lives. 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!

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

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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