

CHURCHPOST

RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH



Minister's Message

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OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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Suddenly, my email inbox has been flooded with a tide of Advent calendars. Is this a sign that we as a society are becoming more spiritual? More intentional about preparing for Christmas in a way that deepens our understanding of what God's incarnation might mean in the world?

Apparently not. Like Christmas itself, Advent seems to have been hijacked by consumerism. Nowadays, you can purchase Advent calendars that reveal nail polish and herbal teas, dog treats and craft beers – all tucked behind numbers from 1 to 25. (Never mind that Advent sometimes starts as early as November 27th – an obscure point known only to church goers.) Most advent calendars are clearly counting down to a big celebration – whether it is spiritual, social or materialistic is up to you.

The Advent scriptures always seem out of step with that joyful Christmas celebration. The prophets wrote in times of war, displacement, injustice and social upheaval. When they speak of hope they are calling for a society that feeds the hungry, cares for the widows and orphans, and beats their swords into ploughs. The gospels are at their most apocalyptic – it's the end of the world, when the kingdom comes, will your light still be burning bright?

In our own lives, sometimes it is hard to "celebrate" Christmas in a year when we have lost loved ones, or faced economic hardship, or seen the world crumble and burn. It is good to be reminded that these too are real Advent times, and that Christ was born to remind us of how to care for one another, and look for signs of hope wherever we go.

I have no problem with any of these Advent calendars. If you know me well, you know that, for me, that little chocolate behind a cardboard window is not a bad sign of hope. My daughter Rebekah and I have bought the tea calendar this year, with the understanding that we will discover every flavour together in a tea break that we will share. And maybe that moment together each day will be the only sign of hope we need.

Looking forward to seeing you this Advent, maybe over a cup of tea, a candlelit prayer, or a beautiful concert. Let us be hope for one another.

Elizabeth Bryce



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RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH

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

OUR HEARTS REMEMBER

Mary Froggett September 22, 2019
 Steve Shipley September 30, 2019
 Jack Campbell September 30, 2019
 Sheelah Sims November 5, 2019
 Sheila McPherson November 15, 2019



*I am the resurrection and
 the life. Those who believe
 in me, even though they
 die, will live, and everyone*

2019 Bazaar a Success!

I want to congratulate and thank everyone who worked on the Bazaar on November 2nd. We had a few new faces involved as organizers and many, many returning volunteers to help us prepare for, and propel us through, the day of the Bazaar. As a first-time Convenor, I was extremely grateful to those folks who knew the ropes and gave me the benefit of their experience and hands-on help. As the saying goes, "it takes a village" to get things done, and that certainly applies to the Rideau Park Bazaar! At the time of Churchpost going to print, the approximate final number for our earnings is \$20,300.00, but I don't have the absolute, final, written-in-stone number from our UCW Treasurer yet. Still, a very nice amount of money to have collected through our combined efforts and, again, I thank all of you wholeheartedly.

Nancy McPherson, Bazaar Convenor

**Childcare on Sunday Mornings**

As a congregation, we strive to be a community that welcomes all ages. Children are always welcome in worship; there are quiet activity boxes in our chapel for use on Sunday mornings. Our childcare space continues to be staffed and open on Sunday mornings from 9:50 a.m. every Sunday. Lianne Presley, Rebekah Dillman and Hailey Laliberté are our regular childcare staff. Children aged 3 and up are welcome in Sunday School each week. If we can do anything to help make your children comfortable at Rideau Park, please let us know.

UCW Recycles...

The UCW is recycling:

- Used eyeglasses for the Third World eye clinics,
- Used postage stamps for Oxfam,
- Aluminum pop can tabs for Clifford Bowey Public School.
- **Please NO plastic bread tabs and NO Campbell Soup labels.**

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



The RPUC Pastoral Care Committee Needs YOU!

The Pastoral Care Committee (PCC) is currently seeking new members (both men and women) to help strengthen our sense of “church family”, fellowship and belonging through visits and contacts with people who, for various reasons, are unable to participate in the regular life of the congregation. There is someone out there who would appreciate your visit.

Volunteers have the option of staying informed about PCC activities through attendance at Pastoral Care meetings or as Associate Members linked by email, minutes of meetings and telephone contacts.

Activities

- ◆ Flexible visiting schedules with no prescribed frequency and our Pastoral Care Minister makes regular rounds so there is always a back-up.
- ◆ Annual Special Services: one in the fall for recently bereaved families and one in the spring for seniors who can no longer attend regular Sunday services.
- ◆ Coffee-time greeters and “Welcome Duty” to engage new people in conversation during coffee time.

The Pastoral Care Committee encourages your participation at any level, perhaps as a visitor and/or as a helper at special events.

Contacts

Doug Robinson, (613) 526-0642; dougrobinson@sympatico.ca

Cameron Jeffrey, (613) 521-8513; ctjeffrey@gmail.com

Christel Kurz, (613) 731-8037; ckurz@rogers.com



From the Treasurer, Bob Roden...

During this busy time of year, we need to be reminded of how we are doing financially. This helps to ensure that, through continued generous contributions from members and adherents, we have the necessary resources to provide vibrant programs and support to the congregation and the community at large.

As noted by the overall results below, the Ministries and Programs Fund is behind both the budget and last year at this time. We had already planned for a budget shortfall of \$25,000. We are in danger of surpassing this shortfall. We need the Congregation's support so that we can maintain our small reserves until we can start implementing the Strategic Planning Group's report recommendations, which is not likely to happen until sometime in 2021.

We do recognize that there are many extra financial demands at this time of year, such as Christmas Cheer, the food bank and other charitable causes, and we thank you for considering additional financial support over the remaining two months of the year.

Financial Results as at October 31, 2019

	2019 Actual	YTD Budget	2018 Actual
M & P Revenues	\$ 412,068	\$ 424,500	\$ 409,529
M & P Expenses	<u>\$ 474,676</u>	<u>\$ 482,473</u>	<u>\$ 464,763</u>
Shortfall	\$ (62,608)	\$ (57,973)	\$ (55,234)
M & S Revenues	\$ 42,097	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,627
M & S Expenses	\$ 42,097	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,627



Christmas Pageant 20th Anniversary Slideshow!

We are creating a slideshow to be viewed leading up to the pageant and during the offering on pageant day (Sunday, December 15). If you have favourite photos from past pageants, please submit them to Andrea at marcandrea@rogers.com. If you submit a physical photo, please write your name and contact info on the back so it can be returned to you.

**Roast Beef Dinner**

Join us on Friday, November 29 at 6 p.m. for our annual roast beef dinner. Tickets are \$20 each and are available after the Sunday morning service or from the office.

Harmony Club for Seniors 60+

The Harmony Club's annual Christmas gathering is on Wednesday, December 4. Lunch will be served at noon (\$6 per person, register at the church office by November 27). From 1pm-2pm, join in singing Christmas carols with some of our fine church musicians leading.

**Heron Road Emergency Food Centre**

Please support the food bank and bring in food on the first Sunday of each month. Items needed the most include canned goods (fruit, vegetables, meat, soup), peanut butter, kidney beans, dry pasta and coffee.

**Fellowship Harvest Luncheon**

The Fellowship Harvest luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 24th at 11:30am. Proceeds go to Rideau Park's Refugee Fund. The menu is: a cup of soup, quiche, green salad, apple cake, and coffee or tea. Tickets are \$10 per person and are available at Sunday coffee hour or from the office.

**New Custodian, Geoff Scollick**

Join us in welcoming our new custodian, Geoff Scollick. He began work the last week of October, training with Paul Sorg. Best wishes, Geoff! (To avoid a potential conflict of interest, Carolyn Scollick, Chair of M&P, and John Scollick, Chair of Stewards, were not involved in the process.)

Drums Alive

Drums Alive is a weekly, drop-in drumming class, open to all people. Basic drumming, rhythm, dance and singing skills are explored, using repertoire from Ghana (West Africa), over several weeks, with the goal of adding drumming regularly to worship services and concerts in the future. Regular attendance is encouraged.



Join us on Sundays at 11:30am until December 15 and then starting again on January 5, 2020. If you have any questions or would like to become involved, please contact Iain Macpherson at 613-733-3156, x301, or email choirdirector@rideaupark.ca.

**Next Churchpost Submission**

Due: 12 Noon, Friday, February 7, 2020
Pick-up: Sunday, February 16, 2020

Submissions to Churchpost can be emailed to:

nmcpherson@rogers.com

and should include the name and phone number of the author(s).

Christmas Cheer and Christmas Shoeboxes Programs

Help support our Christmas Cheer program, which consistently provides over 150 families with either hampers or gift cards. We also provide shoeboxes to the women and children at Oshki Kizis Lodge and the children and youth who use the services of the Banff Avenue Community House in the Banff-Ledbury community.

Ring in Christmas Handbells and Chimes Concert

Don't miss the Christmas Handbells and Chimes Concert on Sunday, December 1 at 7 p.m. It features the five handbells and chimes choirs of Rideau Park playing popular and seasonal music of Christmas. Freewill offering.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2019

17,24 (Sun)	11:15 am	Pageant rehearsals
17 (Sun)	10:00 am	Youth and Young Adult Sunday
	11:30 am	Newcomers' Luncheon
24 (Sun)	11:30 am	Fellowship Harvest Luncheon
29 (Fri)	6:00 pm	Roast Beef Dinner



December 2019

01 (Sun)	10:00 am	Advent I worship service with the celebration of Communion
	11:15 am	Advent Happening (following the service): a time of gathering with the family to create your own gingerbread house and share lunch
	7:00 pm	"Ringing in Christmas" Handbells and Chimes Concert
02 (Mon)	2:00 pm	UCW Candlelight Service and AGM
04 (Wed)	11:00 am	Harmony Club's Christmas Party
	6:30 pm	Encarna
08 (Sun)	10:00 am	Advent II worship service
	11:15 am	Pageant rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Christmas Celebration Concert: Choirs, handbells, brass
11 (Wed)	7:15 pm	Advent evening retreat
15 (Sun)	10:00 am	Advent III – Children's Christmas Pageant
20 (Fri)		Christmas Cheer packing and delivery
22 (Sun)	10:00 am	Advent IV worship service
	3:00 pm	Blue Christmas service
24 (Tue)		Christmas Eve Services:
	6:30 pm	Family service with the children's music groups participating
	8:30 pm	Candlelight Communion Service
	10:30 pm	Candlelight Communion Service with Touch of Brass
25 (Wed)	10:00 am	Christmas Day Service
29 (Sun)	10:00 am	Worship Service
25-31		<i>Church Offices closed for the holidays</i>



January 2020

01 (Wed)		New Year's Day – <i>Church Offices closed</i>
05 (Sun)	10:00 am	Epiphany/Shared Service at Emmanuel
12 (Sun)	10:00 am	Installation of UCW Executive
26 (Sun)	10:00 am	"I Have a Dream" service
29 (Wed)	11:00 am	Harmony Club: A monthly lunch/presentation for 60+ seniors.



February 2020

02 (Sun)	10:00am	Worship service
09 (Sun)	11:15 am	Annual Congregational Meeting
13 (Thurs)	9:30 am	Valentine Coffee Party
17 (Mon)		<i>Family Day (office closed)</i>
25 (Tues)	5:30 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
26 (Wed)	11:00 am	Harmony Club: A monthly social gathering/lunch for 60+ seniors.
26 (Wed)	7:15 pm	Ash Wednesday service and Encarna



Healing Pathway

Healing Pathway sessions are offered most Thursdays, by appointment, between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and once a month on Sunday evening between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Please email healingpathway@rideaupark.ca or speak to Sharon Sanderson or Brian Neal. Healing prayer is also offered in the Chapel, immediately following the service, most Sundays of the month. No appointment is needed for these shorter, 3-5 minute sessions.



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.

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