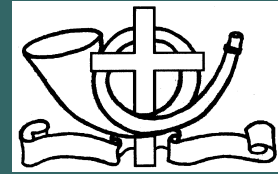


CHURCHPOST

RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH



Rideau Park's website:
www.rideaupark.ca

E-mail:
info@rideaupark.ca

Minister's Pager #:
(613) 786-4340

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OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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Paul Sorg
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Minister's Message

The Halo Effect...This phrase emerged from a study done in Philadelphia in 2010. Secular researchers and social scientists from the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) undertook a study of their city's churches to see what, if any, benefit these congregations gave to their community. They used economic measurements and tried to see what impact churches had in their neighborhoods, the impact being quantified and measured in terms of dollars and cents. They looked at the churches impact on individuals and neighborhood, looked at congregational spending that helped the local economy, considered education provided, space given, community and individual care offered, volunteers provided.... They quantified all of this.

The researchers found that for every dollar a congregation spent in their local budget, the community benefit was valued at 5.2 times that amount. One dollar in the church became \$5.20 in the community. Congregational work meant that fewer social services were needed, community mental health improved, people belonged, felt connected, worked together.... in many ways the churches were providing a great benefit that radiated out into their communities. This shared communal benefit was named the "Halo Effect."

Studies in other places replicated the UPenn study. In Toronto a similar study found that in Canada too congregations provide a significant

Halo Effect. In Toronto, researchers found that \$1 in the church became \$4.77 worth of community benefit, what they called "common good services"; \$4.77 worth of goodness shone out from the city's congregations for every dollar spent inside the congregation. Just one religious tradition in Toronto, the Parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese, creates a common good service benefit just shy of 1 billion dollars.

So what of our church? In our life and ministry, can we see and celebrate our own Halo Effect. Using the Toronto Halo Effect study and our own budget numbers we can calculate that our Halo Effect value, the common good services value that we contribute to our community, is \$2,990,346.80. Wow!

As a minister, not being an economist or social scientist, I wonder if there might be other ways beyond using economic measures in which to see our collective Halo Effect. How do we quantify things like the Healing Pathway Prayer Ministry, refugee sponsorship, Group for Friends, Euchre Group, Senior's exercise and yoga and Harmony Club?

Do we see the Halo Effect that comes with offering welcome or friendship or community that comes of invitation and inclusion, of compassion and care.... the Halo effect of

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	Kate Whitridge	
	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

June Brown January 9, 2017

Violet McDuffee

December 28, 2016

Robert (Bob) McMichael

December 12, 2016

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



offering ways and means for spiritual nurture or in valuing gifts that are offered in community.

Our impact on the world around us is not easy to quantify, although \$4.77 of benefit per \$1 spent is one way to identify that the Halo Effect is real. Consider the good things that flow out of our being together as a community of faith and spirit.

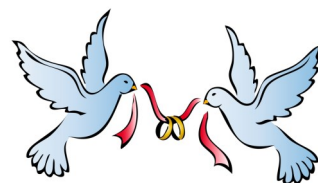
The Halo Effect: A halo is of course a symbol used in art, a depiction of the unseen, of the uncreated light or grace of God shining forth from someone of something.

As individuals and as a community, have no doubt that God's light shines in us, that God shines in you, that God's grace radiates out from us, whenever we gather or work in Christ's name. May we keep on shining together, radiating Christ's light into this New Year.

Rev. Steve Clifton

Congratulations to Andrew and Suzanne

On behalf of the Rideau Park congregation, we extend our congratulations to our organist, Andrew Ager and Suzanne Bassett who were married on Saturday, February 18th. Enjoy the future as two lives become one!

**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.

Since early Spring 2016 in twenty-nine (29) Sunday Services the average number of "tune-ins" to the Sunday morning live webcast of our Service is twenty-six (26). Thanks to Brian Hamilton for providing this information for us, and keeping us tuned in to the World Wide Web (WWW).



Carleton Chaplaincy

Rideau Park provided volunteers and baking to the Exam Pause Table at Carleton University in December. **Food, conversation and a warm welcome help students as they study through the exam period.** The reality is that for many students they come to exams with food plans spent and with empty cupboards. Students will wait 20 minutes just to get a toasted bagel. Your support of this outreach is appreciated! We will return to Carleton for Spring exams in April. Date and time to be announced soon.



VBS 2017: Camp Awesome!

Camp Awesome is a week-long Christian day camp program sponsored by Ottawa Presbytery of the United Church of Canada. It is led by a trained staff of young people, including members of our own congregation. Activities include games, crafts, drama, singing, water fun and learning about important topics. The day starts at 10 a.m. and goes to 3 p.m. Children bring their own lunch. Childcare is available for those who request it, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and from 3 to 4:30 p.m. For more information or to register, please go to our church website. This year's Camp Awesome runs from August 21 to 25.

Volunteers for Camp Awesome are needed, so if you are a young person who is interested in earning volunteer hours or joining our staff for the week, please speak to Steve.

Rideau Park Prayer Chain

Pastoral Visiting. Prayer Shawls. Prayer requests on Sunday morning. These are a few of the ways that Rideau Park people offer prayerful care. A prayer chain is a group of people who are committed to pray each day for concerns that are brought to them. Concerns for people can be sent to the chain. The prayer request will be forwarded through the chain by email or phone. Prayers will be offered; names and circumstances need not be included with prayer requests and all information that is provided will be kept confidential within the chain. If you would like to access our prayer chain please send requests to Doreen Hamilton at hamilton.doreen@gmail.com or phone the church 613-733-3156 and press 5 to leave a voicemail request. If you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact Doreen.



Healing Pathway

Healing Pathway is a 25 year old United Church program that develops the skills and gifts of healing hands within the Christian tradition. There are currently 7 UCC congregations in Ottawa that are home to a Healing Pathway group. Rideau Park has its own Healing Pathways ministry and 5 practitioners. Prayer sessions will now be available most Thursdays from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Individual appointments may be booked by emailing:

healingpathway@rideaupark.ca. For further information or to make an appointment, send an email to healingpathway@rideaupark.ca or speak to Brian Neal or Rev. Clifton.

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.

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.

"Bells In Spring" Handbell Concert

Come out on Sunday May 7 at 7 p.m., to hear five bell choirs perform en masse, as well as individual selections from each of the eight bell choirs. Rideau Park bell choirs will be joined by bell choirs from Emmanuel United, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, and Trinity-Kanata Presbyterian for this wonderful evening! It is a treat that should not be missed!

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday, March 3 at 7 p.m. at Rideau Park. The theme this year is the Philippines. A reception will follow in Beecroft Hall.

Rendez-Vous

Rendez-Vous is a national gathering of United Church of Canada youth (going into grade 9), young adults (under 30), and their leaders. It is taking place on August 16 to 19, at Concordia University – Montreal, Quebec. RPUC people who had attended Rendez-Vous 2014 and 2011 found it is an amazing experience. If you might be interested in attending, please let Steve know so that funding can be made available to you. Please visit www.uccrendezvous.ca/ for more information.

PEARLS 4 GIRLS

Members of Unit 7 are hosting an evening for the Charity Pearls 4 Girls. This Charity was started in Ottawa and assists young women in Lesotho to obtain an education through the sale of pearl bracelets and necklaces. **THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 14 AT 7 P.M.** This is **not** a fundraiser for the church. All proceeds will go to Pearls 4 Girls. We will have some delectable treats to go with tea and coffee. The pearls are fresh-water pearls, of good quality, beautiful and there are many choices. All are welcome, so come with a friend and enjoy an evening of friendship, conversation and an opportunity to assist young women obtain an education. We look forward to seeing you there.



Churchpost submissions due by 12 Noon: Sunday, May 7
Pick-up: Sunday, May 14

Submissions to Churchpost can be emailed to Marcia.Gosse@sympatico.ca and should include the name and phone number of the author(s).

Do you have an idea?

A new year is before us which gives each of us the opportunity to learn from the past, and look forward to the future. At Rideau Park, the Worship & Music Committee has tried several new ideas, but they are looking for your input, as the congregation, to let us know if you have ideas for programs that you would like to see implemented in 2017 and beyond. This applies to activities for or during the hour following the Sunday service, or Wednesday evenings, etc. We want your input as to what you like or do not like, and look forward to the future. The email address for the Worship and Music Committee is worshipmusic@rideaupark.ca.



Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday will be April 30th. Please join us at 11 am, after the worship service, in Beecroft Hall to celebrate the commitment and accomplishments of the many, many volunteers that it takes to keep Rideau Park going. Whether it be ushering, visiting, teaching Sunday school, reading scripture, serving coffee, being a duty officer, singing in a choir, ringing bells, quilting, baking, delivering flowers, counting the collection, running a church dinner, organizing Harmony Club, taking care of the library, working at the Bazaar, updating the website, helping a refugee family, or a myriad other activities, it is all essential and much appreciated. A big thank you to all who have given of their time and talents. A short presentation will take place. There will, of course, be balloons, cake, and refreshments!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

19 (Sun)	10 a.m.	Baden Powell Sunday
	3 p.m.	Meditative Service
20 (Mon)		Family Day (<i>office closed</i>)
22 (Wed)	11 a.m.	Harmony Club: A monthly social gathering / lunch / presentation for 60+ seniors
24 (Fri)	5/6:30 p.m.	Winter Dinner: <i>For tickets call the office</i>
28 (Tues)	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March

1 (Wed)	7:15 p.m.	Ash Wednesday service and Encarna
3 (Fri)	7 p.m.	World Day of Prayer
8 (Wed)	TBC	Cinematic portrayals of the life of Jesus - Movie titles and schedule shortly
14 (Tues)	7 p.m.	Pearls 4 Girls
15 (Wed)	TBC	Cinematic portrayals of the life of Jesus - Movie titles and schedule shortly
22 (Wed)	TBC	Cinematic portrayals of the life of Jesus - Movie titles and schedule shortly
29 (Wed)	11 a.m.	Harmony Club: A monthly social gathering/lunch/presentation for 60+ seniors
	TBC	Cinematic portrayals of the life of Jesus - Movie titles and schedule shortly

April

5 (Wed)	TBC	Cinematic portrayals of the life of Jesus - Movie titles and schedule shortly
9 (Sun)	10 a.m.	Palm / Passion Sunday
12 (Wed)	TBC	Cinematic portrayals of the life of Jesus - Movie titles and schedule shortly
13 (Thurs)	5:45 p.m.	Seder Supper / Maundy Thursday service
14 (Fri)	11 a.m.	Good Friday Service (<i>office closed</i>)
16 (Sun)	7 a.m.	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
	10 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship
17 (Mon)		Easter Monday (<i>office closed</i>)
23 (Sun)	10 a.m.	Easter II - Communion
26 (Wed)	11 a.m.	Harmony Club: A monthly social gathering/lunch/presentation for 60+ seniors
28-29 (Fri/Sat)		Nearly New and Book Sale
30 (Sun)	11 a.m.	Volunteer Appreciation Sunday (after service at 10 a.m.)

May

7 (Sun)	7 p.m.	"Bells in Spring" Handbells/Chimes concert
14 (Sun)	10 a.m.	Mother's Day / Christian Family Sunday
	3 p.m.	Meditative Service
22 (Mon)		Victoria Day (<i>office closed</i>)
28 (Sun)	1:30 p.m.	Spring Musical Celebration: Chancel Choir, Junior Choirs
31 (Wed)	11 a.m.	Harmony Club: A monthly social gathering/lunch/presentation for 60+ seniors

June

4 (Sun)	10 a.m.	Pentecost - Communion
5-24	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	Rideau Park Café (during RCM exams)

Nearly New and Used Book Sale

An early warning coming your way: the Spring Nearly New and Used Book sale takes place on Friday, April 28 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

We would be very grateful to receive donations that fit these categories: books in good condition, (no Reader's Digests or National Geographics, please), gently used adult and children's clothing and shoes, toys, costume jewel-

lery, linens, and gently worn items of finer quality clothing and vintage pieces for the Ladies' Boutique. Drop-off will be Thursday, April 27 and Friday, April 28 until 2 p.m.

For further information regarding the Nearly New Sale, please contact Nancy McPherson, by email:

nmcperson@rogers.com.

For information regarding the Book Sale, contact Judy Paré, by email:

judy2006@sympatico.ca.

Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Beginning March 8, Wednesday evenings in Lent will be dedicated to cinematic portrayals of the life of Jesus. Movie titles and schedule coming soon.



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