

240 Powers St. Winnipeg MB R2W 5L1 (204) 479-4893



Advent/New Year's

We gather together at 240 Powers St. Sunday evenings at 6:30. All are welcome!

Nov. 29—First Sunday of Advent-- *Advent Wreaths*

Dec. 6—Second Sunday of Advent—*With Bells On!*

Dec. 13—Third Sunday of Advent--*Bethlehem LIVE!*

Dec. 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent—*Wrapped in Cloths and Lying in a Manger*

Dec. 27—*The 12 Days of Christmas*

Jan. 3 Happy New Year!
The King's Cake



Hope Centre Ministries exists to celebrate the gifts and uniqueness of individuals who live with disabilities and support them in their walk with God and their faith community.

Merry CHRISTmas!

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"... I can't help humming that song as I put up a Christmas tree with my family and prepare for our Sunday worship group. The light dusting of snow seems to have transformed the neighbourhood and the lights along the rooftops shine boldly. The stores mark this season with decorations, outrageous sales and repetitive carols. Everyone seems to be gearing up for Christmas. How does the Christian Church prepare?

Traditionally, churches that follow a liturgical calendar enter into the season of Advent. Candles are lit, carols are sung and we are reminded that this is a time to spiritually prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. We anticipate Christmas Day as the day our saviour was born, but we also recognize that we are living in Advent as we wait for his return. This tradition is rich in symbolism.

The goal for Advent at HCM this year is to experience this symbolism

and anticipation in a hands on way. I want to do more than just talk about it-- I want our members to take a piece of Advent home with them each week in a very concrete way. We began our Advent season by making an advent wreath of meaning.

The wreath itself is very meaningful and although we used very simple, easy to locate materials the final products were beautiful as they symbolized a connection made to this wonderful season.

Here's what we learned:

A wreath is a circle and just like God it has no beginning and no end. God is both Alpha and Omega. He is the same through the ages and his love endures FOREVER!

The greenery used to decorate the wreath is "EVERgreen". It never dies and therefore symbolizes and helps us to remember eternity.

We added a bow to help us remember that God's son was a gift: "For God so loved the world he



gave his one and only son and whoever believes in him will have EVERLASTING life." (John 3:16) When we accept the gift we are 'evergreen'!

There were red berries to help us remember that the baby that we are remembering grew up into a man who died for us. The berries remind us that this baby is our saviour and through his blood we are clean.

We added candles. Four candles to represent the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day and then a Christ candle for Christmas. Jesus is the light of the world. Every week we are lighting more candles and as we get closer to the day of Christ's birth, the light gets brighter.

This activity was simple and the meanings are simple. I am constantly reminded though, that sometimes it is the simple things that are actually most profound.

Embrace the Advent season-- find a way to make this a 'hands-on' time!

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**Reflections 2009**

**Friendship**—25 individuals along with their staff and some volunteers light up 240 Powers every Thursday evening.

**Hand Chimes**—15 individuals share their love for music and fellowship on Tuesday evenings.

**Sunday** evenings has been a regular time of praise, worship, learning and fellowship.

**Retreats:** We held two retreats (May, October) with a combined attendance of more than 75 people.

**Service Project:** We were able to experience the joy of serving through the making of 120 Easter baskets for children in the North End.

**Walk of Hope** in June raised over \$5000.00 to go towards our retreats.

**Community Fundraising Event:** We had a wonderful evening with our friends from CCRC, TCRC and Good News Fellowship

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Our Steering Committee

Eta Meinders
Betty Hazeu
Margaret Jongsma
Don Miedema
Ray Anema
Val Wagner
Mesafint Haile
Lynell Bergen
Shellie Power



The Gift of Giving

Hope Centre Ministries relies on the generous donations we receive from our supporting communities. Each time you give, you partner with us and help us support individuals with disabilities in their faith life. Recently I was asked to highlight the different ways that people can give to HCM. The following are different ideas for giving to us. Each one is a gift!

Online Donations

Monthly or one time donations, with receipts e-mailed to you. Fast, easy and secure.

Through our website
www.hopecentreministries.org



Click on

TIME

We need volunteers.

Friendship mentors, retreat volunteers, Walk of Hope participants, sponsors, fundraising committee members, photographers, website design and maintenance. . .

Cheques

made out to *Hope Centre Ministries* can be mailed to:
240 Powers St, Winnipeg MB R2W 5L1

****Christmas offer:** Donate \$50.00 or more and receive a Steve Bell CD or song book!

Fellowship

Come, worship with us and share with us. Fellowship is a gift that strengthens both the giver and the receiver.

Prayer

Prayer is a vital aspect of ministry. We are really hoping to have a growing base of faithful prayer partners.

Gifts in Kind

Bus tickets. . . snacks for fellowship time. . . beading supplies. . . Easter baskets. . . hygiene items. . . blank cards. . .

Wish List: Powerpoint projector, laptop

Recycle for a Cause

Remember that by depositing your used ink cartridges/cell phones into the collection box at church, HCM receives cash for your trash and we lessen what goes into our garbage cans.

Corporate Sponsors

We are looking for partners/sponsors for several events that are planned to raise funds and awareness.

Contact our Staff:

Lynell Bergen, Outreach Coordinator
lynell@hopecentreministries.org

Shellie Power, Director of Spiritual Care
shellie@hopecentreministries.org

Visit Us Online:

www.hopecentreministries.org
www.hopecentreministries.blogspot.com

This Christmas take time to think about **THE** presence. . . God's gift to the world! Merry Christmas from your brothers and sisters at Hope Centre Ministries

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"