

Notes from Your Church Council

Since our June report to you, we are happy to provide a brief update on activities over the summer and Church Council's plans for this church year.

1. **Project 20/20.** The report of the planning team has been widely circulated and is available from our website. Church Council supports a series of information sessions and dialogues with the congregation this fall and in the spring 2009. It is hoped that you will want to attend some or all of the sessions to help share, refine and prioritize for implementation the key recommendations from the report. A general Project 20/20 session was offered on September 16. The first in depth session will focus on Congregational Development and is being planned for late November. Other sessions will focus on Faith Formation, Worship & Music, Pastoral Care, and Mission & Social Justice. The overarching theme is "Passing the Faith" in all we do – being open to welcoming new people into our faith community, and knowing in doing so, we too will be open to change. There are many opportunities to serve and be involved – we welcome your participation.
 2. **Elders.** Steve Tower is our new Chair of Elders, he has a vision to 'restore the aura' of Elders as recommended by the Elders' Visioning Task Group chaired by Joan Hunter. Our thanks to all who participated with sharing ideas for the Elders' group. We look forward to hearing more from Steve and our Elders.
 3. **Social Justice/Outreach Committee.** After several years of amazing service, Julie Smith is resigning as Chairperson of the Helping Hands Committee effective January 1, 2009. Should you or someone you know, be interested in this very meaningful and rewarding role please speak to Julie, Brad Weaver or me.
 4. **GO Project.** In June Church Council approved the 2009 GO Project and Michael Shewburg's leadership to provide a longer planning window for this wonderful ministry. Information about the 2009 GO Project will be going out to United Churches across Canada by Thanksgiving. *(continued overleaf)*
 5. **Sunday School Visioning.** Ian McPherson and several other volunteers are discussing ways to make our Sunday School the best in Etobicoke. Ian's presentation to Council was well received. We have a full slate of teachers and leaders this year, engaging programs at both services, plans for refurbishing the Sunday School rooms, and ideas for reaching out into the community.
 6. **New photocopier and refinished doors.** Our thanks to Carole Bennett who negotiated more features and no more costs with a new photocopier lease. Our thanks as well to Bob Shirer and the Facilities Committee who found an excellent quote to refinish the church doors before the snow comes – congratulations, the doors look great. Both projects were approved by Executive Council over the summer.
 7. **Budget 2009.** The Loaves & Fishes team, under the leadership of Debbie Stephens, is hard at work to help us balance our budget this year and plan for next year. We will be changing our fiscal year end from December 31 to June 30 so we can do budget planning in the springtime instead of around the busy Christmas season. As we celebrate our many programs and services, please keep the church's financial realities in mind and prayer.
 8. **Website Working Group.** The web-working group began placing the audio of our services on the web site. All of our services from this summer are now available for downloading.
- Should you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to speak with any member of Church Council, Brad Weaver as Vice Chair, or me as Chair. Our next full Church Council meeting is Nov 10, and an Executive Council meeting will be held on October 14. We welcome your comments, suggestions and mostly importantly your participation in the life of our church. We are richly blessed and blessed abundantly.
- With thanks and in Christian service,
Elsa van Vliet

