

Listening Circles

“LISTENING CIRCLES”

*I felt heard.
There was a sense of community.
It was so non-threatening.
It was good to participate....it feels like we are moving forward.
It is different than anything we have done before.
It felt like we not only dreamed but came up with practical steps.*

These are just a few of the words we've heard people use to describe their experience at Listening Circles.

If you have not yet signed up for a Listening Circle, there are still opportunities for you to participate! Join a Listening Circle to help shape the future of RHUC. This is an opportunity to reflect on what we do well as a church and share future possibilities.

To sign up, please check out the dates below and email Deb Fratin in the Office (office@rhuc.org). Indicate your #1 and #2 preference. Additional dates in June will be added soon.

We could also use your help!

- Would you be willing to host a Listening Circle? We are looking for hosts for June dates.
- We also need 2 more people to attend meetings and take notes.

For more information about Listening Circles please see RHUC online (April 27). Please let us know if you have any questions

Listening Circles Schedule		
Date	Time	
Fri. May 12	10.00 to 12.00	Full
Fri. May 12	7.00 to 9.00	
Sat May 13	2.30 to 4.30	
Sat May 13	7.00 to 9.00	
Wed May 24	2.30 to 4.30	Full
Wed May 24	7.00 to 9.00	
Thurs May 25	10.00 to 12.00	
Thurs May 25	2.30 to 4.30	Full
June dates to be announced soon!		

Joanne Scofield & Terry Davies

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

May 14th Fifth Sunday of Easter

Reading: Acts 17:22-31 Message: The Culture Question. Based on the story of Paul's preaching in Athens, James will explore the interrelationship of culture and gospel.

Upcoming services: We have some special events coming up over the next few weeks.

May 21: Alcris Limongi will be leading the service.

May 28: An early Pentecost along with the sacrament of communion.

June 4: Youth Musical Sunday

June 11: Celebrating Pride Week

June 18: Confirmation

June 25: Aboriginal Solidarity Sunday

Minister's Message

"That was great." "I feel heard." "Much better than I expected." "I really enjoyed that." Those are a few of the comments people have expressed so far following their experience of Listening Circles. For many the experience has been quite different from vision and mission processes of the past. Karen creates a genuinely safe space where everyone is able to share their hopes, concerns and ideas for RHUC. Our aim is to hear from as many people as we can so if you have not signed up yet to participate please do. Based on the feedback so far you won't regret it.

Secret Friends Ministry

This school year's Secret Friends were revealed during worship on May 7th. These 10 volunteers from the congregation have kept in touch with the 8 first year university/college students from RHUC, sending them cards, notes and goodies with our church's best wishes and support during this big change in their lives. Our THANKS to these, now not so secret, Secret Friends (SF)!

- **Irene and son Harry Bazos** was SF to **Eric Chee** who attended Waterloo studying Mechatronic Engineering
- **Julia Ye** was SF to **Alexandra Doak** (Beckwith) who attended York U taking Latin American Studies, studying Spanish & French
- **Rose Blois** was SF to **Kristian Fabbro** who attended Western U studying Computer Engineering
- **Donna DeVita** was SF to **Ashley Russell** who attended McMaster U studying Nursing
- **Lyn May** was SF to **Lauren Russell** who attended Western U studying Nursing
- **DJ and Mary Lynn McCready** were SF to **Taylor Shelton** who attended Western studying Life Sciences
- **Jane Wedlock** was SF to **William Warrick** who attended York U studying Business Administration
- **Lori Canner** was SF to **Elysia Windsor** who attended College Boreal in Sudbury studying Early Childhood Education in French

At this point I do not have any names of our young people who will begin their first year at college/university in September. PLEASE let me know of any students you are aware of so we don't miss anyone for this ministry at RHUC. And if you would like to be a Secret Friend, contact me. *Donna Smith, Coordinator 905-884-6307*

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

UC Explorer's Program – Update from Ian Wilgus

Hi everyone. First off, thank you to all those who came to the send off on April 30th, and to those who called/ emailed me before I left. I certainly left the full support of RHUC.

I have had a great time so far. My flight left Toronto Pearson on time and smoothly on Saturday morning and arrived in Regina early! That meant that I had a full day in Regina. I got to see Wascana Park, which is one of Canada's largest park systems, the Tennis Club, the outside of the Legislature. I also got a general tour of the area. On Sunday I got a full welcome during their mini-covenanting service, and during Dinner Church that night (dinner church is mini-worship service where participants share a meal and discuss either a scripture passage or one of the United Church's statements of faith). I also got to hear their music director's choir perform a concert. After some independent exploration on Monday, I spend Tuesday and Wednesday working at the church, when I got to attend a meeting with the Regina Folk Fest, with an Architect, and the Worship and Pastoral Visitation Committees. This week, I will be assisting with the call to worship. I am settling in nicely with the host family. I'd love to hear from you all, and you can contact me on my email at ianwilgus@rogers.com.

Women's Spirituality

This is a reminder that Women's Spirituality will gather **this Saturday May 13th** at 9:45 in the Garden Room. Program: "Fill My Cup with Blessing". Hope you can come!

Camp Canoe Wish List!

The camp would like donations of pencils, paints, elastic bands, embroidery thread, coloured paper, clean used margarine and yogurt containers, plastic 500ml peanut butter jars with screw top lids and paper towel rolls. These items can be left at the Church on **June 18th** **But NOT BEFORE AS WE HAVE NO SPACE TO STORE THEM**. For more information please call June Blanchette 905-780-0048"

UCW June day trip

Date: Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 **Price:** \$60.00 **Leaving:** Barrows Arena (as usual) **Time:** Leaving at 8:30 a.m.

To: Travel to Niagara Parkway with stops along the way to Niagara-on-the Lake

Lunch: Grace United Church put on by their UCW ladies.

Activities:

- Shopping in the lovely historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- We will end our trip at Southbrook Winery for a wine tasting of three wines in the Grand Room, including an explanation of each wine, and also information about the excellent work being done in Organic farming and wine making. This is a chance to "catch up" with Bill and the family.
- If not too late in the season, we may see some of the new lambs!
- There will also be an opportunity to shop in the Southbrook Wine Shop.

Tickets will be available after Church or contact Bev Blake 905-780-6019 blakeb@rogers.com

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, May 31st at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss **Natural Order** by Brian Francis. All are welcome! I have one extra copy of the book if anyone is interested. Please contact the church office at 905.884.1301 or speak to me - Sandra Loughton. This will be our last meeting until September. Please stay tuned for details about our fall meetings.

NOTE: Please keep the afternoon of Saturday, October 21st free to attend a special event at the Aurora Library at 2 p.m. to meet author Brian Francis. This is part of the OneBookOneAurora program.

Bible Study

James will be facilitating a Thursday evening bible study sessions from **6:15 – 7:15 PM** in the chapel. We will begin by looking at the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday, looking at their historical and cultural contexts and the wisdom they can offer us.

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, May 15th** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel to discuss Chapter 11 of Diana Butler Bass' book "*Christianity for the Rest of Us*". The topic this week will be Justice: Engaging the Powers. Come and jump-start your week with a lively, challenging discussion. For more details, please speak to one of the facilitators - Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

H.A.I.R.

H.A.I.R. On **Monday, April 24**, we begin a new DVD study, "Painting the Stars – science, religion and an evolving faith" – part of the Living the Questions series. This 7 week study will finish on Monday, June 12 (excluding Victoria Day). Come join in the discussion at 7:00 pm in the chapel.

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

June 3 Concert

LOVE, HOPE AND INSPIRATION JUNE 3 CONCERT – featuring **THE FOUR MEN!**

Please mark your calendars for **SATURDAY JUNE 3** for a delightful afternoon of song in our sanctuary by the singing sensations THE FOUR MEN. The concert is from **2pm to 4:30pm** with a Marketplace before the concert from 1:15pm and at intermission.

The Four Men have been entertaining audiences since 2010 and will be on tour in the Maritimes immediately after our concert. This concert is a fundraiser for Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. Tickets are on sale today and throughout May at the church office at 905-884-1301 ext. 5 or on Sundays in Centennial Hall at our ticket table after worship. Ticket cost is \$20 each or \$15 for seniors and students. We encourage you to bring others and enjoy the music. On Mother's Day weekend, a concert brochure will be in the bulletin, please put on your frig or share with a friend. This event is hosted jointly by Hands and Hearts for Africa and GranAurora, Grandmother to Grandmother groups of York Region.

Mission & Service

We have received a letter from Cheryl Curtis, Manager, Mission & Service Giving for the United Church of Canada saying "Today I am especially thankful for your generosity for Mission & Service in 2016. I am grateful to the people of Richmond Hill Pastoral Charge for giving \$54,862 for M & S. Together we gave \$25,322,586 in 2016 for M & S". The full letter and our Certificate of Giving is on the M & S notice board outside the office. It is always refreshing to receive an acknowledgment and thanks for our work. *Donna Smith, M & S Enthusiast*

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support programs for migrant workers. Let us hear a story from Korea. Canadians think of our country as a multicultural society. Migrant populations arriving in Korea are a relatively new phenomenon. In 1997 there were only about 380,000 foreigners living in Korea. By 2011 that number had increased to 1.4 million. Some migrants are coming to Korea to work, especially in small- or medium-scale factories. Others are arriving as marriage migrants. Whatever their reason for coming to Korea, Mission & Service partner the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) is welcoming newcomers and helping them adjust to the realities of life in a new land. The PROK is responding to the many social service needs facing new immigrants by providing cultural orientation and language training helping immigrant workers understand their rights and advocating for workers when those rights are not upheld helping workers who become ill or unemployed staffing hotlines for marriage migrants who find themselves in situations of domestic violence and abuse. The PROK's Migrant Workers Centre addresses needs that are as many and varied as the people they serve. We sing thanksgiving for the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, our Mission & Service partner that reaches out to people in need! 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!

Outreach Forum

Tuesday June 13 at 7 pm at Lyn May's house 156 Church. Everyone is invited. We will be discussing Refugee support, Lenten and Advent givings, the work of the Right Relations Committee (response to the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action) and speakers and Lunch and learns for next year. If you have something you'd like to discuss or find out more about please come. Just RSVP to Lyn May at lynmay@gmail.com or the church office office@rhuc.org so I Have an idea of how many glasses to put out!

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Tai Chi

We traditionally conclude for the season on the Victoria Day weekend, so **Tuesday May 16 will be the last session of tai chi for this year**. Watch for announcements regarding the resumption in the fall, when continuing and new participants will be welcome.

RHUC Quilters

Next sewing bee will be **Saturday May 13th at 12:30 in the Garden Room**. We should have a whole village by then! Sewers and non-sewers welcome.

Annual RHUC Golf Fun Day!

The Saturday after the long weekend, **May 27th at Bathurst Glen Golf Club** with tee times [between noon and 1 p.m.](#) The cost is only \$55 including the BBQ after play. This is a scramble event that allows all levels to play; even those that don't! Please save the date and let George Moon (georgecmoon@gmail.com) know if you want to be part of the exciting day!

Blog post

RHUC Bookclub March 2017 <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/03/rhuc-book-club-under-the-visible-life-march-22-2017/>

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