

# CHURCHPOST

## RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH



### Minister's Message

Rideau Park's website:  
[www.rideaupark.ca](http://www.rideaupark.ca)

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[info@rideaupark.ca](mailto:info@rideaupark.ca)

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### OUR MINISTRY TEAM

#### Ministers

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce  
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#### Music Ministry Coordinator

Iain Macpherson  
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 Ext. 301

#### Church Administrator

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 Ext. 228

#### Custodian

Geoff Scollick  
 Ext. 229



I saw a sign on the door of a business the other day: "Please be patient. We are currently building the plane we are flying in."

I know how they feel. Pandemic 2020 has upset all our careful planning, our best intentions, and our expectations. I used to feel quite well-prepared to lead worship in a variety of circumstances: when the power goes out or the guest speaker can't get there, when the lay reader reads the wrong passage or you have to move worship to the hall because the sanctuary flooded.

But never did I ever imagine worship without a congregation!

For me, preaching has always been a relational experience. I could spend all 40 hours of my work week researching, writing, and rehearsing the perfect sermon. However, some of the best sermons I have ever preached were written quickly and didn't look like much on paper. That's because the live congregation draws a much deeper and more holy word out of you than you could ever prepare on paper.

Paul and I have this conversation when one of us gets to Sunday morning with a sermon they don't like. "My sermon is kind of lame (or rambly or disjointed...)" one of us will complain. Then the other one responds, "So you will just have to preach it with more conviction!" Some of those "lame" sermons get a great response from the congregation. You listen better than we preach, apparently, and you often hear something that we didn't know we were saying. Somehow, in a community of faith, the word becomes flesh and it is awesome.

Recently, Steve posted a photo on Facebook of how empty the sanctuary looks when we are livestreaming the service. It's hard, week after week, to only imagine a congregation laughing at a joke or nodding at a strong point. But there is still an energy that is palpable when you imagine that lonely sermon as a dialogue with people who have the faith to keep tuning in after all these weeks of digital worship.



So the plane we are building is a plane that has taken some experimenting, and some awkward silences, and some trial and error, and your faith is our parachute. Livestream worship, internet Sunday School and online programming will continue to evolve, even as we start welcoming small numbers back into the church building. Thank you for the patience you have shown us and stay tuned as we continue building this plane together.

*Elizabeth Bryce*



EDITOR: Nancy McPherson, [nmcpherson@rogers.com](mailto:nmcpherson@rogers.com)

<b>Council</b>	<b>DIRECTORY OF CHAIRS</b> Patricia Whitridge, Chair      council@rideaupark.ca Ken Tong, Vice-Chair
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<b>RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH</b>	
<b>Worship:</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	<b>Suspended</b>
<b>Sunday School:</b>	<b>Online</b>

**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 Marsh	May 9
Ross Boyle	May 26
Richard Geddes	May 26
Arthur Thurlow	May 27
Helen Cameron	May 30
Fred Runge	June 19
Julien Olson	June 24
George Tweedie	June 26
Allan Hamilton	July 2
Helen Gardiner	August 10
Liz Waldron	September 14



*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*

**Treasurer's Note**



**W**hile summer isn't officially over, it is feeling more and more like fall all the time. As we look forward to the reopening of church for limited in-person services, here is a brief update on our finances. Revenues to the end of August were \$315,042 (2019: \$313,636). Expenses were \$302,694 (2019: \$373,875). As a result, we have a year-to-date surplus of \$12,348 (2019 same period deficit \$60,239). There are three primary reasons for this improvement. We have had some large donations from some members, expenses are down because the church has been closed, and we have received approximately \$40,000 in government wage subsidies.

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. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have provided extra financial support through additional givings. If you wish to make a donation to the church, you can do so by cheque made out to Rideau Park United Church either by mailing it to me or leaving it in the mail box by the Cunningham entrance at the church. You can also use the "[Canada Helps – Donate Now](#)" button on our website or send an e-transfer to [accounting@rideaupark.ca](mailto:accounting@rideaupark.ca).

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

*Bob Roden, Treasurer*



**Next Churchpost Submission**

**Due: 12 Noon,**      Friday, November 13, 2020  
**Pick-up:**              Sunday, November 22, 2020

**S**ubmissions to Churchpost can be emailed to:  
**[nmcperson@rogers.com](mailto:nmcperson@rogers.com)**  
 and should include the name and phone number of the author(s).



**Sunday School Online**

**S**unday School is restarting and is going online, starting Sunday, September 20. There will be four separate groups to join in with: 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.

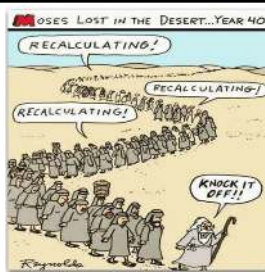
**Looking for Volunteer(s)**

**T**he Kindergarten Sunday School team is looking for volunteer(s) to join the existing teaching team for this coming year. The Kindergarten team will be offering live, in-camera sessions of about 10-15 minutes each week featuring stories, songs and other activities (for ages 3, 4 & 5). If you would be willing to volunteer to teach every 3rd or 4th week in our Kindergarten rotation, we would LOVE to have you! We can train you on how to use Zoom and we have a curriculum resource, plus returning teachers, to help get you going. If you have questions or are interested in working with a GREAT group of kids and volunteers, please get in touch with Andrea Laliberté, CD committee co-chair, at [marcandrea@rogers.com](mailto:marcandrea@rogers.com) or 613-762-1777.



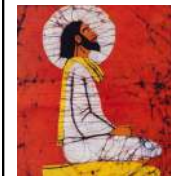
**Recalculating: Bible Stories that Shaped the People of God**

**I**n the spring, we met on Zoom to study passages from the Hebrew Scriptures that were about choices, crises and turning points that changed the direction of God's story and people.



This fall, we will meet on Zoom to do part 2 of the study with a focus on stories from the New Testament. More information, day and time of meeting TBA.

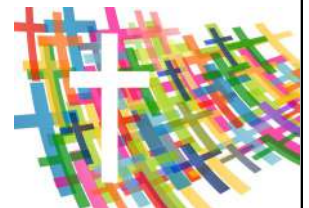
**Meditation Group Online**



**T**hursdays at 10 a.m., starting September 3rd. Twenty minutes of quiet, peace, and mindfulness, shared together through Zoom. Meditation is not difficult. And group meditation is a deepening experience. To join in the live group, please email Rev. Steve Clifton ([sclifton@rideaupark.ca](mailto:sclifton@rideaupark.ca)) to receive the zoom invitation. For those who cannot attend online, meditation videos will be posted on our website for use at another time.

**Youth Confirmation Classes**

**Y**outh confirmation classes will be offered this year and we will meet over Zoom. Confirmation is for those in grades 8 and up and classes will be led by Alyce Dunnewold and Rev. Steve. We will meet on a day and at a time that works for everyone. If you would like to know more or to sign up, email Steve at [sclifton@rideaupark.ca](mailto:sclifton@rideaupark.ca).



**Rideau Park's 2021 Stewardship Campaign**



**T**he 2021 Stewardship Campaign Chair is Greig Scott. He kindly accepted to help with our annual campaign that sustains Rideau Park as a vibrant and active community of faith. The congregation's time, talents and financial support are crucial to maintain our presence and continue our capacity as a centre of spirituality, community and service.

The theme for this year's campaign is found in three words – faithful, hopeful, loving. For 2021 Stewardship is reintroducing the Time and Talents aspect to the campaign. Your input to this initiative is appreciated. 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 21st – 25th   | Stewardship material distributed;                      |
| Sunday, September 27th  | Stewardship Campaign Chair speaks to the congregation; |
| September 28th - onward | Pledges can be returned;                               |
| October 19th            | Follow-up for outstanding pledges.                     |



Each year we respond to God's generous Spirit and many blessings with our sustaining financial support, time and talents. Our commitments allow us to experience God's grace and do God's work for our families, friends, neighbours and others that we may reach out to.

### News from Rideau Park UCW

In the fall, UCW activities usually ramp up. The fall Nearly New Sale kicks off our season and then it is Bazaar time – our best fundraiser of the year. The Pie Ladies start work on those famous turkey and meat pies. Unit 7 makes fruit pies to sell at the bake table; gardeners bring in canna lily bulbs and pot up geraniums for the plant room; crafters are busy knitting that last pair or two of mittens; there are rows of jams, jellies, and pickles in cupboards waiting for the Jam and Jelly Table (never mind that the currants in Sue Davidson's garden disappeared overnight taken by the birds looking for fluid during the very dry hot spell we had this summer...a sign perhaps?), the Tea Room, the Ladies Boutique, the books, the Men's General Store, the Silent Auction, what can we do?

thanks  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Tough decisions had to be made! A survey is done! The answers come, a pattern develops, we know the unthinkable is happening! For The First Time Ever...

#### IT CANNOT BE DONE SAFELY!

**There will be no Rideau Park Bazaar on the first Saturday of November 2020.**

It is a hard but necessary decision for the UCW and the best way for us all to stay healthy.

You may wonder why is the UCW fundraising separate and apart from Rideau Park United Church congregational fundraising? We have a long history of strong women working hard to provide help to local charities that they believe in over and above what Rideau Park provides to the National Church Mission and Service fund and some support to various groups through our Social Action and Outreach Committee. In 2020 we are trying to continue that tradition as best we can and we hope for as long as we can. In 2019 the UCW made donations as follows:

- ◆ Counselling/Support: Christie Lake Camp, Heron Emergency Food Centre, Rotary House (Ottawa), The Butterfly Project
- ◆ Rideau Park United Church: Benevolent Fund, Ministry and Programs Fund, Christmas Cheer Project
- ◆ Senior Health/Care: Alzheimer Society, Bruyère (Respite for Caregivers), Hospice Care Ottawa (May Court Hospice)
- ◆ Shelters: Harmony House (2nd Stage Women's Shelter), Interval House (1st Stage Women's Shelter), Empathy House, Harvest House
- ◆ United Church of Canada: Centre 507 located In Ottawa, United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund.
- ◆ International Aid: Guatemala Stove Project
- ◆ Camperships or paid fees to: City of Ottawa for our Syrian Family, Rideau Hill Camp, Camp Kalalla

With the hope that the UCW can continue to donate to these charities in 2020 when they will most certainly need our help, we are suggesting a couple of ways that can be considered.

1. We are suggesting you consider a financial donation to the UCW for which you receive a tax receipt. When making this donation you might want to consider what you would normally contribute to the Bazaar in baking and the cost of those ingredients, in time and in Tea Room tickets, books, Silent Auction, Deli, jams and jellies and, of course, the General Store, plants, Ladies Boutique. This is one option if you are able to do so. You might consider making these donations during the last week of October and the first week of November when the normal Bazaar activity is at its peak.



◆ The UCW is now able to accept e-transfers to [ucwfinance@rideaupark.ca](mailto:ucwfinance@rideaupark.ca) or you can mail your donation to Elaine Robertson, UCW Treasurer, 31 Pittaway Ave., Ottawa, ON, K1G 4P3. Elaine's contact number is 613-447-9119 if you have any questions on how to donate.

2. We are suggesting and encouraging those UCW members or others who are comfortable organizing, doing, managing payment and pickup to initiate Rideau Park Pop-Up fundraisers with funds going to what would normally be the UCW Bazaar fundraiser. The UCW will support you in any way we are comfortable doing. Please contact us if you have ideas or expertise and know-how.

One last word, this is only a 2020 decision on fundraising and we will re-evaluate on a regular basis and move forward with bigger projects when Public Health allows and we are comfortable. No matter what, at year-end the UCW will donate what we have and pray that 2021 will be a better year.

We will miss these events greatly. If you have questions, comments or concerns please contact me at [UCW@rideaupark.ca](mailto:UCW@rideaupark.ca).

Blessings to all.

*Nancy Begg-Durkee, President*

Stay Healthy and Be Kind to Yourself and Others



### Re-Opening of Rideau Park United Church

*Patricia Whitridge, Chair Council*

Council has now accepted a plan to start welcoming people into the church for limited in-person worship. While we continue along this path, our livestreaming of Sunday morning services remains the primary way to worship at Rideau Park. We realize that many in our congregation miss worship in the Sanctuary, so we are moving as quickly as we feel safe. We would also like to mention that Ottawa Public Health recommends that those over 70 years of age stay home.

From September 13th to October 4th, we will welcome up to 20 people in the Sanctuary for worship. If all goes well, this number may be increased to 40 guests in the pews starting Thanksgiving Sunday, October 11th. We will stay at that number until Public Health increases the maximum for indoor gatherings.

To join in the in-person worship at Rideau Park, there are several precautions that you will have to accept: wearing masks at all times inside the building (unless you are preaching or reading scripture), maintaining a safe distance of 2 metres (6 feet) between you and people not within your bubble, and sanitizing your hands upon entry to the church.

There are also many conditions that you will need to respect:

1. You will need to make a reservation for your group, either using the online reservation system or by phoning Debi Brown or Nancy McPherson. Details are available on the church website or from the office.
2. When you make the reservation, you will be required to provide names and contact information for everyone in your group to be used for contact tracing if necessary. It will be necessary to register for a "ticket" to attend in-person worship. To register you simply need to click on the Sunday service that you would like to attend in the Upcoming Events on the website. You will be directed to the registration form. A confirmation email will be sent to you. Reservations can also be made by calling Nancy at 613-737-7339 or Debi at 819-684-1061.
3. Entrance to the Sanctuary will be using the doors on Alta Vista Drive at the back of the church only. Exit from the Sanctuary will be using the doors on Cunningham Avenue by Georgina's office only.
4. When you enter the church, your name will be verified on the reservation list. Your temperature will be taken using a touch-less infrared thermometer. You will be asked standard Covid screening questions.
5. Ushers will seat you starting at the front of the church. You must remain in your bubble in your assigned seats.
6. There will be NO singing or humming, not even quietly.
7. There will be no Sunday School or childcare in the church. Your child must remain with you at all times. There are no toys or books available but you may bring your own toys.
8. Sunday service will be contactless. There will be no bulletins or papers and hymn books and Bibles have been removed from the pews.
9. There will be no coffee or fellowship time before or after the service. Socializing may occur outside the building while maintaining social distancing.
10. There will be offering baskets at the entrance and exit from the Sanctuary. The offering will be sealed and counted after 7 days.
11. At the end of the service, you will remain in your pew until the ushers direct you to exit. Exiting will begin from the front of the church.
12. The only bathroom available is located outside Georgina's office. There will be wipes to use to wipe down the surfaces for the next occupant.



We have been working very hard to put in place a process to safely begin in-person worship at Rideau Park. We have proceeded cautiously to ensure the safety of our staff, congregation and volunteers, working within Public Health guidelines in a very challenging situation.

As we continue to move forward, we can use your help! Ken Tong, Vice Chair of Council, will be heading the Covid Tigers. If you have suggestions or ideas to offer or time to get involved, there are still many details to pin down as we welcome people for in-person worship and get ready for Phase 3.

We look forward to seeing the church building come to life again after such an unprecedented, prolonged absence.

### Refugee Update

Marilyn Law



I thought you might like to know what I have been up to this summer regarding refugees. I get at least one call a week, sometime two, asking for assistance from people in Ottawa who want to bring relatives and friends to Canada. Some of these people have been in Ottawa for several years. These people escaped from the country where they were born because of fear, corruption, forced work in labour camps, lack of education, a brutal military and many other issues. They walked for miles to get to another country; in some cases, they were imprisoned in the country to which they fled. Very often, they paid an exorbitant amount of money to get to Uganda, Kenya, Israel or other countries only to find that, even though they had been designated a refugee by the UNHCR, they could not work to look after themselves. Eventually, they were able to reach Canada, obtained their permanent residence status, and found a job. Now they want to bring family members to Canada who have also escaped from their country of origin and are also in refugee camps.

I meet with these people and explain what has to be done to bring in their family. I explain the documents that their family has to prepare in the country where they are living and forward them to Ottawa. The family in Ottawa then contacts me and we meet; I review the documents and, if everything is in order, I prepare documents for Immigration. I ask them for the necessary funds and, once I have them, I prepare an agreement that is signed by them and Rideau Park. I send the documents to Toronto once they have been completed and, most importantly, I have the funds. I am always amazed at the funds these people provide to me so willingly so they can bring their family to Canada.

Immigration Canada has a program called Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH) and the United Church of Canada is a SAH, as are many other churches and organizations. The people who contact me want the backing of the church which means that the church will sponsor their relatives or friends and provide funds for one year to get them started. Currently, I have some 17 files. **RIDEAU PARK, HOWEVER, WILL NOT HAVE TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT ANY OF THESE PEOPLE. THE FAMILY IN OTTAWA PROVIDES US WITH FUNDS FOR RIDEAU PARK TO HOLD IN A GIC, AND WHEN THE FAMILY ARRIVES IN OTTAWA, THE GIC IS CASHED. DEBI BROWN SETS UP AN ACCOUNT AND THE FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FAMILY EACH MONTH.**

This summer has been particularly busy for some reason. Several times, I have met with people, reviewed documents, received funds, and prepared a letter to the United Church in Toronto. Because of the pandemic, I send everything to Toronto by e-mail. Emmanuel United and Carleton United do a lot of this type of work, as do other United Churches in Ottawa. The people who eventually get to Ottawa cannot wait to get to work. All the families we have brought in, settled in quickly, took ESL classes, and began looking for work as soon as possible. If they have children, they are in school and doing very well. Snow, rain, ice and heat, do not bother them. They are just happy to be here where it is peaceful, and soon they begin to think about bringing other family members to Canada.

In a few months, Lynn Sherwood, who is on the Social Action/Outreach Committee, will be writing about three new refugee families who have arrived in the last year.

I hope this gives you a little indication of what Rideau Park is doing regarding refugees.



### Bazaar Update

As Nancy Begg-Durkee has advised everyone, this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, Rideau Park won't be holding its Bazaar. It's very unfortunate to break this lovely tradition, but this will be the situation for many churches; we're all in this together, as they say. While the majority of our UCW members prefer this fall to proceed with the utmost caution, that doesn't mean that individuals can't choose to shepherd mini projects on the church's behalf. We do have a couple of thoughts as to possible fund-raising mini projects or pop-up's, that could be considered over the next few months:

Let's face it, the way to a Rideau Park's heart is through their stomach. I am not going to make a complicated analogy involving more of our organs (although RP does have a great organ!) but a LOT of our very successful fundraising is centred upon food – the lobster supper, the roast beef and turkey dinners, the tea room, the fellowship lunches, the bake table, the deli and the bake sales. Bearing that in mind, if someone wished to make pies (savory or sweet), it would be a manageable mini project to coordinate and advertise to the RP community. In truth, someone is looking into that as I type, but more than one event of this type could occur between now and Christmas. In the summer, we also put out a request for jam/jelly/relish-makers to keep us in mind.

*Continued on page 7*

**Bazaar Update (continued from page 6)**

Another possible mini project could focus on crafts. If anyone has been knitting or sewing for the Bazaar (that now won't take place) and wanted to act as shepherd, it would be relatively easy to advertise on the RP Facebook page, the website, the congregational email, unit emails, etc. The UCW will offer as much support as possible for these pop-up projects. Please let me know if you have other, even more inventive ideas that will help us continue to raise funds for the UCW. Please remember that these funds are donated to local charities, as well as to Mission & Service, at year-end.

This year, I was meant to continue as Bazaar Convener. Obviously, while I may be involved in some of the aforementioned mini or pop-up projects, it's not the same as convening our usual Bazaar. I'm pleased to offer to serve as Bazaar Convener in 2021 – and I really hope that we will be able to host an event that safely and joyously brings together Rideau Parkers and many others in celebration.

Many thanks, and stay well, everyone.

*Nancy McPherson, Bazaar Convener*

**Rideau Parkers Recommend...**

We are, apparently, big readers at RPUC. People enjoyed the recommendations passed along in the May issue, so here are some more that have been shared on the Rideau Park Facebook page. There are also a few movies and TV series recommended at the end.

**Books**

- “Girl on the Train” (thriller) by Paula Hawkins
- “Firefly Lane”, “True Color”, “Nightingale”, “Winter Garden” (historical fiction) by Kristin Hannah
- “The Book of Lost Names”, “The Room on Rue Amelie” (historical fiction) by Kristin Harmel
- “Be Still the Water” (Canadian historical fiction) by Karen Emilson
- “Too Much and Never Enough: How my family created the world’s most dangerous man” (non-fiction, political) by Dr. Mary L. Trump
- “The Prodigal God” (theology) by Timothy Keller
- “Indian Horse” (Indigenous novel) by Richard Wagamese
- “Moon on the Crusted Snow”, “Legacy”, “Starlight”, “Medicine Walk”, “Ragged Company” (Indigenous novels) by Waubgeshig Rice. Author does novels and short stories.
- “The Storyteller” (novel) by Jodi Picoult
- “The Alice Network”, “The Huntress” (historical novel) by Kate Quinn
- “The Testaments” (novel) by Margaret Atwood
- “My Brilliant Friend” (novel, part of quartet, series on Crave) by Elena Ferrante
- “Bone Black” (Indigenous mystery) by Carol Rose Golden Eagle
- “I’ll Keep You Safe” (thriller) by Peter May
- “White Fragility: Why it’s so hard for white people to talk about racism” (race relations, non-fiction) by Robin DiAngelo

**Films/TV**

- “Marshall” (biographical) on Netflix, about Thurgood Marshall, starring the late Chadwick Boseman
- “Indian Matchmaking” (TV series about Sima Taparia, matchmaker) on Netflix
- “Emma” (based on Austen’s novel) on Netflix
- “13th” (documentary on racial inequality by Ava DuVernay) on Netflix
- “Greyhound” (based on true WW2 story), starring Tom Hanks, on Apple+ TV



### Organizations and Groups Who Meet at RPUC

**I**t may help people to understand/know what we are doing to open the building to the community. Rideau Park is now entering the phase where the building is open for worship services and we are preparing for the next phase, which involves opening the building for activities. Please note that the building will not be open for non-worship purposes prior to October 1. To facilitate the process, organizations are asked for their plan to resume their activity in terms of Covid-19 restrictions. **Access to meeting space will not be provided before a written plan is submitted.** The following key elements must be included in your plan: 1) Name of organization; 2) Principle contact person (name and contact info); 3) Day and time of use preferred; 4) Preferred return date; 5) Number of persons expected; 6) Room request; and 7) Meeting guidelines/protocols, including physical distancing measures and health checks. A key element of controlling the spread of Covid-19 is disinfection/sanitization. Therefore, Rideau Park asks: 1) Are you prepared to cover the additional costs related to sanitizing?; and 2) Are you prepared to sanitize your room(s) after use?



**There are three guiding principles to gather in Rideau Park United Church:** Masks will be worn at all times while in the building, hands will be sanitized on entry and physical distancing as per Public Health recommendations (currently 2 meters) will be maintained.

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