SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2016

MATTHEW 9:37

A DISCIPLE’S CALL

BRINGING IN THE HARVEST
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“God calls us from various parts of the world to worship in this place, to be a community of faith, and to be a witness for Jesus Christ.”

Tis the season of giving! What a blessing it is to share God’s holy word, church stories of blessings, hardships, and accomplishments for it is when we open to one another, we can begin to heal and love.

A big thank you to this issue’s contributors! We wouldn’t have such a beautiful issue without all your submissions. we are truly rich in blessings!

The Hillcrest Harbinger Editorial Team.

Thank you all for your constant support!

Editorial Team
Sarah Himaya
Richelle Himaya
Rev. Dr. Robert Steffer
Rev. Justin Schwartz

Head of Distribution
Amanda Osias

Ministerial Team
Rev. Fred Dizon
Part-Time Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Robert Steffer
Auxiliary Minister

Ann Stainton
Pastoral Assistant & Parish Nurse
SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

The summer months came along with its usual warm exuberant fresh air, lavish colours and that vigour that urges our spirits to enjoy a great season. Now, we can sit back and reflect on the fun memories, of vacations, time at the cottage, summers’ camps, family barbeques or just some of the many interesting events around the city. My favorites were Carabana, a time to watch the city erupt into one massive festival. The taste of the Danforth is also another time that allows us to taste and savor some of the best culinary stills in the world.

Unfortunately, though, as the season drifted along, the mood of our Hillcrest family changed with the passing of loves ones. Our support goes to their families and friends as they go through this time of mourning. While at home we comforted each other, reminiscing on personal experiences and the outstanding services, demonstrated through the lives of our loved Wally Legge, Bruce Carruthers, Wondez East, and Dr. Jose Sotto. Their memories will be cherished among us for a very long time.

As you recall, the Stewardship Capital Campaign engaged the consulting arm of the Disciples Church Extension Fund, Indianapolis, to assist us with our Capital Campaign project. An exercise was conducted to determine whether it is feasible for us to proceed with a capital campaign project. The exercise is now complete and the results of the study showed that we can conduct a capital campaign project now. A session with the congregation is being organized to explain the results in more detail as we prepare to proceed further. I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and participation in this exercise. We are particularly appreciative to those who shared their concerns and suggestions, and for doing so with passion, commendable candor and respect. Some of these will be addressed and incorporated in the plans going forward.

The Administrative Board in preparation for our 2017 operating budget has engaged the stewardship committee to start their usual annual pledge awareness. Distribution of the letters and pledge forms will commence October 2, 2016. We look forward to your usual cooperation in this regard.

As we prepare to embrace the latter part of our church year with the full contingent of our groups such as the choir, the Sunday school, the Administrative Board and the Board of Elders, let us be cognizant of the importance of working together as a team, helping and supporting each other where and when we can. Let us remember always that we are Gods children and the loving Hillcrest Church Family.

Sincerely,
Hubert Reece
Chair - Administrative Board
AMONG THE FAMILY

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Lauryn Jade A’Court, D’Arcy Davidson, Mary Danielle Delos-Reyes, Ledy Kathlyn Loterte, Jericho Emmanuel Loterte, Omari Joseph Young who were baptized on July 3.

Congratulations to Elaine Lyons who is a 2016 recipient of the George H Stewart Award which is given in recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada.

Congratulation to Hubert Reece who has been elected as a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada Board of Directors.

Change of address for Olga Blackwood Camilla Care Community, 2250 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, ON L5B 1M8 Olga doesn’t have a private phone number. Camilla Care Community phone number: 905-270-0411 Her Contact relative is Karen Robinson Home phone number: 905-275-9396

Change of Address: Alison and Mario Germaine, 602 - 9600 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 0X3 Home - 905-237-2000, Cell - 416-937-2549 Email: alisongermain@rogers.com

PRAYER PARTNERS

November 6  Winger Church of Christ, Wainfleet, ON. Pastor: Kevin McDonald

November 13  Wyndholme Christian Church, Dartmouth, NS. Pastors: Darlene Brewer, Neil Bergman, Judithe Adam Murphy

November 20  Reconciliation Special Offering

November 27  McKernan Christian Church, Edmonton, AB. Pastor: Ed Stover

Please keep in your prayers all those affected by Hurricane Matthew: Haiti and the rest of the Caribbean, Cape Breton, etc. As the weather starts to turn colder, please pray for all those who have no shelter.
THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Please remember
our brothers and sisters
in your prayers.

Barbra Birsois (Sher Demitro’s cousins)
Olga Blackwood
Millie Bowen
Marcie Burress (sister of Dory Ong and Aida Tabujara)
Mark Campbell (friend of Shema Dizon)
Ramon Carmelly
Victoria Cortez (Nita Delos-Reyes’ mother)
June Davidson
Richard Fine (Ramon Carmelly’s husband)
Dr. Isagani & Prosertina de los Trinos (brother and sister-in-law of Elma Loterte, Minda Osias, Eva Villanueva, Susan Dizon, James de los Trinos)
Jean Hambleton
Carmen Hewitt
Judy Lintz and family (Ann Stainton’s cousin)
Sheila Hutchison
Philip Lea
Elaine Lyons

Precy Mandac
Ashton Mantolino (Mariebel Santiago’s niece)
Margaret Miller
Carl Morris
Evelyn Morris
Minda Osias
Rev. Tom and Dianne Rutherford
Benjamin Samonte (Mariebel Santiago’s father)
Concordia Santiago (mother of Mario Santiago, sister of Dory Ong & Aida Tabujara)
Domingo Siquid (Emely Ramirez’ brother)
Don Starratt
Dorothy Van Slyke
Aida Tabujara
Debora Villanueva (James de los Trinos’ mother, Elma Loterte, Minda Osias, Eva Villanueva, Susan Dizon’s sister)
Gordon Warrack (David Warrack’s son)
Jeanne Week

CONDOLENCES

Rev. Fred, Susan, Shema and Naomi Dizon and their extended family on the passing of Fred’s mother, Rev. Aurora Abesamis Dizon.

Marlee and Ron Wilson on the passing of Lila Hulton on June 28.

Jenny East, Michelle, Mariah, Wondez Jr. and extended family on the passing of Wondez East Sr. on July 25

Carolyn Carruthers, Ann & Greg Clarke, Keith & Vicki Carruthers, Meg & Wilf Goodman, Jane Kochan, Pat & Murray Snedden and their extended family on the passing of Bruce Carruthers on August 18.

Ruth & Jonathan Sotto, Angelina, Dante, Ashley & Melissa Danguecan and their extended family on the passing of Rev. Dr. Jose Sotto on August 25.

Nita, Alex, Nicole and Mary Danielle Delos-Reyes and their extended family on the passing of Nita’s aunt, Leonarda Cortez Santos.

Magelle, James, Jaron and Makeilla de los Trinos on the passing of Magelle’s grandmother, Maura Catipon.

For pastoral concerns, please phone (416) 654-0311
For emergencies, please phone (416) 433-7997
IN REMEMBRANCE OF

BRUCE HAMBLY CARRUTHERS

Bruce Hambly Carruthers
(FEBRUARY 28, 1926 – AUGUST 18, 2016)

Bruce died peacefully at home in his 91st year with his bride of over 61 years, Carolyn, by his side. Bruce will be deeply missed by his children, Ann Clarke (Greg), Keith Carruthers (Vicki), Meg Goodman (Wilf), Jane Kochan, Pat Snedden (Murray), and the late Mary.

Grandpa will be forever missed by his 14 grandchildren, Riley Clarke (Natalie Tupper), Sophie Clarke, Lindsay Di Tolla (Diego), Carlyn Carruthers (Rob Lamport), Deanna Carruthers, Michael Goodman (Alex), Katie and Jamie Goodman, Walter and Patrick Kochan, Samantha, Tait, Jennifer and Jack Snedden. He will be lovingly remembered by his sisters, Nancy Cummings, Catherine Battaglia (Reg) and sister-in-law, Beverly Carruthers. Bruce was predeceased by his brother, Rob and his brother-in-law, Len Cummings. He will be fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews in Canada and the United States. As Dad always said, “I was born on the kitchen table in the house on Ridley Boulevard” and was raised in North Toronto where he attended Lawrence Park Collegiate. After graduating from high school he enlisted in the Navy during WWII. Returning he attended University of Toronto, but saw his future in retailing at the Robert Simpson Company. This career took him to New York City where he met Carolyn. Bruce was fortunate to have spent over 32 years in retirement with Carolyn enjoying traveling and cruising.

Bruce was a lifelong member of Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) serving as finance chairman for decades. He was an active curler, golfer and bridge player of Thornhill Golf & Country Club for over 64 years. Dad’s favourite place in the world was his cottage in Honey Harbour. He instilled a deep love for Georgian Bay in all his family and friends through “puttering”, fishing, card playing, dock building, and cruising The Bay. Dad never lacked for an opinion and was famous for offering his comments often followed with the phrase “yes, dear”. Special thanks to the many caregivers and medical personnel who assisted Dad and Mom over the past few years. Celebration of life will be held on Friday, August 26, 2016 11:00 a.m. at Hillcrest Christian Church, 2 Vaughan Road, Toronto M6G 2N1, followed by a reception at 1:00 p.m. at Thornhill Golf & Country Club, 7994 Yonge Street, Thornhill. If desired, remembrances in lieu of flowers may be made to Hillcrest Christian Church, Mackenzie Health Foundation, or the charity of your choice.
The Reverend Doctor Jose Andres Sotto was born on November 19, 1947 to Lazaro Sotto, Sr. and Romana Andres. He was the fourth of seven children and grew up in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

His passion for education was evident from an early age and he poured himself into his studies, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Wesleyan University in the Philippines. In his youth he was heavily involved in mentorship and development programs with organizations such as the YMCA, the Y’s Men’s Club, and 4H. Through 4H he participated in their exchange program, IFYE, and spent time in the United States. While in the United States, his home country of the Philippines was subjected to martial law under then President Marcos. His time abroad allowed him to regroup and prepare himself to fight the injustices of the Marcos regime upon his return to the Philippines which he proudly did until emigrating to Canada in 1974.

He made his home in Windsor, Ontario, Canada where he married Ruth Nieva in 1974 with whom he had his pride and joy, Jonathan Marl Sotto. Fatherhood did not put a pause on Jose’s thirst for education. In 1977 he received his Masters of Education from the University of Windsor and later in 1985, he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Wayne State University in Michigan with a PhD in Counseling and Special Education. During his time at Wayne State University he was a member of the internationally-awarded Men’s Glee Club and Choral Group.

He held several teaching and counseling positions in Windsor before taking on such roles as the Director of Adult Services for the Windsor Association for Community Living, Executive Director for the South Essex Community Council and Executive Director of the Third World Resource Centre.

All of this led to an opportunity in Geneva, Switzerland as the Director of the International Facilitating Committee of the Independent Sectors for UNCED ’92 (the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, or the “Earth Summit” as it was more commonly known). Upon moving back to Canada, held a position with the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board as a Judge for 10 years. During this time in Toronto he was ordained as a minister and served as part time minister here at Hillcrest Christian Church, before retiring at the end of 2002 from both positions.

Retirement to Jose wasn’t what most people think of when they hear the word. He moved back to the Philippines in 2003 where he was part of the Asian Theological Seminary (ATS) faculty, developing programs in Pastoral Counseling and related courses such as Crisis Intervention, and Child and Adolescent Counseling. He then moved into the roles of both Head of the Counseling Department and Director of the Counseling Center at ATS.

After his work with ATS was complete he remained in the Philippines and held concurrent roles as Consulting Psychologist for both the Inter-Country Adoption Board of the Philippines, and the White Cross Home for Children, Primary Training Consultant with the Philippines’ Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for their Psychologists’ Continuing Education Program, faculty member of Philippine Christian University’s
Doctoral Programs in both Philosophy and Education, as well as Head Pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines’ Cosmopolitan Church in Manila where he developed a resource book on HIV and AIDS, and created a safe place of worship, free of stigma or judgement, for persons living with HIV.

Prior to his passing, Jose was still heavily involved with the DSWD in several roles, but also took a position with the Internal Justice Mission as a consultant, developing a staff care plan and curriculum for trauma informed care and trauma informed psychotherapy within the organization and for mental health professionals throughout the Philippines. As well, he was a consultant on trauma informed care and program standards for the Consuelo Foundation, whose mission is to prevent and treat abused, neglected and exploited children, women and families.

Jose was in the southern Philippines doing work with the Consuelo Foundation when he suffered from sudden cardiac arrest on August 25th, 2016. He leaves behind his wife, Ruth, their only child, Jonathan, his siblings, Bonifacio Sr., Angelina, Edwin and Edgar, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces/nephews, godchildren, and of course so many close friends who were like family to him.

In hopes of keeping his legacy of education alive, the family is working with Philippine Christian University to house his personal collection of books within a special area of their library for all to enjoy and use. Donations to this special collection library can be made through the family. Details on this endeavor will be announced as they are finalized.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
WONDEZ ANTHONY EAST

Won dez Anthony East (March 6, 1956 – July 25, 2016)

Loving husband to Jenny and Father to Michelle, Mariah and Wondez Jr. was a faithful servant of Christ who served as a Deacon at Hillcrest Christian Church.

“Those who live in the shelter of the most high will find rest in the shadow of the almighty,
This declare of the lord, he is my refuge, safety, he is my God and I am trusting him for he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from the fatal plague.”

Written by Wondez
On September 23-25, 2016, Awit Marcelino, Grace Ingal, Richelle and Sarah Himaya spent a gorgeous weekend in Bethany Beach, Delaware to spend time with Disciples Women from the North-East Region (NIRF) of U.S. & Canada. NIRF is a sub-group of the Disciples Women’s Leadership Council where women are given the tools to become disciples Leaders. Some of the workshops that were offered were: how to deal with racism, cancer-support circles, social-media tutorials, foster care systems, mission trips and more!

The best part of the weekend was listening to diverse stories of disciples’ women such as women to women worldwide trips, personal experiences with racism and discrimination or their everyday struggles and triumphs as a Christian woman.

Did you know that Bethany Beach, Delaware was founded by a Disciples of Christ minister named F.D. Powers in 1898?

If you would like to donate to disciples’ women’s missions, know more about their work, or find other important resources, check out: https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/ disciples-women.

Love & Blessings,
Sarah Himaya
ENCOUNTER 2016
NOVA SCOTIA

Youth Group with Disciples General Minister Rev. Dr. Sharon E.

Canoe Trip ^
Whale Watching on the Atlantic Ocean >
ENounter 2016
By Grace Ingal

From August 8-14, I had the opportunity to attend Encounter and The All Canada Convention in Nova Scotia. This year, we learned a lot about how we can encounter God in different ways! It’s not just through prayer and going to church, -it’s also encountering God within ourselves.

We had the opportunity to do mission work and learn about the history and on-going issues of the Aboriginal communities in Canada. That was an eye-opener for many!

I will never forget the beautiful ferry ride over to Freeport where we scraped old paint from Freeport Baptist Church and picked fresh blueberries to give out to the elders at Summerville Christian Church and Milton Christian Church.

Thank you to everyone who supported me and encouraged me to attend Encounter 2016.
A Letter to Ontario Disciples: Dear Fellow Disciples, Convention 2016 has passed, and believe it or not, it is time to begin preparations for Convention 2018 in Guelph. Convention 2018 builds off of the momentum begun in Ridgetown & continued in Milton, and is a great way to reaffirm our commitment to growth and revitalization as a church in Canada.

There is lots to do and plenty of ways to get involved. Areas you can work on:
- Venue and dates
- Publicity
- Logistics
- Program (theme, worship, keynote speaker, educational sessions)

Here is a highly scientific test to determine if you qualify for the committee:

- You want Convention to be awesome.
- You have access to either internet or a carrier pigeon.

Meetings will be virtual, via GoToMeeting (easy download, don’t worry if you’re not techie). Virtual meetings mean you get to plan in your PJs. Score! Meeting frequency depends on how close we are to Convention time, as well as group consensus. Let’s have the Ontario churches band together to knock the Region’s socks off! Email me at kaelisweigard@gmail.com or reach out on Facebook to let me know you’re in, & include which area(s) you are interested in. Looking for-ward to planning with you, Kaeli Sweigard, Vice Moderator.

P.S. Absolute deadline to join the committee is end of Dec, but time flies & holiday brain is REAL. So, if you know you’d like to be involved, contact me sooner than later.
Hillcrest Christian Church in Toronto, ON, welcomes Justin Schwartz as an Intern for the next year. Justin is the first recipient of the College of Christian Churches’ Internship Grant program. Justin is married to Julia and they have two daughters Abigail (7) and Zoey (1). Justin was born and raised in the United States, and spent a good chunk of time in the St. Louis, Missouri area. He came to Toronto to study at the Toronto School of Theology, (currently in fourth year PhD Theology). He holds a Bachelor’s in Bible & Preaching, MDiv in Historical Theology, and MA in Modern Theology & Philosophy; and has ministered in Missouri and Illinois with Independent Christian Churches. As the new Ministerial Intern at Hillcrest, Justin is helping with an assortment of needs in the congregation, including: Planning and organizing youth & young adult activities with youth leaders; Dinner with Disciples once/month; local missions, building lines of communication within and outside of the congregation to better use resources and further the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; developing and updating the website/social media; work with the worship band for regular participation in worship & other special events. Justin says, “All of these activities are designed to help church attenders and outsiders experience God in building relationships and participating in God’s Mission inside and outside of the congregation, calling us out into the surrounding community and calling others to join us in this task.”

The Canadian Disciple, 04 November 2016 | Written by Rev. Justin Schwartz & edited by Rev. Dr. Jennifer Garbin
BAPTISMAL SUNDAY

Congratulations to D’Arcy Davidson, Ledy Loterte, Mary Danielle Delos Reyes, Lauryn A’Court, Jericho Loterte and Omari Young on getting Baptized on July 3, 2016! Welcome to the Christian World!

Ephesians 4:5
One Lord, one faith, one baptism
One of the two middle children - five siblings (three sisters and two brothers), Elaine Lyons a bred Disciple, came from a family that attended church every Sunday, unless you were ill. She felt quite at home growing up in the church as she was surrounded not only by family, but other relatives – aunts and cousins, who attended the same church. Torrington Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Jamaica was one of quite a number of Disciple churches situated in Kingston, the capital, with others in the outlying areas but concentrated in the eastern section of the island. Her mother, although fragile, who had at one time been the chairperson of the Evangelism Committee, and aunts who were in charge of auxiliary groups and siblings in positions of responsibility, Elaine had prime examples of the dedication called for in leadership roles.

Christian Women’s Fellowship, Christian Men’s Fellowship as well as the Youth Fellowship groups were each given the responsibility of planning a morning worship service on a monthly basis. As a result Youth Sunday was celebrated every month, thus cementing the fact that young people were an integral part of the life of the congregation. This has helped to cement the fact that LAITY participation is the backbone of the Church.

Elaine loved singing, and was always in a choir – whether it be primary school, high school or church. From her teenage years, she assisted the church’s Director of Music in corralling a thirty-member Junior Choir (her peers), and volunteered as the Church’s Secretary until the time of her departure to Canada. She was baptized as a teen and gave her first sermon at age 16, when as part of a young people group of seven she spoke on one of the “seven words of the cross” – “I Thirst” on the Good Friday of the same year. By the time she was bitten by the “wanderlust bug”, she was president of the Christian Youth Fellowship. Her mantra was “see the world or bust in the attempt”. She could have gone to the United States where she had relatives, but chose Canada even though she had only friends here, some with whom she grew up in the same church. It seemed as good a place as any to begin her quest. The choice has never been regretted.

My parents while not particularly interested in travelling themselves, nevertheless – my mother especially, always protected our sense of adventure and we had choices. With the promise that I
would visit as often as I could, I followed in the steps of some of my older siblings and was not discouraged from leaving the nest. If my siblings could venture as far as California, New York and Western Australia; Ontario, Canada was still closer to Jamaica.

In Canada, Elaine has worked as Marketing Assistant in the Insurance Industry for many years and until recently, as Information Assistant under the aegis of the Diplomatic Service for the Jamaican Government – in Toronto.

While I came to Canada as a “greenhorn” I was already steeped into Discipleship and its format of worshipping, with all roads leading from Indianapolis. Finding Hillcrest was not difficult because some of my friends were already there, and the rest they say, is history.

Some of “lines I live by” from childhood
Not what we want, but what we give,
Not what we learn, but how we live,
Not what we talk, but what we do,
Makes up the person known as you.
(Author Unknown)

Elaine Lyons

********

Since her arrival in Canada, Elaine has faithfully served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada in its local, Area, Regional, and General expressions. At the local level, she has held a number of positions at Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), her current congregation in Toronto, including: Member of the Board of Elders (Chairperson a number of times); Member of the Administrative Board; Superintendent – Sunday School; Chairperson – Christian Education; and Member of Stewardship Committee. She has participated in many outreach initiatives such as: planning and participating in special worship services; supporting local missions, ‘The Stop’ and ‘Nellie’s Home for Battered Women’; and organizing events to raise money and supplies for disasters. Under the auspices of St. Michael & All Angels Anglican Church, Elaine worked with the ‘Out of the Cold’ Programme. She has also served in ecumenical capacities as the Hillcrest representative to the Women’s Inter-Church Council – Toronto, where she serves as Recording Secretary, represents her congregation, and was past convener of the Word Day of Prayer for her area.

Elaine’s contributions to the Central Area have been extensive. She has served as Central Area Board representative, member of the Campgrounds Committee, and has submitted numerous articles to the Ontario newsletter. Elaine’s dedication has also been evident at both the Regional and General levels of our Church. From 1996 to 2000, Elaine served as a member of the Canadian Regional Board and Chairperson of the Staff Relations Committee. During that same time, she served as a member of the General Board and worked on both the Committee for the Historical Society and the Administrative Committee. Elaine has always taken a strong interest in the work of the Christian Women’s Fellowship (now Disciples Women) and has lent her energy, enthusiasm, and resourcefulness to this vital ministry of the Christian Church, serving as Canadian Secretary, Study Chairperson (regional level and local), and (1992-96) as President of Hillcrest’s CWF. Beginning in 1972, as Co-chairperson, Elaine helped to re-organize a defunct Young Adult Group, which helped assimilate an influx of immigrants from the West Indies and the Philippines who, together with Canadian counterparts, have formed the mosaic that Hillcrest has become noted for.

On behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada, we extend our deep gratitude for your many years of faithful service, and congratulate you on this achievement! Well done, good and faithful servant!
Jen wears many hats: Regional minister for Canada, part-time Pastor (and planter) of Sugarbush Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the mother of two grown children (Rita and Victor), wife to Gianni, and a life-long student. She has completed her Doctor of Ministry at Emmanuel College (TST), which focused on lifting the missing voice and exploring the faith practice of English-speaking Canadian Christian emerging adults who don’t actively attend public worship but are still living out their faith. She has led numerous workshops and open space forums around re-imaging what it means to be church in the 21st century, working with young adults, and mobilizing for mission. She has written a number of meditations and alternative worship services highlighting anti-racism/pro-reconciliation, mindfulness, 16 Core Competencies of Ministry, and the Lord’s Prayer.

She has been involved in all levels of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from Area and Regional Boards, to the General Board, Administrative Committee, Search Committee for GMP, and planning/education committees for the 2015 General Assembly (organized the Innovate Learning Track).

Jen hails from Maple Leaf, a tiny village in the Ottawa Valley, lived for 18 years in Toronto, and pastored in small-town Nova Scotia.

As a young adult, she fell in with the Disciples of Christ where she found a faith community that built on her deep scriptural roots, but gave new language and permission to explore God, church and spirituality in new, progressive ways. (You can read Jen’s Blogs on www.canadadisciples.org.)

Congratulations Jen from your Hillcrest Family.

GEORGE H. STEWART AWARD RECIPIENT
AUGUST 2016
ELAINE A. LYONS
**Response:**
I humbly accept and deeply appreciate the recognition given me by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada, attesting in turn, the value which has been placed on my small contribution to the life of its Church. I have paraphrased for the occasion, a poem entitled “Journey” written by Lea Salonga, which expresses my sentiments exactly, and it goes like this –

> Half the world is sleeping, half the world’s awake,
> Half can hear their hearts beat, half just hear them break.
> I am but a traveler, in most every way,
> You can ask of me, whatever you may.
> I have been to sorrow, I have been to bliss.
> Where I’ll be tomorrow, I can only guess.
> The darkest desert, over the bluest ocean,
> Through the deepest snow,
> Forward, always forward, I will always go.
> What a journey it has been, but the end is not yet in sight,
> For God’s hand is out every day, as He’s bound to guide my way,
> When He’s shining on my life.

Thank you, Hillcrest Family, for being a very vital part of my Faith Journey, and Home away from Home, for me! 

Elaine Lyons
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HILLCREST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY-SCHOOL

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016
12.30 p.m.

THERE WILL BE LOTS OF GOODIES
COOKIES, BROWNIES, MUFFINS
CASSAVA, BANANA BREAD,
CHRISTMAS CAKES, etc.

ALL THESE ARE BEING MADE
TO ADD TO YOUR ENJOYMENT OF CHRISTMAS

WE WELCOME DONATIONS
PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT
OUR FUNDRAISER!!!

Thank you for your generosity.

PROCEEDS ARE DESIGNATED FOR
THE CHURCH RESTORATION FUND
*****
“May your Christmas be joyous, peaceful, and bright,
And filled with the love of that very first night.”

Elaine Lyons,
Chairperson.
Antoine & Shirley Baudon welcome their first baby girl: Valerie-Jeanne Baudon born on October 5, 2016 @ 5:45 AM.

< Rev. Dr. Jennifer Garbin and Elaine Lyons
2nd Annual Celebration

Everybody’s Birthday
“CELEBRATE TOGETHER, GIVE TOGETHER, BUILD TOGETHER”

For the
CHURCH BUILDING FUND
Your special Christmas Birthday Gift
This year will make a difference!

Sunday, December 18, 2016
After the Morning Worship Service
Potluck in Stainton Hall

You will find the special envelope marked Christmas Birthday Gift in the pews.
Gifts will be taken during the Worship service or send it by mail to
Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
2 Vaughan Road, Toronto, Ontario M6R 1N1

For more information, please contact
The following persons in charge:
Vivienne Robinson: 416-781-6848
Virgie Himaya: 416-751-9607

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity!
Colorectal cancer
Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death for men and women combined. However, about 90% of people live five or more years if their colorectal cancer is found early. For people at average risk, current guidelines suggest starting colorectal cancer screenings at age 50. Colonoscopies should be done once every 10 years; fecal blood tests, flexible sigmoidoscopies, barium enemas or CT colon scans may be done every five years.

What you can do?
If you have an increased risk of colorectal cancer or other types of cancer, talk to your doctor about when you should start screening. Also, be aware of colorectal cancer symptoms and see your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Blood in stool
- Unexplained weight loss
- Change in bowel habits
- Narrow stool
- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Abdominal cramps or bloating

No matter your age, healthy habits can reduce your risk of colorectal cancer. Exercise and physical fitness is a good start. One study found that the most physically fit participants were 44% less likely to get colorectal cancer than the least physically fit participants. Other ways to reduce your risk of colorectal cancer include

- Eat a high-fiber, low-fat diet; limit red and processed meat
- Drink alcohol sparingly
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Don’t smoke
- Ask your doctor about taking aspirin. Research suggests aspirin may lower your risk of colorectal cancer.

Caused by growths that turn malignant, rectal cancer takes years to develop. Rectal cancer begins when precancerous growths called adenomatous polyps form in the last several inches of our colon, the lower part of our digestive system. Excluding skin cancers, cancers of the rectum and colon are the third leading cancers in the U.S.
ALONE WITH GOD IN PRAYER

Prayer
Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God.
(J Oswald Sanders view of prayer)

How to pray
Continual, persistent, incessant prayer is an essential part of Christian living and it flows out of dependence of God.

Simply talking to God as you would to a beloved friend – without pre-tense (attempt to make something that is not the case appear true) not disrespectful, shallow, or lacking in seriousness;

Prayer is based on a relationship

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” John 1:12

“For you did not receive the spirit that makes you a slave to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry “Aba, Father” Romans 8:15

“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out “Aba Father” Galatians 4:6

Why do many believers have trouble praying?

Communion with God is so vital and prayer is so effective in the fulfillment of God’s plan, the enemy attempts constantly to introduce errors in our understanding of and commitment to prayer.
How enemies attempt to introduce errors in our understanding and commitment to prayer?

- For many, function overrides fellowship with God
- Busyness takes over communication with God
- Prayer lacks a sense of awe and respect
- Prayer is designed to make demands, and claims on God
- Prayer is nothing more than a routine ritual
- For many, prayer lacks purpose and vitality (the state of being strong and active; energy)
- A man discovers the real condition of his spiritual life when he examines himself in private, when he is alone with God
- We have less to say to God when we are alone than when we are in the presence of others
- Alone with God – such an opportunity should be the Christian’s one great desire. How sad that so many believers spend brief amounts of time with Him, or don’t go to Him at all, because they have so little to say.

How to overcome difficulty of communing with God? Have our hearts set on God?

For a Christian, prayer is like breathing. You don’t have to think to breathe because the air/atmosphere exerts pressure on your lungs and forces you to breathe. That is why it is more difficult to hold your breath than it is to breathe. Similarly, when you’re born into the family of God, you enter spiritual atmosphere wherein God’s presence and grace exert pressure on your life. Prayer is the normal response to that pressure. As believers, we all have entered the divine atmosphere to breathe the air of prayer.

How do believers breathe the air of prayer?

- Believers hold their spiritual breaths thinking brief moments with God are sufficient to survive
- Believers become satisfied with physical blessings and have little desires for spiritual blessings
- Having become dependent on physical resources, there is little need for spiritual resources
- Confusion of human success with divine blessings
- Live as if God were not necessary

Frequency of prayer

Jesus habitually rose early in the morning, to commune with His Father. In the evening, He would frequently go to the Mount Olives or some other quiet spot to pray. Prayer was the spiritual air that Jesus breathed every day of His life. He practiced and unending communion between Himself and the Father. He urged his disciples to do the same (Luke 21:36) “Keep alert at all times”.

Even before the day of the Pentecost, the 120 disciples gathered and “14They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” Acts 1:14

Romans 1:9-10 New International Version (NIV)

9 God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you
10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God’s will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

Paul advise believers to: (Eph 6:18) Pray at all times >> (Col 4:2) Devote yourselves to prayer
Continual, persistent, incessant prayer is an essential part of Christian living and it flows out of dependence of God.

A way of life

What do you mean about pray without ceasing? It does not mean nonstop talking, it does not mean walking around with hands folded, heads down and eyes closed bumping with everything, talking to God in a formal and noticeable way every waking moment...

It means prayer is to be our way of life, continually in an attitude of prayer

Picture a life of a soldier/warrior – always in warfare – always wearing their weapons–always ready to encounter wounds or even death for the sake of the cause which they championed. They often sleep in their armour, so even when we sleep, we should be in an attitude of prayer, so that if perchance we wake up or not wake up, we may still be with God.

No need to be away from work or leave your place and fall upon your knees (not that it’s bad) the spirit should send up it’s silent, short, swift petitions to the throne of grace.

How to pray at all times?

- When we are tempted, we hold the temptation before God and ask for help
- When we experience something good and beautiful, we immediately thank God
- When we see evil around us, we ask God to make it right
- When we meet someone, who does not know Christ, we pray to draw that person to Himself
- When we encounter trouble, we turn to God as our Deliverer

Thus, life becomes a continually ascending prayer. All life’s thoughts, deeds and circumstances become opportunities to commune with our Heavenly Father.

Colossians 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Fellowship with God

God’s greatest desire is to be in constant fellowship with us, our greatest need is to be in constant fellowship with our Almighty Father – and there is no greater expression or experience of fellowship than prayer.

The goal of prayer is to hear God, a goal that can only be reached by patient and continued and continuous waiting upon Him, pouring our heart to Him and permitting Him to speak to us. Only by so doing we expect to know Him, and as we come to know Him better we shall spend more time in His presence and find that presence a constant and everlasting delight.
BIBLE STUDY: GRACE FOR EACH MOMENT

So God created man in his own image,
In the image of God he created him
Genesis 1:27

When it seems as if nothing in your life is working out, when loneliness takes hold of you and despondency descends upon you, it is time to remember a few spiritual facts.

You were created in the very image of God. You are a spiritual being with a rich spiritual heritage.

You do not need to be at the mercy of moods and emotions beyond your control. You have been created for spiritual greatness, and when you live in the awareness of God’s presence, you will be fulfilled.

My Savior, because of my spiritual heritage and the awareness of Your living presence, I can face life with confidence. Amen.

Did you know…?
Understanding Customs and Curiosities of the Bible

What is BENEVOLENCE:

Generosity toward others. Paul recommended generosity toward the needy: “All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do” Galatians 2:10.

Christian benevolence should be shown toward God’s servants; “I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:18-19.

Even to our enemies; “If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink” Proverbs 25:21

Submitted by Gloria Francisco
Minister Search Committee Seeking to Hire Someone Better Than Jesus

Nazareth, IL – Mt. Plain Church is seeking to hire a new senior minister after hiring and firing the previous ten within a two-and-a-half-year period. After bringing on so many preachers that didn’t meet their expectations, the church decided to form a minister search committee comprised of all thirty members so that they could find the preacher that fit all their needs. “This time, we have learned from our mistakes and are prepared. We are only going to hire the perfect candidate. And to figure out who that is, we compiled the attributes of each of the thirty committee member’s expectations at our Cahill family reunion,” Chair of the committee Wayne Cahill told us.

In jest, Kay Cahill suggested that only Jesus could lead their church, but this was immediately shot down. Janette Cahill explained: “From our list, it was apparent that Jesus would not be a good fit for us. For instance, we want church growth without change, clear biblical teaching with plain application, and someone with lots of experience. But Jesus said things like ‘you have heard … but I say,’ crowds abandoned him, he didn’t use the New Testament, he taught in parables, and he only practiced ministry for three years. The only attribute that Jesus met for us was that he worked for free.”

Mt. Plain Church is urging applicants to inquire about the position, posting: “At Mt. Plain Church, we know that God will meet us where we are and send us the perfect senior minister. Come see if it is you with our renewable two week contracts.”

By Justin Schwartz

To view more of Justin Schwartz' satires please visit:

'The Bald Prophet' webpage: https://thebaldprophetblog.wordpress.com

'The Bald Prophet’ Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/The-Bald-Prophet-228303144207618

Follow ‘The Bald Prophet’ on Twitter @bald_prophet
The church’s website (www.hillcrestdisciples.ca) has been updated. We encourage you to explore and use the website. There are many new items to be informed of and for you to take advantage of, including:

- **News**: News and announcements for the church, a link to our Facebook webpage, and the church calendar is available for viewing.
- **Who Are the Disciples of Christ?**: Information on the Disciples of Christ (What We Believe, History and Governance, Our Vision, More Information), our region, the Ontario assembly, the campgrounds, the Canadian region Facebook page, the Canadian Disciples Newsletter, and the Disciples Affirmation. We also direct you to more information on the official Disciples website.
- **About Us**: Our church’s mission statement, vision statement, and history.
- **Pictures & Videos**: See the latest pictures from church services and other events along with videos.
- **Musical Performances**: Performances by the choir and individuals from our YouTube webpage.
- **Come to Worship**: Information applicable for Sunday morning - directions to the church and parking with maps, hymn sing, a description of the worship service, fellowship, youth Sunday school, and information for guests.
- **Worship Aids**: Information for the hymnal, lectionary readings schedule, pew Bible, prayer, and the liturgical seasons and colors.
- **Get Involved**: Chancel Choir, Committees (All committees and chair persons are listed. There is a contact form), Filipino Bible Study, Prayer (The list of "Those in Need of Prayer" is updated every week), Volunteer Schedules (Lay Leaders, Deacons, and more to come), and the Youth & Young Adults.
- **The Hillcrest Harbinger**: Archives (For downloading the newest issue and old ones) & Hillcrest Harbinger Submissions (For people to submit information for the quarterly publishing of the newsletter).
- **Contact Us**: Bulletin Submissions (For submitting announcements, prayer requests, calendar highlights, or anything else).

**HERE IS HOW YOU CAN CONTACT US!**

**WEBSITE**  WWW.HILLCRESTDICIPLES.CA  
**FACEBOOK**  WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HILLCRESTCHRISTIANCHURCHDOC  
**YOUTUBE**  WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/HILLCRESTDICIPLESTO  
**TWITTER**  @HILLCRESTDTO

**SEND US A LETTER AT**

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2 VAUGHAN ROAD  
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416-654-0311
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. Robert Steffer preaching</td>
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<td>A special Remembrance Day service</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
<td>Rev. Fred Dizon preaching</td>
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<td>November 20</td>
<td>Rev. Fred Dizon preaching</td>
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<td>November 27</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. Robert Steffer preaching, first Sunday of Advent</td>
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<td>Rev. Lane Scruggs preaching</td>
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<td>Sunday School pageant</td>
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<td>December 18</td>
<td>Rev. Fred Dizon preaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve service beginning at 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>December 25</td>
<td>Rev. Fred Dizon preaching, Christmas Day</td>
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<td>December 31</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve celebration, led by the youth</td>
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As a community of faith, we celebrate our connectedness with God and with everyone whom God causes to become part of our circle. We help nurture the Tree of Life with our fellowship in worship, Christian education, prayer, and outreach. When the time comes for us to part, we remain connected through our fond memories of the time we had shared as a family of faith.

Celebrating special moments and remembering those who have made an indelible mark in our lives.

DEDICATED MAY, 15, 2011

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