

JULY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The *Upper Room* booklets for **JULY/AUGUST** are now available at no charge. (They are on the wall near the piano.) Copies of the **JULY Observer** are in the same magazine holder as the *Upper Room* and are also free.
- The **Centering Prayer** sessions are on Wednesday at 1:30pm.
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** - Do you have a few hours a month to give to Ellesmere? We are looking for volunteers to be a presence in our church on **Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm**. We have a loyal team in place, but a few more volunteers would make the rotating schedule much lighter! Help us keep our doors open to the community! Please speak to Eleanor or Joanne if you can assist.

***July 17 — Extend a Ministry of Welcome***

People who have committed crimes have a difficult time fitting back into society. Their families have a tough time, too, often getting little support from friends and neighbours. Some members of society seem more focused on punishment and less concerned about rehabilitation. That's where Friends of Dismas comes in. Dismas is the name given to one of the two thieves who was crucified with Jesus. Begun in 2000 in Toronto, the Friends of Dismas strives to build a community of hope by enabling people of faith to get involved in creative and healing ministry to people touched by crime.

The Friends of Dismas offers a place of welcome where people might learn to begin life anew. Here, people are invited to gather, to share their stories, to live in community, and to learn to grow together in faith and forgiveness.

It is hoped that this model of love and acceptance will inspire self-worth in the program's participants, and will lessen the chance of people becoming reoffenders.

The work of the Friends of Dismas is enabled through a grant made possible by your gifts to the Mission and Service Fund.

*Together, we carry out the work of our United Church. Make a difference! Join the partnership! Support the work of the Mission and Service Fund today.*

**Prayer Group Meetings.** There will be three meetings throughout the week for the prayer groups. Sunday's prayer group with Erin will be 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Tuesday's prayer group with Lois will be 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Thursday's prayer group with Barbara is 1:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. All meetings will take place in Ellesmere United Church.

**Fellburn Sunday Service.** On **Sunday July 31**, we will be hosting the Sunday service at Fellburn Care Centre. Fellburn is located at 6050 E. Hastings St. You can take the bus or drive there. The 135 SFU bus from UniverCity will take you there in about 15 minutes, where you will get off at Fell Avenue.

**Craft Sellers.** You are invited to participate in our Summer Craft Day at VST. This annual event, to be held on **Thursday, July 21** from 11:30-2:00 is an opportunity to show and sell your art or crafts in the beautiful Iona Building Rotunda. If you are interested in participating, please email Ruth Monette at [summerassistant@vst.edu](mailto:summerassistant@vst.edu) with your name, the general kind of art/craft you will show/sell, and if you will need a full 5 foot table or a half table. Set up will be available from 11 am. Clean up to be completed by 3 pm.

**Sunny Days Are Coming.** First United needs sun hats and sun screen products for members of the community. Donations of sunhats and sun screen products etc. would be greatly appreciated by community members. Please call Amanda Pellerine at 604-681-8365 ext 126 or e-mail [amanda.pellerine@firstunited.ca](mailto:amanda.pellerine@firstunited.ca)

**Preaching Changes Its Mind: The Shift from “Narrative” to “Wisdom”.** Dr. Thomas Long will offer a summer public lecture on behalf of the Vancouver School of Theology on **Sunday July 17, 7:00 p.m.** at West Point Grey Presbyterian Church, 4397 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Donations for Emergency Food Bags.** First United would greatly appreciate donations for the community: canned fish, tuna, salmon, sardines, canned meats, 9-grain pasta, rice, and pasta. Please call Linda Ostrom (604) 290- 8417, [lostrom@firstunited.ca](mailto:lostrom@firstunited.ca).

**Thank you to Everyone** who was involved in this year’s “Silver Wheaton Golf for the Homeless Community”. This sold out event was a huge success raising over \$75,000.00. The money raised will go directly to support the programs and services of First United Church, helping those most in need within our community.

**Sean Bayntun’s and Jessica Dmytryshyn’s Wedding** will be held on Saturday **July 23** at **7391 Broadway** at **2:00 p.m.** Please arrive early. There is parking around the corner on Phillips Place.

**New Challenges for Religious Leaders in North America.** Rev. Dr. William McKinney will provide a free summer public lecture on Tuesday **July 19**, 7:00 p.m. at West Point Grey United Church, 4595 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The full title of the lecture is “*Momma Never Said There’ll Be Days Like This: New Challenges for Religious Leaders in North America.*”

**Love for the Paradise Mystery: Thomas Merton, Contemplative Ecologist.** Dr. Kathleen Deignan, CND, is cosponsored with The Thomas Merton Society of Canada to provide a free public lecture to you on Thursday **July 21**, 7:00 p.m. at VST’s Epiphany Chapel.