

# Coming events at Augustine

There are a couple of special events taking place at Augustine over the next few weeks. Please join us. For more information on these or other upcoming events, services or celebrations, check out the church website at [www.augustineunitedchurch.org](http://www.augustineunitedchurch.org).

Interfaith Prayers for Peace in Our Home: Augustine United Church, 444 River, Sunday, April 25 at 3 pm

Augustine United Church annual meeting: in the Guild hall Sunday, April 18, 2010 immediately after the worship service. The Social Justice team will provide an organic lunch.

Saturday April 17 and Saturday April 24 at 7:30 pm. A house concert featuring flute with piano accompaniment will be held at 27 Dundurn Ave. Works by Bach, Faure, Corigliano and Amirov. A freewill offering will be collected with all proceeds to Augustine United Church. Attendance is limited to 20 people per evening, so please register by speaking to Alison or Loraine.

## Worth a read: Where Men Win Glory

The story initially reads like something out of a Republican fantasy: alpha male, pro football player, walks away from a lucrative professional contract to serve his country after the September 11 attacks. There's the tragic ending, with the soldier dying on a mountainside in Afghanistan, a martyr

who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

The story is true. Pat Tillman, a safety for the Arizona Cardinals football team, walked away from a \$4.1 million contract to join the Marines, and was later killed in Afghanistan. But there's much more to the story, like the fact that Tillman was killed by the terribly misnamed "friendly fire," and that fact was buried by people as high up as U. S. President George H. W. Bush.

Jon Krakauer, author of the highly-acclaimed *Into Thin Air* and *Into the Wild*, tells Tillman's story brilliantly in *Where Men Win Glory*.

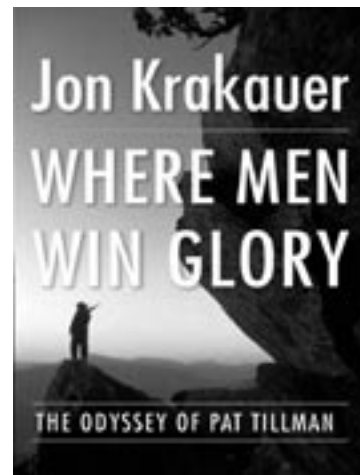
Krakauer's portrait of Tillman shows a man of honour, who, while big and strong enough to be a bully, stood up for those he saw as being pushed around; who challenged himself and those around him, physically and intellectually. Tillman

refused to talk to the media after enlisting, trying to be just the same as every other soldier when those supporting the war wanted him to be a spokesperson. Tillman refused to play politics, but wound up as a political pawn nonetheless.

Krakauer went to Afghanistan and traced the route Tillman took in the doomed expedition. He spoke to Tillman's fellow soldiers, commanders and locals, and connects the series of bureaucratic blunders that resulted in an exhausted, trigger-happy, group of young men being caught in the moment of combat and the death of a young man on a mountain top.

Ultimately Tillman's life and death, as Krakauer tells it, is that of the dreams of a young man and a nation dashed, rather than any dream of glory.

- NJR



The *AugustZine* is published by Augustine United Church. Writing for this issue by: Alison Etter, Charissa Buhler, N.J. Renwick and Mike Maunder, photographs by Charlie McDougall, Nancy Renwick and Charissa Buhler. The next issue of *AugustZine* will be published June 3, deadline for submissions is May 30. If you have ideas or would like to write an article, please contact [augustzine@mts.net](mailto:augustzine@mts.net). Augustine United Church is located at 444 River Ave., Winnipeg, MB, and can be contacted at (204) 284-2250, [augustine.uc@mts.net](mailto:augustine.uc@mts.net) or on-line at [www.augustineunitedchurch.org](http://www.augustineunitedchurch.org).

# AugustZine

The Zine of Augustine United Church, April 2010

## Reflections on Easter

Someone recently asked me why the rabbit is a symbol of Easter. I said it represents new life. It was a symbol of fertility even before the death and resurrection of Jesus. Like robins, daffodils and mud puddles, it is a sign of spring.

In the Northern hemisphere, it has always seemed fitting that Easter is celebrated in the springtime. As the ice melts away, tiny green shoots poke out of the damp soil. Birds begin singing, and trees stretch out their branches to shake off the snow. Everything seems to say, "Life in new again."

Our ancestors looked to the cycle of seasons, and to flowers, trees and animals, to help them interpret the sacred stories of the bible. Their insights were important to their understanding of faith. They were also important to their understanding of the Earth.

At Augustine, one of the ways we prepared for Easter this year was by being intentional about the way we take care of our planet.

For many of us, it was inspiring to hear about the changes members of our community are making to help preserve God's creation.

Easter is a time to celebrate that, and to celebrate the renewal of life and the abundant beauty all around us. It is also a time to hope for a bright future for this planet.

Rabbits are fragile creatures— easy prey for a wandering fox or a sharp-eyed eagle. In the winter, they are susceptible to cold and to hunger. Their survival is never a certainty. When new life comes, it is like a gift, like grace.

In this way, the rabbit is a beautiful symbol for Easter. Fragility was part of Jesus' story, as he risked



everything and died. It is part of our planet's story, in this moment of over-consumption and pollution. And it is part of our story, as we struggle to live and love amid life's difficulty. In the middle of it all, we tell this story: life is new again.

Happy Easter!

- Alison Etter

# Augustine's Night at the Movies

Movies as diverse as *Avatar* (2009) and *The Colonel and Me* (1958) formed the content of our recent Augustine study group on movies. But the process, getting together to enjoy movies, good food for the body and soul, lots of intellectual diversity and new friendships, was just as important.

For six Tuesdays in January and February, five Augustine members and a friend met in each other's homes, shared a pot-luck meal, fellowship and moments from over a dozen different movies. Joan and Robert Johannson set the bar high the first night when they offered turkey pie as the main course at a discussion of *Shadowlands*, the film about C.S. Lewis. The discussion revealed six individuals who had all watched the same film, but all found different moments that spoke to them.

In the second week, Charlie McDougall introduced the group to Hilary Swank's pivotal teaching scene of "The Line" from *Freedom Writers* (2007) part of a night where each group member brought a great scene. Garth Bradley chose Gregory Peck's trial scene from *To Kill A Mockingbird*. I loved the scene but, for me, the beauty and power of the movie comes in the relationship between the southern lawyer and his children, their growing up and the end of innocence.

The "wow" factor got a heavy overdose with *Avatar*. We each went to see James Cameron's Oscar-winning movie and then discussed it at Garth's. "Lots of Wow! But no Awe," was my disappointed view. Fellow group member Virginia Maracle said *Avatar* was another story of colonization, "the white man riding in and showing the Aborigines how to defend themselves."

We had a second Cameron night looking at his recent support for documentaries like *Exodus Decoded* and *The Lost Tomb of Jesus*. Cameron is clearly connecting with deep forces of the imagination in today's world.

One week there was a wonderful salmon dinner at Charlie's and then each group member presented a scene to support their nomination for a special movie humanitarianism award. Nominees ranged from screenwriter Aaron Sorkin (*Charlie Wilson's War*) to George Clooney, who, in the week the group met, was busy



organizing "Hope for Haiti."

One of the most delightful surprises of the series was the Johannson's presentation of the 1958 Danny Kaye movie, *The Colonel and Me*. Without a hint of song and dance, Kaye plays a resourceful Jew trying to flee France in the Nazi invasion. "The Colonel" is a Polish military man, straight out of the feudal ages, who forms a reluctant relationship with this pushy Jew.

The journey Danny and the Colonel took through war torn France was similar to the journey our movie group took over our six weeks together – wildly diverse points of view, strong emotions, powerful themes and new friendships.

- Mike Maunder

# Creating community at Augustine

The Young Adults Group began in the fall of 2009. Adults in their 20s, 30s and beyond are welcome to attend gatherings.

Sometimes our time is spent at Augustine and sometimes we plan for events elsewhere. Our focus is on creating community.

In October, one of the Young Adults' first events was a bonfire in St. Vital Park. Despite the snow, 5 people and 1 dog braved the cold, roasted vegetarian marshmallows, ate s'mores, and laughed a lot.

In December, the Young Adults attended a Taizé service at Augustine. Following the service, 12 people headed over to Charissa Buhler's place for a potluck and a Dr. Mario tournament (Wii and helpful tutorials provided by Doug and Patrick).



## Quiz night at Augustine

Quizmater Robin Allan led members of Augustine, their friends and family though a fun and entertaining evening of trivia on March 19. The evening was a fundraiser for the church.

A highlight in February was a planned pizza night at the church. Seven of us gathered together to make pizzas from scratch with whatever toppings people brought. There was eating, talking, and even a rousing game of Dutch Blitz.

With the snow melting in March, it gave the Young Adults Group the perfect chance to give geocaching a try. Ten young adults and one GPS went out walking to find a couple caches hidden in Osborne Village. Afterwards, we headed back to the church for hot chocolate, conversation and prayer.

Come join us as we connect with each other.

If interested, please call Charissa Buhler at 783-0919 or Alison Etter at 284-2250.



## Gather 'round the fire

There Young Adults group enjoyed a bonfire at St. Vital Park in October.