# CHURCHPOST RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH



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## **OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

Ministers

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce ebryce@rideaupark.ca Ext. 224

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Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald gfitzgerald@rideaupark.ca Ext. 226

**Organist** 

Andrew Ager organist@rideaupark.ca
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#### **Music Ministry Coordinator**

lain Macpherson
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#### **Church Administrator**

Debi Brown <u>administrator@rideaupark.ca</u> Ext. 228

Custodian

Geoff Scollick <u>custodian@rideaupark.ca</u> Ext. 229



## Minister's Message

#### But the church did not close...

n Sunday, March 15, 2020 we held our last "normal" worship service in our sanctuary and we closed our church building. A sign was posted on our exterior doors which read "All Rideau Park programs and events are suspended and the building will be closed until March 31." Our building closed for so much longer than we anticipated as the global pandemic settled in to stay.

Our building closed in March 2020, but the church did not close. It is remarkable how we have adjusted to our new reality together. We shifted so many things from in person to online. We found new ways to worship and work together.



Committees and working groups have continued on Zoom. Our Council Executive, for example, has met more than 20 times on Zoom to manage our pandemic responses and protocols. Our Finance Committee, with our Treasurer Bob and our Administrator Debi have managed, with the generosity of the congregation, to keep us in the black financially in spite of the challenges of Covid-19.

Groups and connections have moved online. We had four Sunday School groups meeting weekly online last year and plan for the same this fall. Twelve young people met regularly from October through May to get ready for Confirmation. Georgina has gathered people regularly for coffee and conversation and has been faithful in care to our elder members. Our online meditation group marks one year of weekly gatherings this month. We have made spaces on Facebook, YouTube and on our website for prayer and learning. We have held seasonal Bible Studies on Zoom and have had online retreats in Lent and Advent. Our annual Christmas Pageant was shared online, with Andrea and crew creating opportunity for more than 70 young participants. We have had baptisms, weddings and life celebrations, adapting these important events to the pandemic reality.

Our webmaster Lynda has kept our website up-to-date and relevant. We have added a weekly email to enhance communication. We have used social media extensively to keep everyone connected.

Our outreach has continued in spite of challenges. Much refugee work has been done. Marilyn has met with many families to help them find a way to bring relatives to the safety of Canada. We have supported Banff and Russell Heights Community Houses and the Heron Emergency Food Cupboard.

Continued on page 2

EDITOR: Nancy McPherson, <a href="mailto:nmcpherson@rogers.com">nmcpherson@rogers.com</a>

## September 2021

#### **DIRECTORY OF CHAIRS**

Council Ken Tong, Chair council@rideaupark.ca

Pat Whitridge, Past Chair vicechaircouncil@rideapark.ca

**Permanent Committee Representatives** 

Stewardship Gavin Currie, Chair stewardship@rideaupark.ca

**EOORC** Representative Doug Robinson

Ministry & Personnel Jeffrey Allo, Chair mandp@rideaupark.ca

**Trustees** Mike Presley, Chair trustees@rideaupark.ca **United Church Women** Nancy McPherson, President ucw@rideaupark.ca

#### Committees (Email addresses are on RPUC website)

**PEOPLE** Drew Presley, Liaison **Congregational Life** Alyce Dunnewold, Chair **Nominations** Marilyn Law, Chair **Pastoral Care** Brian Neal, Chair Congregational Dev. Greig Scott, Chair

Steven Neal, Liaison Worship & Music Karen Lamb and Sharon Sanderson, Co-Chairs

Social Action & Outreach Lynn Sherwood, Chair

**PROGRAMS** 

**Christian Development** Tara Lockhart and Andrea Laliberté, Co-Chairs

Environment Kristina Inrig, Chair RESOURCES Ron MacPherson, Liaison **Finance** Bob Roden (Treasurer), Chair Brian Hamilton, Chair **Property** Stewardship Gavin Currie, Chair Administration & Comm. Kristie Marr, Interim Chair



## RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH

Worship (online): 10 a.m. Suspended Coffee Hour: Online Sunday School:

#### **OUR HEARTS REMEMBER**

We hold in our thoughts and prayers the families and loved ones of these Rideau Park friends who have passed away:

Norman Edwards June 4, 2021 William (Bill) Totten July 12, 2021 **Dorothy Treasure** July 22, 2021 Joyce Ireland August 5, 2021

We also learned this summer that Mardie McLaughlin-Green passed away on December 13, 2020.



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)

Our Christmas Cheer Committee adapted its program and had great success under trying circumstances. Heidi organized the Christmas Shoebox outreach in a new way. Our UCW has sold soup, baked goods and ice cream online to support good causes and now plans to deliver a pandemic bazaar with online and outdoor components.

And we have continued to gather in worship through our webcast. Brian and Doreen have done great work in helping us stay connected, producing 82 worship webcasts since March 2020. Andrew and Iain have blessed us with music, sometimes pre-recorded and sometimes live and in person, as circumstances have allowed.

Even though our building has been closed, there has been activity on property too. We have new interior doors with windows, and new exterior doors and entrance systems at the Beecroft entrance, all to enhance safety and security. Geoff has been working diligently to keep the building and grounds in good shape.

On August 8, we reopened our sanctuary so we have had people in the pews for our Sunday webcasts. I cannot tell you how great it is to have people with us in person! It's a sign of hope as we slowly move towards being together offline again.

In spite of the challenges we have faced, we have adapted and we have continued to do the work of the church. Thank you, all of you, for being the church in a difficult time.

Thanks be to God for the light shining in darkness, for courage and for hope.

Steve Clifton





## **Children's and Youth Ministry News**

unday School is restarting and is staying online for now. As children under 12 cannot yet be vaccinated and as many protocols for in-person gatherings are still

required, we are staying online so that everyone will feel safe and will feel included. Zoom meetings will be starting on Sunday, September 26. We are



aiming for four separate groups to join in with, just as we had last fall and winter: Ages 3,4 & 5; Grades 1,2,3, Grades 4,5,6 and our Youth Class. More information on how to connect will be coming soon.

We are **looking for volunteers** to help with teaching online, especially in the Grades 1,2,3 age group. There are lots of curriculum options and we will offer support to our volunteers as needed. If you would like to know more, please get in touch with <u>Steve Clifton</u>.

**Youth Confirmation:** A group of 12 young people met online from last October through May in preparation for confirmation. Now we wait for a time when we can meet together in person to celebrate confirmation in the sanctuary. We look forward to that time of celebration.

#### Treasurer's Note

As we look forward to fall and all the blessings that fall brings, including warm days, cool nights, spectacular fall colours, and nature's bounty from our

farms, here is a brief update on our finances. Revenues to the end of August were \$350,452 (2020 - \$385,294). Expenses were \$356,371 (2020 - \$371,851). As a result, we have a small year-to-date deficit of \$5,919 (2020 same period surplus \$13,443).



PAR continues to play an important role in enabling us to provide Sunday worship services, to continue assisting those in need and to pay all our staff, who are working very hard during this difficult time. We are also fulfilling our obligations to the National Church for both M&S and the National Assessment. If you wish to make a donation to the church, you can do so by mailing a cheque made out to "Rideau Park United Church" or leave it in the mail box by the Cunningham entrance at the church. You can also donate by e-transfer to accounting@rideaupark.ca or donate by credit card through <a href="mailto:CanadaHelps">CanadaHelps</a>.

Thank you, and I hope each one of you remains happy, healthy and safe.

Bob Roden, Treasurer

#### Social Action and Outreach

The Social Action and Outreach (SA&O) Committee thanks everyone for bringing personal care items for our monthly collections. This project has been a great success, not only greatly benefitting community houses, but giving us an opportunity to meet and chat outside during those sunny summer afternoons. We are extending our program for at least one more month. Mark your calendars for another collection on Monday, September 27 between 1 and 3 pm.

By September 7, you will be seeing a new feature outside the Cunningham Avenue entrances. The SA&O Committee has installed a Tiny Library, for the use of visitors to Rideau Park, as well as the local community. We are collecting books which focus on themes of social justice and equity,



but all contributions are valued. Donations may be left in the Cunningham Avenue vestibule if the library is full. Lynn Sherwood will oversee library maintenance. Many thanks to the builder, our custodian Geoff Scollick, and to

Xia Sherwood, our artist-decorator — who listened when I told her it needed to be an eyecatcher.

Many thanks to all the ladies who donated baked goods for the Covid vaccine pop-up clinic at Banff Avenue Community Centre. What an amazing amount of food! This was much appreciated by staff at the Banff Ledbury Community House, who had many kind recollections of past collaboration. We are exploring ways in which we can assist with future vaccine pop-up clinics in the Alta Vista area.

Lynn Sherwood, Chair, Social Action and Outreach

#### **Meditation Group Online**

Thursdays at 10am on Zoom to share 20 minutes of quiet, peace, and mindfulness.



To join in the live group, please email Rev. Steve Clifton to receive the Zoom invitation. For those who cannot attend online, meditation videos are posted on our website and YouTube channel for use at another time.

## **In-Person Worship**

Under the current provincial and Ottawa Public Health guidelines, we are able to welcome up to 50 people in the Sanctuary for worship on Sunday. We are following Public Health guidelines and have protocols in place so that all might feel safe. Click here for more information on our reopening procedures. To register to attend a service in person, click on the Sunday in the website calendar that you wish to attend.

## Rideau Park's 2022 Stewardship Campaign

ndrea Laliberté has graciously agreed to Chair our 2022 Stewardship Campaign. This year we continue the "Faithful, Hopeful, Loving" stewardship theme by uplifting the message of hope. We are guided in scripture by Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Our church community can be seen as an oasis that is not separate from the world around us, nor an escape from life. It is not just for ourselves. The well of hope at the heart of this oasis is a gift from God, which has been entrusted to us to benefit all our neighbours.

We are called to care for this gift, and we are called to share the gift of hope

beyond our own community. We are called to plant seeds of possibility, to expand the vision of hope beyond our physical presence. The congregation's time, talents and financial support are crucial to maintain Rideau Park's presence and continue its capacity as a centre of spirituality, community and service.

In addition to your time and talents, the campaign is seeking your ongoing financial support and pledges for: the Rideau Park Ministry and Programs Fund; the United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund; and the Rideau Park Property Renewal Fund.

#### **Campaign Dates**

**September 20-24** Stewardship material distributed by mail and email; **Sunday, September 26** Stewardship Campaign Chair speaks to the congregation;

**September 28 – onward** Stewardship pledges returned; and **October 19** Follow-up for outstanding pledges.

We are thankful for all your generosity in the past and hopeful of your support and participation in this year's campaign.



#### **UCW Fall Update**

The **UCW General Meeting** took place on June 7 via Zoom. It was a productive meeting (although not as enjoyable as meeting in person, over a nice supper). The highlight was an excellent presentation on the Guatemala Stove Project, a charitable project the UCW has contributed to for a few years. We knew it was a worthwhile cause, but seeing the PowerPoint presentation and hearing from hands-on, long-time volunteers and actual recipients of the stoves, was both inspiring and eye-opening.

The Merry Dairy ice cream fundraiser was a great success! A big "thank you" to all you ice cream lovers! We raised \$1,235.20 in June by teaming up with local ice cream makers at Merry Dairy. This was such an enjoyable way to raise money that the UCW intends to hold a similar event every June, as long as Merry Dairy exists. The funds are being split equally among three indigenous charities. They are the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (\$411.73), the United Church of Canada Healing Fund (\$411.73) and Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth (\$411.73).

The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, based in Ottawa, works to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and their families through education initiatives, public policy campaigns and by providing quality resources to support communities. Tewegan is a 12-bed transitional home in Ottawa for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women, ages 16-29, who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. Residents are also offered confidential and supportive counselling in a safe, culture-based environment.

The decision to donate to indigenous charities was made by the UCW in late May, when news of the Kamloops residential school graveyard became public. The Executive is pleased to make these donations as a small gesture of solidarity and sincere support.

Nancy McPherson, UCW President

CHOCOLATE

## With grateful thanks...on behalf of the congregation

arly in 2020, we started hearing alarming news coverage of the rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus. Each day, the news was more and more intense. On March 8, we went to church as "normal" but at the end of the service we were stunned to have Rev. Steve say that he would not be shaking hands at the door following the service. For me, this was the sign of the stark reality of the seriousness of the spread of the virus. Each day, the news became worse. Our last Sunday to be able to worship together in the sanctuary was March 15, as we were now in a worldwide pandemic and in total lockdown.

This happened so fast to a society that seemed to be able to conquer anything. The seriousness of the situation slowly became a reality, but never did we imagine that 1 ½ years later we would still be reeling from the effects of this virus.

As is so often the case, Rideau Park was on the leading edge with their technology and innovative programs. Since we had

enjoyed livestreaming of our Sunday service for several years, it was not a huge transition to provide a worship experience to our congregation and beyond – a comfort that was much needed by everyone. Brian and Doreen Hamilton had been faithfully working on the livestreaming of the service, improving it weekly, and now providing a link to our service that was so appreciated at a time of intense insecurity. Thank you, Brian and Doreen.

One of our richest blessings at Rideau Park is our ministry staff, and they certainly provided exceptional encouragement and comfort each week through their prayers and sermons. Not only were both Steve and Elizabeth available at



all times, they continued to provide valuable leadership and input to Council and other committees that they serve on. In addition, they reached out to Jenni Leslie and brought her into the Rideau Park Community since they did not have (at that time) a livestreaming option at Kitchissippi where she serves. Jenni was a welcome partner as she had been with RPUC previously during her theology training. When Jenni left on sabbatical, Dianne Cardin replaced her, representing Kitchissippi ministry. We enjoyed the inspiring prayers, sermons, and children's times she offered. Georgina was innovative in organizing gatherings of women in the congregation to discuss a variety of topics — some faith-based and others more philosophical. Georgina also continued to do her valuable work as our Pastoral Care Minister. Thank you, Steve, Elizabeth, Georgina, Jenni and Dianne.

Debi Brown has always been valued staff, with her wide range of expertise, her outstanding organizational skills, and her caring concern for all the members of the RPUC family. Working from home, with the occasional visit to her church office, she managed to keep all the finances of the church under control, plus she worked diligently to qualify the church for government subsidies. Thank you, Debi.

The music provided by Iain and Andrew was, as always, thoughtfully chosen and perfectly presented. They happily included Gavan Quinn from Kitchissippi, whose piano duets with Andrew were spectacular and memorable. Bravo, gentlemen.

Custodial duties at RPUC were new to Geoff Scollick, but he maintained the building and grounds in an excellent fashion. He was quick to help the UCW in March for two fundraisers, enabling the efficient and safe pick-up of frozen soup and baked goodies. He has also helped the UCW prepare for the outdoor mini-bazaar in late September, by doing the heavy work with tables, racks and books for sale. Thanks, Geoff.

Now that we are starting to return to services in the sanctuary, it seemed only fitting to take a moment to reflect on the blessings offered by our staff throughout a period of fear, uncertainty, and change. It is far too easy to become complacent and let the days slip by without a small note of appreciation for the gifts that we are given.

Judy Paré



## **Goodbye to Kitchissippi United Church**

n Sunday, September 5, we said goodbye to our friends at Kitchissippi United Church (KUC). KUC has shared in our worship webcast since March of 2020. We have been blessed to work with Jenni, Gavan and Dianne on Sundays, blessed to have them sharing their gifts in worship week by week. On September 12, they are beginning their own Sunday webcast. We wish KUC well in their new venture and hope there are opportunities for us to continue to work together in different ways in the future.

#### Rideau Park Reads

book review "from both sides of the pulpit". Holy Envy (available from the Ottawa Public Library or online) is a wonderful book by Barbara Brown Taylor. She is an Episcopal priest who worked with a congregation for a number of years before deciding it was time for a change. At about the same time, she received a request from Piedmont University in Georgia to teach a course on Religion 101 (covering the world's great religions — Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity). At first, she replied "no" to this invitation, but when she was asked a second time after she'd had some time to think about the other religions, she happily said "yes".



She gives an amazing description of how she worried about how her own Christianity might be affected by her new learning – she feared that she might find her new knowledge diluting her own faith. She was also concerned about how her students would process what they learned.

Almost immediately on her first day, her carefully planned lesson was ditched in favour of following interesting lines of inquiry put forward by the class. And this is the way it continued – the more the students learned, the more they were eager to know about this new religion and its customs. Visits to a Hindu temple – which included participating in a service; an Islamic mosque, where they were allowed to take part in a service and afterwards were given the opportunity to ask the imam questions; and a Jewish synagogue, where, after being welcomed by the congregation and participating in the service, the students were once again invited to explore further with the rabbi.

At the end of the first class, there was general agreement between teacher and class that it was a great experience.

Barbara Brown Taylor confessed that she envied the Hindu perspective that everyone was responsible for their own destiny because their own decisions determined what would happen to them in their next life. She liked the Muslim prayer tradition and wished that her faith had something similar. The Jew's place as God's chosen people also made her envious. Finally, at a Buddhist learning centre, she learned about the Buddhist ability to relate to other religions. When one of the students mentioned to a monk how similar the Buddhist idea of emptiness was to the Jewish idea of emptiness, the monk invited the youth to study Buddhism and Judaism carefully and then become a better Jew, which Barbara found very freeing. In the end Barbara concluded that the best way forward for her in Christianity was to treat all people of every religion or no religion as if God dwells in them.

\*

Before Judy mentioned the book *Holy Envy* to me, I already knew the work of Barbara Brown Taylor. I would say she has achieved near-iconic status among progressive Christians as a preacher and writer. It was sad to read of her burn-out as a parish priest, but also hopeful to hear how her gifts and skills were then applied to teaching, and how the experience was healing for her.

When I began my university studies, I met with an academic advisor who heard that I wanted to be a minister and who proceeded to fill my course selection sheet with the biblical studies associated with Christian ministry. I left her office and sat outside for about an hour, then went back in and asked if we could start over. I wanted to learn about Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism in my undergraduate studies. The most eye-opening experience of my studies was hearing one professor (a Hindu) describe Christian faith. It hardly resembled the faith I practiced, so then I had to look again at what I believed about other faiths.

Brown Taylor soon realized she could not do justice to the faith traditions she was trying to teach in a classroom, and took her course on the road to synagogues and temples and gurdwaras and mosques. Some of the students worried it might challenge their own faith, but most grew in respect and understanding for traditions that they had known only through stereotypes.

Part of the resistance to immersing ourselves in the faith of another, I believe, is fear. Not fear of the other, but fear of longing for something more in our own faith and then finding it elsewhere. Brown Taylor writes that this fear is dispelled when we encounter the profound common ground in all faith, in spite of our deep differences. On the whole, we come back to the stories we have always loved but with a new appreciation, as she did.

If you want to learn about the content of other faith traditions, this book probably doesn't contain enough information for you. But if you want to connect your faith with the faith of another, this is a great way to prepare your heart and mind for what will always be a lifelong journey.

Judith Evans and Elizabeth Bryce

## Participate in the 2021 Mini-Bazaar as a shopper, a volunteer, or both!

on't forget our outdoor mini-bazaar on **Saturday, September 25 from 10am to 4pm** at the church (rain date is Saturday, October 2). We need donations for the General Store, the Ladies' Boutique and the Book Sale. We hope that some of our imaginative crafters, knitters and quilters will have some pleasing creations. Please check the guidelines, including lists of items we know sell well. <u>Click here</u> for the latest news, email Nancy McPherson at <a href="mailto:nmcpherson@rogers.com">nmcpherson@rogers.com</a> or call her at 613-737-7339 if you have questions.



#### **Drop-off Dates, Times, Locations and Contacts**

	воокѕ	CRAFTS	GENERAL STORE	LADIES' BOUTIQUE
WHEN	Sept. 14-15, 2-4pm, 6-8pm	Sept. 14-15, 2-4pm	Sept. 22-23, 1-5pm	Now, until Sept. 24
		Sept. 22-23-24, 1-5pm		
WHERE	Beecroft Foyer, Rideau Park	Beecroft Foyer, Rideau Park	Beecroft Foyer, Rideau Park	Contact Sue
WHO	Bob Roden	Ruth Scobie	John Durkee	Sue Davidson
	613-526-0531	613-738-9551	613-521-2051	613-737-1099
	bob1roden@yahoo.ca	prscobie@rogers.com	NandJDurkee@ncf.ca	sueknits@lycos.com



## The November Bazaar is back but it's ONLINE this year...

The fall bazaar in November is **ONLINE only** and is all about food. Instead of being displayed in the Parlour, the delicious offerings of the Deli and Bake Table will be listed online for browsing and sale. Jams and jellies, pickles and relish, will also be available for sale.

For the first time, due to the pandemic, we will offer a Take-out Tea, instead of a sit-down in Beecroft Hall. Please let us know if you're a soup-maker and, as usual, we need bakers for the Bake Table, as well as to make squares for the Tea Room. The food will be as delectable as ever, but all of us will be looking forward happily to the return of the traditional Tea Room in 2022. There will be a smaller number of Take-out Teas available, so order as soon as you can.

#### **Drop-off Dates, Times, Locations and Contacts**

	BAKING	DELI	JAM, JELLY, PICKLES and RELISH	SQUARES FOR TEA ROOM TAKE-OUT
WHEN	October – dates to be advised	Sept. 15 to Oct. 15	Oct. 4-8, Oct. 12-15 Mornings until noon	Nov. 5 from 9am-3pm *NO FROZEN SQUARES, PLEASE
WHERE	Contact Nancy	Contact Lisa	Beecroft Foyer, Rideau Park	Beecroft Foyer, Rideau Park
WHO	Nancy Begg-Durkee 613-521-2051 NandJDurkee@ncf.ca	Lisa Sadler 613-523-9101 lisadler58@gmail.com	Heather Bennett 613-523-6113 heatherbennett820@gmail.com	Cathy Hollands 613-738-9763 chollands@rogers.com

The online sale runs November 1-5, with pick-up on Saturday, November 6 at the church between 10am and 4pm. Staggered pick-up times will be assigned by surname, to avoid crowding. The Take-out Tea will ONLY be available for pick-up on November 6 to ensure every sandwich is fresh and tasty. If you're not ordering a Take-out Tea, ask about pick-up during the week and avoid the rush on Saturday. Stay tuned for "live" announcements in September and October to encourage those who cook and bake to donate goodies, and to tempt those who just want to savour the results!

Bazaar Bake Table 2021: Your baking efforts are always appreciated! Here are some perennial bake table favourites.

Squares: date squares, lemon squares, brownies, toffee squares, Nanaimo bars

**Cookies:** shortbread, chocolate chip, oatmeal, ginger/molasses

Fruit loaves: lemon, banana, date, zucchini, cranberry

Muffins: blueberry, oatmeal, bran, banana

Pies/Tarts: apple, blueberry, cherry, pecan, butter tarts

Cakes: chocolate, vanilla/golden, spice, carrot

Miscellaneous: special Christmas baking, bread/dinner rolls, plum/Christmas pudding

Continued on page 8

## September 2021

#### Questions about the mini-bazaar or online bazaar?

<u>Click here</u> for the latest Bazaar news, email Nancy, <u>nmcpherson@rogers.com</u> or call her at 613-737-7339.

#### **Next ChurchPost Submission**

**Due: 12 Noon,** Friday, November 12, 2021 **Pick-up:** Sunday, November 21, 2021

Submissions to ChurchPost can be emailed to:

#### nmcpherson@rogers.com

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

Rideau Park United Church 2203 Alta Vista Drive Ottawa, ON, K1H 7L9

## November Online Bazaar, continued from page 7

Packaging and sizes preferred:

- Family size: 8" x 8" square pan and 8" or 9" pie plates Cookies by the dozen (12)
- Personal size: smaller square/rectangle pans 4" or 5" pies Cookies by the half dozen (6)

In foil square pans, rectangular pans, loaf pans or foil pie plates. Please mark if item is gluten-free or contains NUTS.

Drop-off details will be available in October. Check the website and listen for "live" updates from church.

## Nancy Begg-Durkee, Bake Table Convenor

613-521-2051; NandJDurkee@ncf.ca