

JULY 31st, 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.

Centering Prayer is on Wednesday at **1:30p.m.**

Sunday Service will begin at **10:00 a.m. on Sunday August 7.**

- **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 31 — Loud and Clear: United Voices

Imagine you are in a crowded stadium. There is noise all around: peanut vendors are shouting sales pitches; announcements boom out of loudspeakers; fans talk, cheer, and boo. What would you do if you had a message to share with the crowd and didn't have a microphone or loudspeaker? Even if you yelled at the top of your lungs, only a few people might hear you. On its own, your voice is too small to be heard. But, if you passed the word along and got a crowd of people to join their voices with yours, your message might begin to be heard.

It is the same way with our church. We all want to make our world a better place. Yet because there is so much noise around us, only those closest to us hear our message. So we join a congregation that shares many of our thoughts. But the voice of one congregation has limited impact; we may be heard in our neighbourhood or town, but not beyond that. However, if we join voices with the 3,000 United Church congregations across the country, our voice becomes much louder. We can be heard!

By speaking together as a United Church, we share with many the message that God loves us and that there is hope. The work of your United Church is made possible through 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.

Fellburn Sunday Service. On Sunday July 31 @ **2:30 p.m.**, 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.

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.

Horn of Africa Relief. The federal government has committed to provide an additional \$50 million in financial support to humanitarian organizations delivering assistance to people in East Africa who are suffering as a result of the worst drought in 60 years, and has committed to matching the charitable donations of Canadians who take action to support charities of their choice.

The United Church of Canada is providing humanitarian relief in the region through its partners, including [ACT Alliance](#), the National Council of Churches in Kenya, and the Organization of African Instituted Churches. Earlier this week the United Church announced it was launching an Emergency Appeal for the Horn of Africa to respond to this humanitarian crisis. This announcement means that funds raised through this appeal between July 6, 2011 and September 16, 2011 will be matched by the federal government.

Members of the United Church and the general public are encouraged to contribute to the work of ACT and the United Church's partners on the ground in East Africa by making a donation today at www.united-church.ca.

For more information, please contact: Mary-Frances Denis, Media and Public Relations, The United Church of Canada, 416-231-7680 ext. 2016 (office), 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2016 (toll free), email: mdenis@united-church.ca.

Donations for Emergency Food Bags. First United would greatly appreciate donations for the community: canned fish, tuna, salmon, sardines, canned meats, 9-grain pasta (except lasagne), rice, pasta sauce, stovetop stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pork and beans, canned ravioli, dry noodle soups, cake mixes, cooking oil, canned milk, table condiments, mayonnaise, and just-add-water pancake mix. Please call Linda Ostrom (604) 290- 8417, lostrom@firstunited.ca.

Hello Sunny Days! 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