



Reach Out

Glen Cairn United Church Newsletter



Sunday Service 10:00 AM
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Pentecost 2012
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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 Elizabeth Boehm-Wilson

*"Be who God meant you to be
and you will set the world on fire."*

Catherine of Sienna (Christian mystic, 1347-1380)

When our children are little we ask them, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" When our children are older, "What would you like to do after high school? ... after university? ... after that adventure abroad?" We want them to think about who they can become. We want them to find their niche, discover and use their gifts, *be themselves* in a way that is authentic, meaningful, and rewarding.

Yesterday I was at a church meeting and there was talk about "goals." Some goals (e.g.: to get a degree) are achievable and, once met, we can walk away from them and on to the next thing. There are other goals, however, to which we will continuously strive, (e.g.: to be a good citizen). It occurred to me that the goal of self-actualization is one of those goals that we do not ever leave behind. Who will you be as you grow? We change in response to life. We are shaped by failures, successes, by tragedies, and by love. Who will you become?

On February 22nd, Ash Wednesday, we enter the church season of Lent - a time of introspection. During the Lenten season, the church follows the story of Jesus from his baptism, through a time of trial, through his ministry of teaching and healing, to his death on the cross. Presbyterian minister and author Frederick Buechner says this was a time of Jesus asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. And, during Lent, Christians should be asking what it means to be themselves.

Many think of Lent as a bleak time of repentance and self-denial. The practices recommended over the centuries for Lent (prayer, fasting, and giving) are not meant to be punishing, and if you experience them as such then they are not the right tools for you. For many, those spiritual practices assist them in dispensing with obstacles that separate us or distract us from relationship with God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world ... let your light shine" (Matt. 5:14,16).

In this season of lengthening days, which we call Lent, let us reach for the goal of being who God calls us to be.

A WORD FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Submitted by Wayne Johnston

Fun.

Some of you will think I'm crazy, but if I had to sum up my time as Chair of Council in one word that's what it would be. Sure, there were serious issues to discuss, and serious work to be done. But that work was done with a great group of people. People who really care about this church, this community, and this world. People who are willing to put aside some of their free time to serve. Working with them was a really rewarding experience. And it really was a lot of fun.

As I end my term as Chair, we are about to start a consultation on how we live out the vision of our church. Last February, you authorized the Council to ask the national church for short-term relief from our VIM tithe. We pay the tithe to Ventures In Mission to pay down a loan given for the construction of the church building. We asked for a two-year moratorium. The national church responded with a longer-term proposal. We've spent much of the last year at Council reflecting on it. Starting February 26th, we will begin a series of discussions and town-hall meetings. We'll explain the history of the loan, the proposal, and explore our vision for the future.

Does that sound like fun? You may not think so. But I think it will be. Maybe I really am crazy, but I look forward to this serious work because I know I will be doing it with people who care about GCUC. Please join us. Together we'll see how much fun it can be.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday, February 12th
following the church service.**

**Presentation of committee and financial reports,
plus approval of the 2012 budget.**

**Important issues to be discussed
and decisions taken.**

Election of new committee Chairpersons.

***Your* attendance is vital.**

CHILDREN OF AFRICA

Submitted by John Toft

Abdou Amidou has returned from his latest journey to Togo. There, he and his companions distributed the many items received from supporters of the **Children of Africa** mission.

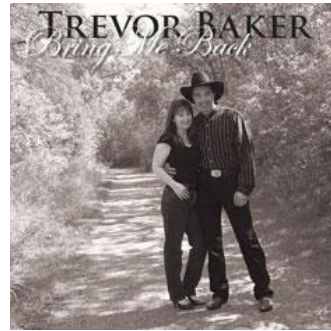
On the mission's Website, found at <http://childrenofafrica.ca/>, and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/childrenofafrica>) Abdou thanks his supporters. Of particular note is that **Matt and Ben Munkittrick**, the two young people who spoke at Glen Cairn United Church the last time that Abdou spoke to us, raised enough money and had enough help and resources to rebuild the roof of the primary school in the village they visited.

Glen Cairn United Church through its Outreach mission joins the many others in Ottawa and other parts of Canada in commending Abdou for another successful endeavour. We plan to continue to support this mission.

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Submitted by Cathy Turner

Not only do we have books in our library, but we also have contemporary Christian music. The music selections can be found near the juice table in the Lounge. Here are three CDs which may interest you:

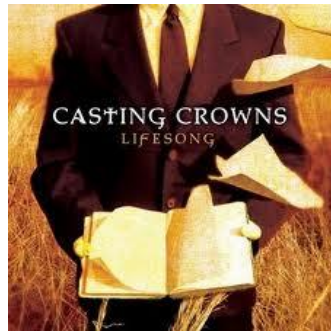


Bring Me Back by Trevor Baker, a Christian country singer presently living in Tuxford, Saskatchewan.

Phenomenon by Thousand Foot Krutch, a Canadian Christian rock band that got its start in Peterborough.



Lifesong by Casting Crowns, a Grammy Award-winning contemporary Christian band based in Georgia, USA.



CECILIA CHORUS SINGS OUT!

Submitted by Eleanor Ford

Our Cecilia Chorus presented a Christmas program of music on November 30th and December 14th at two local seniors' residences. The residents were delighted to sing along with the familiar carols and to share in the joy that Christmas music brings. After the sing-out at Stonehaven Manor, the members of the Chorus celebrated with a lunch at the Broadview restaurant just next door.

Rehearsals for 2012 began January 11th. The ladies are preparing for future sing-outs and looking forward to contributing to Sunday worship in our church. A warm welcome awaits new members Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. We offer a chance to enjoy a special fellowship while making music together.



TWICE THE BIBLE STUDY!

Submitted by Sandra Copeland

In response to requests from the congregation, there are now two time slots for weekly Bible study!

The Thursday morning study from 10 to 11 am in the Lounge is continuing, and there is a new study group on Monday evenings from 7 to 8 pm.

We are pleased to welcome our Student Intern Elizabeth Boehm-Wilson as the leader of the Thursday morning group. So do take this opportunity to come out and get to know her better. New members are always welcome, or feel free to just drop in from time to time.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Submitted by Martha Townshend Colford

Our UCW group is so happy to know that Delma Murray is recovering well from her surgery, but have sad hearts with the death of her brother. We also want to express our compassion and would like everyone to pray for our dear friends Avis Templeton and Deborah Cross as they deal with health concerns and uncertainty at this time.

Our catering committee has been very busy and we are very thankful for the many volunteers who assisted with Prudie Elliot's funeral reception, the Robbie Burn's Dinner, and February's Lunch 'n Such.

At our January meeting, Nancy Sprules was elected to be our new Secretary and Marilyn Matte to be our new Treasurer. Martha, especially, is extremely grateful to these two ladies stepping forward to help. We are all thankful for new people helping our group to thrive.

Looking forward to our meeting on February 13th, Lynda Brooks will be demonstrating some candy making just to put us in the mood for Valentine's Day.

We don't have any firm plans for the rest of the year, but we are bouncing program ideas back and forth. Check the announcement sheet for further updates.

All ladies are welcome to attend our meetings which are usually held on the second Monday of the month.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Kevin McComas

As the long days of winter progress, the Worship Committee plans for the longer days of spring ahead. The three Christmas Eve services continued to be very different from each other. The 6:30 pm service, which caters to families with younger children, was very active, busy, and short. The 8:00 pm community service featured carols and singing, while the 11:00 pm was a contemplative Communion service. All three services went well.

About 45 people attended Rev. Brian's Christmas Day service. David Rothwell's New Year's Day service explored "Faith" and about 45 people were present as well. It is heartening to realize that the need to come to church is deep within this congregation.

Elizabeth Boehm-Wilson, our Student Intern, has already given GCUC her first sermon, focussing on the Old Testament account of the challenges faced by Jonah. She said she was very nervous. I am sure she had spent much time preparing. Then, "poof" - it was all over! But what a great meal! We look forward to listening to you again, Elizabeth, and to feeding from your words.

On February 22nd, we will have an **Ash Wednesday** service at 7:00 pm with the Kanata United Church congregation joining us. This service is the beginning of Lent and is held 46 days before Easter. I have no idea why it is 46 days as opposed to, say, 40 or 53 days, but all are welcome to this service.

At the other end of Lent are:

- ♥ the April 5th **Maundy Thursday** service, to be held at 7:00 pm at Glen Cairn United, with Kanata United Church members invited to join us;
- ♥ the April 6th **Good Friday** service, to be held at Kanata United this year; and
- ♥ our own **Easter Sunday** service at 10:00 am.

Apart from those dates, we will continue to have a variety of Sunday Services and hope there will be something meaningful for everybody. We look forward to seeing you there!

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Submitted by Moe Wright

The new flooring project saw a great start, the installation in rooms A & D now being complete. We hope within the next few weeks to draw on the good nature and talents of our list of super volunteers and return to this adventure, aiming first at room E, and finally room C. The baseboards and thresholds in all the rooms will be completed once all the flooring is done. When the project is finished we will proudly thank all the volunteers who have participated at any time.

After our new 'accessible washroom' was completed we discovered there are some handicap-scooters that are too long to navigate the turn through the powered door. The replacement of that door, which did meet provincial size standards (!), will be 4" wider and should be completed at about the time this newsletter is published.

Over the years some souls have asked about emergency evacuation and fire drills. It is understandable that such a drill would be most valuable during a large attendance at a Sunday service and Sunday school, and, at the same time, be virtually chaotic, considering timing of services - people do not attend services to be subjected to a fire drill, eh!

So, an emergency fire procedure was published several times in the Sunday bulletin, read once from the pulpit, and will be re-published periodically in the bulletin. In addition, emergency evacuation procedures are now posted both in the main foyer and beside the large main hall doors. Please take time to discover and digest them.

It has now been some years since the entrance door locks have been rekeyed. Council has given instructions, and action has been initiated, to develop an access security policy and to proceed with the installation of new, higher-tech lock cylinders. The new keys will require IDs when anyone requests key cutting by any qualified locksmith.

Notice will be given to all current key holders, advising them of when and where to get their new key, and the date the lock cylinders are to be replaced will be announced.

OUTREACH CORNER

Submitted by Shirley Bishop

Outreach opened 2012 with a visit to the Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre (WOCRC) on January 24th. Twenty members of our congregation had a tour of the Centre and were amazed at the wide variety and geographical reach of programs addressing the needs of people from the youngest to the oldest; new-timer to life-long resident. The group also brainstormed a bit on how we as a congregation can connect with needs in a more intentional way to actively participate in building a stronger local community. Some of the ideas involved partnering with the WOCRC to expand existing programs that are bursting at the seams; others were ideas for programs we might initiate ourselves to fill a gap.

Here are just some of the ideas:

- ♥ **Homework Club.** Colleen Taylor, Children's Community Developer, coordinates WOCRC homework clubs and works with the Early Years Centre staff. Should Glen Cairn United decide to offer a homework club, she would be happy to help us get started and would help promote the homework club to the broader community.
- ♥ **Story Hour.** This program would give seniors and pre-schoolers an opportunity to interact through stories and activities. Colleen is supportive of this idea as well and would be pleased to meet with a group to discuss the possibilities.
- ♥ **Driver's Program.** A Driver's Roster would help persons with disabilities and seniors without other means of transportation to get to medical appointments and treatments. There is an ongoing demand for drivers throughout the community.
- ♥ **Parent and Tot Program.** Several times a week the WOCRC operates a "drop-in" program of learning centre activities for pre-schoolers and their caregivers. These events are very popular with local families and the Centre often has to turn people away due to space limitations.

The possibilities are endless. What do you think?

PASTORAL CARE TEAM PROFILES

Submitted by Lynda Brooks

Lynda Brooks: Lynda enjoyed church, Sunday school, Sparks, Explorers, CGIT, Young Peoples, and choir as a child and youth. She joined GCUC in 1969. She has taught Sunday School, participated with the UCW, and is currently Chair of the Pastoral Care Team. Lynda graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1966. She holds certificates in Bach Flowers, Therapeutic Touch, Addiction Counseling, Healing Touch level 3, and Healing Pathways Phase 2A and 2B. She enjoys quilting, crafts, gardening, playing bridge, games, cooking, and making gingerbread houses. Lynda is happy to have established The Healing Pathway at GCUC.

Joy Craigie: Joy graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1963 and has also worked as an Occupational Health Nurse. She is a charter member of GCUC and has served as a Sunday School Teacher, Treasurer of the UCW, and Chair of the Pastoral Care Team. She has been active with the Friends of Hospice Ottawa and is qualified to give bereavement classes. She has completed levels 1 and 2 of Healing Touch and level 1 of The Healing Pathway. Joy enjoys reading, cooking, aquatics, walking, and playing bridge.

Joy Judd: Joy joined GCUC in 1974 and has served as Clerk of Session, as an Elder, and as a Sunday School Teacher. In the mid-1980s, Joy joined the Pastoral Care Team and served as Chair and Co-Chair. She holds a Master's degree in Canadian studies. She is a certified "Professional Integral Coach" and has her own company called "JOYful Path Coaching." Joy has completed Phase 1 of The Healing Pathway and Level 1 of Healing Touch.

Shelley McLaughlin: Shelley graduated as a Civil Engineering Technician. She has a deep faith and connection with Jesus and God. She has volunteered and worked in both children and youth ministries. She enjoys cycling, rollerblading, ball hockey, ice hockey, art, music, and reading. Shelley looks forward to serving as an extension of God's love and comfort to the youth and young families at GCUC.

Delma Murray: Delma graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1965. She became a member of GCUC in 1973. Since then, she has been a very active member: she has served as an Elder, Sunday School Teacher, Chair of Music, Chair of Ministry and Personnel, President of the UCW, and a member of the Senior Choir since 1978. She coordinates catering for funerals, Lunch'n Such, and church special events. You will see her painting, laying floors, cleaning, and gardening. She is very busy and dedicated to visiting on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team. Delma enjoys quilting, crafts, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Moe Wright: Prior to retiring, Moe worked for the Federal Government. He enjoys building and renovating. In fact, as Chair of Property Management, you can see Moe's outstanding abilities expressed all around the church in the many successful projects he has personally undertaken or led. He is an expert sign painter, enjoys curling, listens to music (especially bluegrass), and enjoys art of many kinds. He and his wife Shirley competed for many years at a high level in ballroom dancing, traveling across Canada, the US, and to Blackpool England. You can see Moe's warm personality greeting you on Sunday mornings. He is very active with the Pastoral Care Team.

As you can see, our Pastoral Care Team has been and continues to be very active in many facets of our church.

THE STEWARDSHIP CONNECTION

Submitted by Sherry Sharpe

What a fabulous Robbie Burns Event! Our thanks to the UCW for the excellent meal of roast beef, neeps, and tatties - very well done. Under the direction of Nigel Kilby, the crowd danced into the night to the tunes of the Sarah Burnell Band. A Robbie Burns Supper to remember!



In April, we will be entertained by **Champion Fiddler Scott Woods and his Band**. The Band travels extensively throughout Canada each year helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for churches, charities, and other community organizations. Scott combines his masterful playing ability, a wonderful sense of humour, and an incredibly talented group of musicians and puts it all together into a top-notch fiddle variety show that is sure to delight audiences of all ages.

The **Mom 2 Mom** event on May 19th will include second-hand clothing and toys, as well as Nan's Cupboard, a book sale, bake sale, silent auction, Tea Room, BBQ, and entertainment. This event not only helps accomplish our objective to raise funds for GCUC programming such as music, youth, and Christian formation, but also doubles as an outreach to our local women's shelter and beyond.



**MOM 2 MOM
SALE**



After returning from a restful summer and getting back into the groove, join us for a **Fish Fry** in September - a pleasant way to ease back into the routine and reunite with your Church family.

The **Fall Harvest Festival** on October 20th entails a wonderful 100-mile Meal and Oktoberfest BBQ, book sale, bake sale, silent auction, yard sale items, Nan's Cupboard, Christmas Shoppe, and much more. Entertainment is planned for this event, as well.



The **gift card program** is an excellent way to support ongoing fundraising for the Church. Last year, we raised \$3,114 in gift card sales. This is an easy way to do fundraising for the Church. The grocery and gas gift cards provide a 3-5% return on the value of the card to the Church. Cards for Superstore, Loblaws, Sobeys, Metro, Home Depot, Canadian Tire, Zellers, Home Hardware, Petro Canada, Esso, Ultramar, Chapters Bookstore, and many more are available. You can also order cards for clothing such as Roots and Mark's Work Wearhouse that give back 6%, or Cineplex and Famous Players that return 8%. Orders placed on Sunday are available the next Sunday. Please

visit the fundraising table after the Service. A HUGE thank you to our gift card volunteers: Heather MacDonald, Greg Reynolds, Ann Toft, Elaine Green, and Norm Desjardins. Without you, the program wouldn't be as successful as it is!

Each week, the ministry of Glen Cairn United touches hundreds of lives through worship, Bible Study, Sunday School, fellowship groups, Youth Group, pastoral care, counselling, outreach into the community, and in many other ways. Your continuing support is vitally important, and your pledge is a great help to us as we plan for the future in a faithful and responsible way. We are a welcoming and growing Church. Please review your givings commitment and give prayerful thought to making an additional investment in a strong and vibrant Church community. An increase of 5-10% makes a significant difference.

Consider giving through the **Pre-authorized remittance (PAR)** program. PAR helps support your Church Council significantly in its stewardship functions. If you are already a PAR supporter, please consider revisiting your PAR profile. Givings in Local Operations are essential to the ongoing sustainability of the Church and less restrictive than Capital. The Capital Fund is currently in great shape; it is Local Operating that requires our attention.



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, and 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 Information Table and the pamphlet rack, attach a void cheque, submit it to our Office Administrator Patricia Will before the 10th of the month, and you can be on PAR for that month. The withdrawal is made from your account on the 15th 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. Through stewardship, we offer back to God a portion of the Time, Talent, and Treasure that God has given to us.

HI! I'M ELIZABETH, YOUR STUDENT INTERN!

Submitted by Elizabeth Boehm-Wilson

Some of you have asked me where I am “from,” which is a question I do not have a short answer for. I was born in Hamilton, but I do not remember living there. My dad is a Minister in the Christian Reformed denomination and during the years I lived at home, he served five different churches: Hamilton, Ontario; Grant, Michigan; Marion, Michigan; Riverdrive Park, Ontario; and Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia. We lived in Marion for ten years and in many ways that feels like my “hometown.” He has since retired in Portapique, Nova Scotia, and all my siblings also live near there, so now that *feels* like “home.”

Growing up, I was immersed in the Christian tradition and the sacred stories of our faith, read after every meal in our home. Worship and faith formation was central to our lives; worship twice a Sunday, plus Sunday school, plus weekly church clubs and catechism classes. In my childhood I experienced some of what the church can be at its best, but also some of what it is at its worst.

Upon graduation from high school, I went to Calvin College in Michigan, where I met Gerry at a Bible study during the first week of the school year. We fell madly in love and were married at year's end. We had our three children, Charles, Emily, and Ian, in the first three years of our marriage - not something that I recommend *without cautions*. Gerry and I have since lived in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Arnprior, Ontario. Arnprior is Gerry's hometown.

For ten years I was the co-owner/operator of a small business we called Arnprior Theatre Lab. We ran programs and classes for children, youth, and even a few for adults.

We also did drama and improv acting workshops in schools all over the Ottawa Valley and in Ottawa. During the summer months, we ran week-long day camps with theatre performances every Saturday evening. I did this for ten years and enjoyed every minute of it.

When thanked by parents for the work we did with their children, I often remarked that the differences they saw in their children (developing confidence, becoming more articulate, becoming skilled in theatre arts) were due not so much to anything we *taught* but, rather, due to the fact that at Theatre Lab they found a safe, encouraging environment in which they could take risks, explore their creativity and develop their gifts.

In 2001, I met the Minister of Grace St. Andrews United Church (GSA) in Arnprior because her two children came to Theatre Lab. Upon request, I helped her with an ambitious Christmas pageant at her church. I was struck by the way she wove the pageant into the Sunday service so it did not feel like a *performance* but was, rather, a part of the *whole worship*. I expressed an interest in collaborating with her and the children of that congregation to explore the use of drama as a way to create meaningful worship and faith formation experiences.

In all the other churches I had belonged to up to this point, the only work I had ever been invited to do was to teach Sunday School. At Grace St. Andrews I was given

opportunities to plan worship, to *create* curricula, to train Sunday school teachers in the use of drama, to design and lead small study groups, and to create and lead women's retreats. At Grace St. Andrews, I had found a safe, encouraging environment in which I could take risks, explore my creativity, and develop my gifts. I very quickly realized that I had, for a long time, been repressing a “call to ministry.”

In 2002, Gerry and I joined the United Church, in part because we had found our church home at Grace St. Andrews, but also because we were drawn to the theological openness of the UCC and its commitment to inclusivity and justice. In 2005, I began the “discernment process” which is the first step toward becoming a UCC minister.

I began my studies at Queens Theological College in Kingston in the fall of 2009 and completed the program there this past December. My Internship is the final step before ordination. My Internship also involves 15 hours per week of work at the Carlington Community Chaplaincy, where I help staff the “drop-in” times, run a Bible Study, lead a weekly worship service, and do visits in an assisted living facility for people living with mental illness.

I am grateful to you for welcoming me as an Intern to learn and serve among you. Special thanks to Brian and to the members of my Supervision team: Susan Lucas, Wayne Kerr, Linda Short, and Wayne Johnston. I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible in the next eight months and to growing together in faith.

I am in the church office on Thursdays and Fridays. I'd love to have you visit me!

My email address is: elizabeth_boehm@rogers.com

Elizabeth at pray . . .



. . . and at play with grandson Elijah!

Moving beyond mission statements

Submitted by Barbara Reynolds

The Presbytery Mission Strategy Group is planning a day for all our congregations to come together and have conversation about how we engage God-centred faithful mission for our congregation and our community. This is an invitation to dream together, to share ideas, to ask hard questions about how we communally and denominationally use our resources. Pastoral charges are encouraged to send a number of participants.

Our passion for mission is: Exploring opportunities for discipleship & mission

Saturday, March 24th
From 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
(lunch provided)

Dominion Chalmers United Church
355 Cooper Street, Ottawa

To register, contact the Presbytery office at 613-224-5318, Ext. 10, or office@uccanottawa.org

Lillian Roberts, our Presbytery Minister, has provided some background on current trends in talking about mission strategy:

The mission awakening within the mainline church is a consciousness that mission is not what the church does; it is the essence of being church. Following the Reformation, "church" increasingly became understood as a place where certain things happen and the institutional identity of the church grew. Often mission was understood as a program of the institutional church with the purpose of furthering the work of the church.

But there is emerging a different way of understanding mission, one some would argue is more in keeping with Biblical understandings. Mission is not a program; it is the heart and soul of being church, the embracing of the purpose for which God calls and creates a community of faith in the world. The focus is a not so subtle shift from looking at how the church extends its influence and presence in the world, to looking outside of itself to the opportunities to further the work of

God in the world. One author has put it this way: "It is not the Church that has a mission, but the God of mission who has the Church." (Tim Dearbom)

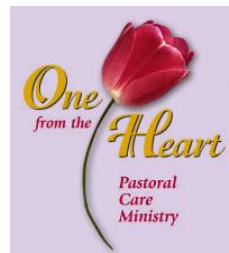
So when the "Mission Strategy Working Group" started talking about a forum to bring together people in Ottawa Presbytery to talk about mission, it came to the conclusion that the most open and engaging way of fostering the conversation would be to invite people to share their passion for God's mission.

Passion and creativity can both be understood as gifts of the Spirit. The Spirit moves us to engage deeply, to care profoundly, to believe and hope completely and then the Spirit plants seeds of how to creatively live in new ways.

You are invited to come on March 24th and to be a part of moving mission beyond mission statements to a discovery of a joyful, faithful engagement with God's presence and work in the world.

PASTORAL CARE

Submitted by
Lynda Brooks



The Pastoral Care Team was very sorry that they had to cancel "The Longest Night Service" on December 21st due to the weather.

Four people have resigned from the team for various reasons. We reluctantly said good-bye to Joan McComas (Co-chair), Marion Milnes (Associate Minister), Cindy Samulack, and Robert Tate. They will really be missed.

I am happy to say that Sunday, January 29th, the Team led the morning service. We had a positive response and would like to thank all who attended. The team is looking forward to ministering to the congregation in 2012.

The current Pastoral Care Team members are Lynda Brooks (Chair), Joy Craigie, Joy Judd, Shelley McLaughlin (Youth and Young Families), Delma Murray, and Moe Wright.

MEMBERSHIP

Submitted by Patricia Taylor

Did you know that there are many Bible study groups within the Public Service right here in Ottawa? I have been attending a lunch time study at work for over ten years. While eating our lunch, we read and discuss various books of the Bible.

The attendees come from many different Christian churches and often have different points of view. Sometimes there are heated discussions, but we always leave as friends.

The Public Service Christian Fellowship (PSCF) promotes Bible study, prayer, and Christian fellowship directed towards learning and applying Christian principles in all areas of the Public Service.

The Fellowship is open to all who seek to better understand Scripture and make Jesus Christ Lord of their lives. The PSCF has been in existence since 1979. Currently there are individual groups holding weekly meetings at lunch time in many government departments and agencies.

Other groups can easily be started. All it takes is two or more committed Christians willing to come together to initiate a group in their government department.

More information can be obtained from Chris Sullivan at 819-684-1064, or via the PSCF website: www.pscf-acfp.ca.

My Tuesday lunch hour has never been so exciting and I have made lifelong friends at these sessions.

Blessings, Patricia.



THE HEALING PATHWAY TEAM

Submitted by Lynda Brooks

We as a team continue to see two to five people per week. Our participants experience anything from deep relaxation to diminished or relieved symptoms. The team members continue to increase their knowledge by taking courses in The Healing Pathway. We are looking forward to more people experiencing this wonderful ministry. The team will be leading a service in March. Please come and learn more about the The Pathway Ministry. The current members of the team are Lynda Brooks (Coordinator), Joy Craigie, Joy Judd, Nancy Kerr, and Barb Loynes.



A scene from the 2011 Christmas Pageant. Photo by Jim MacDonald.

MODERATOR'S EARTH DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Friends:

This week, I'm launching a series of three playful challenges to us as congregations in our ongoing, committed involvement in God's healing of Soul, Community, and Creation. Three more will appear in each of March and April. These are fun, inspiring, and thoughtful offerings from friends throughout our church community. I encourage you to 'take them on' as a community of faith and invite your neighbours to join you. Please post your thoughts and pictures on www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchCda, Twitter, and YouTube.

We are looking forward to a grand celebration on Sunday April 22nd, Earth Day. Congregations will be offered a special liturgy and hymn for your worship service that day, and, in the afternoon, I am hosting an hour-long interactive Webcast where some of your experiences with the challenges will be featured, along with other stories of how churches are involved in the resurrection work of healing God's world. For more information and the challenges, watch the video *Invitation to Earth Day 2012*, www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada, and our site, www.united-church.ca/earthday.

In early April, congregations can also expect to receive a gift of wildflower seeds in the mail. I invite you to plant these seeds as a community activity in recognition of Earth Day 2012.

In the abundant grace and peace of Christ,

Mardi Tindal

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Councillor Allan Hubley's 1st Annual Meet & Greet Breakfast

Please join Allan along with his special guest MPP Jack MacLaren and many of your neighbours for breakfast and great conversation.

Feb 25th at 9:00 am at Don Cherry's Sports Grill, Hazeldean Mall.

Cost: \$15.00. All Proceeds to the Kanata Food Cupboard.

Everyone Welcome – Please Pay At The Door.



Note to our faithful readers: As this is my last issue as Editor and Publisher of the "Reach Out!" newsletter, I wish to thank all those who have submitted articles and suggestions to me and provided assistance over the past three years. You have made the newsletter what it is: an important means of keeping our congregation, and other interested individuals, informed, entertained, enlightened, and engaged. To my successor, who will be announced very shortly, I wish you every success and hope you have as much fun as I have had in producing each and every issue of this fine publication.

Emmett Will, Editor and Publisher, Glen Cairn United Church "Reach Out!" newsletter.