

# The Voice



September 2011

# A Message from the Minister

It was wonderful to see everyone last Sunday. I've only been back to work one week but it seems as though I never left. It's good to hear how much you all appreciated Rev. John White while I was away these past four months. In some ways, it seems my medical leave to have two surgeries done was just an extended summer break, and now we're back in to the busy-ness of Fall and the regular schedule of the church.

While I was sick, the dozens of cards, phone calls and visits were so important to me. Thank you everyone for your good wishes, acts of kindness and practical help. It's good to be part of a community of kind people.

During September, our worship services will be focussing on the theme of "Hospitality", during October on the theme of "Gratitude" and in November on the theme of "Hope". Thinking about hospitality reminded me that the word "hospital" comes from the same root as "hospitality". When we need to be cared for, we need to feel welcomed, we need a hospitable place where we can feel safe and where we can face the challenge of our healing and have others help us. That's what a hospital is meant to be – a safe and healing place of hospitality.

In some ways, that's what a church is also meant to be – a safe and healing place of hospitality. This does not mean that in hospitals and churches we deny the reality of pain. In fact, sometimes, for healing to happen some extra pain is part of the healing. Anyone who has done physiotherapy after a hip replacement knows "no pain – no gain". Similarly, spiritual healing can sometimes hurt as we give up past idols and illusions and learn to worship in "spirit and in truth".

Our life together as a church community does not promise to be pain free – but when we are all genuinely seeking to bring healing, peace, justice and reconciliation into our common life, (and the life of the world), Jesus stands among us, the miracle of healing transforms us, and we hear Jesus say: "My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you."

The blessings of God's peace to all of you, amidst the busy-ness.

Rev. Jennifer Palin

# A Message from the Chair of Council

Unfortunately, there is no message, because we have no Chair.

# Editor's Note: An Early Thanksgiving Message

Here are some rambling thoughts I would like to share with you. It may seem like an essay on “what I did on my summer vacation”, but my various experiences reinforced in me the resolve to always appreciate the many blessings we have been granted.

My cousin and her husband from Brno, a city in the Czech Republic, visited us for two weeks in June. They have not travelled very much, as much of their life was spent behind the Iron Curtain, and when it was lifted, they could not afford to go far. They are constantly amazed at the places all over the world that we and our children have travelled. They were most appreciative and interested in everything they saw, and it reminded me of what a great place we live. For instance, they commented on all the green space in Toronto, in parks and ravines, on the streets and in our backyard. They liked the privacy that we enjoy, but at the same time, that our front yards are not fenced off from view. Of course, all the lakes and forests in cottage country seemed like paradise to them (though they did mention, if you don't own a cottage on the lake, how do you get access to it? A good point !) They also commented on how friendly people are here, that when you walk in the park or on the road both in Don Mills and at our cottage, more often than not, people you meet say hello or at least make eye contact and smile and nod. Thank you for the beauty and peace and friendliness of Canada!

In early June we visited some old friends in Anchorage, Alaska. It was great catching up, after 35 years. They had had a tragedy in their family five years ago, when their 25 year old son died of a brain tumour. That would be a blow in any situation, but the American health system, in some way, could have made it worse, though the son did receive good treatment. He became

ill a couple of months before graduating from college, so he was still covered under his mother's workplace medical insurance. Had he been diagnosed just a few months later, he would have had no coverage, and our friends said they would have used up all their savings and had to sell their house, to cover the more than one million dollars his treatments cost. And they had to fill out and submit about 4000 claim forms to the insurance company for each and every procedure that happened during two years of cancer treatment, something they were doing still years after the son's death. When in Canada we are dealing with a serious illness, we do not have to ask if this procedure is covered or how much that will cost. Yes, we do feel frustrated with long waits to see a doctor, but in the end we do see him/her and generally receive good medical care in decent, if not luxurious, hospitals. So I say, thank you, Canadian medical system!

I spent a week taking a painting course at the Haliburton School of the Arts, something I have done these past five summers. I drove 20 minutes each morning along a smooth, nearly empty highway, in lovely weather and watching the sun rise above the trees. As I sat in a classroom in a modern (even air conditioned!) elementary school, along with a dozen other middle aged people, listening to the art teacher, trying out the techniques she was showing us, talking about art and landscape and colour and other frivolous things, I reminded myself again how fortunate I am. I have the leisure time and means to indulge myself. I will never make a living selling my art, this is strictly for my own pleasure. How many of us, in our wealthy western society, are fortunate enough to be able to treat ourselves to similar non-productive experiences, like golfing or gardening ? We do not have to carry our water from

distant wells, we do not have to gather firewood daily to cook our food, we do not have to suffer infections because of filthy environments, or run from violence and war. Thank you for the opportunities to indulge ourselves!

And I won't even start listing all the wonderful things like swimming in a warm, clear lake, watching birds and chipmunks around the birdfeeder, admiring spectacular sunsets, reading picture books to my grandchildren, having dinner with good friends, and on and on. Your list may be different, but each one of you surely has many things to be grateful for.

What have I done to deserve such a good life ? Nothing ! It was the luck of when and where I was born, my parents' care and the peaceful and rich society I have always lived in. Do I do enough for the less fortunate ? Obviously not enough to pay back for all my own blessings. I think we should all take to heart the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi, which we know well, but it can always be heard again. So, (a bit early) Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Jill Reeve  
Editor

# A Message from the Sunday School Co-ordinator

I hope everyone has had a great summer. School, camp, and dancing have kept me very busy these past few months. In June, I went down to Cambridge, MA to continue my studies in Dalcroze Eurhythmics. I'm slowly but surely going to get a Masters in Music. When I returned to Toronto, I spent all my time organizing and getting excited for my annual Summer Music Theatre Camp. The kids I worked with created two great musicals from scratch. And finally, I ended off the holidays with a bang in New Hampshire at a Swing Dancing camp right up until Labour Day.

Now I'm back and glad to be working at the DCUC again. This year, I am joined by my friend, Shannon Laycock, who will be alternating weeks with me in the Sunday School programme. I'm sure you'll get to know her soon enough, but here's a brief life story: Shannon grew up in Anten Mills, just north of Barrie, and attended the Anten Mills United Church as a child. We met at Queen's University, where we both did our

undergraduate degree in Music. She went to Teachers' College in Windsor, and afterwards, worked on cruise ships with children. She spent a year teaching in England before returning to Canada, where she now works for a team building company that deals with kids in Toronto.

We're looking forward to seeing all the youth and children of DCUC again. We have already started planning our special events for the Fall, especially after the success of last year's Hallowe'en party and Christmas pageant. As always, the Sunday School programme will closely follow what the adults are talking about in the sermon. That way, children and parents have the opportunity to communicate further about what has been brought up at church each week when they get home.

See you on Sunday!

Alcina Chiu

# Hey kids! Add another verse to your favourite rhyme!

## Verse 1



**This is the church.**



**This is the steeple.**

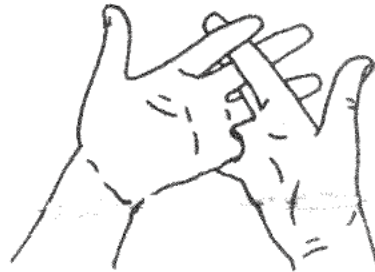


**Open the doors,**



**See all the people.**

## Verse 2 ... try it at home, bring it to church!



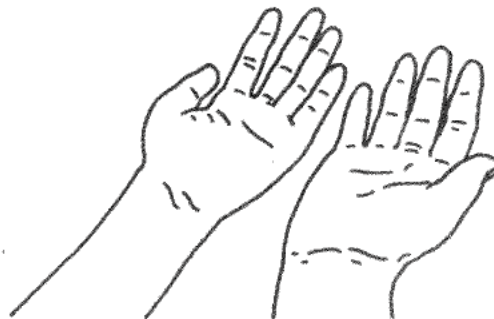
**People are moving**

Fingers turn  
from inside to out;  
neat, huh?



**Outside the doors**

C'mon now,  
swing wide  
those doors!



**Welcoming those**

Come one,  
come all.



**Not welcome before.**

See, the fingers  
are dancing!  
Now ain't that fun!

# A Message from the Music Director

I am thrilled to be back from vacation and ready to begin a new year at Donway. The summer music offerings were very well received by the congregation. Our soprano soloist, Meghan Fleet, continues to inspire us with her magnificent support of the choir, her confident hymn leading and her memorable solo work. We wish her much success in her upcoming productions with the Canadian Opera Company chorus and her other musical endeavours. We are currently looking for a baritone section lead to replace Mark Gough, who has left Toronto for Calgary to participate in an opera worship program.

The choir is pleased to welcome back Lorna Penwill, who will be re-joining the alto section. In October, Sayeh Meisami, mezzo soprano, will also be with us. Choir rehearsals are underway and we are always looking for new members. We rehearse on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and no experience is necessary! We have lots of fun and enjoy contributing to the worship service. Even if you cannot attend each week, we would still welcome you. We were very fortunate to receive some wonderful choral sheet music from Centennial Rouge United Church which closed this summer and donated its choral library. A special thanks to Marla and Norman Miller who sifted through the music and brought back some wonderful works. We are looking forward to an exciting year filled with some new and classic choral material for the services. We will also assist the congregation in learning some new hymns and worship responses, so that we all grow in our ministry of music.

I welcome back Rev. Jennifer Palin and I know that we will continue to offer a balanced worship service that contains both the old and the new. I am also pleased

that Alcina Chiu is back again to work with the children. This year, she has brought along her friend Shannon Laycock to assist in leading the Sunday School. I look forward to helping Alcina and Shannon so that our children can actively participate in our worship services.

Music on the Donway is in high gear. We will be presenting a wonderful big band concert with The Hurricanes Big Band – our very own local big band. You will have the opportunity to request some of your favourites from the big band era. Please mark Saturday, November 5th at 7:30 p.m. on your calendars. In the New Year, we will be presenting a special Robbie Burns concert and in the spring, we are planning a cabaret-style show. It's going to be a fun year at the Donway and the emphasis is on community outreach.

I am nearly finished my PhD at York and I hope to defend my doctoral dissertation before Christmas. It has been an immensely challenging but rewarding four-year journey and I look forward to using my new-found knowledge in worship services, teaching and some special community projects that I hope to begin developing this year.

Have a wonderful autumn, Donway, and please feel free to contact me with any comments or questions regarding the music program!

Yours,

Daniel Rubinoff



# From Shame to Fame

Stefani Germanotta was an awkward teenager, at least as she remembers it. Her peers bullied her for being ugly, for having a big nose and giant eyebrows. They teased her for her laugh, for her love of theater, for her penchant for constantly singing, for the way she wore her makeup. They made fun of her tan and her hairdo. "I used to be called a slut, be called this, be called that. I didn't even want to go to school sometimes," she says.

Now Stefani Germanotta is world-famous as Lady Gaga. Her shows are filled with memorable theatrics - brassieres that shoot sparks, dresses made of meat, intricately choreographed dances, lots of fake blood and real fire. These concerts are among the most popular in music today, and her television performances are eagerly awaited as viewers wonder what she'll come up with next (this year at the Grammys she was carried onstage in and emerged from a giant egg).

Despite the stratospheric levels of her success, she hasn't forgotten being a misfit. "It wasn't until I put my music out into the world that I was able to look into myself and honour the reality of how I was treated when I was a kid, not by my family, but by my peers in school, and how it affected me."

Consequently, Lady

Gaga's message to her devoted fans is that it is all right for them to be 'little monsters.' Others may regard them as too fat or too skinny, or harass them because they are gay or otherwise different. But as their Mother Monster, she reminds them that they have real worth. In concerts she tells them she was (and is) a misfit, but look at her now. She promises them that they, too, may one day stand on a stage at Madison Square Garden and soak in lapping waves of applause. She shares her fame and herself with them - Lady Gaga is always 'on' for her public-and regards her fans as at least 50 percent, if not more, of her person. In turn her fans not only adore her but begin to respect themselves. A 15 year old writes representatively, 'I am an extremely devoted little monster, and I'll be a little monster for life,...At every concert you've said that you want to liberate us, and that is what you've done. Your songs have taught me not to listen to haters and be who I am, because, baby, I was born this way!

It is not too much to say that Lady Gaga has a mission of liberating her fans, or that she ministers to them in her flamboyant, over-the-top way. In fact,

Gaga's message resonates with the gospel. to paraphrase Will Campbell, the gospel message is that 'we're all misfits, but God loves us anyway.

Particularly in the church's youth ministry, it seem as if the strategy is often to reach out to the most beautiful and successful, to recruit the winners and then let all the (relative) losers follow them into the group. Maybe this strategy works, but Lady Gaga is a reminder that there is an alternative. Lady Gaga is a Kierkegaard in fishnet stockings, who can play piano and guitar, Whether she intends to or not (and however sacrilegious such songs as her 'Judas' may appear), Lady Gaga reminds us that Jesus came among us as a misfit, born into a feed trough. He lived itinerantly, with no real home or place to lay his head. He was an out cast who recruited rough-hewn fishermen and despicable tax collectors as his followers. And finally he ended up beside the most despised of the despised, crucified naked on a humiliating Roman cross. Suffice to say he surely was not voted 'most likely to succeed' in his high school.

The strict dictionary defi-

nition of monster is something or someone who 'deviates markedly from the normal type.' In this sense Jesus Christ was a monster, right down to the orthodox confession of him as both 'very God' and 'very man.' a king who rode a donkey, a saviour who dies, he overturns our ordinary, ideal definitions of divinity and humanity. We can even add that he was given to theatrics, such as pulling coins out of fishes' mouths, walking on water and driving moneychangers out of the temple.

Kierkegaard was at pains to defeat all prettification and accommodation of the gospel, to remind those who would call themselves Christian that Jesus when he lived on this earth was widely despised and rejected, treated like a monster. And if that Jesus is the Jesus who calls us to be like him, even to be a part of his body, then Christians are the original little monsters. Lady Gaga is playing a variation on an old song.

by Rodney Clapp,  
Christian Century,  
July 26, 2011

# Lillie

## by Helen Guillet

*Editor's Note: Many of you will have read "The Help" or seen the recent movie (which are excellent, and very moving). If you haven't, it is about the relationships between white women and their black maids in Mississippi in the early 1960's. Helen grew up in that environment and I asked her to write about her own cherished bond with Lillie, a black woman who was a very important part of her life.*

Lillie delivered laundry for her mother to the house next door to ours in Nashville, Tennessee.

She couldn't go to our school or church, or live in our neighbourhood.

My parents asked if she would come after school to help. They didn't tell her Marjorie, my younger sister, would be born in a few days. She became our beloved caregiver.

Later she took us to the park, but she couldn't go there alone.

She stayed with us if our parents went out in the evening. What hilarious joy, what mischief we could invent!

Lillie was at all the weddings, all the funerals, came whenever we called: and certainly to help with all the new babies. Between us, my sister and I had nine children, and Lillie would come to wherever we happened to be living and help out with the children as long as we needed her. She traveled to New Jersey, California, Kingsport (TN), Toronto and to Australia.

Before Lillie's 80th birthday, my sister and I planned a dinner party for her at Marjorie's home in Nashville, a rare black and white social occasion, in 1992. Our nine children lined up to give her a rose and a kiss. The cake's eighty candles were lit, and greetings were sung, when a huge man filled the doorway. Nephew Fred, volunteer fireman and Presbyterian minister, decked out in complete firefighting regalia, helmet and boots, announced: "This is against fire regulations!"

Lillie, all wise, without rancor, a sister, (like us, because Mother raised us all), a best friend. Fred delivered her eulogy, when she died at the age of 82. Six young white males, her "grandsons", were her pall bearers.

We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of her birth next year.



When I was going through a very difficult time, someone called me up and played piano music on my answering machine. It made me feel very loved, and I never discovered who did it.

# It's Fall Sale Time Again!

It seems that we just had one, but a year has passed and we are gearing up again for our big community effort and major fundraiser to be held on Saturday, October 22nd. We hope that everyone who has helped in the past and is willing and able will help again. This year we are making a serious effort to involve more younger people. We need you to call upon your adult children to participate on sale day or to help set up in the preceding week. Also ask your children to see if they can recruit a friend to participate.

The key phrase in terms of donations is "clean gently used items". We need quality items and lots of them. Clean out your own place and ask your friends and neighbours to do the same. As you know we do not or cannot accept large pieces of furniture, computers, TV's, baby cribs and car seats, bicycle helmets, suitcases etc. (either because they won't sell or for the baby items because resale of used items is not permitted). Be assured that we will try and sell your donation but that anything which doesn't sell we donate to Cerebral Palsy who sells the items on to another agency to be a second sales opportunity – a very environmental arrangement!

We will again have Receivers at the church during ONE week preceding the sale (Monday October 17 9:00 am to Friday October 21), who will accept your donations and put them in appropriate categories. You can make life easier by sorting your donations at home, with books in one box, ladies clothing in another, kitchen stuff in another, etc. We want to make this sale as efficient and easy as we can. By the time you read this, we will have had a meeting with all venue leaders and others interested in helping with the sale this year. When your venue leader from last year phones you for help, please say yes ! With everyone's help, we can make this another successful event and a great fellowship opportunity.

To celebrate our anticipated success we will have an informal thank-you lunch after the service on Sunday, October 23rd. Mark it on your calendar and invite your children!

Ted and Jill Reeve 416 447 7524



We can cure physical diseases with medicine but the only cure for loneliness, despair and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread, but there are many more dying for a little love. (Mother Teresa)



"This too will pass." I was taught these words by my grandmother as a phrase that is to be used at ALL times in your life. When things are spectacularly dreadful; when things are absolutely appalling; when everything is superb and wonderful and marvelous and happy----say these four words to yourself. They will give you a sense of perspective and help you also to make the most of what is good and be stoical about what is bad.

# Giant Fall Sale




Oct 22, 2011

9am to 3pm

Bring your own shopping bags

Gently used donations  
gratefully accepted Oct 17 to 21.  
9a.m. to 8p.m.

(except to 6p.m. on Oct. 21st)



The Donway Covenant United Church  
230 The Donway West, 416-444-8444.  
West of Don Mills,  
North of Lawrence E.

# Subject: Nine Things That Will Disappear In Our Lifetime

Whether these changes are good or bad depends in part on how we adapt to them. But, ready or not, here they come.

## 1. The Post Office

Get ready to imagine a world without the post office. They are so deeply in financial trouble that there is probably no way to sustain it long term. Email, Fed Ex, and UPS have just about wiped out the minimum revenue needed to keep the post office alive. Most of your mail every day is junk mail and bills.

## 2. The Cheque

Britain is already laying the groundwork to do away with cheques by 2018. It costs the financial system billions of dollars a year to process cheques. Plastic cards and online transactions will lead to the eventual demise of the cheque. This plays right into the death of the post office. If you never paid your bills by mail and never received them by mail, the post office would absolutely go out of business.

## 3. The Newspaper

The younger generation simply doesn't read the newspaper. They certainly don't subscribe to a daily delivered print edition. That may

go the way of the milkman and the laundry man. As for reading the paper online, get ready to pay for it. The rise in mobile Internet devices and e-readers has caused all the newspaper and magazine publishers to form an alliance. They have met with Apple, Amazon, and the major cell phone companies to develop a model for paid subscription services.

## 4. The Book

You say you will never give up the physical book that you hold in your hand and turn the literal pages. I said the same thing about downloading music from iTunes. I wanted my hard copy CD. But I quickly changed my mind when I discovered that I could get albums for half the price without ever leaving home to get the latest music. The same thing will happen with books. You can browse a bookstore online and even read a preview chapter before you buy. And the price is less than half that of a real book. And think of the convenience! Once you start flicking your fingers on the screen instead of the book, you find that you are lost in the story, can't wait

to see what happens next, and you forget that you're holding a gadget instead of a book.

## 5. The Land Line Telephone

Unless you have a large family and make a lot of local calls, you don't need it anymore. Most people keep it simply because they've always had it. But you are paying double charges for that extra service. All the cell phone companies will let you call customers using the same cell provider for no charge against your minutes

## 6. Music

This is one of the saddest parts of the change story. The music industry is dying a slow death. Not just because of illegal downloading. It's the lack of innovative new music being given a chance to get to the people who would like to hear it. Greed and corruption is the problem. The record labels and the radio conglomerates are simply self-destructing. Over 40% of the music purchased today is "catalogue items," meaning traditional

music that the public is familiar with. Older established artists. This is also true on the live concert circuit. To explore this fascinating and disturbing topic further, check out the book, “Appetite for Self-Destruction” by Steve Knopper, and the video documentary, “Before the Music Dies.”

## 7. Television

Revenues to the networks are down dramatically. Not just because of the economy. People are watching TV and movies streamed from their computers. And they’re playing games and doing lots of other things that take up the time that used to be spent watching TV. Prime time shows have degenerated down to lower than the lowest common denominator. Cable rates are skyrocketing and commercials run about every 4 minutes and 30 seconds. I say good riddance to most of it. It’s time for the cable companies to be put out of our misery. Let the people choose what they want to watch online and through Netflix.

## 8. The “Things” That You Own

Many of the very possessions that we used to own are still in our lives, but we may not actually own them in the future. They may simply reside in “the cloud.” Today your computer has a hard drive and you store your pictures, music, movies, and documents. Your software is on a CD or DVD, and you can always re-install it if need be. But all of that is changing. Apple, Microsoft, and Google are all finishing up their latest “cloud services.” That means that when you turn on a computer, the Internet will be built into the operating system. So, Windows, Google, and the Mac OS will be tied straight into the Internet. If you click an icon, it will open something in the Internet cloud. If you save something, it will be saved to the cloud. And you may pay a monthly subscription fee to the cloud provider. In this virtual world, you can access your music or your books, or your whatever from any laptop or handheld device. That’s the good news. But, will you actually own any of this “stuff” or will it all be able to

disappear at any moment in a big “Poof?” Will most of the things in our lives be disposable and whimsical? It makes you want to run to the closet and pull out that photo album, grab a book from the shelf, or open up a CD case and pull out the insert.

## 9. Privacy

If there ever was a concept that we can look back on nostalgically, it would be privacy. That’s gone. It’s been gone for a long time anyway. There are cameras on the street, in most of the buildings, and even built into your computer and cell phone. But you can be sure that 24/7, “They” know who you are and where you are, right down to the GPS coordinates, and the Google Street View. If you buy something, your habit is put into a zillion profiles, and your ads will change to reflect those habits. “They” will try to get you to buy something else. Again and again. All we will have left that can’t be changed are “Memories”. And then probably Alzheimer’s will take that away from you too!



Kindness is more important than wisdom,  
and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom.

# The Green Thing, New Idea??

In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that old lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service.

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

*Editor's Note:*

*The following essay by our resident 100 year old writer is more than just "trivial". Most university students would be glad to produce an essay like this for their Profs!*

This is a story about a socially conscious man who was born, raised, and educated in Ontario, and who made history in Alberta during the Great Depression; history that was vehemently opposed at the time but embraced on a grand scale seventy years later.

The story begins in the middle of the Great Depression of the 1930's with an exceptional man by the name of William Aberhart. Mr. Aberhart was principal of a large, well-run high school in Calgary, Alberta, and also a Christian Minister who had a church and access to a large radio station in Calgary. Every Sunday afternoon he preached a sermon to an audience in his church, and also to an audience throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan over the radio. His Christian mission also included a Sunday School for rural children living in these provinces where Ernest Manning was his lieutenant in Saskatchewan.

The Great Depression of the 1930's was now full blown, the 1920's prosperity bubble had burst, players on the stock market had lost post of money, the real estate market had collapsed, and many 1920 loans remained unpaid even though interest rates were relatively low. Moreover, Alberta's finances were in shambles, and a provincial election was about to be called. The governing party, The United farmers of Alberta, had fallen out of favour from a sex scandal involving its premier and the opposing party, the Liberals, were also out of favour due to bad management when it was in power.

When the provincial election was finally called, Mr Aberhart entered the fray with a platform known as "Social Credit". This platform was based on an economic theory developed by a Scotchman named Douglas, and it proposed a means of expanding people's ability to

# A Bit of Trivia

## by Alvin Nelson

purchase everyday needs. During the Depression most people had little money to spend so the entire merchandizing establishment ground to a halt.

In his platform Mr. Aberhart proposed giving every adult citizen of Alberta \$25.00 per month so they could now increase their means to purchase needs. Needless to say, this proposal infuriated the financial establishment as well as the Federal Conservative Government, and they did everything possible to discredit Mr. Aberhart and his platform. However, contrary to what the opposition thought, Mr. Aberhart turned out to be a very astute politician and was able to twist these opposing arguments to his advantage and thereby gain votes. Most of Mr. Aberhart's campaign was done over the radio where he was well known by a large listening audience, and he also knew how to make the best possible use of the radio. It was an extremely exciting and interesting campaign. It is a question as to whether the promise of \$25.00 per month or an intense desire for change that gave Mr. Aberhart the big win.

Once the Social Credit Party had been elected, that was the last ever heard about the \$25.00 per month. However, once Premier Aberhart and his Social Credit Party became the ruling party, they did give the province honest government, and improved its finances. The discovery of oil at Leduc during Mr. Aberhart's tenure did the province's finances no harm.

The promise of financial aid was not completely forgotten by the new government. Soon after coming to power, they introduced a scheme intended to improve people's financial needs. In the scheme, each citizen of the province was given a booklet containing a couple of dozen coupons, each coupon represented a small discount on a purchase. Every time a person made a purchase, one or more of these coupons would be pre-

sented as a small part of the payment. In theory, this would enhance people's ability to purchase goods or services, and would be accepted by the merchant because it represented a sale that otherwise would not have been made. This program continued for only a month or two and was then discontinued.

If this coupon program had continued, the merchants would probably have raised prices to compensate for coupon discounts, and over time this would have led to a spiral of increases in merchandise prices, followed by a similar spiral of wages. Is this not what we have seen over the past twenty years with the Central Bank's control of interest rates well below what they would have otherwise been?

So, in my humble opinion, Mr. Aberhart's economics policy that was so bitterly opposed seventy years ago has exactly the same effect on prices and wages as the cheap monetary policy that has been in vogue these past twenty plus years. Both policies lead to an ever-increasing spiral of prices. For example, a chocolate bar that cost 5 cents in the 1930's now costs twenty times that amount.

# November

by Alice Cary

**T**he leaves are fading and falling;  
The winds are rough and wild;  
The birds have ceased their calling--  
But let me tell you, my child,  
Though day by day, as it closes,  
Doth darker and colder grow,  
The roots of the bright red roses  
Will keep alive in the snow.  
And when the winter is over,  
The boughs will get new leaves,  
The quail come back to the clover,  
And the swallow back to the eaves.  
The robin will wear on his bosom  
A vest that is bright and new,

Wages have followed much the same upward spiral. The wage that one earned per month as a qualified electrician in the 1930's can now be earned in an hour and a quarter by a tradesman with the same qualifications.

Isn't it amazing how an economic policy that was so terrible seventy years ago can become so good years later? Expert economic pronouncements are wonderful flexible topics indeed; a policy that can be considered very bad at one time can be accepted as very good years later.

How long can a Central Bank avoid an economic collapse by prescribing the cure that is causing the problem? Will the present euphoric party end as it did in 1929, or in some other surprising way?

Although Mr. Aberhart's Social Credit came to naught, he does have an important place in early Alberta history. There is a life size statue of Mr. Aberhart standing in his church pulpit, in the Glenbow Museum in Calgary.

NOTE: This story was written several years before the financial collapse that began in 2006.

And the loveliest wayside blossom  
Will shine with the sun and dew.  
The leaves today are whirling;  
The brooks are all dry and dumb--  
But let me tell you, my darling,  
The spring will be sure to come.  
There must be rough, cold weather,  
And winds and rains so wild;  
Not all good things together  
Come to us here, my child.  
So, when some dear joy loses  
Its beauteous summer glow,  
Think how the roots of the roses  
Are kept alive in the snow.

# SOUP & FILM SERIES

## with a Hindu Flavour

Watch the film at 4pm  
Stay for soup supper at 6pm  
The film will be shown again at 7pm.

**Wed. November 2: Amal.** A modern day fable, follows an auto-rickshaw driver in New Delhi who is content with his small but vital role in life. One day he chauffeurs an eccentric millionaire who, disguised as a vagabond, is searching the streets for the last morsel of humanity - and someone he can leave his fortune to - and Amal's life changes forever.

**Wed. November 9: Mississippi Masala.** A hot and spicy, critically acclaimed love story that's both exotic and erotic. Contains sizzling performances by Denzel Washington and Sarita Choudhury as the star-crossed American and Indian lovers with equal parts humour, passion and romance.

**Wed. November 16: Monsoon Wedding.** You are invited to join the festivities as one colourful and eclectic family gathers from all over the world for a traditional wedding - a non-stop four-day celebration as unpredictable as the monsoon season itself. Anything goes when love, hope and happiness take them by storm and bring them ever closer. With this family, when it rains, it pours.

**Wed. November 23: The Namesake.** This epic family saga "brims with intelligence, compassion and sensuous delight" (Chicago Tribune). Kal Penn (Harold & Kumar go to White Castle) stars as Gogol Ganguli, a suburban teenager caught between his Indian roots and his American birthright. Gogol and his Indian born parents must somehow strike a balance between age-old traditions and modern-day sensibilities as they search for a patch of common ground.

**Wed. November 30: Outsourced.** This is a comedy of cross cultural differences with a touch of romance, focusing on the life of Todd Anderson, (Josh Hamilton) who manages a customer call centre in Seattle until he gets the bad news from his boss; his job has been outsourced. Adding insult to injury, he must go to India to train his own replacement.

**Cost is only \$5**

**RSVP: 416-444-8444**

In the Living Room at The Donway Covenant United Church  
230 The Donway West (near Lawrence Ave. East & Don Mills Rd.)

# The Ladies' Fellowship Group

We started our Fall season on Thursday, September 8th.

We are a group of Senior ladies who meet twice a month between September and June on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. To us Fellowship means a gathering of friendly women in a non-stressful environment for a morning of chatting, lunch and devotions. We gather around 10am, we bring our lunch, and coffee and tea are provided. We celebrate birthdays on the 4th Thursday with a delicious birthday cake.

Last June we enjoyed our Annual Spring Luncheon. Elda McDowell was our guest speaker, speaking on behalf of Wellspring at Sunnybrook Hospital. Also last June we invited the Brookbanks for African

Grannies to host a "High Tea" here at our Church. It was a wonderful event and the group raised \$4200.00 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Please continue to save used postage stamps for the Leprosy Mission and also Campbell's soup labels.

We always welcome new friends to our Group. As I have said many times this group is my favourite group in the church.

Please join us at our meetings. I look forward to hearing from you and having you join us for a time of friendly fellowship.

For further information please call me, Marian Childerhose, at 416-449-6993.

# The Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee resumes work on several projects in September, beginning with "The Living Room" Drop-In on Friday, September 16 at 2-4 p.m. Marian Childerhose has again agreed to work with us. All members of the congregation, ESL classes and community are welcome. Announcements of future Drop-Ins can be found in the church bulletin, Hi Rise Newsletter and on the church sign. We plan to have good conversation, coffee, magazines, newspapers and board games.

Those interested in Amnesty International are able to sign letters regarding serious abuses of civil rights, at the coffee hour on the third Sunday of each month. We are grateful to the following people who have been faithfully helping with the Amnesty Letter Signing:

Helen Campbell, Rohan, Carol, Celine, Austin and Reese Gaghadar, Maureen Hall, Ann McLeod, Bobbie Missen, Marlena Parishova, Ingrid Smith, Gloria Stallybrass, Beth Struthers, Christine Thompson, Maryke Young, Joseph Zeighami and the person behind this project, Helen Guillet. Sadly, Helen has decided to retire from her position on the Outreach committee but will continue her work with Amnesty International. We will miss her on the committee and thank her for her dedicated service.

Look for announcements about the Film Fest in November and the Advent project in December.

**Our Purpose:** Following our call as disciples of Jesus Christ to serve the marginalized and vulnerable.

The Committee: Don Cowan, Lorna Lampkin, Marie Harvey

# Signs of A Stroke

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, **S.T.R.** Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

**S** \* Ask the individual to **SMILE**.

**T** \* Ask the person to **TALK** and **SPEAK IN SIMPLE SENTENCE** (i.e. It is sunny out today)

**R** \* Ask him or her to **RAISE BOTH ARMS**.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

## **New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue**

NOTE: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.



## **“We’ll Meet Again”**

### **The Scarborough Choral Society**

invites you to enjoy a concert to commemorate  
the stirring songs of World War II.

**Date: Saturday November 12, 2011**

**Time : 3pm and 7pm**

Tickets: \$15.00

Place: Ebenezer United Church  
(corner of Steeles and Brimley Rd.)

Please contact Les Pearce , 416-445-2097, re. ticket ordering.

# A Message from Life

## Births:

**Douglas James Pearson**, 8lb, 15oz. May 26, 2011. Second grandchild of Bill & Anne Anderson.  
**Luke Robert Srivastava**, 8 lb 3 oz. June 29, 2011. first Grandchild of Maureen & David Hall.

## Marriages:

**Andrew Snowdon (son of Patty and Jim Snowdon) and Leslie Wright** were married September 9, 2011.

## Deaths:

**Pat Robertson**, passed away June 15, 2011.  
**Wally Penwill**, passed away July 14, 2011.



## Prayer of Saint Francis

**L**ord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to  
console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.  
Amen.

## A Thanks to The Voice Newsletter Staff

Editor: Jill Reeve, Assistant Editor: Patty Snowdon, Layout Design: Jaren McLeod, Collator: Ann McLeod

# Looking Ahead at the D.C.U.C.

**Sept. 18**

**Amnesty International Letter Signing Sunday**, every third Sunday of the month after the 10:30a.m. worship service in the auditorium.

**Memorial Flower Sunday**, every 3rd Sunday of the month.

**The Voice newsletter is available.**

**Sept. 21**

**Start of Qi Cong**, every Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 11am.

**Start of E.S.L. Conversation Group**, weekly at 1:30p.m. in Rm. 5.

**Sept 22**

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting**, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Living Room.

**Oct. 2**

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

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

**Oct 11**

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

**Oct 13**

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting**, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Living Room.

**Oct. 16**

**Amnesty International Letter Signing Sunday**, after the worship service.

**Memorial Flower Sunday**, every 3rd Sunday of the month.

**Oct 17 - 21**

**Start date of receiving items for the Fall Sale, please drop off your gently used items at the church anytime between 9am-8pm.**

**Oct.22**

**Giant Fall Sale, 9 a.m. to 3pm.**

**Oct. 23**

Thank you luncheon for Fall Sale Volunteers after the Sunday Worship Service, in the auditorium.

**Oct 27**

**Ladies Fellowship Meeting**, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Living Room.

**Oct. 30**

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

**Nov. 2**

**Soup & Film Series with a Hindu Flavour "Amal"**  
Watch the film at 4pm, Stay for soup supper at 6pm, The film will be shown again at 7pm. Call 416-444-8444 to reserve.

- Nov.5**                                 **Music on the Donway presents, The Hurricanes Big Band,**  
Travel back to the golden age of big band music with the swingin'  
Hurricanes Big Band -- our very own local Don Mills band!  
Request your favourite tunes and bring your dancin' shoes!  
7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20/adults, \$12/children.Call: 416-444-8444.
- Nov. 6**                                 **Food Bank Sunday**, please give generously.
- Nov. 8**                                 **Committee and Council meetings**, 7p.m. & 8:15p.m.
- Nov. 9**                                 **Soup & Film Series with a Hindu Flavour, "Mississippi Masala"**  
Watch the film at 4pm. Stay for soup supper at 6pm,  
The film will be shown again at 7pm. Call 416-444-8444 to reserve.
- Nov. 10**                                **Ladies Fellowship Meeting**, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the  
month. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Living Room.
- Nov. 16**                               **Soup & Film Series with a Hindu Flavour, "Monsoon Wedding"**  
Watch the film at 4pm. Stay for soup supper at 6pm,  
The film will be shown again at 7pm. Call 416-444-8444 to reserve.
- Nov. 20**                               **Amnesty International Letter Signing Sunday**, every third Sunday  
of the month after the 10:30a.m. worship service in the auditorium.
- Memorial Flower Sunday**, every 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Nov. 23**                               **Soup & Film Series with a Hindu Flavour, "The Namesake"**  
Watch the film at 4pm, Stay for soup supper at 6pm,  
The film will be shown again at 7pm. Call 416-444-8444 to reserve.
- Nov. 24**                               **Ladies Fellowship Meeting**, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the  
month. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Living Room.
- Nov. 27**                               **Worship Service, Communion**, 10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary.  
Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- Nov. 30**                               **Soup & Film Series with a Hindu Flavour, "Outsourced"**  
Watch the film at 4pm, Stay for soup supper at 6pm,  
The film will be shown again at 7pm. Call 416-444-8444 to reserve.
- Dec. 1**                                 **Ladies' Christmas Luncheon 12:00 noon.** All women are invited  
to bring their favourite main dish or dessert and join us in the  
living room. Contact Marian Childerhose (416-449-6993).
- Dec. 4**                                 **Food Bank Sunday**, please give generously.