

## *Just and Sustainable Living*

***“To honour all of God’s creation by living more sustainably and justly as individuals, in our communities and in the world.”***

This was one of the key EMUC objectives for the next two years as presented at the congregational meeting in February.

Generally, living sustainably has been understood as using resources at the same rate at which they can be replenished. We often think of sustainability as referring primarily to the earth’s natural resources. We know now, beyond a doubt, that we are using the earth’s resources faster than they can be replenished and we see the results in the decline in stocks of fish, forests, potable water and arable land (to name a few).

To determine how sustainably you are living a useful tool is the ‘Footprint calculator’ found at [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org). By taking the online quiz you can determine your carbon, food, housing, goods and services footprint. When I recently tried the test, I came in below the national average for Canada; even so, if everyone consumed resources at the rate I do, we would need 3.3 Earths!

One of EMUC’s goals of living sustainably is the establishment of a Green Team which will work to lower the ‘footprint’ of the church by researching and implementing more clean energy sources, reducing energy where possible, minimizing waste, and exploring ways to further ‘green’ the land on which the church stands.

We also need to understand sustainable living in a larger scope. According to KAIROS (a Canadian Ecumenical Jus-

tice organization of which the United Church of Canada is a member),

*Ecological sustainability implies a more holistic way of seeing the world as interconnected and inter-dependent across time, where human societies are understood as not distinct and superior to the rest of nature, but part of it. Indeed, the future of generations to come, and even human survival as a species, depends on a thriving natural world.*

*Sustainable communities are those which support and nurture equitable relationships both within the human family and also between humans and the rest of the ecological community. They*



*require a just and moral economy where people are empowered to participate in decisions affecting their lives, where public and private institutions are held accountable for the social and environmental consequences of their activities, and where the Earth is honoured rather than exploited or degraded.*

If sustainable living encompasses a holistic way of living where we see the world as interconnected and interdependent then we are also concerned with building sustainable relationships not only with the earth and its creatures, but also with one another.

As people of faith, we know that God calls us to live in relationship with one another. This is not just one of God’s ‘nice ideas’, it is actually the only way that we can survive!

After decades of rampant individualism in North America and other western countries, the current economic climate is drawing our attention to the need for vital communities where people are supported in difficult times.

One of the key responsibilities of the early Christian church was the care of those who were sick, hungry, homeless, lonely, or in prison in their communities. The church assumed this role based on the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 25:34-45).

In his recent pastoral letter to United Church Congregations, David Giuliano, Moderator, echoed the words of Jesus and called upon all congregations to ‘care in practical ways for those wounded by this volatile economy’.

Each week, we hear about another plant or business closure and many of us have joined the ranks of the unemployed or have a friend or relative who is without work. At EMUC the requests for Benevolent Fund support have increased. The Deacon’s Cupboard food bank has had a growing number of clients in the past few months - 153 in December and 135 in January. All the food that was collected from a December food drive is now gone from the shelves!

Rather than giving into panic or despair, this is the time for us to heed the words of our Moderator who says, ‘As just one person against such powerful forces, it seems overwhelming.

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But we are not alone. We are connected to our brothers and sisters in our local congregations. We are part of a network of United Church communities across the country. As church, we can do more for our neighbours together. We are surrounded by countless others of faith and goodwill. God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.'

It is my prayer that in these times of global ecological and economic challenge, that Erin Mills United Church will faithfully honour all of God's creation by living more sustainably and justly as individuals, in our communities and in the world. How will you participate?

*Peace, Kathy Toivanen*

## *Worship Schedule for the Season of Lent*

Every Wednesday evening at 6:45 a service of readings, reflection, prayer & communion. Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. with care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, EMU Club for children up to Grade 5, Junior Youth for Gr. 6,7,8, & Teentalk for youth in high school.

During the Season of Lent, we join Jesus in the Wilderness, a time of discernment and testing, prayer and soul-searching. Each Sunday in Lent, as we focus on 'The Wilderness Way', different folks in the congregation will tell their 'wilderness story'.

**Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> Lent 3** Theme: 'When the Sacred Becomes a Marketplace' Reading: John 2:13-22

**Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> Lent 4** Theme: 'The World God Loves' Reading: John 3:14-21

**Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> Lent 5** Theme: 'The Hour Has Come' Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33

## *Holy Week Services*

**Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday All Ages Service, Communion** Theme: 'Parades into Jerusalem; The Way into Holy Week'  
Readings: Mark 11:1-11; 15-18; 14:3-9

**Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** A dramatic service of worship remembering the night of the Last Supper and the Betrayal of Jesus. Leadership by the Youth Confirmation Class.

**Good Friday Worship & Breakfast April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 am** With music, symbols and dramatic readings, we continue the vigil at the cross. Following worship, all are invited to breakfast (hot cross buns, rolls, cheese, juice, fruit and coffee/tea) in the lower hall. After breakfast, we decorate the church for Easter Sunday.

**First Fire Worship Service Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 pm** Welcome the first light of Easter as we light a sacred fire and lift high the light of the risen Christ. A service that draws on ancient Christian traditions, including dramatic readings, the first 'halleluiahs' and the celebration of communion.

**Easter Sunday Worship April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am** Theme: 'Resurrection - Can You See?' Scripture: John 20:1-18 A festive service with inspiring music and message, the Easter Dance and the radiant beauty of Easter flowers.

## *Easter Flowers*



The Worship committee is selling potted tulips and daffodils for display in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday or for your home. Due to our respect and care for those with allergic reactions to strong scents, lily sales are only for the home. All inclusive costs are: \$15 for lilies, \$10 for tulips and daffodils or \$10 towards the purchase of three large hydrangeas for the sanctuary. To order, complete an envelope available at the back of the church or contact the office. Flowers will be at the church Thursday April 9th for those who wish to take them home.

Thank you for your continued support in making our church beautiful for Easter!

## *Transitions*

Condolences to Georganne, Rhana, Jamey, Robin Vickery on the death of Georganne's father, George Walls, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## *Thanks!*

The Ministry & Personnel Committee for completing annual reviews of EMUC staff.

Laura Macro for facilitating the Leadership Circle Retreat in January .

Susan Ogilvie, Debby Sturgeon, Lorraine Brignall, Paul Nauss, Sylvia Arnold, Stuart McCauley, Michael Marot, Alana Kiteley, Kristen Fontaine, Erin Pajot, Ian Blackport, James Aitken, Jonathon Chappell, and others who helped prepare a great feast for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.

Higher Ground Men's Quartet of George Aitken, John Currie, Derry Bunting & Terry Wilde for organizing the Mardi Gras Music Event to follow the Pancake Dinner and for the music they offered, along with other musicians including: Encore & Impromptu Singing Groups with Nancy Blackport directing; Andy Wilson, Mike McErlean, Jim McVittie, Danielle & Michael Fearon, Nick Loffree, Andrew LaCombe, the Chancel Choir.

Kathy Andres, Peter Kiteley, George Ormsby & the treasury group of Jim Watts, Janet Morrison, Mike Ogilvie, Celia Phelps for preparing the year end financial statements and the 2009 budget for the congregational meeting.

Tim Hayes, Ross Gilmour, Jo-anne Tobey-Fisher & Joanne Wood, Barbara Jennings who are new members of the EMUC Leadership Circle & Heather Bunting, Erin Cochrane Ford, Gord McCauley, Paul Marot and Lloyd Freel, who are continuing to serve.

Heather Bunting for her wise and capable leadership as chair of the Leadership Circle and for a well-run annual meeting.

Hollis MacEwen and Bruce Campbell for their carpentry work at EMUC.

Peter Kiteley for staying vigil throughout the night at EMUC to empty buckets caused by flooding during heavy rain.

Deb Siertsema, Marney Dyker, Cathy Kiteley, Jim McVittie, Stuart McCauley, Erin Pajot, Alana Kiteley, and Lauren Fontaine for their leadership in worship recently.

Those who donated and packaged items for the comfort kits. EMUC put together about 60 kits for the guests of the Open Door at Square One. Thanks also to Judy Hodges who took all of the kits to the Open Door and who has been taking the clothing donations there as well during the winter.

## *Music Notes*



February has gone by in a hurry and was a busy month in terms of the musical life of the congregation. I would like to thank Higher Ground for organizing the Shrove Tuesday musical event and I would also like to extend a thank you to everyone who participated. The evening was a wonderful reminder of the musical talent that is found at the church. In addition to this event, Derry Bunting organized a "Coffee House" on February 27th. This evening was a success and gained the attention of the larger community. I know that the performers, as well as some potential future performers, are looking forward to another event like this in the future. I big thank you goes to Derry for getting the ball rolling on this exciting community initiative.

In the season of Lent and as we move through Holy Week and into Easter, expect to see a number of our musical groups participating in various services. I know that the Chancel Choir is already working hard to prepare some exciting music for Easter Sunday and I've heard similar things from the other group leaders regarding the music they're preparing for the season. As always I'd be happy to talk to anyone who is interested in participating in the music of this season, so please don't hesitate to speak to me after the Sunday service.

*Andrew LaCombe, Minister of Music*

## *EMUC Fundraising Dinner: Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>*

Plan to attend a multicourse Chinese dinner at the Sun Sun Seafood Restaurant at 888 Dundas St. East in Mississauga on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Tickets are \$50/person and are available after church on Sundays or through the office. Complete information about the menu is available on posters and flyers at the church.

## *From the Leadership Circle*

On Sunday, February 22nd EMUC's Annual Congregational Meeting was held after worship, with a good number in attendance.



A proposed strategy guideline was reviewed by Laura Macro, who had facilitated the process at a Leadership retreat at the end of January. The strategy to have 'Erin Mills United Church known as a welcoming, dynamic, diverse and expanding community of faith' will be supported by 3 key objectives. These are:

1. Sustainability – to honour all of God's creation by living more sustainably and justly as individuals, in our communities and the world
2. Connections – to expand, nurture and deepen connections within EMUC and to continue to engage those in transition. To expand, nurture and deepen connections in the community e.g. community outreach, other cultural communities, EMYOP and the National United Church
3. Resources – To seek greater participation and commitments through the establishment of a framework to manage and co-ordinate projects and volunteers.

This will be the guiding focus for the next 2 years and is intended to allow for openness to spirited opportunities. Thanks to Laura Macro for her support and assistance.

The exciting news was announced that an anonymous donation of \$60,000 was received in December, with the stipulation that the funds be used to initiate the appointment of a .5 ministry person (either ordained or diaconal), according to the Joint Needs Assessment report of 2004. It was reported that a consultation had taken place in January with representatives of the Pastoral Relations Committee for Halton Presbytery, Kathy Toivanen, Barb Jennings and me, to discern the next steps in the process. Some amendments will need to be made to the Joint Needs Assessment Report (JNAC) of 2004; specifically job descriptions and current statistical information for this community. The entire process will be supported and monitored by Halton Presbytery. The establishment of a designated fund for the initial \$60,000 was approved at the meeting with the intent that there will be further initiatives to increase the fund. There is a goal to have the position filled sometime this fall. The congregation expressed its deep appreciation for this generous support of the life and mission of this community.

The audited financial statements for 2008 and the budget for 2009 were presented by Kathy Andres and received approval. With unsurpassed offerings in December, and lower than budgeted expenses, the year ended with a modest surplus of \$1782. The budget presented is a balanced budget, but allows no room for expanding. Thanks to the Treasury Committee and Kathy Andres for their diligence in completing this work.

The members of the Leadership Circle for 2009 were presented to the congregation for approval. New to the LC are; Jo-Anne Tobey-Fisher as Vice Chair, Joanne Wood as Secretary, Ross Gilmour as Focus Circle Leader(FCL) for Member Development and Care, Tim Hayes as FCL for Community Life and Communications and Barbara Jennings as Chair of Ministry and Personnel. After over 3 years as Secretary, Paul Marot is moving to Member-at-Large, with a focus on enhancing the resources to support the .5 Ministry Position. Gord McCauley will continue as a Member-at-Large, Erin Cochrane Ford will remain as FCL for Music and Worship and Lloyd Freel continues as the Presbytery Representative. Kathy Andres will move off the Leadership Circle as FCL for Finance and Administration. Thanks to Kathy and Paul for their work and dedication to EMUC. There is still a position open for FCL for Youth and Children and FCL for Finance and Administration. The search continues for a new chair, and I will remain until there is a new appointment. If you wish to have a copy of the Annual Report, please contact Peter Kiteley at the church office.

2009 looks to be an exciting year for EMUC! Consider how you would like to be involved.

*Peace, Heather Bunting 905-823-5846 [hjbunting@rogers.com](mailto:hjbunting@rogers.com)*

## *Easter Offerings*

During the festive times of the church year, we give thanks to God for the blessings of the love we know in Jesus Christ. You are invited to express your thanks by giving to the ministry of Christ in the life and work of Erin Mills United Church.

Special Easter Thank Offering envelopes will soon be made available on the ushers' table at the church, through the office and through the Sunday bulletins during Holy Week.

Thank you for your generous gifts. All financial gifts to EMUC are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

## *Youth News*

On Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a Forum on "Roots of Youth Violence" beginning at 7:00 pm. The Erin Mills Youth Outreach Program will be hosting this evening of discussion on youth violence in Mississauga, which will feature CBC News Suhana Meharchard as moderator and numerous guest speakers from the Peel Regional Police, United Way of Peel and various other organizations. It will be a fantastic evening on a pressing topic.

March will also focus heavily on the environment, and already youth in High School have shown a keen interest in offering suggestions for ways we can make EMUC more environmentally friendly. Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> is the date this year for Earth Hour, and once again Erin Mills United will host an evening promoting a conscientious approach to living our lives and show how all of us can protect our planet. The youth will be participating in the evening's activities, but at this point planning remains in the initial stages. Just remember to book off the night of the 28<sup>th</sup>!

*Cheers, Ian Blackport*

## *Youth Confirmation Group*

Five youth are about halfway through a program designed to guide them as they explore the Christian faith and membership in the United Church of Canada. Recently a number of the group gave leadership in Sunday worship and will be involved in further leadership responsibilities during Holy Week. As part of the program, service to the community and the church is encouraged. In December the group helped to stock the shelves of the Deacon's Cupboard following a food drive. On Pancake Tuesday, the youth were flipping pancakes in the church kitchen! A spring retreat is being planned, along with a couple of experiences in the wider community. These five youth have grown up in the EMUC community and feel very much at home in the congregation. Please take time to affirm and support them in this commitment to exploring their faith and pray for them during this journey. The youth and their sponsors are: Kristen Fontaine, Joanne Hines (sponsor); Alana Kiteley, Sandra Witterick (sponsor); Michael Marot, Nancy Ekels (sponsor); Stuart McCauley, Ross Gilmour (sponsor); Erin Pajot, Bonnie Turner (sponsor); Ian Blackport, Jim McVittie, Deb Siertsema, Kathy Toivanen (leadership team).

## *New Member Preparation*

Adults who wish to formally join the membership of Erin Mills United Church by transfer or reaffirmation of faith and those folks who are new to the United Church are curious to learn more about this church are invited to attend sessions on Sunday March 15 & 22 from 12 noon to 2 pm at EMUC. A light lunch will be provided. To register, sign up on the bulletin board at the church or contact the office at 905-820-9466. To inquire further speak with Kathy Toivanen.

## *Earth Hour 2009: March 28<sup>th</sup>*

It started in Australia in 2007. Approximately 2.2 million people turned out their lights. Last year around 50 million people in 370 countries around the world, including 3.5 million in the GTA, decided to take this small step on behalf of our planet. (Toronto Star, Saturday, January 24, 2009).

This year, it is hoped that even more people will participate. Despite all the dramatic events of the past year, the need for action to combat climate change remains as critical as ever.

EMUC is hosting its 2nd annual Earth Hour event on March 28 from 7:45 p.m. until 9:45 p.m. and is inviting EMUC folk of all ages along with their friends and neighbours in the community to attend. The evening will feature activities for all ages, games, building a 'green home' etc. in addition to a quiet time of reflection, candle lighting, story telling, a skit, and star gazing. The event is free and will include refreshments but please bring your own mug.

If you are unable to attend, please try to incorporate the Earth Hour action of turning off your lights for one hour; 8:30 - 9:30 p.m., wherever you happen to be on March 28<sup>th</sup> at that time.

Please let this symbolic step of caring for our endangered planet be a springboard for further action to reduce your personal dependency on fossil fuels and to advocate with all levels of government for legislative changes that will protect all of God's creation for future generations.

*Dorothy Wilson, EMUC Green Team*

## *Reading and Praying in Lent*

Many folk set aside time during the season of Lent to deepen their faith through prayer, reading, reflection and action. Here are some suggestions for Lent 2009:

Read the entire gospel of Mark. In the current lectionary cycle, Mark is the chosen gospel. As challenging as this may sound, Mark is actually the shortest gospel. By reading 3 chapters each week during Lent, you'll be able to read the entire gospel.

Read the Lenten Booklet, 'Why Would Jesus Say That?' With daily readings for the season of Lent, this publication of the United Church of Canada invites the reader to explore the challenging and puzzling statements of Jesus. Each day includes a prayer, scripture reading and a reflection.

**Third Week of Lent (March 8 - 14)** Pray for those you love; family members, friends. Remember them by name and thank God for their unique qualities and gifts. Pray for God's strength and comfort to guide them in any struggles or hardships. You may wish to send them a card or an email or tell them that they are in your prayers.

**Fourth Week of Lent (March 22 -- 28)** Pray for your neighbours and coworkers. Make a list of at least 10 people in your neighbourhood or in your work context and pray for them each day, seeking God's guidance and peace for their lives.

**Fifth Week of Lent (March 29 - April 4)** Pray for your enemies. Pray for those who have wronged you or those toward you have hard feelings. Pray for God's Spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness and a way forward in peace.

**Holy Week (April 5 - 11)** Pray for the Church and the World. Choose two nations to pray for or two global concerns to lift up in prayer. Pray for God's justice and compassion to prevail. Pray for your local congregation and for the church around the world that they may faithfully act according to the love of Christ.

## *Green Team News and Events*

Recently the Green Team met to explore "greening" ideas and formulating an initial action plan for EMUC. Repairs and replacements are needed for the building and it is the team's desire to make these improvements as ecologically friendly as possible.

Also, EMUC has partnered with UTM engineering students to review five ideas as part of their practical component of their studies. We anticipate an interim report at our next meeting and hope for some fresh solutions.

As information becomes available it will be shared as widely as possible in expectation that many of the 'green ideas' will be beneficial not only to the church but to our own homes and the surrounding community.

Here is one small idea proposed at a recent meeting. Consider bringing your travel mug to church for your hot or cold beverages in the refreshment time following Sunday worship or for any meetings or events you attend at EMUC. Let's cut down on the use of paper or plastic beverage cups.

For cleaning in the home, Rona now carries an "ECO" brand of 'Made in Canada' household products. In researching a local grocery store their brands did not state where the products were made.

A report from the March 4<sup>th</sup> will be included in the next issue of the communiqué. If you are interested in finding more about the team or wish to share some of your ideas consider joining us. All are welcome.

*Mary Anna Williams, Green Team Member*

## *Easter Vigil*

EMUC offers a very special opportunity for truly meaningful experience of peace, prayer and quiet reflection. The Holy Week Prayer Vigil begins on Maundy Thursday at 10:00 p.m. and concludes Holy Saturday at 6 p.m. Prayer and meditation resources will be available.

You are invited to sign up on the schedule posted at the back of the church to come and 'Pray One Hour' during this unique time for a sacred connection.

## *We Are Not Alone*

Web links which remind us of our connection to ministries throughout the wider United Church of Canada. Erin Mills United Church is part of many expanding circles of the body of the church. As a United Church Congregation in the Mississauga, Oakville & Burlington areas, EMUC is part of Halton Presbytery: <http://www.haltonpres.org/>  
Offers a "News" page and "Events" page to advise about local church & Presbytery events

All the United Churches in Halton Presbytery are part of Hamilton Conference (which also includes all the United Churches in Bruce, Niagara, Erie, Waterloo & Hamilton Presbyteries)

Hamilton Conference: <http://www.hamconf.org/>

Offers newsletter "Contact" to inform about activities happening around Hamilton Conference with: updates for the upcoming Annual General Meeting in May & other resources provided by the Conference

News letters and information are offered from various units of the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada <http://www.united-church.ca/communications/newsletters>

1. Uniting Ministries - Connecting and supporting the diverse ministries of The United Church of Canada, Uniting Ministries provides opportunities for you to learn about other United Church ministries, and discover/share models of networking and integration.
2. United for Justice - Each edition of United Action for Justice highlights issues related to justice, human rights, ecology, peace, global partnership, and ecumenical relations.
3. Web links are provided to sites giving you concrete ideas for action Emerging Spirit - This newsletter offers reflections on Emerging Spirit's work, models of welcoming ministries, and helpful tools for congregational leaders.
4. Video opportunities to view what is happening in the United Church of Canada: Video Updates available on the United Church of Canada channel on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/unitedchurchofcanada?gl=CA&hl=>
5. Aboriginal Ministries Updates: Living into Right Relations

In May of 2008, a gathering was held to intentionally connect Aboriginal and non Aboriginal people from United Church of Canada conferences and to discuss the meaning of "Living into Right Relations" with one another. The following four videos have been created to highlight this time and to honour the five year commitment each person made to work together in right relations.

Pinawa East <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A11KmKrlNOs>

Pinawa South <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UutnSbs684c>

Pinawa West <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2PLBSN1zpo>

Pinawa North <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SX32CyPQLjk>

Ceremony honouring the creation of the new Aboriginal Ministries Circle: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ld3XUbfjI>

### **National and International Connections**

KAIROS [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org)

As a member congregation of the United Church of Canada, EMUC is also part of ecumenical church bodies, both here in Canada and globally.

KAIROS is a Canadian church-based social justice movement which offers networking and resources in the following areas:

Ecological justice

Solidarity in Canada

Human rights and trade

Grassroots action for global justice grounded in the local community

World Council of Churches [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)

The United Church of Canada is part of a global ecumenical organization called the World Council of Churches (WCC) which brings together 349 churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 560 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches. While the bulk of the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, today most member churches are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific.

The WCC witnesses to Christ's way through its work in worship and mission, justice and evangelism.

## *EMUC Women 4 Women, Annual Spring Retreat*



Dreaming of relaxing in the sun beside a peaceful lake? Ready to enjoy good food and conversation with wonderful women? Then set aside the weekend of May 29-31<sup>st</sup> for the annual Women's Retreat in Muskoka. Details and registration forms will be available in April.

## *Erin Mills Property Committee*

The physical building and grounds that support the life of EMUC, like any home, need occasional renovation. This is your church home; please join in caring for the facility. Come help us with some issues we need to address: review the heating/cooling and energy use in the church; review the accessibility of our facilities (access ramp, automatic door, elevator, etc.); review interior and exterior lighting to better meet our needs and reduce energy use; determine upgrades to kitchen; determine upgrades to restrooms; review condition, make plans to maintain grounds including pavement and concrete.

Please contact Larry van Goozen at [Lgoozen@rogers.com](mailto:Lgoozen@rogers.com), in person, or leave a message in the church office or on the sign-up sheet that is posted in the narthex.

*Larry van Goozen, Chair Property Committee*

## *News from EMYOP (Erin Mills Youth Outreach Programs)*

March will be a busy month for EMYOP. On March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at EMUC, we will be hosting a community forum and panel discussion on “The Roots of Youth Violence”, the report written by Alvin Curling and Roy McMurtry. The honourable Dr. Alvin Curling will be the keynote speaker for the evening and Suhanna Meharchand, CBC news will act as moderator. Guest panelists for the evening are: Chief Mike Metcalf, Peel Regional Police; Shelley White, Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Peel Region; Rose Streete, Mississauga motivational speaker; and Catherine Kirkpatrick and Karan Malik, Gonzaga Secondary students. The presentation will be followed by discussion and questions from the audience.



In addition to a full slate of after school and evening programs, EMYOP will be offering a day camp during March Break. The camp runs from March 16 - 20 and promises to be a fun-filled week. For information, call the EMYOP office at 905 820 3577.

The process of incorporation has been started and by the end of this month, EMYOP should be fully incorporated under the umbrella of the United Church of Canada. Next steps include developing a board of directors, writing bylaws and applying for a charitable number. This process could take up to a year. In the meantime, EMYOP will continue to be supervised by the Leadership Circle of Erin Mills United Church. Although EMYOP is growing and our relationship is changing, we will continue to be very much a part of EMUC. Your support will continue to be an important part of EMYOP's success.

*Debby Sturgeon*

## *Book Review*

**Love Your Life**, by Victoria Osteen, Free Press, New York, 2008, \$28.99.

Victoria Osteen is co-pastor with her husband, Joel Osteen, of Lakewood Church, which seats 16,000, the largest one in the United States. The church generates \$75 million dollars in revenue, which is used for the rental of buildings, and the production costs of television programs. The Osteens' personal income is derived entirely from the sale of their books.

Victoria's book is a beautiful inspirational guide to joyful and harmonious living. She uses many domestic examples of how she and her husband have managed a very successful marriage and family life. Bible passages are thoughtfully interwoven to reinforce the wisdom which she articulates. This is sort of a religious version of the famous guide, *How to Win Friends and Influence People* (first published in 1936) rather than signposts to successful business practices.

But Victoria is not the 'Job' of the Old Testament. Her faith has not been tested by serious illness, defeat, old age, or death. Her battles have been minor skirmishes, rather than desperate challenges. She was brought up in a loving family where the word 'love' was as frequently spoken as the word 'hello.' She had to show Joel, by her example, how to be more articulate with that word. She had to learn how best to encourage her son Jonathan to practice on his guitar. Her challenges so far have been on a small stage.

The book emphasizes the necessary willingness to give up old ways and unhealthy habits so that a person can be the best he or she can be. It's about recognizing the gifts that God has given, and making the most of those gifts. She writes, "No matter where you are today, you have the potential to have better relationships, to increase in confidence, to overcome obstacles, and to celebrate the life God has given you... There is so much more in you that is waiting to be discovered... Now is the time to leave the past behind and make room to embrace the destiny that lies ahead of you." This is a book of encouragement, of hope, of spiritual uplift, of loving relationships.

*Lloyd Freel*

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