

# NORTHERN WATERS PRESBYTERY

## NEWS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

“Our willingness to wait reveals the value we place on what we’re waiting for...” Charles Stanley

Tick. Tick. Tick. The sound of the clock can drive you crazy if the wait feels like an eternity. Thank you for your patience in receiving the newsletter. We strive to do our best but sometimes we are delayed. It is our hope that the information you find in these many pages are helpful to you.

She lives her life with great hope in her heart. A life that was filled with much darkness turned into transformational light almost two decades ago. She remembers that day very well. Some troublesome things were happening in her life. She couldn’t afford the rent and an eviction notice would be in hand in a matter of time. Her hydro was about to get cut off. She was unhappy in her two part-time jobs that offered minimum wage. She was raising two children on her own. The level of stress she was under was getting to an unmanageable point and the darkness began to envelop her.

But there was one night, about 11 o’clock, when she sat alone in her room. The kids were asleep and she was feeling overwhelmed by what was inevitable. The anxiety rose within her and she was at her end. She cried out “how am I going to get out of this.” She sat within the chaotic and heavy darkness for about an hour before there was a shift in the energy in the room. She heard a voice call out, “are you ready yet.” Even without much church experience, she knew who it was and what this moment meant. It was that night that she gave her life to God and said yes. It was the night that changed her for eternity.

Her story is a waiting story. We can wait impatiently in traffic – for the “longest red light ever” to turn green. We can wait with angst for medical test results. We can wait with joy for the birth of a child or grandchild. But there is something incredibly moving in the knowledge that no matter what we do, who we become, where we go, or even when we are wrestling with our faith, the God who never abandons us waits for us.

As we strive to be our best this Advent and Christmas season, let us be the something that someone else is waiting for. Maybe it’s in being a comforting friend, a stranger who shares a meal, a neighbour who shovels the driveway, or even the family member who makes amends. Some of our deepest longings can become realities if we are willing to listen to the Spirit, our heart, and to the call of Jesus to love one another as ourselves. Just don’t wait any longer. May we treasure the time we have on this earth and extend ourselves beyond our comfort zones, so that we can help our neighbours and live out our call.

*We are not alone. Thanks be to God.*

### Next Presbytery Meeting

April 1, 2017 from 10:00 to 4:00 at St. John’s United in Alliston

### Website Under Construction

Toronto Conference has launched a new website. You can see it at:

<https://torontoconference.ca/>

As we move toward its completion, we are likely to experience some transition difficulties, mostly with updating content. We ask for your patience as we make the switch. The information for events and meetings will be updated as quickly as possible. Northern Waters members can link directly to <https://torontoconference.ca/northern-waters-presbytery/>

### Gifts with a Vision Challenge

Giving Tuesday is coming up on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Our Moderator has challenged the church to give a Gift with Vision as part of Giving Tuesday.

Will you take part?

<https://www.giftswithvision.ca/projects>

### What are you doing?

The Program Commission is compiling a list of social justice and outreach initiatives that congregations in Northern Waters Presbytery is doing. Please take a few moments to send in your list. We want to share the news and celebrate the amazing things our congregations are doing. Lists can be forwarded to Patti at

[tottenhamrichhill@gmail.com](mailto:tottenhamrichhill@gmail.com)

or Janet at [janet-jones@sympatico.ca](mailto:janet-jones@sympatico.ca)

### About the Newsletter

If you have any items that you would like to have circulated in future editions, please submit any news to [nwpnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nwpnewsletter@gmail.com) to be included.

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

*How good and pleasant it is  
when God's people live  
together in unity!  
Psalm 133:1*

### Christmas Gift Ideas

Looking for curriculum?  
Devotions? Some theological  
reading? There you'll find  
books, cards, resources, and so  
much more.

Get in touch with Muriel  
at ***Faith Books Plus***,  
located in Owen Sound.  
[muriell@centralwestside.ca](mailto:muriell@centralwestside.ca)

Consider giving the gift of  
camp to a loved one. As we  
look at the first falling of the  
snow, let's think about ***Camp  
Simpresca***. Summer,  
swimming, canoeing,  
kayaking, ropes courses, crafts,  
food, and friendships. If  
you're interested in  
pre-paying for a camper,  
please contact Janet at  
[janet-jones@sympatico.ca](mailto:janet-jones@sympatico.ca)

**Saturday, November 26:** Community Women's Circle Christmas Craft Shoppe & Bake Sale from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Caledon East United Church, 6046 Old Church Road, Caledon East. Our vendors will be selling hand knitted items, jewellery, hiking guide of Caledon or Halton, homemade Ontario honey, pickles and jams. Choose a fresh greenery arrangement, and don't miss our famous Bake Table. Come early! Great place to start your Christmas shopping! Enjoy a hearty lunch in our friendly Café. This is a Community Fundraising Event with proceeds going to local charities. For more information contact Pat, 905-584-2815 or Helga at the Church office 905-584-9974.

**Saturday, November 26:** Wasaga Beach United Church invites you to our Candy Cane Dreams & Chocolate Kisses Tea, Bake and Craft Sale from 11:00 to 2:00 (380 Zoo Park Road., Wasaga Beach). The lunch is delicious, the baking is amazing and the crafts are delightful! Lunch tickets: \$8.00 Contact 705-429-9429 or [wasagaunited@rogers.com](mailto:wasagaunited@rogers.com) for more information

**Sunday, November 27:** Westminster United Church in Orangeville would like you to join us as we celebrate the rededication of our newly renovated Sanctuary Space on Sunday, November 27 - 10:30 am Service

**Saturday, December 3:** Westminster United Church in Orangeville would like you to Join us at our Open House celebrating our sanctuary renovations from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

**Saturday, December 3:** High Country United Church in Camilla invites you to join us for Messy Church from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Our time together begins with a potluck dinner followed by games, crafts, and stories. Please RSVP where possible: [highcountryunited@auracom.com](mailto:highcountryunited@auracom.com)

**Friday, December 9:** Kids' Advent Craft and Movie Night at Countryside United Church in Thornton from 6:00-9:00pm. This event is open to ages 4-12. Drop your kids off and go finish your Christmas shopping. A fun night of Christmas crafts, movies and popcorn. RSVP to [countrysideunited@bell.net](mailto:countrysideunited@bell.net). No fee but a monetary/food bank donation is appreciated.

**December 9-10:** A Walk Through Bethlehem – a living outdoor nativity – Portrayal of the Christmas Story Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30pm in Walter's Falls United Church Shed. Refreshments to follow. Good will offering and/or donation to the Food Bank would be appreciated.

**Sunday, December 18:** A Christmas Concert presented by Caledon East United Church Choir at 2:00pm. Programme includes a carol sing. Admission is free although donations to the Santa Fund are appreciated. Reception follows. For info call 905-584-9974.

**Ongoing:** Open Mic Night – Do you have a talent you would like to share? Join us on the first Friday of each month at 7:00pm at Wasaga Beach United Church. Any type of talent is welcome. Contact Bruce at 705-429-4573 for info.

## **PRESBYTERY NEWS**

### **Upcoming meeting dates for Presbytery Commissions**

- Regional Youth – Nov 27 from 4-7 at High Country UC in Camilla
- Congregational Life Commission – Nov 29 from 10:30-4 at the NWP Office
- Governance Commission – Dec 01 from 10-2 at the NWP Office
- Executive and Agenda Planning – Dec 06 from 10-2 at the NWP Office
- Executive and Agenda Planning – Jan 03 from 10-2 at the NWP Office
- Governance Commission – Jan 05 from 10-2 at the NWP Office
- Program Commission and Faith Formation – Jan 11 via Conference Call

### **UCW Presbyterial**

- The dates for the next three meetings of Northern Waters Presbyterial are March 8, 2017 and April 19, 2017. Locations to be determined. Contact Eleanor Firth if you wish to host a meeting.
- BC Conference UCW hosts the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering from July 10-14. For details and registration: <http://www.united-church.ca/events/celebrating-spirit-united-church-women-ucw-55th-anniversary-gathering>

### **Open Hands United Missions – Youth Mission Trip to Nicaragua**

We have our team! Offering Envelopes, Donation Cards and speakers are available if you'd like to participate in the fundraising. You can keep posted on some of the details at <http://highcountryunited.weebly.com/youth-mission-nicaragua.html>

### **Regional Youth Group**

Sunday, November 27 from 4-7pm at High Country in Camilla ~ Outreach Project: Breakfast Bags for Ronald McDonald House. \*\*This meeting is open to those in grades 4 and up\*\* Dinner will be provided as well as games and stories. Dress for the weather in case we have an opportunity to get outside. We seek donations of apple sauce, cereal bars, gift cards (McDonalds, Tim Hortons, etc.), juice boxes and other snacks that will help keep families fueled while they're on the run. Where possible, please ensure items are nut-free.

### **Youth Leaders Support Network**

Annual Christmas Dinner scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Alliston. Please get in touch with Janet if you're attending via [janet-jones@sympatico.ca](mailto:janet-jones@sympatico.ca)  
Next meeting: January 9<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Centennial in Rosemont from 6:00 to 8:00pm

### **Winter Youth Wave Event**

Youth in grades 7 and up are encouraged to come to Teen Ranch in Orangeville from February 3-5<sup>th</sup> for our next event "For Such a Time as This". Registration and information is online. Registration due January 5<sup>th</sup>. Register here: <https://torontoconference.ca/2016/11/nw-presbytery-time-wave-youth-event-february-2017/>

### **Confirmation Retreat**

Registration is opening soon! We'll gather at Muskoka Woods beginning at 7:00 pm at March 24<sup>th</sup> and ending at 1:00 pm on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Visit the presbytery website soon for more information. (*Congregations send their youth to enhance existing confirmation programs and others send youth as this as the only confirmation program offered.*)

### **Remit Meeting**

Next remit discussion is scheduled for Sunday, November 27 from 1:30 to 3:30pm at First United Church in Owen Sound

### **What is a remit?**

A remit is an opportunity for pastoral charges and presbyteries to vote on major decisions that have the potential to change the way the church works. Remits are authorized by the General Council when they meet every three years.

The pastoral charge remits are:

- #1 - Three Council Model
- #2 - Elimination of Transfer and Settlement
- #3 - Office of Vocation
- #4 - Funding a New Model
- #6 - One Order of Ministry

Remember that if your Governing Body does not participate in voting, it is counted as a vote against the remit. Please vote. If you're looking for resources or support, see <http://gc42.ca/remits> or contact the Presbytery Office.

### **Candidate for Ministry**

Janet says "I'm excited to share that I'll be ordained in May. Thanks to all for your support and prayers through the years.

My success is attributed to the many that surround me and their willingness to let their light shine."

## CONFERENCE NEWS

### Toronto Conference Executive Highlights

Check here for the latest information:

<https://torontoconference.ca/toronto-conference-executive/>

### The President's Blog

Toronto Conference President Audrey Brown has begun a weekly blog. You can read Audrey's musings here: <http://tconfpresident.blogspot.ca/>

### Toronto Conference Narrated Website Navigation

A narrated video that introduces the new Toronto Conference website navigation. You can find the video here: <https://youtu.be/XHkgO--iUtQ>

### Seoul Exchange

Visit this link to read about their travels and to see photos of their experiences. Thanks to all who put their name forward. We look forward to hearing about your experience soon. <https://torontoconference.ca/seoul-exchange/>

### The Explorer Program

Interested in ministry as a vocation? The Explorer Program is open to those aged 19-25 who wishes to have an experience of ministry. You will be hosted by a United Church congregation in B.C., Saskatchewan, Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario, or Newfoundland and Labrador; mentored by a United Church minister or other designated person in the local congregation where you are hosted; given opportunities to use the gifts that they have to work in the congregation with the minister; provided with accommodation by the host congregation and a \$1,500 honorarium/month. But hurry! The application deadline is November 27<sup>th</sup>.

[Application form](#)  
[Project Description](#)

### Nominations: Toronto Conference President-Elect

At the 2017 Toronto Conference Annual Meeting, we will elect a President-Elect to serve our Conference for four years\*, one year as President-Elect, two years as President and one year as Past-President. This is an opportunity for you, or someone you know, to serve the wider church within Toronto Conference.

*\*depending on the results of the remits about the future shape of the church*

I invite you to discern whether you, or someone else, might have the gifts and the time to serve in this capacity in the Conference. You may wish to speak with the current President, Rev. Audrey Brown or myself as you discern your call to this ministry.

If you are interested in serving, I invite you to indicate your interest through the application process (see page 3-10 in the Executive Policy Governance Handbook - <https://torontoconference.ca/toronto-conference-executive/>). There will be an opportunity to meet with members of the Conference Nominations Committee to discuss your interest.

The election of President-Elect will take place at the Conference annual meeting, and duties will begin at the rise of Conference. At that time, all of the candidates will have a chance to speak to the Court. There will be no proxy speakers for candidates who are not in attendance.

To find out all the details, please follow the link at: volunteer opportunities - <https://torontoconference.ca/jobs/>

Expressions of interest for these positions will be received until April 3, 2017. Sincerely, Bryan Ransom, Toronto Conference Past-President (Chair, Nominations Committee)

### Mission and Service Enthusiasts Needed!

Mission & Service Enthusiasts ensure that the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada is a part of the life of their congregation by

- o falling in love with God's mission and the United Church response through Mission & Service
- o working with other leaders in the congregation on a lively Mission & Service giving program
- o inspiring, asking, and enabling every person in the congregation to make a meaningful annual gift for Mission & Service and thanking them for doing so

Cheryl Curtis from the general Council office writes: Please encourage pastoral charges to identify a Mission & Service Enthusiast to inspire, ask, and thank people in their community of faith to making giving for Mission & Service a regular part of their life of faith. We send a welcome package to all new Enthusiasts. For more information you can contact Cheryl via [ccurtis@united-church.ca](mailto:ccurtis@united-church.ca)



## CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

### Questions About Support

From time to time, in the presbytery office, we hear that a pastoral charge, governing body (board, council), minister, M&P committee, or even an individual member of a United Church was not aware of support that would have been helpful in a particular circumstance. Sometimes all the support that is needed is to be pointed to a place in The Manual, a resource document, or a form; other times the support required is greater as it may relate to personnel, staff, or conflict. There is an abundance of resources available through General Council, Toronto Conference, and Northern Waters Presbytery. Sometimes finding the right means of support is a challenge. If you are in need of support you are encouraged to contact your Conference Program Minister (CPrM) who will provide or ensure you get the support you seek.

### M&P Annual Assessments

Annual Assessments for all ministry personnel (except those in first year of their pastoral relationship) in Toronto Conference are due October 31, 2016. Here is a link to the instructions and documents needed for the Annual Assessment. Look for “Tools for Annual Assessment and Goal Setting” <https://torontoconference.ca/tools-ministry-personnel/complete-an-annual-assessment-of-ministry-personnel/>. If M&P committee chairpersons have any questions, please do not hesitate to call your Conference Personnel Minister: Todd McDonald, [tmcdonald@united-church.ca](mailto:tmcdonald@united-church.ca) 1 800-446-4729, ext. 6235.

### Sabbaticals

New Funding for Sabbaticals – Toronto Conference has established a new fund that will support financially the pastoral charge and the minister who is on sabbatical. <https://torontoconference.ca/resources/sabbatical-funding-grant-application-rtf/>.

### Occasional Sunday Supply

Northern Waters has a list of ministry personnel and lay leaders willing to offer occasional pulpit supply to our communities of faith. To get a copy of the list, please contact the Presbytery Administrative Assistant, Louise Hewson, at 1-800-446-4729 ext 6240, or by email at [lhewson@united-church.ca](mailto:lhewson@united-church.ca)

### Salt and Light

Are you looking for curriculum and devotions for groups that relate to stewardship? Full services (sermons included) and curriculum/programs for Sunday Schools, adults, UCW and more are already done for you. Step up to the plate and offer them with ease. Visit <http://www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca/> for abundant resources. There’s something for everyone there.

### Speakers Available for Sunday Supply - Mission & Service

The purpose of this Speakers Roster is to raise awareness about the many aspects of ministry and mission supported by Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada. For more information about the speakers and their contact information: [https://torontoconference.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/TC\\_resources\\_stewardship\\_ms\\_speakers\\_2017.pdf](https://torontoconference.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/TC_resources_stewardship_ms_speakers_2017.pdf)

### Godly Play Core Training

A commuter core training will be offered in the Toronto area over the course of three sessions – Saturdays: January 28, February 25 and March 25 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Location: Islington United Church in Etobicoke. Click here for information and registration: <http://godlyplay.ca/calendar-items/commuter-core-training-toronto/> Godly Play can be used as a Sunday School/Faith Formation curriculum. It works for all ages from child to senior. It can be used in different ways: a different approach to sharing scripture, Children’s Time, sermons, Bible Study and so much more. If you’re interested in learning more without attending a Core Training, please contact Kerrie Perry at [kperry@united-church.ca](mailto:kperry@united-church.ca)

## IN OTHER NEWS...

### **Rendez-Vous 2017**

Northern Waters Presbytery is organizing a pilgrimage to Rendez-Vous from August 13-20. This national youth event gathers about 500 others from around the country. The event will be held in Montreal. Stay tuned for more information. <http://www.uccrendezvous.ca/>

### **Five Oaks**

Visit their website for up-to-date information: <http://fiveoaks.on.ca/>

Current project: Project Friendship – Support the mission that is Five Oaks by spending a week in the Friendship House for only \$500.

### **Interfaith & Faith - Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Dear Interfaith Colleagues in the GTA: Faith in Canada 150 is a growing, multi-faith movement of organizations that is connecting and convening thousands of local leaders and organizations as Canada celebrates its 150th birthday in 2017. You can get involved. We exist to help resource your work. Because of your interfaith work in the GTA and beyond, we would like to invite you to get acquainted with our initiatives and join us at no charge by signing up at the Faith in Canada 150 website. more information or to get connected, please call our Faith Alliance Coordinator in Hamilton, Stephen Lazarus at 905-528-8866 ext. 138 or go to <http://www.faithincanada150.ca/initiatives/faithalliance>.

### **Applications Now Open for Great Lakes Project Funding**

Ontario is supporting the work of community groups across the province to protect the Great Lakes and the rivers and streams that flow into them. Applications for the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund are now open to organizations working to protect, restore and enhance the Great Lakes and surrounding water systems. Not-for-profit organizations, schools, First Nations and Métis communities and other local groups are encouraged to apply by December 1, 2016. Successful projects must have a direct environmental benefit to the Great Lakes. For information:

[https://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2016/10/ontario-protecting-water-quality-wetlands-and-beaches.html?utm\\_source=ondemand&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=o](https://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2016/10/ontario-protecting-water-quality-wetlands-and-beaches.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=o)

[https://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2016/10/ontario-protecting-water-quality-wetlands-and-beaches.html?utm\\_source=ondemand&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=o](https://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2016/10/ontario-protecting-water-quality-wetlands-and-beaches.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=o)

### **Celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Did you know... The Government of Canada has grant money available for those who wish to create opportunities for Canadians to participate in local, regional, and national celebrations that contribute to building a sense of pride and attachment to Canada. Applications for funding up to \$50,000.00 is still available. You can get an information packet from a Canadian Heritage program officer. The Ontario Heritage Program Officer can be reached via [PCH.Ontario-ontario.PCH@canada.ca](mailto:PCH.Ontario-ontario.PCH@canada.ca). The themes for events need to reflect Reconciliation, Youth, Caring for the Environment and Diversity/Inclusion.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

**Holy Currencies for Congregational Vitality** is a new opportunity for congregational teams or individuals to work with Eric Law over a year (January—June, 2017) to learn about and experiment with the six holy currencies, which need to flow in order for congregations to meet and maintain their missional potential.

[http://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/coned/Continuing\\_Education\\_Events.htm](http://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/coned/Continuing_Education_Events.htm)

**Resilience in Ministry with Morar Murray-Hayes** is a workshop offered at Maple Grove United Church in Oakville on January 30 and 31, 2017 with a follow-up Webinar on March 28. Morar will help participants explore how principles from complexity science and other systems theories can be helpful in navigating long term ministry.

[http://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/coned/Continuing\\_Education\\_Events.htm](http://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/coned/Continuing_Education_Events.htm)

## **LINKS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN**

Toronto Conference

<https://www.torontoconference.ca/>

Right Relations

<https://torontoconference.ca/conference/toronto-conference-right-relations>

Emmanuel College Con Ed

[http://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/coned/Continuing\\_Education\\_Events.htm](http://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/coned/Continuing_Education_Events.htm)

Living Waters Presbytery

<https://torontoconference.ca/living-waters-presbytery/>

Toronto Southeast Presbytery

<https://torontoconference.ca/toronto-southeast-presbytery/>

South West Presbytery

<https://torontoconference.ca/south-west-presbytery/>

Northern Waters Youth Network

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthernWatersYouth/>

Northern Waters Regional Youth

<https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Waters-Regional-Youth-Ministry-535794603167628/>

Northern Waters Young Adults

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/794370993968727/>



**Niagara Youth Festival**



**Seoul Exchange**