

**STEWARDSHIP: TIMES AND TALENTS OF THE CHURCH** - March 7, 2010

*details on regular programs and contact info - on back page*

Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>

**Newcomers to Newtonbrook** - today we invite you to meet in the Fellowship Room, after Worship, for coffee and muffins. It's a time to get to know others both new and old at Newtonbrook, to share questions and information.

- **The Taiwanese congregation**, today only, will be having their service earlier than usual - at 12:30 p.m. Please make sure that the sanctuary space is available at that time and that you leave quietly after coffee.

- **Greening Our Faith Communities** at Eastminster United Church, 12:45-7 p.m. Registration \$20, or \$30 with vegan meal.

Tuesday, March 16 - **Newtonbrook Men**. Fellowship at 6:00 pm; Dinner at 6:30 pm. Speaker will be Officer E J Brooker - Toronto Police Services - Fraud Officer - 52 Division. She has been in this Division since 1988. Prior to this assignment, she was an officer in various divisions for more than 14 years. Her topic is "Fraud Scams" and her main purpose is to educate people in these evolving and rapidly progressing schemes. Even if you have attended a meeting on this topic before, it is important to receive current information. Tickets \$15.00. The ladies of the congregation are invited to join us around 7:30 pm to hear the speaker. Coffee and tea will be provided.

HOLY WEEK AT NEWTONBROOK this year will include an ancient Christian ritual - a vigil. As you may know, vigils are a traditional way of preparation for a significant religious event. In this case, we are preparing for Good Friday. Our prayer vigil will be held from the end of the Maundy Thursday service on April 1st, to the beginning of the Good Friday worship on April 2nd. We are asking the people of Newtonbrook United to devote one hour to praying in the sanctuary during that night. You can sign up for an hour at coffee time today, or on the sheet that is posted opposite the church office.

SOME CHRISTIANS OBSERVE LENT by fasting or giving up something to remind them of Christ's sacrifice. In her Lenten message, Moderator Mardi Tindal invites you to consider a carbon fast for Lent. We at Newtonbrook have copies of the KAIROS carbon fast calendar available on the table beside the door to the Fellowship Room. You can access Mardi's full video message at: <http://www.united-church.ca/communications/news/moderator/100217>

NEW SCHEDULES starting in April will be available next week. They will follow the same pattern as the current schedule ending Mar 28, i.e. if you are on coffee or ushering team #6 or on counting team #2 you will be on duty on April 4. If you would like to be on a coffee team see Alice Thompson or on an ushering team see Phyllis Wilson.

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL - A great opportunity to save paper and some postage. Fifty seven people have signed up for this option. Unfortunately the sign up list doesn't give us your name.

It would be appreciated when you sign up if you could confirm additionally to the church at [newtonbrookunitedchurch@bellnet.ca](mailto:newtonbrookunitedchurch@bellnet.ca) so that we do not duplicate by delivering or mailing a printed copy.

HEART AND VISION - Celebration of Canada's Commitment to Social Justice on Monday April 12, 1010 at 7 p.m. at Metropolitan United Church. Tickets \$150 - charitable receipt will be issued for part of the ticket price - contact Jennifer Wilson, Toronto United Church Council, 905-771-5124x31. Award recipients: Cathy Crowe, Rev. David MacDonald.

THE YOUTH GROUP at Thornhill United Church meets on the first and third SUNDAY of each month. All youth from Newtonbrook are welcome. You may contact Rev. Ruth Noble at 905-889-2131 for additional information. There is also a poster of their events that is on the bulletin board outside the church office.

COMMUNITY FORUM - A summary of last Sunday's discussion is available in the Narthex.

MEMBERSHIP AT NUC - If you are seeking membership in the congregation please contact Rev. Allan Baker

WHY DO WE PASS THE PEACE? Originally, this liturgical act was a holy kiss given as a sign of reverence to God. In the early church, Christians shared a ritual kiss between one another as a sign that God, in the form of the Holy Spirit, dwelled within each and every person. This was a very radical introduction as kissing in most ancient Mediterranean churches was related to family. Kissing one another in church was a way of saying we are brothers and sisters. Over the centuries the kiss died out until being revived in the Church of South India in 1950. Since then most Western churches have reintroduced a sign of peace - though not a kiss. At any given service, there are some who do not come to church feeling peaceful; sharing a sign of peace is a concrete way of saying that Christ's peace is a gift of the church and something we can share with everyone. Our prayer is that those who come into worship without peace will indeed leave with peace.

HELP AFRICAN GRANDMOTHERS AND ENJOY A NIGHT OF HUMOUR on Sunday April 25 - 7:30 p.m. There will be a special benefit performance of Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* at the Toronto Centre for the Arts Studio Theatre, 5040 Yonge St. This is a fundraising project of Toronto Grandmothers' Embrace. Have fun and help turn the tide of AIDS in Africa. Tickets: \$35. Buy on-line at [www.TgeTheatreTix.com](http://www.TgeTheatreTix.com) or contact Susan Emery at Church.

CANTABILE CHORALE - the Rose of Calvary, a Lenten Cantata by Joseph Martin. Thornhill United Church, Elgin St at Dudley Ave, Thornhill on Good Friday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE - UCC through *Acting Churches Together* is already helping with a initial donation of \$100,000. You may donate through your NUC envelope. See [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca) or the staff bulletin board for more detail. Donations to Haiti Relief at \$1.5 million as of Feb 27 and still arriving, show people have confidence in the United Church of Canada.

THE DROP-INN needs men's socks (black if possible), ladies underwear (medium), men's jeans 28" and 30" waist.

**REGULAR PROGRAMS - call office for info 416-222-5417**

**Conversational English:** a chance to practise English conversation with volunteers during coffee hour after church. For more info. contact Alice Thompson or Susan Babaris

**Seniors Club** - every Monday at 1:00 p.m. for bridge, euchre.

**ESL Classes** are on Monday and Wednesdays: Basic - 9:30-11:30.

Intermediate 1-3 p.m. - call 416-395-9794 and leave your name. Please call TDSB - 416-338-4300 for other info. .

**Art Group** Tuesdays at 9:00-11:30. New members are welcome.  
See Peter Journeaux.

**Drop-Inn** for the homeless and hungry- Every Wednesday, 8-2.

**Early Years Play Group**, Every Thursday, 9:30 -11:30 a.m. for children 0-6 years with their parents or caregivers. Open all year.

**Quilting Group**, Thursdays, 9 a.m. until noon in the Fellowship Room. New members are welcome.

**Toronto Grandmothers Embrace** meets usually on the second Thursday of the month. This group supports the work of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Call Janice Coles, for more information.

**Yoga** - each Wednesday - 9:30 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.; 7:30p.m.

**Amnesty International** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. For info call Dorothy McElhinny.

**Green Team** - 2nd Sunday of each month at 9 a.m. See Janet Love.