COMMUNITY

Cuba is focus of World Day of Prayer

By Janet Duval St. John s United Church

If you've experienced the kindness and strength of Cuban people, or just wish you were visiting there now, you'll want to

be part of the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, March 4 at St. John's United Church, 11 Guelph Street beginning at 7:30 p.m.

A worldwide tradition for 130 years now, this year s service was written by women of Cuba. Their wisdom and perspectives will be shared through prayers and readings in 170 countries around the world and in 2,000 communities across Canada.

For 30 years Cuba was officially an atheist country and religion was suppressed. Thanks in part to extraordinary women who secretly carried on as spiritual lead-

Endless possibilities

ers, the church flourished again when religious freedom returned in the 1990s. Pope Francis visited last September; President Obama will be there this month. Despite great improvements in health care and education under President Fidel

> Castro, the people suffer economic shortages and an aging population as young people leave for better lives elsewhere.

Bett Leverette will be the speaker at the Georgetown service; her presentation will include a brief video prepared by the women of Cuba. There will be prayer, music and drumming, and

refreshments after the service.

Everyone is welcome, whether of sure faith, failing faith, or no faith at all, but a wish to share hope and fellowship in a perplexing world.

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