

*What the world needs now
is love, sweet love...*





**Come one, come all...
It's PICNIC TIME!**

Sunday, June 11th

Immediately after our Worship Service.

There's something for everyone, so gather your family and friends, bring your lawn chair (if you have one), lather on the sunscreen and wear your picnic clothes (don't forget your hat).. and we'll see you on the 11th!

Lunch and Beverages will be provided, but there will be an opportunity to make a free-will offering should you wish to do so.

This is a RAIN or SHINE event, so either way, plan to be part of the FUN! See you there!



The Origin of



In May of 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Wash., sat in church listening to a Mother's Day sermon. She decided she wanted to designate a day for her dad , William Jackson Smart. Dodd's mother had died in childbirth, and Dodd's father, a Civil War veteran, had taken the responsibility of singlehandedly raising the newborn and his other five children.

The following year, Dodd wanted to celebrate Father's Day on June 5th, her father's birthday, and petitioned for the holiday to be recognized in her city. Needing more time to arrange the festivities, Spokane's mayor pushed the date back by two weeks, and the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910.

At the first Father's Day celebration, young women handed out red roses to their fathers during a church service, and large baskets full of roses were passed around, with attendees encouraged to pin on a rose in honor of their fathers – red for the living and white in memory of the deceased.

While Congress was quick to officially declare the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day in 1914, after it was first celebrated on May 10, 1908, it took much longer for Father's Day to be legally recognized. But thanks to Dodd's celebration, Father's Day steadily gained popularity.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge said that he supported it, in order to establish closer relationships between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations. The holiday gained more traction in 1938 when a trade organization, the National Council for the Promotion of Father's Day, which was formed by men's clothing retailers in New York City, decided to take up the cause.

President Lyndon Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers in 1966, but it wasn't until 1972 that President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it a permanent holiday. Since then, Father's Day has become a time to recognize the many different father figures in our lives.

The Only Constant is Change...

*and there's plenty of change taking place at Westminster in the
Month of June!*

Westminster joins together in saying
THANK YOU AND FAREWELL
to three AMAZING men!

GARTH EDWARDS
(Happy Retirement!)



REV. DAN YOURKEVICH
(Happy Retirement...Again!)



VIRGILIO HERRERO
(Congratulations on your New Job!)



Ramadan

Islam is one of the 3 main monotheistic religions which include Judaism, Christianity and Islam. On **May 27th** of this year, Muslims begin their celebration of Ramadan, a celebration that is timed to the lunar calendar and lasts between 29 and 30 days. Muslims believe that the Quran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad on "The Night of Decree", during Ramadan and it is considered to be the holiest night of the year. Indeed, Islamic beliefs hold that all holy scripture - the Tablets of Ibrahim, the Torah, the Psalms, the Gospel and the Quran - were sent down during Ramadan.



Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, self improvement, self discipline, increased devotion and charity. During Ramadan, Muslims strictly observe four of the **Five Pillars of Islam**:

Faith - Belief in Allah (God) as the one and only true God, most benevolent and most supreme. The prophets of Judaism and Christianity (including Jesus) are held to be prophets in Islam. Muslims regard the Old Testament as true. Mohammad is believed to be Allah's last and final prophet.

Fast - From dawn to dusk, each day of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from consuming food, drink, smoking, etc. The fast-breaking (after sundown) evening meals are usually quite modest. On the final day (Eid-al-Fitr), most fast-breaking meals are celebrated as banquet festivals, as a time of fellowship, family, friends and surrounding communities.

Charity - Although a fixed percentage donation is already a fundamental tenet of Islam, during Ramadan extra generous, voluntary donations are common.

Prayer – Muslims' much-disciplined regime of five daily prayers is augmented during Ramadan with special nightly prayers. Every night of Ramadan, these special prayers are held in mosques, where sections of the Quran are recited. The entire Quran is therefore completed by the end of the month.

Ramadan comes to a conclusion 29 – 30 days after it began, with Eid-al-Fitr. This year it will fall on June 24th or 25th. On that morning, Muslims don their finest clothes and begin their day in giving charity followed by a special prayer at the mosque. Families and friends gather for a feast of their favourite foods and desserts, they celebrate family and friends, their love and friendship, followed by the exchange of gifts with one another. It is a time of much joy and happiness.

Common greetings during Ramadan are "Ramadan Mubarak" or "Ramadan Kareem", which wish the recipient a blessed or generous Ramadan. For the final day, Eid-al-Fitr, an appropriate and welcomed greeting to them from us would be "Eid Mubarak".

For more information on Ramadan, the internet and libraries offer excellent resources on these very interesting subjects. Our thanks to Saudi E. Mohammed for his help in putting this short essay together.

Parish Mosaic Committee

P.S.

In case you've been paying attention, the missing **5th Pillar of Islam** is a "Once during the lifetime" pilgrimage to Mecca.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER...



**Calling All United Church
Youth and Young Adults**

**It's time once again for
Rendez-vous!**

Every three years, Youth, Young Adults and Youth Leaders from across Canada come together for this National United Church gathering... *You won't want to miss it!*

This is an opportunity to come together and worship, dream, and connect with one another. This event will provide a showcase for local, regional, and national ministry ideas, speakers, and musicians. Participants will take part in inspired and powerful worship, listen to engaging and relevant speakers, participate in workshops and exposure trips, and create community with peers from across this country.

When:

August 16 to 19, 2017.

Where:

Rendez-vous 2017 will be held at the Concordia University, conveniently located in Montreal. Participants will be staying on campus for the plenaries, workshops, social activities, meals and accommodations. If selected, optional group exposure trips will be conducted at local sites.

Who:

For youth (entering grade 9 to 12 in September), young adults (ages 18 to 30), and their leaders.

Cost:

\$360 (final deadline is June 30, 2017)

Home Groups:

Home Groups are communities of 5 to 12 participants that will build relationships, share ideas, and provide structure and accountability. They are mandatory for youth under 18, and optional for young adults and leaders. A group from, for example, one congregation or youth group can ask to form a Home Group of their own.

For More Information:

Visit: www.uccrendezvous.ca

Contact: Cathy Shaw, 905-723-6442 or cshaw@westminster-uc.ca

Music notes



The Sanctuary Choir is winding down after a busy and fulfilling year. Once again, we'll be celebrating with an ice cream social prepared by Bonnie Beer, Lynn Majoros and Maureen Dingman after our last rehearsal.

Members of the congregation are asked to speak to Margaret if they are interested in offering a vocal solo or other musical talent during a summer service. SALT lead the "spirit filled" music on Pentecost Sunday, June 4. Heather VonZuben has invited Junior Choir parents to join with their children for an intergenerational choir on Picnic Sunday, June 11.

The choir honours Gord Wallis as he retires from the loft after 55 years of sharing his warm tenor voice with our congregation. Each Thursday and Sunday, we will miss him in the back row. We know well his upbeat good nature, his teasing, his sarcastic humour, his incredible commitment, and his love of sharing his faith through music.

Hopefully, he will promise not to make faces from his seat in the congregation beside Shirley nor to be too harsh a critic. With deepest appreciation, Gord.

Your Choir Friends.

A Tree Grows in ... Whitby!

Shirley and Gord Wallis have been contributors to our church gardens for years. This year, in celebration of Gord's 85th birthday (oops, is the exact number supposed to be a secret?) Shirley and Gord have donated a tree to our church property. With the help of their daughter, Ella, (aka The Little Garden Troll) we selected an Ironwood and it is planted in the northeast island of the parking lot. The ironwood tree, or American hophornbeam as it is also known, is a tree prized for its wood (sometimes used in longbows), and its buds and catkins are a food source for birds like the Ruffed Grouse. The tree averages 25-40 feet tall and is a tough understory variety with beautiful birch-like leaves, grayish-brown flaky bark, fine-textured drooping branches and attractive hop-like fruits. Our thanks to Shirley and Gord for this welcomed addition to our Westminster gardens. Oh and happy birthday, Gord!

Prayer is Powerful!

If you feel called to join the Prayer Team, we would love to see you on the first Tuesday of the Month from 11:00am-12:00pm in the Founder's Room. No special skills are required, just a desire to help others.

If you do not wish to join the Prayer Team, but find yourself in need of prayer, there are many ways to get your request to our team... you can write your prayers down during Sunday morning worship, you can contact Cathy by phone or email or you can bring your prayers to us in person. You and your requests will be held in confidence and lifted up in daily prayer

If you would like more information, please contact Cathy Shaw at cshaw@westminster-uc.ca or 905-723-6442





Wonderful experiences continue to develop with Sut Khan Thang, our refugee gentleman.

- On May 15th Sut moved to his own address near Durham College.
- The committee was able to furnish his room through quality donations from the five churches involved.
- Columbus United Church has joined the Committee adding more volunteers for our ongoing mission.
- A doctor and a dentist have also been found for Sut.
- Sut is continuing to receive rides from volunteer drivers, but he is also studying the Durham Region Transit schedule and bus numbers which will soon allow for greater independence.
- Sut's enthusiasm for learning English will continue with classes in Ajax during the summer as the Whitby school closes for the summer.
- Durham Old Timers Soccer League has welcomed Sut and has even covered membership and clothing expenses on his behalf. The league has been thanked for their generous support.

Starting in August, Sut will be ready to join the workforce and is eager to help support himself. If you are aware of any opportunities, the committee would be most receptive to learning of possibilities.

It is also important to recognize that we continue to move forward with our efforts to sponsor a family coming to our community. To date a total of \$29,000.00 has been raised with a portion of that directed to support Sut. To generate required funds, your committee is selling discount golf books for many area golf courses. If you are a golfer or know someone who is a golfer, this is a good deal and a great gift for yourself and your friends! Copies are available from Joanne MacPherson who can be reached at jmmacpherson@rogers.com.

God Bless



Wine, Women and the Word

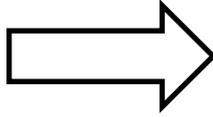
The next meeting of this monthly Bible Study will be on

Tuesday, June 20th, from 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Topic:

"The A.B.C.'s of the Bible"

MANY THANKS
to all who helped with the



Vacation Bible Supply WISH LIST for J*A*M*B*O*R*E*E* - 2017



- Empty paper towel rolls
- Lots and lots of sugar cubes (we are building igloos)
- Dollar store dinosaur eggs
- Spare yarn (for pompoms)
- Lots and lots of coloured feathers (Dollarama)
- Liquid clear or white glue
- A roll of clean newsprint
- Canada Day décor – small flags/streamers
- Pinwheels
- Decorated tissue paper
- White tissue paper
- Glue sticks
- Stickers
- Round coloured stones with a flat side (Dollar store)
- Used plastic lids from cottage cheese/ margarine/yogourt containers
- Perler beads
- Pony beads – various colours
- Wooden beads – various colours
- Glitter pipe cleaners – various colours
- Paper plates - both small and large
- Round jingle bells (Dollar store)
- Curling ribbon - various colours (Dollar store)

Thank you for your kind donation.

Please leave your donated items in a bag marked VBS, in the office.

Please forward any questions or concerns to Crystal (905-725-0074) or Susan (905-493-3122)

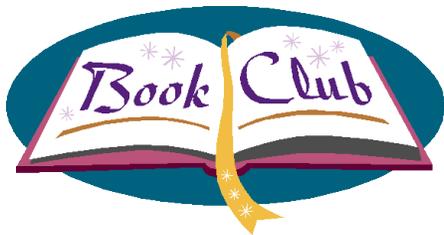
Yard Works:

Three years ago, we initiated the Westminster Weed Whackers, a group from this congregation who volunteer their time and talents to handle the grass cutting around the church. This group has a great time and its work saves the congregation about \$3,000.

This year the Property Committee would like to re-institute the Westminster Weed Whackers. As part of the committee budget for 2016, the church Council authorized the purchase of a ride-on lawn mower and our John Deere unit has made the job much easier. In addition, we have two push gas mowers. All the equipment necessary for cutting the grass is stored on-site for use by the volunteers. Donations of some garden tools would be welcomed.

We would like to form 5-6 teams of about 4-5 people. So, if you are an alumnus of the WWW, please consider reactivating your membership. If you would like to join a team, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Narthex table or contact Bob Neil.

Please consider contributing your time and talents. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Neil at: robertneil@rogers.com



Wow – What a selection of titles to choose from! Among the movie, classic and general titles, we had 48 books suggested and we still had tied selections that we had to break. 😊

The books we will be reading and discussing at Westminster UC from 1:00pm to 3:00pm on the 4th Wednesday of every second month for the next year are as follows:

Wednesday September 27, 2017

Discussion of movie and book -
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly.

Wednesday November 22, 2017

They Left Us Everything by Plum Johnson.

Wednesday January 24, 2018

Roughing It In the Bush by Susanna Moodie

Wednesday March 28, 2018

Medicine Walk by Richard Wagamese

Wednesday May 23, 2018

Prisoner of Tehran: A Memoir by Marina Nemat
(and voting on our selections for 2018 and 2019).

***All are welcome to come for one or two or all discussions.
Looking forward to the year ahead with great reading and discussions.
For more information, please contact Susan @ 905-493-3122.***

April 2017 Financial Status

	2017 Year To Date Actual	April 30, 2017 Actual	2016 Year To Date Actual
Monthly Offerings (Local & Bldg. Funds)	\$83,830	\$24,986	\$89,280
Total Revenue (Excluding Loblaws and M & S)	\$141,670	\$47,643	\$147,585
Total Expenses (Excluding Loblaws and M & S)	\$147,200	\$35,400	\$148,030
Net Position (Excluding Loblaws and M & S)	-\$5,530	\$12,243	-\$445
Available Cash & Bank Balance (as of 4/30/2017)		\$29,000	

As we have presented in past financial updates, the Mission & Service and Loblaws figures are not included as both of these are, for the most part, pass-through items. Additionally, this update does not include the Myrtle funds (\$105,000) to ensure that the month-to-month finances are not skewed.

Westminster's expenses continue to be well managed. However, offerings continue to show a decline of about 6% compared to the same period in 2016. Westminster Council and Stewardship ask you to consider your offerings and what you might be able to do to assist with reversing this trend, for example: consider increasing your weekly or monthly offerings, transition to PAR monthly payments.



Summer J.a.M. is a scaled down version of our regular J.a.M Program that runs from Sept.-June.

This program is non-rotational and will be offered every Sunday from **June 18 to August 27** (excluding July 2 and August 6) for children **ages 4-10** (JK - Grade 5).

As this summer program may involve outdoor activities, it is recommended that your child(ren) wear casual, comfortable clothing to church (please no flip-flops or sandals...they are unsafe for running).

Please note that Summer J.a.M does not include programming for our older Just Jammin' class or for our Nursery class, although the Nursery will be open every Sunday for children to use with their caregivers.

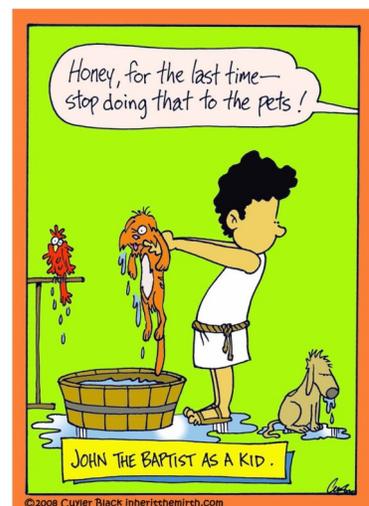
*If you have any questions or concerns regarding our Summer program, please contact:
Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation (cshaw@westminster-uc.ca or 905-723-6442)*

Canadian EH?

TRIVIA NIGHT

The Communication Committee would like to **thank** everyone who contributed to the resounding success of our first annual **TRIVIA NIGHT – Canadian EH?** and **congratulate** the raffle winners: J.Artymko, S.Baker, M.Miller, M.Dingman, J.Sanderson, H.Shaw, B.Crumb, A.Artymko, S.Casletain, D.Chapman, T.Morrow.

If you missed out on this year's amazing FUNdraiser, brush up on your trivia knowledge and join us next year!



***With Summer almost upon us,
please don't forget about Westminster while you are away...
...our doors are always open, because God doesn't take a vacation!***



How is your stewardship **PARTicipation?**

NEWS FROM THE PEWS...

Did you know...

...that we often have fine music at Westminster, directed most often by our organist and choir director Margaret Motum. At times we have guests and choir members doing special things. This last month, we have enjoyed two duets: one by Jennifer Tilk and Joan Ward and the other by Katie Bonikowsky and Heather von Zuben. Many thanks!

...that we must not forget our Children's Choir under Heather von Zuben's direction, singing on Mother's Day. Each child had a special line to sing. Hurrah for them!

...that we welcomed Jack Thomas Timothy Campbell into our church family through the act of Baptism. Jack is the son of Julia and Richard, the brother of Molly and the grandson of Joanne Laforty. Julia grew up in Westminster and we are glad to have them living in Whitby and choosing Westminster as their church home.

...that congratulations are due to the Shaw family as Janelle, daughter of Cathy, and sister of Jordan, was ordained into the United Church of Canada on May 28, 2017. Our blessings are with all of you as you commemorate the special day when Janelle became "Reverend Shaw".

...that the garden crew (our Westminster Weed Whackers) are back at it, cutting grass, trimming, tidying, planting, etc. Look at our grounds and give thanks.

...that the Rhody family's puppy has arrived? She is a Labradoodle and is called Molly.

...that Crystal Smith took a nasty fall this spring, ending up with a fractured elbow. We have her in our hearts and prayers as she recovers. We are grateful to Kaireen Adamson, who has graciously agreed to temporarily oversee the Nursery.

...that Wellness recently hosted a luncheon and workshop on Dementia. This well attended event featured guest speakers from the Alzheimer Society of Durham who were very informative. They may also have inspired a new Small Group – a *Brain Café!* Stay tuned.

...that the Wallis family has planted a lovely tree in the front garden of the parking lot to celebrate Gord's 85th birthday. Thank you for sharing the celebration of this milestone with Westminster.

...that your committee/sub-committee/group can use the electronic sign to promote your event. Simply fill out the posting form [WUC Form 026](#) and drop it off in the church office well in advance of the event.

...that our Church Administrator will be retiring on June 23rd? We wish Garth and his wife Bonnie all the best in their new home and their laid-back life in The County (Picton). On June 18th, help us thank Garth for all he has done to keep Westminster humming for the last six years.

...that Rev. Dan's last service at Westminster will be on Sunday, June 25th? Join us as we celebrate his ministry with us and wish him well on the next leg of his journey.

...that Virgilio, our friendly, welcoming, always smiling Custodian has been hired full time by General Motors? We wish him well, but will miss his positive attitude and love of life.

You're invited...

Living Alone Lunch 12:00pm	Wednesday, June 7
Worship Service 10:30am Year-End J.a.M Celebration and Church Picnic	Sunday, June 11
Worship Service - Baptism 10:30am Father's Day Retirement Celebration for Garth Edwards Summer J.a.M begins (until August 27)	Sunday, June 18
Wine, Women and the Word Bible Study 7:00pm – 9:00pm	Tuesday, June 20
Worship Service 10:30am Rev. Dan's last supply service at Westminster	Sunday, June 25
Worship Service 10:30am Led by Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation	Sunday, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and August 6
Blood Donor Clinic 4:00pm - 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 4
Vacation Bible School (VBS) 9:00am - 4:00pm	Monday, July 10 - Friday, July 14
Welcome Sunday 10:30am	Sunday, September 10

