

OCTOBER 2nd, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Upper Room** booklets for **SEPT/ OCT** are now available at no charge. (They are on the wall near the piano.) Copies of the **September Observer** are in the same magazine holder as the *Upper Room* and are also free.
- The Centering Prayer sessions are on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- **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 Joanne if you can assist.

October 2 — To Love and Serve Others

“For God so loved the world, that [God] gave [God’s] only Son.” —John 3:16

Mike thought he had it made. He had a great job and could afford to buy the things he wanted. He didn’t have to worry about saving because he was an employee of General Motors.

Then came the global recession. People stopped buying cars, and General Motors entered bankruptcy protection. They laid off thousands of workers in Oshawa, including Mike. Mike couldn’t find another job and soon found himself in debt, with nowhere to turn.

That’s when Mike learned about the Gate 3:16 Outreach Centre in downtown Oshawa. The centre seeks to model the life of Christ by caring for those in need.

Services include a drop-in centre for people who are homeless; a drop-in or call-in counseling service; a breakfast and lunch program; a clothing and footwear bank; a drug-prevention program; networking for housing; daily Bible-study and literacy programs; and a health-care program.

By modeling God’s love for all people, the centre inspires dignity and respect for all who come through its doors. The work of the Gate 3:16 Outreach Centre is supported by your gifts to the Mission and Service Fund.

By supporting M&S, you help people like Mike find hope. Give generously.

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.

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.

Remit 6. The revised date to respond to the remit is due **May 15, 2012**. This will allow you as much time as possible for consideration of the remit. Your votes will be counted regardless of whether you use the original forms or the revised forms as long as they are received by May 15, 2012. Thank you for your participation in this important work of the church!

Multi-Cultural Ministries. You can explore temples in the Richmond area with David McLauren on Saturday October 15, 9:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. visiting Sikh, Buddhist, Muslim, and Hindu temples. The cost is \$32.00, and please bring your own lunch. If you'd like to register for this even, please call David (604) 897-4224 or email, dcmclauren@gmail.com. Multi-Cultural Ministries is a Christian resource and outreach for local and global evangelism.

World Food Day. On October 16, Canada and the world will celebrate World Food Day! Canada is one of the key players in the global economy and its approach to food production and consumption can have a huge impact on global food security. Several issues, relating both to national and international aspects, dominate current debates: National Food Policy, Over-Consumption, and International Aid for Agriculture. Please go to these websites and this pdf for more information: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/about-us/>

<http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/2011-churches-week-of-action-on-food/>

www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/20110308_a-hrc-16-49_agroecology_en.pdf

Workshop with Brenda Watt. On Friday October 21 and Saturday October 22, Brenda will be hosting this workshop to help us understand our connection between the Bible and our stewardship of this planet. Brenda has a Masters Degree in Theology and is a gifted stewardship educator and facilitator. This workshop qualifies for expenses, accommodation and travel through BC Conference. It is affordable and accessible for all types of people. If you are interested in attending, please register on the website, www.be.united-church.ca.

Fellburn Care Centre. On Sunday October 30, there will be a service held by Ellesmere United Church at Fellburn Care Centre. We will meet by the old organ at 2:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. The place is easily accessible with the 135 SFU bus. The care centre is located on the corner of Fell Ave. and Hastings St. Please arrive early for set up and greetings.

Thinking about Ministry? Come and Explore your Call at Naramata Centre this November for a weekend of Discernment in November 18 – 20 Cost \$75, includes travel, program, meals and accommodation.

BC Conference is introducing the Candidacy Pathway, a new way of preparing for ministry. This retreat is the first step on the path to ministry, regardless of the type of ministry that you feel called to. You will have an opportunity to explore your call in community, to learn about different kinds of ministry, and to understand the denominational processes in beautiful Naramata. To register, contact Brenda Wolff: bwolff@bc.united-church.ca