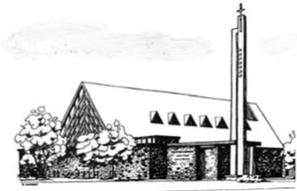


Clergy
Rev. Cheryl-Lynn
MacPherson

SPROUTS

Meet Me in the Garden



It's a rare sunny day, even in winter, when no one sits on the benches provided by the 14th Willowdale Scouts. Most of the visitors are passing by; some regulars, some occasional. It's easy to open a conversation. Right now, Strawberry plants are blooming and Johnny-Jump-Ups [mini-violas] have raised their little faces. The miracle of Spring has arrived.

Inside this issue:

Social Justice	2
Residential School Settlement	2-3
Browsing	4
Five Oaks	4
Musical Notes	5
Meet Your Executive	6-7
Fishing Tips/ Garage Sale	8
Lester B. Pearson Place	9
Quilts/Green Notes	9

Saturday, May 7

A crew of nine, including Scouts, weeded and turned soil preparing for the growing season. There is still lots to do. Once planting occurs, ongoing care will be needed during summer and fall. Working with others is pleasurable



and productive. Why not consider “adopting” a square metre, (about 3 inches longer each side than a yard) for the summer? Caring for your plot will enable good growth and keep you in shape. Tools are available in the shed. Speak to Janet Love.

Food grown in our garden goes to the Drop-Inn and surplus is donated to “The Hub” at Bathurst and Finch.

- The Green Team

Social Justice

The Social Justice team is pleased to offer two “good news” stories to share.

You may remember that last December we offered a letter-writing opportunity on behalf of Amnesty International on their “Write for Rights” day . Several members of the congregation took advantage of this opportunity. Among the cases which we were given was Phyoe Phyoe Aung, who with her husband and fellow activists. were arrested for protesting against a new law which students said limited academic freedom. They were considered prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International. Some could have faced more than 9 years in prison.

Thanks to more than 400,000 letters petitions, e-mails and tweets, they have all been released. Human rights defenders tell Amnesty International how vital our voices are.

Look for another opportunity to write next December. Check out their website. Opportunities to write are available year round also.

Two members of our committee attended an open house to see the new Richmond Hill Housing and Community Hub – 360 Kids. This has been in operation for over 25 years delivering innovative support for Kids 13-26 as they work to improve the lives of homeless and at-risk youth and families in York Region at 10415 Yonge St. The new facility is most impressive and offers drop in, overnight and longer transitional accomodation. Social services include meals, clothing, medical/dental care, counselling, laundry, first-class gym, and computer facilities.

It was wonderful to see such a bright, clean, and spacious model facility for other communities.

United Church Accounts for Its Obligations in Residential Schools Settlement Agreement

United Church Website, April 27, 2016

An article published in the April 27, 2016, edition of The Globe and Mail (“Churches escape residential school settlement obligations in wake of Catholic deal”) merits some clarification.

Throughout the negotiations leading to the signing of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the United Church always placed the interests of the survivors of residential schools first and foremost in the conversations among defendant parties regarding the division of financial contributions in the agreement.

The matters referred to in The Globe and Mail article concern the financial obligations shared by defendants in the residential schools case (Canada and the churches and religious entities that ran the residential schools). They do not directly impact the compensation received by survivors. Despite the Catholic Entities’ fundraising shortfall, residential school survivors received all the compensation agreed to under the Settlement Agreement. It is our understanding that if the \$450,000 had been contributed by the United Church, it would only have reduced the government contribution by the same amount. The survivors would not have received any additional compensation.

continued next page

All defendants were obliged to contribute in a proportional manner. The United Church's obligation was as follows:

- \$4.7 million in cash and in-kind contributions
- \$1.75 million related to the Catholic fundraising campaign, which the United Church agreed to contribute regardless of the success of the campaign
- \$450,000 in the event that the Catholic fundraising campaign surpassed \$20 million

The Catholic fundraising initiative fell short of its goal, so the United Church's obligation remained \$6.45 million. The church met this obligation.

The legal obligations under the Settlement Agreement are not the extent of the church's commitment. Since 1994, the United Church Healing Fund has supported grassroots projects in Indigenous communities. Over the last twelve years, the United Church has contributed \$1 million annually toward healing and reconciliation initiatives. We have also directed financial resources to Aboriginal ministries and reconciliation on an average of \$3 million to \$4 million per year, and are striving to maintain that level. This comes at a time when other areas of the church's work are experiencing significant reductions.



Reconciliation continues to be central to the life of the church, to how we live out our call as Christians. At the 42nd General Council of the United Church in August 2015, the church named reconciliation as its priority. With the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report and Calls to Action and final report, our work has turned to animation of the Calls to Action. This includes:

- Continued education of our constituency on the history and legacy of colonization, residential schools, and the church's role.
- Addressing the racism that still dominates our relationship.
- Educating about inequities in and advocating for policy reform in areas of social welfare, education, and health care.
- Continued participation in mobilization on murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls.
- Adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation. This includes examining church structures, policy, and programs to ensure that they comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the Declaration and engaging in dialogue and action to promote broader Canadian implementation of the Declaration.

“Going forward our hope would be that the commitment of the United Church to healing and reconciliation will be assessed by everything we have done and spent, not on the narrow terms of a legal Settlement Agreement,” says Nora Sanders, the church's General Secretary.

She adds, “This will be best demonstrated in the leadership we have shown, the finances we have committed, the internal changes we have made, the relationships we have built, and the long-term commitment we have made to the work of healing and reconciliation.”

Browsing



The title of Zarqa Nawaz's book *Laughing all the Way to the Mosque* tells us right away that she intends it to be funny, like her TV series *Little Mosque on the Prairie*.

She has said that the show's primary agenda was to be funny, not to be a political platform. She has also stated that she views comedy as one of the most valuable and powerful ways to break down barriers and to encourage dialogue and understanding between cultures.

So it's okay to laugh out loud at Zarqa's memoir of growing up Muslim in Canada, using religious arguments with her mother to get what she wants. And outright lies when necessary. When Zarqa fails to get into med school her mother arranges an endless parade of prospective husbands, but Zarqa enrolls in journalism school and marries her friend's brother. She's not big on

cooking and housekeeping and he's not big on dressing neatly, but they like each other and hilarity ensues.

Her submission of an idea for a short film is accepted by the Toronto International Film Festival, so she has 24 hours to round up neighbours as volunteer actors and get it made. What she means to be a satire makes people laugh, and she discovers her comedic storytelling skill. A lot of things get mixed into the book: a trip to Mecca, 9/11, babies, cooking a massive Eid dinner. There are many situations that give us opportunity to understand Muslim culture.

Zarqa portrays herself throughout as forgetful, relying on luck, disorganized, inventive, but usually respectful and always caring. The book jacket says she lives in Regina with her loving but long-suffering family..

- Barbara McNutt

Five Oaks Centre

We are sad to inform you that Five Oaks Centre will close in November 2016. After many years of retreats, educational events, spiritual courses, and youth development, the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cease operations. Despite years of study, planning and hope, it became apparent Five Oaks was no longer financially viable, nor could it become so.

For those of us fortunate enough to have attended this wonderful facility south of Paris ON on the bank of the Grand River, we have been blessed. The beauty, tranquility and spiritual growth we experienced will remain with us forever. The staff at Five Oaks enhanced our Christian journey. They will be missed.

This is a very brief summary of decisions made. For the full report, please speak with Heather Miller for the reference.

- Andrea Journeaux

Musical Notes

New Music Stands

The family of John Sullivan [Taylor's father, Hazel's husband, Jack's grandfather] has donated two beautiful music stands in John's memory.

They are adjustable from seated to standing positions with a substantial shelf.

They were used for the first time on Christian Family May 8, 2016



Music Highlights for Coming Sundays:

May 22—Hymns to the Trinity

May 29—Asian Folk Melodies for Keyboard

June 5—Music for Flute and Piano

June 12—Lead Me, Lord (Wesley) and Spirituals for Organ

June 19—"Songs of Hope"

June 26—Piano and Organ Music of Paul Halley

July 3—Hymns for Canada, with choir, organ & trumpet

July 10—Vocal and instrument music of Mendelssohn

July 17—Music for Organ and Percussion

July 24—Hymns From Ireland

July 31—"Songs of Summer" with Choir, Organ, Piano & Flute

August 7—Organ Jazz Reflections

August 14—guest music director, Swee Hong Lim

August 21—guest music director, Adrian Ling classical pianist

August 28—Music for Violin and Piano

September 4—Hymn Tune Arrangements of Mark Hayes

September 11—Jazz and Percussion Ensemble

September 18—Appalachian Hymn Tunes

September 25—The Prayer of St. Francis

October 2—Hymns from Around The Globe

October 9—Songs of Thanksgiving

Meet Your Executive



Angela Carley

Angela grew up in Merrickville, a historic village on the Rideau Canal (if you haven't been, you must visit). She studied Civil Engineering at University of Waterloo, and has worked in Civil Engineering (water/wastewater servicing) in the GTA since graduating. She has been attending Cummer Avenue UC (previously Newtonbrook UC) since 2004, and involved with Church School, powerpoint, and the governing board. Angela enjoys all sorts of sports and enjoys the outdoors. She is currently playing Ultimate Frisbee.



Anne Lalonde

Anne was born and lived in Kingston. After university she moved to Edmonton where she raised her family of five children, one husband and no pets. In 2002 the family moved to Willowdale where she started attending CAUC. Anne became involved with Regent Park School of Music and Meals on Wheels and More.

Anne is an avid baseball fan slowly switching her allegiance from the Yankees to the Blue Jays.



Maureen Williams

I am the recording secretary for the Executive Board. I have been a Registered Respiratory Therapist for over 30 years, currently working for the Assistive Devices Program, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

I am a member of the Hanlan's Rowing Club and can be seen most Thursdays (from May to October) rowing down at Cherry Beach or with my team mates at the Keating Channel Pub (they drink beer - I eat).

This picture was taken near my cottage – my heaven on earth.



Mary Mundle

Being an educator, consultant and volunteer in various Canadian locations, has kept me busy. My free time is spent alongside plumbers, and electricians to renovate many places I've lived. My faith and passions have carried me forward as I support others and problem solve – always a need for both. But life without music would be dire straits for me, I guess that's my Irish inheritance. Wherever I've lived, I found a choir to take me in and members who have become life-long friends. Yes, I'm a Cummer chorister, on the Reno Team and serve as Presbyter.

Phil Coulter

I am married to Elizabeth Mistele and we have three children, two of whom have moved away and one, Becky, who is still active at Cummer Avenue. Our family has been members at Newtonbrook/Cummer Avenue since 1999. I have had a number of roles in the church such as chair of the Board and chair of the amalgamation committee. In my working life, from which I am just retiring, I worked for Ontario Power Generation. I wrote computer software for training nuclear operators and was involved in project management. In my life outside the church I enjoy curling and like to travel.

**Jim Dillane**

I have served in many leadership roles, notably as the Chair of the Newtonbrook Coordinating Committee at the time of amalgamation and as the first Chair of the Cummer Avenue UC Executive Board. I continue to serve as Chair of Ministry and Personnel. I am President of NUC-TUCT Non-Profit Homes which owns and operates Lester B. Pearson Place. I am a member of Toronto United Church Council Finance and Investment Committee. I have a long time involvement with the 14th Willowdale Scouts. I retired from Toronto and Region Conservation Authority as a senior executive in 2012. I enjoy curling and hockey in winter and canoe trips, cycling and cottage time in summer.

**Barbara Puckering**

Barbara was born and raised in Willowdale, she was once one of five little Puckerings, so you might see others about with the same surname. Barb is a Family Law lawyer but she picked the wrong career as she loves being outside, biking, canoeing, kayaking and swimming (on a purely recreational level). Barb is very interested in the environment as that is how she met Martin, her ever so patient husband, who is also a Green architect. They live in an ivy-covered home with Bert, the dog.

**Ted Chen**

Professional life: Engineer with experience in the aerospace, electronics and telecommunications industries, with expertise in all phases of product development, mechanical design, manufacturing and new product introduction.

Interests: Ted enjoys biking and camping in the summer month and hockey and skiing in the winter months.

Active Hobby: building plastic models



Fishing Tips

Fishing Tips – How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith, by Dr. John Pentland.

Statement from the book: “Making a safe place then discerning who we are. Saying what matters and knowing our purpose. These are key to the growth of a community.”

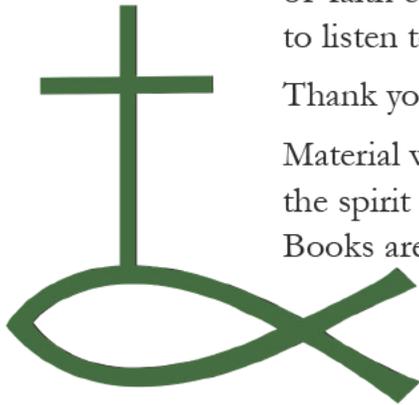
Cummer Avenue United Church invited our congregation to read this book as part of our Renewal Structure. During the winter months about 25 of our people gathered on Thursdays into groups and took this journey to explore tips about fishing on the other side. John 21: 1-6. Another group met on Saturday mornings.

Following questions from the book, led by our minister and volunteers, we responded with great spirit and excitement. Discovering ways we as a people of faith can cast our nets on the other side- reaching beyond to take risks and to listen to the voice calling from the shore.

Thank you to all who took part and helped make this study possible.

Material will be collected with our responses for all to review and be part of the spirit renewal of our community flowing over into the neighbourhood. Books are still available at the office or speak to a participant.

- Ann Dilbey



Save your quality clean items for a fall garage sale...

Details to follow in bulletin.



Lester B. Pearson Place

Lester B. Pearson Place, the 53-unit affordable housing complex located next door, continues to serve the needs of our community. One of the evolving issues relates to who has ultimate responsibility for providing oversight as The United Church of Canada, the City of Toronto, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada all have an ongoing interest in its continued success. Recently, the Board of Directors of Lester B. Pearson Place has agreed with The United Church of Canada that the United Church will cease to have this responsibility resulting in the City of Toronto having the principal role in terms of oversight responsibility. The United Church will now formally step away from its oversight responsibility. The United Church wants to ensure that the Congregations of Cummer Avenue United Church and the Taiwanese United Church are aware of this change. Cummer Avenue, the Taiwanese United Church in Toronto and Lester B. Pearson Place will continue to work together to ensure the continued success of this project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with Jim Dillane/Susan Laio.

Keep Warm Quilts

If you enter the Fellowship Room you may have noticed a quilt or two in process. We began making quilts in 1992 using shirt samples from the Arrow Shirt Company. Now the quilts are created mostly from fabric donated by many people. Thursday mornings we gather around the quilt frames to hand-stitch, talk and share time together. Finished quilts are given to the Salvation Army to donate to anyone who needs a “Keep Warm Quilt”. We have just completed quilt 200.



- Betty McQuillan

Re-use your egg shells

Place washed egg shells in the bottoms of plant pots in place of rocks. They weigh less and provide nutrients for your plants.

Crushed egg shells can be sprinkled around newly planted vegetable stems to deter slugs and cutworms.

If slugs attack your hostas, crushed egg shells scratch their tender tummies.

For tomatoes, egg shells provide calcium, helping to prevent blossom-end rot.

Did you know?

In Toronto clean plastic bags can now be put in your recycling bin.



Cummer Avenue United Church
53 Cummer Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M2M 2E5
phone: 416-222-5417
www.cummeravenueuc.ca

Fall Newsletter Deadline:

Thursday, September 8, 2016 8 p.m.

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Worship Services



May 22	Guest Speaker Rev. Norm Green
May 29	The Use of Time/Sabbath Time
June 5	Environment Sunday, Confirmation
June 12	Stewardship – Individual and Corporate
June 19	Aboriginal Sunday
June 26	Coping with Anxiety