

Terrace Times NEWSLETTER

Rio Terrace Moravian Community Church
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Web Site: www.rioterracemoravianchurch.ca
Pastor: Rev. Carol J. Vogler
Coordinator /Music Ministry: Karen Banks
Musician: Daniel Kapetanov
Administrator: Donna Bell

CHURCH BOARD:

Chair – Mike Kachkar
Vice Chair – Roger Delbaere
Past Chair – Jim Greenough
Treasurer – Craig Banks

Maintenance – Eric Papsdorf
Membership – Marguerite Webb
Outreach – Laurie Ward
SAGE – Judy Welch

Secretary – vacant
Social – vacant
Worship/Music – Laurie Reid
Environment – Rod Barnes

January 2009

Happy New Year and Epiphany greetings! Before we turn our hearts and minds fully to 2009, let's just take a minute to celebrate all the amazing work, and the spirit of joy that intensifies here at RTC throughout the month of December. 2008 doesn't quite feel complete without thanking *you*, the RT congregation, for making the Advent and Christmas experience simply spectacular. From the bake sale, craft night and candle trimming the first Sunday in Advent to picking up the last weathered luminaria on Boxing Day, *together* we have demonstrated the best of Christian community and faith in action!

There are so many people to thank that I am hesitant to name individuals. Certainly the focused energy of specific people was key to the success of some of our projects (Laurie Ward: bake sale; Aleda Paterson: Christmas hampers; Karen Banks: Music). But these folks join me in saying that each of these projects was a success because of the generosity and energy of the whole congregation. Thus, *together* we far surpassed monies raised in the past for World Vision at our bake sale. *Together* we filled 36 generous food hampers along with gifts for 90+ children! *Together* we decorated the sanctuary and foyer, cleaned the building and offered hospitality to the choirs and folk from the 6 Moravian churches in the Edmonton area for a memorable night of music. *Together* we donated, packed and delivered Christmas baking to our friends who are hospitalized or who needed an extra expression of love this past Christmas. *Together* we donated, gathered and delivered hundreds of pairs of socks to folk in Edmonton's inner city. *Together* we created beautiful and meaningful Christmas Eve worship experiences for nearly 500 people, at four different services, and generated lots of excitement over this year's 4:30 children's lovefeast. *Together* we raised \$6761.06 through our Christmas Eve special offering to help the people in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo. And all of this was accomplished with the generosity of spirit that so characterizes this church – folks "making it happen" *together!*



The images of all of us working *together* these past weeks will soon be posted on the RTC website and will be part of the annual meeting in early February. But I will carry these images in my heart with joy well into 2009!

This past Sunday we chose our watchwords for the year during worship. The following verse from Paul's letter to the Romans was chosen for us as a congregation. The passage is perfect for us, offering a good summary of our year and a call for us as people of faith to continue to see good in everything we do and everything that occurs in our lives:

"For we know that all things work together for good for those who love God..." (Romans 8:28).

May 2009 be a year of growing *together* and working *together* as a congregation in faith and in love.

Blessed be!
Pastor Carol

Coffee and conversation based on "Living the Questions"

Sundays 9:30-10:15 AM
Jan 11- Feb.22



*"Wisdom is asking the questions
for which there are no answers."
– Harrell Beck*

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic. *Living the Questions* seeks to create this safe environment for exploring the questions of faith.

Living the Questions is a progressive alternative for spiritual formation, offered as a DVD series, which seeks to move beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many churches and individuals seem to be stuck.

We'll gather in the meeting room downstairs at 9:30 AM where we'll watch a 20 min. DVD segment including progressive Christian voices such as Marcus Borg, Bishop John Shelby Spong and others. A brief discussion will follow. The first 7 week session explores the following topics: An Invitation to Journey; Taking the Bible Seriously; Thinking Theologically; Stories of Creation; Lives of Jesus; A Passion for Christ: Paul; Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians.

The time has been chosen to accommodate the 10:00 Am choir rehearsal. Feel free to come to any one or all of the 7 week sessions.

A "Made in Alberta" Potluck Sunday, February 1, 6:00 p.m. At RTC



At his presentation on Peak Oil last year, Dr. Don Spady mentioned the degree to which our food production and distribution systems entail vast distances and heavy use of fossil fuels. So what would happen if we had to rely on locally produced food?

To highlight some of the issues involved with consuming local foods, we are having a potluck where dishes will all be made up of ingredients produced in Alberta. Well, those preparing food might have to fudge a little (so to speak) but please don't stay home because you were unable to be completely successful in finding the right recipe or all-Alberta foods.

We'd love to see you anyway, and we'd like to hear about your experiences in your quest for locally-produced foods. And please relax; we hope this will be an interesting experience, not a stressful one!

The speaker for the evening will be Jessie Radies, owner of the Blue Pear Restaurant, and she will talk for about twenty minutes touching on topics such as building a local economy and a local food system, the differences between the choices we make as responsible citizens and as consumers, and what we can do to support our local economy. We recognize Sunday evening comes before Monday morning, so we are keeping the program brief.

Jessie is a stimulating and thought-provoking speaker and we anticipate an enjoyable and informative evening. Please come.

-- from the Environment Committee

NEWS FROM THE MISSION AND OUTREACH

CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL OFFERING



The 'Spirit of Christmas' is truly alive and well and living right here at RTC!

The incredible amount of \$6,761.06 was collected for UNICEF (the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)

This generous outpouring of love will contribute greatly to UNICEF's emergency relief efforts in war-torn regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

May these gifts and our prayers for peace help to provide hope for these desperate and displaced people – so very many of whom are children.

PLEASE MARK YOUR NEW 2009 CALENDARS!!

The LAST Sunday of EACH month is designated as FOOD BANK SUNDAY. The food bank items will be collected on that one Sunday each month ONLY for delivery to the Food Bank that same day, via our local Fire Dept

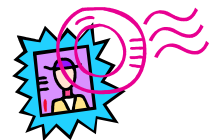
CHILDREN'S CHURCH REMINDER ...

the children will continue to collect the following throughout the year,,,

STAMPS FOR BIBLES
for the Canadian Bible Society

and

ALUMINUM PULL TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS
for the Alberta Spinal Cord Injury Society



In February, several board portfolios will be vacant as several current board members will have completed their two year term. If anyone wishes to sit on the board, please talk to Pastor Carol or Mike Kachkar.



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<h1>JANUARY 2009</h1>						
				1	2	3
4 Worship 10:30 am	5	6	7	8 Choir 7 pm	9	10
11 Worship 10:30 am LTQ session #1	12 Spiritual Surprises 1:15- 3:00 pm	13	14	15 Choir 7 pm	16	17
18 Worship 10:30 am LTQ session #2	19 Spiritual Surprises 1:15- 3:00 pm	20 Board Meeting 7 pm	21	22 Choir 7 pm	23	24
25 Worship 10:30 am LTQ session #3 Food Bank	26 Spiritual Surprises 1:15- 3:00 pm	27	28	29 Choir 7 pm	30	31

January Birthdays

Please remember to give hugs and best wishes for a wonderful year to come to all of our friends and church family members who will be celebrating their birthdays in January.

Greg Smith
Karen Smith
Karen Banks

Jim Hutcheon
Edyth Florence
Dylan Poyser

John Underhill
Atsuko Hill
Gay Young

Bev Hemsing

