

# SSUC NEWS



Sydenham Street United Church Newsletter

Advent 2011



## *Advent & Christmas at Sydenham Street!*

*Prior to worship throughout Advent, Barb Carr will play the harp and  
Meikle Turner will play the Irish whistle.*

**Sunday, November 27, 10:30 A.M.**

***Advent 1 ~ HOPE***

**Sacrament of Communion**

*All are welcome at Christ's table regardless of  
age or church experience*

**Sunday, December 4 10:30 A.M.**

***Advent 2 ~ PEACE***

**Sunday, December 11, 10:30 A.M.**

***Advent 3 ~ JOY***

MGOS presents "If then, why not now? If there,  
why not here?"

**Sunday, December 18, 10:30 A.M.**

***Advent 4 ~ LOVE***

SSUC Choir will present Lessons & Carols

**4:00 P.M. in the Chapel**

***Blue Christmas***

For those stressed by the season or coping with  
loss and grief

**Christmas Eve**

**7:00 P.M.**

***Family Carol Service***

MGOS presents "If then, why not now? If there,  
why not here?"

**11:00 PM**

***Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion***

*All are welcome at Christ's table regardless of  
age or church experience*

**December 25, 10:30 A.M.**

**Christmas Day**

Shared Christmas Morning Worship at Chalmers  
United Church

**January 1, 10:30 A.M.**

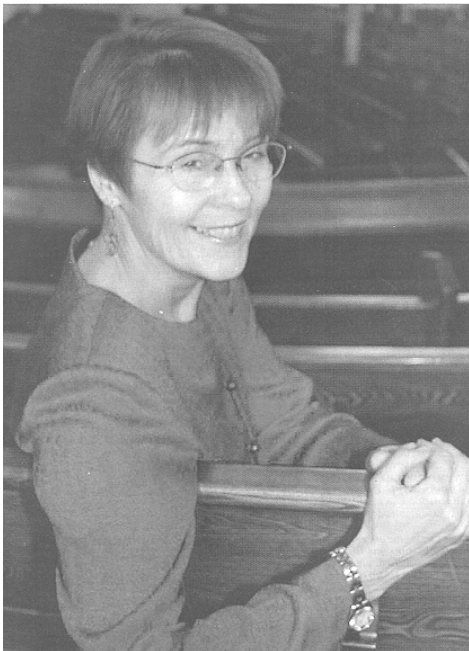
**New Year's Day**

Shared New Year's Morning Worship at Syden-  
ham Street United Church

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## A Message From Our Minister



*Dear Friends*

The Season of Advent as we experience it in the Northern Hemisphere not only launches us into a new church year, it invites us to become more mindful of our own experience and perspective of Darkness and Light.

In the daily and seasonal rhythms of the natural world, darkness and light are engaged in a continuous cosmic dance that benefits all of Creation. As evening comes darkness falls and we fall asleep so that our bodies can be renewed and our spirits revived so that in the morning light we rise strengthened and energized for the new day. The cold, dark earth provides shelter for seed and bulb, and provides food for hibernating creatures until warm spring light causes new life to break forth. Too much of either darkness or light can be harmful. But in the right balance, even as that balance shifts at various times in the year, darkness and light enable life to flourish.

And so in this Advent season we welcome the dark and the light, often by lighting candles. The challenge with candles is that when we let them burn, they are consumed and eventually need to be replaced. It is true that candles that are never lit last a lot longer. But unlit candles aren't useful. Better to be consumed by letting light dance than to let the darkness become all-consuming. Especially when the Light of God's Love is involved – the light that began to shine in and through the baby born to Mary nearly 2,000 years ago, the light that seeks to shine in and through us today.

At the invitation of Many Gifts One Spirit, Expressive Artist Gary Diggins is coming to Sydenham Street December 2-4 to show us and engage us in new, transformative ways of exploring this seasonal dance of Light and Darkness. Gary will be facilitating an intergenerational workshop for church and wider community folk on Friday and Saturday nights and participating in Sunday Worship. I hope you will seriously consider taking part and that you will invite friends and family to come with you.

There are many other exciting Advent services coming up – the Choir's Lessons & Carols Service, the MGOS "If it happened then, why not now? If it happened there, why not here?" Christmas Eve Family Service, the Blue Christmas Service, shared worship with our Chalmers neighbours and friends on Christmas and New Year's Day. Advent/Christmas 2011 offers much to experience, much to share.

And I offer this Iona-inspired blessing as you move through Advent 2011 and beyond:

*May the deep, dark power of God protect you and keep your strong.  
May the bright, bold light of God lead you and make you confident and sure.  
May the grace-filled, joy-filled Dance of Dark & Light heal you and bless you in the Dance of Life.*

*Elizabeth*



## Memorial Poinsettias

Once again we extend an invitation to the congregation to participate in our Memorial Poinsettia Program by donating \$10.00 for the purchase of Poinsettias which will be used to beautify the sanctuary. On December 19, volunteers will deliver these to our members who are no longer able to join us regularly at Sunday worship. A list of the "In Memoriam" names will be published in the bulletin on December 11 & 18.

If you would like to place a poinsettia in memory of someone, please use one of the Poinsettia envelopes on the desk outside the church office or enclose \$10 in an envelope and on the front indicate:

***Placed by:***

***In memory of:***

These requests should be in the Church office by Sunday, December 4.

Thank you for helping to make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

## Report of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee

By Jim Leake, Chair

Recently the Kingston Community Roundtable on Poverty Reduction released its report on a Living Wage for Kingston in 2011. The Roundtable's working group determined that a couple, with two children, needed a before-tax income of slightly over \$65,500. That translates into both working parents needing to earn \$16.29 per hour. This would provide 'decent minimal living' with a few comforts (monthly dinner and a movie) but really no frills.

Just today the Community Foundation sent along its report on the Kingston and area entitled 'Vital Signs'. There I read that one in ten Kingston families lives in poverty and food bank use continues to increase. We are a long way from a living wage when we read that the working poor make up 13% of the food bank users.

We are often told the solution to such problems lies in 'thinking globally and acting locally'. But here at SSUC I think we do better than that; we think and act both locally and globally.

Globally, SSUC members are strong supporters of the United Church's Mission and Service fund. Our target this year is \$48,000 and now is the time to top-up your 2011 contribution so we can meet or surpass that target.

Locally, let me list what you have accomplished through you Social Justice and Outreach Committee over the last month or so. You have:

- Provided a \$400 grant to St. Vincent de Paul so

they could rebuild their hospitality centre and food-bank warehouse so they could better distribute the food they receive.

- Contributed a thank offering of \$1659.38 plus food for the Partners in Mission Food Bank
- Contributed \$750 as an ongoing sustaining grant to Helen Tufts Tutorial Friendship Program
- Continued to provide food vouchers for 30 or so clients each Tuesday
- Helped a food voucher client obtain a new denture thereby enabling her to qualify for employment
- Begun to collect food and money for 50 of the Salvation Army's Christmas Baskets
- Offered \$500 for the Holiday Lunch at Frontenac Public School
- Contributed, by your support of the Harvest Food Fair, about \$1500 as a special contribution to the Helen Tufts Tutorial Friendship Program and a further \$1500 for the Benevolent Fund that pays for the food voucher program
- Heard from Dianne Dowling at the October 16<sup>th</sup> service on the topic of local and international food security;

I feel we should congratulate ourselves and celebrate these accomplishments. Let's keep up the good work, there is much yet to do.



## Small Group Ministry

By Jane Mallory

This year Sue Doerksen and Joan Scaglione have joined Jane Mallory in co-ordinating Small Group Ministry. Both women bring their energy and enthusiasm to this activity.

We have enthusiastic participation in eight activities, some members have enjoyed these activities before but we also have people joining for the first time. There are more than eighty participants in this ministry.

The SSUC website shows pictures and text about our activities, courtesy of Sue Doerksen, who has also produced an attractive printed handout about our small groups. This information may be distributed with bulletins or enclosed with other church literature.

We are always open to considering new group activities.



Cantabile's candle lit holiday celebration "Mother and Child", takes place on December 16 & 17. This concert has become a treasured seasonal tradition as audiences thrill to the sounds of almost 300 voices performing carols and holiday favourites old and new. For information call 613 542 9616 ex 24. Cantabile ticket prices \$25/\$23 (65+ & under 30)/\$15 (child) Tickets can be purchased by emailing [www.cantabilechoirs.net](mailto:www.cantabilechoirs.net)



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 Distribution date:  
 Nov. 27/11

## Star Gifts for Sydenham Street United

Help take Sydenham Street United to the STARS as we move toward 2012. The new liturgical year starts November 27<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday in Advent, and during this special season of giving, you are invited to consider a special "Star Gift" to SSUC, over and above your regular givings.

For each "Star Gift" to SSUC, a star will be hung from the balcony, so that by the time we reach Christmas Eve the sanctuary will be ablaze with gift stars. These "Star Gifts" will help us end the 2011 year in better financial shape, and will launch us into a bright New Year.

Examples of why you may choose to give a star might include:

- In appreciation of what SSUC means to you;
- In celebration of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc;
- Out of your own gratitude for life;
- In memory of a loved one;
- As a Christmas gift in the name of someone in your circle of family or friends.

You will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount of your gift.

Star Gift forms are available from outside the church office and at the back of the sanctuary. Fill one out, enclose your gift of \$10, \$100, \$1,000 or whatever amount you feel able to give, and place it in the collection plate or drop it off in the office.

When a star is hung in the sanctuary, the name of the donor and the person or event remembered (but not the amount donated) will be posted in the Sunday bulletins during Advent. If you prefer not to have your name acknowledged, please indicate that on the form. If you wish the church to send a notification of this gift to someone else, please provide all of the details. Use the reverse side of the "Star Gift" form if necessary to provide this information.



## Christmas Baskets

### *Food Donation Schedule*

November 13	Jell-O or pudding, canned vegetables (corn, peas), instant coffee
November 20	hot chocolate, tea, juice
November 27	boxed stuffing, canned fruit, cookies
December 4	cranberry sauce, candy, cherry cake or fruitcake
December 11	items we are short of

#### ***Packing & Delivery Day - Wednesday, December 21, beginning at 10 AM***

Your financial donations are appreciated as well to help pay for the many perishable items which are put in each food hamper. If you receive your newsletter by mail, an envelope has been included for that purpose. For those people receiving their newsletter by email, Christmas Basket envelopes will be included with the bulletin on Sunday Nov. 21 and will also be available on the desk outside of the church office, or put your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Baskets and include your name, address & givings envelope # if applicable.

You are also able to make a donation online by going to [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) and Sydenham Street will be credited with the amount.

Any of the above food items are welcome anytime.

***“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.”***

(Matthew 25: 35...40)

## CHRISTMAS BASKET NEWS

The Outreach Committee is once again organizing a campaign to collect non-perishable food items and grocery money to fill Christmas Baskets for a festive Christmas dinner for needy families in our community. You will also have the opportunity to deliver a basket on Wednesday, December 21 beginning at 10:30 AM.

Please give generously—either grocery money, in the envelope enclosed with your newsletter, or grocery items as listed.

***Please be generous.  
Your support is needed!***

Many volunteers are required for this outreach project to be successful. A volunteer sign-up sheet is included in this newsletter. Pick what you would like to do and join in this worthwhile effort. If you need more information contact Margaret Meyer 613-545-3135 [meyer@kos.net](mailto:meyer@kos.net) or Barb Landon 613-548-4267 [blandon1@cogeco.ca](mailto:blandon1@cogeco.ca)



### **ADVENT PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**Prior to worship throughout Advent,**

**Barb Carr will play the harp**

**Meikle Turner will play the Irish whistle**



For a few years, Meikle Turner and Barb Carr have been providing music on the Irish "penny" whistle and harp before the services on the four Sundays of Advent. This year they'd like to invite any instrumentalists in the congregation to join them. The music selections will be decided a week ahead of time, so that you can practice. You do not need to commit to play with them on every Sunday during Advent, but they do need to have a firm commitment in advance for each Sunday that you would be prepared to play. If you are interested in participating, please contact Meikle or Barb by e-mail or by telephone so that they can coordinate the programme and have a plan of action for each Sunday. Barb Carr : Tel 613- 544-4081 <barbecarr@hotmail.com > Meikle Turner: Tel 613-542-7744 <meikle\_irish@yahoo.com >.



## Property Committee Report

*By Kenn Doerksen, Chair*

This past summer, I assumed the reins of the Property Committee, taking over from Tony Clark who had been Chair of Property for a very long time. Tony was a true stalwart, who treated the church building as if it was his own, treasured home. We spent several afternoons together as Tony showed me the many aspects of the building, and it was clear to me how much he loved it. I know that Sydenham Street United Church owes Tony a huge debt of thanks for his many years of dedication and faithful stewardship. I thank him personally for his patience and assistance as I slowly learn the job.

One of my early tasks has been the establishment of a budget for 2012. With the cost of most things going up, and with the age of our building leading to many repairs and renovations, it became apparent to me that we need to focus on keeping our costs as low as possible.

To that end, we have entered into an agreement with Hearthmakers, Kingston Hydro, and the Ontario government under the Save on Energy program, which will result in replacing all our fluorescent bulbs (220) and lights in our exit signs with more efficient ones. This work, one third subsidized by the Ontario SaveOnEnergy program, should result in hydro savings of \$1,200 per year, which will pay for itself in just under 4 years. And, since the current fluorescent bulbs in our church will no longer be available by the end of 2012, their replacement is inevitable.

A second initiative is to complete the task started by Tony

of changing over all the bulbs in the sanctuary from incandescent to compact fluorescent. This will increase the amount of light in the sanctuary, while reducing the electricity required by nearly 60% (going from 100 and 150 watt bulbs to 43 and 32 watt bulbs).

Following discussions with Don Mitchell, we have decided to reduce our dependence on contracted snow removal, the cost of which has jumped dramatically in recent years. We will still continue to have contracted services for the parking lot and for the entrances prior to Saturday evening events and Sunday services when required. For routine snow clearing during the week, we will purchase a mid-size snow blower and use staff plus volunteers to assist in keeping our church clear of the white stuff.

A recent architectural study of the outside of our heritage building has indicated a need for ongoing masonry work and repairs to some of the window frames and other woodwork higher up on the church spire and walls. This work should ideally be done within the next year, and is estimated to cost approximately \$40,000. The Finance and Property Committees will be discussing with the Trustees how best to deal with this issue.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the great work being done by the Thursday Fixers, a small group of 7 who undertake a variety of smaller (and sometimes bigger) tasks around the church on a weekly basis. Their efforts are instrumental in making our church building a safer and better place. If anyone at SSUC sees a situation which might need repairs, please place a note on the Fixers' bulletin board in the lower hall or leave a note with the office.



**The Communications & Electronics Vimy Band**



## A Christmas Concert

**Sunday, December 11, 7:30 PM**

**Sydenham Street United Church**





Many Gifts One Spirit presents

## Darkness & Light: a seasonal journey.

Explore music and poetry in a joyful, transformative, community experience, in tune with December's unique mix of Darkness & Light.

For adults & children age 9 - 99.

\* Experiment \* Play \* Listen \* Respond \* Create \*

A workshop with Gary Diggins,  
Soundwork Practitioner.

Sydenham Street United Church  
(Sydenham St. at William St., Kingston)

Friday, Dec. 2nd 7 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 3rd 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4th 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

(optional participation in a Sunday church service)

Workshop Fee: \$40 (Adults) \$25 (Children)

Information & registration:

Marie Anderson [m.annendale@gmail.com](mailto:m.annendale@gmail.com)

Gary Diggins is a musician who has maintained a private practice in soundwork and counseling for decades.

[www.garydiggins.com](http://www.garydiggins.com) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pZXlcfwSSk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pZXlcfwSSk)

# Darkness & Light: a Seasonal Journey

A workshop with Gary Diggins

## Registration Form

Sydenham Street United Church (Sydenham St. at William St., Kingston)

Friday, Dec. 2nd 7 - 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3rd 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4th 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (optional participation in a Sunday church service)

Workshop Fee: \$40 (adult) \$25 (child)

Information: Marie Anderson [m.annendale@gmail.com](mailto:m.annendale@gmail.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child (\$25)      Adult (\$40)

Please mail a cheque made out to Sydenham Street United Church to:

MQOS,  
Sydenham Street United Church,  
82 Sydenham Street,  
Kingston, ON  
K7L 3H4

Do you have any food restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_