

Between Friends

April 2016

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Joan Carr and Shirley Irvine
 United Church Women

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BE A TRAVELLER, EVEN IF YOU STAY HOME

I always find it amazing what I learn when I travel. Some of what I learn is obvious - I learn some history. I learn about different cultures. I learn some geography. I experience different foods. I learn a bit of a foreign language on some trips. It's all good.

But on really good trips, I learn more than that. I learn about myself too. I suppose that's not really a sensible thing for me to say. The truth is that is sort of how I define a great trip - a trip where I learn about myself, while I explore new places.

As you might imagine, it's hard to plan vacations that way - because I never know what sort of holiday experience will lead to personal growth and reflection. But in spite of that, Ian and I went to Berlin, Germany over March Break this year. Marjorie, unfortunately, could not get the time off at her work, and Gareth was busy at University.

Berlin is a fascinating city. It has lots of interesting sights and history. Between the Prussian history, World War history, and the social experiment called the Berlin Wall there is lots to learn about and appreciate, to see and to feel.

We found surprises too. One surprise was that although Ian and I had never been to Berlin before, we were treated like locals. Strangers stopped us to ask for directions, tourists asked us for advice. Ian, with his blond hair and blue eyes certainly looked like he could have been born in Berlin, and I am half German myself. I'm also a good listener, so I quickly learned to say "Guten Tag" (Good Day) like a native, which created some confusion when the person I was speaking with responded with a long stream of rapid German!

And that experience forced me to realize that most of my recent travel has been to places where I looked like I **didn't** belong. When we went as a family to Istanbul, for example, we did not look like we belonged there - we were clearly tourists, and we were treated accordingly. But in Berlin, we (visually) fit right into the crowd. I found that a bit odd, given that I felt equally lost in Istanbul and in Berlin.

75 Pergola Road
 Etobicoke, ON M9W 5K4
 416-745-6252

martingroveuc@bellnet.ca
www.martingroveuc.ca

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30am
 Office Hrs. Tue. - Fri. 9:00am - Noon
 Rev. Paul's cell: 647-700-7129
 Email: paul.mguc@zoho.com

“The traveler sees what he sees. The tourist sees what he has come to see.”

.. G.K. Chesterton

Being in Berlin brought something else home for me too. I have been forced to accept the fact that I am a lousy tourist. However, I am a good traveller. I realize that for some people, being a good tourist and a good traveller are the same thing. But for me, they are quite different.

For me, the essence of being a good tourist is to know how to “do” a city. A good tourist knows what the “best” sights are. A good tourist knows how to see the best a city has to offer for any given duration of stay. A good tourist shows up with maps (which have already been highlighted), local currency in hand, and a complete agenda for their stay. A good tourist knows what they want to see in advance, and the “goal” of travel is to get yourself into the places where you will see what you came to see.

By contrast, a traveller is someone who can feel and absorb what a place is really like. A good traveller leaves a place having some sense of what the locals feel, what the locals care about, what it means to “be” a local. A good traveller has no idea in advance what they want to see, and the “goal” of travel is to realize that there is no goal. A good traveller goes to many places in a city, not knowing or even caring if the places are the “best” sights to see.

And of course, a good traveller can do all that even without leaving their home town. Looking at familiar surroundings with new eyes and an open heart is being a traveller too.

As our spring advances and we make plans for the coming summer, we look forward to seeing new things in the coming months. I hope and pray that each of us will not only see new things, but that we will find new ways to see things. Be a traveler, even if you stay home. And I look forward to sharing travel stories with each other later.

Travel well.

... Wishing you a wonderful spring and summer,

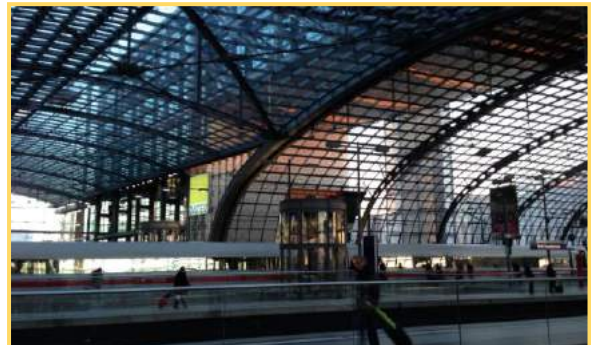
... Rev. Paul ■



V200 Diesel at the Deutsches Technikmuseum



Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate) at sunset



Berlin Hauptbahnhof (main train station)



Tiergarten (Park) from the Berlin Victory Column

Note from Chair of Council

I hope you all had a happy blessed Easter.

I personally enjoy the Easter season as it is a time of Grace, beginning with Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent and receiving the ashes in the shape of the cross, a symbol of penance and mourning.

Our Lenten series was well attended and under the leadership and spiritual guidance of Rev. Paul we read reflections from a book called "Diving Deeply", and explored our faith sharing stories about our life experiences.

The Maundy Thursday (Last Supper) and Good Friday Worship Services led us to Easter Sunday with a promise of hope and new life. It was a journey worth travelling and I give thanks to all who shared stories and gave of their many gifts and talents to make Easter memorable.

The Co-ordinating Council continues to explore the Life and Work of our Church through worship, Christian education, faith and community as well as maintaining a place of worship that is inviting to others.

It is a privilege once again for me to serve as the Chair of Council and I appreciate your support. I would like to welcome a new member to our council....Stella George as Chair of Property. Stella is very committed to getting things done. Thank you Stella.

Thank you to the organizers and all those who contributed reports for the 22nd Annual Report and made it a great day. Special thanks to George Avery for chairing the meeting and Carol Burke for all her preparations.

Other items of interest

Some members of Council and Rev. Paul have been attending meetings with Etobicoke churches with a focus on sharing our stories and discussing our strengths and gifts. We hope to build a closer relationship by learning what strengths and challenges as well as services and programs other churches are using. I think working with other churches is important today. There are more meetings coming up and we plan to participate.

Sunday School is back! How wonderful is that? Thanks to Cerene Johnson, Larry Jackson, Peggy McKee, Judith Binns and Rev. Paul for getting the Sunday school up and running. The children are happy and we enjoy hearing their stories and what they have learned during worship service. And I hear it is only going to get better.

The Garbage & Recycling Program is now in place at Martin Grove United Church and we want to thank all of you who are doing your part by sorting - recyclable, organic and garbage waste into the appropriate bins. It is very important that everyone do their part to participate in this program. Should we fail to comply, we will have to pay an ongoing fee for garbage pick-up. So as well as saving the planet we are saving a lot of money. Check your Sunday Bulletin for a detailed info sheet on Garbage & Recycling which you can refer to at any time. We hope you find it handy and helpful when you are not sure "What Goes Where".

The Sunday refreshments program seems to be working well. Thank you to all the hosts. We will be issuing a new schedule starting in June and you will receive copies. If there is anyone who is not currently hosting on Sundays we would be glad to have you join us. Please see Shirley Irvine or Sheila Avery.
Peace, Love and Joy to all. ■

Submitted by Shirley Irvine

Finance

We were very pleased to finish 2015 with a surplus of \$7,051. The expenses and revenue were down below budget as we went through a transition year. However, we were very successful in selecting a new minister.

Special donations from our fundraising projects assist us well during the year. Our Pancake Supper is always lots of fun and a great meal - plan to attend next year. Our Euchre party is on the afternoon of Saturday, April 30 at 1:30pm. Mark your calendar now and watch for details in the Life and Work. We are also well underway with our Christmas Stocking Project with over 50 people participating.

Save This Date
Saturday, April 30
MGUC Fundraiser
1:30pm ~ Friendship Hall
\$10/person
Prizes & Light Refreshments
All adults are welcome



Our annual Wishing Well BBQ is always the highlight of the year and takes place this year on Wednesday, June 15 at 5:30pm. Rain or shine, it is always enjoyed by all.

We have some other ideas for fundraising so watch for more information and if you have any ideas please let us know.

Remember we are "The Little Church that Does and Will". With the strong leadership of Rev. Dr. Paul Shepherd and the help of everyone we look forward to another successful and blessed year. ■

Submitted by George Avery, Chair of Stewardship and Finance

Pastoral Care



The Pastoral Care Callers have been busy making calls about MGUC events and other pertinent information. Please let us know if you have a concern for yourself or for a friend. Rev. Paul makes many Pastoral Visits and phone calls and the committee assists where necessary.

We are going to have a "Spring Tea and Communion" on May 12, at 2:00pm in the Welcome Room. Come on out and enjoy an afternoon of Fellowship, Tea and Communion.

A ride can be provided if necessary. ■

Submitted by Sheila Avery, Chair of Pastoral Care

Sunday School Update

After a quick discussion with Rev. Paul, Peggy McKee and Larry Jackson, we did it! We started our Sunday School program on Sunday, March 6 from 10:00am – 10:30am.

In that first week we had 8 students in attendance and it was a great joy to have the children tell the congregation what they had learned in class. On the next Sunday we had 9 students in attendance.

We are really looking forward to having a strong and robust Sunday School and we ask for your prayers and we welcome any ideas or feedback from the congregation.

The Sunday School program will break in June and resume again in September.
God Bless. ■

Submitted by Cerene Johnson



Outreach

Youth Without Shelter The March Youth Without Shelter dinner was enjoyed by all. Merle Fedirchuk and Stella George, her very capable assistant, put on a healthy, delicious Sunday dinner.

Thanks go out to everyone who contributed to the dinner. Please note that there will not be a YWS Dinner in May.

Robert Koil South India Outreach Mission



The Annual Walk-A-Thon for The South India Project is scheduled for Saturday, June 3 at 10:00am. Get your sponsorship forms from Robert Koil and join us for the WALK, or provide support for those who can walk. ■

Submitted by Judy Binns, Interim Chair

A Welcoming Church Community

At a recent seminar at Westway United Church we heard about making a good first impression on new comers to our Church. It is our intention at Martin Grove United Church to become a vibrant, welcoming church where guests come back, which includes seeing everything through the eyes of our guests when the church makes connection with the first-timers.

Do you remember a time when you were truly welcomed? What was it about that experience that felt so welcoming and hospitable?

Be creative and imagine how you would want to be greeted if you were new and then use that approach with a guest.

These are some things we can do. . . .let's get involved in "Welcoming New Comers"

- Just simply being friendly
- Greeting people in the parking lot
- Speaking to people you don't know before you talk to old friends
- Ask if they would like to sit with you during the service
- Show them where the washrooms are
- Introduce them to two other people you think might have some common ground
- Introduce guests to the minister
- Invite guests to sign the Guest Book

There are many other ideas we can look at to ensure we are a Welcoming Church and "Making a Good First Impression". Most importantly we need "to get more people engaged". You will be hearing more in the days ahead. ■

Submitted by Shirley Irvine

Rev. Paul's Away Times

Rev. Paul will be away on continuing education on the following dates. We look forward to seeing what new ideas and insights he comes back with!

- May 16 - 21
- June 20 - 26
- July 11 - 17

Rev. Paul will be on summer holidays on these dates. We wish him a restful and restorative break.

- July 18 - 24
- Aug 13 - Sept 4

Toronto South West Presbyterian (UCW)

The annual meeting of the Toronto South West United Church Women Presbyterian was held at Richview United Church on Wednesday, March 30.

Toronto Conference's UCW Annual Meeting will be held on May 3 and 4 at St Paul's United Church in Brampton

- All UCW members are welcome.
- Registration opens at 9:15am Tuesday, May 3
- Cost of the meals is \$15 for lunches May 3 and 4 - and \$20 for dinner on May 3

For information and registration forms please see Joan Carr or Shirley Irvine.

South West Presbytery

South West Presbytery is alive and well!

Grace United Church and St Paul's United Church (Brampton) are proceeding with forming a two-point charge effective July 1, 2016.

I am delighted to tell you that the next meeting will be held at Martin Grove United Church on June 14.

The Toronto Conference 92nd Annual Meeting will be held on May 27 and 28 in Midland, the theme being *Weaving Our Stories into God's Love*. The meeting will be held at the North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre, while the Celebration of Ministries Service will be held on Saturday at St Paul's United Church. ■

Submitted by Joan Carr

Choir



You may have noticed the choir singing some upbeat anthems in the past few months. They are tunes from the supplement hymn book called MORE VOICES. Now, these books have been placed in the pews and we'll be singing more hymns from these books as we go forward. Most are very upbeat and easy to learn, and we hope that you'll enjoy the new music. Don't worry though; we won't be forgetting our Voices United favourites either.

A special welcome to Coleen Jackson who has joined the choir in our soprano section. She's a great addition to this crazy group, and we're so glad she's taking some time to come out and sing. We're also glad that Juli is again working with the Praise Group to enhance our services.

The Choir welcomed Rev. Paul officially at the Covenanting Service on February 7 with the anthem "United in Christ", reflecting our work together here at MGUC. Special music for Lent and Easter was meaningful for us all. We'd like to thank Rev. Paul for performing the reading segments for us in our Good Friday dramatic anthem, "Father, Forgive Them". Following the Service on Good Friday, the choir provided the traditional refreshments of hot cross buns, cheese and jam.

We appreciate the support of the congregation. Although we're a small group, (always open to new members) we try to bring a joyful noise to our services each week. Hallelujah! ■

Submitted by Liz Gosse-Davidson

Martin Grove United Church Women

Guests and Events In February, Barb Imrie, an environmentalist, and daughter of Jack and Betty Bea, spoke about her involvement at Palgrove United Church's "Certified Community Kitchen". Samples of homemade soup were given out to all of the ladies attending and we learned a lot about what they have accomplished through their community kitchen. This kitchen has helped to bring the community together to share meals and is being used by outside vendors who sell soup and provide a lunch program for schools. This has allowed their church to stay more active and expand their congregation.

Joan Carr cooked pancakes for the Pancake Supper on February 9, with the help of many others, which was a great success.

In March, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day and learned about the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick himself. We sang familiar Irish songs and enjoyed a great afternoon along with some delicious refreshments.

Important Dates World Day of Prayer was well-attended by several members of our UCW on March 6, at Fellowship Presbyterian Church on Thistledown Boulevard.

Joan Carr attended the Annual Meeting of Toronto South West Presbyterial that was held at Richview United Church on March 30.

Coming up on May 3 and 4, the Toronto Conference Presbyterial Annual Meeting will be held at St. Paul's, in Brampton.

Looking ahead, the "Togetherness Day" Luncheon will be held on October 7 at Caledon East.

The "Observer" This year the MGUCW donated three subscriptions of the "Observer" to outside community organizations.

Fellowship of The Least Coin We have put the oversized coin jar out in the Narthex again, with the hope that people will continue to support this charity by contributing any "small change" from time to time to allow this fundraiser to continue.

Fundraising Ideas Please watch for some fundraising events that will take place over the next few months, such as a Bake Sale, Games Night and perhaps another Euchre party in the fall.

Kitchen Alert Reminder! Please ensure that any leftover food/ beverages are labelled by any groups using either of the kitchens. Also, remember to throw out any leftover food/ beverages that have expired as we want to keep everyone healthy. We are forever grateful to Helen Stewart and Shirley Wheeler who strive to keep both kitchens in a very hygienic and immaculate state, which can only be achieved with your constant cooperation.

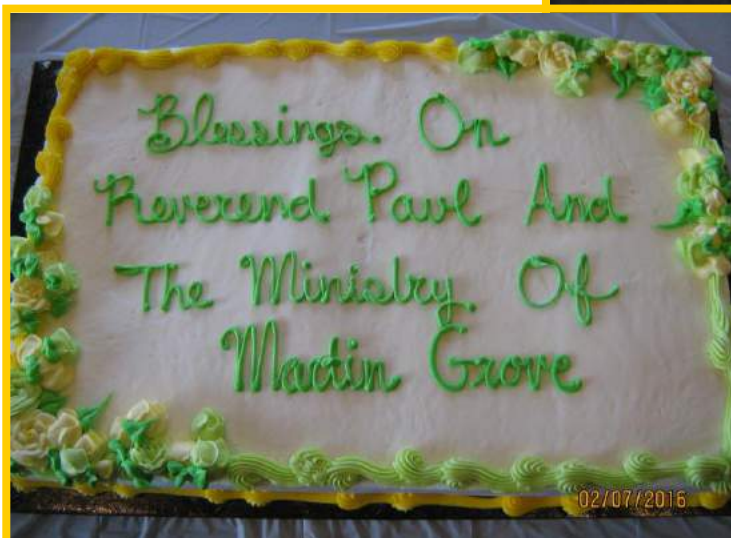
Newcomers Please feel free to join us on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm for fun and fellowship, with the promise of an interesting meeting.

Condolences We were saddened to hear about the loss of Phyllis Langfeld's son, Thelma and Ethel Baggs' niece, and more recently, Muriel Nunns, Charter Member, MGUCW. ■

Submitted by Peggy McKee, Secretary, MGUCW



Martin Grove United Church Welcomed Rev. Dr. Paul Shepherd At a February Covenant Service



Seniors Workshop

In February there was a meeting held at Humber Valley UC for Leaders for Seniors Programs at United Churches in Etobicoke. Joan Carr and Juli Roslin attended the meeting where eight United Churches outlined their programs especially designed for seniors. We reported that presently our congregation does not have specific programs for seniors, but do tailor our events to accommodate seniors. The following are some of the programs that were shared:

- Humber Valley
 - Holds a Daytimers luncheon once a month
 - Originally call the CAMEO – come and meet each other
 - New Year’s Eve for Seniors – on Newfoundland time
 - Trips to Stratford and other destinations
- Bloordale
 - Pastoral Care Team is the lead
 - Information Events for dementia, etc.
 - Currently doing a needs assessment
- St. James
 - Seniors Luncheon – Oct – June
 - Wellness Centre – Reiki, Drumming, Christian Meditation
 - Food Basket (Foodbank)
 - Published series of books entitled “Treasured Lives” about seniors’ wisdom and life lessons
 - Seniors Day exercise club and yoga
 - Senior Choir, just for seniors
- Humbervale
 - Time Together Senior’s Program – once a month
 - Chair Yoga
 - Adult Daycare – to give caregivers a break
 - Etobicoke Services for Seniors is located near Humbervale
- Kingsway Lambton
 - Pastoral Care Committee meets regularly with about 80 seniors to try to work on cognitive/emotional/social issues
 - Once a year event that is educational for seniors
 - ROMEO group (retired old men eating out) go out for lunch together
 - Grace Notes – seniors who play instruments, available to entertain
 - Lenten Communion for seniors in the afternoon – sometimes served by Confirmation Class
 - Strawberry Social
 - Senior Choir
 - Knitting Groups
 - Flea Market Fashion Show
- Royal York Road
 - Distribute Flowers at Easter and Christmas
 - Funeral Reception Team
 - Prayer Shawl Ministry
 - Soup Ministry – make homemade soup, store in freezer in single servings to bring to shut-ins when visiting
 - Card Lady
 - Royal Connection group – visit shut-ins (80 seniors) once a month
 - Sunday afternoon Service for Seniors 4 times a year (WW Communion, Hymn Sing, Easter and Christmas)

Continued

- Islington
 - Visit shut-ins
 - Lunch 2 times a year at church for shut-ins

Other Discussion points:

1. Connect with City-run groups in order to be mutually supportive
2. Create a mutual calendar of programs for seniors in our congregations and our wider community.

It was suggested that each church have one announcement each week pertaining to an upcoming event at another one of our Group of Churches. ■

Submitted by Joan Carr and Juli Roslin

The United Church Observer

After an informative Sunday Morning Service based on the motto of the Observer of Faith, Justice and Ethical Living, Roberta and Helen are pleased to announce that our church has seven more subscribers.

We congratulate those who joined and hope that they will have a very interesting year reading about the activities of The United Church and the insights into our spiritual and ethical world. ■

Submitted by Juli Roslin

Weekly Activities for All

MEDITATION GROUP ~ MONDAY AFTERNOONS 2:00PM - 3:00PM

On Monday afternoons our Meditation Group explores different ancient “spiritual practices”, including meditation, centring prayer, and Lectio Divina. Most sessions held at the church, but we will have a few field trips too, including visiting a nearby labyrinth. NOTE: We are not meeting every Monday ~ We will be meeting on: May 2, 9, 30, June 6, 13, 27, July 4.

OPENING UP THE BIBLE ~ TUESDAY EVENINGS 7:00PM - 8:30PM

Join with us Tuesday evenings for an exploration into the Bible. We will “open up” our Bibles by reading them, but also, we will “open up” our minds to appreciate how the Bible came into its current form, and different ways to read and interpret it. This 6-week program is the “Europe in 6 days” approach to understanding the Bible in a “broad strokes” way. If you can’t come every time, come when you can. NOTE: We are not meeting every Tuesday ~ We will be meeting on: May 3, 24, 31, June 7, 28, July 5.

PRAYER GROUP ~ SATURDAY MORNING 11:00AM - NOON

Every Saturday morning join in with our Prayer Group. We read from the Bible, pray through the congregational prayer book, and bring forward people that we know who are sick or need prayers. We take turns praying for everyone. Once we finish prayer we might talk about our days and our weeks. The prayer group is a small, intimate, dedicated group, open to all.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ SUNDAY MORNING 10:00AM - 10:30AM

Every Sunday join in the fun and learning from 10:00am to 10:30am with our **Sunday School**. And every week the Sunday School presents in the worship service what they have been learning together. The Sunday School program will break during summer.



**Like us on
Facebook**

Have you joined the Facebook group for Martin Grove United Church yet? Rev. Paul posts some interesting thoughts and messages for everyone to see. Invite your family and friends to like our page too!



Baptisms

David Dwayne Ashely

Laila Morayo Ashley

David Adewale Ashely

Maya Olutoyin Ashely



New Member

Ophelia Johnson



In Loving Memory

Clare Might ~ 12/27/15

Howard Schaub ~ 1/16/16

Muriel Nuuns ~ 3/16/16



*Copies of Rev. Paul's sermons can be found on the
Martin Grove United Church website ~ www.martingroveuc.ca*

Schedule of Worship

April

Sun Apr 17	Worship Service ~ Larry Jackson preaching
Sun Apr 24	Worship Service

May

Sun May 1	Worship Service
Sun May 8	Worship Service ~ Ascension Sunday
Sun May 15	Worship Service ~ Pentecost
Sun May 22	Worship Service ~ Trinity Sunday
Sun May 29	Worship Service

June

Sun Jun 5	Worship Service
Sun Jun 12	Worship Service ~ 91 st U.C. Anniversary
Sun Jun 19	Worship Service ~ Communion
Sun Jun 26	Worship Service

July

Sun Jul 3	Worship Service
Sun July 10	Worship Service
Sun July 17	Worship Service
Sun July 24	Worship Service
Sun July 31	Worship Service

10:30am ~ Sunday Services

*Fellowship and Refreshments Following
All are welcome*

Please note that these schedules may be subject to change, and for that reason we encourage you to regularly check your weekly "Life and Work" and monthly "Calendar" for the most current information possible.



Editor, Juli Roslin
Design & Format, Carol Burke

Dates to Remember

Thursdays	7:00pm – Choir Rehearsal
Saturdays	11:00am – Prayer Group

April

Sun Apr 17	11:30am Congregational Meeting
Wed Apr 20	1:00pm MGUCW Meeting
Thu Apr 28	10:00am Outreach Meeting
Sat Apr 30	1:30pm Euchre Party

May

Mon May 2	12:00n Men's Lunch @ Wally's 2:00pm Meditation Group
Tue May 3	7:00pm Opening Up the Bible
Wed May 4	7:00pm Co-ordinating Council Meeting
Sun May 8	Mother's Day
Mon May 9	2:00pm Meditation Group
Thu May 12	2:00pm Senior's Spring Tea & Communion
Sun May 15	Worship Meeting 11:30am
Wed May 18	1:00pm MGUCW Meeting
Mon May 23	Victoria Day
Tue May 24	7:00pm Opening Up the Bible
Thu May 26	10:00am Outreach Meeting
Mon May 30	2:00pm Meditation Group
Tue May 31	7:00pm Opening Up the Bible

June

Sat Jun 4	10:00am Walk-A-Thon
Mon Jun 6	2:00pm Meditation Group
Tue Jun 7	7:00pm Opening Up the Bible
Wed Jun 8	7:00pm Co-ordinating Council Meeting
Sun Jun 12	91 st U.C. Anniversary
Mon Jun 13	2:00pm Meditation Group
Wed Jun 15	Wishing Well BBQ
Sun Jun 19	Father's Day
Thu Jun 26	10:00am Outreach Meeting
Mon Jun 27	2:00pm Meditation Group
Tue Jun 28	7:00pm Opening Up the Bible

July

Fri Jul 1	Canada Day
Mon Jul 4	2:00pm Meditation Group
Tue Jul 5	7:00pm Opening Up the Bible