

Tidings

Bringing you news and information about Aurora United Church

November/December 2011— January 2012

"I am bringing
you good news
of great joy
for all the
people."

Luke 2:10, NRSV



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3rd Aurora Venturers Aurora United Church

On Saturday the 22nd of October, 2011 5 youth from our Venture Company received the highest award possible for youth in Scouting, The Queens Venturer Award.

The following in were presented this award at Queens Park by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, his Honourable, David C. Onley: David Armstrong, Austin Bushell, Keegan Comar, Michael Nash and Sam Sweeney.



Shown in photo from left to right are: David Armstrong, Mike Bushell (Advisor), Keegan Comar, Michael Nash, Sam Sweeney, Austin Bushell.

Truly an outstanding achievement for these boys since less than 1% of all youth registered in Scouting in Canada step up to obtain this award. They were 5 of 74 youth from all over Ontario that were granted this certificate.

In order to qualify the youth MUST achieve the following:

- Venturer Award: demonstrate equivalent skills and knowledge in (Fitness, Personal Interest, Vocational, Exploration)
- First Aid Certificate: Must hold a current a Standard First Aid Certificate Level C.
- World Conservation Badge
- Certified in a Service Skill
- Complete a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer Service
- Act as an activity leader or Scouter-in-Training for Scouting activities or in a youth serving organization
- Leadership in a Peer Environment actively involved in Student Council, church or any other organization whereby youth have a role and voice in the decision making and managing.
- Demonstrate understanding both verbally and in writing their spirituality or have completed the Religion in Life Award.

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Our Christmas Message

Dear AUC Friends,

We have been speaking about transitions since rounding out the summer months as we made our way back to work and school and to the daily rhythms we are all accustomed to. Like many faith communities it has taken us a good measure of time to do so.

As the Halloween costumes are put away for next year, we turn to a costume trunk of another kind; the one which holds the bathrobes and tea cloths-the halos and cow and donkey costumes. The children of the Sunday School will be practicing now for Pageant Sunday and will be living out the Nativity story for some weeks.

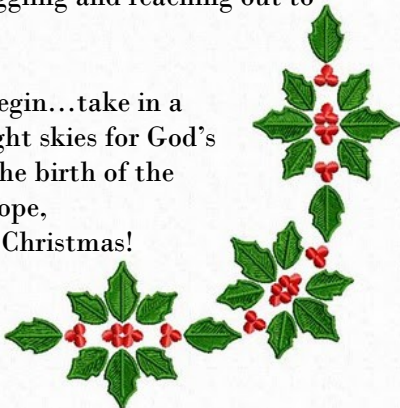
As our local stores and malls give over to the big Christmas push we are mindful that the count down will begin momentarily. Can you not feel the rising stress already? Happily, in the midst of it all is the reminder of who we are to each other in this AUC community.

The Worship Committee is proposing that we 'Be the Gift' this year- that we become the embodiment in the world of the babe born at Bethlehem. Over these next weeks, into the seasons of Advent to Christmas and Epiphany we will be challenged to enter into the 'Advent Conspiracy' of not giving in to the rampant consumerism that so drives the Christmas season- to avail ourselves of events and service that takes us outside of ourselves.

There is no other time in our church year quite so emotionally charged as this time- this twinkly, magical time. But there are those near to us for whom this time brings grief and trial- memories of past days are both poignant and painful. The joy we feel at the impending birth of the babe at Bethlehem can be shared in real ways by recognizing those who are struggling and reaching out to them.

The journey is about to begin...take in a breath and look to the night skies for God's emergence in light. May the birth of the child Jesus visit you in Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this Christmas!

Lorraine and Andy



AUC People News

We hope you have enjoyed our services. If you would like to join the church or are inquiring about baptism, please speak with Rev. Andy Comar or Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, or call the church office at 905-727-1935 x23 and speak with Sharon Baillie.

Welcome! In the month of October, we welcomed 2 families and their children through baptism. They are: ***They are: Eden Victoria Allen and Jessica April Benedek***

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you....

- Pat Innes celebrated a birthday in September
- Crawford Heritage celebrated a birthday October 18th.
- Rev. John Houston celebrated a birthday October 19th

Some friends and family members have been in hospital or convalescing at home since the last newsletter. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope they are feeling well soon.

We send warm greetings to our friends in nursing homes, retirement centres and permanent care facilities: **Mildred Annear, Irene Aspin, Rae Barker, Jean Burnell, Walter and Jean Blackman, Norm Cook, Joan Devins, Monty Dwyer, June Dymock, Juanita Ella, Bud Gilbert, George Hill, Lloyd and Marion Hinton, Dorothy Hubbs, Ada Johnson, Jean McMurphy, Marg and Jack Pierson, Doris Pringle, Art and Vivian Sedgewick, Rex Sedore, Les Shiner, Mary Stauffer, and Shirley Thompson.**

In Memoriam

We send our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the following families:

- Carol Lever and family in the loss of her step-father, Hugh Porter
- Ken Jamieson and family in the loss of his brother, John
- Dorothy Hubbs in the loss of her sister, Marjorie
- Gord Baillie and family, in the loss of his uncle, Jim Baillie

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Buy a Breakfast

Do you know of a company, store, restaurant or even an individual who might be interested in sponsoring one of our Rise and Shine Breakfasts?

The number of guests who are coming in from out of the cold for a warm breakfast and wonderful friendship is increasing and so are our expenses. It now costs \$175.00/breakfast.

We want to continue providing this much needed assistance and if we could get individuals/companies to sponsor a breakfast it would be very helpful.

If you can help, letters explaining everything that is involved in sponsoring a breakfast are available from any member of our Outreach Committee or from the office.

George Easey
Outreach Committee



AUC Alive is the theme of the Stewardship Committee. Each fall we celebrate all that goes on at the church and we are given an opportunity to prayerfully consider how we contribute our time, talent and treasure. This year the campaign is taking a lower key approach compared with last year's 20/20/20 campaign that highlighted glittering hats, balloons and large thermometers. We've scheduled minute long presentations during the announcements each Sunday and additions to the Friday email messages to assist with our campaign message – that this is an amazing church community, so worthy of our support.

Your kind contributions of time, talent and treasure help to make this a special place in the community. Responding to our pledge card mailing in November will assist us with planning a wonderful 2012.

If you have any questions about Stewardship at AUC, please feel free to call Steve Falk 416-525-1056 or email him at sfalk@primedata.ca.

Cash Cards are Coming

Buy your groceries or gasoline with a cash card and support AUC fundraising at the same time. Beginning in November, AUC council will be offering cash cards from over 50 Canadian retailers for purchase and subscription by members of the congregation. You pay for the face value of the card and use it for your everyday purchases: the retailer offers the card to AUC at a discounted price, and the difference goes to our operating budget as income. Watch for the first sign-up opportunity on Sunday, Nov 13 and more information in weekly e-mails and announcements. (Cards from Tim Horton's, Best Buy and Chapters will make great Christmas gifts, too !!)



AUC Survey Summary

The AUC Website Development Committee thanks everyone who took the time to respond to our survey. Here is a brief list of highlights from our survey.

- Predominant age range was the 46-55 range with the hefty representation from 55-75.
- We have a significant number of families with children.
- There are more females than males;
- Majority see themselves as moderately involved.

Some comments from the survey were, that there needs to be a much stronger presentation of why someone would want to become involved in the church. It needs to be up to date and current with more information/photos highlighting church activities. There needs to be links to general information, Sunday school stories, bedtime prayers, grace, etc. Pictures need to be up to date. We need a way to donate on the website. We need to direct people to the website and find a way to keep them coming back. We need to streamline information coming out of our church and avoid duplications. A page for discussion about faith related books would be useful.

Your input is helping us build the foundation for our website and will guide us as we create the infrastructure needed to support the site on a continuous basis.

Dates to Remember

Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Handbell Quartet, Kerygma	Dec 4	Faith Formation Book Sale
Nov 2, 9, 16, 23 30	Handbells 1 & 2, Bereavement Support	Dec 5	Seeker Christmas Tea, Finance
Nov 3, 10, 17, 24	AM Coffee, New Dimensions Teen Confirm, Senior Choir	Dec 6, 13 20	Handbell Quartet, Kerygma, Bap. Prep
Nov 4&5	Teen Confirm retreat at church	Dec 7, 14, 21,	Handbells 1 & 2
Nov 5, 12, 19, 26	Rise and Shine Breakfast	Dec 8	Choir Rehearsal for Carols by Candlelight
Nov 6	An Evening with Brian Clark 911 Miracles	Dec 8	3rd Aurora Grp., Prop Dev.
Nov 7	Seekers, iWonder, Finance	Dec 9, 11	Carols by Candlelight
Nov 8	Grace	Dec 12	Council
Nov 10	3rd Aurora Grp., Prop Dev.	Dec 13	UCW Christmas Potluck
Nov 11	Peace Concert	Dec 15	Christmas Stocking Organization and Dist.
Nov 13, 20 27	Youth Group, YG 2nd Gen, Youthful Spirits	Dec 19	Property Cmt.
Nov 14	Gran Aurora, Council	Dec 20	Membership
Nov 15	CMHA Meeting, Silver Tsunami Membership, Faith Form.	Dec 26	Worship
Nov 16	TIPS Fair	Dec 26,27, 28	Church Office closed
Nov 18	AUC Prep for Turkey Dinner	Dec 29, 30	Office open 9 am—12 pm
Nov 19	AUC Turkey Dinner	Jan 2	Church Office Closed
Nov 21	Property	Jan 2	Finance Cmt.
Nov 22	3rd Aurora Scouts Spaghetti Dinner Book Club	Jan 3	Baptism Prep.
Nov 25	All Day VBC	Jan 4,11, 18, 25	Handbells 1 & 2
Nov 27	Faith Formation Book Sale	Jan 7, 14, 21 28	Rise and Shine Breakfast
Nov 28	UCW Exec., Worship	Jan 9	Seekers, Council
Nov 29	Pastoral Care	Jan 10	Grace, Health Cabinet
Nov 30,	Outreach	Jan 10, 17, 24, 31	Kerygma
Dec 1	Teen Confirmation (Last class for 2010)	Jan 12	AM Coffee, New Dimensions, Teen Conf.
Dec 1, 8, 15, 22	AM Coffee, New Dimensions, Senior Choir	Jan 12	Prop. Dev.
Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Rise and Shine Breakfast	Jan 15, 22, 27	Youth Group, Y2G, Youthful Spirits
		Jan 16	Property, iWonder
		Jan 17	Membership
		Jan 23	Worship Cmt.
		Jan 24	Book Club
		Jan 30	UCW Exec.

Book Sale



Please join us for our annual book sale. There will be a large assortment of Christian books and music supplied by the United Church of Canada book store. This is an excellent opportunity to buy Christmas gifts, upgrade your library or find that special book.

The sale will take place on two consecutive Sundays in the Social Hall on **November 27th and December 4th** before and after the 10:30 service.

Hope to see you there!

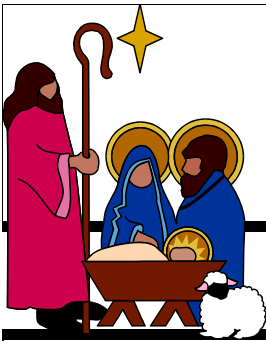
Health and Wellness Fair

Wednesday, November 16, 2011 1pm - 4pm

Aurora United Church - Social Hall

Learn more about Senior's services in York Region

Free refreshments, door prizes



AUC Alive at Christmas 2011

Worship at Aurora United Church

Advent is a time of waiting, anticipation and preparation for the coming birth of our Saviour, Jesus of Nazareth. During Advent, there will be festive music, the lighting of the Advent wreath and more.

Worship Services

Nov 6	9 am Remembrance Worship Service 10:30a.m. Remembrance Worship Service
Nov 13	9 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 am Worship and Baptism Service
Nov 20	9 am and 10:30 am Communion (Reign of Christ)
Nov 27	9 am Worship Service (1st Sunday in Advent) 10:30 am Worship Service
Dec 4	9 am and 10:30 am Sunday School Pageant (2nd Sunday in Advent)
Dec 11	9am Worship Service and 10:30 am Worship and Baptism (3rd Sunday in Advent)
Dec 18	9am and 10:30 am Worship Service (4th Sunday in Advent) 10:30 am Worship and Baptism Service
Dec 21	7:30 pm Longest Night Service
Dec 24	4 pm, 7 pm, 10 pm (Communion Service at 10 pm) Christmas Eve Services
Dec 25	10:30 am Christmas Day Service (One service only)
Jan 1	10:30 am Epiphany Worship Service (One Service only)
Jan 8	9 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship and Baptism Service (Baptism of Jesus)
Jan 15	9 am and 10:30 am Communion both services Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Jan 22	9 am and 10:30 am Worship Service
Jan 29	9 am and 10:30 am Worship Service

Music for World Peace

Friday, November 11, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Anne Marie Page, Music Director

Special Guests: Glenn Marais, singer-songwriter
Garry Page, trumpet

AUC Chancel Choir, Poco People, Youthful Spirits*

*Carmen Harany and Steve Falk, Coordinators

Handbell Choirs: Lisa Kyriakides, Director

Faith-A-Peal, Bellissimo, EmBellished

Carols by Candlelight

Friday, December 9, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Carols by Candlelight

Anne Marie Page, Music Director

Special Guests: Esprit Chamber Chorus,
Mervin Fick, Artistic Director

AUC Chancel Choir

Youthful Spirits

(Carmen Harany and Steve Falk, Coordinators)

Handbell Choirs:

Faith-A-Peal

Bellissimo

EmBellished

Lisa Kyriakides, Director



Sunday, December 11, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Carols by Candlelight

Anne Marie Page, Music Director

Special Guests: St. Andrew's College Wind Ensemble

AUC Chancel Choir, Poco People

Service of the Longest Night

Wednesday, December 21st 7:30 p.m. (in the sanctuary)

The holidays can be difficult for us all; the stresses and strains of trying to offer a time of celebration take their toll. Many people find they have trouble feeling 'in the spirit' of things, whether because of the recent (or anticipated) death of a family member or friend, the end of a marriage, the loss of work, or other trying change. Facing Christmas while carrying such stress may make 'feeling merry' a trying task. This year we will be gathering together for a Service of the Longest Night. It is so named because of its proximity to the winter solstice—the longest night of the year. But the name is also fitting because – despite the trappings of gifts, special meals, and Christmas carols—the season can be darker than 'normal' times of the year for those who struggle.

Come and join us for: music—scriptures—silence—reflection—prayer—candle-lighting and the Labyrinth.

Kettleby Camp - Youth Camp

Over 20 campers attended the September kick-off camp in Kettleby. Some may remember the camp when it was called "Camp Richildaca" (Richmond Hill Day Care!, not a first nations name). The cabins are spartan but functional and the kitchen is excellent, so we prepare lots of great food with the kids pitching in on the prep and giant Hobart dish washer. The property bridges the creek and the 60 acres make a great place for exploring.

Camp fires, sing-a-longs, skits and night-time treasure hunts are favourites. Some of the older youth are planning and organizing the programming now as they have had Camp Councillor experience in the summers. We are lucky to be able to have so many young people who enjoy hanging out with each other at these types of gatherings. Thank you to all the parents who helped out in various capacities, including staying over on those luxury mattresses as Cabin Leaders.



Veggie Tales – “The Little Drummer Boy” A One-Day VBC Event for Children

You are invited to participate in a one-day VBC event for children. This fun-filled day based on the new Veggie Tales Christmas movie - "The Little Drummer Boy" is for everyone between the ages of 5 and 12. The adventure takes place on the PA Day - Friday November 25 from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer for this event – for a half day or the full day - please sign-up on the bulletin board beside Rev. Andy's office or call Rev. Andy at 905-727-1935. Thank You for your continuing interest and support of our children's ministries programs here at AUC!

(Continued from page 2)

- Lisa Kyriakides and family in the loss of her aunt, Alice Evan
- Ken and Laurie Graham and family in the loss of Laurie's mother, Marie
- Mary and Ken Smith, in the loss of Mary's Mother, Evelyn
- Lois York and family, in the loss of Lois' brother.
- Don Hamilton and family in the loss of Don's wife, and long-time member, Betty Hamilton
- The McCrindle family in the loss of their mother, Barbara McCrindle.

THE SILVER TSUNAMI SEMINAR SERIES “Don’t be a Victim”

How do you avoid falling victim to scam artists? What is the Grandson/Granddaughter Scam? How do you guard against home invasions and intruders? How do you ensure your personal safety? Constable Robyn Kassam, Seniors Safety Officer, Community Service Bureau, York Regional Police, will help us answer these questions and more.

Join us for a free, informative evening. Refreshments will be served.

Please call Comfort Keepers at 905-868-8100 to register (preferred but not mandatory)

November 15, 7pm-8pm

at the Aurora United Church in the Founder’s Room

Presented by York Regional Police

Join us again on January 17, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., for the next seminar in The Silver Tsunami Series. The plan is to discuss Senior Nutrition which is one key ingredient to healthy aging. The nutritional needs of seniors are also much different than that of a 40 something. Eating right is key but easier said than done. The evening will introduce speakers and programs that educate the caregiver and senior on what types of foods are needed and the options available to maintain a well balanced diet.

You are invited to join us for this monthly study group. **iWonder** is part of the United Church of Canada’s WonderCafe. Like WonderCafe, the goal is to have conversation about spirituality, faith, and values. **iWonder** provides another opportunity at AUC to create relationship-building conversations about what really matters. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7 pm in the Founders Room. Our next gathering is on Monday November 7. The question for November 7 is “What is it about Jesus Christ that this community cannot live without? Come for one session – come each month! See you there! For more information please speak to Rev. Andy.



Men’s Grief Group

There is no recipe that can predict a man's emotional response to a loss. It is a very personal and individual response, unique, different. Some people have thought that grief followed a specific and linear path, that grief had well defined, progressive stages. These ideas have pretty much gone by the wayside and we know that grief creates its own agenda.

Men, together, talking about their grief is also unique. We invite all men dealing with loss to join together, accompanied by Rev. Dr. John Vincent, United Church Clergy and Manager of Spiritual Care, Toronto General Hospital. A 6 week program will begin in the New Year, 2012. You can let John know of your interest by calling 416 340-4889 (cell) or email: johnrvincent123@gmail.com

Holocaust Education Week

The **Teen Confirmation Class** invites the congregation to attend this year's Holocaust Education Week presentation on Thursday November 3, 7 pm in the sanctuary. Our guest speaker is Ada Wynston. Ada will share her Holocaust survival story of rescue. A short video will also be viewed. Refreshments will be served.

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Our youth went above and beyond the call to qualify by being actively involved in their church, recreational activities, school etc, whereby they worked in a leadership capacity on numerous occasions. Completing substantially over the 50 hours community service most have in excess of 150 hours.

This award has not been achieved by our Venture Company for quite sometime, approx. 10 years+. So this is really a very impressive showing of our youth and their commitment, tenacity and leadership potential. Our thanks to Aurora United Church for their continued support over the last 51 years and Rev. Andy for his guidance and leadership.

A reception followed this presentation in the Lieutenant Governor’s suite, which was attended by the youth, leaders and parents or invited guests. I am especially proud of the youth and we now have more youth ready and willing to take on the challenge of completing the tasks to obtain this award.

Mike Bushell
Venture Advisor 3rd Aurora Venturers

United Church Women

UCW Meetings

Upcoming Meetings



Grace

November 8 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Craft

December—No meeting

January 10th at 7:00 p.m. Pat Innes-Sleeping Children Around the World

Seekers

November 7 at 1:30 p.m. Pat Innes-Sleeping Children Around the World

December 5 at 1:30 p.m. Christmas Tea

January 9 at 1:30 p.m. Speaker

UCW Christmas Pot Luck Dinner

It's time to socialize around the dinner table at the UCW Christmas Potluck on **Tuesday, December 13th** in the Social Hall.

All women of the church are invited to be part of this annual event. Come and bring a friend!

At 6:00 p.m. we will gather, have a glass of punch and mingle with friends. The potluck dinner begins at 6:30



Christmas stockings

Christmas stockings to be filled, will be available following services in November in the narthex and downstairs during coffee hour. We are hoping to complete 175 stockings for the Women's Centre for children from newborn to age 16. It is a fun event which can be shared by family members and your efforts are appreciated by the recipients. It adds a wonderful touch to the season. Filled stockings should be returned the first week of December. They can be returned prior to both services, or left in the Office. Donations can also be made this month, if you are unable to fill a stocking yourself or if you wish to donate on behalf of someone. Call Mary Louise at 905-841-5096 for more information.



Please put **Thurs. Dec. 15** on your calendar to help organize the stockings into families and send them off to the Women's Centre.

Rummage Sale

Thank you all members of the congregation who gave so generously to the sale as well as members who helped to sort and sell all of the items. Once again it was a fun event. We were able to earn \$4260.57. Money goes towards helping a variety of charities as well as supporting other events within the church.

Deadline

Dates for submissions for the next issue of *Tiding* will be announced at a later date. Information should be submitted in writing to Rosanne Rose (rosannerose25@yahoo.ca) or June Yates (jhy@portcullis.ca)—or via the church mailbox.

This is your newsletter. Hopefully it reflects who we are as a faith community and what is happening in our church. Your feedback is always welcome. If you have any comments or suggestions, would you please send your comments to June.

Submissions for the weekly announcements should be sent to Sharon in the church office by Thursday afternoon each week.

Tidings

is published for members of the congregation of Aurora United Church, usually five issues per year. Enquiries may be directed by e-mail to the church office: sharon@auroraunitedchurch.ca

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