

NEWS

Rev. Scott Hunter
Secretary: Mrs. Jean Jackson
Music Director: Dr. Judy Hung
Children's Coordinators:
Merrie and Mark Hammond

Valois United Church
Families Connecting

extra! extra!
Heating Costs Increase!

A New Way of

DONATING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

We raise money through some incredible events like our annual Church Fair, musical shows, mini-bazaars, White Elephant sales and Men's Dinner.

Your participation makes these a huge success – Thank you! Here are a few more ideas on how you can help the church, that we hope will interest you.



"When you're shopping, you're fundraising."

FundScrip has come to Valois United Church!

FundScrip is an important revenue generating tool for Valois United and there is no extra cost to you. Through this program you can **boost VUC's finances** by purchasing gift cards for your everyday needs, like gas and groceries!

Gift cards also make fabulous birthday, anniversary, wedding, shower, etc., gifts so plan to purchase ahead!! (Below is just a **partial list of participating retailers**)

Place an order on Sunday and your cards will be at church to pick up the next Sunday, or go on-line and sign up. To access the order form, visit www.fundscrip.com or speak to Pat Atkinson, Donna Barton, Jean Jackson or Mike Yorston.

(To find out more about Fundscrip gift cards, see Frequently Asked Questions on the next page.)



Busy lives seem to spill over onto normally quiet Sunday mornings, and for many of us, getting to church regularly is hard. But when we don't get there, our contributions don't get there either.

The United Church of Canada's PAR system is an easy solution. Whether you attend weekly, monthly, or just a few times a year, on the 20th day of each month your contribution is automatically withdrawn from your bank. You decide how much.

Maybe you'd like to keep it a small donation that can be supplemented at the offering plate. Or perhaps PAR can conveniently allow you to forget the envelopes and cheque book altogether on Sunday mornings. The choice is yours.

In any case, your contributions are recorded and tax receipts issued. It's safe, secure, and you can easily cancel if you decide it isn't for you.

For more information, you can visit their website: www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/donate/howto/par or contact the church office with your questions, or to obtain a brochure.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why has Valois United adopted the FundScrip program?

A. Like many churches, VUC has insufficient income for its needs; the FundScrip program is one way to increase church revenues without additional cost to members.

Q. Do I have to purchase the gift cards on-line?

A. Ordering via the FundScrip website is the most efficient method to buy gift cards, but we can take orders during coffee hour on Sunday and obtain the cards for you.

Q. How secure is the on-line payment called EFT?

A. Electronic Fund Transfer is very secure. It is the method used by banks and other organizations such as utilities (telephone, hydro e.g.) for bill payment or money transfer. We also consulted an independent specialist who confirmed that EFT is a very secure transaction style.

Q. Can FundScrip deliver cards that I order directly to my friends or family out of town?

A. No, all orders placed in support of Valois United are delivered to Valois United in bulk and then sorted. If you wish to send a gift card to someone then you would have to arrange for mailing or other delivery yourself.

Q. Are the FundScrip gift cards valid elsewhere in Canada?

A. For national retailers, most gift cards are valid nation-wide, however some, such as Metro grocery stores, are only valid in Quebec. Check with the FundScrip volunteers at coffee hour about the retailer you wish to use.

Q. Can I pay for my gift cards using my credit card?

A. We are not equipped to accept credit card payment at the church, but gift cards can be purchased on-line using a credit card, however the rebate to the church is reduced in order to cover the credit card charges.

Q. What happens if my purchases at a grocery store are less than the value of the gift card?

A. The cards are declining balance cards. With these cards, the value of the purchase is automatically deducted from the value stored on the card. If you don't use the entire amount, the balance remains on the card and can be used for future purchases. Many retailers will show the balance remaining on your receipt.

Q. Are gift cards valid at all participating retailers?

A. No, each retailer provides its own card. When you present your card for payment, there is nothing on the card that indicates it came from FundScrip or that it was purchased through a fundraising program. It's the retailer's own gift card.

