

This week at RHUC

Sunday, September 9

9:00 a.m. Finance Committee - chapel
10:30 a.m. Service – Guest preacher is Rev. Heather Burton

Monday, September 10

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

Tuesday, September 11

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, September 12

6:00 p.m. Vision keepers - Chapel
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym
7:00 p.m. Council – parlour

Thursday, September 13

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

Saturday, September 15

9:45 a.m. Women's Spirituality – Garden room
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

It's that time of year again. The nights are cooling off. School is back in session. Weekends at the cottage are soon coming to an end for another year. And church programs are beginning to ramp up again. This year we come back together having spent a year in discernment regarding our Mission Action Plan, our MAP. We named 3 priority projects out of the 9 and with that in mind there was good work done during the summer. The Coordinating Team has some new members and is rebranding themselves as the MAP Piloting Team. The image is of a tug boat piloting a ship out of the harbour. It is evocative and captures well the role of holding us to our vision while also offering support as we maneuver together. As we move into the fall we will continue engaging the projects we discerned. It will be tempting to focus on the regular fall start up work and set the projects to the side but we can't afford to. Our vision - being a centre for community, engaged with our neighbours, radically hospitable to all as we appropriately and sustainably use our property and resources - is a good one. It plays well to how we see ourselves in the world. May we move forward in this vision knowing it is not ours alone. We are also being piloted by the Spirit.

Worship notes

Sunday, September 9: We welcome Rev. Heather Burton to RHUC. In ministry here from 2000 to 2005, more recently Heather has been ministering in Haida Gwaii. In "Islands of the People" she will be reflecting on Exodus 3:7-10 as well as an excerpt from the Haida creation story as told by Bill Reid.

Sunday, September 16: On Sunday September 16 the scripture reading will be Proverbs 1:20-33 in which we hear about Holy Wisdom who stands in the marketplace and calls people back to living in a good way.

Shouldn't we be celebrating "The Season of Creation"? For the last few years we have been celebrating the Season of Creation as we move into the fall. This year we have decided instead to experiment with spreading the 4 weeks throughout the year, honouring creation and reflecting on what it means to be good stewards at times that connect to the changing of the seasons (while still honouring church seasons like Advent and Easter). Doing this is inspired by what used to be called Ember Days, days set apart for fasting and prayer during each of the four seasons of the year. Possibly at first connected to agricultural feasts, they were intended as times to give thanks for nature, to reflect on our need to live in moderation, and to assist others. The term Ember has 2 possible origins. In Latin these days were known as Quatuor Tempora and in German as Quatember. In old English the word ymbren referred to the cycle of the year. Either way, we mark these days with thanks for this earth and with a commitment throughout the year to live more gently. The first Ember Day will be September 23.

Youth Choir

Youth Choir Welcomes New Members! If you're in grade 6 and up, we need you in the Youth Choir! Practices are Sundays after the worship service in the parlour and the choir sings in the service every other week. New members are welcome at any time, but the beginning of a new season is a great time to join! Our first practice this fall is Sunday, Sept. 23 (and we will be getting pizza after the practice). If you miss the first practice, you can join on any Sunday. Practices last one hour, beginning about 15 minutes after the worship service (usually noon to 1:00). Anyone interested should just go to the parlour after the service and sign up, or speak to Anne Leyton-Brown for more information (or phone the church office).

Christian Development

We are looking ahead to our children's programming for next year. **We are now searching for one or two people to coordinate Sunday Morning Programs for Youth. Jennifer Townsend has taken on the role of Coordinator for Sunday Morning Programs for Children.** There is an honorarium for these positions. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact Joan Verner at joanverner@rogers.com or 905-539-1222.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Hands & Hearts for Africa

2018 VIRTUAL WALK AROUND AFRICA In Africa there is a saying that "the longest journey starts with a single step." So come step along with us as we journey from Ethiopia to Botswana, a distance of 10254 kms. As you follow our footsteps, please consider sponsoring us or join the walking team in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and African AIDS families. A map of our route will be at our sponsorship table in Centennial Hall.

Our first step onto African soil takes us to Addis Ababa, the highest city in Africa. At an altitude of 8000 feet, we notice it is harder to breathe and we must walk slowly as we make our way through the city. We are honoured to visit Kidist Belete, executive Director of Developing Families Together--one of SLF's programmes that turn around lives among the poorest of the poor. Kidist says: You help one grandmother and you make a difference in the lives of generations.

As we leave Addis behind and follow our guide through the mountains, we keep an eye out for the rarest canid in the world, the Ethiopian Wolf on a hunt for giant mole rats. We hope for a safe and amazing journey, as we head to our next stop--Nairobi, Kenya. Only 1170 kms away! *Peg Hiscoke*

Krasman lunches – we need volunteers!

Outreach is looking for volunteers for the monthly Krasman lunches, usually the fourth Monday of each month. We offer a full, home-cooked meal to 15 - 20 guests and staff from the Krasman Centre. We need people to come at 10:30 and help set up, help serve the meal and welcome guests, and help with cleanup. We serve the lunch between 11:30 and 12 and are all cleaned up by 1:00. If you think you could help, please contact Wendy Thomson, Lyn May or the church office. It's lots of fun and we could really use your help, especially during the winter months when we are also doing Out of the Cold.

Breakfast Club – we need volunteers!

Are you a morning person? Would you enjoy helping children enjoy a breakfast before they begin school? Then this may be the perfect opportunity for you. Our Breakfast Club began in January 1998 and now almost 21 years later we continue to serve breakfast each morning to children at two schools Walter Scott Public School and Sixteenth Ave. Public School. As you know, we at Richmond Hill United Church sponsor these programs with funding from Food for Learning. If you can toast bread, bagels or English muffins, then we would love to hear from you. It requires only 90 minutes of your time before school one day a week. We'd love to have you come and see the program and then decide if you are interested in being part of this worthwhile project. For more information, please contact: Janet Centa – co-coordinator at 16th Avenue Public School 905-884-2169 or janetcenta@gmail.com

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support theological training at seven schools across Canada and three education centres. In the beautiful south end of Halifax, Nova Scotia, there is a small university whose commitment is to “serve Christ’s mission by shaping effective and faithful ordained and lay leaders and understanding among communities of faith.” The Atlantic School of Theology (AST) was formed in 1971 through the joint vision and forward thinking of its three founding parties—the United, Anglican, and Roman Catholic Churches of Canada. The school is located on the site of Pine Hill Divinity Hall, which had provided theological education since 1878. Thanks to its board of governors, faculty, and staff, and the support of the three founding parties, Atlantic School of Theology continues to train, support, and prepare leaders to face the unique challenges of ministry in the 21st century. Kim Curlett is a candidate for ordination in the United Church and a Master of Divinity student. “AST was my first choice for theological education because of its commitment to ecumenism and interfaith dialogue,” she says. “To me, effective leadership in the church today means that we are not only able to educate and care for our local congregation, but that we are also able to engage with our neighbours outside the church walls with respect and a deep sense that we are all children of God. It is with this understanding that we are truly able to be Christ’s hands and hearts in the world.” Mission & Service makes theological education for students, clergy, and lay worship leaders possible. Thank you for your generous support.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Men’s Breakfast

The next Men’s Breakfast will be on **Saturday, September 8, 2018**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. New participants are always welcome. The Men’s Breakfasts are 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 or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, September 6th. Thank you! At this breakfast we can share our summer experiences. In addition the 2018/2019 itinerary will be presented. Looking ahead: Future dates for 2018 are October 13th, November 17th and December 8th.

Shalom Seekers

The first session of Shalom Seekers for the fall will take place on **Monday, September 10 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel**. New members are always warmly welcomed. Shalom Seekers is RHUC’s longest-running study group with 15 to 20 members.

We will be continuing our study of Marcus Borg’s book *Days of Awe and Wonder: How to be a Christian in the 21st Century* which was published posthumously. Please read **Chapter 10** for this first session. However, if you’re new to the group, please come anyway and you will still enjoy the discussion and can be part of it without having read the chapter.

Please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton if you’re interested in finding out more about the group. You could also speak to Deb Fratin in the office at 905-884-1301 Ext. 5.

Women’s Spirituality

For our first gathering on **September 15th at 9:45** start with refreshments in the Garden room. 10:15 a.m. program: Spiritual Pot Luck Everyone is to bring along something to share and we will discuss the topic. All women are welcome! Some ideas:

- a special time or learning or place from the summer
- something you’ve read or a movie
- a current event (but let’s not get depressed with Ford or Trump stuff!)
- a hope you have for the future
- something you have been wondering about

Special Occasions

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. Please let us know to add any special occasions that are coming up.
Congratulations to **Anne and Ken Dunn** on their 50 wedding anniversary!

RHUC Book Club

The RHUC Book Club is taking a break over the summer and will reconvene on **Wednesday, September 19th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel. (Please note that this is the third Wednesday of the month instead of the usual 4th or 5th Wednesday.)
We will be discussing John Steinbeck's novel **East of Eden** which was published in 1952 and is often described as the author's most ambitious novel. The book for discussion for the meeting on October 24th will be **The Lightkeeper's Daughters** by Jean Pendziwol. New members are always welcome to join us and see if a book club is for them! For more details, please speak to Sandra Loughton in person or e-mail Sandra at bookgirl8@hotmail.com. Happy summer and happy reading!

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Cash Cards

If you would like to place an order for cash cards, please submit it to the church office by **Monday, September 17**. Thank you for supporting an ongoing RHUC fundraiser!

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY



My Pop Choir, a group of community based choirs for people who love to sing, is starting its fall session at Richmond Hill United Church beginning this **Monday, September 10 from 7:15 to 8:45pm for 10 weeks** in Centennial Hall!

There are no auditions and no experience, training or ability to read music is required. My Pop Choir is all about the love of singing pop/rock music in harmony with other like-minded adults.

Advance Registration is required – for more info and to register go to: www.mypopchoir.com

The Indigenous Solidarity Group invites you to two events

The Indigenous Solidarity Group (ISWG), Learning @ Redeemer and Creation Matters @ Redeemer invite you to participate in two key events marking a Season of Creation:

Sunday, September 23 at 7 pm – Earth Song: A Service of Music, Word & Prayer with an address: “NOW is the Time!” by the Very Rev'd Dr. Bill Phipps, former Moderator of the United Church of Canada. This service launches our month-long celebration of Creation. Musicians and singers will offer music ranging from hymns to Eric Whitacre to Michael Jackson's “Earth Song.” Along with selected scripture, the poetry of Richard Wagamese, Wendell Berry and Mary Oliver will be read.

Monday, September 24 at 7 pm – a panel discussion on the theme We ARE the Earth! with:
The Right Rev'd Mark MacDonald, Indigenous Bishop Anglican Church of Canada;
the Rev'd Dr. Cheri DiNovo, Minister Trinity – St. Paul's United Church & Former MPP, Parkdale – High Park;
the Very Rev'd Dr. Bill Phipps, also Co-Founder & Board Member, Faith & The Common Good.
We look forward to an animated conversation around the profound and challenging theme of the interdependence and interconnection of everything that exists. We hope you will stay afterward for an informal reception and continue the conversation. Both events take place in the worship space, Church of the Redeemer, 162 Bloor St. West, Toronto.
For directions and more information: www.theredeemer.ca.

To unsubscribe, please write to: office@rhuc.org, and put “unsubscribe” in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin.
Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.