

Soul Edition



Heavenly Father, during Advent, may we remember
the greatest gift ever given: Your only Son, Jesus Christ.
Fill our hearts with joy day by day as we think
of our Saviour putting aside His heavenly glory and coming among us.

Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
10066 Yonge St., Richmond Hill
Ontario, L4C 1T8
905-884-4211

*witnessing and promoting
the good news of Jesus Christ*

Editor's Musings

As I sit here pondering what comments I might make with regard to the preparation of this issue of Soul Edition, I find myself looking back over the experience I had in preparing my first Soul Edition. That undertaking was filled with much frustration because the software I used did, at times, seem to have a mind all its own, and no matter what I wanted to do, it seemed to have other ideas! I was hoping this time around with my previous experience, I would be able to navigate that particular mine field a little more easily and successfully than before. Apparently, I am just a cockeyed optimist!



There were many, many formatting problems, and changing to a different format style, seemed to be the answer to all my prayers. Well to all my prayers as they relate to the preparation of the newsletter at least. Sadly all that optimism was crushed when I discovered that while the new format would accept all I wanted to do, and so easily do it, and it did appear to save all changes and formatting commands such as page numbering, odd and even, mirroring pages, etc., I would open my document the next day, only to find all the changes I had made had **COMPLETELY** vanished into the vast void of cyberspace!! I wept, literally! I would like to say that I was undaunted and started all over again, but I was very daunted, however, I did start over again. We - *my software guru Terry, who also doubles as my husband* – and I reformatted the document yet one more time back to its original form, and that fixed a huge problem that had led us to reformat it in the first place. Really people are you all still with me on this? However, this style of formatting was much more difficult to work in, but there was just absolutely no going back. So I did sojourn on still feeling rather daunted.

My greatest wish this time around was to be much less dependent on Terry, and to that end, formatting crises aside, I think I did just that. However, you will have to check with him for the real truth. I am happy in what may be false bliss, but that is where I want to stay. That is my happy place!

I wish to thank all of you who contributed articles, pictures, funny stories, etc to be included in this issue. Without all of you there would be no Soul Edition.

I also need to thank Angela, our erstwhile office manager, for her constant good humour when I would come into the office with my flash drive in hand, and ask her to let me run off a copy of the newsletter in progress so I could see how it looked. I would always see something I wanted to change, and would be back again a few days later begging her indulgence and running off another copy. Thank you Angela for your patience and help.

Also a most appreciative thank you to Anne Rosevear for all her help in assembling this newsletter. We spent many hours in the church office running off all the copies, stapling them, labelling and then stacking them in boxes for the Sunday distribution. Anne still manages the mailing list, tracks what our students are doing for inclusion in future newsletters, and sees to the distribution of the newsletter to those who sit in the balcony. Anne you make my job so much easier with all your help!

So here I am with a second issue now complete. Was it easier than the first? No, not at all, but I did learn some important things along the way. Most importantly I learned that software is never to be trusted, it does have a mind of its own, and it will always fail you at the very moment you need it most to work! However, I have a software angel who lives with me, and can always fix whatever has gone wrong. Not necessarily fix it easily or quickly or without much anxiety and frustration, but in the end he always can get it to work! Thank you Terry, for again I could never have done this without you!

Christmas Message from Rev. Duncan Jeffrey

Christmas Season to begin December 25!!



Shock, horror – doesn't it begin on November 1st, when the Halloween candies go on special and the Christmas decorations go up in the shopping malls? At RHPC perhaps we feel that the Christmas Season really begins with the Bazaar – November 19th this year. A group of five from church, including your minister and music director attended the first ever “Presbytery Day Apart” on October 15th on the theme of Advent. The workshop was led by The Rev. Dr. Kevin Livingston, Professor of Preaching and Congregational Life at Tyndale College. He helped attendees from half a dozen churches to understand that there are several different “calendars” competing for our attention at this time of year.

There is the commercial calendar – the one that begins the day after Halloween. What a lot of time, money and effort go into creating the “Christmas Spirit” in our neighbouring shopping centres. Of course, the spirit that they are working so hard to create is the spirit of getting and spending. No matter how warm and fuzzy they make us feel, they're really after our money – and the more the merrier. This season ends not with a bang but a whimper at the Boxing Day sales.

Local church calendars tend to follow the chronology of commerce. “Magic of Christmas Teas” and the like begin cropping up around Richmond Hill in early November. There will also be a plethora of special church events in our community – musicals, galas, nativity plays, carol-singing and playing around town. Ministers and musicians come under increasing pressure to introduce carols before their time and before we're heartily sick of hearing them “on every street corner”.

Advent is the Christian season that begins this year on November 27th and continues to Christmas Eve. “Advent” means “what/who is coming”. Christians reflect on the awesome Good News that the “god-man” is coming to be with humanity – God with us, Emmanuel, Jesus of Nazareth. It's a season of joyful anticipation tempered with awe as Christians reflect on our belief that “He will come again.” And how will He find us? We are to give serious, prayerful and repentant attention to the state of our souls. The contrast with the mall merriment with its culture of instant gratification could hardly be more pronounced. At church we light the Advent Candle each week to give thanks for the gifts of Emmanuel: peace, joy, hope and love. We sing the wonderful songs of yearning as we pray “Come, thou long expected Jesus”. Come Lord Jesus Maranatha. Try a breathing prayer “Mara(in); -natha(out)” as a part of your spiritual discipline this season.

This year, the RHPC calendar is jam packed. Participate as you are able in these spiritual opportunities to experience the real meaning of the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Candle in the Window: December 4th at 7:00 p.m. We join community churches for the fourth year at RHCCC on Bayview Ave. at Weldrick Ave. This year experience the mystery of Christmas in dance as the Soli Deo Ballet company present “***Candle in the Window*”**. There will be carol-singing and the Christmas story from the Bible will be told. There is no admission fee. Please bring a non-perishable item to support the Richmond Hill Foodbank. Refreshments will follow.

Amahl and the Night Visitors: Dec 11th at 7:00 p.m. The choir and their guests present a musical play about a poor shepherd boy whose disability does not prevent him from becoming an important (if hitherto unknown) participant in the Nativity. ***Amahl*** appeals to people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Don't be shy about inviting your neighbours and family. And of course – refreshments will follow. Please purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Christian Family Christmas Sunday: Dec 18th at 10:30 a.m. Morning worship will bring together the generations in anticipation as we wait together. Following worship enjoy some Christmas fellowship, and enjoy watching the children interact with a special guest.

Christmas Eve Carols and Communion: Dec. 24th at 8:00 p.m. The true Christmas Season begins.

Christmas Day Worship: December 25th at 10:30 a.m. It's not every year that we get to worship God on Christmas Day – but what day could be better? Work up an appetite for Christmas dinner by singing your heart out.

New Year's Day Worship: January 1st at 10:30 a.m. Welcome in 2012 with thanks and praise.

Epiphany/Wise Men Sunday: January 8th at 10:30 a.m. Hear the “other Christmas story” from Matthew's Gospel, sing the wise men songs that you can't sing any other Sunday. Although “the twelve days of Christmas” end on January 6th, as Orthodox Christmas Day is January 7th, you still have twelve more days of Christmas before you take your tree down on January 21st!

My hopes and prayers go with all of you this Christmas and into the New Year of 2012. Let us pray for a good year for our families, church, community, country and world.

An Awesome Advent to you one and all! Duncan. (and a Blessed Christmas when it comes!)

Contributed by Rev. Duncan Jeffrey

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers [and sisters],
 To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

With Permission John Congram from “Friends Along The Way”

Women's Missionary Society

Mission Awareness Sunday



On May 15, 2011 Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church celebrated Mission Awareness Sunday. Members of the Women's Missionary Society organized and participated actively in the service.

On that day, Lori Ransom was present as our guest speaker. Lori works with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Her area of responsibility is the healing and reconciliation process within our Church, involving aboriginal peoples together with all other members of our national church.

Lori's message was about reconciliation. She reminded us there is a most urgent need for doing mission work at home. Quoting from Paul's letter to the Corinthians (II Cor. 5:20-21) she stressed that we are ambassadors for Christ and that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

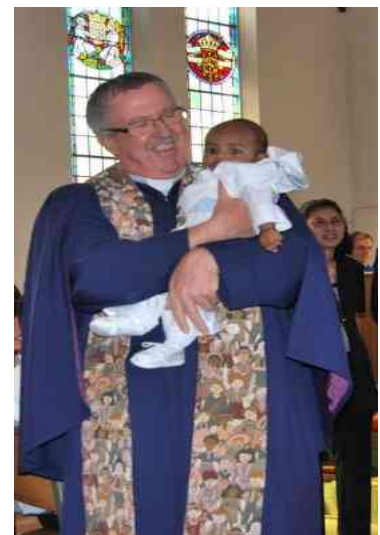
Article and picture courtesy Lydia Olson.

BAPTISM



Logan Anil Gosine, born on July 9, 2011, was baptized at Richmond Hill Presbyterian on Sunday October 30, 2011. Logan's parents are Nerissa and Anil.

Pictures courtesy Anil Gosine





A Back-and-Forth Bible Study



The little New Testament letter “Colossians” seems to be “theology,” which is what ministers study before they’re ordained. So how could it be something we could study together at RHPC?

Because it was really *meant* for real people with real jobs, real children, real problems that pressed, and real hopes. That’s who first read it. That’s the kind of people who kept on reading it and made it part of our NT.

Earlier Christians than we are didn’t do this because they had some quirk (“if you like that sort of thing...”) but because Paul wrote to help real people in a real place deal with how the world pressed in on them, demanding noisily for people to pay attention to whether Colossae was falling behind, whether it was hip compared to Laodicea, whether the mayor and council were clever or stupid, or whether this new thing (“good news”) that Epaphras and others had brought to them was more trouble than it was worth: “I mean, what difference does it make, in the long run – this “way” they talk about?” “I mean, hockey practice for the kids and ‘what’s on TV?’ may not be the end-all, but they’re what everybody does.”

This little letter begins by showing those people *who they really are*, and why. Five successive paragraphs start with you”: you have, you must, you are, how what God-is-doing intersects with what you face. This is likely to be a thing we could follow in Richmond Hill – and get somewhere, if we did.

So we expect to get on with it by means of a lot of back-and-forth among ourselves. Colossians itself is set up so that the Big Picture carries down to workaday things: spouses, kids and workplace. What Jesus got people into doing is not a chart to memorize or a set of mottoes framed on the wall. Jesus expected (then and now) for people to test what he said and to give it a good shake.

So: In January or early February, we expect to begin to read this letter together, and see how it helps with what we do, and can do, at RHPC and as individual persons. Watch for the dates and place. You’ll meet long-time people you may not know very well, as well as people you’ve hardly yet met.

Youth Lead Sunday Worship Service

A Service Worth Reflecting On

On June 5, Ascension Sunday, the joint Richmond Hill and Thornhill Presbyterian Youth Group conducted the worship service. The scriptures, hymns and prayers were all determined by the Youth Group in consultation with Rev. Duncan Jeffrey.

Rev. Duncan led the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Our Youth partnered with our Elders in the serving of the Sacrament. The Youth found assisting with the serving of Communion very meaningful!

The Scriptures referenced during the service were Jeremiah 1:4-10, 1ST. Samuel 17:32-37, 45-50 and Matthew 14.

Jessica Chapman spoke during the children's moment about how super heroes can be found in their own lives and how they, themselves, can be a super hero just like Goliath.



The Youth presented a skit on the scripture Matthew 14. The story of Jesus walking on the water and how Peter attempted to walk on the water. Peter was able to do so until he took his eyes off of Jesus.

Their sermon message was based on a song called "Voice of Truth" by Casting Crowns, which they learned at the 30 Hour Famine held in May. The young people tied this song to the Scriptures in the service.

An overview of the sermon follows. Can you imagine standing beside Peter looking out of the boat at Jesus standing on the water and thinking this looks like madness? Or marching into the battlefield with David looking up at the giant Goliath and thinking this behemoth will be completely unbeatable? However, the message the Youth wanted to share was that there is a different story. A story that says no matter who you are or what you face, with God you do not have to be afraid!

- Peter, an ordinary person, some would even say a 'less than desirable' person, could do something extraordinary when he put his faith in Jesus, because he knew that whatever God commands of us He will empower us to do.
- We too often feel like Jeremiah: so ordinary, so insignificant but God's outlook is totally different. With God there are no ordinary people; age and experience do not matter, but God's presence does.
- When David told his brothers he would fight Goliath they figured he was crazy. Obviously his brothers were comparing their size to Goliath and that made nine foot tall Goliath a true giant. This story shows us how God took an ordinary person and used him to rescue the entire nation of Israel.

Life is exciting and full of possibilities to be an unlikely hero when we let God's presence move in us. However, when we neglect to seek God or ignore His prompting, we stand still. Life then becomes dull and tiresome and we stop making a difference. The choice is ours. What will we decide to seek? A life with God, or never knowing what that could be like? So the challenge we must face individually is: "**ARE WE WILLING TO BE THE PERSON OF GOD**" that God wants us to be?

Article and picture by Sandra Lott, Chairperson, RHPC Youth Advisory Team.

With special thanks to former Youth Leader, Jessica Chapman, for her contribution to this article.

Mission and Outreach

Our June end of season report noted our targets had been met. Through funds raised, money was also available to make a donation to an additional charity, the Richmond Hill Food Bank.



RHPC was mentioned in PWS&D September, 2011 Newsletter indicating our participation in their Spring Challenge. On June 17, 2011 “What’s up with the Weather?” talk by David Phillips raised \$576.00 through ticket sales and donations; to this was added \$424.00 from funds raised and \$1,000 was sent to PWS&D. The evening was enjoyed by all.



Special thanks to the following people for providing the tickets for the event, the contribution of refreshments, loan of audio visual equipment and technical support provided that night, art work from the children of the Sunday School, maintenance support and photography.



Jim Monkman, David Tan, Julie Dewell, Joan Ambrose, Meg McCrae, Doris Willoughby, Lois Leonard, Sandra Lott, Eleanor Haluza, Les Burton, Meryl Cox, Stan Johnson, Walter Haluza, Deborah Campbell and the young artists.

The Door Prize winner of the 2012 Weather Trivia Calendar was Graham Leonard.

The June 24, 2011 Pancake Breakfast raised \$424 which was included in the \$1,000 donated to PWS&D (noted above). The September 24, 2011 Pancake Breakfast raised \$557.29, and through additional contributions \$600 was sent to Canada Ministries-- “Healing with our Aboriginal Neighbours.” The October, 2011 Pancake Breakfast made a profit of \$582.15 and, with additional contributions, \$600 was donated to Scott Mission.

THANKS to all who contributed and helped with baking, jam making, and the plant and book table: *Julie Dewell, Eleanor, Sarah and Walter Haluza, Anne and David Rosevear, Lois Leonard and Olive Cox. Our invaluable M&O and Friends Pancake Breakfast Team: Minerva Charles, Meryl Cox, Julie Dewell, Martina Edwards, Theresa Hillar, Stan Johnson, Bruce, Nikki, Michael, and Lillian Lazenby, Ruth and Bob McCormick – our heartfelt appreciation.*

Thank you letters for our donations from the various charities follow.

Our kick off date for next year’s fundraisers will be February 26, 2012. Pancake Breakfast dates will be held on:

March 3

April 21

May 28

Sept. 22

Oct. 27



Presbyterian World Service & Development

The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

June 13, 2011

JUL 14 2011

Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
Attn: Susan Falia-Johnson
10066 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 1T8

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
John 10:10

Dear Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church,

Greetings from Presbyterian World Service & Development and our partners overseas! Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00 from your Mission and Outreach community pancake breakfast. This gift of \$100.00 for Mines Action Canada and \$400.00 to empower people with disabilities is making a difference in the lives of many people around the world.

For many people living in developing countries, life can be hard just to survive; having a physical or mental disability compounds life's difficulties even more. But around the world, PWS&D partners are helping people of all ages living with disabilities discover their abilities.

Gifts to PWS&D for the Empowering People with Disabilities program provide medical attention, emotional support and training in agriculture, literacy and vocational skills, for people with physical and developmental disabilities. With the compassionate support of dedicated staff and volunteers, participants use their abilities to contribute to society, feel loved and accepted, and lead fulfilling lives. Many of the graduates go on to start small businesses themselves and share their skills by training apprentices in the community.

Thanks to your generous support of PWS&D, differently-abled people are experiencing the amazing changes that can happen when we focus on people's abilities and help provide opportunity in a loving and supportive environment. You are helping to realize the promise of God for creation: that we have life and have it abundantly!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Kim
Director



www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7
1-800-619-7301 • pwsd@presbyterian.ca • fax 416-441-2825

The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada

JUL 11 2011



LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY
Canadian Ministries / The Vine

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together;
if one member is honoured, all rejoice together"*

1 Corinthians 12:26

July 6th, 2011

Susan Falla-Johnson, Chair
Mission and Outreach Committee
Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
10066 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 1T8

Dear Susan and Richmond Hill PC Congregation,

Summer Greetings from Canadian Ministries / The Vine of The Presbyterian Church in Canada! Thank you for your recent \$500.00 donation that you raised through a community pancake breakfast. As you requested, this will be forwarded on to the 'Welcome a Refugee' program at Action Réfugiés in Montreal. You can see from the text below, how far your generous donation will go. This donation will be well-received by Glynis Williams and the folks at ARM.

- \$40 buys one month of telephone cards for people in detention
- \$60 sensitizes volunteers to the refugee reality through training sessions on cross-cultural communication and the Canadian refugee claim process
- \$100 supports the matching of one refugee woman with one volunteer for one year breaking down isolation and creating human community
- \$125 pays for one month of staff and volunteer transportation costs to the Immigration detention centre located outside of Montreal, responding to God's call to visit those who are in prison

To tell you a bit about this program, I will quote from our literature: "Action Réfugiés Montreal in downtown Montreal works in solidarity with refugees and refugee claimants by matching vulnerable refugee women with volunteers, facilitating the private sponsorship of refugees to Canada, and visiting people held in an immigration detention centre near Montreal."

Please continue to pray for our partners in mission, that we may continue to support them with encouragement, ideas, prayers and finances. Together we are working on a common mission to follow Christ in love and service. On behalf of Canadian Ministries/The Vine, I wish you all at Richmond Hill PC God's rich blessings.

Yours truly,

S. Alyea

Sheilah Alyea, Secretary,
Canadian Ministries/The Vine
e-mail: salyea@presbyterian.ca



Presbyterian World Service & Development

The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

JUL 25 2011

July 12, 2011

Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
Attn: Susan Falla-Johnson
10066 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 1T8

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
John 10:10

Dear Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church,

Greetings from Presbyterian World Service & Development and our partners overseas! Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 for the Spring Challenge. This gift from the talk given by David Phillips and the community pancake breakfast is helping to make a difference in the lives of many people around the world.

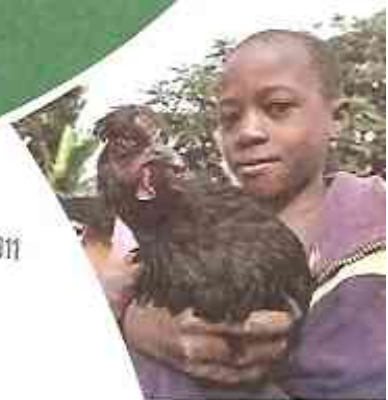
In a world where there is too much poverty and suffering, signs of progress and hope can be difficult to find. However, PWS&D is working with dedicated partners around the world who are helping people overcome disaster and create new futures where there is enough food, clean water, education and healthcare for all.

In Afghanistan, Laghman province is a place where the rains frequently fail and people experience prolonged droughts. It is here that PWS&D, through our local partner, is working to help farmers drill and rehabilitate irrigation canals, provide drought resistant seeds and diversify crops for better nutrition. With your generous support, PW&D has committed to a three-year project that will benefit 2,800 families in 30 villages so there is enough food and water for all.

Thank you for your generous support of PWS&D's programs in agriculture, health, education, income generation, skills training, water and emergency relief. You are helping to realize the promise of God for creation: that we have life and have it abundantly!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Kim
Director



www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7
1-800-619-7301 • pwsd@presbyterian.ca • fax 416-441-2825



Evangel Hall Mission

SEP 30 2011

Susan

A community of compassion. A place of hope.

September 27, 2011

Nancy Vanderlaag, Clerk of Session
Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
10066 Yonge ST
Richmond Hill ON L4C 1T8

-> Mission + Outreach
Credit

Dear Nancy:

4500.00

Your congregation's generous gift to Evangel Hall Mission is deeply appreciated. Your support enables ehm to aid those who are poor, marginalized and alone in our community. Poverty is a fact in our society and many people depend on ehm for their daily bread, warm clothing in winter, access to showers and laundry facilities, friendship, emotional and spiritual support. For a good many people ehm is a lifeline that is critical to their wellbeing and even their survival.

The number of people seeking help at ehm has increased and last year we served 100,000 meals to hungry people, provided a home to 130 persons previously on the street, mentored 75 'at risk' youth every week, supplied over \$300,000 worth of free dental care and medical care to 250 impoverished individuals. At ehm we address the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of people dealing with mental or physical illnesses.

We are proud that Charity Intelligence Canada, an organization that evaluates charities for 1) Transparency and Accountability, 2) Program Evaluation/Impact, 3) Benchmarking - Best results at lowest costs again selected Evangel Hall Mission as a top performing and recommended charity. ehm was one of 36 charities endorsed nationwide and has achieved this award for the past three years.

The vital work of changing lives could not exist without your support and generosity. Through your financial contribution, you make a profound difference in the lives of hundreds of people every year. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph R. Taylor, CAE
Executive Director

Receipt

Evangel Hall Mission

552 Adelaide Street West, Toronto ON M5V 3W8

The Sum of / La somme:	\$500.00	
Received from / Reçu de:	Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church 10066 Yonge ST Richmond Hill ON L4C 1T8	ID: 1014440
Receipt No. / No du reçu:	102485	
Receipt Date / Date du reçu:	September 27, 2011	
Received on / Reçu le:	June 17, 2011	

Authorized Signature / Signature autorisée

The Presbyterian Church in Canada
L'Église presbytérienne au Canada

OCT 12 2011



LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY
Canadian Ministries / The Vine

"A gift opens the way for the giver, and ushers him into the presence of the great." Proverbs 18:16.

October 6th, 2011

Susan Falla-Johnson, Chair
Mission and Outreach Committee
Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
10066 Yonge St.
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 1T8

Dear Susan and Richmond Hill PC Congregation,

Greetings from Canadian Ministries/The Vine of The Presbyterian Church in Canada!

We thank you for your recent \$600.00 donation that you have raised through a community pancake breakfast and contributions by your congregation. As requested, this generous gift will go to our *Gifts of Change* project – 'Healing...with our Aboriginal neighbours', and will help develop new programs and support existing programs.

To tell you a bit about this particular program, I will quote from the booklet: "Saskatoon Native Ministry, Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Kenora Fellowship Centre, Winnipeg Inner City Missions, Edmonton Urban Native Ministry and the Cariboo Ministry are working toward restoring relationships and providing services to the Aboriginal community. Counselling, support groups, winter shelter, food and clothing banks, healing circles, after-school programs and parenting classes are providing vital services for Aboriginal people."

Thank you for taking the time to remember our neighbours. Please continue to pray for our partners in mission, that we may continue to support them with encouragement, ideas, prayers and finances. Together we are working on a common mission to follow Christ in love and service. Let us continue to work together to make Christ's message come alive.

On behalf of Canadian Ministries/The Vine, I wish you all at Richmond Hill PC God's rich blessings.

Sincerely,

Sheilah Alyea, Secretary,
Canadian Ministries/The Vine
(e-mail: salyea@presbyterian.ca)

Mary and Martha Guild Strawberry Supper

On June 23rd we held our annual Strawberry Supper. It is our one fundraiser each year that helps us to support the Church and several charities. This year was a great success with all our tickets sold. We could have sold more! The evening netted a profit of \$2,315.00. The ladies served a variety of salads, cold meats, buns and, of course, strawberries, ice cream, cupcakes and cookies. We thank all who supported our function, by attending, donating food, selling tickets and working in the kitchen. Special thanks to those in charge, Julie Dewell and Lois Graham. Shown below are a number of candid pictures from the Strawberry Supper. As can be seen, everyone enjoyed themselves!

The Mary and Martha Guild meet the third Wednesday of each month except for July, August, January and February. We meet at 7.30 p.m. except during September and March when we have a pot luck supper and meet at 6.30 p.m. Our group enjoys fellowship together each month. We have a time for prayer, scripture as story, as well as speakers from our group, our church and our community. We invite any interested ladies to join us for one of our meetings.

Article contributed by Joan Ambrose
Pictures contributed by Chris Bennett



Women's Association Rummage Sale

On Saturday, October 1, 2011, the WA held their semi-annual Rummage Sale. Monies raised totalled \$1,027.60. Many thanks to all who helped make this very important fund raising event so successful!

The Women's Association meets on the first Monday of each month, except July and August, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. We enjoy a time of devotion, discussion of various subjects, and refreshments. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Article and pictures by Chris Bennett



SUMMER WORSHIP

IN PRAISE OF COOL SUMMER PRAISES



Despite the overwhelming heat this past summer, many from RHPC found a great way to stay cool. Every Wednesday evening in July and August, we gathered in the air-conditioned comfort of the Wallace Hall to take part in Cool Summer Praises.



The service came complete with our very own praise band – Rev. Duncan Jeffrey and Roger Potts on guitar, Sapphire Navaratnarajah playing piano, and So Yeong on keyboard/piano. As with all great musical groups, there were backup singers, Albertha-Henry Carmichael, Lois Leonard and Carol Sanford.



Cool Summer Praises was designed to be a very casual, informal musical worship service. To that end, the service was always replete with music. We sang many traditional hymns and a few campfire songs were thrown in for good measure.



No hymn books were used. We made use of an overhead projector, and the words to all the songs were projected onto the wall for everyone to see and sing along. Yours truly toiled away Wednesday evenings as the overhead projectionist. My thanks to Eleanor Haluza and Ken Doane for filling in for me the two weeks I was away. Also many thanks to Les Burton and Herman Vanderlaag for loaning us their respective office overhead projectors when ours gave up the ghost part way through the service one night!



For the first five weeks of service, the sermon was about Creation, particularly our responsibility for God's Earth. For the last four weeks in August, Science and Religion was discussed. During the sermon each week, ice cream was served.. Sermons and ice cream result in a surprisingly compatible combination!



The Sacrament of Holy Communion was shared on August 31, the final Wednesday evening service of the summer season.

Each service was followed by a time of fellowship and light refreshments.

So next summer if you find yourself looking for a way to beat the heat, please join us on Wednesday evenings in July and August for Cool Summer Praises.

Welcoming Carol Priestley as Director of Church School and Youth Development

When the Church School commenced in September, we welcomed Carol Priestley to our newly created position of Director of Church School and Youth Development.



In response to our Job Opportunity Posting, Carol wrote us the following. “Children and youth are the soul of a faith community. To provide young people with a significant role in the context of a congregation, give them the opportunity to explore faith issues with their peers, encourage personal spiritual growth and to participate in a variety of activities incorporating worship, outreach, service and fun has always been part of my personal vision of what an effective youth ministry should be. I firmly believe that young people need support, mentoring and a strong advocate within the congregational structure as they navigate their faith journey.”

Carol comes to us with many years of experience in Christian Education and Youth Leadership. Most recently, Carol was the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry for Glenview Presbyterian Church, in Toronto. During her time with Glenview, Carol re-established and taught a Senior High Church School class, organized an all ages Advent Festival, hosted the Presbytery of East Toronto Hunger Weekend and established a Junior High Youth Group. She also created a Summer Church School program using a Vacation Bible Study (VBS) style format and organized numerous fundraising projects.

Prior to her position at Glenview, Carol spent over 15 years working part time at St. Andrew’s Markham Presbyterian Church. There Carol was more specifically focused on Youth Ministry. She created and led a Junior High Youth Group. Under her leadership the youth groups led some congregational worship services and participated in intergenerational events such as a Christian Family Sunday Breakfast and a Games Night. The Junior and Senior Highs provided leadership for two “all ages” church school Sundays and a summer VBS. Carol encouraged youth to participate in various mission and outreach projects and also in lock-ins and retreats with other youth.



We thank the congregation for their continued support of children and youth activities as well as wishing Carol much success in this new position.

Message from your (very) new Christian Education and Youth Director

Two months have flown by and I'm still amazed by all that I have discovered about this faith community/faith family that is Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church. I must also confess that I am sometimes overwhelmed by what I still need to learn in order to be the best Christian Ed/Youth Director I can be to our children and young people.

Fortunately, God never expects us to have to go it alone and the support, understanding, care and direction RHPC has given me confirms this big time! To list all the names of those who have helped me would probably expand Soul Edition by several pages and that would probably make our newsletter editor a bit.....unhappy.

So as Advent is here and we prepare to celebrate the birth of that tiny baby, God's greatest gift of love, let us walk together into our New Year's adventure (the churches "New Year" is the first Sunday in Advent). Let us continue to learn all we can together; children, youth and adults. Let us build community, encourage spirituality, reach inward - to each other, and reach outward to the rest of the world.

Peace and blessings,
Carol

JAY COOK MEMORIAL TOY DRIVE

RHPC Youth are once again proud to launch the annual Jay Cook Memorial Toy Drive. New, unwrapped toys for all ages (babies to teens) will be collected in the big box in the Narthex. Monetary donations are also welcomed. This is a great opportunity to help local families who cannot afford presents at Christmas.

We hope everyone will give generously and help make this our biggest collection to date to honour the memory of this caring young man, friend and former RHPC Youth Group member.

The Toy Drive started on November 13 and ends on Sunday, December 11. All toys will be donated to the Salvation Army, Richmond Hill.

A big thank you to all who attended and helped out at the Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, November 12 to raise money for the Toy Drive!

YOUTH NEWS

Our Youth Program is beginning to take shape and move in some new directions. We are blessed to have a firm foundation to build on thanks to the caring ministry of Jessica Chapman.

A pizza lunch held on September 25 for RHPC youth (grades 6-12) was well attended. A thank you to our young people for their thoughts and ideas.

We will launch a Junior High Youth Group (grades 6-8) to meet once (or perhaps twice) a month, dates and times to be announced.

Our Senior Highs are continuing to explore various ways of staying connected. There will be opportunities in the new year to meet with other Youth Groups, attend Presbytery events such as the Odyssey Coffee House and 30 Hour Famine. On November 15, Presbytery Youth Leaders were invited to dinner and to take part in the Presbytery Youth Committee meeting to learn about Canada Youth 2012.

Our young people continue to give their gifts of time and service, helping at RHPC events, assisting in Sunday School, launching the Toy Drive and serving the Nov. 12 Pancake Breakfast.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Sunday School has been meeting this fall using a more traditional format...with a few new twists.

We have had a treasure hunt, finding pieces of a puzzle when put together helped us to understand that we are many parts of one body - the church, and played some get acquainted games to build community. We also learned about World Communion Sunday and discovered where some of our family roots were before coming to Canada. Other lessons explored questions such as "How is God generous?" , "Who owns the world?" and "How is the good news of God's love shared?"

Everyone enjoyed participating in the "Parade of Gifts" during the Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service.



Pictures by Sandra Lott

Sunday school families enjoyed a Family Halloween Party on Saturday, October 29. Did you know that RHPC has many talented pumpkin carvers? The Christian Ed. Committee is planning two more family events, one in February and one in the spring. Details to follow.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas program will take place during the morning service on Sunday, December 18, 2011.

A pot-luck luncheon will be held in the Wallace Hall following the service that day. Members of the congregation are invited to join us for lunch: please bring your favourite dish. A special "someone" will be there to help us celebrate Christmas!

The RHPC Sunday School teachers and students wish you all a joyful, blessed Christmas.

Honouring David Grimmond

On Saturday April 30th 2011, the Guyana Ex-Police Association of Canada held a Tribute Ball in the Rembrandt Banquet Halls in Scarborough. Special recognition was given to the elder members of the organization. In particular, special tribute was given to our David Grimmond, who is the oldest living member of the Guyana Police Force residing in Canada. David celebrated his 98th birthday on Monday, October 3, 2011. The following is the tribute to David taken directly from the Tribute Ball program.

TRIBUTE

David Nathaniel Grimmond: Badge #4435

David Nathaniel Grimmond, age 98, is a retired Detective Superintendent (acting) and is the most senior in age of all ex-coppers from Guyana who reside in Canada. Remarkably, David retains a sharp memory, his slim figure, still ably moves around clearing his mail in the main lobby of his apartment building, and doing mild physical exercises.



“Bell and Brakes” as David was popularly known, hails from Alness on the Courantyne in Guyana. He enlisted as a constable on August 15, 1938 and had an interesting career before retirement in 1968. Shortly after, he migrated to Canada where his five sons and their families live. David attended Hendon Police College in England for specialized training in 'The Theory & Practice of Crime Investigation'. His investigations included solving crimes of political violence in the 1960's, with matters involving the Georgetown bombings and characters like Fairbairn Batson and “Jacket Wallah”.

In 1967 David was in command of the Crime Prevention Squad. He also served at Albion Police Headquarters in Brickdam, LaGrange, Albertown and Leonora Police Stations. After migrating to Canada in 1974, David worked for 15 years at the Workplace Compensation Board at St. Michael's Hospital, and as a school crossing guard in Richmond Hill, where he resides comfortably with his loving wife Burnes. David is a Life Member of GEPAC – the Guyana Ex-Police Association of Canada - and still enjoys visits and chit-chatting with other members of the organization.

Contributed by Lois Leonard. Pictures by Chris Bennett

God is interested in a lot of things besides religion

Joseph Sittler in Gravity and Grace

Courtesy of John Congram, “Friends Along The Way”.

Alison Nigra - "Looking Outwards: My Outreach Experiences"

It's no doubt that our world has become increasingly congested with stress, busy lives and negativity. For the past two years, I have had the honour to escape our fast-paced world in order to help others. What I have learned however, is that supporting others is a win-win situation. In my own life, I was able to put into context what was a "need" versus a "want" and in turn, have become happier.

In 2010, I travelled to Peru with a group called Solidarity In Action. While there, I helped construct a safer playground for students, taught in a daycare and was the head instructor for the beginner English as a Second Language class. In developing nations English is directly correlated with success; therefore, my students were extremely diligent with their work and eager to learn. This drive to succeed inspired me to continue classes back home in Canada and I began to host our ESL classes on Saturdays via Skype, a videophone service on the computer. I'm pleased to report that all my students graduated the beginner program and are currently working on their intermediate qualifications with this year's participants!

This summer, I travelled with Laurier University's Students Offering Support group for two weeks to a tiny village in Nicaragua. The mission of the trip was to build a school. This village of sixty people had not seen outside assistance (including government officials) for over fifteen years. You could only imagine how their faces lit up when they saw us! Nicaragua really opened my eyes to how fortunate I am. These people have nothing but were never seen without a smile. At recess, the children would run over to our site and help us lift heavy rocks. I could not believe how kind the people were and how willing they were to give up anything and everything to see others happy. From day one they called my group their family and by day fourteen, they made a place in my heart that will forever remain theirs.

These trips and my personal experiences make me want to be a better person. The lessons I have learned are something that will stay with me always. I look forward to my next trip, and in the meantime will continue to actively learn more about myself by helping others who really need it.



Teaching dental hygiene in Peru



The Finished School in Nicaragua

CONGRATULATIONS



On Saturday, July 16, 2011, Duncan's nephew Stephen Jeffrey was married to Lorien Thompson during a sunset cruise through the Toronto Harbour and Islands. Duncan officiated, assisted by Stephen's other uncle, Monsignor Daniel Hart, former parish priest at Langside, Glasgow who pronounced the blessing and read the Gospel. A reception was held on board the cruise boat with the wedding party arriving back at the dock



around 11:00 p.m. At that time, the young and not so young repaired to a city nightclub where the celebration continued until the wee small hours. This was the first time that the six Scottish and Canadian cousins had gathered in Canada since the wedding of Duncan and Paulette's son David to Nicole in 2005. Stephen and Lorien live in Larbert in central Scotland



Article and pictures courtesy Rev. Duncan Jeffrey



CONGRATULATIONS



Angela and Maurice Carrière celebrated the marriage of their son Marcel Müller-Carrière to Carmen Lin on Sunday, July 17, 2011.

The day began with a traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony, which was followed by the marriage ceremony at Trinity St Paul's United Church

(Toronto). The marriage was officiated by Rev. Linda Butler (RHUC). The reception that evening was held at the Rosewater Supper Club in Toronto.



The couple spent their 3-week honeymoon, visiting Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. On the final night of their trip, a tea ceremony/dinner/reception was held in Mongkok, Hong Kong to give Carmen's grandmother and other relatives, who were unable to be at the wedding in Toronto, an opportunity to celebrate. The newlyweds then flew home the next day and went straight back to work

Article and pictures courtesy Angela Carrière



CONGRATULATIONS



Deborah Kerr Stanbury and Joshua Rapport were married Friday, August 26, 2011 at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Don Mills.

Deborah honoured the memory of her maternal grandparents by wearing her Nan's (Nell Kerr) wedding dress.

Deb and Josh are enjoying their new home in North Toronto.

Josh is the owner/operator of BJJ Martial Arts Academy in Toronto. Deborah continues to serve as Community Chaplin and STAND Program Co-ordinator at the YSM Evergreen Center for Street Youth in Toronto. As well, she is an Associate Minister at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Don Mills.

Article and pictures courtesy Beth Stanbury

Pictured below are Stuart Stanbury with his partner Nadia, Josh and Deborah Rapport, and Beth and Kim Stanbury.



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CONGRATULATIONS

On Saturday, October 1, 2011, Dr. Kirsteen Burton, MD and Jeff Andersen were married in Stockholm, Sweden.

Kirsteen has had a real love for Sweden since she was 8 years old, when her Mom took her to see ABBA.

The newlyweds spent their honeymoon in Morocco. They have a home in Rosedale. Kirsteen is a

radiologist and Jeff is a freelance computer engineer.

Article and pictures courtesy Christine Burton



QUIPS FROM THE CEMETERY

Who says you can't have fun in the cemetery!

WHO IS GOING TO WIN THE BATTLE?

Mr. Squirrel is busy getting ready for this winter. He gathers up all the nuts he can find and simply stores them in the most accessible place, the garden shed. Along comes the gardener ready to go to work making the cemetery look cared for only to find his ride-on mower is not working. What is the problem he wonders? It was working fine yesterday. He looks it over and can't seem to see any problem so he puts it on the trailer and takes it in to the repair shop. "Jim can you find out what is wrong with the mower, it isn't working and I don't know why?"



As they investigate together they come to the realization that they have been out smarted by a squirrel. The little beast has a winter supply of 40 to 50 nuts stored up under the mower blades. The result is that the belt came off because of the nuts. So the two men slowly begin to remove the offending items and re-install the drive belt and the mower works just like new again. The squirrel's winter retreat is foiled again.

WHY ARE THOSE LIGHTS ON?

During clean up after a wedding in the William Wallace Hall, a young woman spotted lights on over burial lots and asks "Why are those lights on in the cemetery?" The reply is "Oh they turn them on after dark". Question "Who turns them on?" The reply is "The people in the cemetery do." Suddenly there is a very loud scream and the girl yells "MOM"! Next she is offered the truth. The lights are solar ray and come on automatically. They are placed there by the living family. Final question "But do the people out there still turn them on?"

UNCLE WILLIE

After a lively grave side service to put Uncle Willie safely in the ground the family departs. The grave begins to be filled in and a relative comes running up "Sir! Sir! please stop! May I put something in the grave with Uncle Willie?" "Yes of course you can if you want to" was the reply. The lady was holding a five dollar bill and it was placed in the grave. "You see my son is just five years old and he really doesn't understand what has happened to Uncle Willy. We tried to explain that Uncle Willie would not be with us any longer and that he was going to a better place. My son left suddenly and went to his room and got five dollars out of this piggy bank. As he handed it to me he said: Please give this to Uncle Willy, you know he loves his coffee and I want him to have coffee where he goes."

These stories are from actual daily happenings in the RHPC Cemetery as experienced by Don, Deborah, Shauna and Cameron Campbell.

WHERE ARE OUR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS? (2011/12)

STUDENT	WHERE?	PROGRAM?	SUBJECT AREA(S)?
Edward Ahn	University of Ottawa	Undergraduate	Health Sciences
Kailani Budai	York University + Seneca College	Undergraduate	Health Sciences
Erica Dewell	University of Waterloo School of Planning Faculty of Environmental Studies	Undergraduate (co-op)	Environmental Planning
Zuri Harris	University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario	Undergraduate	Women's Studies & Philosophy
Helen Lenz	University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario	Undergraduate	Kinesiology
Caitlin Mock	University of Ottawa	Undergraduate	Nursing
Alison Nigra	Wilfrid Laurier University Laurier, Brantford campus	Undergraduate	Contemporary Studies and Education
Andrew Tarras	Queen's University Kingston, Ontario	Undergraduate	Biomedical Computing
Bryan Tarras	University of Toronto	Undergraduate	Track One Engineering

***We wish these students well in their studies and future endeavours.
They are in our thoughts and prayers.***

Church Calendar of Events

Consult the weekly Sunday bulletin for up-to-date information about these and other events.

DECEMBER

- 2 **FRIDAY 6:30 P.M. ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA.**
- 4 **SUNDAY 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE AND COMMUNION.**
7:00 P.M. COMMUNITY CAROL SING – RHCCC.
- 11 **SUNDAY 7:00 P.M. CHOIR'S AMAHL.**
- 18 **SUNDAY 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE/CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.**
11:30 A.M. CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
- 24 **SATURDAY 8:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE.**
- 25 **SUNDAY 10:30 A.M. CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE.**

JANUARY

- 1 **SUNDAY 10:30 A.M. NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE.**
- 21 **SATURDAY BURN'S SUPPER.**
Start time yet to be determined.
Ticket sale start date yet to be determined.

FEBRUARY

MARCH

- 3 **SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
Hosted by Mission and Outreach.

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Church School & Youth Leader	Carol Priestley c.a.priestley@sympatico.ca	905-294-1633
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