

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, January 1st 2017

A FRIENDLY REMINDER! At this time of year, we sometimes have difficulties regulating the temperature in various areas of the church building. If you have to open any windows, due to excessive heat, please remember to close and lock the windows when you leave. This is imperative for security reasons, and we don't want any bad weather coming inside! *Thank you, from the Board of Managers*

The **DUTY ELDER for JANUARY** is Cathy Ross! The Duty Elder is responsible for staying in the Sanctuary following Sunday's worship service to see if there is anyone in need of prayer or assistance. Should you wish to pray or speak with the Duty Elder, please remain in your seat following the service and the Duty Elder will come to you.

Please be aware of the **HOT LUNCH PROGRAM** still being conducted at St. Mark's United Church, 201 Centre St S, Whitby! St. Mark's host a hot lunch on Monday, January 30th, at 12:00noon. Please call their church office, at (905) 668-3091, if you wish to reserve a seat!

NEW YEAR START-UP DATES for the various groups in our church will be as follows:

- Liturgical Dance - January 10th , 7:30pm
- Tuesday evening Bible Study - January 10th, 7:30pm
- Wednesday morning Bible Study - January 11th, 10:00am
- Praise Team - January 12th, 7:00pm
- Delta Kids Club - January 14th, 9:00am

There are still some **2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES** ready for pick-up on the Narthex table! If you haven't picked yours up yet, please make sure to do so! If you have any questions about using the numbered envelopes, please speak with Christine Smith.

“Retirement with Meaning: Living with the Spirit of Adventure!” **CRIEFF HILLS** Retreat Centre is offering a unique opportunity for those recently retired or looking toward retirement. This two day retreat will provide opportunity to focus on this time of transition, and to explore how your time and talents can be focused, shared and bring meaning to your life, as well as to others. Sunday, February 5th—Tuesday, February 7th. Speaker is Rev. Dr. Andrew Irvine. Cost is \$250.00 per person, or \$450.00 per couple. Call to register, (519) 824-7898, or through website at www.crieffhills.com .

LIVING FAITH

In every generation, the church needs to confess its faith anew. That confession must, at one and the same time, be the ancient faith of the church and yet spoken into the mood and questions of its own time. “LIVING FAITH” endeavors to do that. This Statement of Christian Belief was prepared under the direction of the Committee on Church Doctrine of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. It has been received by the General Assembly of the church and commended as an acceptable statement, and as useful in both worship and study.

6.2: Doubt

6.2.1—6.2.3: We are not always certain that God is with us. At times God calls us to live in this world without experiencing the divine presence, often discerning God's nearness only as we look back. At other times, God seems absent in order that our faith may be tested. Through such struggle, we mature in faith. God may also chasten and strengthen us through the hard circumstances of life.

Questioning may be a sign of growth. It may also be disobedience: We must be honest with ourselves. Since we are to love God with our minds, as well as our hearts, the working through of doubt is part of our growth in faith. The church includes many who struggle with doubt. Jesus accepted the man who prayed: *“Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.”*

Though the strength of our faith may vary and, in many ways, be assailed and weakened, yet we may find assurance in Christ through confidence in His word, the sacraments of His church, and the work of His Spirit.

COMING EVENTS!

Jan 1st	— 10:00am	Sunday morning Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Jan 6th	— 1:00pm	Community Outreach food bank, in the Hall
Jan 8th	— 10:00am	Sunday morning Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Jan 9th	— 7:30pm	Board of Managers meeting, in the Parlour
Jan 10th	— 2:00pm	Ladies Afternoon Group, in the Parlour
	— 7:30pm	Liturgical Dance practice, in the Sanctuary
	— 7:30pm	Tuesday evening Bible Study, in the Parlour
Jan 11th	— 10:00am	Wednesday morning Bible Study, in the Parlour
Jan 12th	— 7:00pm	Praise Team practice, in the Sanctuary
Jan 14th	— 9:00am	Delta Kids Club, in the Hall
Jan 15th	— 10:00am	Sunday morning Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
	— following service	Little Harmonies practice, in the Sanctuary