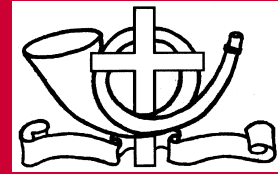


CHURCHPOST

RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH



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Minister's Message

Some few years ago while I was teaching a junior high class one of the students asked me a pretty good question: "How come God doesn't show up in the world the way God used to... you know... in the Bible?"

You know what he meant. How come God doesn't burst into our everyday lives, here in early 21st century Canada, the way, for instance, God appears to people in the Bible, where the arrival of the Holy One is often accompanied by burning bushes, trembling mountains, peals of thunder, storms of lightning, roaring fire, descending clouds or angelic visitors. When God appears in some scenes in the Hebrew Scripture, it's like a Cecile B. DeMille movie, like the 10 Commandments; God comes in technicolour, in surround sound, with a thundering soundtrack and dazzling special effects. The young man in my class wanted to know why God doesn't make appearances like that anymore.

The student in my Sunday School class wanted to know why God doesn't make an appearance now and again, the way it seems God does in Scripture. The truth is that God rarely makes a dramatic entrance even in the scripture story. Moses sees a burning bush and hears the voice of God, but it's not like every mountain in ancient Palestine featured a vocal and burning bush; there is only one event of that kind recorded in 6000 years of salvation history. Rarely is God obvi-

ous. Even in the Bible, technicolour displays are rare. And if God did appear in our world even in a dramatic way I wonder if we'd notice.

There are times in life when we wish that God was present and visible, clear as day, standing beside us. But most people do not have that kind of experience of God. Maybe rarely, someone sees a blinding flash of light, hears an unmistakable voice from within. Maybe God is most often heard not in a shout but in a whisper, or through a voice that is not God's own. God is often found not in blinding light, but in the shadows of life. God is seen not in some dramatic vision, but subtly in the background, moving through and behind the people and places we see every day.

Over the years I have gone on a number of weeklong silent retreats. Coming out of those retreats one is always reminded of how pumped up and loud our modern world is.... Visually noisy - with signs and posters and billboards filling our eyes, images and lights and letters filling every space around us. And loud, with the sound of traffic, music and voices everywhere. Cell phones ringing and blackberries buzzing, calls and emails and text messages demanding our attention. We live in a world that is turned up to full volume all the time.

(See Minister's Message, page 2)

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	Nancy Begg-Durkee	

RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH

Worship:	10 a.m.
Coffee Hour:	11 - 11:45 a.m.
Sunday School:	10 a.m.

OUR HEARTS REMEMBER

Charles Ernest Spicer	September 3, 2017
Ruth Marie Ebertz	September 9, 2017
Ross DeWitt Stairs	October 12, 2017
Milford Malcolm McDowell	September 29, 2017

*I am the resurrection
and the life. Those
who believe in me,
even though they die,
will live, and everyone
who lives and believes
in me will never die.*

John 11: 25, 26



Minister's Message
(continued from page 1)

And we are always connected. We are never far from the blare of radio and TV, constantly bombarded with sights and sounds. We are blinded and numbed by all the noise and busyness around us. And the season of Christmas is the most bright and noisy, scheduled and overfull season of all.

That is why the Church in its wisdom has the season of Advent in the weeks before Christmas. Maybe, if we are to see the light that dawns among us in Christ we must first sit for a while in darkness. If we are to hear the songs of the angels we must first be silent.

If we are to see and hear "a God who moves in the shadows and speaks in whispers" we will have to stop our busyness and look and listen. Con-

sider what could you do, or not do for a while, in the Advent season, that might make you better able to see God's subtle intrusions into your world? Come to the quiet of mid-week Advent service. Contemplate the needs of those around us, the needs of those far away, through whom God may speak to you. Find some quiet time to watch snowflakes fall, or to contemplate a candles flickering flame. Pause to see and to soak up the wonder that is there in the simple gifts that God has given us in this life...

As followers of Jesus, we believe that God did "tear open the heavens and come down", one dark night, long ago, in Bethlehem. God came to be with us in the person of Jesus, to speak with us, invite us, embrace us, showing us that God is not far away. Yet, I expect that most people who saw the baby in a manger saw just

another poor child born into a dark and cold world. But, some who were listening, waiting and watching saw in this infant something more...

Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote:
*Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes...*

Come Lord Jesus. Come. **Amen**

Steve Clifton

**Welcome to the WWW
Service Webcast**

Please note that the services at Rideau Park are live-streamed on our web site: www.rideaupark.ca on Sunday mornings only, but then they are posted mid-week under "Webcast Service Archives" for your enjoyment.

WWW = World
Wide Web



Affirming Ministries

Our church has begun the process to consider our becoming an Affirming Congregation, a church that is intentional in extending a wide and complete welcome to all: all races, ages, ethnicities, cultures, sexual orientations and gender identities... Currently our Affirming Ministries group is making presentations at committees and groups in the congregation. The group members are: Alyce Dunnewold (Chair), Diane Keevil Harrold, Lorna McCrea, Marilou Reeve, Nadia Senyk, and Bob Nelson, with Elizabeth Bryce and Steve Clifton as pastoral support. Feel free to approach group members with questions or perspectives.

After attending an Affirm meeting in her own church this fall, a young woman, a member of the LGBTQ community, wrote a poetic reflection that gets to the heart of what it means to be an Affirming church.

You are not being asked to determine the legitimacy of the gay or transgender experience;

You are not being asked whether you “agree” with same-sex relationships;

Or whether you’d ever consider kissing a man/woman/genderqueer/transgender/genderfluid/agender/kinky person (whichever scares you the most);

You are not being asked to understand that gender and sexuality are spectrums;

You are not being asked to debate whether gender dysphoria should be considered a mental health disorder;

You are not being asked to be fluent in the latest lingo (boi, transmasculine, poly, queer AF, etc.);

You are not being asked whether your parents or the “church forefathers” would approve of same-sex marriage;

You are not being asked to decipher the “right answer” to whether the Bible approves of gay or transgender people.

Because this is not about judging people.

It’s not.

You’re not being asked to affirm our existence.

Instead, you are being asked – right now, today – whether YOU personally believe that ours is a God of love and acceptance;

Whether your version of Christian hospitality means welcoming everyone.

Everyone.

And really meaning it.

It’s about taking into your heart Jesus’ unconditional command to love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and to love your neighbour as yourself.

It really is that simple.

The Affirming process helps a congregation truly see how wide is their circle of love and inclusion.

And my prayer for all of us is this: *Spirit, lead us to a place where our love is without borders. Amen.*

by Joy Cowan

UCC Intern and theological student

Old Fashion Roast Beef Dinner

Enjoy An Old Fashion Roast Beef Dinner on Friday November 24th - two sittings at 5 p.m., or 6:30 p.m. After the roast beef dinner, treat

yourself to apple crisp for dessert.

All are welcome. Proceeds will go to the work of the church. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children ages 6-12 (children <6 eat free).

Worship Services at Retirement Homes

Our Pastoral Care Minister, Georgina Fitzgerald, conducts services at many of the Retirement Homes on a rotational basis. If friends or family members would like to come to these services, they are more than welcome!

Oakpark:

1:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday of the month.

Hunt Club Manor:

11 a.m., 1st Thursday of the month.

Billings Lodge:

10:45 a.m., 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Maplewood:

11 a.m., 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Clementine Towers:

7 p.m., 3rd Thursday of the month.

Perley-Rideau Veterans:

2 p.m., Sunday, every couple of months.

Facebook Page

Rideau Park has a Facebook group with more than 100 members. It’s a place to post information and to share insights and inspirations. If you are on Facebook, you can look up “Rideau Park United Church” and join in!

UCW is recycling

The UCW is recycling:

- Used eyeglasses for the Third World eye clinics,
- Used postage stamps for Oxfam,
- Campbell soup labels to help purchase school materials,
- Aluminum pop can tabs for Clifford Bowey Public School.
- Please **NO** plastic bread tabs.

All are gratefully accepted with thanks. For more info, call Lynda Coombe at 613-733-9982.

Reverend Charles Ernest “Chuck” Spicer (1943-2017)

On September 8th family and friends gathered at Rideau Park United Church to celebrate the life of the Rev. Charles Ernest “Chuck” Spicer.

In the days before the service, as the news of Chuck’s passing was shared, wherever I went in Ottawa United Church circles, people remembered Chuck to me. At a telephone meeting of the Presbytery Executive for instance, when business concluded, we remembered Chuck together; many stories were shared and many connections were spoken of.... Chuck had touched many of us in his life and in his ministry.

Chuck was a friend to many of us in Ottawa Presbytery. He was a pastor, a colleague, a chaplain... Whenever he was remembered among us, it was with warmth and appreciation. Remembering Chuck brought a smile with the memories because in life Chuck had that effect on people: his sense of humor, his kindness, his openness to those he met made him beloved among us.

Chuck spent most of his years in Ottawa Presbytery as Chaplain at the Royal Ottawa Hospital (ROH). The first time that I met Chuck was in that capacity. My brother-in-law, James, participated in some out-

patient groups at the ROH that Chuck coordinated. James admired Chuck for his kindness and his compassion. He spoke of him with gratitude. For the patients of the ROH, Chuck brought to them in his unique way, a sense that they were valued, an open heart, a listening ear and a ready smile. For those on the margins of society, the vulnerable or the wounded Chuck was a balm of healing, an oasis of ready acceptance and warmth.

Chuck served in a number of pastoral charges in our Presbytery, at Emmanuel, Rideau Park and Dominion Chalmers. He was part of our ministry team at Rideau Park from 2005 through 2008 and part of our faith community in his retirement.

The people of Rideau Park loved Chuck. As Minister of Pastoral Care he was a devoted care giver, compassionate and attentive to our people when they were in a vulnerable time. As a colleague he was a gift. He asked great questions from his unique perspective. He was wise and insightful and he was funny. Always and everywhere he was compassionate.

Chuck Spicer had many gifts that made him a great pastor and friend. But one that I would lift up is Chuck’s remarkable openness, his courageous vulnerability.

Henri Nouwen wrote that the way that darkness makes progress in the world is by convincing us that we should not be vulnerable. We learn to keep our brokenness, our struggles to ourselves. Nouwen wrote too that the darkness recedes when we are able to share vulnerability. Then, in shared weakness, we find strength in one another.

Chuck Spicer lived life and ministry with a most remarkable openness. He risked being vulnerable in such a way that people could be open and vulnerable with him. For someone who dedicated his life to people in vulnerable circumstances, his was a most welcome and unique gift.

We are grateful for the life of Rev. Chuck Spicer and for the great gifts he shared in life and ministry.

Chuck will be deeply missed by Karen Spicer, Allison and Paul Tomka, and his grandson, Jamison Tomka, as well as by many friends and colleagues.

For Chuck we say these words of blessing: The Lord bless you, and keep you: May the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Now. And always. **AMEN.**

Shared by Rev. Steve Clifton, Ottawa Presbytery, October 10, 2017

Carleton Exam Pause Table

We will be supplying volunteers and baked goods to the Pause Table in during Christmas exams. The date will be set soon. Sign-up sheets, for baked goods or for volunteering to help at the Table, will be on the volunteer board at the end of November.

Advent Happening

On Sunday, December 1st we will once again be making Gingerbread Houses as Advent Happening marks the beginning of the Advent Season. We will gather in Beecroft Hall immediately following the church service to begin construction of the houses. For more information speak to Tara Lockhart. Sign-up sheets will be available closer to the date.

ENCARNA: An Advent Experience: *Prayer Art Justice Multimedia Creativity*

Encarna is an event for all ages. It is a worshipful experience of the season of Advent. It is a walk through the “stations of Advent.” It is an immersion in the spirit of the Christmas season. Encarna is in the sanctuary on the evening of Wednesday, December 13th. Encarna opens at 6:30 p.m. and will close 8:30 p.m. Come when you like. Stay for a few minutes or make it an evening. Come experience Encarna in this Holy season.

Why Do People Come to Healing Pathway?

There is no single reason or health concern that brings people to Healing Pathway. In fact, there are many different reasons why people make an appointment to receive healing prayer at a Healing Pathway session. Looking at the big picture, you can say that they are all seeking some aspect of balance and wholeness for physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. Before we break that down a bit, and hear from a few of the people in our congregation who have experienced the benefits, we should quickly review the terminology.

Healing Pathway: a ministry started by the United Church of Canada in 1993. It is grounded in strong ethics, a Christian tradition of energy-based healing (laying on of hands), and a formal training and development program for the practitioners, who are all volunteers.

Practitioner: Anyone who is trained within the Healing Pathway program to channel God's love and healing grace for the highest good of the person receiving.

Receiver: Anyone receiving the energy-based healing and healing prayer that is offered by Healing Pathway practitioners. The terms "client" and "customer" are not applicable because Healing Pathway is not a business or health-care practice; it is a ministry.

Session: A session is the time spent receiving energy-based healing through the Healing Pathway ministry. In a typical session, there are at least two practitioners who work with the receiver in a private setting over a 30-45 minute session. At Rideau Park, these sessions are offered by appointment on Thursday afternoons and some Sunday evenings. There are no fees. Shorter sessions are also offered during communion and occasionally after the Sunday service in a public setting in either the Sanctuary or the Chapel.

Now back to why people come to receive at a Healing Pathway session. Some of the many reasons why people come to receive healing prayer are:

- To facilitate healing after injury, surgery or an illness,
- To prepare for a surgery with prayer and an energy tune-up,
- Relief from pain, especially chronic pain,
- Comfort in times of stress,
- To speed recovery from cancer treatments,
- Balance and wholeness,
- Spiritual support in times of life transitions or when facing major decisions,
- To receive a blessing,
- That feeling of deep relaxation, peace and being emotionally and spiritually uplifted,
- Experience of having others be fully present and praying with them.

Exceptions: Healing Pathway does not replace traditional medicine and health care. Healing Pathway complements traditional medicine and health care by working at the energy level to expedite the healing process and the natural ability of the body to heal itself.

In summary, a Healing Pathway session facilitates the healing process through the power of prayer in combination with energy-based healing techniques applied by trained practitioners. Their intention is to be fully present with the receiver in God's unconditional love, and this opens the door for whatever healing is needed. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." - Matthew 18:20.

To close, here is what some of our own congregation have to say about being receiving healing prayer.

"In the last few years I have come to believe that prayer is effective for healing. When we pray, we move the energy that is in and through all things to help return things to their original perfection. I've been for Healing Pathway treatments and have felt the warmth and love which moves through my body. The practitioners have your best interests at heart and have a strong, faithful connection with God. I've been to the after-church sessions, communion sessions,

and the Thursday sessions, all of which have been a blessing to me. Please take the time to experience this invaluable ministry. Don't forget that God will gladly come where God is invited." - Chris Inrig.

"I have attended Healing Pathways at Rideau Park on two Thursdays. As most of you know I am recovering from hip surgery and when I get really busy, my knees and hip bother me still. Not a lot, but just enough to be tiresome. Healing Pathways has helped me both times and I have left much better physically and spiritually. I feel calmer and ready to face the world again. Try it. Best 'physio' deal in town and it's FREE!!!" - Heather Ingrams

"I have been attending Korean yoga classes for over four years. Energy work is a major part of what we do in those classes and I have come to realize the importance of that aspect and the fact that I play a major part in the energy of my own body. Two years ago, I had a hip replacement and could not attend these classes during my rehabilitation after surgery. It was about this time that I learned our church was providing Healing Pathway sessions. I did some research about this new, to me, resource and liked what I learned. Not only was restorative energy work involved, but God played a major part in the process. God's grace and healing energy were transmitted though the healer to the patient. All the patient needed to do was relax, use his/her own mind to join with the healer's, and believe that positive healing could occur. For me, that meant I invited God to be present during my treatment, I invited God to work through the hands of my healer/s, and I visualized what I wanted to occur in my body. After my treatments, I always felt very calm, very relaxed, and confident that positive things were and would happen to me. My recovery process had positive outcomes. Was it because of these sessions? I can never be sure, but then, for me, that is what faith is all about." - Carolyn Scollick



LGBTQ IDENTITY: NOT A CHOICE

Most of the world has much to learn about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people whose sexual orientation or gender identity and gender expression may be different from the usual expectation of a heterosexual (straight) orientation and “cisgender” identity that is, with a gender identity and expression that conforms to their birth assigned gender. A new word has developed from the many discriminatory actions that the large segment of the LGBTQ population faces: heterosexism, i.e. thinking that heterosexuality is better than being gay, and straight families are better than gay ones. Like racism, it is a discriminatory bias against people whose gender identity does not conform to what much of the world perceives as “normal.” Too many continue to insist that anything except a straight male or female identity is perverted, a position that is effectively as nasty as the perception that African-American or Jewish people are somehow lesser beings. It is most likely that history will look back on this era of homophobia as being as horrible and nasty as were slavery and antisemitism.

The neuroscience of sex shows that gender identity and sexual orientation are not a choice. Children’s gender identity is formed by the age of three when they may begin to exhibit a gender identity and expression that does not conform to their assigned sex. Studies and literature on this subject show how gender identity is on a spectrum—everything from cisgender male or female to transgender male or female, as well as people who identify as non-binary, gender-queer, gender non-conforming, intersex, and two-spirited, among Aboriginal people. The time at which gender identity is formed, quite apart from biological sex, is also in utero, where various genes and hormones begin to affect the fetus, which can receive a mix of hormones hitting in different proportions thereby showing the fluidity of gender, resulting in a gender identity spectrum. Gender expression, how a person demonstrates

who they are, is also very varied, as is sexual attraction, which similarly, is on a spectrum, including heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual, asexual, and others. This description is a vastly oversimplified version of very complex facts, so further research on this subject is recommended.

There is much historical baggage remaining to this day in religion about these issues but some elements of society have fortunately changed. In 1973, the weight of empirical data, coupled with changing social norms and the development of a politically active gay community in the United States, led the Board of Directors of the American Psychiatric Association to remove homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). Gender Identity Disorder has also been removed from the latest version of the DSM.

The Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA) has taken a strong position in advocating for decreasing stigma and discrimination, albeit, mostly with a focus on people with mental illness. While doing so, however, the CPA has recognized the ongoing stigma and discrimination in society based on sex, race, sexual orientation and religion. Unfortunately, psychiatry has a history of conflating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and (or) queer (LGBTQ) identities with mental illness and has, therefore, historically contributed to the stigma and discrimination faced by people who identify as LGBTQ, affecting not only their mental health but also their access to appropriate mental health care. It has, however, addressed the need for psychiatrists to increase their understanding of the mental health needs of people who identify themselves as LGBTQ. All major professional mental health organizations have since gone on record to affirm that homosexuality is not a mental disorder.¹

Society generally is still far behind in learning about the complexities of lesser known LGBTQ conditions. For example, “intersex” is the general term for a condition where a person is born with a

reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t fit the typical definition of female or male; some intersex conditions do not manifest until the onset of puberty. We are now also learning about transgender – the umbrella term that can be used to describe people whose gender expression is non-conforming and/or whose gender identity is different from their birth-assigned gender. These are very difficult conditions to address and to understand. One has to tread very carefully, in order not to invade the privacy of trans people, but at the same time, to obtain information and understand the condition. Some time ago, Rideau Park United Church, Carleton University and other venues around Ottawa, were presented with a play called Trans Script about a trans person who was in the process of transitioning from male to female gender. The many gender preferences were each illustrated by an actual person, including someone assigned male at birth who has come out as a trans woman. Once a person has transitioned to their identified gender, one refers to her by her preferred pronouns and name. In this play, there was an upset mother who summed up the complexities by directing one question to her “son”, now a trans woman: “Why can’t you just be gay?” Today, it seems that transphobia, despite more emerging information about the trans identity, may be as prevalent as homophobia was some years ago.

And of course, it was only in 1967 that Pierre Trudeau, then Justice Minister, declared that the state had no business in the bedrooms of the nation, and the Criminal Code was amended in 1969 so that homosexuality was no longer illegal. Before that time, the treatment of LGBTQ people was horrendous---not to be forgotten, when we think of countries in which homosexuality is still illegal and punishable by execution. Given the pace of change, which sometimes comes with great difficulty, we should be grateful for our forward-leaning country and pray fervently for the many

(See LGBTQ, page 7)

LGBTQ*(continued from page 6)*

oppressed LGBTQ people around the world. It is nobody's business if you are gay or straight, just be who you are and follow your heart. Apparently, school is the hardest to survive, so let us pray for the many people, young and old, who are trying to find the courage to be themselves.

Nadia A. Senyk/Oct.11/17

Revised with input from Professor Elaine Waddington Lamont, Carleton University, course: Neuroscience of Sex.

¹Albina Veltman, MD, FRCPC, Gary Chaimowitz, MB, ChB, FRCPC, 2014 *Mental Health Care for People Who Identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and (or) Queer*, *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, Vol.59, No.11

Check out the new LGBTQ books in the RPUC library, currently on the Sunday School counter:

For Children (to be included in LGBTQ section, rather than with children's books)

- ♦ And Tango Makes 3 – 2 boy penguins who become a family
- ♦ Heather Has Two Mommies
- ♦ I am Jazz (I have a girl brain but a boy body. This is called transgender.)

Note: TransKids Purple Rainbow Foundation (TKPRF) enhances the lives of children born with Gender Dysphoria, something children can't control, so Society needs to embrace them.

For Adults:

- ♦ A Guide to Gender – The Social Justice Advocate's Handbook
- ♦ Pride – Celebrating Diversity and Community
- ♦ Sober & Out – Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender AA members share their experience, strength and hope.

Other LGBTQ books

There are also various older books in the LGBTQ section put out by the United Church and others over the years.

Christmas Cheer

Our Annual Christmas Cheer Program will be starting on November 19th. Christmas Cheer - what is that? It's Rideau Park's opportunity to share food items or gift vouchers with those in our church family and nearby community to brighten up this Holy Season. We need YOUR HELP to provide these 75 food hampers and 75 gift vouchers. Our budget this year is \$15,000 and we know that, with your generous donation, we can be successful.

Sign-up sheets for helping will be on the bulletin board on November 19th at the top of the stairs outside the Parlour. There are **two main changes** this year:

- ⇒ Please include both a phone number and email address if you have one.
- ⇒ Drivers and their helpers will be asked to arrive at **two different time slots – either choose 12 noon or 12:45 on December 22nd**. Hopefully this will alleviate the congestion at the entrance. Please don't come earlier (or else wait in the parlour).

Other ways you can **provide help** are:

- ⇒ organizing groceries (non-perishables on Dec. 21st – you'll be phoned for a time - perishables on Dec. 22nd at 8 a.m.)
- ⇒ setting out bags (1:30 till about 3 p.m. on Dec. 21st)

⇒ packing bags (10:30 till about 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 22nd – in grade 9 and higher - please don't come early)

⇒ running the elevator (11:30 a.m. till about 2 p.m. on Dec. 22nd)

⇒ moving hampers from the upper to the lower level (11:30 a.m. till about 2 p.m. on Dec. 22nd)

⇒ load cars with hampers (12:30 till about 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 22nd)

For each family receiving a hamper, we will also need a box to carry the heavier items. That's 75 boxes needed for the potatoes, milk, and a turkey. Please bring all boxes about the size that carry computer paper and put them **on the stage after November 19th**. Before that, they can be left outside the choir room door in the lower level.

We have already met with both the Glebe Market and Wilson's Independent Grocer to arrange for the purchasing of our food needs. What do we include in these hampers? Check out the pictorial display near the Parlour. It is our goal to help families eat more easily during Christmas week. This program makes a huge difference in the lives of a great many people. Working together will help us reach all our goals.

For further information, please call Carolyn Scollick at 613-745-1798.

**Shoeboxes Are Back**

Rideau Park has had a request for 135 Christmas shoeboxes for the Banff-Ledbury Community House and Minwawshin Lodge. Both partners are thrilled to be included once again in this holiday initiative.

Shoeboxes will be available from Sunday, November 12th – Sunday, November 26th. Completed shoeboxes will be collected until Sunday, December 3rd.



Fall Friendship Lunch

Join your friends for lunch in Beecroft Hall on Sunday, November 19th at 11:30 a.m. Chef Stephane Faulkner will prepare our Fall Friendship Lunch. Menu: Coq au Vin, mushroom rice pilaf and fruit crisp. Yum! Yum! Adults: \$10. Children 6-12: \$5. Children 5 and under: free. Take-out available. Pick up your ticket after church in Beecroft or from the church office during the week. Profit beyond expenses will go to the Refugee Fund.

Is "IT" Up Your Alley?

The Administration-Communications Committee is seeking an IT volunteer. We need someone with the following ideal experience:

- * Trouble-shooting and fixing computer problems;
- * Making recommendations for the purchase of new computers;
- * Installing software and setting up new computers;
- * Ensuring that all computers are backed up regularly;
- * Supporting staff in resolving computer problems;
- * Setting up and maintaining a wireless network for staff computers;
- * Setting up and maintaining a wireless network (Wi-Fi) for public use;
- * Must be familiar with computer networking, both wired and wireless networks and router configuration.

Please contact Debi Brown or Nancy McPherson, if you are interested.



Photo Directory

If you are interested in being part of the upcoming Rideau Park United Church pictorial directory, there will be two more sessions: Wednesday, November 15th and possibly Wednesday, November 22nd if there is enough interest.

If you were unable to attend the photograph sessions, but wish to obtain a copy of the directory, please let us know by November 22nd.

For more information, to book your photo appointment or to obtain a copy of the directory, please contact Marcia Gosse - email: Marcia.gosse@sympatico.ca or telephone: 613-731-2281.

Christmas Celebration Concert

On Sunday, December 10th at 2 p.m., the Chancel Choir, Joyful Noise Children's Choir and A Touch of Brass Handbells will be featured in this Christmas Celebration Concert. Enjoy the Christmas music and carols.



Dr. Tony Campolo

Rideau Park is blessed to have Dr. Tony Campolo speaking in our church on Saturday, November 18th at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Tony, who is the founder of the Red Letter Christian Movement, and an advocate for marriage equality and full LGBTQ inclusion, was spiritual advisor to President Clinton. He is the author of 35 books and is a tremendous speaker and story teller. Share the news! Bring a friend!

Ring in Christmas

Start your Christmas season with the handbells and chimes concert on Sunday, December 3rd, at 7 p.m. The annual concert features the five handbells and chimes choirs from Rideau Park: A Touch of Brass, Grace Notes, La Bell Ensemble, Note-Able Sound and Ringing Praise, playing the popular and sacred music of Christmas.



Scent-Free Space

As a community of faith, it is important that all people who come here feel respected and safe – spiritually and physically. For the general population, exposure to scents is not typically a problem. However for some people with chemical sensitivity, asthma or allergies, exposure to perfumes and other scented products could be a health hazard, or life-threatening. Reactions may vary from breathing problems to migraine headaches, anxiety, inability to concentrate, nausea, fatigue, and/or skin irritation. Our Worship and Music Committee is asking that we be sensitive to those among us who are scent-sensitive. Please refrain from wearing cologne, aftershave and perfume in our worship space, that all may worship safely and comfortably. Thank you.

No SCENTS = Good Sense!



We Are SCENT-FREE

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2017

12 (Sun)	11:15 a.m. 2 p.m.	Pageant rehearsal <i>Fauré Requiem</i> with the Chancel Choir
15 (Wed)	10 a.m.	Video & Study series: Exodus...
18 (Sat)	7 p.m.	Dr. Tony Campolo - World Vision Canada speaker in the Sanctuary
19 (Sun)	11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 3 p.m.	Pageant rehearsal Fall Friendship Luncheon: <i>For tickets call the Church office</i> Meditative Service
22 (Wed)	11 a.m.	Harmony Club: A monthly social gathering/lunch for 60+ seniors
24 (Fri)	5/6:30 p.m.	Roast Beef Dinner: <i>For tickets call the Church office</i>
26 (Sun)	11:15 a.m.	Pageant rehearsal
27 (Mon)	2 p.m.	UCW Candlelight service and annual general meeting
29 (Wed)	10 a.m.	Video & Study series: Exodus...



December 2017

01 (Fri)	1 p.m.	Greening of the Sanctuary
03 (Sun)	10 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Advent I worship service with celebration of Communion Advent Happening (<i>following the service</i>): <i>a time of gathering with the family to create your own gingerbread house and share lunch</i>
06 (Wed)	7 p.m. 11 a.m.	“Ringing in Christmas” Handbells and Chimes Concert Harmony Club’s Christmas Party
10 (Sun)	7:15 p.m. 10 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Advent evening retreat Advent II Pageant rehearsal
13 (Wed)	2 p.m.	Christmas Celebration Concert: Choirs, handbells, brass
16 (Sat)	6:30 p.m.	Advent Encarna Event- Sanctuary
17 (Sun)	9:30 a.m.	Pageant rehearsal
20 (Wed)	10 a.m.	Advent III - Children’s Christmas Pageant
22 (Fri)	7:15 p.m. 10 a.m.	Advent evening retreat Christmas Cheer hamper packing
24 (Sun)	12/12:45 p.m. 10 a.m.	Christmas Cheer hamper pickup/ delivery Advent IV
		Christmas Eve Services
	6:30 p.m.	Family service with the children’s music groups participating
	8:30 p.m.	Christmas reflections in readings and music
	10:30 p.m.	Candlelight Communion Service
25 (Mon)	10 a.m.	Christmas Day Service
25-29		<i>Church office closed for the holidays</i>
31 (Sun)	11 a.m.	Joint service at Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Dr.



January 2018

01 (Mon)		New Year’s Day - <i>Church office closed</i>
07 (Sun)	10 a.m.	Installation of UCW Executive
14 (Sun)	3 p.m.	Meditative Service
21 (Sun)	10 a.m.	“I Have A Dream” Service with Mohammed Jebara
31 (Wed)	11 a.m.	Harmony Club: A monthly social gathering/lunch for 60+ seniors

February 2018

08 (Thurs)	9:30 a.m.	Valentine Coffee Party
11 (Sun)	11:15 a.m.	Annual Congregational Meeting
13 (Tues)	5:30 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
14 (Wed)	7:15 p.m.	Ash Wednesday service and Encarna
18 (Sun)	3 p.m.	Meditative Service
19 (Mon)		Family Day (<i>Church Office closed</i>)
23 (Fri)	5/6:30 p.m.	Winter Dinner: <i>For tickets call the Church office</i>
28 (Wed)	11 a.m.	Harmony Club: A monthly social gathering/lunch for 60+ seniors



March 2018

02 (Fri)	TBC	World Day of Prayer
21 (Wed)	11 a.m.	Harmony Club: A monthly social gathering/lunch for 60+ seniors

Churchpost submissions

Due: 12 Noon, Sunday, February 11

Pick-up: Sunday, February 18

Submissions to Churchpost can be emailed to:

Marcia.Gosse@sympatico.ca
and should include the name and phone number of the author(s).

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