

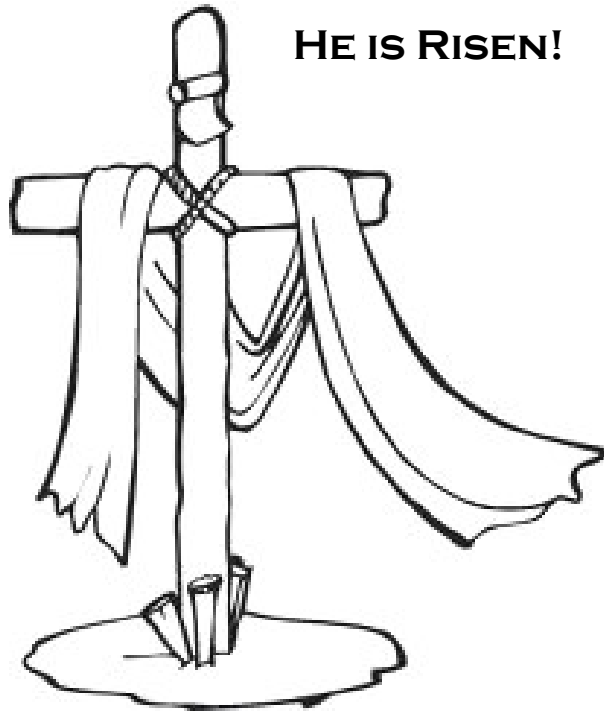
NEWSMARK

MARK ST. UNITED CHURCH Spring 2011

Your Elder: _____:

Telephone: _____

HE IS RISEN!



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DEAR FRIENDS...

As we continue our journey through Lent, before we can get to Easter, we must inevitably encounter Good Friday and the cross. Good Friday is typically not a day when the sanctuary is filled with worshippers. Many people find it hard to be in the presence of death, profound grief and sadness. The joy of Easter morning is much preferred, with the happy music and brightness it contains. But I like Good Friday, not because it is a sad and challenging time, but because it teaches me so much about God. I echo loudly the words of Peter Millar of the Iona Community when he writes:

“As I grow older I know one thing for certain. The God who I try to follow is at the heart of human suffering. Not looking on, but weeping with us. This can sound trite, but I know it from personal experience. We are not abandoned when the dark night overtakes us.”

Generations ago, the same truth was expressed with such clarity in the wonderful prayer from our Celtic Heritage:

God be with thee in every pass,
 Jesus be with thee on the every hill,
 Spirit be with thee in every stream,
 Headland ridge and moor.

Each sea and land, each path and meadow,
 Each lying down, each rising up,
 In the trough of the waves,
 On the crest of the billows,
 Each step of the journey thou goest.

Good Friday reminds me that there is no darkness in which God is not present. There is no moment in which God abandons us, even though there are times we may feel abandoned, lonely, isolated, forsaken.

Some years ago, I did a ministry exchange with a minister in Newport, Wales. At the front of their worship space was a big banner quoting John Wesley: "And best of all, God is with us." This is the Good Friday message; this is the Good News of God's love.

Easter blessings,

Bob



SERVICES AT MARK STREET

Sunday, April 17 Palm Sunday Service with balloons, palm branches and the children's parade.

Thursday, April 21 Maunday Thursday Service of Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Come for this gentle and quiet time of remembering.

Friday, April 22 Good Friday Worship at 10:00 a.m. Gather around the cross, hear the story told in word and music.

Sunday, April 24 Easter Sunday. The day begins with a Service of Holy Communion in the Kelley Garden at 7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast will be served beginning at 8:15 a.m. There will be special music at 9:30 a.m., followed by worship celebrating the resurrection at 10:00 a.m. The service will end with the singing of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus — additional voices are welcome!

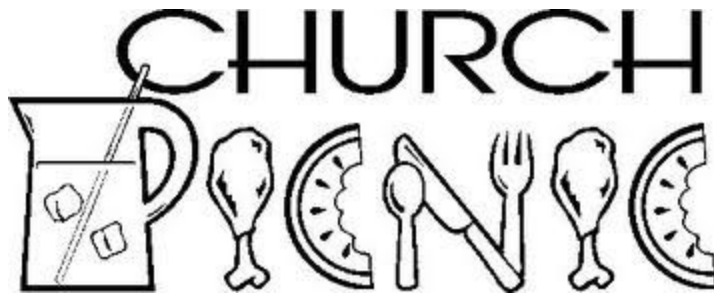
Sunday, May 1 Mark Street United Church joins the folks at Knox United Church for worship! Knox United Church will be closing at the end of June. As a sign of friendship and support, our congregation will join theirs for worship at 10:30 a.m. at Knox United Church, 400 Wolfe Street. Vince Abrahamse, our Director of Music, was organist at Knox for many years before coming to Mark Street. Transportation will be available for those wishing it.

Sunday, May 8 Christian Family Sunday. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated.

Friday, May 13—Friday, May 27 A group of thirty-five people will be off to Scotland, Wales and England to explore Celtic sites and spirituality. The group will be stopping at the place where Christianity first came to Scotland in 397 A.D., into Wales and the sacred city of St. David's, to Glastonbury and Chalice Well, Bath and Stonehenge. There will be walks along the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path and in the Brecon Beacons. There will be festivities in York, Cardiff, Oxford and London. There will be stories to tell when we return! [And likely a few pictures to be viewed! Ed.]

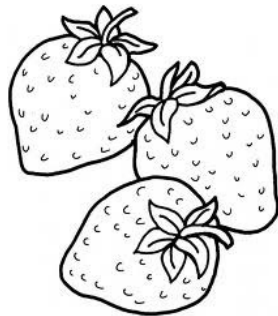


Sunday, June 12 Congregational Picnic at the Centennial Museum on Armour Hill. We will begin with worship and a service of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch (bring lunch to share as well as dishes/ cutlery/cups, etc.) and an old-fashioned picnic and games. Brenda and Earl Cochrane will be bringing their horse and wagon for rides around the field. Mark it on your calendar and don't miss it. Good weather guaranteed!



UP-COMING EVENTS

- June 24 Strawberry Supper
- August 8-12 Vacation Bible School
- September 11 Welcome Back Corn Roast
- September 24 Harvest (turkey) Supper



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sarah Gilmore and Jessica Knoyle will be coordinating Vacation Bible School.

August 8 to 12

from 9:00 a.m to 11:30 a.m.

\$10 for snacks and materials

The theme will be "Walking with Jesus" with a camping theme. There will be 5 activity stations with an opening and closing program each day. All children, over the age of 3, are invited to take part.

Members of the congregation are invited to give as little as an hour of their time. All activities will be set up for you to facilitate sessions.



CCEP NEWS

April 17 Palm Sunday — balloons and parade in church

Flower planting will take place later in May. All ages welcome! Bring a hand trowel and help our youth plant flowers.

We look forward to enjoying games at the church picnic on June 12 with everyone.

ISSHO NI KURU BENEFIT CONCERT FOR JAPANESE DISASTER RELIEF

Fourteen year old Jacob Abrahamse has taken on the challenge of helping the victims of the tragedy in Japan by arranging and producing a benefit concert called "Issho ni kuru," or "Come Together!"

Jacob has partnered with Showplace Performance Centre in Peterborough to feature such talents as:

- Dan Clancy, the lead singer from the award winning band, "Lighthouse"
- Derek McGrath, actor and singer

and many local performers such as:

- Jacob Abrahamse
- Beau Dixon
- Danny Bronson
- Barb Monahan
- John Rigereide
- Paula Lynn Walker
- Ann Lukaszewicz
- Kristian Desouza



The spectacular concert will take place on Saturday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available through the Showplace Box Office on-line or by calling 705-742-7469. Tickets are \$20.00 each, with a special student price of \$13.00. All proceeds from the concert will go to assist children and families affected by the tragedy in Japan, through the work of World Vision.

Please come on out to enjoy a wonderful evening of eclectic music, while at the same time, helping our global family in Japan to recover from loss and destruction.

PARISH NURSING

We were blessed to have Gail Brimbecom, from Inter-Church Health Ministries Canada speak to the congregation in March. Below are some excerpts from her presentation.

What is Parish Nursing Ministry in the Church?

The gospels are filled with healing stories: the story of Jairus' daughter, the woman who was bleeding for twelve years, the man who was blind, the man who sat by the pool at Bethesda/ There are many more. Since Biblical times, the church has carried on Jesus' ministry of healing by developing hospitals and nursing orders for the sick.

In the 20th century, that role was assumed by governments and spiritual care was relegated to a back seat as scientific medicine became the focus. Since that time, however, we have begun to realize that health involves not only physical and mental health but also spiritual health and it is in this area — the health of the spirit or soul, if you will — that the church has expertise. In the 1980's people in the church began to realize that all aspects of the person — body, mind and spirit — must be addressed if we are to achieve optimum health and wellness.

Since spiritual health is the realm of the church and physical and mental health are the goals of the medical community, it makes sense that theology and medicine be brought together to promote this optimum level of health. Care for all the people of God is part of the church's mission. Health is a resource that helps us all fulfill our purpose and find meaning in our lives.

The concept of parish nursing began with the idea that a registered nurse can provide a bridge between medicine and theology, between the health care system and the

the church. By placing a nurse on the ministry team, the church can help people deal with all aspects of their health including their spiritual health; something our public system is not well equipped to do. Thus parish nursing began by emphasizing the importance of wholistic health and, in particular, the link between faith, spiritual care and health.



So what, exactly, does a parish nurse do?

1. She works in the church as a member of the ministry team. She works closely with clergy and existing groups within the church.
2. She meets with individuals who have health concerns and makes sure they are connected with the appropriate medical and community supports.
3. She works with the congregation to identify its health concerns.
4. She works with a health committee to develop health education seminars and events.

Roles of the Parish Nurse:

The parish nurse integrates faith and health and provides spiritual care through the following roles:

- Health educator
- Health counsellor
- Advocate and referral agent
- Developer of support groups
- Coordinator of volunteers

The parish nurse **does not** do “hands on” care. She does not duplicate the health care services that already exist in the community. Her job is to do nursing assessments to identify

the types of care required and to assist people in locating the appropriate resources. Those resources may be in the official health care system, they may be in voluntary agencies in the community, and they may be right here in our church.

Parish Nursing Ministry is formally recognized, affirmed and supported by our United Church of Canada. We, at Inter-Church Health Ministries, believe that it offers the Church a wonderful opportunity to reclaim its place in the health and healing process.

PARISH NURSING AT MARK STREET

Mark Street has partnered with InterChurch Health Ministries and is actively pursuing the possibility of bringing a Parish Nursing Ministry to our congregation. Our Health Committee includes the following people: Diane Woodruff (Chair), Coralee Vass (Secretary), David May, Julie Plummer, Ann Keys, Shirley Post, Nancy Warren, Carol Parnell, Louise Ferren and Bob Root.

The committee had their first meeting on March 14 and we were very excited to have Gail Brimbecom, National Education Director for ICHM come to speak to the congregation on March 20th. The committee will be meeting with Karen Marks from ICHM on April 11th. She will be here to advise the committee on how to search for a Parish Nurse Candidate.

Parish Nursing Ministry is a journey that we, as a congregation, take together. Reading through the "Reflection from Gail Brimbecom, I hope you become as inspired as the Health Committee has become about this exciting Ministry.

Parish Nursing Ministry is a calling from God, it is a vision for the future at Mark Street United Church. Please feel free to approach committee members if you have questions.

BACK TO THE SEASIDE – IWATE

The following is from John Elliot who is serving as Missionary in Japan. March 21, 2011:

I hope our church members in Ajigasawa were encouraged by my message yesterday. As it is Lent, I preached about Gethsemane. What do you do when you are overwhelmed? The answer is, 'pray'. I have always felt guilty, as I am not a great payer-er. But the scale of the disaster which has befallen Japan has given the word 'overwhelmed' a new depth for me. Our gentle Shepherd asks us to pour out our hearts to Him, not because we are mighty in prayer, but because we are weak and feel our failure. Complaints are okay (read the Psalms), requests are okay — any request — God will adjust the answer to the need. You don't need to try to pray the right thing — just do it. "I will lift my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, Maker of Heaven and earth."

The destruction we witnessed last week shocked us. Today, we visited towns south of the points we saw last week, with 2 pastors and an elder from Morioka. We went first to OHFUNATO, where we checked damage to the little church building there. It was a huge encouragement to hear that 3 members of the church, thought missing, were found. Now, all 4 are accounted for



(the town had 40,000 people before the disaster; there is another church with 20 members — not quite up to the ‘one in a thousand’ ratio of believers to non-believers we are used to). They are anxious for help in cleaning the building so they can continue services. The windows are broken; everything is soaked in smelly water and thrown around the rooms. The floor has 2 inches of slippery mud covering bits of broken glass. We hope to tackle it later in the week.

Neighbours of the church were clearing things out of their houses. The water had come up to the middle of the first floors in that area. One man told how his bed-ridden father had floated in his room for an hour until the water receded. A lady got us to take her heavy washing machine out to the yard for disposal. Everything is ruined. We had to move on.

Checking on 2 others, as requested by friends, we went downtown. The destruction there was much worse. It is hard to describe. There are lots of strange anomalies; boats on city streets, cars on roofs, houses floated on top of one another: all the stuff you see on the internet. But, most of it is just garbage. Acres and acres of garbage; everything imaginable mixed in a vile mountain that is, frankly, beginning to smell. It will be worse as the weather warms. The photos are graphic, but they just don’t communicate the smell.

We drove through KAMAISHI, which was worse, but basically just more of the same. Then we crossed the next bit of high ground and dropped into OHZUCHI. The percentage of the town that was destroyed climbed higher as we moved north towards MIYAKO.

Ohzuchi was beyond belief. One of the pastors was searching for an incommunicado friend. We were moving

closer and closer to the area where the JSDF (Japan Self Defense Force) was still doing the initial sweep. We couldn't proceed along the waterfront, so were forced to move uphill and along narrow back streets on foot. Then, we found them: the illusive 'lost people'. The towns on the coast are built along the waterfront, and up into the steep gullies at the foot of the mountains. The wave — how high was it? — had jammed an impenetrable wall of debris against the mountains, cutting these gullies off from the outside. In some places only 2 houses were left; in others, a dozen or more. The owners are there, with the few who managed to scramble to safety in the bare 5 minutes they had between the warning and the wave. They climb up muddy trails to a dirt road that connects them to the outside. They get supplies from the emergency centre — an old school — and lug them back to their undammed houses. Undamaged, but without water and electricity for the foreseeable future. These are the people at the end of the line; emergency services are reaching out for them, but there is a lot of just plain space between them and restored services. One thousand power poles are down; the town office is gone, along with the town's decision makers. The town Emergency Response Centre is gone, along with the contingency plans, and the people to implement them. Drills have been conducted, so people knew what to do, but there is no one to give coordinated leadership in the aftermath. This is a small town; it is among the last to be reached.

The little clusters of survivors, separated by spurs of the mountain, have adapted in varying degrees. Those with dynamic, imaginative leaders have jury-rigged a water line from a mountain stream, directing it into a salvaged bathtub, heated by a fire in an oil drum cut in half. They are sitting around salvaged tables in someone's yard, and have concocted a huge pot of soup from supplies

delivered by relief workers. We followed hand written signs down narrow footpaths and between houses, to the next enclave. Two ladies and a man met us there. They were anxious to share their stories, and ask for information. Harried relief workers don't have time to stop and chat. We were the first outsiders to bring them news of recent developments. They were surprised to learn that their little corner of the world had made it onto the Japanese National News for their can-do spirit, lugging supplies down a muddy trail to their haven. It really moved them to realize that they were not forgotten. Why are they still stuck there, then? There was a backhoe visible over the rubble, not more than 50 yards away, and JSDF personnel were busy removing downed power lines in preparation for clearing the road. Surely they would be through in no time?



“Oh no, it will take a couple of days at least,” one lady said. “There are probably 40 corpses in there, and they have to stop and deal with each of them.” She was very matter of fact about it, but the inescapable fact is that she would know most of those people. The tears would press close to the surface, then the speaker would rally and go on with her story.

As we talked, a little girl came skipping down the street from the undamaged houses behind us. The woman smiled. “The kids think it's a lark.” the tears were close again. “When I hear the children's voices in the morning, it gives me hope. All the hope I have.”

The dignity of these people is impressive. They have not bathed for days; they have no clean clothes.

“What do you need?”

“Underwear. Medicine for our elderly. Hand disinfectant. Cold medicine. A radio that has local news that tells us something useful. Batteries. Heating oil.”

“Detergent?” I ventured.

“We have no water,” she replied flatly.

“Soap? Shampoo?”

“Shampoo!” Her eyes lit up. It was as though she had forgotten the existence of shampoo.

“Yes, shampoo. With a little water, we can wash and massage the old folks. And wash my hair.” She smiled ruefully as she tugged at her hair. “It’s been days.”

We wended our way back to the valley and the improvised water line. The leader there said we should check the emergency centre at the back of the valley below. He explained that they received enough supplies and more, but the centre lower down didn’t. Once again, we saw people in need thinking of others they felt were worse off. He was happy to take a couple of solar powered flashlights, though. “It’s awfully dark when the sun goes down.”

We proceeded to the centre he told us about. It was up the valley a bit, but why didn’t they get enough supplies? Their leader explained: “They count the people actually here in the centre. We also take care of those in the undamaged houses behind us, and all their relatives, and friends that are sheltering them.”

As today was, once again, mostly a scouting trip to prepare for teams coming soon, we had only a few things with us. They received them gladly.

The teams are coming! The teams are coming! Volunteers from Japan and abroad. Coming with supplies;

coming to help. Where will they stay? Have they really brought enough food and fuel? Can we get them to the people who need help?

We are getting closer to answers, but they had better firm up tomorrow! Tomorrow we go back in; tomorrow we sharpen our focus a bit more; tomorrow we had better get some answers. Please pray. And, please take this as it is; my personal observations, in this limited area, as of today. I don't usually go for tear-jerker writing, but today I am moved. Today, I am astounded. Who will clean up this colossal mess?

JAPAN RELIEF

The United Church of Canada is accepting donations in response to the earthquake and tsunami that devastated northeastern Japan on March 11. Funds received will be transferred to United Church partners in Japan for their work of relief and reconstruction.

Pray:

- Pray for all those caught in the devastation, those who grieve for families and friends dead or missing, those who struggle to respond in the face of great challenges, those first responders whose expertise and training are so essential.
- Pray for those around the world whose personal connections to Japan make this situation particularly poignant and difficult.
- Pray for mission partners in Japan. The international ecumenical community is an important place of solidarity and support for the Christian minority in Japan.
- Pray for United Church of Canada overseas personnel—David and Zenora Rackham, Shinji Kawano, and Rob and Keiko Witmer. All personnel are well and safe and working within their communities to help and sustain others as they are able.

M & S BOOK EXCHANGE

Please consider regular contributions to the Mission and Service Fund by designating an amount on your offering envelope, giving instruction about your Pre-Authorized Remittance, or using special envelopes marked "M&S." Your contribution "can go where you cannot go; speak languages that you cannot speak; lift burdens that you cannot touch; save lives with which you cannot relate directly" (Harry Emerson Fosdick).

Our congregational goal this year is \$27,000. At present, we have just over two hundred envelope users in our church. Of those two hundred, eighty-five (less than half) give to Mission and Service. It would be wonderful to increase that number and further the imprint of our congregation on the world.

We want to institute a fund-raising project with the money going specifically towards the cost of a well. We have been in touch with the national church, and they tell us that \$5,000 is enough to drill a small borehole and equip it with a hand pump. Here's how we plan to raise the money.

We are a congregation of readers. Lots of people talk about the books they have read. We plan on having a cart ready to receive books that you have read that can be taken by others to be enjoyed. If you are able to leave a donation to support the work of the Mission and Service Fund, that will be appreciated. We are looking for quality, pre-enjoyed books which can be dropped off in the Library. Add your books to such donations as "The Red Tent" and "The Shack."



MARK STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN – UCW

The Mission of the United Church Women is — to love God, to foster Christian faithfulness, spirituality, commitment and devotion and to promote love and respect by living generously and giving joyfully to all God's people and to affirm and strengthen ourselves creatively.

The ladies at Mark Street represent the Mission Statement and also foster fellowship among one another.

We consist of two unites. Unit One meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:15 p.m. in the church parlour. Unit Two also meets in the parlour but on the third Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Both groups welcome new members or occasional visitors. The monthly meetings consist of worship and devotion and usually follow seasonal themes with very interesting speakers or demonstrations. Refreshments are enjoyed along with warm fellowship.

This spring, there will be a **Rummage Sale** on April 16th from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Unit 2 will host a **Muffin Party** on Wednesday, May 18th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Homemade muffins and coffee will be served. For all you meat pie lovers, meat pies will also be for sale that day.

Please check your weekly church bulletin for more details as they become available as well as for any other activities the UCW may become involved in.

As always, members of the UCW are pleased and proud

to support the efforts of our congregation and community. We would be pleased to welcome new members. If you are interested, please call the church office for further information.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Holmes, Secretary

TEEN GIRLS SEWING GROUP

The Marks Street Teen Girls Sewing Group has become a vibrant and enthusiastic group of young ladies learning the art of sewing by machine while creating useful and fun projects. Since we began in 2009, at least 12 girls have completed projects. Some have been involved in all courses. Each class has had from six to eight participants. Heartfelt thanks goes to Linda Dorsett who has always been there, sharing her knowledge, guidance and time for each course. Thanks also goes to Helen Keller, Susan Doherty and Sandra McIlvride who have been willing to help along the way.

The girls have completed various items including: pj pants, duvet covers, hooded capes, knit tee shirts and Charlie Bags.

The next project will begin this spring and all the girls are anxious to learn the art of creating chenille. Our plan is to create the chenille and cover a toss cushion. Everyone will choose their own colours and design to suit their individual taste. This will be a short and very easy project.

If you know of someone interested in this course, please call Carolyn Holmes at 705-745-2315 or e-mail at john.w.holmes@sympatico.ca. Space is limited so please, don't delay.

SPRING BIKE TOUR

Mark Street United Church

8th Annual

Bike Tour

Saturday, May 7, 2011 (rain or shine)

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., Mark Street United Church parking lot, 90 Hunter Street East, Peterborough.

Fee: \$5.00 per person

15.00 per family

Includes lunch!

Two routes to choose from:

- Rotary Trail to Lakefield (departs at 9:00 a.m.)
- Rotary Trail to Trent University (departs at 10:00 a.m.)



Just a few things to remember:

- Invite a friend to ride with you
- Dress comfortably for the weather
- Use plenty of sun screen
- Please follow all standard bike rules, and be courteous of other trail users
- Bring water and/or a light snack (please don't litter)
- Don't forget your helmet, pledge form and money

We supply:

- Water at the checkpoint at Rotary Trail and Nassau Road
- Pizza, pop ant Timbits ® upon return to Mark Street United Church, and
- Fun!

UCC FEDERAL ELECTION KIT

The United Church of Canada has distributed the following information regarding the Federal Election to be held on May 2, 2011.

What do you care about? Is it climate change? Peace? Refugees? Regardless of what matters most to you, the 2011 election will have an enormous impact on these issues and our lives. Now more than ever, all faith voices need to be heard in the political process. To help you consider important issues and get involved in the process of decision-making, the United Church has created the 2011 Federal Election Kit.

<http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/takeaction/election>

Your vote will make a difference. Matters of Aboriginal rights, food security, and criminal justice are not isolated to far-off lands but are concerns for every community in our country. The more we know about how our faith and values can influence government policies, the more we have a chance to transform our own and others' lives for the common good. We witness to our faith in a just and life-giving God in the public arena by advocating for justice and peace.

Our non-partisan strategy aims to raise awareness about important issues and to build relationships around them with politicians in communities across Canada. This 2011 Federal Election Kit provides information based on United Church Policies and the church's on-going work with Canadian and global partners.



Topics included in the 2011 Federal Election Kit are:

- Making Election Connections — how to engage members in your congregation through worship, study groups, and youth and children’s ministries
- All Candidate Meetings — how to organize or participate in a meeting
- Questions for Candidates — background information and questions on 12 key topics relating to justice in Canada and globally
 1. Aboriginal Justice
 2. Climate Change and Energy
 3. Corporate Social Responsibility & Socially Responsible Investment
 4. Criminal Justice and Corrections
 5. Democracy
 6. Food
 7. Health Care
 8. Official Development Assistance
 9. Peace in Palestine/Israel
 10. Poverty
 11. Refugees and Immigration
 12. Trade
- Tips for using the media

Barbara Lloyd
Program Coordinator, Public Witness
Partners in Mission Unit (formerly JGER)
The United Church of Canada

Members of the *NewsMark* Committee are:

Cliff Weaver
Susan Weaver

Newsletter Deadline
Saturday, August 27, 2011

Please put your submissions in the mail slot
marked "Newsletter"
or e-mail them to
cliffsue.weaver@hotmail.com

We invite you to make submissions
to YOUR newsletter.

Mark Street United Church

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