

The Voice



April 2010

The Minister's Message: Generosity, Affection, Hospitality

A Muslim mystic and celebrated poet named Rumi wrote many books about 500 years ago, with memorable sentences such as this: "God loves river-like **generosity**, sun-like **affection**, and earth-like **hospitality**." Generosity, Affection, Hospitality – all good biblical values, and all good words to describe the secular season of Spring, and the Christian season of Easter.

As we celebrate Spring's arrival, and Easter shortly after, I am more than ever aware of how patiently hospitable our Earth has been and is. From generation to generation, we have taken for granted this unique dwelling, where we have lived since we were born, whose body makes up the dust and clay God uses to form our bodies, and where we will all one day have our bodies laid to rest. Despite our disregard, Earth continues to welcome us in to Life, sustain us, and offer us an ample home. Slowly, we are all learning much about how to offer welcome and hospitality to the whole of Life, by letting our attention notice and honour Earth's offering of "home" for all Creation within, upon, and surrounding her.

Of course, life would not last long without the warmth and light of Sun's affection. In the beginning, Genesis tells us, God created Light, so that all subsequent creation would be warmed and comforted by sun-like affection during the day, and moon's reflective

light all night. As the days lengthen, and the sun's warmth grows stronger, we remember how dependent we are on Earth's hospitality and Sun's affection.

But without river-like generosity, no life would exist. After night and day, God created Earth and Water, and from these last two, God created everything else that is, including us. True generosity runs like a river of water, it can be diverted, but it cannot be stopped. Generosity gives because it is in its nature to give, not because it is forced to. God gives, and gives, and gives, creates, and re-creates, sustains, re-news, and refreshes, because it is in God's nature to be gracious, to be generous. God only hopes that we will pay attention, and notice, wonder and worship with awe the abundance that is gifted to us all year long, but especially in this season of Easter when we remember that God can even bring new life out of death.

Generosity, Affection, Hospitality – we need all of these in our lives in order to thrive. Our church needs all of these, too, to thrive and live with exuberance in this small part of God's Kingdom. May we be blessed with river-like generosity, sun-like affection, and earth-like hospitality this season, and always.

Rev. Jennifer Palin

Letters as Scripture

The Letters of The New Testament

A Bible Study - Mondays at 7:00 pm

in

Donway Covenant Church Library

Jesus was not a Christian, he was a Jew. But within 50 years of his death, a small Jewish sect became a new religion: Christianity.

In these early letters written by the first Christians, we see personal messages to friends turn into the earliest of Christian scripture – texts which spoke & speak God's Word to a new group of believers.

You're welcome to join us - read, listen, reflect and talk about how this happened.

A Message from The Chair of Council

As this is the last Voice for this church year I thought I would highlight some of council activities we have dealt with so far this year.

In December council voted in favor of affirming the practice of giving the Minister the authority to decide suitability for a couple to be married, whether straight or gay, at the Donway Covenant United Church.

At our last meeting, at the request of the worship committee, council approved making wine available at the Seder supper. At a future meeting we may discuss whether or not it is appropriate to serve alcohol for other special occasions in the church.

Some of the upcoming activities mentioned include:

Ladies' Fellowship Comfort Lunch,
Mar. 25;

Pastoral Oversight Committee Meeting & Lunch, Mar.28;

Passover Seder/Potluck Supper, Apr 1;

Good Friday Service & Hot Cross Buns, April 2;

Music on the Donway Concert,
April 24;

Fair Trade Fair & Sale, May 1.

You can see that there is no shortage of activities planned for the next couple of months. We hope you will want to support these events. Since many of the

same people are involved in most or all of these events I'm sure any offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

As a result of an earlier decision to present a balanced budget no money was allocated for any new maintenance projects. The Stewardship Committee feels there are several repair projects that need to be addressed and will be spearheading a fund raising campaign this spring to enable this work to proceed.

With the changing conditions it was felt that the role of the Christian Education Director should be revised. Council decided to establish an ad hoc committee with representation from most of the committees to make recommendations to council on what changes if any need to be made.

As there are many significant decisions being made on your behalf, you may want to make your views known to members on council or even attend a committee or council meeting. At the start of the year there were many vacancies on council; most have now been filled, with a nice blend of wisdom and experience along with the fresh ideas of some new faces.

Most of the time we are preoccupied with the business of the church but we hope we are being guided by "what the spirit is saying to the churches".

Norm Childerhose
Chair of Council

What we have done for ourselves
dies with us;
what we have done for others
remains and is immortal

- Albert Pike

Editor's Note

It was recently pointed out, by a member of the Worship Committee, that it takes about 15 volunteers doing specific tasks—making coffee, greeting, ushering, counting, driving, reading-- to run a worship service each Sunday. Multiply that by 52 weeks and that is a lot of congregational involvement. Probably the most dedicated and unappreciated people are those who do the phoning to ask you to commit to doing one of these many jobs. This is becoming more and more difficult, as our congregation ages, and members are simply not able to perform the tasks as they used to. There is no easy solution to this problem. We can lean more heavily on fewer and fewer fit and willing members or we can run a bare-bones service with less congregational involvement. Neither option is pleasant to contemplate, but reality may dictate a change in how we do things in the future.

After that depressing scenario, I should point out that we still manage to do enjoyable and useful things as a church. Just think of the Soup and Movie events, the various different functions where food and drink are served, such as Music on the Donway concerts, signing Amnesty letters, and, in the near future, an all-day Fair Trade Fair. If you can, please consider offering some of your time; you will be most welcome and will contribute making our church a vibrant, caring place.

There are a number of special events coming up at Easter time to make it more spiritually meaningful; do join us ! After that, we hope that the spring season will be well established and we can again enjoy our lovely, peaceful, and green community. We are incredibly blessed !

Jill Reeve

The Church in the Spring/Summer...

Worship Service:	Sundays at 10:30a.m.
Sunday School:	During the 10:30a.m. service
Office Hours:	Monday to Friday, 9a.m. - 4p.m.
Summer Office Hours:	July 26 to August 13, 10a.m. - 2p.m.

The Staff

Minister:	Rev. Jennifer Palin
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donald Ray
Music Director:	Daniel Rubinoff
Christian Education Director:	Lorrie Daly-Price
Church Administrator:	Jaren McLeod

Staff Summer Vacations

Rev. Jennifer Palin	June 30 to August 4th (inclusive)
Lorrie Daly-Price	August 16 to Sept. 6th (inclusive)
Jaren McLeod	July 24 to August 15th (inclusive)
Daniel Rubinoff	T.B.A.

Message from Our Christian Education Director

Hi, everyone! Winter has finally come to a close and we are enjoying all the wonderful blessings that God has to offer us with the coming of spring. There is nothing like the first bulbs that we see in the garden or the first sign of the bird's singing joyously around the neighbourhood.

Our Kids of the Kingdom Sunday morning program has shared in a number of interesting stories over the last few months. We have journeyed together through the season of Lent, talking about the different symbols associated with Lent and what it means to follow Jesus even when it gets hard. The older group has also been following along with season of Lent and through lively discusses, relating it to how this affects each of us today. Thank you to all those who have shared their time and gifts with the children.

We celebrated Shrove or Pancake Tuesday this year, the day before the beginning of Lent. Dinner was a great success and lots of fun. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to bring together this evening celebration.

With Mother's Day fast approaching we are once again preparing to take some items to the Massey Centre for women. They were thrilled with the items that we dropped off to them last year. This year we have many beautiful baby blankets that have been put together throughout the year by loving hands and will be approaching the many parents who enjoy our programs for gently used items.

Our Parents and Tots program continues to reach incredible numbers each week. We see many new families as well as those who have continued to support the

program through many different children. This program continues to reach beyond just those living in the Don Mills area because of glowing reports that we have received from those who have visited.

The Donway Covenant United Church Preschool continues to run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:15 to 11:30 am. There continues to be tremendous interest in this program expressed by Parents in our Parent and Tot program. There currently is a wait list should any space come up for the remainder of this year. The children have been introduced to a variety of Bible stories through creative art, stories and music. As well, we have worked on other preschool skills such as numbers, alphabet, shapes, sharing and many other areas.

Once again we are pleased to announce another summer of fun with Footprints Summer Day Camp. Summer is one of the best parts of being a child. At Footprints Summer Day Camp it is our goal to expose the campers to a broad and varied program of activities that will help to foster the spiritual, mental and physical development of each individual camper. We believe that God has given every child unique gifts and talents. Our goal is to encourage each child, as an individual, to discover those abilities and develop a proper attitude toward themselves and others. Early Bird Registration has already begun; make sure that you don't miss out on a summer of fun.

Lorrie Daly-Price,
Christian Education Director

Mark your calendars for these up and coming events:

Fair Trade Sale – Saturday, May 1

Mother's Day Celebrations – Sunday, May 9

Congregational Spring Picnic – Sunday June 6

Footprints Summer Day Camp – Starts Monday, July 5

I look forward to the many wonderful things that spring has to offer and supporting the education of all of your children as they grow. May God bless each of you.

Children's Version of The Bible

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT THE BIBLE WERE WRITTEN BY CHILDREN.

THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RETOUCHEDED OR CORRECTED. INCORRECT SPELLING HAS BEEN LEFT IN.

1. IN THE FIRST BOOK OF THE BIBLE, GUINNESSIS. GOD GOT TIRED OF CREATING THE WORLD SO HE TOOK THE SABBATH OFF.
2. ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATED FROM AN APPLE TREE. NOAH'S WIFE WAS JOAN OF ARK. NOAH BUILT AN ARK AND THE ANIMALS CAME ON IN PEARS.
3. LOT'S WIFE WAS A PILLAR OF SALT DURING THE DAY, BUT A BALL OF FIRE DURING THE NIGHT.
4. THE JEWS WERE A PROUD PEOPLE AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY THEY HAD TROUBLE WITH UNSYMPATHETIC GENITALS.
5. SAMPSON WAS A STRONGMAN WHO LET HIMSELF BE LED ASTRAY BY A JEZEBEL LIKE DELILAH.
6. SAMSON SLAYED THE PHILISTINES WITH THE AXE OF THE APOSTLES.

7. MOSES LED THE JEWS TO THE RED SEA WHERE THEY MADE UNLEAVENED BREAD WHICH IS BREAD WITHOUT ANY INGREDIENTS

8. THE EGYPTIANS WERE ALL DROWNED IN THE DESSERT. AFTERWARDS, MOSES WENT UP TO MOUNT CYANIDE TO GET THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

9. THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WAS WHEN EVE TOLD ADAM TO EAT THE APPLE.

10. THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT IS THOU SHALT NOT ADMIT ADULTERY.

11..MOSES DIED BEFORE HE EVER REACHED CANADA THEN JOSHUA LED THE HEBREWS IN THE BATTLE OF GERITOL.

12. THE GREATEST MIRICLE IN THE BIBLE IS WHEN JOSHUA TOLD HIS SON TO STAND STILL AND HE OBEYED HIM.

13. DAVID WAS A HEBREW KING WHO WAS SKILLED AT PLAYING THE LIAR. HE FOUGHT THE FINKELSTEINS, A RACE OF PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN BIBLICAL TIMES.

14. SOLOMON, ONE OF DAVIDS SONS, HAD 300 WIVES AND 700 PORCUPINES.

Library News

The following books have been added to the library. We will continue to be in the library the second Sunday of the month after the service if you need assistance in selecting a book. Hope to see more people show an interest in using the church library.

Quarrel – The United Church and the Jews – Reuben Slonin

This is a story for Canadians of all faiths and for all who are concerned about the strife that divides citizens of this country.

The Sins of Scripture – John Shelby Spong

This book challenges Christians to look beyond the myths of their faith into the heart of the matter.

Desire of the Everlasting Hills – Thomas Cahill

The author invites readers into an ancient world to commune with some of the most influential people who ever lived.

While My Sister Sleeps – Barbara Delinsky (Large Print)

Donated in memory of Betty Ross by the Ladies' Fellowship Group

A masterful family portrait filled with

thought provoking ideas about the nature of life itself, how emotions affect the decisions we make and how letting go can be the hardest thing to do.

Chicken Soup for the Grandparents Soul – Jack Canfield (Large Print)

Donated in memory of Joyce Sullivan by the Ladies' Fellowship Group

This book is the perfect gift to show a grandparent how much he or she is loved.

My Stroke of Insight – Jill Bolte Taylor, PH.D (Large Print)

Donated in memory of Gertrude Normandeau by the Ladies' Fellowship Group

A brain Scientist's personal journey after she experienced a massive stroke at the age of 37.

Jesus & His Times – Reader's Digest

This book blends the biblical and historical accounts of New Testament times.

Noah and the Ark – This is a now you can read bible story for Children.

Noah and His Ark – Retold by Catherine Storr.

Gwen Van Hamme &
Vivian Hall

For Music

Thanks, God, for music.

It isn't illegal or fattening or even too expensive.

And you don't have to be young to enjoy it.

In fact, I'm only now beginning to enjoy it fully.

When I was younger, I had too many things to do.

And I spent the time in between planning more activities.

Now I have time.

And I am lifted up and carried away and lightened and brightened with the magic and majesty. Thanks, God, for making a world which contains music, for making people who have the talent and desire to create it, for giving me ears to hear and leisure to listen.

By Elise Maclay

Message from The Music Director

After a successful Lenten season, the music program is busy preparing musical offerings for Holy Week and Easter. The choir will be singing on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday this year. This is the first year in several years that we have sung at all three services. The music will be varied: from medieval German music for Palm Sunday to contemporary Canadian anthems that express the mystery of Easter. We will be featuring the wonderful solo singing of our soloists.

We are so thankful to have Meghan Fleet (soprano) and Mark Gough (baritone). The choir and I wish to thank the congregation for their support of the choir leads. We have been able to sing some

more challenging repertoire and also take an active part in leading the congregation in new music. The teaching of new music for congregational singing is an important part of our ministry and we hope to do more new music in the future.

We are very proud to have raised a substantial amount of money for the Haitian relief effort at our "For the Love of Jazz" concert in February. Please continue your support of Music on the Donway by attending the Jaffa Road concert in April.

Happy Easter Donway!

Daniel Rubinoff
Music Director

MUSIC ON THE DONWAY

PRESENTS

JOURNEY TO ANDALUSIA

with

JAFFA ROAD

2010 Juno Award Nominee for best
World Music Album of the Year

SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2010,
7:30PM

Call 416-444-8444 for tickets
Tickets: \$20/adults, \$12/children

The Donway Covenant United Church
230 The Donway West, north of Lawrence Ave. East

www.donwaycovenant.com

Faith and Leadership

As the Christian landscape changes, Faith & Leadership says leaders must ask and answer a new question: What's the future of denominations? This is part of an occasional series that offers the thoughts of people across Christianity on this vital issue.

Denominations are important because they embody an ethos, provide connection and are able "to see and solve problems," said [Brian D. McLaren](#), an author, pastor and public speaker.

But denominations must turn from a "problem focus to a goal focus" if they are to remain relevant, especially to young people, ".....That brings to the surface the real challenge, maybe the deepest challenge for denominations.

When the seas are smooth and you're the crew of the ship, you just have to deal with a breakdown in the engine room and solve that, and a small leak over here and solve that. You're in the problem-solving mode. In a storm, you're in a very different situation; suddenly you have to get all hands on deck to deal with rapidly changing conditions.

It's no longer about keeping things at equilibrium. Now we're dealing with constant external change. Add one more detail: What would happen if we got lost and now we don't even know where we are or where we're going? Now the crew is in a completely different situation. It's

the difference between institutional maintenance and institutional management and institutional leadership -- the kind of heroic, transformational institutional leadership that's needed.

A lot of us talk about the fact that we live in an increasingly post-Christian environment. Others would say post-Christendom environment, where the church no longer works from a position of power but works more from the margins. Some people lament that. They wish we could get back to the good old days of Christendom.

Others of us think no, it actually compromised our message to be in that position of power. We're better off seeing ourselves at the margins. When you're at the margins, you rediscover yourselves as a movement as well as an institution."

McLaren is a pastor and intellectual leader in the emerging church. He is the author of a number of influential books, including "The Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix," "A Generous Orthodoxy" and "The Secret Message of Jesus." McLaren has appeared on Larry King Live, Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, and Nightline. His work also has been featured in Christianity Today, Christian Century and the Washington Post.

I know a cure for sadness:
Let your hands touch something
that makes your eyes smile.
I bet there are a hundred objects
close by that can do that.

-Kabir

Vision and Spirituality

The following story speaks to institutions having to change depending on demography of the surrounding area and other systemic changes. It is not unlike the process we are struggling with.

It concerns the Anglican Sisters of St. John the Divine here in Toronto. They demonstrated amazing adaptability and vision through the years.

In 1885 they started a Women's Surgical Hospital (the first in Canada), just south east of College and Spadina. there was a great need for such as establishment and they thrived to the point that they needed more space. This resulted in a move (with financial support from the public) to a site on Major St. of what ultimately became the Doctors Hospital. They had an excellent medical staff (many practised at the teaching hospitals) and a very good nursing school.

They had 'outreach dispensaries (out-patient depts...) in the poor and run down areas of the city. As these areas became more prosperous, there was no longer a need so they moved where there was a need. First example of "rolling with the punches" and adapting to their environment..

The next crisis came in the early 1920s and 1930s when (as with St. Vincent's) the cost of the fancy new equipment (X-

ray machines and what was then sophisticated lab equipment) was beyond their means. In addition the new Toronto General Hospital was taking away their business. The Sisters actually saw this coming in the mid 1920s and had the great **vision** that Toronto needed a convalescent and rehab hospital. Planning and agreement of support from the general hospitals in Toronto (they needed a place to send their patients for convalescences) proceeded and. In the mid 1930s the Major Street Hospital (it had become a general hospital) closed (ultimately sold to Doctor's Hosp.) and the convalescent hosp. on Cummer Ave. opened. This has been a great success and is still undergoing expansion. Second example of adaptability to the environment and vision for the future is that the Sisters no longer run the Hospital (they are aging like our congregation) but, as they always did, provide a Spirituality to the institution.

St. Vincent's and DCUC could do worse than examine how the Sisters of St. John the Divine dealt with the shifting grounds - always with Vision and Spirituality and I am sure guidance by God's will.

Don Cowan

Member of the Strategic Planning

Faith

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Faith is the bird that sings even when the dawn is still dark.

- Rabindranath Tagore

From the Outreach Committee

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

Once again many volunteers have worked tirelessly to support the Spring Soup Suppers and Film Fest. Five movies were held on Wednesdays from February 24th to March 24th. They were shown at 4 p.m. and repeated at 7 p.m., with the Soup Supper at approximately 6 p.m. The films were as follows: "Ruby", "The Savages", "One True Thing", "Iris" and "Far from Heaven". These films were about families facing transitions in their lives.

There has been a positive response to the films and a lively discussion followed each. With this in mind, the committee is planning to have another Film Fest in the Fall, with five films to be shown.

We would also like to thank all who responded to the Advent Project to raise funds to invest in Oikocredit, the international bank begun by the World Council of Churches. \$3,750 was raised.

Marie Harvey

Chair of the Outreach Committee

Fair Trade Fair

Saturday, May 1, 2010

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Donway Covenant United Church

**Fair Trade means:
Dignity, Sustainability, Education, Hope, A Fairer World**

You are cordially invited to attend the **Fair Trade Fair** to be held on **May 1, 2010** in the auditorium and the living room of The Donway Covenant United Church, 230 The Donway West (west of Don Mills and north of Lawrence). There will be several small **Fair Trade vendors** as well as **Ten Thousand Villages***. They will have beautiful goods and coffee, tea and food, for sale, from many countries of the world.

A **café** run by our own church volunteers will provide Fair Trade coffee, tea and food throughout the day.

In the living room, **films and speakers** will be featured.

The Outreach Committee is proud to be supporting this event and hope that you will join in the fun and excitement on that day.

For further information please call the church office at 444-8444.

Outreach Committee: Don Cowan, Helen Guillet, Marie Harvey.

*Ten Thousand Villages is a retail store that carries only fairly traded goods from Third World Countries

Anglican Church

(I recently read an article in the Vancouver Sun about the scheduled closing of numerous Anglican churches in British Columbia and about the drastic drop in church members---13,000 per year. Here is what Archdeacon Christopher Page of Victoria says about the church's future, very similar to that of the United Church) - Ed.

“It’s not an easy task to be a Christian church in the present cultural climate. There are far too many other attractive options for Sunday morning.” But Archdeacon Page hopes people will return to religious institutions—and not simply because the Anglican church restruc-

tured and consolidated. He said people crave a spiritual life and will tire of the individualism that pervades our culture.

“The hope lies in the reality, I believe, that people do have an abiding hunger in their hearts for something beyond themselves, some kind of transcendental reality. And I think the hope lies in the fact that in our culture, even as we speak, people are becoming dissatisfied and discontented simply with materialism and the focus on getting ahead in the world. And they are realizing that that is not a fully satisfying life.”

The Home

Some say home, it is a shelter
That protects you against rain and wind.
Some say home, it is a fireplace.
That warms you up from the cold.
Some say home, it is a harbour,
You are the ship.
I say home, it is a feeling,
That includes support and respect.
I say home, it is a feeling.
That comes from the Conversation Group.

Eva Cheung
(English as a Second Language Student
enrolled in our DCUC Conversation Group)

There are more tears shed
over answered prayers
than over
unanswered prayers.

- St Teresa of Avila

The Worship Committee is Working for You.....

Sunday by Sunday

At

The Donway Covenant United Church

During April, May and June

April 1, Passover Seder at 6pm in the Living Room

**April 2 at 10:30 a.m., Good Friday Service,
Jesus is betrayed, arrested, interrogated, tortured, and executed**

EASTER

Sun. **April** 4 – Lk. 24:1-12 – **Easter** – an empty tomb, the mystery begins, **COMMUNION**
11 – Lk. 24:13-35 – A mysterious stranger on the road to Emmaus
18 – Acts 8:26-40 – Philip hears mysterious instructions to baptize a eunuch
on the road to Gaza
25 – Acts 9:1-19 – Saul hears a mysterious voice on the road to Damascus

May - 2 – Acts 10 – 9-16 – Peter sees a mysterious vision of foods from heaven,
COMMUNION
9 – Acts 6:1-15 – Stephen is ordained as a deacon, (Christian Family
Sunday, and Mothers Day)
16 - Acts 12:1-10 – Peter is arrested, imprisoned, and mysteriously liberated

PENTECOST

23 – Acts 2:1-21 – **Pentecost**, (Victoria Day long weekend)
30 – Acts 2:32-47 – Radical sharing, **COMMUNION** (next Communion will
be the 1st Sun. of Oct.)

June 6 – Galations 1:1-12, “If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant
of Jesus Christ”
13 – Galations 3:23-29 – No more male/female, slave/free, Jew/Greek
20 – Galations 5:1 and 13-15 – You were baptized to be free people, do not
return to slavery
27 – Galations 6:7-18 – God will not be mocked

The Importance of Symbols in our Church's Decorations

Many of us sitting in the pews each Sunday look around and think that our sanctuary looks very attractive. There are banners and stained glass windows and candles and flowers. But how many of us notice or even know that each liturgical season has its own religious symbols, and our Sanctuary Committee uses these to remind us of the significance of each season? Just for your information, the United Church recognizes the following six seasons: Lent, Easter, Season after Pentecost, Advent, Christmas, Season after Epiphany (Jan6), then back to Lent. During Lent, the sad time leading up to Christ's death, purple hangings are used, and there are no

cheerful flowers in the church. Then on Easter Day, all that changes and our church transforms into a beautiful place again, full of flowers, which are then distributed to shut-ins. At Thanksgiving, while not officially in the liturgical calendar, we always enjoy a reminder of our bounty with a harvest display. In December, candles and the lighting of them are very important, as we celebrate Advent, awaiting Christ's birth. The poinsettias are an added colourful but secular bonus. So look around and enjoy your surroundings and also appreciate what the various symbols mean in our religious journey through the year.

To Be or Not To Be by Elise Maclay

So many of my friends are gone,
It's as if I were once part of a forest
And now I'm a lone tree
That has withstood a lot of storms
And may or may not
Withstand the next one.
But it's not up to me.
I find that comforting, God.
I'd hate the job of deciding whether
To be or not to be,
At this stage of the game.
I Have my up times and my down
And what I decided would depend on
How I felt at the moment.
And I certainly don't have all the facts.
How do I know if I'm through here
Or if there's more for me to do ?
When I was younger I was big on
"running my own life"
(Tried to run quite a few other people's lives, too—Forgive me for that)
Now I'm quite content to let You make the major decisions.
Funny thing. I know whenever you call me,
I won't be ready to go.
But that's life. Or should I say death ?

Building Restoration Fund

This fund is a key element in our long term ability to maintain and upgrade our church campus buildings. It was established some years ago to provide funds for planned restoration and upgrading of our building systems. It also is used from time to time to fund emergency repairs.

In all cases, Council approval is required to use restoration funds for any specific project. For example, last year funds from this account enabled us to proceed with necessary repairs to our auditorium roof and furnace room drainage system. In addition, we had to carry out some emergency repairs to the Brighton School facilities.

The result of these activities is that our restoration fund has been depleted and now needs to be rebuilt. The Stewardship Committee has identified three projects for consideration this year.

1. Brick restoration on south east interior wall of our sanctuary.
2. Storm windows for our auditorium.
3. Heating control valves for our C.E. Wing.

As you know from our Annual Report, we were not able to budget any fund towards major building repairs this year. This means that if we are going to pro-

ceed with any of these projects we must raise additional money to rebuild our restoration fund.

The Stewardship Committee has proposed that we have a special fund raising event during April to provide the necessary funds for these projects. At the present time it is estimated that \$25,000 will be required to achieve our objectives.

In April a letter will be sent to all Donway Covenant Church Friends, asking for their financial help. We are indeed fortunate to have our campus building and systems in relatively good condition. This situation did not happen by chance, but reflects the dedicated work and attention of many supporters over the past ten years or so. We must not stop now. Our buildings and systems need continuous attention, if they are going to provide the facilities we need to carry on our ministry in this place.

When you receive your letter of appeal, please give it prayerful consideration and know that any funds you provide will be carefully used to maintain and restore the building of The Donway Covenant United Church.

Frank Saunders
Chair of the Stewardship Committee

Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are an honest person is like expecting the bull not to charge you because you are a vegetarian.

- Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan

Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen

(Many of us were moved when we heard kd laing sing this well-known anthem by Leonard Cohen at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics. I thought you might be interested to actually read and think about the actual words to this sacred or secular song (you decide !) - Ed.

Now I've heard there was a secret chord
That David played, and it pleased the Lord
But you don't really care for music, do you?

It goes like this
The fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
The baffled king composing Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Your faith was strong but you needed proof
You saw her bathing on the roof
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew her

She tied you
To a kitchen chair
She broke your throne, and she cut your hair
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

You say I took the name in vain
I don't even know the name
But if I did, well really, what's it to you?

There's a blaze of light
In every word
It doesn't matter which you heard
The holy or the broken Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I did my best, it wasn't much
I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch
I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you

And even though
It all went wrong
I'll stand before the Lord of Song
With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A Bit of Trivia by Alvin Nelson

This is a little more on the long history of measurements, and in particular, on the people who contributed the most as it evolved.

The caveman devised his own measurements from observing objects surrounding him such as trees, rocks, mountains, etc. Since each man had his own, there was no reason for records, and it was not until around 6000 BC that we find the first records. After this time, many different measuring schemes were recorded, by many different people. Some of the more influential of these people will now be considered.

The Greeks and Romans set their own standards for longer distances that combined Olympic, Persian, Chaldean and Egyptian measurements. The Romans also invented the inch, originally called a thumb-breadth. It divided the foot into 12 units. In 1150 A.D. King David I of Scotland ruled that the inch was the mean measure of the thumb of three men, and in 1324 England's King Edward II decreed that three barley corns taken from the middle of the ear and placed end to end equaled an inch. Although various forms of measurements were devised before the Dark Ages, natural and human measurements persisted through these ages.

The same year, 1851, that Sir Joseph Whitworth invented his accurate measuring device, Joseph R. Brown developed the first Vernier Calipers that could measure in thousandths of inches. This type of Caliper is still in use today. I have one.

Carl Edward Johansson invented the

amazing Johansson Gauge Blocks at Eskilstuna, Sweden I 1896. They measure within millionths of an inch. I believe, for years thereafter, they became the standard for calibrating commercial measuring instruments.

Nearly 30 years before the Johansson invention, E.T. Lufkin founded a company in Cleveland, Ohio that later became known as the Lufkin Rule Company. Originally, this company made tools for use in the logging industry for measuring lumber products. Soon thereafter the company added other measuring tools to its product-line, and over the following years became a large supplier of measuring instruments for industry. You have probably used a gauge, ruler, caliper, etc. made by Lufkin.

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were both concerned about all the discrepancies in measurements that were applied in industry in the new republic. By this time the Metric System of measurements was well on its way to become a standard in Europe. In 1866 a bill was introduced in Congress to make the Metric System compulsory, but it was amended to make use of the system permissible. The change was too costly; it would cost at least \$200.00 per worker.

Except for the U.S. the world is now on the Metric System of measurements. No matter where you now buy an automobile, it will probably contain parts made to metric standards as well as U.S. standards. This has created a bit of a dilemma for garages in that each mechanics must now have two sets of hand tools, one set for metric and one set of U.S.

The Mayonnaise Jar

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day is not enough; remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and start to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured it into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - God, family, children, health, friends, and favorite passions things that if everything

else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the things that matter like your job, house, and car.

The sand is everything else -- The small stuff.

'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life.

If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, You will never have room for the things that are important to you.

So...

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.

Play with your children.

Take time to get medical checkups.

Take your partner out to dinner.

There will always be time to clean the house and fix the dripping tap.

'Take care of the golf balls first -- The things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked'. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'

The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.

- Alan Watts

The Ladies Fellowship Group

During the winter months, our attendance at the regular meetings remained good, in spite of the weather. In February, Marion Childerhose and "friends" took charge while I was in Florida. Thanks everybody. Now we are in March and ready to welcome Spring and Easter. At our second meeting in March, we had our "Comfort Lunch" provided

by Marion and the "girls". We have already decided to give the proceeds to the local food bank, as we did last year. It won't be long before we are planning the Spring Pot Luck Luncheon. We will be inviting all the women of the congregation to participate. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Vogl.

Announcements

Births

Samuel Paul Keene Born November 26, 2009, 1st great grand son of Audrey Marples

Adelaide Elizabeth Pearson

Born January 23, 2010, 1st grandchild of Anne & Bill Anderson

Kathleen Reeve

Born January 31, 2010, the 3rd Grandchild of Jill & Ted Reeve

Deaths

Betty Ross

Passed away December 17, 2009.

John Fleet

Passed away January 6, 2010.

Cliff Lee

Passed away January 19, 2010.

Joan Simmons

Passed away January 31, 2010

Betty Hughes

Passed away January 27, 2010

Edna Martin

(mother of Christine and Bob Thompson)
Passed away February 11, 2010

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the departed.

Preparing this Edition of The Voice:

Thanks to the staff, as well as to our collators: Patty Snowdon, Beth Struthers, Ted & Elda McDowell, Diane Cutler, Marla Miller
Editor: Jill Reeve, Assistant Editor: Patty Snowdon, Layout Design: Jaren McLeod.

THE LOST CHORD

Lyrics by Adelaide Proctor,
Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan

Seated at the organ, I was weary and ill at ease,
And my fingers wandered idly over the noisy keys.
I know not what I was playing, or what I was dreaming then;
But I struck one chord of music, like the sound of a great Amen.
It flooded the crimson twilight, like the close of an Angel's Psalm,
And it lay on my fevered spirit with a touch of infinite calm.
It quieted pain and sorrow, like love overcoming strife;
It seemed the harmonious echo from our discordant life.
It linked all perplexed meanings into one perfect peace,
And trembled away into silence as if it were loth to cease.
I have sought, but I seek it vainly, that one lost chord divine,
Which came from the soul of the organ, and entered into mine.
It may be that death's bright angel will speak in that chord again,
It may be that only in Heaven I shall hear that grand Amen.

(This song was composed in 1877, as Sir Arthur was watching his brother during his last illness. It became very popular with the late Victorians and Edwardians, who would gather around the piano in the evening and sing pieces such as this. You can listen to numerous versions of it, some quite old, if you look it up on www.youtube.com.)

Up-coming Events

**Check out our website for up to date events listings at
www.donwaycovenant.com**

- March 28 - **Sunday Worship Service - Palm Sunday**, 10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin.
- March 28 - **Pastoral Oversight Committee Meeting with the Congregation**, after the 10:30 worship service in the auditorium. Lunch will be served. Please R.S.V.P. by calling the church office
- March 29 - - **“Letters as Scripture” Bible Study Group**, weekly at 7p.m., in the library. Call office for details, 416-444-8444
- March 30 - **Final Lenten Small Group Discussion of the Sunday Sermons**, 4 - 5:30pm in the church library. Jaren McLeod will be facilitating a group discussion on each week’s sermon during the period of Lent (six weeks). Come share your thoughts, concerns and personal insights.
- April 1 - **Passover Seder**, 6pm in the auditorium.
- April 2 - **Good Friday Service**, 10:30a.m. in the sanctuary.
- April 4 - **Easter Sunday, An empty tomb, the mystery begins., Communion.** 10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin.
- April 4 - **Food Bank Sunday**, on the first Sunday of every month we encourage all to donate either non-perishable food or money to the Community Share Food Bank. All food donations can be placed in the basket found in the narthex. All cheques may be made out to either *The Donway Covenant United Church* (please note “Food Bank” on the cheque or to *The Community Share Food Bank*. Thank you in advance for your generosity.
- April 5 - **Easter Monday—Church Office Closed**
- April 5 - - **“Letters as Scripture” Bible Study Group**, weekly at 7p.m., in the library. Call office for details, 416-444-8444
- April 8 - - **Ladies Fellowship Meeting**, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Living Room.
- April 11 - **Sunday Worship Service - A Mysterious Stranger on the Road to Emmaus**, 10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin.
- April 12 - - **“Letters as Scripture” Bible Study Group**, weekly at 7p.m., in the library. Call office for details, 416-444-8444
- April 13- **Committee and Council Meetings**, 7p.m. & 8:15p.m. in the C.E. Wing.
- April 18 - **Sunday Worship Service - 10:30a.m.** in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin.

Up-coming Events continued

- April 19 - - **“Letters as Scripture” Bible Study Group**, weekly at 7p.m., in the library. Call office for details, 416-444-8444
- April 22 - - **Ladies Fellowship Meeting**, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Living Room.
- April 24 - Music on the Donway Presents: **Journey to Andalusia with Jaffa Road**, Experience World Music at its best with **2010 Juno Award Nominees, Jaffa Road**. 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Tickets are on sale at coffee hour after Sunday worship services or call the church office at 416-444-8444.
- April 25 - **Sunday Worship Service** - 10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin.
- April 26 - - **“Letters as Scripture” Bible Study Group**, weekly at 7p.m., in the library. Call office for details, 416-444-8444
- May 1 - **Fair Trade Fair**, 10a.m. to 3p.m. in the auditorium. Come to the Fair featuring a Fair Trade café serving locally grown and/or fairly traded foods. There will be on sale global crafts & textiles, unique jewelry & clothes, fairly traded foods such as chocolate, coffee, tea spices & nuts.
- May 2 - **Sunday Worship Service** - 10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin.
- May 2 - **Food Bank Sunday**, on the first Sunday of every month we encourage all to donate either non-perishable food or money to the Community Share Food Bank. All food donations can be placed in the basket found in the narthex. All cheques may be made out to either *The Donway Covenant United Church* (please note “Food Bank” on the cheque or to *The Community Share Food Bank*. Thank you in advance for your generosity.
- May 9 - **Sunday Worship Service - Christian Family Day and Mother’s Day** 10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin.
- May 11 - - **Committee and Council Meetings**, 7p.m. & 8:15p.m. in the C.E. Wing
- May 13 & 20 - **Ladies Fellowship Meeting**, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Living Room.
- June 3 - **Ladies Fellowship Annual Spring Pot Luck Luncheon**, 12pm in the auditorium.
- June 6 - **Congregational Picnic**, after the 10:30a.m. worship service.
- June 8 - **Committee and Council Meetings**, 7p.m. & 8:15p.m. in the C.E. Wing
- July 5 - **Start of FootPrints Summer Day Camp**.