



MESSENGER

~ a publication of ~

Port Wallis United Church



Volume 33, Issue 2
Thanksgiving 2011

Mind and Soul ...

"O, Come let us give thanks to the LORD our God." I love this wonderful line from the ancient liturgies of the Church for it completely captures the essence of Thanksgiving.

The ancient Harvest Festivals of the Hebrews and the religiously based early Thanksgiving Day of the first immigrants to North America, had their origins in the In-Gathering of the crops in preparation for a leaner season. In Metro we are no longer an agriculturally based community and the impetus for these seasonally based celebrations has faded. Yet each October the liturgy states, "O Come let us give thanks to the LORD our God." Should we continue to celebrate a Harvest Thanksgiving when it has no intersection with our urban reality?

To paraphrase an ancient axiom, "If we don't make a place and a time for thanksgiving we end up never giving thanks." The Church has instituted a "Season of Creation" from the beginning of September to Thanksgiving Sunday in October during which we are reminded that Thanksgiving is much more than a harvest celebration but a time to recognize all the blessings by which we are surrounded. It is a time to pause and open our eyes and give thanks.

World Wide Communion Sunday immediately precedes Thanksgiving Sunday. Spiritually, in Communion (Greek – eucharist – to give thanks) we are reminded by

the Church of all that God has done for us in Christ and we are called to give thanks to God for our salvation. It is a recounting of the many and varied acts of God that have opened our eyes to God's Presence and by which the plethora of ways of entering into God's Presence have been made manifest.

Thanksgiving Sunday is a way of opening our eyes to the many 'things' for which we should give thanks.

A modern celebration might surround the Communion Table not only with fruit and vegetables but Blackberries, cell phones, lap tops, and ??? all of which are means by which we may thankfully keep in contact with each other and enter into or keep in 'community' with each other.

I invite you to 'give thanks to God' by celebrating and naming small and odd things. A warm beam of sunshine, a small struggling flower, an isolated bird hopping on your lawn, a child's stare, or another shockingly unexpected 'thing'. It is these 'little things' that open for us an avenue to God. Invite a friend to join you for Thanksgiving Dinner and invite them to bring something they like to make for the table. It would make it special for them, add to everyone's else's enjoyment and make it easier on you.

O Come, let us give thanks
Yours in Christ

The Rev. Ivan Gregan

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

October 11
Thanksgiving Service

October 18
Question & Answer Sunday
10:30 am

November 1
All Saints and All Souls: 7:00 pm

November 29
Advent 1: 9:15, 10:30 am & 3:00 pm

December 6
Advent 2: 9:15 & 10:30 am & 7:00 pm

December 13
Advent 3: 9:15 & 10:30 am & 7:00 pm

December 20
Advent 4: 9:15, 10:30 am & 7:00 pm

December 24
4:00 pm Children's Service
7:30 pm Family Service
11:00 pm Christmas Communion

Nous parlons francais. Hablamos espangol
Wir sprechen Deutsche. Tha Gaidhlig
againn... And we speak English too!

MISSION & SERVICE FUND

Your donations to the Mission and Service Fund supports hundreds of people, projects in Canada and around the world.

In Canada 119 Pastoral Charges receive core funding, 75 Community outreach and social support programs, 43 Hospital, nursing home, community and university chaplaincies, 23 Ecumenical advocacy and interfaith organizations.

Overseas

31 Global mission personnel, with language training, airfare, and salaries paid for by the Mission & Service Fund, 108 Churches, Christian councils, and agencies that minister in partnership with the United Church of Canada, 32 countries in which the United Church of Canada supports ministry, training, development or relief projects, 10 Global ecumenical partners.

Some places where our money is helping in Halifax:

Brunswick Street Mission, Coverdale Centre (Women and Justice, Dalhousie University Campus Ministry, Fairview Parent 'n Tot ,Go Project, St. Andrew's (Youth Ministry) Halifax Hospital Chaplaincy, St. Paul's Family Resource Institute.

If you would like to have more information about the work of the Mission & Service Fund there is always information in the Mandate Magazine, or online at the [UCC website](#).

To date Port Wallis Congregation has contributed \$6,950.00 to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada, and it is much appreciated.

We say thank you for your contribution.

Reta Manuel

Member of Committee of Stewards

COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS PORT WALLIS UNITED CHURCH

The summer is over and the committee of Stewards reports that we were able to pay our bills over the summer. Our budget is in a deficit position for the year to date but we are entering the time of year that we see givings increase particularly in December.

There have been a number of events that add to our coffers and it is through these congregational projects that we see a significant amount of money raised. Upcoming are the annual turkey supper in November, Bizarre Bazaar later this month, The Port Wallis Players will be putting on a play once again with 11 performances scheduled through to February 2012.

We have had 3 resignations from our committee over the summer, Coleen and Ronita MacAdam and Liz Joyce. We thank them for their service to the Stewards. Additionally our book keeper, Alex Auld-Blake has given notice that he will be giving up his position effective November 2011 due to his employment demands. Alex has been a real treasure to the Stewards and we wish him well. Filling his shoes will be a difficult task but we hope that someone in the congregation will step forward. A job description will be forthcoming.

We continue to look for new fund raising ideas and we welcome suggestions from our congregation. Our stewardship plan is still being implemented so look for an informational brochure in the near future, to be inserted in the Sunday bulletin. We will be sending the church newsletter, announcements, and other information to you via E-Mail in the very near future so please don't treat it like SPAM.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Geddes

Baptismal Class

October 17th from 10:00 – 2:00 PM.
Are you interested in the Sacrament of Baptism, its history, origin and meaning? Would you like to be baptized or to have your children baptized?
Call the Church Office to register at 435-3644.



Yogafit classes for Adults

Begins Sunday, September 25th, from 4-5 pm in the church hall.

Fee is \$60.00 for 8 classes. This exercise class will reduce stress and improve flexibility, posture, muscle tone, and strength.

Open to any age and any level of fitness

Contact: Jennifer Chaplin (NSFA Certified Fitness Instructor) at 469-4168 or

jenncha@hotmail.com.



United for Dartmouth: A Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner Celebration



Saturday, October 8, 2011
from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00pm at
St. James United Church,
181 Portland St., Dartmouth

United for Dartmouth, representing the 4 downtown Dartmouth United Churches, invites you to join in a celebration of Thanksgiving and the greater United Church community.

Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish and join in this church community event.

All are welcome and we hope to see you there!

United for Dartmouth:

Grace United Church, Port Wallis United Church, St. James United Church, Stairs Memorial United Church

Bizarre" Bazaar

Saturday, October 1st from 10:00am until 2:00pm (lunch will be available).

Items will be available from various individuals/groups within the Church to support endeavours that include raising funds for the Benevolent Fund, the General Fund, etc. If you or your group are interested in participating, please call the Church (435-3644) to reserve a table.

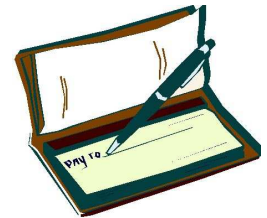
WHAT IS PAR?

PAR stands for Pre-Authorized Remittance.

PAR allows you to contribute to Port Wallis United Church through a monthly withdrawal from your bank. You can designate your gift to Local, Mission & Service and other Funds just as you would on an offering envelope. Small cards will be available to be put in the offering plate in place of envelopes.

Your account will be debited on the 20th of each month and deposited in the Church account. Brochures with application form are available at the back of the Sanctuary.

If you require additional information, please call Sandy Adlington at 435-2905.



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WANTED:

**Wool sweaters,
any colour, style,
or condition.**



Did your favorite sweater shrink in the wash, or did the moths get to it? Finding it hard to give up a sweater that is outgrown? I am seeking donations of old wool sweaters to be lovingly used in an art project.

For every sweater donated, I will give \$2 to the Mission and Service Fund. (Sweaters must be at least 70% animal fibers -- some combination of wool, lambs wool, merino, angora, cashmere, alpaca, or mohair). Please leave the sweaters in the church office, or give them to Emily or Tim at the Sunday morning service.

Thank you.

Bible Reading

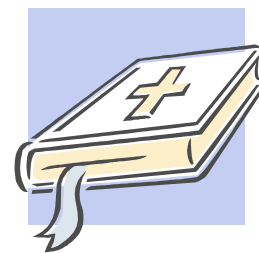
Tuesday evenings at 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

Each week we will read a different Epistle, gather together, and talk about what 'jumps out to us' from the letter. There is no right nor wrong - simply reveal what the Spirit has directed you to recognize or remember and say why.

You can come for one session, all sessions or only those that interest you BUT you have to read the book before hand. There is no correct translation. Indeed we would encourage everyone to read a different one.

Here is the schedule:

September 20 – James
September 27 – Philemon
October 04 - Galatians
October 11 – Titus
October 18 - Ephesians
October 25 - 1 John



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