

# The Voice



December 2011

# Co-Chairs of Council Report

No, this note from the Chair of Council is not from Norm Childerhose. After the last two years at the helm, Norm is getting a well deserved rest. We thank him for his able work and dedication in that capacity. For the remainder of this 2011 year, Council will be chaired by Janet and Bill Hossack, then Ted Reeve for January to March and Don Hacker for April to June. We expect to have someone to take on the Chair position for a longer term beginning in July 2012.

We had a very successful Fall Sale again this year. We express our many thanks to Ted and Jill Reeve for heading it up. Ted in his very competent way has it down to a science. We saw a near record in sales, in the space of 6 hours, over \$21,000. Most of the congregation (about 100 volunteers) were involved. It was a ton of work, but in the main, fun, with lots of money for the church's work. It all felt worthwhile.

Our church has an impressively large number of Outreach programs - Parents and Tots, ESL, Fair Trade Fairs, Film Series, Coffee and Conversation Fridays, Ladies Fellowship, Amnesty Letter signing, Open Sanctuary Wednesdays, and Concerts. All are progressive and growing. The buildings are very busy and we commend the Outreach committee.

All of the committees are functioning well. It is because of how well our committee system is working that we are able to function with a rotating chair position. The committees meet regularly and report their decisions and/or problems to council. Programs and initiatives are not lost under this system. It is the members working together that make our church such an active and productive place. Thank you for a good year.

Janet and Bill Hossack



## Editor's Note



I think I say this every year, but here it goes again! As Christmas approaches, I am grateful to have the church in my life. Without it, the season is just shopping and visiting and eating, which I am not denying is fun. But what I also need is a reminder of what is truly important, the REAL Christmas story and what it means to the world.

Speaking of eating, our church seems to have plenty of occasions for that activity as well. From our Tea Room and snack bar at the Fall Sale to post-sale lunch to post-concert goodies to soup and film to Friday get-togethers to Ladies luncheon. We all like to eat! Please remember our good fortune and share our riches with the Food Bank or downtown missions not only during this season, but all year round. And

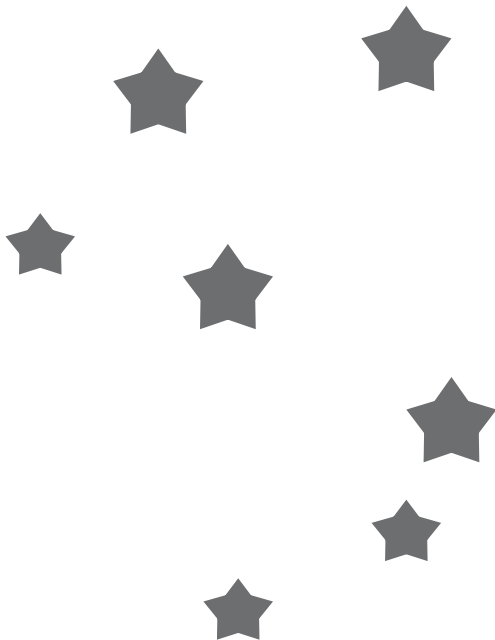
to show your gratitude for our clean environment and health care system, please give generously to our Advent project, the purchase of malaria nets for Africa.

Someone sent me an email article with ideas for somewhat different gift giving, gifts that support local businesses. With that in mind, I myself have bought gift subscriptions to Canadian magazines and a family membership to the Ontario Science Centre (one could also think of the Zoo or AGO or ROM). Charities that offer the chance to pay for a goat or hens in poor villages are other ideas, if your recipient already has everything.

Enjoy the Christmas season with friends and family, including your church family. Then do not despair, the days start to get longer, there will be some beautiful snowy days and bright sunny days with blue skies and sparkling snow, and in just a few months, spring will come again.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jill Reeve



# Minister's Message

For thousands of years as days grew shorter, and nights grew longer, people have gathered to share whatever light there was to be shared, to comfort each other, and to keep warm Hope alive – Hope that the Light would return.

In our Christian tradition, we call this age-old human gathering time “Advent” – a time of waiting, searching, wondering and yearning for Light, for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We light Advent candles. We sing songs of Hope. We prepare for the Solstice – when the early Light of a new season turns, days slowly grow longer, and we believe that from darkness, new life will once more be born.

In our liturgical calendar, this worship season is counted as the New Year. We Christians begin our new year in deepest dark, because we are people of faith – we walk by faith and not by sight. We do not accept the cold reality of what can be seen and measured and easily observed in only this present world. We know there is more. We know there is not one God for light and another for dark. There is only one God - God of both dark and light, one God of all that is. Our God has ushered light from dark innumerable times, from Genesis forward. It is our God who creates deep pregnant dark and who lives and moves within that dark; darkness as much as light fulfills God's purposes.

Within each of us, there is a divine spark, no matter how much dark there may be. Sometimes in the artificial glare of modern electric lights flooding our senses, we are not aware of that divine spark. Advent is a dark, quiet season offered to believers as time separate and apart, a time for inward journey, for spiritual pilgrimage, leading once more to know and see that divine spark within us, and within all living beings.

The natural light of the world will slowly return. The glaring artificial lights of our world seem to never dim.

But Advent is a time to stop worrying and turn away from those external lights of our material world and to turn, instead, towards the warmth and holiness of the light within, the divine spark. Tending at this time of year to that small light allows its beauty to shine from within us, out, offering a stirring and pregnant Hope of the life to come, for the sake of God's world.

“Light your candles quietly, with candles as you possess, wherever you are.” Alfred Delp, the Jesuit priest wrote, just before he was killed for anti-Nazi resistance. No matter the dark, with whatever you possess, light your candles quietly. Tend to Hope, trust, and let God shine from within you.

Advent blessings to you all.



Rev. Jennifer Palin



# Sunday School Report

How the time has flown since coming back at the beginning of the school year in September. We've been having a great time with the children and youth as we explore different topics each Sunday. It has been fun meeting new families and welcoming others back into the fold. Each week, along with the message, we have been practicing a song that goes with that month's theme.

We have really enjoyed sharing these songs with the congregation as part of Children's Time during the Sunday Services and will continue into the new year. As we move into Advent, the children will be working to make colourful scarves to raise money for our project of buying malaria nets. Any extra scarves will be donated to local charities. We are also looking forward to our annual Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. Like last year, we will be writing our own scripts and making the sets that will go with our presentation of the true Christmas spirit. We'll start off with a party and script writing on December 9th! Happy Holidays!

Alcina Chiu & Shannon Laycock

# Music Director's Report

As we gear up for Christmas, the musical life at Donway is in full swing. The choir is busy preparing a Carols for Christmas offering on Sunday, December 18th. We are singing four new beautiful carols which celebrate different aspects of the Christmas story. Thanks goes to the choir for all of their extra work including rehearsals on Thursdays during the day and night! We are very happy to once again have two fantastic choir leads this year. Our soprano, Meghan Fleet, sings in the Canadian Opera Company chorus and is beginning her third year with us. Golden-voiced baritone Bruce Radmacher returns to Donway after a year's absence. His dramatic performance of O Come, O Come Emmanuel was a moving way to begin our Advent celebrations this year.

We are happy to report that the choir is growing once again. This year, we welcome four new members: Christina Wang (soprano), Lucie Bridgstock (soprano), Jennifer Tooke (alto) and Derek Lumb (tenor). We are always looking for new members and we send out a special invitation for those of you who might want to come for the Christmas season. No musical or vocal experience necessary!

The children have graced our chancel twice this fall with great music, and I am looking forward to helping

Alcina and Shannon with the Christmas Pageant this season. Later on Christmas Eve, Meghan Fleet will join us for a reflective celebration of Christmas.

*"...We are always looking for new members ...No vocal experience necessary..."*

We have lots of talent at Donway, and I am hoping that in 2012, we can utilize more of it, as we continue to sing out joyously. Merry Christmas Donway!

I look forward to seeing you at our next Music on the Donway Concert, "A Robbie Burns Celebration"

Daniel Rubinoff, Music Director



# Special Services for Christmas

At Donway Covenant United Church, we do many wonderful things at Christmastime. For instance, some very talented and generous people make Christmas cookies, and we have an amazingly delicious and varied **Christmas Lunch on Thursday, December 1.**

We also have special times of worship – **beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent on November 27, we light Advent candles** and tell the stories which lead us day by day towards Christmas.

**On Sunday, December 18, the Choir will offer us special music** during our morning service. **On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at 7pm the children and youth will present a completely original pageant.** Later that evening, we will have a **quiet service of Holy Communion at 10pm**, just on the verge of welcoming Christmas day.

Finally, we have an **extra special Christmas Day this year - December 25 is on a Sunday** – we'll celebrate with a special service of Christmas poetry and songs, with shortbread, Christmas cookies, mulled cider, and hot tea.

It's a wonderful time of year, when the sanctuary is transformed by the creative talents of Worship Committee members into a place of warmth, soft light, and shining Christmas colours. Please join us in worship. Allow God to mend your spirit, and heal your soul during this season when new life is promised, and arrives, in the traditional and the

unexpected ways of our community life together.

Lo in the silent night  
A child to God is born  
And all is brought again  
That ere was lost or lorn.  
Could but thy soul, O man,  
Become a silent night!  
God would be born in thee  
And set all things aright.



Anon. 15th century



## Birth of a New Tradition

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Canadians/Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods --merchandise that has been produced at the expense of Canadian/American labour.

This year will be different. This year Canadian/Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Canadians/Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by Canadian/American hands. Yes there is! It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper?

► Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local Canadian/

American hair salon or barber? ► Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement. ► Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, Canadian/American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates. ► Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plonking down the \$\$\$\$ on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course. ► There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint.

Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Canadians/Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

► How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the Canadian/American working guy? ► Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day. ► My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running. ► Donate to a Local Non-Profit, they always have a need for additional funds at this time of year. What better way to end the year and help lower your income taxes! ► OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes. ► Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or

ballet at your hometown theatre. ► Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands. ► Honestly people, do you REALLY need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of lights, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, paper carrier, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip. ► Donate to your local university in an area of your interest - Theatre, Science, Athletics.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining Canadian/American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging Canadian/American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Canadians/Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

THIS is the new Canadian/American Christmas tradition. This is a revolution of caring about each other. Isn't that what Christmas is about?



# Reflections of a New Messiah by

By Jim Melchiore

...I read a story about a seminary experiment...A group of students decided to go through the Bible, all sixty-six books, and chronicle every reference to the poor. They found that in the Old Testament, the poor and service to the poor is the second most frequently mentioned topic. Idolatry is first. In the New Testament, the results are even more dramatic. The seminarians found that, in the New Testament, one of every sixteen verses refers to the poor. Among the four Gospels, the ratio is one of every ten. In the Gospel of Luke, it's one in seven. In the epistle of James, one of every five.

Then one seminarian had the idea to take a pair of scissors to the Bible, cutting out every reference to the poor. As you can imagine, not much of the Bible remained. Cutting out the poor leaves the Bible in tatters, reduces it to shreds. The Messiah celebrated in Isaiah and in Handel's great oratorio is a God with special preference for the poor

As Christ's followers—those who have committed to share in the work of the Messiah—we must constantly remind ourselves of that preference. And in a consumeristic world, during a blessed season when commercial temptations often reach their highest level, such reminders become even more critical.



# A Bit of Trivia

By Alvin Nelson

It has been said that for a person to be an inventor, he or she must be off balance mentally or even a bit crazy because they will take on problems normally considered impossible to solve. Some of the best inventions come from an inventor recognizing a need that has existed for a long time. Of all of the inventions ever made, only a very small number find their way into commercial use. My little story to follow relates to an invention that falls into both of these two categories.

Fifty-five years ago there were many thousands of leaking domestic water faucets throughout North America. At that time, these faucets were of one basic design, but the faucets were made in many different sizes. In this design, the faucet consisted essentially of a housing secured in place to a water main, and an operating mechanism removably mounted in a cavity in the housing. Water from the main entered the cavity in the housing through a seat in the bottom of the cavity, and ran out therefrom through a spout on the housing. The operating mechanism consisted of a tubular member provided with internal threads that mated with threads on a stem. A rubber washer was removably secured to the end of the stem located inside the cavity, and a knob was attached to the other end of the stem outside the cavity. This knob could be grasped by hand to turn the stem and thereby bringing the washer into and out of contact with the seat to stop or start water flow.

During long time use the water would erode small ridges in the seat, and as a result, the rubber washer

would fail to make firm contact with the seat whenever the water was shut off. These could become large enough that the faucet would continually leak no matter how firmly the washer was forced onto the seat.

Recognizing the nature of this problem and the extent to which it existed, it appeared to warrant some thought, My mental procedure led me to develop a piggyback faucet that could be applied to an existing leaking faucet by removing its operating mechanism and mounting the new faucet in the

*“...Fifty-five years ago there were many thousands of leaking domestic water faucets throughout North America...”*

cavity of the old housing. You now had a new faucet mounted in an old housing without disturbing the old housing or its mounting. This was an operation that could be carried out by a handy person in a few minutes. A full size piggyback faucet was made, mounted in an old housing, tested with water under house pressure, and found to work very well.

Obtaining a patent and attempting to market this piggyback faucet was considered, and finally rejected. There were too many different sizes of the old faucet housing to make commercial success possible, so I concluded. Each size of a housing would require a separate piggyback faucet design.

My potential for riches and fame has been donated

to the Museum in Camrose, Alberta along with a number of other models and patents grants. They are now on display there. It may be just as well that my piggyback water faucet never became commercial, because if it had, I would probably have become filthy rich and now resting in “BOOTHILL” from debauched living.



## Morning Giggle

There was this lady who was visiting a church for the first time one Sunday. The sermon seemed to go on forever, and many in the congregation actually fell asleep. After the service, to be social, she walked up to a very sleepy looking gentleman, extended her hand in greeting, and said, “Hello, I’m Gladys Dunn.” The man replied, “You’re not the only one ma’am. I’m glad it’s done too!!!”



# How Cold is Cold?

## 50 Fahrenheit (10 Celsius)

- ▶ Californians shiver uncontrollably
- ▶ Canadians plant gardens.

## 35° F (1.6° C)

- ▶ Italian cars won't start
- ▶ Canadians drive with the windows down.

## 32° F (0° C)

- ▶ American water freezes
- ▶ Canadian water gets thicker.

## 0° F (-17.9°C)

- ▶ New York City landlords finally turn on the heat
- ▶ Canadians have the last barbeque of the season.

## -100° F (-73° C)

- ▶ Santa Claus abandons the North Pole
- ▶ Ottawa 's Rideau Canal opens for skating.

## -173° F (-114° C)

- ▶ Ethyl alcohol freezes
- ▶ Canadians get frustrated when they can't thaw the keg.

## -460° F (-273° C)

- ▶ Absolute zero, all atomic motion stops
- ▶ Canadians start saying "Cold enough for you?"

## -500 °F (-295°C)

- ▶ Hell freezes over
- ▶ Leafs win Stanley Cup.



# Our Busy Church

Sometimes there is too much emphasis placed on how many people are in the pews on a Sunday morning. (For your information, it is usually over a hundred, and more on special days.) However, it is just as important to look at who is using the church during the week, and I am not talking about our main tenants like the Brighton School, the Korean Church and the Spirit of Math. I decided to count the Scout and Guide groups, since we sponsor them by giving them space for their meetings. (If they could not meet at our church, where else could they go? It costs too much to rent space in the schools.)

Just to satisfy my own curiosity, I made a list of all the groups that use the church, phoned some of the facilitators of the groups, and added up the numbers. Some groups meet every week, some every second week, and some events, like the Soup and Film nights, happen for 5 or 6 weeks at a time a couple of times a year.

Excluding the monthly meetings (Council, council committees, Pastoral Care, Food Bank etc), the periodic events (Music on the Donway, Ladies Christmas Luncheon, annual meeting, Giant Fall Sale, Fair Trade Fair, Kiwanis Music Festival, etc.) and the seasonal events (Footprints Day Camp), the estimated grand total of people using our church each week could be as many as 250! Here is the breakdown, with average attendance:

Tuesday Morning Study Group	14
Qi Gong	6

ESL	14-20
Parents & Tots and OEYC (counting children and adults);	30 or more
Thursday Ladies Fellowship	20
Choir Practice	14
Friday Coffee & Conversation	20
Soup and Film	35
Badminton (15 youth, 20 seniors)	25-30 plus
Scouting (9 Beavers, 15 Cubs, 14 Scouts, 6 Venturers, 5 Rovers plus leaders)	49
Girl Guides	24

*“...A Donway member, who lives in the condos across the street, told me about her neighbour who says she likes to see all the activity around the church, that it makes her feel safe and part of a community...”*

Some people find just as much meaning—or more—in their groups as they do at Sunday worship. And one hopes that non-church goers who attend various functions find a sense of community and belonging here. We know that there are many more out there that could use the support and fellowship of our church; the big question is how to get them in the doors? A Donway member, who lives in the condos across the

street, told me about her neighbour who says she likes to see all the activity around the church, that it makes her feel safe and part of a community, though she does not attend services. How do we get her and other like her to take that first step and actually try us out? Another aspect of the heavy usage of the church buildings is that we should not be surprised at the cost and effort of maintaining and fixing it. We all grumble about the high cost of our own housing; just magnify that ten or twenty-fold and you’ll see what we are dealing with at the church. But if our church is important to us, we should support it as much as we can.

## Christmas Everywhere

Everywhere, everywhere Christmas tonight!  
 Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,  
 Christmas in lands of palm tree and vine,  
 Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,  
 Christmas where cornfields stand sunny and bright.  
 Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,  
 Christmas where old men are patient and gray.  
 Christmas where peace, like a dove in its flight,  
 Broods over brave men in the thick of the fight;  
 Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!  
 For the Christ child who comes is the master of all;  
 No palace too great, no cottage too small.



# The Church Gardens

Over the past Summer I received several compliments on how beautiful our gardens looked and I would like to pass these compliments on to the folks who were responsible for all their beauty.

- ▶ **Anesti Dhefto**, who took care of the watering.
- ▶ **Elda & Ted McDowell**, who took care of the flower beds on the east side of the sanctuary.
- ▶ **The Heaton Family, (Fawn, Robert and Jackie)**. Jackie looked after the raspberry bushes. Fawn was responsible for the garden in front of the school, and Robert helped them all.
- ▶ **Heather Sheldrick** tended to the garden at the base of the cross.
- ▶ **Nina & Frank Saunders** tended the garden at the west entrance to the narthex.
- ▶ **Don & Barb Messaros** for the gardens at the front entrance of the church and the circle garden on the driveway.
- ▶ **Christina Wong** for the planting flowers.

Please accept my apologizes if I missed anyone.

Marten de Groot.

# Canadian Winter

by Joan Adams Burchell

The snow came down and whirled around  
And grew and grew and grew.  
We scraped and blew and shoveled  
But were helpless to undo.  
The snow we cleared made piles  
Like a Rocky Mountain range;  
And then it rained swift rivers-  
Nature thought we needed change.  
The rain will wash away the snow,  
Was what we had in mind;  
But slush was over boot tops-  
Nowhere to run could find.  
The temperatures dropped and you could see were  
really in a rut.  
More snow and freezing rain to come-  
The weatherman's words did cut.  
As long as my home is cozy-warm,  
The weather I'll take on the chin;  
for after all, I'm Canadian  
And bear winter with a grin.



# Outreach Committee Report

On the first and third Friday of each month the “Coffee and Conversation Drop In” group meets in the Living Room. There are magazines, board games and refreshments for those who attend-ESL students, members of the congregation and of the community. Attendance is about 16-20. Future dates are, December 2, 16 and January 6 and 20. All are welcome!

On November 6, a “mini” Fair Trade Fair was held after church, in the auditorium. Four vendors brought interesting crafts from developing countries, including Bolivia. Members of the congregation, their guests and members of the community supported the vendors with their purchases.

*“...None of these activities could happen without numerous volunteers. The committee thanks each and everyone....”*

The vendors are looking forward to our large Fair Trade Fair in May, which is advertised on TV, in newspapers and on radio. NHARO, a Fair Trade partner, located at 543 Danforth Avenue (at Carlaw), was unable to come to the mini fair but will donate 15% of every purchase made, at their store, until December 15, by members of our congregation, to The Donway Covenant United Church. Just mention that you are a member of the church when purchasing.

The Film Fest/Soup Suppers featuring a Hindu flavour: November 2: “Amal”; November 9: “Mississippi Masala”; November 16: “Monsoon Wedding”; November 21: “The Namesake”; November 30: “Outsourced” were attended by an average of 31 and enjoyed by those in attendance.

Letter Writing Circle for Amnesty International continues on the third Sunday of each month and has continued to be popular and effective.

None of these activities could happen without numerous volunteers. The committee thanks each and everyone. The Advent Project for this season is to purchase Malaria Nets for children in Africa. Although some progress has been made in the elimination of malaria much more is to be done. These nets last for 3 years and the last time that our church made a plea for help was three years ago. Each net costs \$10 dollars. Any amount that you could donate to this urgent cause would be gratefully received.

Outreach Committee: Don Cowan, Lorna Lampkin, Marie Harvey



# A Snap Shot of Finances as of October 31/11

	2011	2010	
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
<b>Givings</b>	\$111,764	\$126,742	88%
<b>M &amp; S</b>	20,690	27,122	<b>76%</b>
<b>Rental</b>	117,394	112,789	104%
<b>Other</b>	44,550	45,221	104%
<b>Total</b>	294,398	311,874	94%
<b>Building</b>	74,925	64,216	117%
<b>Salaries</b>	131,420	159,060	83%
<b>Other</b>	66,607	77,366	86%
<b>Total</b>	272,952	300,642	91%
<b><u>Net</u></b>	<b>\$ 21,446</b>	<b>\$ 11,232</b>	

This snap shot details Jan 1 – October 31, 2011 only. We could not complete November month end before the Voice deadline.

We are showing a better bottom line than last year which means we should end the year in the black. Our rental income continues to be a strong contributor to the revenue side and the results of our cost cutting over the last year are now apparent...

Lower contributions continue to be an area for concern and not all of the shortfall can be attributed to missing members. You will soon be receiving a statement soon showing your 2011 givings to the end of November. This will allow you time to bring your contributions in line with your planned givings. In particular M & S needs your help. For some reason, it is well below last year's number. Bill Hossack, Treasurer

# Clever Ways to Get More From Charitable Donations

Globe and Mail Blog by Shelley White

November. We're coming to the end of the tax year so for many of us, 'tis the season to start thinking about charitable donations.

When money's tight, charitable donations might seem like an extra expense we can't afford, particularly with the crunch of holiday spending around the corner.

But planned giving can be a great way to maximize your donations and also benefit at tax time, both now and in the future, says Tim Dennis, a financial consultant for Investors Group. One way to do it is through an insurance policy – instead of doing a monthly donation that will add up to, say, \$500 a year, you could put that amount of money towards an insurance policy that is owned by the charity.

“Let's say you're giving \$500 a year [in the traditional way] – the charity will get \$10,000 over a 20 year period. But if you take that same amount of money and buy an insurance policy and that's costing you \$500 a year, if it's a \$300,000 policy, the charity will get that \$300,000 [when you pass away],” Mr. Dennis says.

When it comes to tax credits, Mr. Dennis says you can do it one of two ways – if you need the tax credit now, you can use the premiums as your tax credit. Or you can leave it so that the tax benefit comes from the

death benefit, which can cover a great deal, if not all, of the taxes on the estate.

Regardless of what mode of donation you choose, Mr. Dennis says consulting a financial advisor can maximize the tax benefits.

Maureen Flynn has found ways to donate to a charity she feels passionate about without feeling the added financial sting. The Belleville, Ontario resident was hit by a car when she was 16 and suffered a brain injury that left her unable to sit up, walk, even feed herself, and physiotherapy at The Hospital for Sick Children was key to her recovery.

*“...But planned giving can be a great way to maximize your donations and also benefit at tax time, both now and in the future...”*

So she created an endowment fund at The Hospital for Sick Children (<http://www.sickkids.ca/>), specifically earmarked for the occupational and physiotherapy departments. Ms. Flynn donates to the endowment fund through monthly, pre-authorized payments from her bank account, as well as topping it up when she comes into a bit of extra cash.

“It's part of the monthly bills and you don't notice it,” she says. “Whereas if you asked me today, could I send them a cheque for \$250, I'd sort of go, well, hmm, gee whiz.”

In addition to giving money to a charity she believes in, Ms. Flynn can benefit from the tax credits which offset her income. “More of my taxable income is sheltered, so it’s a win-win situation,” she says.

Ms. Flynn has also earmarked funds for Sick Kids through planned giving. She doesn’t have any children and has made the hospital the beneficiary of one of her RRSPs, which will be added to her endowment fund at the time of her death.

“The RRSP would normally go to my estate and get divvied up and there would be the tax implications, whereas [this way] that piece of money won’t get taxed,” she said. “Let’s say it’s \$50,000, which would get taxed and might end up at \$30,000 or whatever, so you would have lost a percentage of it.”

Canada Revenue Agency has a number of resources (<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/rcpts/dntn3-eng.html> ) to help you make tax-wise choices when it comes to donating and avoid fraud.

Most importantly, before giving anyone any money, you need to ensure that your charitable organization is registered with the CRA and has a valid registration number (eg. 123456789RR0001), Also, make sure your official donation receipt has all the mandatory information you will need

(<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmng5-eng.html#q7>) to claim a tax credit.

As well, CRA has a handy charitable donation tax credit estimator (<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmng1b2-eng.html>), which allows you to plug in your province or territory and the amount you are donating to find out what tax credit you can expect.

# December

by Aileen Fisher

I like days  
with a snow-white collar,  
and nights when the moon  
is a silver dollar;  
and hills are filled  
with eiderdown stuffing,  
and your breath makes smoke  
like an engine puffing

I like days  
when feathers are snowing,  
and all the eaves  
have petticoats showing;  
and the air is cold,  
and the wires are humming,  
but you feel all warm...  
with Christmas coming!



# The i,i,i, Culture

Jonathan Wynne-Jones And Martin Beckford, The Daily Telegraph, With Files From News Services · Nov. 19, 2011 | Last Updated: Nov. 19, 2011 4:10 AM ET

LONDON - Steve Jobs helped create a selfish “i, i, i” consumer culture that has only brought unhappiness, Britain’s chief rabbi has claimed. Lord Jonathan Sacks said advertising only made shoppers aware of what they did not own, rather than feeling grateful for what they have. He insisted a culture in which people cared solely about themselves and their possessions could not last long, and only faith and spending time with family could bring true happiness.

The Chief Rabbi’s comments are likely to raise eyebrows because he singled out for blame Mr. Jobs, the co-founder of Apple who died last month, by likening his iPad tablet computers to the tablets of stone bearing the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses. Speaking at an interfaith reception attended by the Queen this week, Lord Sacks said, “People are looking for values other than the values of a consumer society. The values of a consumer society really aren’t ones you can live by for terribly long. “The consumer society was laid down by the late Steve Jobs coming down the mountain with two tablets, iPad one and iPad two, and the result is that we now have a culture of iPod, iPhone, iTune, i, i, i.

“When you’re an individualist, egocentric culture and you only care about ‘i’, you don’t do terribly well.” He went on: “What does a consumer ethic do? It makes you aware all the time of the things you don’t have instead of thanking God for all the things you do have. “If in a consumer society, through all the advertising

and subtly seductive approaches to it, you’ve got an iPhone but you haven’t got a fourth-generation one, the consumer society is in fact the most efficient mechanism ever devised for the creation and distribution of unhappiness.”

*“...a culture in which people cared solely about themselves and their possessions could not last long, and only faith and spending time with family could bring true happiness....”*

Although religious leaders have in recent years used increasingly strong language to condemn banks and politicians over the financial crisis and the gap between rich and poor, few have directly criticized ordinary people for their materialism. In an attempt to highlight the link between faith and happiness, Lord Sacks pointed out on the Jewish day of rest, the Shabbat, the devout spend time with their families rather than spending money in stores.

The Chief Rabbi, who has represented Britain’s 300,000 Jews since 1991 and is due to step down in 2013, said, “Therefore the answer to the consumer society is the world of faith, which the Jews call the world of Shabbat, where you can’t shop and you can’t spend and you spend your time with things that matter, with family. “Unless we get back to these values we will succeed in making our children and grandchildren ever unhappier.”

He concluded by telling the 70th anniversary meeting of the Council of Christians & Jews in London, “I think this is a great opportunity for faith and a great moment for Jews and Christians to come together and leading from the front embrace those other faiths. “Without friendship between faiths we will drown.”

The Chief Rabbi is also concerned to emphasize the role of religion in moving beyond a focus on the self. During a recent North American speaking tour, he told an audience in Toronto, “Religion is there as a counter-voice. It is a challenge to the norms of society. And it’s a way of saying, ‘Look up, search for a more expansive horizon.’ It’s very interesting that we’re talking about self, authenticity, happiness.... If you’re looking for happiness, happiness lies in that which is ‘not me.’ “



# The Passage of Life

## Deaths

**Tim Crew**, passed away September 15, 2011

**Betty Doyle**, passed away September 19, 2011.

**June Sabiston**, passed away October 10, 2011.

**Linda McKenzie** passed away Nov. 21, 2011.  
(Linda was the sister of Marian Childerhose).



## Thank you to The Voice Newsletter Staff

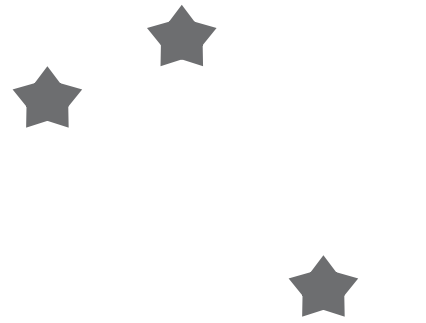
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# Looking Ahead



**Dec. 4**                      **Worship Service**, 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.  
Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin

**Food Bank Sunday**, please give generously.

**Dec. 8**                      **Christmas Cookies** will be packaged and delivered to members of the congregation with special needs. Cookie contributions will be most welcome to help in this endeavour.

**Dec. 12**                      **Committee and Council meetings**, 7p.m. & 8:15p.m.

**Dec 18**                      **Worship Service, Christmas Cantata**, 10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary.  
Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin

**Dec. 23 - Jan 4 inclusive: Church office will be closed**

**Dec. 24**                      **Christmas Eve Pageant and Communion - 7 p.m.**  
**Christmas Eve Worship Service and Communion - 10 p.m.**

**Dec. 25**                      **Sunday Worship Service and Hymn Sing**, 10:30 a.m.

**Jan. 1**                      **Worship Service**, 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.  
Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin  
**Food Bank Sunday**, please give generously.

**Jan. 10**                      **Committee and Council meetings**, 7p.m. & 8:15p.m

**Jan. 15**                      **New Member Sunday**, 10:30 a.m.

**Jan 21**                      **Music on The Donway presents, A Robbie Burns Celebration, 7:30p.m.**  
featuring Eric Shaw, Tenor. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$12 students & children.