

## *Creating a Life-Giving Climate*

Canadians have the reputation for talking about the weather more than any other nation. The sheer size of our country with its variety of landscapes, along with ocean currents and wind patterns create a climate that not only varies with the seasons, but also with location. In one part of the country you can experience a temperate and damp climate (e.g. Vancouver) and in contrast, in another part of the country it may be dry and warm (e.g. Saskatchewan prairie)

I've always loved the changes in climate that come with the changes in the seasons: the cool crisp air in autumn with the sparkle of the first frost, the beauty of the first snowfall blanketing the earth in white, the smell of damp earth thawing in the spring sunshine, and the clear, warm days of summer. I can't imagine living in places like sunny California where one day is much like the other and I'm not inclined to become a Florida snowbird when I retire.

But there are changes in climate that concern not only me, but people around the world. People like David Suzuki, Al Gore, Sallie McFague, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Bruce Sanguin, Mardi Tindal (the new moderator of the United Church), Bill McKibben, Alanna Mitchell, Tim Flannery along with organizations like KAIROS, The Sierra Club, Oxfam, World Wildlife Fund, Pembina Institute, KYOTOPlus, 350.org, major Christian denominations and other faith groups world-wide are all sounding the alarm around rising levels of greenhouse gases and their impact on the climate of the earth.

At first climate change was seen as a scientific problem, then an economic one, and now we must look at it as a

matter of international justice. Water sources will continue to be stressed in some areas bringing more droughts while flooding from more frequent storms or rising sea levels will affect other areas.

Some regions will no longer be able to grow the crops they have come to depend upon and habitats of many species, including human habitats will grow scarce or even disappear. Illnesses and death from diseases like malaria and cholera will be on the increase.



Although the entire global population is affected by climate change, it is the world's poorest who are suffering and will suffer the most. As people of faith called to 'do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God', we are called to speak up and take action on this matter.

At EMUC, during the month of October, in worship, education and action, we will focus on the ways that as individuals and as a community we can create a life-giving climate in our nations and neighbourhoods, in our homes and in the EMUC congregation.

We take on this work as faithful companions of Jesus who came among us

that we might have life abundant.

The Green Team report in this edition of the newsletter, updates you on many of the ways you can participate in this important work. Please consider how your life-style and your voice can address this urgent global concern.

October 24<sup>th</sup> has been declared the International Day of Climate Action. On this day, EMUC will join other community groups in a global movement that calls upon the world leaders to create a framework and to set targets for further reductions of green-house gas emissions when they meet in Copenhagen in December.

Of course, climate refers to more than weather patterns. A life-giving climate also depends upon human relationships rooted in hospitality, in caring and compassion, in the generous sharing of gifts, in forgiving and reconciling, in justice-making and peace-building.

The EMUC covenant statement, posted on the entrances of the church building speaks of the climate that we hope to create as a community of faith. The next time you enter the church building, take time to read the covenant statement again.

How are you actively participating in creating and sustaining this climate? Our way of being present to one another, the gift of our time, leadership, labour and financial resources can all serve to create a climate that fulfills EMUC's mission to be 'a growing community of faith that offers opportunities for all persons to experience the love of God through Jesus Christ.'

*Kathy Toivanen*

## *Worship Schedule*

Every Wednesday evening at 6:45 a service of readings, reflection, prayer & communion. Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. with care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers; EMU Club for Primary Age Children; Junior Youth for Gr. 6,7,8, & Teentalk for youth in high school.

**October 11 Thanksgiving Sunday** All Ages Worship Together Theme: Creating a Climate for Growing Gratitude Readings: Joel 2:21-27; Matthew 6:25-33

Special thank offerings for the mission & ministry of EMUC will be received along with food for the foodbanks.

**October 18** Theme: Creating a Climate for Caring and Healing Readings: Isaiah 58:6-7; 9-12; Romans 8:18-25

**October 25** Theme: Creating a Climate for Building Hope Readings: Psalm 33 (VU 760); Romans 12:9-18; 15:13

**November 1 Confirmation Service Communion**

**November 8 Remembrance Sunday**

## *Fall EMUC Dinner & Auction*



On October 24<sup>th</sup>, EMUC hosts a fall dinner and auction. Tickets are available from Sue Ogilvie, Barb Jennings or the church office at \$20/person. Donations of services and items are still being received. Please add your donation to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the church or contact Barbara Jennings at 905-607-1626 if you have questions.

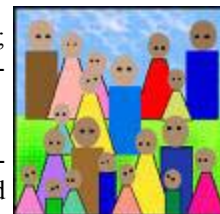
If you would like to help with the dinner, speak to Sue Ogilvie.

If you would like to help with auction, please speak to Jennifer Allen or Sandy Hayes.

## *EMUC Friday Night Family Club*

New this fall is a monthly gathering of 'younger' households. EMUC is the venue for most of the events; although some will be off-site. Please reserve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month (in December, Friday 11<sup>th</sup>) for a family fun night. The EMUC 'family room' is open to EMUC families and friends in the community.

Children of all ages are welcome (it is expected that a parent or a designated adult will accompany their children). At the launch of the first Friday Night Family Club, 9 households attended for games, movies and snacks.



Put the following events on your calendar now:

**Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> 6:45-9:00 pm**

Family Games night at EMUC (lower hall) Snacks, Beverages, and Prizes! There is no charge for the evening; however, freewill donations are gratefully received.

**Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> 7:15 - 8:45 pm**

Family Skate Night at Erin Mills Twin Rinks, 2205 Unity Drive. Cost: \$6.50/family of 5 or \$ 2.60/person – payable at the Rink Entrance.

For more information on the EMUC Friday Family Club or to help plan an evening, contact Rob Ford at [thefordfamily@sympatico.ca](mailto:thefordfamily@sympatico.ca) or 905-820-4690.

## *Transitions*

Congratulations to David and Linda Leeder, Susan and Mike Ogilvie, Andy and Dorothy Wilson who all became first-time grandparents in September!

## *Thanks!*

Kai Marks for regular contributions for the Sunday refreshment table.

Barb Jennings for the donation of a microwave oven.

The outdoor gardens and hedges have been tended with the adept hands of Mary Anna William, Sue and Mike Ogilvie, Sylvia Arnold, Sharon Baker.

Rhana Vickery, Judi Dissette, Irene Bruneau and Paul and Susan Nauss for their great assistance in folding and stuffing the weekly bulletins and this Communiqué.

Kristie Bunting, Thomas Seymour, Joanne Wood, Ross Gilmour, and Jo-anne Tobey-Fisher for their work in the art, copy, and production of the Stewardship Brochure.

The ongoing work of the folks on the two Search Committees.

Marney Dyker and Sylvia Arnold for leading worship September 20.

Geraldine & Stuart McCauley for hosting the confirmation retreat at the McCauley cottage in Kincardine.

Jennifer Allen and Susan Ogilvie for their creation of a new Communion Banner.

Jim McVittie & Nancy Blackport for providing excellent musical leadership in worship during this interim period.

Deb Siertsema, Brian Macro and Brian Takayesu for their leadership with the Sr. Youth Group during Ian's vacation in Italy.

Dorothy & Andy Wilson and the Green Team for their support and leadership in many 'greening' fall projects.

Marney Dyker & Deb Siertsema for organizing a visit to Curve Lake First Nations Community. The 26 participants had a meaningful visit with the chief, a local elder of the UCC and an artist at the Whetung Gallery.

## *EMUC Launches Annual Stewardship Campaign in October*

Stewardship packages are now available for all participating households in EMUC. Extra copies are available at the church on the information table. Each package includes:

(a) a flyer of information with a pie chart to describe the projected financial allocations needed to support EMUC programs, building, staff, and commitments to the larger church.

(b) a pledge sheet to be filled out by each household. Households can allocate their givings for 'local' (worship, outreach, programs, staffing, and building maintenance); the tithe (this is similar to a mortgage payment that EMUC gives to the national United Church of Canada. The church building was made possible by a loan from the national church); the Mission and Service Fund (a fund of the national United Church that supports the work of the church here in Canada and around the world in the areas of education, health care, justice, emergency relief, humanitarian aid, and more). The pledge sheet outlines ways to give - through PAR (pre-authorized remittance); envelopes that can be used weekly or monthly; cheques (post-dated if you wish), or credit card. All contributions are eligible for a tax receipt.

(c) a confidential statement prepared by Mike Ogilvie of your 2009 pledge and your givings to date to EMUC.

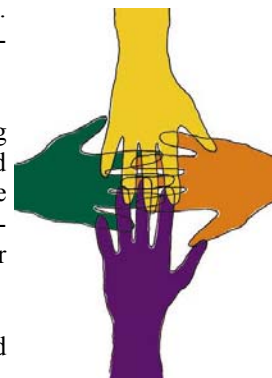
During the Sundays in October, more information will be shared to guide and inspire you as you prayerfully consider your commitments to EMUC in 2010.

By filling out your pledge form and returning it promptly in the designated envelope you can help to ensure that EMUC has the resources to respond to Christ's call and extend God's love in the congregation and community. All financial offerings of all contributors are held in confidence by Mike. To inquire further you can contact Mike at [oglivia@sympatico.ca](mailto:oglivia@sympatico.ca) or 905-820-2387.

## *From the Leadership Circle*

Stewardship and fire recovery were the two key focus areas of the September Leadership Circle meeting. Members of the Leadership Circle split into to groups to develop an action plan for each of these key areas.

The Stewardship Campaign is launching on Sunday October 4th, with the theme "Creating a Life Giving Climate". Vice chair Jo-anne Tobey-Fisher along with Ross Gilmour, Joanne Wood, Tim Hayes and Kathy Toivanen, Kristie Bunting and Thomas Seymour developed materials including brochure, pledge information and highlights for Sunday worship. These are intended to inform and inspire the EMUC family, as the financial goals for 2010 are determined. Each member of this household is asked to consider how they can support the work of the EMUC community with their financial support.



Committee chairs are asked to submit their 2010 budget requirements to the Finance group before the end of October.

The Kitchen recovery progress was studied in the group with Barb Jennings, Paul Marot, Peter Kiteley, Andy Wilson, Debby Sturgeon (representing EMYOP) and me. Five distinct issues were identified:

1. Processing the Insurance claim. Janet Gilmour, who works in insurance claims, has been helpful in reviewing documents and offering advice concerning the claim. A proposal from Strone, the company that worked on the initial clean-up, offers replacement of existing cabinets, flooring and painting. This proposal will be considered along with the outcomes of item 2.
2. Redesign and plans for a new kitchen. Community uses of the kitchen are being considered so that necessary changes and upgrades can enhance what is available. At the October board meeting, it will be put forward that an independent design company prepare an initial proposal for the kitchen. Sue Ogilvie, Audrey MacDonald have also been actively involved in this area.
3. Review of the Alarm system. This was conducted and recommendations have been given to the Property Committee for review.
4. Risk Assessment. Paul Marot will be formatting a review process for presentation to the Trustees and Leadership Circle.
5. Immediate response for use of kitchen. Groups are anxious to get fall programming and initiatives off the ground. Peel Health has been in to assess the kitchen and stresses that this space is not to be used to prepare and cook food. It can only be used as a servery. The remaining stove has been disconnected; the microwaves and the butcher-block table have been disposed of. The kitchen door will be re-keyed and all users will be required to sign in and out. I will be sending a directive to all current users of this space.

Thanks to all who have offered help and support through this time of recovery and assessment. There is clearly more work to be done and the Leadership Circle will be calling upon the congregation as various tasks and opportunities to help come along.

The end of this year will mark the end of two consecutive terms for me in the role of Chair. Through the next few weeks the Leadership Circle will be looking for candidates to fill this position along with the Focus Circle Leader roles of Finance and Admin, Youth and Children and Treasurer.

Please consider what gifts of time and talent you would like to offer to EMUC.

*Peace, Heather Bunting 905-828-9974 [hjbunting@rogers.com](mailto:hjbunting@rogers.com)*

## *Music Workshop*



On Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, the EMUC Chancel Choir is hosting a music workshop facilitated by Don Besig and Nancy Price, sponsored by Shawnee Press and Leslie Music Supply. Invitations have been sent to Choir Directors and Choirs of 92 surrounding churches. This event gives directors an opportunity to learn from very talented and experienced directors and choir members to read new music and sing en masse. The event will also contribute to EMUC's fundraising. If members of the congregation would like to provide baking for the coffee break, please speak with Janet Tait or Barb Jennings.

## *Memorial Banner*

For those who wish, names of loved ones will be remembered and dedicated on the memorial banner (hanging in the worship area) on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> in a special service of remembrance. If you would like to add a name of a loved one to the banner, please contact the church office by October 26<sup>th</sup>. Embroidery & materials costs are \$50/name.

## *EMUC Green Team*



Pop Tab Collection – correction: There was an error in the Green Team report last month. Erin Mills United Church is still collecting pop tabs for wheelchairs. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 582 in Mississauga collects them, sells them to Alcan in Guelph and the proceeds are used to purchase wheelchairs. EMUC's collection location is in the hallway beside the elevator.

Please remember to bring your own mugs for coffee hour & group & committee meetings.

Save paper - sign up to receive the EMUC Communiqué via the web rather than a printed copy. Send an email to the church office to be put on the email list [office@emuc.ca](mailto:office@emuc.ca).

### Update on Green Team activities

- Based upon the information received in the vendor proposal, we will proceed with quotes from electricians in preparation for a proposal to the Leadership Circle to replace the sanctuary lights.
- A statement will be included in the information package to renters and all users of the EMUC building facilities requesting adherence to greening activities, such as shutting off lights, turning down heat and refraining from using bottled water.
- The Green Team continues to play a role in the kitchen renovations because of an interest in eliminating the use of disposable dishes; advocating opportunities for local food preparation and education; and procuring energy efficient appliances.
- The Green Team has decided that the church should proceed with having an Energy Audit. A submission will be made to the Leadership Circle requesting that part of the portion of the Anniversary Fund set aside for greening activities be used for this. The Green Team investigating the benefits of EMUC joining the Green Awakening Network – “a network of individuals and faith communities committed to an effective response to the challenge of climate change”. This is a United Church organization based in Toronto.

### Upcoming Events

**October 14th 7:30 pm at EMUC: Film showing: ‘Home’** A viewing of the documentary film, “Home” produced by Yann Arthus Bertrand. The film is full of beautiful aerial shots of the earth, and builds on the message from Al Gore’s film, ‘Inconvenient Truth’. Refreshments and discussion will follow the viewing of the movie.

**October 17th, “Growing Grass Roots Justice”. a KAIROS event** 9:15 am - 2:15 pm at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 210 Silvercreek Parkway North, Guelph, ON. The event will focus on justice issues including climate change. Christina Ora, a 17 year old from the Solomon Islands, will speak on the impact of climate change on her homeland. See the Green Team bulletin board for details.

**October 24th International Day of Climate Action** EMUC will host an event for all ages in the afternoon. Details will follow shortly.

**November 7th writer and speaker, Alanna Mitchell, author of Seasick** Come and hear Alanna’s message on climate change at a Toronto West KAIROS event. Details will be posted on the Green Team bulletin board shortly.

**November 11th -15th: Speaker, Bruce Sanguin** Bruce, a United Church Minister, writer and environmental advocate is at Eglington St. George’s United Church leading a seminar on “Greening and Growing Congregations”. See the Green Team bulletin board for details.

**November 11th at 7:30 at EMUC, Tyler Hamilton, Columnist** Come and hear Tyler speak on the latest innovations and directions on energy in our province. Tyler has been the Star’s energy reporter for the past three years after a half decade of covering technology and telecommunications in the business section. A majority of his news coverage is focused on green energy sources and technologies and how they fit into the broader energy marketplace. Tyler also writes a popular weekly column called Clean Break that discusses trends, ventures, policy issues and technologies related to the advancement of green energy conservation. He complements this coverage by maintaining a blog of the same name at [www.cleanbreak.ca](http://www.cleanbreak.ca). Come out to hear and Tyler and engage in a discussion of important energy issues.

**Dec 12th Global Day of Action on Climate Change** [www.climateactionnetwork.ca](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca)

## *Kyotoplus*

Last month in the Communiqué you learned about the Kyotoplus campaign which has been created to ensure that the government of Canada knows what expectations the citizens of this country have for the upcoming climate change treaty talks in Copenhagen in December. The petition associated with the campaign also calls on Canadian politicians to set a national target to cut greenhouse gas emissions; implement an effective plan to reach this target; and help developing nations reduce their emissions and adapt to climate change.

A key part of the campaign is the Politicians Pledge. By signing the pledge, politicians are promising to act on the items that are outlined in the petition. It is possible to find out if your MP has signed the pledge by going to the Kyotoplus website [www.kyotoplus.ca](http://www.kyotoplus.ca). If your MP has signed, send him/her a letter of appreciation and ask him/her to do more. If your MP hasn't signed the pledge, send him/her a letter asking them to sign.

A meeting with the MP is also an effective way to voice your concerns especially if a group of people representing an organization requests the meeting. The MP for Mississauga-Erindale, which is the riding where EMUC is located, has not signed the pledge and a meeting was held on Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup> to plan for a meeting with Mr. Dechert. Updates after the meeting will be shared.

Please take some action on Kyotoplus: sign the petition at the church or online, get friends and family to sign the petition (petition sheets are available at the church for pickup), contact your MP.

*Dorothy Wilson*

## *Deacon's Cupboard*

On Sept 23rd, 2009, the Deacon's Cupboard achieved another major milestone. The team of volunteers has handed out \$250,000 of supplies to guests since records began in January 2005. While the cupboard is grateful to the many people who have contributed food, finances and time to ensure that people are fed; it is a challenge to each one of us and to the leaders of our governments to act to alleviate the poverty of so many in the GTA and in Canada.

Your contributions through regular monthly donations and the fall food drives are greatly appreciated.

## *Third Erin Mills Core Team*

You can support the Scouting programs by buying the apples on Apple Day, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally the apples are given to the public as a thank you for supporting scouting in the community. By pre-purchasing the apples, contributions by the public will go directly into programs for the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts EMUC sponsors.

Last year eight people contributed. This year ten would make a big difference. See Scouter Peter (Peter Hodgkinson) to join up. The youth say thank you.

## *Christmas is Coming...*

Are you interested in contributing ideas and being part of the planning for Advent and Christmas with EMUC? Planning for special events, drama, music, outreach, parties, worship, decorations and more will be discussed on Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. You are welcome to attend and be part of the creative mix!



## *Amadeus Concert*

The Amadeus Choir will be performing at EMUC on Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a return engagement. Last year's concert was an extraordinary display of vocal talent in an exceptionally friendly environment. Tickets will be available in October. Mark your calendar!

## *Baptism of Children & Infants*

Parents who are active participants in EMUC and would like to plan for the baptism of their child are asked to contact Kathy Toivanen to arrange for preparation sessions and baptism in Sunday worship. Contact Kathy at 905-820-9466 or [kathy@emuc.ca](mailto:kathy@emuc.ca).

## Report from the Candidate

I am writing this message from the offices at Parkdale United Church in Toronto, which is my internship placement congregation. Parkdale is a unique congregation that tore down its cathedral church in the 1970s and built Phoenix Place, a 147 unit apartment building to provide housing for folks with barriers to other housing. The 'church' and offices are located on the entry floor of this building. Recently, with major work needed on the building, they decided to 'go green' with a vertical solar wall, geothermal heating units and new windows and other upgrades to each apartment, so the office is busy with tradesmen and contractors as well as staff and visits members of the congregation. You can learn more about Parkdale and the Green Phoenix project at [www.parkdaleunitedchurch.com](http://www.parkdaleunitedchurch.com), [www.phoenixplace.com](http://www.phoenixplace.com) or [www.greenphoenix.ca](http://www.greenphoenix.ca)

I will be working with this church family until the beginning of May next year. Parkdale's minister Shawn Lucas is my supervisor for the next eight months, and is very open to including me in the worship life here. I am preaching sermons every other week, helping to choose hymns (and introducing the folks at Parkdale to a few EMUC favourites) and writing prayers for worship. I will also be offering a study/reflection group starting next week, and have a number of other projects 'on the go.'

It is strange to say that I miss the familiarity of school after only three years, but I'm also very grateful to be gaining experience at Parkdale, and I'm sure that my studies will soon feel very distant. I look forward to being able to share some of my experiences with you all over the coming months, and certainly when I return next spring.

*Joanne Hedge, Candidate for Ordained Ministry*


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