



Reach Out



Glen Cairn United Church Newsletter

Sunday Service 10:00 AM

140 Abbeyhill Drive, Kanata, Ontario, Canada, K2L 1H5

November 2012

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We are called by God to be a welcoming church where we respect differences and build Christian community, as we learn, grow, celebrate, and reach out in faith.

Minister's Message

submitted by Brian Copeland

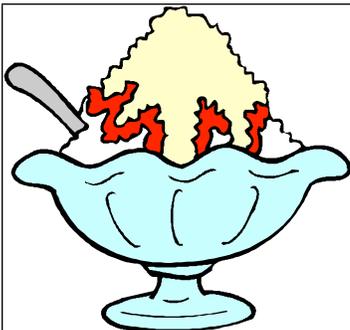
The stars have been glorious lately. The winter sky at night, so cold and clear, is spectacular in its beauty. Orion dominates the heavens in this season, and fills the eye and the mind with wonder. The magi looked to the skies and saw that one special star which led them to find a child, newly born, for the world. The night sky was so magnificent they naturally turned their eyes heavenward and there it was, that most unusual, most out of the ordinary star which led them on a journey to a child.

We celebrate Advent with concerts and parties and prayer, and this season I invite you to look to the heavens as part of your Advent preparation. To consider the world God made, the world in which Jesus was born, the world where wonder still exists. Look to the sky each evening, and offer your prayer of thanksgiving and of hope. A child is born tonight under a star.

As a child I could be mesmerized by the night sky. The stars held a magic, a power beyond imagining. Was there life on some distant planet, did the heavens hold a truth I could not yet discern. Perhaps most of us, save for the few astronomers in our midst, have lost that sense of mystery which the winter sky bestows. This Advent may be a time to rekindle that wonder at the world God made, the world into which Jesus was born. You may want to take your children away from their homework, away from the TV and the computer, and just breathe in the amazement of the stars above.

I pray for each of you a season of being led to a place of hope. The magi started their journey not sure where God was leading, but in the end they found a child of incredible promise. May a star lead you this Holy Season, from the busy times and the quiet loneliness to a place where hope and love shine anew.

We live by the promise of a new world, and God gives us this most precious gift in Jesus, born for us, born to bring hope to a weary world. May it be so for us, and for our world this Advent.



Advent Sunday

On Dec. 2nd, we shall celebrate the first Sunday in Advent with a special treat during coffee/snack time. Please come and join us for an Advent Sundae. Regular, gluten-free and dairy-free ice cream and a variety of toppings will be available. Welcome to the time of waiting!

Hallelujah – it's Holiday Lights time!

Submitted by Kathryn Young-Davies

When the coloured lights start twinkling around our neighbourhood, it's a signal that Christmas is not far off. And when the choirs at Glen Cairn United Church start rehearsing "Holiday Lights" and the "Hallelujah Chorus" – that's also a signal that the annual Advent concert is not far off.

This year, the choirs will be joined by the Stained Glass Band and a group of Bell High School students to present "Holiday Lights," our annual concert of Christmas carols and seasonal music, on **Sunday, December 2 at 7 p.m.** – the first Sunday of Advent.

It will be difficult to choose the highlight of the concert. The young children usually steal the show with their cuteness and enthusiasm. The Senior Choir is tackling the challenging yet rousing "Hallelujah Chorus" for the first time in a few decades. The Bell students – calling themselves SOUNDS – include many young GCUC members performing "Carol of the Bells." And singing along with favourite Christmas carols is always guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit.

No tickets are required! Since the concert is sponsored by GCUC's Outreach Committee, the proceeds of the free-will offering will go towards two charities. Chrysalis House provides emergency shelter and support to abused women and their children. Services include advocacy, practical help, information, referrals and counseling for women, children and youth. QuickStart raises money to give young children speedier access to treatment for autism. The non-profit organization partners with other agencies to offer programs for parents, giving them the tools and training to work with their children. For further information about these worthy causes, please visit www.quickstartautism.ca and www.wocrc.ca/en/programs-services/violence-against-women-services/chrysalis-house.aspx

As always, there will be delectable desserts served after the hour-long concert. Everyone is welcome – bring your friends and family. For further information, please call the church office at 613-836-4756.



Sunday School

Our annual Sunday School pageant will take place during the regular church service on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2012. More information about the pageant will be available in the individual classes. There will be intergenerational services (no classes) on December 23 and 30; on January 6, there will be a group activity with Barbara, likely painting. Classes will resume on January 13th. Blessings of the season to all Sunday School teachers, leaders, children and youth.

Bible Study

submitted by Sandra Copeland

It is amazing that the season of Advent is almost here! As our schedules get busier the closer we move to Christmas, Bible study will pause for the season, with the last study being on Thursday December 13th. It will resume on Monday January 14th.

2012 Santa Claus parade a great success!

Submitted by Emmett Will

Each year since 2009, a hardy group of volunteers has assembled early on the morning of the annual Kanata Santa Claus parade to prepare and serve hot refreshments and homemade cookies to the folks waiting for Santa to pass by our church on his way to his Hazeldean Mall destination. This year was truly exceptional in every way. The weather was practically balmy, resulting in the largest turnout for the parade we've seen in many years: Abbeyhill Drive was lined with hundreds of people.

A few of our volunteers walked down the sidewalks on both sides of the street distributing small cards which promoted the upcoming Cookie Walk and, on the reverse, listed our church's Christmas Concert and the Christmas Eve services. They also encouraged people to wander down towards the church to enjoy a free cup of steaming hot coffee, hot chocolate, or hot apple cider, and a free cookie as well, while they waited for the parade to pass by. As a result, we served an estimated four hundred and fifty adults and children, explained about the Cookie Walk to many of them, and distributed over 250 cards.

It was heartwarming to see the smiles and looks of gratitude – and surprise! – on their faces when told that the refreshments were absolutely free. Nevertheless, they generously donated a total of \$400.50 in a free will offering when informed that the money would go towards our community outreach programmes. Many people indicated to us that they will definitely come to the December 1st Cookie Walk . . . and that they would be back again next year for their free treats!

Anne McEwen and Emmett would like to thank all those who contributed cookies, prepared the refreshments in the kitchen, served the treats to our neighbours, and helped to promote our Cookie Walk, Christmas Concert, and Christmas Eve services. Through your efforts, our community is gradually getting to know our church a little bit better each year, and to recognize that we are a caring, nurturing, proactive community of faith and a vital force in our community. Thanks to all who helped!



Sunday School + Youth Group

Submitted by Jason Winter

I just thought I'd take a brief moment to introduce myself. My name is Jason Winter, and I'm the new Sunday School/Youth Coordinator. I am currently a student at the University of Ottawa studying Bio-Medical Sciences. I have taught Sunday School for the last 4 years. I have a lot of hobbies, I love playing tennis, going skating, playing guitar, singing, painting etc. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to let me know, and feel free just to say "hi" as well.

The Sunday School has gotten off to an excellent start! In Sunday School, we have 4 distinct classes, the 3-5 year olds, the 6-8 year olds, the 9-11 year olds, and the Seekers class, which is comprised of all of the older youth. This year (as in past years), we are following the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum, which provides lesson ideas, etc. We begin each Sunday School Session by all meeting as a group (minus the Seekers who go straight to their own class), where we have a brief discussion on various topics, and then sing the song of the month. Afterward, the children proceed to go off to their own classes designed for their age group with their respective teachers, where they usually have another discussion/story time about the lesson of the day, and usually participate in some sort of craft activity. Most of the classes have now made themselves a flag, which is proudly displayed outside the room during class. We're looking forward to a great year!

Our Youth Group has also gotten off to a great start. We started this year off with the annual bike rally, where we biked all around Kanata, solving the clues provided, and racing back to the Church. Early in October, we went to Laser Quest, and we were accompanied by Brian. Brian (minister007) won the first round, and also placed on the top scores of the entire day. However, in the Second round, I won, and placed #1 on the scores for the day. Needless to say, a lot of fun was had by all! In Late October, we had our Halloween Fun Night, where we carved many pumpkins, ate lots of chocolate, and had lots of pumpkin pie. We've got a lot of great events planned for the rest of the year, and we're really looking forward to it.

Ontario Accessibility Act

Places of worship must now comply with the customer service part of the Ontario Accessibility Act. The hope is to create places and interactions that honour everyone's dignity, independence, opportunity and equal opportunity.

The standards that apply to worshipping communities are:

- (i) for the congregation to develop customer service policies and procedures for serving persons with disabilities;
- (ii) the provision of training for staff and/or volunteers working with the public on behalf of the community of faith; and
- (iii) some feedback mechanism to ensure that everything is working.

As a first step, GCUC Council would like a small committee (about five persons) to prepare a customer service policy. Lots of resources are available to assist the committee in its work. It is expected that this committee would complete its work in four to six months. If you would like to be part of this project, please speak to one of your presbytery representatives, Dave Clarke, Barbara Reynolds and Hanna Strong

Property Management

submitted by Moe Wright

Chair Property Management Committee

As it is a relatively brief time since our last newsletter, there have not been a lot of significant happenings outside daily custodial care. However, one event worthy of mention was the installation of new flooring in classroom 'E', thanks to the great help of Kevin Landry, Kevin McComas, Robert Tate, Delma Murray and Faye Adams. Our next flooring adventure will be the largest classroom, Room 'C', which is scheduled for the day of December the 6th. We currently have three volunteers committed, but could still use a couple more, so, if you are available, please contact Moe Wright and brighten his day. Once the last room is finished we will have a bee to paint and install the baseboards in all the classrooms.

As our truly beloved minister, Brian is traditionally proud of keeping Sunday services to the one hour limit, with reasonable exceptions, and as the sanctuary clock had met a 'timely' death, it has now been replaced by a larger one with larger numbers.

Pending seasonal work is preparing for winter, with attention being given to replacing worn-out door weather-stripping, and getting the slush mats ready to lay out, etc.

While not being direct projects of Property Management, some over-lapping sub-committees are currently looking into the installation of roof-mounted solar power panels and new visual display screens for the sanctuary. Sherry Sharpe is stewarding separate federal grant applications to significantly help with these initiatives, and the solar panel and visual display screen projects are being shepherded by John Toft and Robert Tate, respectively.

We also really appreciate all souls who are particularly attentive to helping to keep our church building as clean and functional as possible.

Outreach Committee

Submitted by Emmett Will

Throughout history, religious institutions of all denominations have played an active and vital role in their communities. They have provided educational opportunities, health services, advocacy for the helpless, emotional and financial support in times of tragedy, and many other services not offered, or inadequately covered, by other agencies, associations, or government bodies. Glen Cairn United is no exception and we can take great pride in the many accomplishments of our own congregation.

This past spring, our congregation voted to accept the United Church of Canada's offer to forgive the Ventures in Mission (VIM) loan that helped us to build our beautiful church building in 1986. The expectation is that we will continue to collect and use VIM funds to develop effective programs and projects for the benefit of our fellow citizens. We now have a wonderful opportunity to put these funds to work in our community.

Your Outreach Committee has been hard at work over the past seven months, scanning the needs of the Kanata community where we can make a difference by putting the VIM funds to work. We approached leaders of key volunteer community associations, local politicians, education, health, and public safety officials, and representatives of government-funded institutions with a single question: "How can we help to make Kanata a better place to live and work?" As a result of our interviews, we have gathered a wealth of information about the needs of our community which are currently not being met or are under-served, and we have developed a short list of areas where we feel we can make an impact.

On December 9th, our Committee will present you with a slate of several possible programs where we might invest our financial resources, time, and energies. We encourage you to share your suggestions, enthusiasm, and concerns about each of these proposals and we invite anyone who has an idea for a program to submit a proposal.

On January 20th, we will hold a "VIM-Outreach Exhibition" where you may ask questions about each proposed program and offer your suggestions. Members of our Committee, shown in the accompanying photo below, will be on hand to explain in greater detail how each program will address a community need; and our concept of how each program could possibly run. Out of that Exhibition will come a recommendation to Council to implement one VIM-Outreach program for 2013. If approved, the program will be included in the 2013 budget for congregational approval.

The name of our church newsletter – **Reach Out!** – was chosen for good reason. We really do need, and fervently desire, to reach out to our fellow citizens and be recognized as a vibrant, caring, and proactive community of faith. With your help, through our Outreach program we can make a difference in our Kanata community!

Worship Committee

submitted by Kevin McComas
Chair of Worship Committee

On Sunday, November 16th, our youngest Volunteer Associate Minister to GCUC, Reverend Dr Don Boyd, led the service as Brian was away in Toronto serving on an exciting committee that was reviewing Ministry Employment Policies for the United Church. Anyway I hope you enjoyed Don's thoughts on "Small things". It always amazes me how the scriptures are so packed full of food for thought and that it is possible to spend a life time digging and delving into them and yet never coming to the end of all that there is to learn. Thank you, Don, for your leadership and thoughts. We are indeed fortunate to have so many talented people in the congregation.

We are on the verge of another Advent season with little snow here yet albeit some frosty mornings. But it is the time of carol singing. On December 2nd at 7.00 pm there will be a carol service at GCUC. No doubt the choir and musicians will be putting on another warm show and inclusive entertainment for all who can come. Come early as the sanctuary will be full.

On the following Sunday, December 9th, there will be a Blue Christmas service, also at 7.00 pm and designed for those who find this time of year not so happy. The Pastoral Care team will be leading this and will have more details for you. This will be followed on December 16th with the Sunday School Pageant who will also be giving more details.

Christmas Eve will see the 3 traditional services;

- 6.00 pm Family service; a busy and active service!
- 8.00 pm Readings and Carols; a community service and often full.
- 11.00 pm Communion service; a quieter and more contemplative service.

The last Sunday of 2012 will be held on December 30th and there will be no choir as they will be resting their voices and there will also be no Sunday School. And then we move into 2013!

The Worship Committee wishes you all a very meaningful Advent Season and would also like to thank the whole congregation for each doing their part to make GCUC a community of faithful activity.

United Church Women

submitted by Martha Townshend Colford

Have you Started your Baking Yet?!

It is that time of year again (this coming week) for the most famous fund-raiser of our church. We are now very well known for the Annual Christmas Cookie Walk, Craft Fair, and Silent Auction being held this year on Saturday, December 1st from 9 am until noon. This year is our **21st** so let's echo last year and make a special effort to make it a great function. Last year was the first time we could stop the line of people entering the Main Hall and promise those people they could still purchase from a great selection of Christmas cookies. This is a congregational event so please be sure to spare some time this week to bake **Christmas** Cookies, decide what you can put in the Silent Auction and if you have some crafts you would like to donate everything is welcome. Please be generous with your time and donations. Are you wondering what you can give to the Silent Auction? (We are not looking for garage sale items, please save those for the spring.) Here is a time to purchase something with your HBC, Shopper's Drug Mart, or Canadian Tire points, donate tickets to an event you will not be using, donate new or gently used items that could be given as gifts. You can donate your time or services to make a meal, shovel a driveway, put up Christmas lights, babysit so someone can do their shopping, or wherever your imagination will take you. On Sunday, November 25th we asked you to take one or two signs to put out at corners. We will be looking for people to help set up tables or hang garland on Friday, November 30th in the afternoon. Please volunteer and watch me smile. Cookies and other items may be dropped off at the church kitchen on Friday, November 30th in the morning, 1-3 pm, or from 7-9 pm or on Saturday, December 1st at 8 am.

We had a wonderful time at our November meeting. Linda Short led us in a craft making multi-coloured scarves. We were just like kindergarten children during arts and crafts hour.

Our December meeting will be on Monday, December 10th at 6:30 pm. We will be sharing in a potluck meal of appetizers/hors d'oeuvres and making decisions on giving money to our own church, both the operating budget and capital needs and desires, and other charities.

We will be catering a wedding reception on Wednesday, December 12th and then on Wednesday, December 19th we will be providing a yummy Christmas dinner to the Lunch 'n Such group. Are you an adult from our church who is available at noon time? Then please purchase a \$15 (what a bargain!) ticket from Martha Townshend Colford, Pat Will, or the church office. The musical entertainment is the Amabile Singers directed by Scott Auchinleck.

If you would like more information about UCW or would like to help out in any way, please contact Martha Townshend Colford. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Monday, January 14th at 7:30 pm.

The Healing Pathway

submitted by Lynda Brooks

The team continues to minister to participants every Wednesday from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. If you would like to de-stress and feel very relaxed, reduce pain, increase your spiritual connection, or deal with any other issue, please call and book an appointment with Lynda.

Pastoral Care

submitted by Lynda Brooks

I would like to say how happy we are to welcome Bob Hough and Marilyn Richardson to the team. Also on the team are, Brian Copeland, Lynda Brooks, Joy Craigie, Joy Judd, Shelley McLaughlin, Delma Murray and Moe Wright.

The team had a retreat this month to review how we perceived we had done in the past year. We decided that it may be a good idea to actually check with the congregation as to how they feel we are doing. We will be following up with a questionnaire. We hope you will take the time to fill it out.

The team will also be hosting a contemplative service with music, lighting of candles and prayer on December 9th at 7:00 p.m. We hope anyone who would like a quiet service will come. All are welcome.

It has been wonderful being the chair of the Pastoral Care Team for the past 8 years. I will be handing over the position to the very capable hands of Bob Hough in January. Thank You for all the support.

Christmas Outreach Activity

Submitted by Cathy Turner

This year GCUC will be supporting the Kanata Food Cupboard's Angel Tree program which provides gifts for children of families in our area who are currently being helped by the Kanata Food Cupboard.

Angels will be identified as a boy or a girl, along with their age. Gifts, including the Angel Tag, are to be provided unwrapped but you may include a gift bag or other appropriate wrapping. This ensures that the Food Cupboard team can closely match the child's interests with the gifts available before final wrapping and distribution.

We will also be collecting Canadian Tire money which will be used by the Food Cupboard to purchase gift cards for families.

Please see Holly Egan or Cathy Turner to pick up your Angel Tag, to drop off your gift, or to donate some Canadian Tire money. All gifts and Canadian Tire money need to be in to either Holly or Cathy by **Sunday December 9th**.

Let's help a child smile this Christmas!

Monthly Outreach Appeals

Every month our church collects much-needed items for organizations that can benefit from these donations. In the past we have collected: Jam for Centre 507, school supplies for the Kanata Food Cupboard, puzzles for seniors' residences, toiletries for the Ottawa Mission... and the list goes on.

If you have any suggestions for the upcoming year for our monthly appeals, please speak with either Holly Egan or Cathy Turner or leave a note in the Outreach mail slot beside the church office.

The Stewardship Connection submitted by Sherry Sharpe

Welcome to the Advent Season! As we know, Christmas is the gift-giving season and even though stores are well stocked, sometimes, it is difficult to find the right gift for every person on our lists. God had no such problems. He knew exactly what each person needed. God sent his son. This was the most incredible gift! How do we respond to the gift God has given us? We should be asking "What have I given to him?" As stewards, we each have something to give back to God. Let us keep this in mind as we prayerfully give in support of God's work.

Our Fall Harvest Festival and Rummage Sale, held on October 20, was a huge success! The festival includes a fabulous 100-mile Meal and Oktoberfest BBQ, book sales, bake sales, a silent auction, yard sale items, Nan's Cupboard, a Christmas Shoppe, and much more. This event not only helps accomplish our objectives to raise funds for GCUC for programming such as music, youth, and Christian formation, but also doubles as an outreach to our local woman's shelter and beyond. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers for this very successful event. **We raised even more this year than before with revenues of just over \$3,200.** Dianne, Martha, and Sherry would like to **express our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals for making this day a success:** Faye and Hal Adams, Delma Murray, Moe Wright, Dave Leclair, Sandra Copeland, Peter Bishop, Scott Auchinleck, Dave Short, Jason Winter, Monica Winter, Ruth Winter, Cathy Turner, Bev Armbruster, Joy Judd, Jennifer Yeates, Janet Smith, Anne McEwen, Linda Short, Dona Jeffs, Pauline Baker, Pat Will, Wanda McNea, Brenda and Elwood Hodgins, Linda Brooks, Nancy Sprules, Shirley Wright, Wayne Hodgson, Hailey and Sam Mitchell, Marilyn Matte, Terry Mallon, Anne and John Toft, Eleanor and Geoff Ford, Cindy Day, Gail Day, and Hazel Lucas, Robert Tate, Cheryl Moss, Barb Loynes, Joy Craigie, Avis Templeton, Nancy Boyd, Joanne Tuttle, and Peter and Jackson, Heather MacDonald, Shirley Bishop, Daniel Dickson, and Makannah and Morgan Monette.

Come to the Ceilidh! On **January 26**, we will celebrate **Robbie Burns Day** with another fun-filled ceilidh. Doors will open at 6:00 pm starting with a traditional Burns Supper prepared by our own UCW and followed by entertainment and dancing to the Ottawa Cape Breton Session. We thoroughly enjoyed these ceilidhs last year and this is an excellent fundraiser for the Church! Instruction for Scottish Country Dancing will be led by Charlie Inglis of the Scottish Country Dancing Society and friends! **Tickets will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.** Please see Sherry for ticket sales. **Bring your friends and family - Come to the Ceilidh!**

Join us in **April** for live entertainment by the [Scott Woods Band](#).

The Stewardship committee has been working on three submissions for funding, two in support of the installation of air conditioning in the Church and the third in support of the installation of solar panels. Two of the submissions are under the Economic Action Plan **federal grant funding** and the third seeks support from the federal Enabling Accessibility Funding program. For further information regarding the **air conditioning** proposal, please speak to Moe Wright. For further information on the details of the proposal for **solar panels**, please see John Toft and his team. Thanks Moe and John for all the excellent work

GCUC Men's Group

submitted by Emmett Will

The Men's Group is a loosely-knit, informal group of men from our congregation who get together several times each year to take part in a variety of social and educational activities. All men of the congregation, and their invitees, are welcome to join us at any time. We recently got together at the Golf-o-Max facility on Baxter Road for a delayed golf outing – delayed, because our carefully planned and highly anticipated September golfing date had to be cancelled on account of the bad weather at that time. Nevertheless, despite the colder weather and possibility of snow or rain, we had an excellent turnout of 24 men who selected one of the over 50 championship courses for their foursomes to take on. Everyone had a great time and we are already looking for another opportunity to get together in the new year. For more information, please contact Emmett Will.



Rev. Copeland – Praying for a long drive!

Our dessert cake was delicious.



These photos were taken by Robert Tate.



CHRISTMAS DINNER
Wednesday, December 19th
Noon

**Join us for a delightful turkey dinner
with all the trimmings.**

Good food and good friends.

Cost: \$15

**Tickets available in the foyer after church, from the church
office or**

contact Patricia Will

at 613-836-1450

Tickets must be purchased by Sunday, Dec. 9th.

**Following the dinner we will be entertained by The
Amabile Singers, a ladies community choir under the
direction of our own Scott Auchinleck**