



# Reach Out



Glen Cairn United Church Newsletter

Sunday Service 10 AM

140 Abbeyhill Drive, Kanata, Ontario, K2L 1H5

FALL 2010

***We are called by God to be a welcoming church where we respect differences and build Christian community, as we learn, grow, celebrate, and reach out in faith.***

## Minister's Message

*Submitted by Rev. Brian Copeland*

On the first day of school this fall, I was driving by our local elementary school, and at the entrance there was a small child, wearing her backpack, standing beside her mother, and her father stood a distance back, but I noticed he had his camera in hand, and was preparing to photograph this momentous occasion.

The day after Labour Day, even when we are long absent from school or college or university, is like the mark of another year. It always feels to me as if the Church year is about to begin, and will end with the last Sunday of June. This is the real start of time, not the First Sunday of Advent, or Pentecost, but the Tuesday after Labour Day.

How do you mark time? We were trying to recall some of our past vacations this year, and we had to place them by how old our children were, or where we lived then, or which house did our parents live in at the time. Even with time we have our signposts, much like travelling a road, which tell us what stage or phase of life we are have passed or are entering.

I am certain that Jesus' disciples marked their lives from the moment he called them from their fishing boats until the day of his death, and his resurrection. Time has those marks about them, the momentous occasions, like the very first day of school. Life is changed by these marks, by these events. You live the first day of school only once; all else is a repetition. You are called by Jesus only once. You live your life and follow him, never looking back.

So, the year begins, my friends. What adventures, what wisdom, what epiphanies we shall live and love are to be revealed? This is the mark of the beginning. This is the road sign which says, "New life in Christ ahead." We take our first step, we walk our first mile, and year is on its way. May God bless us, guide us, and teach us in all that we do together, this day, and the year long.

## Community

*Submitted by Wayne Johnston, Chair of Council*

What community do you belong to? I belong to a few. There are my community of friends, the community where I live, and the community here at Glen Cairn United. Being part of such a great community is a big part of what brings me back every Sunday.

Glen Cairn United belongs to a community too. We are a community church. I'm told that's a bit unusual these days. Many churches are known for some particular characteristic and draw people from a wide area. Many members are from outside their local geographic community. While some of us come a long way each Sunday, most of us are from the local area. We belong to this community.

Our vision - you'll find it hanging on the wall just outside the sanctuary doors - is to be known for caring for our members and those outside our walls. So, we've been thinking about how we can help our community more. One idea we have is to attend the meetings of our local community associations; to find out what the needs are in our community and how we can help meet them. If you can help, or if you know someone who's already a community association member and would like to help, please let me know. (Contact information is available at the office).



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## Ottawa Presbytery

*Submitted by Barbara Reynolds, Presbytery Representative and Chair of Presbytery*

What do you hope church will be in 15 years is the question that the Presbytery Mission Strategy Working Group is asking pastoral charges to consider.

This group is looking at new ways of doing church. It is based on the idea that we need to be open to new models of being church and not fall back on traditional model of worship in a sanctuary. What ministries might Ottawa Presbytery develop that are not traditional congregation models?

If you have any thoughts or comments, please give your feedback to Barbara Reynolds or Geoff Ford, your Presbytery Representatives, or to Rev. Copeland.

## Stewardship Committee

Submitted by Sherry Sharpe,  
Chairperson, Stewardship Committee

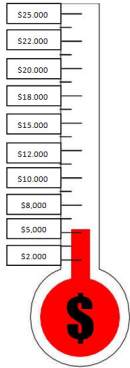


Welcome back from summer holidays! To date, this year has been both rewarding and challenging in many respects. The congregation approved a proposal to continue to invest in Youth and Sunday School leadership. As a result, at the AGM we agreed to a challenging budget.

To date, our Net Loss position for July is (\$21,374), while our budgeted Net Loss for July was (\$10,330). We still have a lot of work ahead of us over the fall to ensure the loss position is closed by the end of the year.

As a congregation, we have made significant progress in raising awareness and increasing participation in good stewardship practices. Let's keep up the momentum! We have a challenge ahead of us for this fall. In order to

close our Net Loss position, we need to contribute an additional \$25 per person each month to close the gap. Can we do this? Of course we can!!



We will be posting a challenge thermometer in the Foyer to measure the change from week to week as we work towards achieving our goal.

Many volunteers and organizers have stepped up to the challenge and a number of fundraising activities have already taken place

with many more events to come this fall. These all help support our work in Christ's mission.

Take the time to enjoy family, friends, and loved ones as we get back into our fall routine and continue to count our many blessings.

And some profound words from earlier this year: What is a steward?? We are all stewards during this short period that we spend on this earth. As stewards, we must ensure something is left for those who follow, leave it the way we found it, or better still, enhance it. We must sustain what we are given so that what is left, is left for the next stewards to take up the cause.

Stewardship is working to enhance and save what we have been blessed with. Stewardship is building the interest in others in the common cause we all believe in. So as stewards, we contribute. A good steward is a volunteer - a contributor - someone who gives willingly, unconditionally, and without expectation. Some stewards give of their time. Others give generously, monetarily, to sustain the stewardship mission. We are all stewards of God's wondrous world. In what way are you a steward?

Why not get into the PAR habit? Pre-authorized remittance is an easy way to contribute to the life and

work of our church on a regular basis. You pay your mortgage, hydro, telephone, etc., by direct withdrawal from your bank account. Doesn't that beat writing all those cheques each month? You may do exactly the same with your givings. Simply fill out an application form (available at the Welcome table and in the pamphlet rack), attach a void cheque, submit it to our Office Administrator Patricia Will before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, and you can be on P.A.R for that month. The withdrawal is made from your account on 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Christians are called to participate in God's mission - the mission reflected in Jesus' life and ministry. We do that as stewards in every decision about how we (as individuals and in faith communities) use all that God gives us - time, abilities, material resources, relationships - in a lifestyle of discipleship.

United Church of Canada Stewardship  
Your Stewardship Committee

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## Our United Church of Canada

Submitted by Barbara Reynolds, Chairperson, Ottawa Presbytery

The General Council of the United Church wants to revise its procedures and practices to make them less complex and more accessible. This is your chance to give your views on such questions as: What church processes create barriers and barricades for you or your congregation, Presbytery, or Conference in getting on with ministry? How could our processes be changed to free people to live out their faith and offer their gifts and talents more effectively in congregations?

If you have any thoughts or comments, please give your feedback to Barbara Reynolds or Geoff Ford, your Presbytery Representatives, or to Rev. Copeland. Or you can attend an open forum to voice your opinion on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM at City View United Church.

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## Welcome Back to Bible Study

Submitted by Sandra Copeland

If you would like to take your Sunday Service learning to the next level, the Bible Study group looks at the scripture passages used in the sermon each week. The Sunday School curriculum is also based on the same bible readings, so you can become tuned in to what your children are experiencing.



Brian and Sandra will be leading the Bible Study group on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11 AM, beginning September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone is welcome.

## Choir

*Submitted by Lori Prowse, Co-Director of Music*



Anyone interested in making a joyful noise? All GCUC choirs welcome new members. No music expertise required, just a love of music!

Senior Choir meets Thursday evenings at 8 PM. Practices are underway! Contact Bev Armbruster (Contact information is available at the office.)

Cecelia Chorus meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30 - a ladies choir that sings in the community as well as in church. Director: Bev Armbruster

Gabriel's Chorus meets Thursday evenings at 7 PM starting September 16<sup>th</sup> - a men's chorus directed by Peter Bishop (Tel.: 836-1303)

Youth Choir will start on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Vida Johnston is the Director (Contact information is available at the office.)

We would like to welcome Eleanor Ford as Director of the Junior Choir. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletin about the date and time of the first practice!

Cherub Choir starts on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Director: Bev Armbruster.

Our Christmas concert will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (November 28<sup>th</sup>) in the evening at 7 PM.

On the weekend of May 28-29, 2011, we will be presenting the intergenerational musical Godspell. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Foyer in the weeks ahead for anyone interested in singing in the chorus or lending a hand with technical and creative support. Watch for more information coming!! Cut-off date for the sign-up opportunity is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

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## Pastoral Care

*Submitted by Joan McComas, Co-Coordinator*

A Healing Service will be held on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 2 PM in the sanctuary. This service is intended for those who are experiencing loss of any kind or who are grieving or feel weighed down by life's burdens. A Healing Service is a time of quiet reflection, healing prayer, music, and uplifting scripture readings.

Looking ahead, we will have another Healing Service closer to Christmas on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM.



Pastoral Care Team members who have been trained in Healing Touch and Healing Pathway offer this to our congregation on the third Wednesday evening of each month from 7 to 9 PM. Please book a time through Lynda Brooks at 613-831-2865 or E-mail [care@gcuc.ca](mailto:care@gcuc.ca). If you have chronic pain, emotional stress, illness of any sort; if you are trying to cope with life transitions or deepen your spiritual connection, you may benefit from a Healing Pathway session.

The Pastoral Care Team invites the congregation to sign greeting cards to tell people from our congregation that they

are in our thoughts and prayers. Each Sunday, a card or two will be available to sign at the special table in the hallway near the membership table and the coat rack. Please check the cards each Sunday to send greetings to our friends from GCUC who need our prayers. To suggest a card to send, please contact Joan McComas (Contact information is available at the office), or by E-mail at [care@gcuc.ca](mailto:care@gcuc.ca).

You can identify Pastoral Care Team members by the purple ribbons they wear on Sundays. Please contact any team member if you wish a visit or the listening presence of a trained Pastoral Care worker. You may also contact the team through our E-mail: [care@gcuc.ca](mailto:care@gcuc.ca).



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## GC3 YOUTH MINISTRY

*Submitted by Shelley McLaughlin, Youth Group Coordinator*

"Leading youth to Grow in Christ as they live out the Great Commandment and apply the Great Commission in their daily lives. The goal is to love God and love people as we go and teach others to do the same."

(Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:18-20)

GC3 will kick off the fall season with an amazing bike rally and potluck BBQ. Students, parents, and siblings are invited to attend and bring along a bike, a helmet, and some tasty treats to share.

Teams composed of students and adults will race to compute mathematical puzzles (to figure out the address), solve word riddles (to discern the street name), and then bike to the various locations where they will answer a question specific to that address.

The rally will be followed by a potluck BBQ for the students and their families to enjoy together. (Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided)

GC3 generally meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, from 7 to 9 PM, here at the church.

Please pick up your schedule of events for the fall semester from the pocket on the youth bulletin board. Check the announcements in the Sunday bulletin and the youth bulletin board on a regular basis for information regarding upcoming activities.

Any student (grades 7 to 12) who is not currently receiving E-mails regarding GC3 activities, is invited to contact Shelley McLaughlin (Contact information is available at the office) via E-mail [youth@gcuc.ca](mailto:youth@gcuc.ca).

We'd love to have you join us!



# Lunch 'n Such

## Welcome Back

*Submitted by Patricia Will*

After a well-deserved rest over the summer, organizers of the monthly Lunch'n Such Group would like to welcome everyone back for another season of good food and interesting and entertaining programmes.

Meetings have been moved to the first Wednesday of each month to accommodate a rental group which generates funds for the church.

Our first gathering will be on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at noon. Our guest for the programme will be a pharmacist who will help us to better understand how our medications interact, issues of compliance, and foods to avoid with certain medications, as well as answering your questions.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Foyer. We ask that you add your name and that of any guests you may bring so that we know how much food to prepare. Everyone is most welcome. Feel free to bring a friend. Cost is \$7 (\$5 for lunch and \$2 for the programme)

If you have questions please contact Patricia Will, Martha Colford, or Delma Murray.

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### Property Management

*Submitted by Moe Wright, Chairperson*

After the installation of new multi-program 7-day thermostats last season, there has been a significant reduction in the electrical portion of our GCUC heating costs. Many thanks to Dave Baker for those installations, and the one remaining to be done before mid-November.

General maintenance continues to include regular cleaning, with more attention being paid to less frequently attacked areas, including floors behind doors and cobwebs in some corners. The status of our current operating funds has precluded starting a number of planned initiatives, but we do hope for a healthier status in coming months so we can proceed with various needed repairs, indoor painting, etc.

It is with great pleasure that we extend sincere thanks to Elwood and Brenda Hodgins for their most generous gift of two new "low flush" economical toilets for the ladies' washroom, including a majority of the installation costs. Thank you sincerely!

As this newsletter is going to press, our Council, through the exceptional stewarding of Sherry Sharpe, is filing a federal

application for a grant to provide funds to install a handicapped washroom and powered doors for handicapped access at the front and rear main entrances to the church. We pray that the souls filtering and approving the application will understand and endorse the importance of this initiative.

In the last newsletter, we reported a loss of some rental contracts, one of which was fairly large. We are now pleased to report that a few more new renters have signed up, closing a fair bit of the gap left by the departures. Other groups have also expressed some interest in renting, and negotiations will proceed at their speed.

In the last couple of weeks, the Property Management Committee lost a great team member as Steve Hardaker retired and moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake. We extend to Steve and Susi our most sincere best wishes in their new abode and with their new church family there. At the same time, the committee would be thrilled if someone in the congregation would care to step in for Steve. The position does not involve much time, while offering an opportunity to participate in reviewing various property requirements, assisting in establishing maintenance priorities, and occasional hands-on help with small projects. Please let us know if you "feel called" to this service.

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### Faith Formation & Education Committee

*Submitted by Barbara Reynolds, Ministry with Children Representative*

"We dream of a church where the spirituality of everyone is affirmed and celebrated. Our spirituality connects us with God, self, others, and the earth and is common to all ages and stages of life. Listening to and respecting one another's spiritual journey and insights is made possible in the church which honours a place for all." (From *Children's Ministry Vision*, The United Church of Canada)

We thank God for the amazing children entrusted to our care at GCUC. Each Sunday throughout the summer, a dedicated group of volunteers planned a wide range of activities that underlined our commitment to provide a



Christian environment where children are welcomed, heard, valued, nurtured and supported. In particular, we would like to thank Cathy Turner, Peri Kerr,

Diane Hough, Kathleen McDonnell, Lisa- Abigail McDonnell, Wanda McNea, Barbara Loynes, Susan Lucas, Sherri Sharpe, Jackie Dankwa, Carol Achampong, and Caitlin and Erin Johnston.



## Faith Formation & Education Committee (cont'd)

Activities included such things as games, cooking, painting, dancing, and teddy bears.

We thank God for this time of building up community, especially with the children of our neighbourhood. In August, 62 youngsters participated in a lively and exciting Camp Awesome (Vacation Bible School).



GCUC is blessed with willing volunteers who supported this camp. We would like to thank Amy Walker for serving as Coordinator, Susan Lucas for organizing all the snacks, and Ruth Winter for being the Registrar. Camp Awesome also provides leadership opportunities for teens that nurture both their leadership skills and spirituality and we are proud that three of our youth, Caitlin Johnston, Elaine Sandness, and Devon Power were counselors.

In addition, we would like to thank those who provided snacks: Brenda Carr, Hazel Lucas, Kathleen McDonnell, Vida Johnston, Lynda Brooks, Hazel Pompey, Delma Murray, Amy Walker, Susan Lucas, Patricia Will, and Andrea Dixon. Finally, we give thanks to Rev. Brian Copeland for conducting a worship and reflection time with staff each morning of Camp Awesome.

May GCUC continue to support ministry with children and young families.

### . . . and a word from the Chairperson!

*Submitted by Tom Dickson*

Welcome back! This year promises to be another very busy one with many opportunities to Grow in Faith at GCUC. The Faith Formation Team consists of people concerned with the growth of faith across the entire church: Children, Youth and Adults. Barb Reynolds and Jesse Boehmer represent the interests of the Children (up to Grade 7), Vida Johnston, Sandra Copeland and Shelly McLaughlin represent the various Youth interests (Grades 8 to 12) while I represent the Adults and Chair the Team. Rev. Brian Copeland is also part of the group, keeping us all in line and helping us to define what we need to do to grow in faith as a congregation. The group meets every 4-6 weeks to ensure that all the individual groups are synchronized, review future opportunities, share stories, and enjoy a few laughs.

Each group has its own list of regular and special events, but the Faith Formation Team as a whole also has several special events planned. Last year, the Team hosted a special Advent Celebration Sunday on the first Sunday in Advent (November 28<sup>th</sup> this year), which was so successful, we felt we had to hold it a second time. There will be special activities (games, crafts, music) that day, together with the service and a Pot Luck lunch afterwards. During the winter, we also plan to host a few "Saturday Connection" services. These are for everyone in the congregation, but are also held in the hopes that those struggling to make it to Sunday Services consistently can come to reconnect with the rest of the congregation on Saturday instead. There will be dinner, a short service, and

fun activities as well. In the spring, the group will again host a Faith Formation and Education service. Last year we walked down memory lane, singing everyone's favourite hymns (old and new) and several people told their stories of Sunday School - there were some hilarious stories. We hope to top that this year.

We look forward to a great year. If you are interested in joining the group (there's always room for one more), feel free to E-mail me (Contact information is available at the office).

### Adult Education

Last year was a great year for Adult Education. We had several very dynamic and interesting study groups where we challenged our understanding of our own Faith working through the *Living the Questions Study*. We also saw and discussed a unique and interesting interpretation of Paul the man and his mission in *Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome and the Kingdom of God*. And we also took a close look at Jesus during the study of Borg's *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*.

This fall, we plan to study and discuss *Religion and Violence* through a multi-faith DVD series. We'll listen as representatives of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism discuss why violence has become connected, rightly or wrongly, with organized religion. During Lent there will be a special discussion group called *First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God*. Throughout the year I plan to start a book club and hope to prepare a study of the history of the Bible, so watch for those as well. It's going to be a great year and I look forward to seeing you at our events this year.

The Adult Education "Team" is now looking for additional members to help grow our faith and understanding of God. It's a role that would take up as little as five hours a year - or 50, depending on your interest and time. If you have an interest in helping out, please feel free to contact me (Contact information is available at the office).

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***Read the Sunday announcements each week for news of upcoming United Church Women, Adult Fellowship, and Men's Group Activities!***



