

UNITED MEMORIAL NEWS

Advent 2010

United Memorial Church 5350 Young Street Halifax NS B3K 1Z4
unitedmemorial@ns.alianzinc.ca (902) 454-0508 www.unitedmemorialchurch.ca

Advent 2010

Vision Statement: A vibrant, inclusive community of faith striving to live Jesus' message of love and hope and promise of new life.

Minister's Message:

Hopeful Expectation!

Here we are in Advent again! And once again, we anticipate the birth of Jesus. We know, as Christians that Jesus lives in us and among us all year round, but there is something wonder-full about the anticipation and possibilities that remembering and celebrating his birth once again. ... I like to think of 'Hopeful Expectation.'

Hopeful expectation is also the phrase I used at our recent Official Board meeting to describe the atmosphere at UM this fall. With our vision articulated and new individuals and families making UM their spiritual home, there is a sense of the Spirit alive and moving in our midst, breathing energy and enthusiasm into our common life. As we move through Advent with the tradition themes of hope, joy, peace and love intertwined with those of waiting, watching, wondering and welcoming, I trust that all those things will be born within you as well.

Advent Blessings, Catherine

Note about our new Newsletter:

This is a renewed venture for United Memorial in producing a newsletter and trying to keep our goal to communicate more effectively. We would like you to share with us your interests, celebrations, group reports and whatever else you think may be of interest to the congregation as a whole. We will post this on our website, share via email, and print for those who do not have email. This is a learning project for your new 'editor' so we are experimenting with the layout, etc. If you have any suggestions or assistance that will help put this together, please let me know at Irene.beeler@ns.sympatico.ca or (902) 455-2888. I am open to your critique about the content or layout. Does anyone have a good idea on a name for our newsletter?

*Remember to welcome strangers,
because some who have done this have
welcomed angels without knowing it.
Heb. 13:2*



Services and Events for Advent & Christmas...

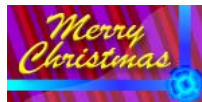
Dec 6 UCW Christmas Dinner and Meeting - All women of the congregation are welcome.

Dec 11 Potluck Supper at 5561 Heatherwood Court, off Novalea 4-10 pm - all ages!

Dec 12 Cole Harbour/Woodside United Choir Concert at United Memorial at 7:00 pm

Dec 15 Blue Christmas service 2:00 pm

Dec 24 7:00 pm All Ages Service: The Christmas Story 10:00 pm Candlelight Communion



December 6, 1917

In December 1917 Halifax was alive with excitement. The streets were filled with troops, and the city, far removed from the bitter fighting in Europe, was reaping all the advantages of war. On the morning of December 6th, however, a French munitions ship and a Belgian relief vessel collided in the harbour, killing more than 1600 people instantly, wounding more than 9000 others. Complete devastation covered 325 acres. The building of United Memorial Church came out of the loss of Kaye Street Methodist and Grove Presbyterian churches. In December we remember those who were lost.

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Submitted by Amanda Sutherland
Friday, December 3rd, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Official Opening of our NEW Art Exhibit at my Community Office Gallery (2207 Gottingen St.)

This show is very special because all the art is created by youth. We have an amazing mixed media project, **Rush Hour, 2010**, created by youth from Phoenix Youth Programs in partnership with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, facilitated and guided by artist, Miro Davis. The project depicts street life and self-reflection, acceptance, diversity, and heart and soul.

The show also includes a selection of more than 20 paintings and drawings created by children living in Afghanistan, titled **PEACES OF ME, 2010**. Amanda Sutherland traveled to Afghanistan with Global Exchange in 2007, with a women's delegation and went back this year to volunteer at **Afghan's 4 Tomorrow Girls School** and **Aschiana Street Children Centre**, in Kabul. During the sessions with the children, Amanda asked them to draw their vision, hopes and dreams for the future of their country. Themes of peace and beauty exude with hope and optimism. Education and culture is highlighted.

Please note that the show runs from Nov 15th to Jan 28th, so drop by at any time during office hours.

Did You Know?

There are name tags at the back of the church which would be a good idea to wear so we can all get to know one another. If there is not one there for you, please let the office know and one will be made for you.



UCW News

Submitted by Joyce Dillman
The UCW at United Memorial has 30 + members. We meet together once a month in smaller groups (units). Representatives from all units meet together once a month as a Leadership Team to co-ordinate programs and activities. Any woman at United Memorial is welcome to become a member of a unit. Our purpose is to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

Two years ago we initiated a "Prayer Shawl Ministry". Our ministry is entitled "Uniting Memories in God's Love" Members of United Memorial have knit or crocheted over 80 shawls to date. The shawls are blessed, then given for various reasons – medical, bereavement, celebration, baptism, thanks etc. Our thanks to the ladies who have contributed to this ministry.

We also hold monthly Card & Games socials. These are usually held on the third Sat. of the month. We serve sandwiches & sweets at 12:30, then play until 3 pm. These parties have become very popular with the seniors in the north end. We have anywhere from 8 – 14 tables – our goal is to use all 18 card tables we purchased!

We try to honour 1 or 2 of our members with a Life membership in UCW at either our Spring or Christmas Meeting. These ladies are chosen for their outstanding contribution to the work of the church. We thank all members of the congregation for their support of our work.



Vision Report 2010...

Janet Marshall returned to United Memorial to present a report on our vision for the future of our church in the north end of Halifax. The church community gave time, energy and insight into this task.

Living our vision means:

- **Hospitality and care**

Goal: to be known as the church that goes the extra mile because we believe.

- **Ministry with young families**

Goal: to prioritize and develop ministries that are meaningful for young adults and their families.

- **Stewardship of our property**

Goal: to redirect our energy from building and financial maintenance to ministry and community building.

Love, Hope and New Life

Congregations are founded on God's hope for a better world. This hope is realized when we, as ordinary Christians, participate in God's mission for the world. Now is the time we need to rediscover the deep roots of real hope in congregational life and in our relationships with our neighbours in North End Halifax and beyond. Real hope, rather than wishful thinking, will give us the courage we need for the challenges that lie ahead.

VISION 2010 is our invitation to each other to reach out with courage and trust, challenging each other to risk the decisions, actions and relationships that will lead us to new life rooted in the abundant hope and joy of God's promise.

The Hymn Writing Challenge

Do you have a favourite hymn tune? Many of you know that Catherine likes to write new words to familiar tunes. She has set a challenge for herself for the new year... To write a new hymn every week to go along with the theme for that week. Let her know which hymn tunes you would like.

reverendcatherinemacdonald@gmail.com

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Bookings at United Memorial

Submitted by Nancy Hayter

As the persons who all activities in the church are booked through it is interesting to see how vibrant United Memorial is. Each group within the church books so that there are no conflicts and they are able to have the space they need. We have branched out from just the church groups using our rooms to groups within the community using them too. The AA or Mutual Group has met here regularly on Friday evenings for a number of decades and now their executive has begun using our space once a month 3 years ago. We have had a Yoga group using our facilities for more than a decade for approximately 5 classes per week. This year a belly dancing group began using this facility twice a week with 4 classes and their final term concert. Sparks meet weekly in our Sunday school area. The Brownie group from this area used our facilities for a sleepover in March. We have hosted a number of birthday parties for members of our congregation and a baby shower for a person in the community. In May we hosted a concert for the Northend and the Presbytery supper and meeting as well as the Aeolian choir used the gym for a flea market. The RCCO is hosting a pizza party and getting to know the organ night Dec. 4th. An Irish dancing group held a year end final concert here and also recently a fundraiser to raise funds for a bus to New York City for the troupe to go to compete. March saw us hosting the World day of Prayer and the Rachel MacLean concert. In June a film production group used our facilities for meals and getting dressed for shooting of a film at Fort Needham. In October Rev.

Catherine used the Social Room to teach a group how to make bread. A non-profit group called CAH used our facilities to put on a palliative care workshop. In December Woodlawn United are having a dress rehearsal and concert in our sanctuary. Last summer Canadian Parents for French students used United Memorial for 2 weeks for a French camp and as a result wish to use the facilities for the whole summer in 2011. Recently we have had a request from the Alliance du Francais who wish to hold a French camp in February 2011 for 2 weeks and The Cole Harbour Woodside United Church Choir who wants to book the whole church and sanctuary for a workshop weekend in April. These 2 groups are still in the beginning stages of confirming arrangements. So as you can see United Memorial is a very busy, important, and vital community oriented place for all.

JUST US! Products: A New Initiative at United Memorial

Submitted by Brenda Woolner

United Memorial is going to be serving Just Us! coffee at all our functions AND have available an assortment of Just Us! products available for purchase in the Social Room after Sunday service each week.

You are encouraged to do your part to support social justice initiatives around the world by purchasing Just Us! products for yourself and your loved ones.

Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-operative
11865 Hwy 1, RR #3 Wolfville
Nova Scotia B4P 2R3 Canada
Toll Free: 1-888-NOT-THEM (668-8436)

info@justuscoffee.com
www.justuscoffee.com

Just who is "Just Us!" ?

Just Us! is a worker-owned co-operative that custom roasts fair

road in Wolfville NS. Just Us! has the distinction of being Canada's first fair trade coffee roaster.

Just Us! also has specialty fair trade organic teas, sugar and chocolate.

Just Us! ships their products all across the country to anyone who desires to be an "ethical consumer".

Just Us! believes that there is no "them" and "us" in the world but "Just Us!". Just Us! is a play on the word "justice". Just Us! believes that everyone throughout the world deserves to be paid fairly for their work so that they are able to provide a decent life for their families and that all people deserve respect and the ability to contribute to the decisions that affect their lives. By purchasing fair trade products YOU are helping to give people dignity, a sense of control over their own lives and hope for a better future.

On Sunday November 21st, 2010 this initiative began at UM. We got off to a great start due to you choosing to purchase \$152 of fair-trade coffee and chocolate. I encourage you to have a look at the product list on the Just Us! Table or website and let me know what products you are interested in having for sale at UM. Depending on the weekly sales, I plan to place an order every two weeks. Current product line available at UM is: Coffee – Holiday Blend, Columbian and Decaf coffee, Spicy and Regular Hot Chocolate and a variety of chocolate bars. In the new year I will bring in an assortment of teas and any other items you are interested in having available. There are plans in the works to show the movie "Black Gold" and perhaps have a tour of the Wolfville Just Us! facility in the new year.

Please note that I will be away on Sunday December 19th and Sunday December 26th and I am seeking someone who would be willing to distribute the products on those 2 days. Please contact me if you have any questions:

Brenda Woolner, Call: 404.4481

Email: bmwinhalifax@gmail.com

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The Kinder Choir

Submitted by Nancy Hayter

The Kinder Choir has started up again this year after Thanksgiving and we have approximately seven children coming on a regular basis between the ages of 2 1/2 yrs. and 11 yrs. This year we are so lucky to have Matthew Verstage accompanying us and Christian Verstage as our backup. We join our voices together 3 weeks per month and try to sing during the service at least once a month. We will be singing twice in December on the 5th and 19th. The songs are Christian songs with familiar childrens' tunes. This has become a fun activity for the young ones, and hopefully it will begin to build their confidence and build a fellowship between them. They are our future and we want to set positive experiences for them.

The Miracle of Friendship

There's a miracle called friendship
That dwells within the heart
And you don't know how it happens
Or how it gets its start...
But the happiness it brings to you
Always gives a special lift,
And you realize that friendship
Is God's most precious gift!

Author Unknown



trade organic coffee based down the

Who Does the Minister Visit?

Submitted by Rev. Catherine MacDonald

We hear over and over again how our society is aging and the people who are part of United Memorial are no exception. While we have quite a number of young families, we also have numerous people over the age of 75 and some well beyond that. Some of these folks are healthy and active, but many are not. We have people who are now homebound and others who are spread across 10 nursing homes from Purcell's Cove to Cow Bay and Kentville.

So how does the minister decide who to visit and why? In recognition of today's reality, the Pastoral Care Team has provided some guidance on types of situations that require pastoral care. The first priority is death, then crises of any sort, whether that is physical, emotional or spiritual, whether or not that includes hospitalization, followed by visits to newcomers, visits to those in nursing homes and homebound. Less urgent are routine visits to parishioners and those have decided for one reason or another to stop participating in the life and work of the faith community.

Like an emergency room doctor I practice triage as best as I can and obviously will make some mistakes in assessing the severity of problems along the way. For example, the death of a sister might be sad but not traumatic for one person but the loss of a sister to another may totally shake up his/her world in such a way as to make life seem not worth living. It is a tricky thing to figure out. As well, there is the responsibility for follow up and some situations require several more visits. I will ALWAYS make time to see someone who **calls** me and asks for a visit. I can be reached by phone at the church office most mornings (Monday-Thursday) or via email reverendcatherinemacdonald@gmail.com or for emergencies at 444-9052.

Finally, there is one more attitude or expectation that dates from a former

time that we no longer accept as valid as a United Church. This is the understanding that only "the Minister" can do a visit from the church *that counts*. Just as lay volunteer people can effectively preach, teach, explain scripture, organize, run committees and administer- so it is with pastoral visitation. We have members of the Pastoral Care Team, members of Session and members of the UCW who do effective visits that are every bit as spirit filled and representative of the caring of the church as when the minister does one. It is time that we started recognizing these gifted people as "real" pastoral visitors... because God does.

Blessings, Catherine

On behalf of the Pastoral Care Team

Diane Ashton

Wilfred Dillman

Bonita Grandmaison

Ken Grandmaison

Gail Logie



Samuel Conner Richard Butcher

I am sure that we all join in celebrating this happy news with the family!

Most of us can remember just how busy it is with a new baby. Rev.

Catherine

Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go; first of all in your own home. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next-door neighbour.

Mother Teresa

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Special News of Congregation...

Mary MacLeod, has enrolled in a University Certificate program in Management at Athabasca University. Mom is 75 years young, and never had the opportunity to go to university as a young woman. Her family is very proud of her for taking such a big (and scary) step. Congratulations Mary!



Members of UCW met at Hilda Russell's recently



Agnes Starratt and Sue Boomer as they celebrated their 95th birthdays on October 15, 2010. They were given prayer shawls to commemorate this wonderful event.

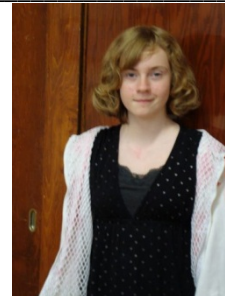
Quote:

*Somehow, not only for Christmas
But all the long year through
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.*

John Greenleaf Whittier



Congratulations to Jayde Edmunds, she is the winning designer of Bedford South's very own pewter Christmas ornament. Her winning design was chosen by our students from among over 100 entries. Parents, staff, community members, Home n' School executive, and SAC members participated in the selection of three finalists. All students in the school (grades primary to nine) were part of a 'democratic process' when they cast their votes for their favourite design. Jayde's design is being cast in pewter and will include the name of our school and the year.



Ceilidh Richard recently cut her hair and donated it to the Angel Hair For Kids Program through A Child's Voice Foundation. This is an organization which provides wigs etc. to financially disadvantaged children in Canada who have lost their hair due to medical conditions or treatments. For more information, please check out their website: www.acvf.ca/angelhair1.html. Thank you Ceilidh for setting an example of sharing and caring!



Maya's Baptism