

September 17, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ:

The wisdom of our elders has given us much for which to be thankful. They foresaw the need for a new place of worship in Alta Vista. Established in 1951, Rideau Park United Church held its first worship service in the Sanctuary on September 11, 1955. Ours has been a large and successful community of faith, sharing our spirituality and serving the local community of Alta Vista, Ottawa south and the world beyond.



Traditions of generosity and stewardship have long been at the centre of our faith community. The annual fall Stewardship Campaign allows us to focus our attention on the financial needs of our congregation. It's a time to reflect on how rich we already are; a time to consider how we can increasingly be of service; a time to think in generous terms and about the possibilities of sharing. God gives us the grace to "live free" encouraging us to trust, let go of our fears for the future and to recognize our strengths and personal wealth.

We all know the importance of education and health care. Feeding the mind and nurturing the body are critical life skills that enrich our lives. We also know the extent of the time and resources we have committed to building up and maintaining these life skills. But equally important is the spirit and the soul. A good mind and strong body without spirit and soul is but the shadow of a person. How often have we heard or said "it's what's inside that counts". True words, but are we investing the time and resources to establish the spirit and the soul on an equal plain with the mind and body?

God encourages us to "live free" so that we may "take hold of the life that really is life" *1 Timothy 6:19*. When we let God free us of obsessions, we can stand for Jesus's values, risking ourselves for God's message. We can freely embrace generous-hearted living extending God's grace by who we are and the way that we live.

It is in this context that we consider the needs of our community of faith. Remaining true to our Christian inheritance, we can be generous in our givings, energetic in our service, present in our participation and faithful in our spirituality. We can give and work together to ensure that Rideau Park remains a vibrant and vital church community for years to come.

May you be blessed with God's grace

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian".

Brian Hamilton
Chair, 2016 Stewardship Campaign