



the fairview

LINK

Fairview United Church
49 Wayne Drive
Brantford, ON N3R 2Y8
(519) 752-8549

Christmas 2011 Issue 111

THE “LINK”

Thank you to all those who contributed articles for this publication. Your Editorial Team would encourage all members of the congregation to submit any reports they may have to the Church Office for publishing in the Link. Unfortunately, we are unable to publish any material without copyright permission from the original author.

Email Addresses:

rev.barrie@fairviewunitedchurch.org

office.sharon@fairviewunitedchurch.org

Website:

www.fairviewunitedchurch.org





From Rev. Barrie's Corner

Navigate With Your Fog-Lights On!! Advent-Christmas 2011

"Greetings to You!" as we approach our 61st Anniversary celebrations at Fairview on Sunday, November 13 at the 10:30 am service. This year we are most fortunate to have the Givens Family from Princeton share their "Great Gospel Music" with us. There will be a special anniversary cake that is shared with everyone after the service in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to bring your family and friends to this joyful time of worship, praise and fellowship!

November 6th marked the end of Daylight Savings Time, with dusk and darkness arriving in the early evening hours. Many will need to turn on their headlights to make their way home from work. The months of October and November seem to whiz by faster every year. Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, the first Sunday of Advent on November 27th and then our special tradition: Christmas Eve Family Candle-Light Communion at 8 pm on December 24th.

With all of the hustle and bustle around these busy months, how does one live faithfully in the real world? The daily news tells of increasing violence and injustice, of hunger and earthquakes, of poverty and out of control national deficits, and last but not least, billionaires. It's hard not to become frustrated. There is the tendency to lose hope as we try to find some way to shut out the hardships of everyday living in our world. This condition requires the kind of "Vision and Courage" that is



guiding our Vision Action Team and church members together. We are searching for a pathway through these very challenging times of “Being Church” as we work together for the realization of God’s Plan for His followers—young and old alike!

We need a special kind of **“Vision for this Voyage”** as we navigate our journey through an often obscured landscape of life. We really do need **“A Faith With Fog-Lights.”** This will help us see our way through the fog that sometimes prevents us from both seeing and experiencing the reality of God’s Love. His caring touch is present in so many ways in this complex world that we know as home. We need these two Fog-Lights to help us enhance “Our Vision for the Voyage”: One I will call Prayer and the other Stewardship. When these two lights are connected to **“The Right Power Source—God Almighty”** there’s no telling where God will lead us. As you navigate “Your Way Through the Labyrinth of Life” let your light shine, that others may join with us in these celebrations that invite us once again to remember the birth of Jesus: Lord and Saviour born to save us all.

God Bless each one with Faith, Hope and Love!

~ Rev. Barrie



Report from the Board Chair

As we approach the Christmas season I take the time to reflect on the activities of our Fairview United Church family over the past year. We have demonstrated our Christian belief by becoming involved in a number of initiatives.

Early in the year and as a direction of our Joint Needs and Assessment Committee, we embarked on a visioning project to ascertain a future path for the congregation. Out of that has come a new vision statement: “Embracing Faith – Sharing Gods Love”. This is short, to the point and a reflection of who we are as a faith family. The visioning committee’s mission has moved forward to the Action Plan segment to determine where and how we will move forward. They are a dynamic group and we thank them for their time and talents in moving us into our future.

The Fairview congregation has repeatedly demonstrated a concern for the wider community. An active outreach committee has selected a number of projects on which we were recently updated. In particular it was gratifying to have Jeff Senior, principal at Central School speak to us about the impact our presence at his school has had on the students and members of their community. This worthwhile project continues.

In addition there are a number of other projects: the food bank, Nova Vita, school boxes, sleeping mats and support of world communities affected by natural disasters, just to mention a few.

Our building is at the age where infrastructure requires updating. Of our five furnaces three have been replaced and we have two more to go. Both roofs are in need of repair or

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replacement and we are working on the best approach to deal with those and other updates as they become necessary.

Our committee with the greatest challenges at the present time is probably finance. They are a knowledgeable group of members who from time to time become wizards with their financial solutions to our needs. We are indebted to them for their efforts. At present they are examining a number of new sources of income. One area they are pursuing is specific grants that become available from church, government and community sources to cover some of our infrastructure needs. A second area being examined with the assistance of the stewards is legacy giving where members may consider providing for the Fairview congregation through wills, insurance and other financial means. Both are lengthy processes that have been introduced only recently.

Our church family is a busy family. Through God's grace and our own endeavours we will continue as a caring community, "Embracing Faith - Sharing God's Love".

Merry Christmas to all, Bob Scott, Board Chair



Six-year old Angie , and her four-year old brother, Joel , were sitting together in church.
Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud.
Finally, his big sister had had enough.
"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."
"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.
Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,
"See those two men standing by the door?
They're hushers."



Fairview Family Christmas

Sunday,
December 18
7:00 pm

Join us for
our Variety show!
Music
Fun
Coffee
Hot Cider
Free-will offering
will be taken



Fairview Family

Getting to know you.....

The Fairview LINK is a wonderful communication tool -- one that helps us to stay in touch and to learn about some current happenings, and “more about” our church family members. When I approached **Eleanor and Richard Robertson** and asked if I might “share a bit about them”, they finally agreed!



They warmly welcomed me to their home on the 10th floor of West Street “Village Tower” and of course Richard came down to meet me in the lobby (always the gentleman). It was evident from the start that they are so very happy in their home (as they should be – they have more space in their apartment than we have in our small 4 bedroom home on Buckingham Street – and a view of the city that is magnificent). Family pictures, paintings (most created by talented family members) and things “most special to them” are all so proudly displayed.

You see, there is nothing more important to this couple than their family. Their faces glow when they are talking about their three children (Judy, Barb and Rich), their 7 grandchildren, and their 6 great-grandchildren. This is a family who celebrates

y Photo Album

“everything” together – whether it be a birthday or anniversary, a holiday or special occasion, an accomplishment that needs recognizing, or “just because”. They are tightly-knit and so supportive of each other; they truly understand the importance of having and helping each other.

Richard and Eleanor met (in St. Catharines) in 1947 and were married two years later. At that time, Richard was working for a factory that made oil furnaces and burners, and car parts for General Motors vehicles. They built their first home together (literally putting hammer to nail). The process took some time but they loved working on “their home”, buying another board of lumber “whenever they made another dollar”. They had no vehicle, but would hop on their bikes and set out for a day of fresh air and sunshine.

In 1962, they made a move to Brantford. Richard was looking for a change from factory work – and a change he got. They purchased a business property across from Pauline Johnson High School and Robertson’s Pizza (the first pizza store in Brantford) was opened. It was a huge hit! As always, Richard befriended every customer and they befriended him and started calling him "Robbie" instead of Mr. Robertson. Well, I guess eventually people started saying they were going to "Robbie's" instead of "Robertson's", and thus the name changed. He still runs into people to this day who call him Robbie ... all those old customers from years ago. Before long, they had five Robbie’s – two in Brantford, and others in Whitby, Niagara Falls and Toronto. They hired managers to keep things going, and life was busy. Eleanor (self described as a

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“stay-at-home mom”) did all of the payroll and “books” for their business.

Pizza wasn’t their “whole world” though. Their kids were busy and growing, and they were all very involved in their local church “Elm Avenue United Church” (the former name for Echo Place United Church). The church had originally been named for some elm trees growing on the street, but it caused frustration for visitors who “lost their way” by heading to “Elm Street”. The congregation decided to change the name to something reflecting the neighbourhood in which they were located, and Echo Place United Church it was!

Echo Place UC was a church where the Robertson family spent a great deal of their time. The kids were involved “big time” with the Youth Group (who incidentally painted the entire exterior of the church - hmmm)! Eleanor was Secretary of Finance, a Trustee and Chair of the Congregational Board. Richard sang in the choir for over 20 years (loving every moment of it) and was on the property committee. Fund-raising became a necessary “regular occurrence” at Echo Place, but “everyone pitched in gladly to help – what an amazing group of people”. He described early “beef dinners” when they would cook all of the baked potatoes in the Robbie’s Pizza ovens. They had great kitchen facilities at Echo Place UC that allowed them to prepare many meals. One of their favourite fund-raisers was their “strawberry social” – the berries were local – all served with love, cake and ice cream.

When they speak of their former church home, they do so with a great deal of affection. When it became clear that it was time to close Echo Place United Church, they gave a great deal of consideration as to where they might continue their involvement. That same “sparkle of the eyes” happens when they speak of their Fairview experience. They are so happy

to call Fairview United Church their new home. The “treasures” (including some of the special furniture, baptismal font, family quilt, and choir music) all helped to make it an easy transition for them. “It’s like being born again!”

So what do they do for fun? In the past, Eleanor was an “All-Star Bowler” and played baseball at a Provincial level. Quilting and knitting (skills taught to her by her grandmother) have brought her a lot of enjoyment. Richard (always a “fixer upper”) enjoys working with others on special projects (at home and church) and loved his life in the business world. He learned the importance of the two words “please and thank you” at his first job with “Jumbo Ice Cream – St. Catharines” - a “way of being” that has carried him through life.

These days they are both Probus Club Members. Richard is an enthusiastic volunteer with the Children’s Aid Society of Brant, they golf three or four times a week at Burford Golf Links, and they have certainly “made their mark” through their general spirits and “helping ways” at Fairview United Church. But their first priority, the first thing in the morning and last thing at night.... is family.

Richard and Eleanor, thank you for having me to your home, for making sure that I got safely back to my car (in the dark) and for “just being you!”

A little boy was overheard praying:
“Lord, if you can't make me a better
boy, don't worry about it.
I'm having a real good
time like I am.”



Below are two letters of support we have received recently. We are sure you will begin to smile when you see how Fairview is touched.

Alzheimer Society

B R A N T

September 13, 2011

To Whom it May Concern

The Alzheimer Society of Brant is pleased to submit this letter of support for the HRDC Grant Application made by Fairview United Church for funding in order to improve security features and to replace the furnace in the church. The Alzheimer Society of Brant has been very fortunate in being able to access space at the Fairview United Church for delivery of monthly general public education events as well as a bi-monthly support group for persons with dementia and their family members.

We have appreciated the warm welcome that we have received at Fairview United Church. Over the past three years, more than 2000 persons have attended the monthly public lectures held at the church. On evaluations, those who attend these presentations have commented on the wonderful space that has been made available to them and the ease of parking in order to attend. The church is truly a community church and welcomes all persons to their building.

Our Family and Friends Support group, which meets every two weeks, is a wonderful opportunity for persons with dementia and their family members to come together in a quiet setting, in peaceful surroundings, to talk about the issues they are facing. Fairview United Church provides excellent space for this on-going program.

Fairview United Church focuses on collaboration and believes in reaching out to serve others in the Brantford community. The Alzheimer Society of Brant has been just one beneficiary of their support. Adequate heating and security features are essential for Fairview as they continue to provide this vital ministry to those they serve. The Alzheimer Society fully supports this funding application.

Yours sincerely



Mary Burnett
Chief Executive Officer

e thought you might enjoy reading them; and as you do, we are
ching the lives of many beyond the borders of our congregation.

CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

A GRAND ERIE SCHOOL



135 George Street, Brantford ON N3T 6B4

Phone: (519)752-8819

Fax: (519)752-8989

September 15, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

It is without hesitation that I write to you in support of Fairview United Church's funding application to New Horizon's. Fairview United Church has been a great asset to my school community for the past school year and I am confident their grant application will assist them in further outreach programs in the future.

I am hoping, through this letter, to assist you in understanding the good nature and generosity of the members of Fairview United Church, specifically many of the retirees who have been such a valuable asset to the Central School Community over the past year.

Central School is located in a significantly disadvantaged area in Brantford. As a school community we have many needs we need to support. Volunteers from Fairview United have answered that call. They have fund-raised to help purchase books for our library and have hosted soup drives and "winter clothing" drives to ensure students are fed and warm in the winter. The generous volunteers at Fairview hosted a toonie drive, where they provided materials for our classrooms and a teacher appreciation lunch. Perhaps the most memorable gift was a complete turkey dinner for our whole school last year at Christmas. This was something the students talked about for weeks afterward.

I ask that you seriously consider the funding application from Fairview United. In my opinion, they are a worthy recipient who we look forward to partnering with in the years ahead.

Should you have any questions, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to call.

Respectfully,

Mr. J. Senior
Principal

From the Worship Committee

Upcoming Services

The Worship Committee has been busy planning and preparing for upcoming services and events in which everyone will want to be a part.

As we head into the Christmas Season, come and take part in some very special celebrations. Bring your family and celebrate with our Fairview Family.

The following is a list of dates that will want to make note of:

- Nov. 13** Anniversary Sunday (with special guests, "The Givens Family"). Join with us and enjoy the musical talents of this family as we celebrate our 61st Anniversary.
- Nov. 20** Children's Sunday ("Reign Of Christ"). Our Youth Group (Senior Sunday School) will be leading the service.
- Nov. 27** The 1st Sunday of Advent will be a Communion Service.
- Dec. 4** The 2nd Sunday of Advent will be White Gift Sunday.
- Dec. 11** 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 18** 4th Sunday of Advent. Our annual "Fairview Family Christmas" will be at 7:00 pm that evening. Come out and enjoy an evening of singing, fun and entertainment. Everyone is welcome!
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Family Service. There will be a Candlelight Communion service for the whole family at 8:00 PM.
- Dec. 25** Christmas Day. There will be no Sunday Service at Fairview that day. Harmony United Church has invited anyone wishing to worship that day to join them, at 10:30 am.
- Jan. 1** Service at Fairview at 10:30 am. Harmony has been invited to join us for this service.



Recruitment

Looking for a way to have a “more involved” church experience???

Now is the time!

“**Many hands make light work**”. Most of the things that my Dad said to his four daughters when we were growing up were absolutely true. He always seemed to know “what was best” (although he did tell us some “outrageous stories too”). We believed his words to be true simply because he said they were true. So when he told us that we all needed to “help out” to get a job done, we rolled up our sleeves and did the dishes or raked the leaves, or helped to pile chairs after a dinner at the church. But looking back, it was the things that my parents showed/modeled for us that had the most lasting influence on us. Dad was the custodian at our church (he always had two or three jobs on the go) and we would spend many Saturday mornings at Trinity United Church in Guelph. Mom and Dad have always “given their all” --- volunteering at our schools, at their churches, and in their communities -- doing what they could so that things would run smoothly (and so that the responsibility was shared by many).

As a “grown up-per”, I understand that Volunteers are absolutely vital to churches. ..without volunteers many things would not get done. **It has been my experience that it is when I “jump right in”, volunteering to take on a role and to share of myself -- my strengths and energy, and my time -- I am the one to benefit most.** My volunteering with Fairview United Church helps me to understand what is



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happening in the church, I feel that I have a “say” in things, I meet new people (and get to know them at a deeper level) and have a sense of fulfillment. I see volunteering as an ongoing confirmation of my support for the vision of Fairview United Church. I feel that I am in closer dialogue with God and feel “fed” spiritually.

Currently, your Recruitment Committee is seeking to fill some very exciting volunteer roles. I’d like to share some details with you so that you might give them consideration:

Chair/Vice Chair of the Board: We have a wonderful Congregational Board – consisting of representatives from all of our committees and groups. The conversations that we have are interesting, engaging, and “passionate”; attendance at meetings is excellent. We are seeking individuals that can guide the meetings and the discussions ---Bob Scott (our current chair) could definitely share any details relating to these roles.

Superintendence of Sunday School: When we had a vacancy in this position at the end of last year, Alexander Rey stepped up to the plate, on a temporary / interim basis He’s planning to head off to university in September 2012, but felt that he could share some of his time with us (as he feels so strongly that the future of Fairview is dependent upon programs for our children/youth.) Ideally, we would like to have someone “work along side” Alexander for the next six months to ensure a smooth transition. Again, our Sunday School teachers are amazing. Anyone who has a “love of children” (hmmmmm.... I think that we have some retired teachers as part of our congregation) might consider such a role.

Recruitment Committee: do you have an interest in encouraging others to “get involved”?? Are you someone

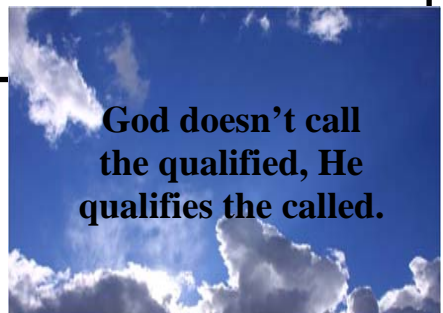
who believes that everyone has talents to share (and that people learn best from each other). Are you an idea person – one who can “see a need” and do you have a talent in “encouraging” others to help? This is a skill that comes easier to some than others --- it’s often in the “ask” ... how (and when) you approach people and how you present the task. We are currently seeking 3 persons for our Recruitment Committee. Are we looking for YOU??

Other roles? Committee chairs will be letting us know soon whether they are seeking to fill vacancies on their committees, at our Annual Meeting in February. I believe that there is real value in “trying something new”. You may have served on one committee for an extended period of time... give something else a try! Do you have any interest in any of the following?? Finance, Faith Formation, Ministry and Personnel, Worship, Stewardship, Trustees, Memorials, Fairview Women’s Groups, Presbytery, Property, Outreach, Youth. These are just some of the “formalized” committees/groups that can always use some assistance. There are lots of other opportunities to “make a difference”.

**Give it some thought.... Mull it over in your sleep ...
Can you get more involved in 2012?**

If you have any questions or concerns (or suggestions), please check with Debra Ward or Brenda Crocco. We’d love to chat with you!

Debra Ward (519) 754-4199



Faith Formation Committee

Fairview United Church's Faith Formation Committee consists of 7 members, with a willingness to accept more if anyone would like to join us: Patsy Watson, Sue Johnson, Beth McIntosh, Linn Shea, Brenda Malvern, Alexander Rey – Sunday School Superintendant, and myself Martha Weavers.

We started the year with much excitement, looking forward to a new season and a renewal of church life, a Sunday school kick-off on September 11, followed by a church wide welcome back BBQ on September 18. We had teacher training on October the 16, and some of the Youth attended a Youth Retreat at Five Oaks on the last weekend of October.

We continue with much excitement as we approach a Faith Formation hosted 'movie study' (a play on the traditional Bible study) in which we will explore the movie "Defending Your Life" starring Albert Brooks and Meryl Streep.



Many of you asked for my lemon tart recipe, so I have provided it for you on the following page. Enjoy!

~Martha Weavers



CREAMY LEMON TART



6 whole graham crackers, crushed into fine crumbs

2 tbsp melted butter (or margarine)

1 can of sweetened condensed milk

2 large eggs

½ cup lemon juice

1 tbsp lemon zest

Preheat oven to 350°, mix the finely crushed graham crackers crumbs with the butter (margarine) until combined and press into a 9 inch pie plate – or save yourself this step and buy a pre-made crust – and place into the refrigerator while preparing the filling.

In a medium bowl, combine condensed milk and eggs; mix until smooth. Add lemon juice and zest; stir until combined and pour into prepared crust.

Bake the pie for 15 minutes. Cool completely for best flavour and serve chilled.

Variations I have tried:

Citrus Tart or any other creamy fruit tart simply by changing the juice and the add-ins (i.e. zests, or other pieces of fruit).

Chocolate Tart, melted dark chocolate in place of lemon juice and zest.

I doubled this recipe to fill a large rectangle dish or you can also divide the recipe between muffin cups to make individual tarts.

Stewardship

For two Sundays in October, the Stewardship Committee asked members in attendance to pick up stewardship envelopes from their mail boxes. We are very thankful for the wonderful efforts by everyone to do so. Only one person forgot to pick up the envelope before leaving. We have never before had such a great response.



Thanks to all who remembered and also to the greeters and ushers who helped to remind everyone.

We are asking everyone to return their responses by Sunday, November 20 and we are hoping for a similar response.

In late November or early December we will be informing the congregation of the success of our stewardship program.

Thanks to all for your cooperation, ~ Stewardship Committee



FAIRVIEW FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Christmas Dinner

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

6:00 P.M.

\$15.00 per person

Come out and enjoy a hot roasted turkey dinner, carol singing and entertainment. Tickets available in the narthex after the service on November 13, 20 and 27, or call the

Wilks at 519-752-4227. Every-

Journey to Bethlehem

Tuesday, December 6 and
Wednesday, December 7

6:00-8:00 pm
Five Oaks Centre, Paris

This year, Journey to Bethlehem will be celebrating its 15th anniversary. After this December they will be taking a hiatus from J2B but are looking into other opportunities to share this magical season with the community.

Join us for two wonderful evenings when all ages are invited to journey through the greatest story ever told! Five Oaks staff and countless volunteers set up both indoors and outdoors to bring the story alive. Travelers begin the journey with music then make their way through the Bethlehem countryside meeting Prophets, Roman Soldiers, Innkeepers, Shepherds and Angels. Finally, pilgrims will rest a moment with the nativity. After the journey, all are invited to warm up with hot drinks and festive cookies. The trip takes about 45 minutes. Travelers are advised to dress warmly for the walk outside.

Cost: a free will offering and a non-perishable food item for the Brantford Food Bank.



Parking: If you arrive by car, please park at Bethel Stone United Church, 154 Bethel Rd, Paris. Bus shuttle service begins at 5:45 pm. Those requiring assistance can park at Five Oaks.

FINANCE REPORT

I have to congratulate Fairview's congregation in keeping our actual financial results on target for the year. I anticipate that we will be in a deficit of \$10,000 as forecasted at our 2010 annual meeting. This will be a great accomplishment given the passing of several members who have greatly contributed to the financial and spiritual well being of this church over many decades.

But, I have to ask: is this what we wanted to achieve? A \$10,000 deficit? I would think not; however, for the congregation to accept this, our congregation realized they were not in the position to change this trend. I understand that trends like this do not change overnight; however, it is imperative that we become a team of action to start this change.

We have a great opportunity this year. We have a visioning team who are facilitating discussion on change and keeping our focus on new goals, which, if successful, will lead to growth of the congregation. We have a huge number of dedicated congregational board members, who bring a tremendous amount of talents and skills forward.

It will take all of us together, giving a little more of our time, talent, and treasure. More you say? I say, if we are still walking on this side of the good green grass, than God has not yet said that our work here is done. We still have more to do.

I understand that we are tired. But as God's people, we must have faith that God will lift our burdens, and in the end we will say, "That wasn't too hard, was it?"

I know that it is easy for me to say, as I have not been a part of the work Fairview has done for the number of years that many of you have. Thank you.

I also know that the task always looks bigger at the beginning. We have all witnessed how Fairview's congregation has taken on challenges to share Gods love with each other and our community. Our biggest challenges are ahead of us.

No matter how much or how little, you are an imperative part of the success of the visioning team and the congregational board. All of us as individuals must become leaders to facilitate change and become a team of action.

Remember it is only our bodies which are getting older, our spirits are all the same age.

It is time to start the budget for the 2012. Committee budgets are due to Finance by December 7th. Please bring your concerns and ideas forward, either through your participation of our visioning process, by attending a committee or board meeting, or by expressing your thoughts in writing and placing them in the suggestion box by the office.

May God Bless you and your families this Christmas season.
 Merry Christmas
 Sherrie Milla
 Finance Chair
 Visioning Team Member

October Finance Statement

Summary	Current Period	YTD	YTD Prior Year	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total Income	15,880.87	174,471.37	175,241.68	195,043.50	234,052.00
Total Expenses	17,454.75	184,166.64	169,224.72	203,273.20	243,928.00
Excess Income/ Expenses	(1,573.88)	(9,695.27)	6,016.96	(8,229.70)	(9876.00)

Visioning/Action Plan Team Update

A brief review of the visioning process:

Vision Statement: A few words that describe the essence of what we (congregation) value most in our church experience...to be reviewed every 5–10 yrs.

Goals: These may address interests or needs of the congregation but are broad in scope...what we want to aim for that moves us into action. A congregation can only handle 3-5 goals at one time and these should be reviewed every 2-3 yrs.

Objectives: These are specific ideas or action steps to reach the goals and should be reviewed yearly.

Our congregation adopted the present vision statement at the annual general meeting in February.... “Embracing Faith – Sharing God’s Love”. The mandate of this committee is to create an action plan that augments the vision statement, including details on the direction and demographics Fairview would like to focus on. To this end we have encouraged and facilitated discussions to motivate our congregation and committees to set goals and objectives that spur us into action.

Feedback from the congregation and church committees helped us to narrow the focus down to three main goals - Spiritual Development and Education - Enhanced Pastoral Care - New Opportunities for Involvement. In June we presented these to the Board and then to the congregation in September. At this time we recommended obtaining an

additional staff member to facilitate the implementation of the new vision statement.

We hosted an evening dinner in October for all committees and congregation members to brainstorm on specific attainable objectives for this year. The objectives decided upon included – Roof - Different types of services, music, guest speakers etc. – Reconnecting with former members/ Broadening pastoral care. There will be another brainstorming session following the church service on Nov. 6th. We are hopeful this session will result in actual concrete steps that committees, groups and maybe even individuals will take away with them and be accountable for completing. As well, we will be revisiting the staffing needed to support the ministry and vision of Fairview Church. This is an exciting time for Fairview with many, many opportunities to participate and bring our vision statement to life.....**Embracing Faith – Sharing God’s Love.**

The members of the Vision/Action Plan team include Brenda Crocco, Sherrie Milla, Alexander Rey, Isabel Rombough, Liz Ryan, Linn Shea, Rev. Barrie Bain



House System

Each Sunday as you walk into the church you are greeted by a friendly face. This person represents one of our 11 Houses at Fairview United Church. The calendar year (excluding August) has a “House” attached to each month.

I have had so many people comment on the ‘friendly manner’ and ‘warm welcome’ they receive as they enter Fairview.

It is so nice to end our Worship Service with a friendship time, catching up with friends, making new friends and have a drink and treat. This fellowship time, hosted by the House of the month, is way to greet the day and the coming week.

Thank you so much to everyone who is in the House System. We have wonderful leaders each month who are so organized. One other special happening at Fairview is that if there is a House that needs a few extra helping hands on a given Sunday, volunteers are nearby.

If you are not in a House, please see Jane Baxter after Worship anytime and you too can be a member of a House.

Many thanks

Jane Baxter



In Memoriam



Lorna Gawley
March 1, 2011

Esther Cline
April 28, 2011

Betty Young
July 1, 2011

Chuck Dewar
August 27, 2011

Freda Smeaton
August 29, 2011

Bob Moffat
September 13, 2011

Mary Beth Murray
September 15, 2011

Jessie Smith
October 24, 2011

Hazel Dewar
November 1, 2011

The United Church
Observer
subscriptions

Have you always wanted to have your own Observer Subscription but have never signed up? Or do you currently have a subscription? Well, take note! You can sign up for your 2012 Observer Subscription starting today for \$20. We no longer have an Observer Representative, but you can contact the office to sign up, or leave your name, address and cash/cheque in an envelope and put in the mail slot in the office door. Cheques can be made payable to Fairview United Church. Please sign up by **Sunday November 27.**



Christmas Services at Fairview

Sunday, December 18

*7:00 pm Fairview Family Christmas
—Variety Show*

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

*8:00 pm Family Service including
Candle Light Communion*

A decorative border of holly leaves and red berries framing the text. Two red and green ribbons hang down from the bottom corners of the wreath.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Friday, December 23:
9 to noon

Monday Dec. 26–Friday Dec. 30
office closed

Monday, January 2
open according to regular office hours
(Mon–Thu: 9–noon/1–3, Fri: 9–noon)

2011 Givings

Please be sure to have all givings for the year 2011 in by Friday, December 30 at noon in order to ensure they are tax-receipted for 2011.