

## Listening Circles

### “LISTENING CIRCLES”

You are invited to 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.

#### Good News...

- We had our first Circle last night and it went really well! Thanks to all who attended.
- We’ve had a great response and a number of Circles are full....but there is still space available – **sign up today!**
- We have 15 Hosts identified...we are still looking for another **3 Hosts**,
- We also need 2 more people to attend meetings and take notes

**We would appreciate your help with these.**

There is still space in the following Listening Circles.

**To sign up, please email to Deb Fratin in the Office (office@rhuc.org). Indicate your #1 and #2 preference**

**\* A new option has been added for Sun, May 7, 4 – 6 pm.**

Date	Time	Host
<b>Sun May 7</b>	<b>4:00 to 6:00</b>	<b>TBD/RHUC (NEW)</b>
Tues May 9	2.30 to 4.30	Brian & Carol Moore
Tues May 9	7.00 to 9.00	Donna & Peter DeVita
Fri. May 12	2.30 to 4.30	TBD
Fri. May 12	7.00 to 9.00	Donna Smith
Sat May 13	10.00 to 12.00	TBD
Sat May 13	2.30 to 4.30	Kelly & Dante Ferrari
Sat May 13	7.00 to 9.00	Carolyn Balant
Wed May 24	2.30 to 4.30	Ruth & Bill Perratt
Wed May 24	7.00 to 9.00	Dawn & George Moon
Thurs May 25	10.00 to 12.00	Nancy Hart

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

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

#### May 7th Fourth Sunday of Easter

Reading: Acts 9:3-9, 17-19 Message: The Power of Listening. The story of Paul’s “conversion” on the way to Damascus reminds us of the power of listening to change hearts. When we truly hear what is being shared, our hearts can be changed.

by Rev. James Ravenscroft

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

Anniversaries are a real gift. We stop to give thanks for the years behind us and look with anticipation to the years ahead. That is the case for a wedding anniversary and a church anniversary as well. This year we mark our 212th anniversary. We have much for which we are thankful. We continue to be a vibrant presence in the "village core" as we gather for worship, offer assistance in various outreach programs, and share our space with our Korean Methodist friends as well as various other groups. Our chancel choir and youth choir continue strong as ever under the great leadership of Barry and Anne respectively. We have an amazing UCW, vibrant Women's Spirituality group and of course there's Men's Breakfast. The list goes on. We also look with anticipation to our future. We have kicked off our Listening Circles and together we will discern well how best to use the gifts we have been given to continue to serve our community and the wider world. With trust in the Spirit's leading, the future will be as promising as our past and life-giving as our present.

## Chancel Choir Concert



**'Canadian Choral Celebration' Celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> year! Sunday, May 7, 2017 @ 7:00 p. m.**

Tickets can be purchased from a choir member, at the door or after church in Centennial Hall:

Adult: \$20 Senior/Student: \$15 Family: \$50

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

For seven Thursday evenings during Lent, the following met at RHUC to knit or crochet prayer shawls. Most finished one, some two and some more. They were displayed and dedicated during the service on April 30th and are now in the cabinet to be given to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, await medical diagnosis or treatment, move away from Richmond Hill and our church, celebrate the birth of a child, etc. These shawls are an expression of our church's care, concern or joy to be celebrated. Please know that these shawls are not made for RHUC people only - if you have an extended family member or a friend needing support in their time of need, please let James, Deb in the office or Donna Smith know and they will get one for you.

Knitters and crocheters for 2017: Linda Clark, Barb Cooper, Sandi Dimma, Penny Fabbro, Verna Fast, Linda Lindberg, Enid Mann, Ruth Perratt, Daphne Woodger and Donna Smith. Thanks ladies!

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:blakeb@rogers.com)

## Men's Breakfast

Richmond Hill United Church next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, May 6, 2017**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. After breakfast all members of our church are invited to the parlor for a talk by James Ravenscroft about "The challenging relationship between Christian Faith and Indigenous Culture." Our esteemed minister will share with us his experiences and insights during his time in ministry in Northern Manitoba.

New participants are always welcome. The Men's Breakfasts is a time of fellowship and camaraderie. Feel free to contact us if you're interested in more information about it. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran ([hramsaran@rogers.com](mailto:hramsaran@rogers.com) 905 508 4758) by Thursday, May 4. Thank you!  
**Looking ahead:** Future dates for 2017 are September 2, October 7 November 4, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## RHUC Book Club

We have been invited by the Aurora Library to take part in the **OneBook/OneAurora** program this spring and fall. I will be picking up and distributing copies of our book for **May 31st** at the April meeting. The novel is **Natural Order by Brian Francis** and we are welcome to take part in an author visit in Aurora this coming fall. (Saturday, October 21 at 2 p.m. at the Aurora Library - free tickets available starting August 1st) *In the novel, author Brian Francis inhabits the mind of an elderly woman who remembers her life in episodes dealing with her son's sexuality and the constraints of small-town society in the '50s and '60s. Key to the narrative is a compelling commentary on how we treat seniors in our society. Natural Order is beautifully written, serious while at the same time, really funny.*

For more details, please speak to the group's facilitator, Sandra Loughton, or call the church office at 905.884.1301. Hope you can join us. Newcomers are always welcome!

## 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 10th** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to discuss Chapter 10 of Diana Butler Bass' book Christianity for the Rest of Us. Our topic this week will be diversity in congregations. How many types of diversity can you come up with? How diverse is RHUC on a scale of one to ten? These are just a few of the questions we'll wrestle with and all are welcome to join us. Please speak to Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke, or Sandra Loughton for more information.

## 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

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

Our gifts for Mission & Service support overseas personnel. We celebrate the Mission & Service foundation of missionaries like Dr. Robert Baird McClure! The thick file on Dr. McClure at the United Church Archives contains many newspaper articles, images, and personal stories about this incredible man. He went from being the child of missionaries, to a doctor in China in the 1930s and 1940s, to the first lay Moderator of The United Church of Canada. By all accounts, Dr. McClure had a sparkle and a passion to make a difference in the world. Many people have spoken of the way he inspired them to go into ministry or become medical missionaries across the globe. His legacy of caring for and about people lives on even today in Canada and in China, where he is still revered. Dr. McClure called many to make a difference, and his calling inspires us today! We sing thanksgiving for those who have inspired us to be part of a global church. 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

### 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 ([georgemoon@gmail.com](mailto:georgemoon@gmail.com)) know if you want to be part of the exciting day!

### Blog post

Lent and Easter Services at RHUC <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/09/lent-and-easter-services-and-events-at-richmond-hill-united-church/>

Spiritual Practices for Lent <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/08/spiritual-practices-for-lent/>

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

The Hop <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/02/the-hop/>

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