



Reach Out



Glen Cairn United Church Newsletter

Sunday Service 10:00 AM

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www.gcuc.ca

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.

Editor's Note

The Spring edition is on time (sort of)! It is full of interesting information. Many thanks to all contributors! (If you'd like to contribute to the *GCUC Reach Out* newsletter, please do! The newsletter is for everyone and by everyone!) As always, if you'd like to see some changes in terms of layout, composition, format or content, or anything else, please let me know at keithfa AT gmail DOT com. Keith Allingham

Minister's Message

Brian Copeland

"The spring has come, let all the church be part of it! The world has changed and God is at the heart of it! New light! New day, new colour after winter grey...." So says one of the most famous hymn writer's, Shirley Murray. One can only imagine that Murray is looking out on the ocean where she lives and the trees behind the house which have been barren all winter long suddenly have that first faint hint of green. And the ocean and sky which have been gray and sullen all winter long, now burst forth with bright sunshine and the waves sparkle as they ride their way to the shore.

I cannot wait for that day. Let all the church be part of it! The old is gone. Winter is past. A new leaf, a new day dawns on the dreary old church which has struggled with the harsh winter of barren pews and declining dollars. The spring comes. The church throws off its weary way and heads in an entirely new direction. Green shoots of hope bud on the aging facade and there is a spring in the step of all who follow Jesus, most especially in this time of change and renewal.

There are indeed green shoots all around us. They just about to thicken the buds and come to the fullness of life. And when they do, we will sing and dance with joy like a people who have spent the winter uncertain of the way ahead, afraid that this season may not end, but now, by God's grace and love, everything is new. Just look around a see the colour beginning to emerge in the once barren landscape, and you will know, God is with us, friends, we are not alone. Thanks be to God!

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United Church Women News

Martha Townshend Colford

Have you Started your Baking Yet?!

We in the UCW have been keeping ourselves busy but not overwhelmed during the beginning of 2017. Our focus this year is to cut down on some of the tasks that the Catering Committee has been doing before complete burn-out happens. Our January and February meetings went well with discussions of future plans and in February we relaxed with colouring and friendly conversation.

In March we thoroughly enjoyed Sandra showing us how to make miniature fairy (use your imagination) gardens. Even for those of us who are craft-challenged, Sandra provides great patience and teaching skills.

In April we are welcoming Marg Friesen to speak. She is our new member on the Kanata-Stittsville Refugee Sponsorship Group. In May the four young people who went on the YAYA trip to Fort Resolute are making a presentation. And we are rewarding ourselves with a dinner outing in June.

Lunch 'n Such in April will be catered by Yasmin-Syrian Food from the Heart and we will hear stories of recent immigrants to Canada from Syria. In June we are looking forward to facts and anecdotes from Sylvia, Don, and Elaine about their childhood visits to their grandparent's farm which is where our church is situated. There was a time before big box stores, paved roads, and electricity (internet? what's that?) in every home.

Our kitchen, after 30 years of service, is in need of some safety updates: new hinges and new shelf brackets. We are also hoping to provide some other efficient solutions in the kitchen with large drawers within the cupboards and dividers for trays and some innovative solution to those corner cupboards. Of course this costs money so if you would like to donate to this cause please make a donation to UCW. If you would like a tax receipt, please write the check to Glen Cairn United Church and write UCW in the memo line. And for all the items that will need to be replaced or fixed in the near future please make a donation to the Capital Fund of our church.

If you would like to participate in a survey for UCW please let me know. We are wondering if it would be better to hold our meetings during the day so it makes it easier for people to come who do not want to drive at night or if that would keep people who are at their job during the day from participating. We would like to find the right balance for the majority of women.

The National UCW is looking for numbers of Charter Members. Please let me know if you were a member of UCW in 1962.

Martha Townshend Colford

About Oasis in Kanata

Emmett Will



The Oasis in Kanata

**Helping caregivers of people
with mental illness build
*capacity, confidence, and resilience***

Information Sessions: on a range of topics by mental health specialists and individuals with lived experience

Courses: by accredited organizations to help you better care for yourself and your loved one

Caregivers Matter: professionally-facilitated support group

For more information

visit www.TheOasisKanata.ca

Email info@TheOasisKanata.ca

call **613-435-1100**

The Oasis in Kanata is now on FaceBook! Please "Like" us and share with your friends!

Oasis in Kanata

Lisa Petch

Chair, The Oasis in Kanata Steering Committee

The year started off with two interesting information sessions, steady Caregivers Matter support group participation, and a wonderful multi-week workshop for caregivers. *And . . .* as Emmitt mentioned: we're now on FaceBook!

After receiving several requests from program participants for a FaceBook presence, we launched an appeal for someone from our congregation to help create and manage an account. In response to our call for assistance, Nancy Kerr eagerly stepped forward to take on this responsibility. (*Thank you, Nancy!*) However, *you* can help us reach out to the community through FaceBook by "Liking" our page, sharing an event or other post, or "Liking" a posting. You can find the FaceBook page by searching for "The Oasis in Kanata," or at *@oasisinkanata*. Help us reach 200 likes before the snow melts!!

On January 16, we held our first information session of the year, entitled "Family Wellness and Coping Plans." Amanda Telford, an experienced Social Worker and Therapist, provided caregivers with ideas and tips on how to set up a coping plan, and how to maintain overall family wellness while supporting a person with a mental illness. We learned that this planning is vital to the health and wellbeing of *all* members of the family.

On March 20, Dianne Blackburn, a Social Worker and trained cognitive therapist, shared her thoughts with participants on "Gaining and Maintaining Balance." This session focused on how caregivers can support their loved ones with their mental illness while continuing to have their own lives.

For the balance of the year, information sessions will be held on April 17, May 29, September 18, October 16, and November 20. All sessions start at 7 pm. Put these dates in your calendar so you don't miss an important topic for you! More information will be provided closer to each date.

To keep abreast of new learning opportunities and news about our program's activities, sign up to receive The Oasis in Kanata news bulletin by sending your request to *info@TheOasisKanata.ca*. You may ask to have your name removed from this distribution list at any time. You can also find current information about the program and a wealth of news and community resources at *www.TheOasisKanata.ca*. The site is regularly updated with new information.

Caregivers Matter, our support group, meets the first Monday of each month and has seen steady participation over the first three months of the year. Under the effective leadership of Program Manager Christina Glaus, MSW RSW, the group offers a safe, confidential, professionally-facilitated environment where caregivers can gather to share experiences, provide mutual support, and learn how they can better care for themselves as they care for their loved ones suffering from a mental illness. For information about Caregivers Matter, you may contact Christina at *OasisManager@TheOasisKanata.ca*, or leave a voice message for her at 613-435-1100. All matters relating to the support group and its participants are held in strictest confidence.

Back by popular demand!! For the second year in a row, we are currently running the twelve-week Borderline Personality Disorder course with a full enrollment of 15 participants. The course provides valuable information and tools for caregivers of loved ones with Borderline Personality Disorder. As this course is in great demand across the region, we are *very* fortunate to be able to offer it once again here at Glen Cairn United Church as part of our program.

For the first time, the Oasis in Kanata is planning a half-day retreat in June for caregivers based on feedback we have received. Watch for more details in the church bulletin, in FaceBook, and on The Oasis in Kanata Web site (*www.TheOasisKanata.ca*) in the coming months.

If you would like to join our team in this exciting community outreach initiative, or simply help with set up and clean up on information session nights and for the courses and workshops we offer, please speak with any member of the Steering Committee or Email *info@TheOasisKanata.ca*.

(Cont'd...)

As well, if you are a member of a community group and would like one of our Steering Committee members to speak at a meeting or an event, please get in touch; we'll be very pleased to speak with you and your group at any time. We are always happy to spread the word about our church's program and how it is contributing, in so many small ways, to making our community a healthier place to live.

In closing, you may not realize the impact our program is having on the caregivers in our community, and how greatly the reputation and public recognition of our church has been enhanced, but Steering Committee members can attest from the feedback we regularly receive that it is substantial. The program is much appreciated by caregivers and mental health professionals alike. Thank you for having faithfully supported The Oasis in Kanata with your givings since the program's inception in the fall of 2013. We cannot continue to offer it without your generous ongoing support.

Update from the Membership Committee

Patricia Taylor, Membership Committee

When Brian recently announced in church that I had agreed to Chair the **Membership Committee** I was very surprised by the announcement and by the applause from the congregation. Thank you!

Jean Eng, Monica Limm, Sharon Laduceur, Todd Nodelle, Cathy Turner and I now comprise this committee. We are looking for two more members. The position of **secretary** is vacant and the position of **Name Tag Co-ordinator** will soon be vacant. All members participate by attending the Information Table, helping with Potlucks (two per annum), helping with Transfer breakfasts (one or two per annum) and smiling a lot. Meetings will now take place at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays, approximately once per month.

Are you interested? When I first started attending GCUC it was suggested to me that I join a committee - it is a great way to meet new people. I am happy to say that I know many people in our congregation and feel very much at home there. If you do not know who I am, I usually sit in the third row on the right in the second seat from the middle of the sanctuary. Next Sunday, let's talk about you joining the **Membership Committee**.

Happy Spring!

Outreach Thank You

Holly Egan



The Smiles for Seniors program works with senior residences and communities in the Ottawa area serving all those who are receiving assistance from the City of Ottawa. The City of Ottawa senior buildings and residences also house adults with disabilities, who are included in the program.

A big thank you to all who were so kind and considerate to take time out of your hectic schedules, to shop for The Carleton Lodge residents. They truly appreciated the 26 wrapped Christmas gifts we delivered in December.



Thank you for your generous donations of all kinds of toiletries for Cornerstone, a community organization dedicated to improving the lives of homeless women. By making a donation to Cornerstone you have helped the women in emergency shelter and supportive housing in the 4 Cornerstone residences in Ottawa.

Kanata Food Cupboard

Thank you for your monetary and food donations for the [Kanata Food Cupboard](#). We collected an assortment of items that will greatly benefit the clients of the Food Cupboard.



Did you Know? In 2016, the Kanata Food Cupboard served 2675 families in Kanata. Over 10,000 volunteer hours were donated.

The Annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner is set for Wednesday April 26 - watch for an invite in your email.

Volunteer Opportunities

Students wishing to add to their volunteer hours are welcome to help out packing on Tuesday nights of GCUC's shifts. There are additional volunteer opportunities at the Cupboard.

Please visit <http://kanatafoodcupboard.ca/volunteer-opportunities/>

April Outreach: Men's Underwear and Socks for The Ottawa Mission

Located in downtown Ottawa, Centre 507 is an adult drop-in centre that receives funding from the United Church of Canada. The drop-in centre welcomes individuals who may be disadvantaged economically or socially.

Thank you for your donations of jam, peanut butter and coffee.



April Outreach: Men's Underwear and Socks for The Ottawa Mission



The work of The Ottawa Mission can be witnessed every day in the lives of the individuals that they help. Whether it's providing a place to sleep, a meal, or offering job training, The Ottawa Mission changes lives every day. On their wish list are men's underwear (sizes SM – XXL) and men's socks.



Please put your donations in the Outreach Bin during April.

If you have an idea for a monthly outreach initiative, please speak with Holly Egan or Cathy Turner.

Reaching Out to Our Community

Nancy J Sprules

Now that our first VIM project, Oasis in Kanata, is up and running, financially secure and very successful, the Outreach Committee was given the mandate to research and plan for a second VIM (Ventures in Mission) initiative. We chose a program geared to seniors as we already work with this section of society. Our Seniors Liaison work includes such events as Lunch and Such, after church service lunch and social events such as the recently held St. Patrick's Day tea. Dominic Ielo, who is our Seniors Liaison representative, had taken part in a two-session focus group of eight people from our congregation, which resulted in many ideas that could be used as a starting point for a new program.

As Chair of the Outreach Committee, I approached David Rothwell, who had been enjoying a year off from church commitments, to begin the process of developing a new program. He said "yes" (I just knew he was ready to come back!) and began an extensive study of the needs of seniors in our community. David and Dominic reached out to people with whom they worked or had worked and others with whom they had contact through social events and leisure time activities. Mostly they listened and gathered information and ideas from the concerns voiced by folks over 55 years of age. I met with Ashley Wilson, Community Outreach Coordinator with Chartwell Stonehaven Seniors Residence and found that she was already highly involved in programs and courses, which were directed to the needs of seniors in our wider community. When I asked if she would join our focus group as our plans evolved she was delighted and within the next few days, Ashley and David will meet to discuss the feasibility of the plans we are putting in place.

At our last Outreach Committee Meeting, David presented a proposal for the new program. The Committee was delighted and anxious to press forward to the next stages of refining the program, developing pathways and securing financial backing. At that meeting, we formally changed the name of our seniors programming from Seniors Liaison to "Prime Time in Kanata". We hope this new name will be more interesting and more fun and will reflect our commitment to prime programming for our plus 55 age group in our congregation and in our community!

The members of the Outreach Committee are really excited about this new initiative. We will soon be taking it to the congregation and to the GCUC Council for approval and we are hoping to have our first information session in the fall of 2017 with full programming beginning in 2018. I cannot thank David and Dominic enough for their wonderful work and their dedication to this process. David has spent countless hours researching and chatting with people and his proposal presentation was thorough, interesting and exciting!

I hope our congregation will be as excited as we are and will support this new VIM initiative. Our church is a leader in our family of United Churches in reaching out to our wider community. Our physical building has become a community centre hosting over 25,000 non-congregation people every year in a wide variety of activities. We are here to lend a helping hand, to lead in programming geared to the needs of our community, and to acknowledge and participate in a Christ-centred life of inclusivity, caring, hope, and reaching out. Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Care Team Report for Spring 2017

Joy Judd, Pastoral Care Team Coordinator/Chair

Following our tradition, the Pastoral Care Team held their Annual Retreat in January to reflect on last year's ministry and to plan for the coming year. It was a very productive half-day and we came out of it appreciating what had gone well and with several action items for the team's intentions for 2017. We are now being more proactive about offering cards for the congregation to sign on Sunday mornings; we are now being more attentive to folks alone during church or at the coffee time; we are going to promote the visibility and use of the Care Notes that are currently in the Lounge (an excellent free resource in times of need); we are planning to update the Pastoral Care bulletin board and our list of resources, and coordinating with Faith Formation about Ian Henderson's grief workshops. Our monthly meetings will now be held during the day rather than in the evening, reflecting our stage of life. This plan is for this calendar year and then we will reassess the decision.

The Pastoral Care Team is looking forward to leading the worship service on **Sunday, March 26** on the theme of Healing. This will be a regular service, including lovely music, a creative children's time, a covenanting of the Teams, scripture readings and prayers. After the service, you may choose to stay and receive a short soaking prayer by a member of the Healing Pathway Team, a sub-committee of the Pastoral Care Team.

The Team continues to offer **Healing Services on the last Sunday of most months** after worship. We are hoping that more people will come join us for these are half-hour services of quiet contemplation, prayer, hymns and a time of remembrance for losses of loved ones. If you are experiencing grief, a significant loss, loneliness or suffering from emotional, physical or spiritual pain, please join us in Room C on **April 30th and May 28th** at 11:30 a.m.

The Pastoral Care Team members are Rev. Brian Copeland, Lynda Brooks, Brenda Carr, Joy Craigie, Holly Egan, Sue Foley (Administrator), Joy Judd (Chair/Coordinator), Delma Murray, and Moe Wright.

Please contact any one of the team members if you wish to have a caring visit or call, or if you know someone in the congregation who would appreciate one, as well as prayers during times of need.

Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other.....Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3: 12-14.

Lunch 'N Such – April 5th, 2017 at Noon.

Pat Will

Cost: \$20

Tickets available after church or from the office until March 26th

**Presenting a catered
four-course meal prepared by**

**YASMIN – SYRIAN FOOD
FROM THE HEART**

**A group of Syrian refugee women striving to make a
successful life in their new home, Canada.**



The Stewardship Connection

By the Stewardship Committee



Lent is a perfect time to reflect on stewardship. As we examine our lives and try to find something special to do for God, it is good to remember that whenever we give time, talent or treasure to God we are living as better stewards. As stewards, we each have something to give back to God. Let us keep this in mind as we prayerfully give in support of God's work.

The Stewardship committee would like to thank all the volunteers, participants, donors, supporters, and many talented people in our congregation and community that make this Church as strong and amazing as it is! We are truly blessed!

What is Stewardship and why is it important to me? It can mean many things to many people – effective and efficient resource management, taking care of the environment, taking care of each other, or taking care of the buildings that support our programs.

Here at Glen Cairn, we have many activities as well as worship services happening in our facilities – for which we are responsible for maintaining. We have programs such as Oasis, the Judo program and many other community-based programs. We take care in whom we allow to rent our facilities and ensure they respect our values. We have over 25,000 people using our facilities over the course of a year. We are the stewards for our community!

Every Sunday, after the Church Council meeting on the last Tuesday of every month, we will post the financials in the bulletin and have a guest speaker to talk about why Glen Cairn United Church is important to them and how they support GCUC. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts, please contact Sherry Sharpe for further details.

Our Budget

We recently discussed the financial situation of Glen Cairn United Church as well as passed a **budget of \$264,645 for 2017** at the AGM in February. Here are some excerpts from the discussion on Stewardship Sunday.

Over the past few years, we have had an increased response to givings, outreach, stewardship and general growth in GCUC. For example, take a look at the fundraising chart below. We have increased year over year and almost doubled from when we started five years ago. Here is a snapshot of the fundraising activities year over year for the past six years:

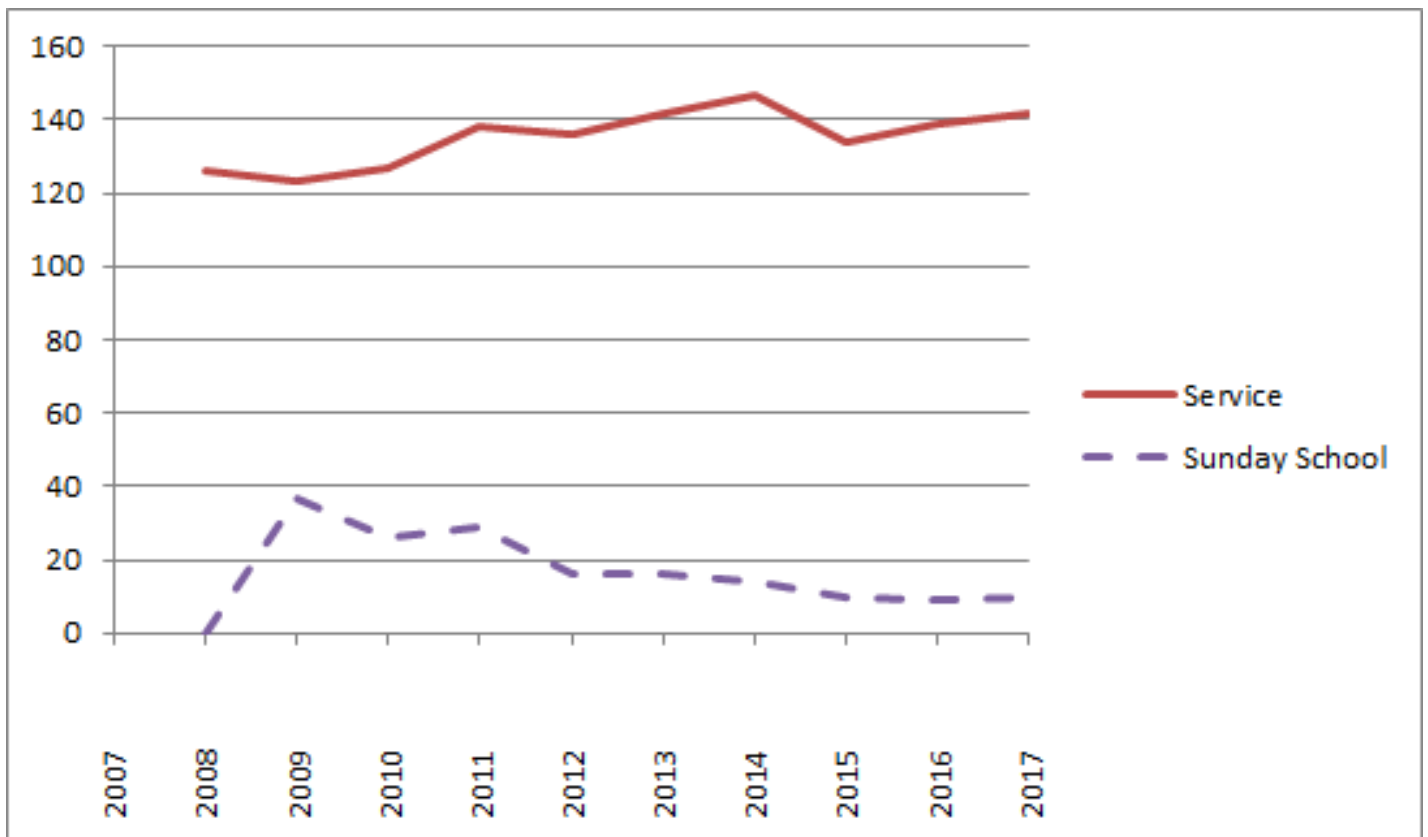
Fundraising Activities - 2011 - 16							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Scott Woods				\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 982	
Spring Rummage Sale	1,996	2,054	2,819	3,025	3,180	4,731	
Fall Harvest Festival	2,797	2,296	995	1,304	1,442	1,773	
Robbie Burns		500	500	1,000	1,000	600	
Christmas Appeal	-	-	-		1,775	1,075	
TOTAL	\$ 4,793	\$ 4,850	\$ 4,314	\$ 7,829	\$ 8,897	\$ 9,161	

You can also see this in our balance sheet and other activities in the church – UCW earnings and donations to GCUC, Oasis activity under the VIM restructuring, givings, rentals.... The list goes on. We are in a strong growth mode right now, which is a very nice place to be.

That said, we have to keep our eye on the ball – we have had a significant investment in capital items and building maintenance over the past year with the men’s washroom and roofing to come next. As mentioned over the last few weeks during the minute for stewardship, we have had a generous donation to launch the rejuvenation of our investment fund and Jim Power and I are putting together a long-term capital investment plan to bring to council so we can ensure the cash flow meets the needs of the capital investment requirements. Luckily, we don’t need to replace the furnaces (yes, there are two!) yet, but the day will come - and we want to be prepared for it.

We also want to ensure we continue to grow our congregation and remain relevant to both the local and wider community. So far, we have done a good job doing this. Here are the numbers over the past decade for attendance:

GCUC Attendance:



(Cont'd...)

Expenses

We also want to ensure our building is meeting both ours and community needs. Therefore, we invest in ongoing repair and upkeep. This costs money, as you know from maintaining your own household. Buildings, of course, get a lot more wear and tear and cost a bit more as a result. Here's a snapshot of what we have spent on maintenance and capital over the past few years.

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Hydro	\$8,964.28	\$7,025.44	\$7,707.24	\$6,200.22	\$5,066.82
Insurance	5,095.35	4,584.67	4,683.29	4,502.22	4,333.18
Snow Removal	3,566.27	4,328.55	4,533.55	4,178.71	3,380.00
Copier Contract	3,721.90	3,312.60	3,449.93	3,763.59	3,321.53
Telephone	509.44	388.79	386.64	1,898.50	2,063.11
Water	828.04	576.78	1,019.85	931.81	702.74
Stewardship: Envelopes	491.22	477.39	422.99	441.45	571.62
Sunday School Package	756.00	714.62	833.40	0.00	490.76
Sunday School Supplies	134.68	196.35	250.27	382.05	100.41
Worship Total	3,439.89	3,090.98	3,046.95	2,856.76	2,726.62
Presbytery Costs	9,753.00	9,592.00	9,382.96	8,935.00	8,398.00
Communications	1,451.01	1,395.32	1,328.35	1,312.85	1,223.85
Christian Development	4,809.90	2,872.95	3,035.21	3,633.73	3,949.66

(Cont'd...)

Capital Spending

Year	Capital Expenditure Description
1999	Roof repairs - \$11,374
2000	Raise the Roof Campaign - \$21,000
2001	New exterior sign Noise abatement panels - \$7,000
2003	Construction of Room B
2005	Sounds system - \$16,000
2007	Replaced furnace
2009	Main hall reroofed
2011	Installation of automatic door openers on the front and rear main entrances and installation of handicapped washroom - \$35,000 (grant from Federal Government) Two new high-efficient toilets for the women's washroom Grant from Ottawa Hydro to replace 18 double-tube fluorescent light fixtures in main hall with lower wattage tubes and high efficiency electronic ballasts; new LED lights
2012	Entrance door lock cylinders were replaced New flooring in rooms D & E
2013	New flooring and baseboards in the classrooms Main hall and kitchen floors were stripped and re-waxed Significant repair to the central vacuum Solar panels were installed - \$36,000
2014	Replaced carpet in foyer, hallways, photocopier room, offices and entrances
2016	Sanctuary – painting and carpeting - Roof repairs – preparatory work – to be finished and paid in June 2017
2017	Roof repairs - \$22,100

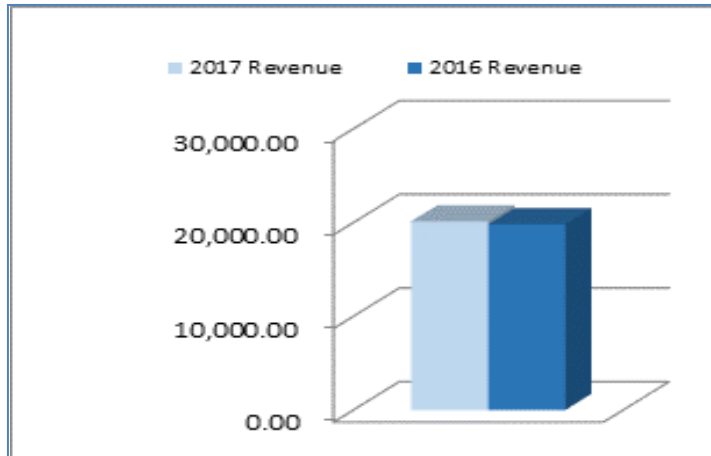
Council continues to look to the future – what are our needs, what works well, what doesn't, how do we keep our church strong, vibrant, and a going concern? It is you and your energy, enthusiasm, ideas, commitment, and engagement that will make the difference.

I look forward to working with you over the next year to continue to ensure GCUC is a strong, vibrant, relevant, and growing church as we move into the future with confidence and with a plan!

(Cont'd...)

Minute for Stewardship

Our January year to date financial situation is **Revenue: \$20,130** compared to **\$19,822 for 2016** and **Expenses: \$22,469** compared to **\$22,121 for 2016**. We currently have a **Net Loss in operations of \$2,349**. Please consider increasing your PAR givings or making a special one-time donation (all receiptable) to support our many initiatives and activities such as Local Operations, Capital Investment, Oasis, Pastoral Care, Music, or Faith Formation.



Gift Cards

Do you know about our gift card fundraising program? We can help you while you help the Church – a win/win!! You purchase gift cards for the face value of the gift card (for example, you pay \$50 and receive a \$50 gift card) and the Church receives a 3-8% return from the company who distributes the cards. The gift card fundraising program **raises approximately \$4,000 each year**. **To date, we have raised \$450**. We currently have the following gift cards in stock:

- Bay/Zellers
- Best Buy
- Canadian Tire
- Chapters
- Cineplex
- Home Depot
- Home Hardware
- La Senza
- Lee Valley
- Marks Work Wearhouse
- Rona
- Subway
- The Keg
- Wendy's
- Roots
- Red Lobster
- Shoppers Drugmart
- Sir Corp
- Ultimate
- Walmart
- Le Chateau!
- Loblaws
- Farm Boy
- Sobeys
- Metro/Food Basics
- Petro Canada
- Ultramar
- Esso

If we don't have the gift card you need, you can place an order on Sunday and the gift card will be available the following Sunday!

Please visit the fundraising table in the Main Hall after the Service to purchase gift cards. If you have any questions please speak to Sherry Sharpe.

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Supporting our Church's activities

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. Your Church Council has done a great job keeping expenses under control. However, keep in mind that after a point, we cannot keep reducing costs. Hydro, water, wages keep going up... An increase of 5-10% makes a significant difference.

Consider giving through PAR. PAR helps support your Church Council significantly in its stewardship functions. If you are already a PAR supporter, please consider revisiting your PAR profile.

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 checks each month? You may do exactly the same with your givings. Simply fill out an application form (available at the newcomers' table and the pamphlet rack), attach a void check, submit it to the attendant or the Church office before the 10th of the month, and you can be on PAR for that month. The withdrawal is made from your account on 15th of each month.

When deciding your allocation to Local, Mission and Service, or Capital, please consider **givings to Local Operations**. Local operations are essential to the ongoing sustainability of the Church and less restrictive than the Capital or In Trust funds. Over the past few months, we have invested substantially in the building. This comes from our Capital Fund. The investment in our building helps support our many activities and the groups in our community that use and pay for our facilities. This year, we will be engaging the congregation in developing a long-term capital investment plan to ensure we are focused on the right priorities. Stay tuned – more to come on this in the spring!

On **December 17**, we were entertained by the renowned [Scott Woods Band](#). This was an excellent evening of entertainment with some good old down home music! Fundraising proceeds went to the operations of the Church and we raised just under \$1,000. A huge thank you to Faye and Hal Adams for organizing this event and the UCW for the coffee, tea and dessert after the show!



Come to the Ceilidh! On **January 21, 2017**, we celebrated **Robbie Burns Day** with our hugely successful, annual fun-filled ceilidh. We started with a traditional Burns Supper prepared by our own UCW which was followed by entertainment and dancing to the Alana Morris and Friends Fiddle Group. Ceilidh dancing was led by the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society. This event is a true ceilidh including a traditional Haggis Ceremony, singing, poetry, Highland Dancers, a Toast to the Lassies, and more! The sell-out crowd has thoroughly enjoyed these ceilidhs over the past few years and this was, again, another fabulous ceilidh. It is also a fantastic fundraiser for the Church as we raised just over **\$600** this year. Plan on joining us next year for another superb **Burns Supper!**

(Cont'd...)

The annual **Spring Rummage Sale** is scheduled for **May 13**.

As you are starting to think about your spring cleaning, don't forget to set aside any household items, books, china, crystal, toys, etc. for the spring rummage sale.

We will also be holding a BBQ and bake sale – so, start thinking about your favourite treats.

Proceeds will go towards GCUC operations and Chrysalis House and the refugee fund. More info to come over the next few weeks.



On **October 14**, we will hold our annual **Fall Harvest Festival**. Plan on joining us to celebrate the bounty of summer, fun, games, face painting, and lots of entertainment!! More information to come in September!

As we move into this Lenten Season, the Stewardship Committee wants to thank everyone for their past and continued support. Enjoy this season of reflection, hope and thankfulness with friends and family. We are truly blessed!

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

Through stewardship, we offer back to God a portion of the Time, Talent, and Treasure that God has given to us.

The Green Thing

Patricia Taylor

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment.

The woman apologized to the young girl and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

The older lady said that she was right — our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day. The older lady went on to explain:

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. But, too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house — not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing."

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

Adult Study and Bible Study

Keith Allingham

Adult Study: From late January through mid February, David Rothwell gave us four wonderful sessions on "Making Life." As science advances and gives man the ability to change the basic building blocks of life, we Christians in the United Church need to figure out what that means, and perhaps decide what our position is on the whole matter. David gave us many things to think about including things like GMO, stem cell research, cloning and surrogate birth, and led some often lively discussion. Did we figure things out? Did we come up with some new direction for the United Church? Well, probably not, but the discussions definitely educated some of us; me to be certain. I changed my mind on a few subjects, and I certainly learned from this, and I don't think I was the only one. Thanks again to David for helping us all to ask some questions, and to learn a thing or two.

Bible Study: Sandra Copeland leads our bible study every Wednesday from 7pm until 8pm, or just a wee bit later. We're learning new things every week, and having some laughs along the way. We generally keep it to an hour, but the time slips by fast! Thanks Sandra for these engaging sessions.

GCUC Musings...

Don't let your worries get the best of you;
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case...

When you get to
your wit's end,
You'll find God
lives there...

