

Reach Out



Glen Cairn United Church Newsletter

Sunday Service 10:00 AM
E-mail: office@gcuc.ca

140 Abbeyhill Drive, Kanata, Ontario, Canada, K2L 1H5
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November 2013
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www.gcuc.ca

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 small church where I grew up is now the host for the community Santa's breakfast. I confess it seemed a little unusual for a church congregation, even a United Church one, to be running the Santa breakfast. Part of it is civic duty and part outreach.

The real Saint who morphed into our Santa Claus was indeed an incredible fellow. He was known for his generosity, especially to the poor, and over the ages countless miracles are attributed to him particularly when someone receives an unexpected gift which changes their life. He is held in high reverence throughout Europe and is a model for a life of sacrifice and giving to others without thought of return.

There are so many saints in our midst, in our community and congregation, who have that same spirit, and I like to believe that in God's eye they are one of a long line of Saint Nicholas' followers who populate the earth bringing joy to others through their kindness and generosity. They may not wear the red suit or travel via reindeer on Christmas Eve but they live among us and do good works day in and day out. They may even be known to call out, 'Ho! Ho! Ho!' once in a while. We are blessed by all the Saint Nicholas's who inhabit our world. They make our community stronger because, like the original Saint, they live to give to others. It's in their blood. It's in their being. And God in Christ Jesus helps us to see a new world through these grace giving saints.

In a few weeks we celebrate God's greatest gift to us, the gift of a child, God's child, in a manger in Bethlehem. We sing our carols, we raise our voices, and we give each other a gift. So it is that we also follow in Saint Nicholas' way, and share our blessings with all those around us, and bring joy to even the smallest child. May you be blessed this Advent and Christmas season with the gift of hope, peace, joy and love! Merry Christmas, Brian.

Bible Study

Submitted by Sandra Copeland

The Thursday morning bible study group will finish for the season with the end of November, and will resume the first week in February with Rev. Dr. Don Boyd leading. It will be exciting to benefit from his years of theological study.

The Wednesday evening group will finish for the season on Dec. 11th, and will resume on January 22nd.

I hope God's word will continue to inspire and comfort you throughout the Christmas season.

♪♪ Sounds like Christmas ♪♪

The choirs of Glen Cairn United Church, located at 140 Abbeyhill Drive, corner of Old Colony Road, are pleased to present “Sounds like Christmas,” our annual concert of Christmas carols and seasonal music, on Sunday, December 1, at 7 pm.

There will be quite a variety of music, as always. We’ll be singing the old favourite "It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas." Another familiar piece is “Oh! Christmas Tree” - but the words may not be quite so familiar! (You’ll need to listen carefully!) The Junior Choir has a secret up their sleeves that involves the men of Gabriel’s Chorus . . . and that’s all we know!

The Cecilia Chorus has elected to sing more serious music this year: they will perform a beautiful setting of "Pavane for a Silent Night," based upon a composition by Maurice Ravel, and another traditional, but lesser-known, piece called "The Peace Carol."

Of course, there will be much, much more! Please come ready to sing along to some favourite Christmas carols and songs. No tickets are required: there will be a free will offering with proceeds going to support *The Oasis in Kanata*, a place for caregivers of those with mental illness. (www.TheOasisKanata.ca)

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

Applications are being accepted for coordinators, senior staff and counselors. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter.



Breads of the World



Pot luck lunch October 16th

Membership Committee

What a wonderful time of the year! As we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ, winter sets in, summer clothes are gone and winter clothes brought to the front of our closets. We spend so much time planning the Christmas celebration for our families, decorating the Christmas tree and wrapping presents. It is a joyous time!

It is also a time to plan the upcoming year. The Membership Committee is looking for three new people to join the committee: secretary, potluck coordinator, and Chair. Are you interested? We are a friendly group who spend our one hour monthly meeting discussing ways we can make you feel welcome, reviewing visitors comments from the Guest book, and preparing for the two annual potluck lunches and two Transfer breakfasts. From time to time, we do special projects such as the Photo Directory (every five years).

As Chair, you would need to attend Council once a month/ten times per year. Attending Council can be exciting because you become aware of the running of a church, what is pending, and you take part in discussions regarding upcoming changes in our church policy. Sound interesting? Please contact me to discuss, or any other member of our committee. I will send you our electronic Membership Manual which contains just about everything you might question.

Volunteer work is an extremely rewarding adventure allowing you to use skills you have not had the opportunity to use in years. I enjoy the work I do at Glen Cairn but my two year commitment is up and I will end my term in February. The secretary position is currently vacant and the present potluck coordinator is ready to move to Pastoral Care. Please think seriously about these opportunities to help GCUC.

Have a joyful Christmas ever remembering that Jesus is the reason for the season! Merry Christmas!

Patricia Taylor, Chair, Membership Committee

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, Dec. 7th from 9 am until noon. This year is our 22nd so let's echo the last two years and make a special effort to make it a great function. In 2011 and 2012 for those who were lined up before 9 am we could stop the line 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. **Except for Christmas items.**) Here is a time to purchase something with your HBC, Shopper's Drug Mart, or Canadian Tire points, or donate tickets to an event you will not be using, or donate new or gently used items that could be given as gifts, or 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, Dec. 1st please offer 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, Dec. 6th in the morning. Please volunteer and watch me smile. Cookies and other items may be dropped off at the church kitchen on Fri., Dec. 6th in the morning or from 7-9 pm or on Sat., Dec. 7th at 8 am.

We had a thoughtful and informative time at our November meeting. Two women from the organization Quilts of Valour plus our own Nancy Sprules who is also a member of the group spoke of the great need for quilts for veterans and serving members of the military who are suffering from PTSD or other stresses. They have received many letters of thanks from recipients or their families expressing deep gratitude for the gifts of quilts.

Our December meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 9th at 6:30 pm. We will be sharing in a potluck meal and making decisions on giving money to our own church, both the operating budget and capital needs and desires, and other charities.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18th we will be providing a traditional Christmas dinner to the Lunch 'n Such group. Are you an adult from our church who is available at noon time to share a delicious meal and camaraderie? Then please purchase a \$15 (what a bargain!) ticket from Martha Townshend Colford, Pat Will, or the church office. There will be musical entertainment after the meal.

If you would like more information about UCW or would like to help out in any way, please contact Glen Cairn United Church at 613-836-4756 or at office@gcuc.ca. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Monday, Jan. 13th at 7:30 pm.

Property committee
Submitted by Moe Wright

This past season the Ottawa Fire Services requested that we install an outside lockbox to provide an access key for emergency purposes, which has been done. The parking lot lights on the tall standards have been replaced, as the last one had burned out (*had been trying to save money*) it left the property with a safety and security problem - It took a while to discover a contractor with the best price, as heavy 'cherry-picker' equipment was needed - but that has also been done.

It was observed that more stacked chair glides/dollies were needed in the main hall, as well the fact both Room A and the glass lounge could use some. Labour was donated to build a dozen new glides and they are now completed and in use.

An observation that the Sunday service hymn numbers are hard to read in the lounge, when light reflects off of the glass dividers, excited the installation of a small white board in lounge by the sanctuary entrance so the numbers can be displayed there.

The notices on the entrance doors asking souls to refrain from using scented substances (*perfumes, after shave lotions, etc.*) have slowly died with sun bleaching and abrasion from through-the-doors traffic. Additionally, the need for reminding everyone to respect others' sensitivities and allergies increases the demands for those notices to be replaced, and extra smaller ones added in appropriate locations - that need is now being attended to.

The Healing Pathway

The Healing Pathway is a heart centred ministry. This ministry is given to all who wish to receive. It is a free ministry. The Pathway is for all, especially those who are healthy. Illness starts in the energy field. It takes at least three years for an illness to settle in before it can be detected. Keeping energy in balance helps the body to repair itself. Of course Health is different than cure. We do not diagnose or cure but The Healing Pathway does restore health.

The Healing Pathway when received and given deepens ones connection with the Devine. I call it a soul message. Several members of the team have been taking courses in order to better their skills and to deepen their spiritual connection.

Although many of those who come do not belong to Glen Cairn United Church, they say they are grateful for the ministry. One person who came to a session said "I cannot describe the experience." It was very different and wonderful. When told that a lot of our participants were not from Glen Cairn they could not believe it.

We have also been blessed to mentor practitioners from other churches.

If you are interested in learning more and would like to do so through a workshop, one will be held in Manotick January 22-24th. There are brochures available on the Pastoral care bulletin board.

If you would like the experience of deep relaxation and an experience like no other please phone Nancy Kerr through the church office at 613-836-4756.

Anointing -The team is also very happy to be using the ancient ritual of anointing during Communion by unction. This is not a Healing Pathway ministry per say. If you would like to be part of this ministry please contact Lynda Brooks through the church office at 613-836-4756.

Healing Services - The Pastoral Care Team provides a service for anyone who is experiencing loss of any kind. Our lives are full of changes and losses like losing a job, moving, physical changes, empty nest, death of an animal, spouse, child, parent, too many to list. These changes, great or small, impact us. If you would like a place to share these losses or to just quietly be in the presence of those who care and share loss, please join us on the last Sunday of the month at. 11:30 a.m. in room C.

In December a special service will be on December 18th at 7 p.m. All are welcome.



CHRISTMAS DINNER
Wednesday, December 18th
Noon

Join us for a delightful turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Good food and good friends.

Cost: \$15

Tickets available in the main hall after church, from the church office or contact Patricia Will

Tickets must be purchased by Sunday, Dec. 8th.

Following the dinner we will be entertained by Guitar Groovers, a ladies group of guitar players and singers who will bring the Christmas season in with joy.

Cycling Group

Submitted by John Toft

On Saturday October 5th, ten cyclists from the Glen Cairn United Church's recreational cycling group, "The Wheels of Fortune", adopted a new identity and rode 25 km or 50 km on an outreach mission. (Half the team rode once around the 25 km circuit while the others rode around it twice.) Known for this day as "The GCUC Riders", the team joined 300 or so riders in North Kanata on Ottawa's "Ride for Refuge." "Rides for refuge" are held in many cities throughout North America to raise funds for those who are displaced, vulnerable and exploited. In Ottawa teams raised funds for a large number of groups that met this description. The GCUC Riders joined with other teams to raise funds for The Ottawa Mission and its service to homeless men.

The GCUC Riders learned of this fund-raising opportunity shortly before the event took place. Yet, despite the very short time frame, the GCUC Riders raised \$983.00 for The Ottawa Mission. The Riders thank their friends and supporters for their help given so generously and quickly.

The next "Ride for Refuge" will take place on Saturday October 4th, 2014. The Wheels of Fortune plan to take part in this event once more.

New riders are welcome in the group every year. Our regular weekly rides will begin again in the spring of 2014. If these regular rides do not fit into your schedule, but you can ride 25 or 50 km and want to join the "Ride for Refuge", we would love to expand the team.



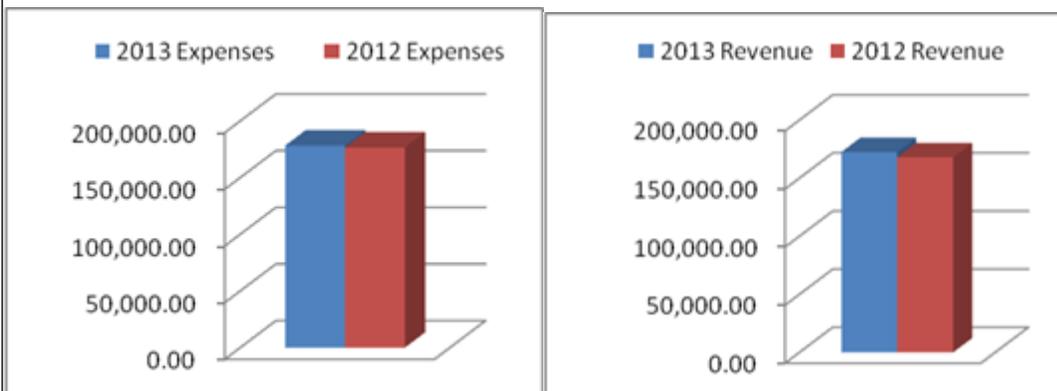
The Stewardship Connection

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** held on **October 19, was a great success!** We made **\$1,500** in support of the church operations and donated books to Maniwaki School Children and the community. A huge thanks to Martha, Delma, Terry, and Faye (give her a hug for doing all the barbequing) and Hal and their grandchildren: McKennah, Morgan, Merissa, and Thomas, as well as Scott, Jason, Gabriel's Chorus, the Choir, Neal and the Highland Dancers. Thank you to our book coordinators and helpers: Heather, Cathy, Anne, Barbara and Jennifer. A big thanks to our youth volunteers: Sam, Daniel, Hailey and Abigail – you did a fantastic job helping out. Looking forward to another fabulous festival next year!

What is Stewardship and why is it important to me? We have been investigating these questions over the past year and have had excellent speakers who have spoken both eloquently and passionately to the subject. Every third Sunday, we have invited someone to speak about why Glen Cairn United Church is important to them and why and how they wish to support their church. If you're interested in sharing your thoughts, please contact Sherry Sharpe for further details.

Minute for Stewardship - Our current financial situation is Revenues: \$172,447 compared to \$167,882 for 2012 and Expenses: \$178,259 compared to \$176,654 for 2012. We currently have a **Net Loss of \$5,811**. Did you know that just a 3% increase in your givings would mean we are no longer in a "loss" position? That is, if you were to give \$10 a week that would mean an additional 30 cents per week increase. If you are giving \$250 per month, that would mean only \$7.50 per month more to meet the needs of the Church. Please consider this as part of your stewardship in Glen Cairn United Church.



The **Stewardship and Membership Committees** have collaborated over the summer months to put together an updated **Time and Talent Survey**. You will see more of this initiative over the coming weeks as we discuss it with you in preparation for a launch. This is an excellent way to get to know the people in our congregation and what amazing talent we have amongst us!

Come to the Ceilidh! On **January 25, 2014**, 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 Alana Morris and Friends Fiddle Group. 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 \$35 for adults and \$12 for children under 12.** Please see Sherry for ticket sales. **Bring your friends and family – Come to the Ceilidh!**



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Diana Miller

I hope this finds everyone well as we leave autumn behind and prepare for the cold and snow. Hopefully the Advent season will warm your soul.

The fall has been busy with a membership transfer service on October 20 and our Remembrance Day service on November 10. Thank you to Dave Clarke for leading our last service on November 17 in Brian's absence.

Advent begins on December 1 and this is also the date of our evening carol service, "Sounds Like Christmas" at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and try to come early as the sanctuary always fills up quickly. Our Sunday School pageant is on December 15. Don't miss this annual, delightful event.

Christmas Eve will see 3 services:

- 6:00 p.m. – Family service with children in mind
- 8:00 p.m. – Service with readings
- 11:00 p.m. – Communion and music....a quiet and more contemplative service

The last service of the year will be on December 29 and our choir takes a break as well as the Sunday School. David Rothwell will be leading our first service of the new year on January 5 and there will be group activities for the children.

The Worship Committee wishes everyone peace and love during the Advent and Christmas season.

STAFF APPLICATIONS

AVAILABLE NOW!!!

The Camp Awesome team includes the Director (YAYA minister), Co-ordinators, Senior Staff, Counsellors and Leaders in Training. Individuals may apply for more than one position.

*Contact the Ottawa Presbytery YAYA minister, Rev. Hilary Merritt to receive an application form:

hmerritt@uccanottawa.org

Application Deadlines are as follows:

Co-ordinators: December 7th, 2013

Senior Staff: December 15th, 2013

Counsellors: February 1st, 2014



*The Camp Awesome program is designed to: **1.** provide youth and young adults with the opportunity for leadership development, **2.** serve children and their families by providing an opportunity for children to grow and express their faith in meaningful ways, and **3.** serve congregations by (a) fostering a sense of community within the congregation and (b) introducing children and their families to Camp Awesome host congregations and helping to equip both to develop longer term relationships.*