



WINTER 2014

Tweedsmuir Tidings

Tweedsmuir Memorial Presbyterian Church
6 John Street, Box 276, Orangeville, ON, L9W 2Z7 • 519-941-1334
www.tweedsmuirpresbyterian.org • office@tweedsmuirpresbyterian.org

From the Minister



"When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."
Luke 2:17-19

The theme for our Christmas Newsletter this year is "Outreach". There could be no more important theme than this as we reflect on the Christmas story about the angels and the Bethlehem shepherds.

The angel's heavenly chorus tells us how God reached out to humanity, offering "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to mankind on whom His favour rests." (Luke 2:14). The Glory of the Lord shining upon the shepherds was again an expression of God reaching out to the people of the earth with good news of great joy. That night, God reached out as He had promised so long ago through the prophets: "For unto us a child a child in born, for unto us a son is given and he is to be named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

And the response of the Bethlehem shepherds was to reach out with the message of the angels to all who would listen to it: "They spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child." (Luke 2:17). These humble shepherds were the first evangelists to carry the good news of God's love for the entire world, to reach out with the message, first to Bethlehem, and then to Jerusalem, and then to the ends of the earth.

Christmas is the perfect time for all of us to reach out as well. We can reach out with the good news of the Saviour's birth in word, as we share the Christmas story with family and friends, and we can reach out in song as we sing the wonderful Christmas carols in church and in our homes. We can reach out with Christmas love as we eagerly take part in Tweedsmuir's Annual Food & Toy Drive and knit an extra set of mittens for Evangel Hall or CHOICES Youth Shelter. We can keep the ministry of Youth For Christ in our minds as Anne McCallum and her team reach out as they offer a word of Christmas hope to the youth of Orangeville who are seeking deeper meaning in their lives. We can reach out with the children of our Sunday school as they raise enough to buy a pig for a family somewhere in the under developed world.

In whatever way we **reach out**, we do so in the Love of Jesus and we do so as the hands and heart of Jesus.

We do so in the name of Him who we call "Emmanuel, God with Us" at this Christmas time and for all eternity.

Reaching out in Christmas love,
Rev. Harvey Self

Christmas Dinner for the Ladies of Tweedsmuir

The Fellowship Group invites all ladies to a Turkey Dinner – with all the trimmings – on Tuesday, December 9th at 6pm in the Tweedsmuir Room.

Price is \$20.00 at the door. Please join us for a fun and delicious evening! You are asked to bring an item for the Choices Youth Shelter Christmas stockings.



The Choir will present special Christmas music at the December 14th service.

Please join them for
"Christmas Around the World."



***"What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a Carol, for to sing
The Birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the Voice! Awake the String!"***

- Robert Herrick

Christmas Food & Toy Drive

The care committee will be having their annual Toy and Food drive on Saturday, December 13th from 10am to 1pm. Please bring a new unwrapped toy or a non-perishable food item. These will be sent to the Salvation Army for distribution at Christmas.



*“O, may our faith be as evergreen,
And ever kind our deeds to all.”*



- German Carol



OUTREACH – Church

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has a mission to help create new ministries, renew and sustain congregations and support specialized inner city, refugee and native ministries throughout Canada.

The Church also reaches out throughout the world and your gifts to Presbyterian Sharing equip congregations for Christian education, worship, evangelism, stewardship, youth ministries, leadership development and justice work all over the world. Here's what some people on the front line of missionary work have said:

“I was awe-inspired by the selfless service to the needy, even though those individuals serving were in need themselves.” Sonia Dixon, Ghana

“African Christianity is the most rapidly growing religious movement in the world.” Rev. Todd Statham, Malawi

How can you get involved?

Show your support this Christmas by selecting the Presbyterian sharing line on your envelope or making a donation with one of the special envelopes provided around the church.

We also need people to participate in the mission Committee at our church. Please speak with Debbie Hunt if you would be interested.

Evangel Hall – downtown Toronto

We have been supporting this mission, which is part of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, for several years.

During December and into January we will be collecting items for them. The mission, who services people in need in Toronto, goes through over 1,000 pairs of socks each winter month.

Urgently needed are new socks and underwear, used clothing, scarves and gloves. Also needed are toiletries such as toothbrushes, soaps, disposable razors etc.

They will happily take winter boots, sleeping bags, blankets and Canadian Tire Money.

We have placed a basket at the door outside the office for your offerings.

OUTREACH – Orangeville

It comes as a shock to realize that there are children and youth in need in our own community but this is a reality for most parts of Canada.

Princess Margaret School Nutritional Program - It amazes us that children show up to school without breakfast and without hats and mitts in Orangeville's cold weather but this happens far more frequently than you would think.

The WMS and Ladies Fellowship Group have joined together to help support the Princess Margaret School's nutritional program. We provide \$50 of healthy food (fruit, cheese, vegetables and bagels) each month to be served to the children at second break as well as at lunch.

During October, we collected school supplies, which go to the office to be distributed as needed. Also, we took over our first supply of winter hats and mitts.

We hear from the school staff of their gratitude and received a lovely thank you card signed by the children but it is we who are grateful that we found this project and we thank the congregation for all their support.

Choices Youth Shelter provides temporary shelter in Orangeville for youth aged 16-24. Not only do they supply the youth with a bed, they have programs to assist with life skills and provide counselling. Choices is a facility which has been embraced by members of Tweedsmuir.

Debbie Hunt and her team of bakers provide weekly home baked treats as well as birthday cakes when needed; men of the church and provide maintenance services, after special dinners, food is sent over to them and there are plans to help create Christmas stockings for the residents. If you would like to help, please contact Debbie at 519-942-1653.

The Door - is a drop-in centre run by **Highland Youth for Christ**. Their mission is to provide alternatives to youth and their families through caring programs, which support the whole person, physical, social, mental and spiritual. Wil and Marie McGilvery are very active at the Door and bring information on how we can support this worthy enterprise. At present, they are hoping to fill 100 stockings for the youth in our community. There is a list in the weekly bulletin if you would like to help out.

Salvation Army Food Bank - The Care Committee organizes collections for the Food bank at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Major Carson Decker and Captain Teresa Decker have expressed their gratitude for the amount of items that come in from us.

The food collected now will go to help the Salvation Army make up their Christmas Gift hampers for needy families. It also fills their shelves at the Food Bank for the winter.

Other -The Fellowship Group gives financial donations to the organizations above as well as Hospice Dufferin, Headwaters Pastoral Care and the Lighthouse Soup Kitchen.

OUTREACH – Around the Church

Shut-ins

On December 10th, the WMS will be preparing Christmas Baskets for those who are shut in their homes or now live in retirement or long term care facilities. If you would like to help prepare or deliver the Baskets please contact **Jane Smith**, 519-940-8637

In the spring, the Fellowship prepares valentine flowers to give out.

Special Request

There is a real need for winter coats at all of the agencies we support.

Whether you have coats that fit children, teenagers or adults, please donate and we will distribute them.

We will be collecting on Sunday, December 7th. Please bring your coats on that day.

Thank you!



Tweedsmuir Ministry Goals

The thermometer on the right tells a simple story. We have a significant gap to fill to meet our operating budget in 2014.

With 6 Sundays left in the year we need about \$36,000 to meet the operating expenses for 2014. History tells us that around 16% of the annual receipts come in during December. Based on that I can estimate about \$24,000 in FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP by the end of the year – a \$12,000 shortfall that will have to come from our reserves.

Those reserves have dwindled from \$79,622 to \$24,741 since 2008. Soon we will not be able to rely on the savings to continue to operate, **unless of course you are willing to help!**

Presbyterians Sharing

Receipts directed to the National Church of \$8,466 do not reflect all the details as monies from the Strawberry luncheon and other fund raising activities by various groups in our Faith Community were also sent there. As part of our commitment to the National Church of \$15,300, we are meeting our commitment by using operating funds.

As you are able, please help us meet our financial goals!

George Agar

Fellowship

The annual **Church Bazaar** was held on November 22nd. This is truly a church project and we thank everyone who helped set up, contributed items, came and bought and helped clear up after.

We are already making preparations for the **Robert Burns Supper**, which will be held on Friday, January 23rd. We hope you are ready for a great meal (with Haggis, of course!) and super entertainment.

Did you know...

That preparation for the Silent Auction at the Christmas Bazaar takes weeks and weeks?

Marjorie MacDonald and **family** spend an incredible amount of time working on this. First, they get in touch with so many of the businesses in town asking for donations. Then they organize and set up all the items for the auction (they worked until **2 am** on the Friday before the auction!)

On the day of the Bazaar and Silent Auction, they are on hand assisting people with the bidding and, when the Bazaar is over and everyone else has gone home, they are still there – contacting the winners and making arrangements for pick up!

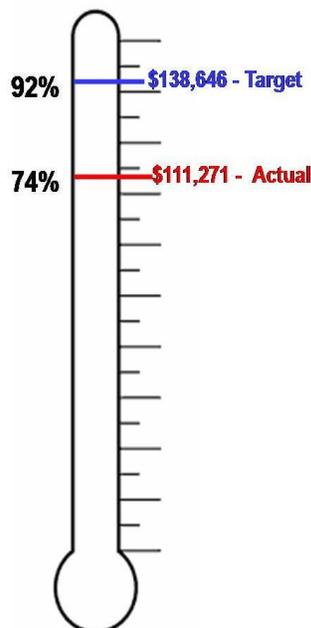
A very, very special thank you goes to Marjorie MacDonald and family for their awesome work on the silent auction!

November 16, 2014 Year to Date

TWEEDSMUIR MINISTRY GOALS

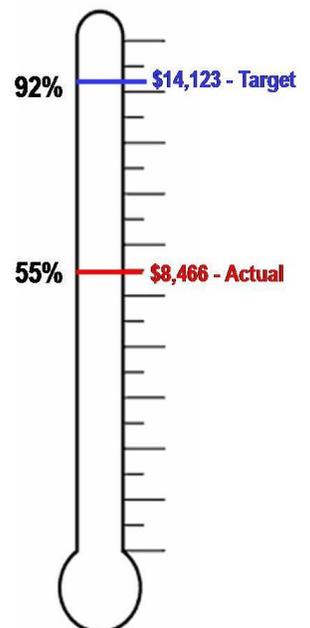
Local

\$150,200



Presbyterian Sharing

\$15,300





We welcomed the following people to the family of Tweedsmuir Church this year:

- Eileen Collie**
- Ed and Irene Cunningham**
- Doug Lackie**
- Christian MacDonald**
- Colleen Smith**
- Beth Wilson**



Baptisms

- Callum Swick**
Son of Dave and Mindy Swick
 - Leah Grace Ulias**
Daughter of Robert and Anne Ulias
Great granddaughter of Connie Bannerman
 - Charles Renaldo McKenzie
& William Donald MacKenzie**
Sons of Kim Corbett and Colin McKenzie
 - Madelyn Long**
Daughter of Amy & Shawn Long
Granddaughter of Judy and Dave Proctor
 - Devon Jane Goll**
Daughter of Catherine and Brian Goll
- We welcome them to our congregation.

In Memoriam

We remember the following Members and Adherents of Tweedsmuir who passed away during 2014.



- Grace McBurney**
- Dr. James McBurney**
- Helen Sinclair**



Our sympathy goes out to their families and to all the members of our church who lost loved ones this year.

*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4

WMS Women's Missionary Society

The WMS meets on the first Tuesday of each month. New members are always welcome.

On December 10th, the WMS will be preparing the **Christmas Shut-in Baskets**, which will be prepared for those in need. If you would like to help prepare or deliver the baskets, please contact **Jane Smith**.

"Christmas in the Park" with thousands of twinkling lights, the Orangeville Optimist Club's Christmas in the Park begins on Friday, December 5th and runs from December 5th to January 1st, 2015 from 5:30-10pm.

As usual, Tweedsmuir Church will be participating.



*"How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!"*

- Phillips Brooks

Good bye!

The following people are heading out to new homes in new places. We wish them the very best in their endeavours!

Jim and Pat Brohman

- moved to Fort Erie

Linda Stover

- called to a church in Alberta

May God bless you and keep you safe.



Calendar

November

30th – **First Sunday of Advent – Hope**

December

- 7th – **Second Sunday of Advent – Peace**
– Sacrament of Communion
– Collection of coats for the needy
- 9th – Fellowship Group hosts their annual Christmas dinner for Women. Don't forget your donation to Choices Youth Shelter!
- 13th – Saturday morning – Food & Toy Drive collection for the Salvation Army
- 14th – **Third Sunday of Advent – Joy**
– Choir Special Musical Presentation, **"Christmas Around the World"** with Sunday school Participation
– "Messy Christmas" – an event for children and their parents at the church
– "Riverforce Christmas Celebration" – for members of Riverforce, 5 pm at the church
- 21st – **Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love**
– Christmas Sunday
– Christmas Coffee Hour after the service
- 24th – Christmas Eve service, 7 pm
- 28th – First Sunday after Christmas

