

Met news

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Summertime Stewardship

I was doing some gardening this past weekend and thinking that many were probably preparing for the upcoming summer months. The most active part of the church year is drawing to a close and we know that many of you will not be able to attend regular Sunday services.

Please be reminded that Metropolitan remains open all summer long and those expenses continue to roll in! The summer months are usually accompanied by a cash-flow crunch at Metropolitan because many members give weekly when in attendance and their giving is interrupted during the summer months. Please take the time to consider the needs of the church during this period. There are several methods:

- lump-sum payment in advance
- post-dated cheques.
- credit card payments Complete an

Estimate of Giving Card indicating which credit card you wish to use. Include your card number and expiry date, the dollar amount you want charged to your credit card and when you wish to have it debited to your account.

Make arrangements for PAR giving on a year-around basis (i.e., Pre-Authorized Remittance). Fill in an Authorization Card from the church, attach a sample cheque from your account marked "Void," and return it to the church office via mail or the offering plate. Your account will be debited on or about the 20th of each month.

Your thoughtful consideration and arrangements for the summer season will be greatly appreciated by our stewards!

Steve Hanson

Director of Administration+Finance



Metropolitan's Festival Choir, directed by music director Pat Wright with organ scholar Matthew Coons presented another outstanding concert on Good Friday, April 10th. Included in the concert were Patricia Orr, reading her own poetry and Gary Brennan reading various poetic excerpts.

Arnold Tirzits Dedicates Hamburg Steinway

On Sunday, February 8th, Metropolitan dedicated to its use a marvelous piano on permanent loan from Arnold Tirzits. The proud owner of Metropolitan's new Steinway concert grand has returned to Canada following a harrowing car accident.

During his 27 years concertizing and teaching at the prestigious BerlinerKirchenmusik he was blessed to be able to acquire the piano. It was built in 1924 at the height of Steinway's finest piano production. In the late 1800s one of the two founding Steinway brothers left for America to start production of the Steinway instrument in New York. The Hamburg Steinway has always

been famous for retaining a very different "sound" than the New York Steinway (of which Metropolitan already owns one).

On Saturday, March 14, Arnold thrilled a large audience with "Piano Spectacular" inaugurating the piano in performance. In works by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Liszt, Arnold showed why he is considered a consummate pianist and why this instrument will become one of Toronto's treasures.

Pat Wright



Arnold Tirzits, seated at his Hamburg Steinway piano, joins the Metropolitan musical family

Stephen Hegedus Places in Opera Competition

Former lead bass at Metropolitan, Stephen Hegedus, Victoria College/ University of Toronto, Class of '03 was the only bass-baritone placed in the top six in the men's category of Placido Domingo's world opera competition, in which forty people are invited to participate from an annual application pool of 800 to 1,000 male and female singers.

Mary Ann McPherson

Ministers' Messages

From the Desk of the Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair

It is a challenge to be a child of the Gospel because no one there ever seems to take time off. Whenever you look, the baptist is busy baptizing, angels are flying to and fro with armfuls of good tidings, disciples take a stand or run away, enemies plot, and Jesus, the Messiah, faces a never-ending office full of people with a thousand opinions and needs. One grows tired just from reading it. It is good to remember that the Gospels are the recruiting posters of the community of faith. They contain, on one advertising page, everything you need to know about joining the ranks. There is no room for long, leisure breaks on a one-page ad.

Rest assured that the church was, and is, made up of real people with real life rhythms. Peter fished, but also pulled his boat ashore. Mary and Martha ran a busy household in Bethany, and sat on the porch in the cool of evening. Jesus taught, prayed and healed, but also took time to be with friends when things got too heavy. It is only natural. It is only human.

Summer is the time for children of the Gospel to listen to their own life needs and rhythms. God is still with us and for us even as we change our ways. Breathe the scented air of this lovely, gifted time. Listen to the birds in the morning. Watch the clouds drift lightly by just before sunset. Fire up the barbeque and crack open the chilled white wine. Children of the Gospel get summer holidays. It is only natural. It is only human.

Oh, John Joseph and I will be here over the summer months, and the church will offer its very best to all who come, but we're dividing the Sundays to enable both work and rest to balance us as well.

Keep the faith, and keep the

season. Summer is nature's "seventh" day, a Sabbath time blessed for the deeper soul in you.

From the Desk of the Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

The work of this project began when I was a youth and was given my first King James Bible for attending three consecutive weeks at Richview Baptist Church in Toronto. It was then that the scripture became a living word for me and touched me at the core of my being. Later, arriving at Metropolitan United Church, I met the spirit of warm welcome which opened to me the heart of invitation leading to the table of listening and learning of countless tales of tradition that rang loud in the hallowed halls of this sanctuary that was crafted to be the Methodist Cathedral of Canada. I would like to thank the many lay members who offered their time to



Outside Hyde Park Union Church Graduation Day May 17 at the University of Chicago with Professor Scott Haldemann, Bill Calkins and Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

speaking from their hearts and minds the story of Metropolitan United Church.

I would like to thank my colleague in Ministry the Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair for his support. I also express my thanks:

~to the late Carmen Poole who would always say to me "You are doctorate material"

~to my guidance counselor and parishioner Russel Heard

~to my father Nick Mastandrea who gave me the passion for reading and my mother, Lorraine, who gave me the ability to read,

~to the Members of the Metropolitan D.Min. Advisory Committee: Russell Heard, Walter Ridley, Sheila Hambleton, Linda Rowland, Debby Van Beek and Muriel Cairns, Dr. Grant Campbell, Jeff Ince, Dr. Don Hambleton, Dr. Linn Holness and Ellen Willows

~to my Faculty Advisor Professor Scott Haldeman, for his patience and steadfast leadership

~to all my professors at Chicago Theological Seminary: Joanne Terrell, Ted Jennings, Dow Edgerton, Robert Moore, Julia Speller, Ken Stone and Timothy Sandoval and to all the members of the administrative staff at CTS,

~to Father Mario DiCiccio, the Chancellor at Berkley, who recommended that I enroll at CTS,

~to the Calkins Family, especially my mother-in-law the late Anna Mae Calkins and father-in-law Bill Calkins.

~to my spiritual director, Jane Galven

~to my readers: Neill Kernohan, Vanessa Oliver, Patricia Orr, Linda Rowland, Clive Vanderburgh and especially Roy Robson, my friend and spiritual companion, for without his diligence and persistence this paper would never have been written.

~to my friend and photographer, Glen Bell, for his artful eye.

And, to save the best for last, my partner Bill Calkins, who encouraged me to embark down this pathway of doctoral studies and tolerated the chaos and the clutter of countless hours of editing and revisions.

I dedicate this degree to the spirit and legacy of Metropolitan United Church, whose founders set sail almost two centuries ago to the muddy Canadian town of York and planted the seed of Methodism that serves now, for me and for all its other members, as a mighty, sheltering tree.

News

Out of the Cold Wraps Up for the Season

The Out of the Cold volunteers, led by Steering Committee co-chairs Marg McIntosh and Kathy Priestman, had their planning meetings in October and started serving meals to clients in November. During that first month, 730 meals were served to 538 guests over the course of 4



(left to right) Marianne, Wilbert, and Charlie are all faithful volunteers at Met's Thursday *Out of the Cold* luncheons.

Thursday lunches.

The Kitchen Trinity of Jean Stinson, Don Finlayson, and Shirley Oakley led the planning and preparation of



Shirley Oakley was part of this year's "Kitchen Trinity," sharing planning and kitchen management duties with Jean Stinson and Don Finlayson

the meals from November until April. Volunteer George Gregg submitted his snapshot from the season:

"It was March 19. Early morning saw the kitchen workers busy, preparing for the day. The previous day, the Chop-Chop group had

been in getting food ready. Out in the dining-room, tables were going up, cutlery was being wrapped, bread was being buttered, table



Steering Committee Co-chair Kathy Priestman and volunteer Pat Fisher.

trays put in order, coffee brewing, and the cookies baked by faithful congregation members were being arranged on trays. It would be a busy day.

By 2:00 p.m. the tally came in: a record attendance for the year, and almost 8% higher than the record day for the previous year. 241 guests had arrived for the meal. With second helpings, take-out meals, and meals



Members of Met's congregation bake cookies throughout the Out of the Cold season, and the guests are delighted. Diane represented many of the contributors at the end-of-season luncheon.

for the volunteers, close to 400 meals had been prepared. Everyone was grateful, again, for Don, Shirley, and Jean, who managed the kitchen workers with their usual cheerfulness, assurance, and skill. Dining-room workers were reassured: the day,

though busy, had gone well.

For the past couple of weeks tension seemed to be growing among the guests. Many were arriving for their first time: young, no job, hungry, feeling almost desperate. But today the table servers had made a special effort to talk to the guests and reassure them that there would be



Marg McIntosh with Audrey Henry, members of the steering committee for *Out of the Cold* at Metropolitan.

plenty of food. Community Services counselors were on hand for referrals from the servers. Yes, the day had gone well."

During the past season, the *Out of the Cold* program served, on average, 185 guests and 261 meals per week. On April 16th, the volunteers gathered at a potluck luncheon to wrap up the season.

Susan Girvan
Chair, Outreach



Jean Stinson regaled the volunteers with stories of the Wednesday morning Chop-Chop group at the closing luncheon for Out of the Cold.

Reaching My Everest

In March of this year, accompanied by my brother-in-law Rodger Roden and friend Ed Skelly, I went to Nepal. The objective was to trek into Base Camp at Mt. Everest. The purpose was to have an memorable event to mark my turning sixty, and to see if I was still young enough to do such a trek.

In all aspects my Asian adventure was simply amazing – culturally it was stimulating, physically it was demanding, spiritually it was emotional, visually it was breathtaking, providing countless memories. All three destinations – Hong Kong, Nepal, and India – far exceeded my expectations.

However, it was the people I met along the way who made the trip special. In Hong Kong, it was Patric Leung, an MDRT member I'd never met before (MDRT is an international association of insurance specialists in which I have been a member for 29 years), who took the entire day off work to proudly show off the beauties and experiences of his city. In Kathmandu, Nepal, it was Saroj and Sudarshan (the owners of the trekking company – *Beyond The Limits*) who welcomed us like family to their city. During the trek into base camp at Mt. Everest, it was our guide Raj who steered us with a gentle hand through the physical and cultural experiences we encountered. In India, it was the company of people who transported and guided me to all the spectacular landmarks I visited (Perfect Travels & Tours).

On the final night of our trek, I asked each of the trek participants – brother-in-law Rodger, MDRT buddy Ed, and guide Raj – for their memories of our journey. Four pages later, we were still finding highlights to never forget. And then we had a crowning moment. We

had bought panoramic posters of the view of Everest and Base Camp from a nearby mountain top. I wanted everyone, including our two porters, to sign the posters as a memento of the time spent together on the trek. Knowing English characters are different than Nepalese writing, I printed out the names of Kumar and



Bruce Peckover (on right) with his fellow trekkers, Rodger Roden, Ed Skelly and sherpa, Raj, pose at the culminton of their hike to base camp at Mt. Everest.

Robin. After a few practice attempts, they carefully affixed their names to the poster. Once they had left, Raj observed that that was probably the first time they had ever signed their names to anything, neither of them having anything more than about grade three education.

Earlier in the day, Raj had paid us a wonderful compliment. He said that we were the first group of people he had guided where we cared as much for him as he did for us. He said he would miss us when we left. He has since written emails to us and you can tell that he is wistful for our return.

I took a total of 2,100 pictures,

1,300 of the trek. It has been a chore to trim them down to a manageable number to show people. My photo album has over 200 in it, and available online at <http://picasaweb.google.ca/bruce2everest/2009asianadventure#>. Ed maintained a blog www.everestbasecamp2009.blogspot.com until we got back from Everest, but not for the entire walk out. Here you can find some details of our journey. Stay tuned for 2010 and the adventure for that year to celebrate Ruth's and my 30th wedding anniversary and a decade birthday for Ruth.

Bruce Peckover

In Memoriam

Anne (Prouse) Grice, former-wife of Dr. Hugh Prouse, died in Mississauga on April 16 at the age of 70. Anne was very active at Metropolitan United Church around 1970-75, during the time of Dr. Elliott. Her stepson, the late David Prouse and stepdaughter Barbara Prouse Thistle as well as her daughter Kristy will all be remembered. Anne was an insightful and perceptive lady with a strong faith. Among her many achievements were being a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board and later Executive Assistant to former M.P. Dr. Robert Horner and former M.P.P. John Snobelen. She was an active member of Applewood United Church, Mississauga.

Helen Stockton