



SUMMER NEWS from Islington United Church

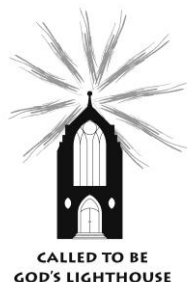
May 2011

Our Mission Statement

To be an open, friendly and caring church
where people of all ages are invited
to discover, explore and develop
their spirituality in Christ's name.

As summer approaches our 2010|2011 program and fiscal year is coming to a close. And this has been another exciting year of shared ministry together. Remember some of these highlights?

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| July 2010 | Vibrant summer worship at one service every Sunday
GO Project in Toronto, Vancouver and Halifax: Islington's mission project for youth from across Canada | December | Advent services in our beautifully decorated Sanctuary
White Bag Sunday in support of our food programs and YWS
Special Christmas Eve services |
| August | Vacation Bible Camp for church and community children | January 2011 | Work begins to introduce solar power to Islington United
Homework Club is revitalized at IUC for the Mabelle Community |
| September | Kickoff to the full range of 2010 2011 ministries and programs
Inspiring worship services at two services every Sunday
Full program of ministries, groups and events starting up
Launch of "Church 101" for new friends and not-so-new members
A new program, "Lectionary Reflection" began
"Faith Family Gathering" for young families began
Four new Scouting groups come to IUC
A new season of Lunch & Learn events | February | Marriage Preparation course
Annual Pancake Supper and Service of Ashes
Lenten study group, "Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back"
Music at Islington's concert, "Hearts and Flowers" with Robin Duke and friends |
| October | Worldwide Communion
Thanksgiving worship
Fall Seniors' Celebration and the Above and Beyond Tea
More Than a Rummage Sale! in support of our commitment to the Mission and Service (M&S) Fund – and the trust fund loan paid back ahead of schedule! | March | Lenten worship services
Music at Islington's concert, "Earth Hour by Candlelight" |
| November | Anniversary Service,
The Order of Islington presentation, and the Fall Turkey Supper
Music at Islington's concert featuring the Etobicoke Youth Band
Confirmation of eight youth
Light Up the Night to begin Advent | April | Meaningful Holy Week services
Joyous Easter celebrations
Preparation for a new photo directory
Spring Seniors' Celebration and the Above and Beyond Mother & Daughter Luncheon
Inauguration of the Don Banks Music Award |
| | | May | Music at Islington's Mother's Day cabaret, "Save the Drama for Your Mama"
Week of Guided Prayer |
- In June we're looking forward to the celebration of Holy Communion on June 5, our annual Church Picnic the same afternoon, and to Music Sunday, June 12.
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Called to Be God's Lighthouse

"I am GOD. I have called you to live right and well. I have taken responsibility for you, kept you safe. I have set you among my people to bind them to me, and provided you as a lighthouse to nations, to make a start at bringing people into the open, into light." *Isaiah 42:6-7 (The Message)*

Since Easter we have been **Celebrating Stewardship** – celebrating ALL the gifts God has given us to do the work that God is calling us to do. As we near the end of our current fiscal year FY11 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011) here is our current financial status.

Based on actual results through April 30, 2011 we have projected a *potential* GAP of \$57,007 – about 5.7% of our reduced spending plan of \$1,005,193. Our staff and committee leaders are managing our expenses very well. The GAP is on the income side.

**We need your help and support to CLOSE THE GAP
for our ministry together in 2010 | 2011.**

We have 579 households – with 695 potential givers and 506 actual givers who donate from less than \$1 to more than \$400 per month.

If all 579 households donated an **additional \$100 BEFORE JUNE 30** we would **CLOSE THE GAP**. Or, if every household donated an extra gift **equal to 5.7% of your annual gift** we would **CLOSE THE GAP**. But every gift counts, so if you can make an **additional contribution of any amount** it will help us meet our goal before June 30! And we encourage those who did not make a financial gift in 2010|2011 to consider making one now.

Please use the special green envelopes in the pews or write "CLOSE THE GAP" on your gift. We want to report and celebrate our results with you!

**Thank you to those who have already responded.
As of May 11, we have received \$10,100 towards our goal of \$57,007.**

Here are just a few of the many comments on what Islington's ministries mean to our members and friends –

"What I love about this church and its people is that there's so much happening – so many ways that people are actually making a difference in other people's lives – ways where I can participate in a meaningful way."

"You people – the people in your church – have saved my life. Now I have a family and know how it feels to be loved and accepted for who I am. My life has purpose now – serving my community. This is what your church has given me."

"What an inspiring service! This has been a profound experience for me this morning."

"The music ministry continues to enliven my faith. It brings emotional and aesthetic clarity to my experience of Christian belief and practice that is otherwise confusing and hard to understand."

"You have an awesome children's ministry ... with such great energy and love."

"We are so very thankful for our Stephen Minister – her weekly visits, patient listening abilities, spiritual encouragement, and continued friendship."

The Music Ministry at Islington

John Derksen, Minister of Music

Wherever Christians gather for worship, they sing. The connection of worship and music is such a universal phenomenon that the theologian Karl Barth considered it to be one of the marks of the church: "The community that does not sing is not the community." Music lies close to the heart of worship because it enables us to do all those things that we need and long to do as a community in the presence of God.

Through music we assert our identity as an individual community. At Islington, for example, hymn 509 (in Voices United) is one of our "signature tunes." We also tell stories through our music – both our own stories and the stories of our faith. When we sing hymn 62, we are telling again the beloved story of the nativity, intertwined with our

own story. Music gives us a powerful way to express emotion – grief, joy, exhilaration, love – as our part in the dialogue with God that is worship. And music can be transcendent – it can lift us to places that are inaccessible to words. It can express the inexpressible.

The music ministry at Islington operates with a clear sense of our responsibilities to the larger community. Musicians strive every week to make their offerings a spotless window through which we may glimpse a vision of God's love and purpose for our lives. To this end, over 100 singers and players rehearse every week, giving freely of their time and talent. Their purpose is not to entertain us, but rather to help us change the world. Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support.

You can support the work of our Music Ministry by making a donation online. Follow the Donate Now link and select Ministry of Music under the Fund/Designation heading.

**Join us Sunday, June 12 at 9:30 or 11:15 am as we celebrate
Music Sunday.**

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Sunday Services

Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 and 11:15 am (September to June)
10:00 am (July 3 to September 4)

Taizé Worship

First Sunday monthly (October to June)
7:30 pm

Healing Prayer

Second & fourth Sunday monthly (year-round)
(in the Chapel following morning worship)

Soulstice

Quarterly (year-round)
(in the Scout Hall as the seasons change)



Drop in during the summer — we're here!

- June 5* Services at 9:30 and 11:15 am
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Church Family Picnic at West Deane Park at 3:00
- June 12* Services at 9:30 and 11:15 am
Music Sunday
Service of Healing Prayer (following worship)
- June 19* Services at 9:30 and 11:15 am
Sacrament of Christian Baptism
Soulstice at 7:00 pm
- June 26* Services at 9:30 and 11:15 am
Note: a single Summer Service begins next week
New Members' Reception
Service of Healing Prayer (following worship)
- July 3* Service at 10:00 am
Sacrament of Christian Baptism
- July 3 – 14* **The GO Project: Halifax**
- July 10* Service at 10:00 am
Service of Healing Prayer (following worship)
- July 10 – 21* **The GO Project: Vancouver**
- July 17* Service at 10:00 am
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- July 24* Service at 10:00 am
Service of Healing Prayer (following worship)
- July 24 – Aug 4* **The GO Project: St. John's**
- July 31* Service at 10:00 am
Sacrament of Christian Baptism
- July 31 – Aug 11* **The GO Project: Toronto**
- August 4* **Baptism Seminar at 7:30 pm**
(Toddler Room)
- August 7* Service at 10:00 am
- August 14* Service at 10:00 am
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Service of Healing Prayer (following worship)
- August 21* Service at 10:00 am
- August 22 – 26* **Vacation Bible Camp**
- August 28* Service at 10:00 am
Service of Healing Prayer (following worship)
- September 1* **Baptism Seminar at 7:30 pm**
(Toddler Room)
- September 4* Last Sunday for 10:00 am Service
Sacrament of Christian Baptism
- September 11* 9:30 and 11:15 am Services resume
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Service of Healing Prayer (following worship)
Kick-Off Sunday
- September 18* Services at 9:30 and 11:15 am
- September 25* Services at 9:30 and 11:15 am
Annual Meeting (following worship)