ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH, ROCKLAND

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VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 AUTUMN 2010

REGULAR CALENDAR:

Sunday:
10:00 am Worship
7:30 pm Small Group
"A life worth living"

Monday:
9:30 am Bible Study
(2825 Laurier St.)
7:00 pm Youth Drop in

Tuesday:
9:45 am Office Hours
1:00 pm Social & Bridge Club,

Wednesday:
7:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday:
7:00 pm Choir

Saturday:
9:00 am Men's Breakfast (fourth Saturday)
9:30 am Quilting Club (first Saturday)
9:00 am Spiritual Care and Counselling Course (alternate weeks)

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Thanksgiving 365

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with ***thanksgiving***, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:6,7)

Autumn is upon us, and Thanksgiving Sunday is almost here. Traditionally, Thanksgiving is a celebration of harvest, a recognition that God provides what we need for winter through the bounty of the fields and gardens.

Few of us live on farms anymore, and we may be out of touch with the way hard work and providence combine to bring us rich harvests. Most of us buy food imported from the south during the winter, so we are not as excited about the times of year when garden-fresh produce arrives from our lands.

So is Thanksgiving a thing of the past? Certainly not! We have all the more reason to be thankful in the security of our food supply, and the variety of goods. So instead of one day of harvest, we can celebrate thanksgiving to God 365 days a year.

A study of Philippians *is running in Pangborn Hall on Sundays at 7:30 pm.*
Come and enjoy!

Concert News

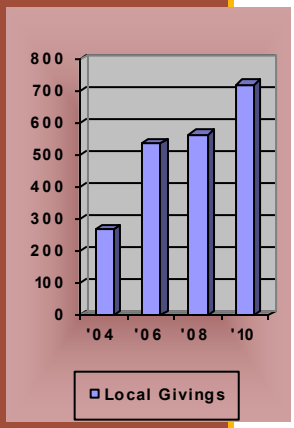
Canadian singer/songwriter Carolyn Arends is returning to Rockland with a new album and two new artists in tow.

We last saw Carolyn during her 2008 Christmas Tour. This year, she is bringing her "Love Was Here First" Tour to Rockland November 19, 2010, 7:30 pm .

Anticipating a larger audience, we've booked the St. Patrick's Gymnasium, and are partnering with the St. Edith Stein Parish, and other local churches to promote the concert.
We are looking for volunteers to help with merchandise tables, ticket sales, refreshments and set-up/teardown, so let us know if you would like to help out.

This concert will be a fundraiser for the church, and it will introduce many people to music that encourages, cheers and strengthens faith. Check the St. Andrew's website, and www.carolynarends.com for more information.

Financial Uptick - Thank You!



Weekly Giving tracked over 6 years

Did you know that it costs $6200 per month to support the ministries in our congregation? Just like all United Churches we are required to be self-sufficient. We do not receive money from our Denominational Offices; instead we actually are required to send them money to help pay for administration in Ottawa and in Toronto. Our main income comes from our weekly offerings and this pays for utilities, salaries and upkeep.

Fundraising has helped increase our income but in recent years the few hands that did this have become tired. In the past we have done the Quilt Show, Christmas bazaars, auctions, garage sales and bake sales. We still have the Ham Dinner, which supports the congregation, and the Bursary that we give out at Rockland District High School every year. No one is in charge of fundraising so if you have an idea please make a suggestion to Paul or Brian. Be prepared to do some of the work, but know that many hands will help.

In the first half of 2010 our weekly offerings have been building up significantly. In 2009 the average weekly offering was $535, our average for 2010 stands at $720/week.

Over the summer this figure has shrunk a bit, as it usually does. Yet the giving remains stronger than ever. Thank you for your generous support.

Spiritual Creatures: The Badger

Every project has its Gopher, the familiar role of the person who you can count on to "go for" anything that's needed. With our St. Andrew's newsletter, Jane Cooper will be helping put together the newsletter by collecting articles and information from the congregation. In an ordinary publication she'd be called a publisher, but here she's been designated the "Badger," as she's been asked to badger everyone to meet the deadlines, and keep this newsletter coming. If you have an article or idea for the newsletter or website, please forward it on to Jane, by emailing news@rocklandchurch.ca.

In Memoriam

Our friend Louise McArthur passed away on Wednesday, July 28th, 2010, at age 61. Louise served her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in a wide variety of ways. She was an advocate for gender equality through National and International and Women's organizations.

We all knew Louise as an active member of the St. Andrew's Rockland community. An Elder and Clerk of Session for many years, she proved a compassionate, loyal and evangelical friend to all.

She was also a creative and skilled quilter, producing banners and pulpit antependia for all the church seasons and celebrations. With her granddaughter Cassara, Louise has been an enthusiastic participant in the Adult and Family Camp at Golden Lake Church Camp.

In recent years Louise also served as our representative to Presbytery, gravitating to the finance committee, crusading to lower the cost of Presbytery for struggling congregations like ours.

Full of energy, and something of an unstoppable force, Louise's relationship with God through Jesus Christ has been the central principle of her existence — her "Martha-like" intensity has been rooted in a "Mary-like" pursuit of intimacy in the presence of God. Receiving Spiritual Direction under the ministry of Lise Baxter, Louise modelled a habit of Prayer and Scripture study that sustained her even as she wrestled recently with depression.

Louise fell ill this summer, only being diagnosed within barely a month of her passing. We all feel a great loss. Please continue to keep Gord, their children Gus and Jonathon, and her granddaughter in your prayers.

Whodunnit? — Planted Evidence

It has come to our attention that many people in the congregation are not too sure whom to turn to when they have a practical question concerning the work of the Church. So we are going to try to cover one of these in every newsletter.

Today's mystery:
Who does the gardening? Well we have a young woman (Nancy Gill) who volunteers on Monday evenings with our youth drop-in group, and she also does the weeding, planting and mowing. You can pass on your encouragement through Paul Swan or Jane Cooper as they both liaison with her. But speaking of gardening, we are trying to set up a gardening group to assist in planting and planning our landscape. If you know anyone or if you are interested, please talk to Jane and we can set things in motion. You may have a neighbour or friend who no longer has his or her own garden to attend to. Anyone with a green thumb and a desire to help is welcome to join in!

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Treasure Hunt

The congregation always has a list of small but important needs that an individual could donate. These are the things that make life easier and hopefully the church can save some money.

- We need a large soup/pasta pot for the kitchen.
- We can always use extra plates and bowls as some of ours have been well loved and used.
- If you are out shopping and see a good bargain on any of the following: coffee, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins or cookies… please think of the church and pick up extras.

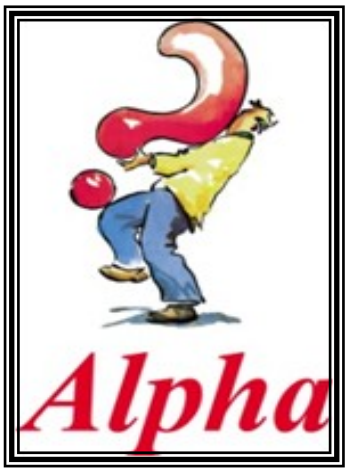
Keep your receipts for the treasurer (John Douglas). John can reimburse you for the cost, or, if you wish, he can arrange to provide a tax receipt for the donation, as a "Gift in Kind."

The Alpha Course

Tuesday, October 5th will mark the start of our third Alpha Course. Come out to Pangborn Hall at 6:30 for dinner and the first of 10 Alpha meetings. We're certain that you will benefit from the experience, whatever your beliefs and background.

Alpha is intended to explore questions of life in open respectful discussions, where every viewpoint is welcome. You'll hear about the principles of the Christian faith from Nicky Gumbel, and you'll interact with the other participants as they share their opinions on the issues. If you have questions, or know someone who does, bring your friends and join us on the Alpha Course.

On October 3rd, a new small group is forming, led by Jonathon and Angie. This group will examine "A life worth living," a study of *Philippians*. Paul's letter to the Philippian church has been described as "the book of Joy" and we know that you will enjoy the learning and friendships in this new group.



We're on the Web!
www.rocklandchurch.ca

St. Andrew's United Church, Rockland

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Serving Jesus in Rockland since 1904

Rockland St. Andrew's United Church is devoted to proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God and Saviour of the whole world. We seek to be knitted together in love, and to worship, learn and serve together, sharing the good news of God's love and salvation with our community.

We hope you find us a friendly, caring congregation, and that you will join with us as we grow in hope, faith and love together.

Let Us Pray

All things begin and end in prayer…so please take 5 minutes in the morning and pray for our Church…our Congregation and our Minister.

Lord give us guidance throughout our day, keep us on the right path at work and at home. In Jesus' name, amen.

It takes all kinds!

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (*Ephesians* 4:11-13)

Our Rockland congregation is building momentum as we seek to bless our community in the service of God. This fall we have a small group of people seeking to learn how to be more effective as "pastors" — equipped and called to care for the congregation. We have new "teachers" leading small groups. We have new people serving in the background, on boards, and committees, new music, new equipment and new programs. We have new "evangelists," people now sharing their love of Jesus with friends and family.

We still have faithful members who serve in big and small ways as they have for years, yet it is as though "in Christ all are made new." Everyone is learning, growing and serving.

It may be that someone reading this newsletter is concerned about some area of service where the church is still lacking, some place where we have 'dropped the ball.' Could it be that *you* might be hearing a call of God in that area which concerns you?

God wants to equip each one of us for works of service, until the whole body reaches the full measure of Jesus' grace. We really can't be all that God wants us to be without you!

It would help a lot if you'd let us know your concerns. The gaps we fill together might make a big difference for a lot of people.