

Commissioner

MARCH 2013

LOOKING AHEAD

March 17	9:30 & 11:15 services Lent 5; Baptism; Joyful Noise Singers
March 24	9:30 & 11:15 services Palm Sunday 7:30 p.m. Jazz Vespers
March 28	7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service in Upper Room
March 29	10 a.m. Good Friday Service Office Closed 4:30 Messy Church
March 31	9:30 & 11:15 services Easter Sunday
Apr 6	Time & Talent Auction 9 am breakfast; 10 am auction
Apr 7	10 am Jazz Vespers
April 7 to Nov 24	Single worship service at 10 a.m.
April 25—28	Dinner Theatre "The Boardinghouse"
May 5	Celebration Sunday 11 am Congregational Meeting & Potluck Lunch
May 23-26	Conference Weekend for Ministers

ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP

by Jeff Cook

TMUC'S 60th Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 3, 2013.

Following the morning worship service, people assembled in Yale Hall and enjoyed a lunch of soup, served by youth of the congregation. The lunch marked the windup of their Souper Bowl of Caring program, which this year collected about 600 cans of soup for the Food Bank.

Gail Purcell, Chair of the TMUC Council, used a power point presentation to review some of the highlights and accomplishments of the Council, Teams and groups during 2012.

TMUC ended the year with an operating surplus of about \$1600.00. The meeting approved a 2013 budget of \$376,390.60. Purcell reminded people of the capital campaign that will be launched soon. The campaign aims to raise about \$1.25 million to renovate the building by installing a new elevator, new accessible washrooms, revised office space, a meeting area and storage space. She announced that five families have already pledged a total of \$163,000.00 over three years.

Harvey Hochkievich was elected Chair-Elect of the Council. Deanna Howard became the current Chair. Following the meeting was the annual cake auction, with proceeds going to the Building Fund.

TRADING PLACES

TMUC's Chancel Choir traded places with the choir of Grey Street United Church on Sunday, January 13.

While the Chancel Choir participated in Grey Street's service, Director Wilma McMillan led the Grey Street Choir in an anthem, hymn singing, singing the introit and the other musical components of TMUC's worship service. Grey Street's organist, Virginia Heinrichs, accompanied the choir.

The folk from Grey Street commented on how great the acoustics are in our choir loft. (although, they did not envy our choir members having to sing at a morning service beginning at 10am, since Grey Street's Sunday worship service is 10:30 am.)

Following the service, choir members were invited to Suthwyn hall for refreshments and the chance to visit with members of our congregation.

The Chancel Choir, Director Dorothy Ross and organist Donna Hnatiuk went to Grey Street. Trading Choirs may become an annual occurrence.

***Commissioner** is the newsletter of Transcona Memorial United Church. It is published two times annually.*

Submissions, news, and other items of interest are welcome. Contributions may be edited for length. To submit articles, please contact the church.

Transcona Memorial United Church

209 Yale Ave. West
Winnipeg, MB R2C 1T9

Phone: 204-222-1331

Email: tmuc@shaw.ca

Web: www.tmuc.ca

After the christening of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.

His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally the boy replied, "that priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"

This edition of the *Commissioner* has been sent via email to those who have shared their address with us. We still hand deliver and mail many copies, so if you can help us reduce our costs and our footprint on the earth by sharing your email address with us, we would appreciate it. Contact the church office at 204-222-1331 or tmuc@shaw.ca Thank you.

Camping With a Purpose!

Submitted by Melanie Sidorow

Last summer, the site at Variety's Camp Brereton became the stage for a very special CGIT Camp. This three-day event hosted seven girls from around Winnipeg, who participated in a series of activities and lessons that revolved around a theme of female empowerment. Campers and leaders explored three different concepts that help all women establish inner-confidence and create affirming relationships with the motivation, skills and resources needed to strengthen their roles in their family, social and community circles. The Power of One, The Power of Voice and the Power of Connection became the mantras that drove the event, and girls had opportunity to express their views about how they perceived themselves, their abilities, and how they could become valuable resources to others in their current and future lives. The group truly made a point to "celebrate girls for who they are" in many different ways.

The camp was not without a Transcona influence. In fact, most of the staff that facilitated the camp came from TMUC! Shelley Schau, Kirsten Harlos, Keshia Jensen, Jill Mitchell and Crystal Schau shared the wonders of Brereton with Sylvia Jansen, Roxanne Ross, Alyx White and Audrey Lumsden, who, like the campers came to the camp for the first time in 2012. Girls and their leaders had a great time, even in the sweltering and oppressive heat! They talked, played games, sang songs, watched videos, read stories, listened to some inspirational and empowering guest speakers (including TMUC's Gail Purcell), ate delicious home-cooked food and delighted in the benefits of being lakeside within the beautiful Whiteshell provincial park. Plans are already in the works for the 2013 CGIT



Camp, which will take place from Saturday, July 6th to Wednesday, July 10th. Most of the staff will be returning, hoping to inspire and encourage new and returning campers. The cost for the camp is \$200 for the four day, four night event. Any girls ages 12-17 years are invited to register soon! For further information, please contact Michelle at tmmcgill@mymts.net.

CONFERENCE BURSARY FUNDS

Each year our Conference of Manitoba and North Western Ontario awards those who apply for various bursaries.

The Conference Bursary includes those in the Designated Lay Ministry program as well as those working toward ordained or diaconal ministry. In 2012, four applicants shared the \$11,000.00.

The United Church Women's Bursary is awarded to persons at least 18 years of age (and not in, or studying towards, paid accountable ministry) and who are taking a course that would benefit a local United Church congregation. Two applicants shared the \$500.00 bursary in 2012.

As well, there is the Agatha Kaasa Bursary established in 2003 by the National United Church Women. It is available to women for leadership training, continuing education or projects.

For more information or an application form, call the Conference Office at 204-233-8911 ext 230 or visit their website www.mnwo.united-church.ca (the UCW Bursaries are under Women's Ministries).

TRANSCONA MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

As a Church we seek justice, foster and nurture growth by teaching, worshipping, through music, sharing and being welcoming to all. We value and share our gifts, protect the earth and walk humbly with our God.

OUR VISION:

TMUC is an evolving, welcoming, sharing and inclusive community church serving Christ.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT CO. DINNER THEATRE 2013



Our 3rd Annual production takes place April 25—28, 2013. “The Boardinghouse” by Vern Harden (Pioneer Drama Service) comes to life for four performances. The Holmes Sweet Home Boardinghouse, where life is anything but normal, is a comedy filled with a crazy cast of characters.

Tickets for a delicious meal and an evening of great entertainment have been selling well and as of this writing we have just over 40 tickets remaining. Cost is \$40 per ticket (a \$20 tax receipt is issued at the time of purchase). If you have not yet purchased your ticket please contact Carol or Frank Favoni at 204-222-1475 or favonifc@mymts.net

Sign up sheets for the various volunteer positions are posted on the bulletin board in the Christian Education entrance. This year we will be selling some canned drinks during dinner, so if you are partial to a “sit down” task, then this might be the job for you! And as in previous years, a food list will be circulated for the items we would like to have in our Hospitality Room (home-baked or store bought)—where the cast, crew and all volunteers can take a break and partake in the goodies to give them the energy to do their evening tasks. Watch for the list at the Easter Sunday services.

It takes many volunteers to host this event and if you have already signed up, we thank you and look forward to having you as part of the TEAM this year. If there is a certain area that you are interested in helping with but all the spots have been filled, please contact Melanie Sidorow or Lynn Measner. We can always use some people on our backup list just in case a volunteer is unable to participate in the task they signed up for.

Together we can make this another successful event!



*Come have a cuppa tea at
The Boardinghouse.*

NOTES FROM THE CHOIRS

The choirs are busy rehearsing music for the Lent and Easter services. Our "Love Makes the World Go Round" concert is now over and was enjoyed by all who attended and we can now concentrate on the upcoming services.

The Carillon portion of the concert will be presented at four different locations over the next several weeks as follows:

Tuesday, March 12th 7 p.m. Irene Baron Eden Centre

Tuesday, April 2nd 6:45 p.m. Park Manor

Tuesday, April 30th 7 p.m. Devonshire House 2

Tuesday, May 28th 7 p.m. Devonshire House 1

The Joyful Noise Singers are rehearsing on Saturdays from 11:30 to 12 noon and will be singing on March 17th.

The Chancel Choir and The Carillon Singers will both be singing on Palm Sunday and on Easter Sunday.

From all of us to all of you, we wish you a Blessed Easter Season.

Dorothy Ross

Time and Talent Auction

Did you know that the 2012 Time and Talent auction raised over \$6400? And, did you know that the same auction was a lot of fun, and a great way for people to spend a Saturday morning? And, did you know that there is a place prepared for you at this year's event?

So, bring out your calendar, and make the date of Saturday, April 6 from 9 until noon. Breakfast is served at 9:00 for \$5.00. A silent auction also begins at 9:00 with the bidding auction beginning at 10:00.

And, to make things really fun, offer a time or talent to be auctioned off – maybe you might make up a gift basket, or promise to make a cake; maybe you might ...? The possibilities are endless and always appreciated.

And, if you want to be on the team, there's always the blue folder, waiting for you to sign on. Going once, going twice; Come join the fun!

WELCOME BACK TO EASTER

Jeff Cook and Carol Fletcher

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb” – Luke 24:1

It was the women who came to the tomb in the fading light of that early dawn. Perhaps it had to do with the nature of their love – a love that always sought the beloved, even in the place of death. Perhaps, in that male-dominated violent world, women were considered to be no threat, so the women could go where the male disciples could not.

Perhaps their grief, their love, compelled them to honour Jesus just one last time and to ensure that his body was prepared with spices and ointments for burial. That was the proper, the expected thing to do.

And so it was the women who became the first bearers of the good news of Easter. They arrived to find the tomb open (“They found the stone rolled away from tomb” -24:2). The body of Jesus was gone.

And then, two men were beside them: two men in “dazzling clothes”, a Biblical code for messengers from God. They told them that Jesus was no longer amongst the dead, that he was risen. The women remembered Jesus, remembered his trust that even death would not end their awareness of his presence. They remembered, and they went to tell the other disciples.

Have you ever experienced a sense of hope when everything should seem hopeless? Jesus was dead. He had been executed by the Roman empire. The women, all of the disciples were grieving. He was dead. The kingdom of which he spoke had become just one more pipe dream. The time of new creation was finished, snuffed out, kaput...dead.

We don't get to Easter unless we are first willing to go with the women to the tomb. We don't get to Easter without the grief. We don't get to Easter without knowing that Easter is not something we accomplish, it is something God doesfor us and to us and in us.

EASTER!!!!!!! We come to the tomb. We come to the time of final good-byes, and God surprises us. God turns good-bye into hello again. God transforms an ending into a beginning. As the final credits roll, God is heard to say “By the way, I'm making a sequel.”

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We are now an Easter people. We are now a people who can never say that our experience of Jesus is ended. We can never say that God's love has run its course. We can never say that the church has no future...

Because God may just have one more surprise, one more hello, one more beginning, one more sequel.

Easter is our new word for 'hope'. Easter is the possibility of God pulling the rug out from beneath our certainties of how things must turn out. Easter is a trust that our story, the church's story, God's story, Jesus' story are always open-ended. Easter is being surprised to discover, that every chapter in these stories, is another Chapter One.

So welcome back to Chapter One! Welcome back to Easter!!

Hallelujah!!!

