



Spirited Summerlea

United Church of Canada

Newsletter

May 2014



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CALENDAR

June

1	Sun	10:30am	Sunday Worship
8	Sun	10:30am	Pentecost Sunday
14	Sat	t.b.a.	Choir Concert
15	Sun	10:30am	Food Sunday
17	Tue	6pm	Congregational Bd. Mtg. and Potluck at Scott's Home
22	Sun	10:30am	Sunday Worship

No services from June 29 – July 27 inclusive

August

03	Sun	10am	Sunday Worship
10	Sun	10am	Sunday Worship
17	Sun	10am	Sunday Worship
24	Sun	10am	Sunday Worship
31	Sun	10am	Sunday Worship

September

07	Sun	10:30am	Sunday Worship
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Elders' Corner: Notes

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS:

I flew to Switzerland on an evening flight last year. My seatmate for the journey was a strapping young Swiss chap around 20 years old. He told me that he was going home after spending 6 months in Canada learning English. Said he had enrolled in a language program in B.C. for 4 months and had then rented a car and drove across Canada. (The courage and adventuresome nature of the young never ceases to amaze me!)

I cemented our friendship when I offered him my dinner. I had already eaten before we left for the airport and when I saw what short-shrift he had made of his meal, I knew he was still hungry. As he ate his second dinner we talked. I am always intrigued by peoples' impressions of Canada. Is it what they thought it would be like? Did anything disappoint them? I asked my new friend what were the 3 things he liked most about Canada.

I was rather impressed that he seemed to give this query serious consideration. After some thought, he said "You have really great skiing in Canada". This surprised me as I had thought you could not get much better than the Swiss Alps. However he assured me that we were right up there!

He did not hesitate too long before he stated that his second favourite thing about Canada was the beer. "Really amazing stuff – so many different kinds" he enthused.

He was quiet a long time after that and I had to prompt "...and the third?" His eyes got a far off look and he said "Well, even though I am saying it third maybe it should be first – my host mother". Apparently, he had stayed with a family while learning English and his host mom had been especially kind and welcoming to someone so far away from home.

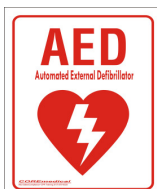
As Mother's Day has just passed perhaps it is time to remember all those women in our lives – mothers,

sisters, aunts, grandmothers, or even female friends who guide and nurture us throughout our lives. Thank you to women everywhere who make our world a better place!

Susan Hawke

A new acquisition we don't want to use . . .

Summerlea recently purchased an automated external defibrillator (AED). An AED is a portable device that can potentially save the life of someone who has had a sudden cardiac arrest. It detects a life-threatening abnormality in the heart's rhythm; then delivers a shock to correct it. The model we purchased is fully automatic, meaning that the machine makes the decision to deliver a shock and does so, with no one pressing a button. There is no danger of shocking someone who doesn't need it.



The statistics that motivated the Board to approve the purchase of this expensive item are pretty convincing.

- Use of an AED with CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) within the first three minutes of a cardiac arrest can increase the chance of survival by 75%
- For every minute of delay in defibrillation, the survival rate of an arrest victim decreases by 7 to 10%. After 12 minutes of a life-threatening rhythm with no defibrillation, the survival rate is less than 5%. (Think about how long it may take for an ambulance to find Summerlea in an emergency.)

While trained rescuers are known to increase the chances of survival, the automatic defibrillator is made to be used by anyone. Just remove it from the cabinet, open it, turn it on and follow the directions given by the device.

A training session was held in April, showing basic CPR and other emergency first aid procedures, along with a demonstration of the defibrillator. Board members, the church staff, and many representatives from the groups that use our halls were in attendance. All agreed we hope we never have to use our new device, but were reassured that folks who visit our

building will be safer in the event of a serious cardiac emergency.

Look for the defibrillator on the wall in Acadia Hall, next to the doorway nearest to the kitchen. There is also a newly stocked first aid kit on the other side of the same doorway.

Good News Travels Fast – and Far!

In the September 2013 issue of our newsletter was a submission called *These Are a Few of My Favourite Things*. It was an endearing, humorous reworking of the lyrics of a renowned song of the same title by Julie Andrews in honour of her 69th birthday. It proved to be very popular with our congregation. (Those who missed the article can access it online on Summerlea's website.)

I had sent the article to my mom, who told me she liked it so much, that she had read it to her dinner mates at the seniors' home in which she lives. However, a conversation with Nancy Butt does my Mom's story one better – at least as far as being far-reaching.

Nancy apparently enjoyed the article so much that she mailed to a friend in England. Her friend shared it with her cleaning lady, who in turn sang it to her fellow travellers on a bus tour – all of whom wanted a copy upon their return.

Who would have thought that a single submission in our newsletter would resonate with so many and bring smiles and chuckles around the world?

Susan Hawke

Summerlea Outreach Committee

We have had another busy spring season.

April 4th was the occasion of the annual Artisan Fair, Book and Bake Sale, which raised \$2092.50 for community Outreach projects.

It was followed on April 5th by an Outreach Sunday, during which we had a presentation (in St Andrews Hall) about Microfinancing, and how such projects as KIVA can help fight poverty and provide some advocacy for the World's poorest. If you were there and would like to complete the survey, go to:

<https://fr.surveymonkey.com/s/868K2VZ>

We felt the event was a success, and the soup lunch that followed was enjoyed by all and provided some further revenue for the Dominica literacy project in Haiti

With reference to KIVA, our total investment of \$460 has generated 105 loans of \$25 each. As soon as a loan is repaid, the money is re-loaned to another borrower. (Carolyn Osborne is still looking after this from B.C. over the internet).

Recent donations to the 25th **Mile of Pennies** stand at \$199.93, and we are now moving on to our first kilometre of nickels, so please keep saving!

The collection of **Lenten loonies** raised \$664.92 which will be used for midwifery education in Haiti.

Upcoming events

Mums for Moms:

40 Chrysanthemums have been ordered for Mothers' Day. These will be displayed in church on May 11. Profits will go to the Stephen Lewis foundation for Grandmothers in Africa.

Plant Sale/Craft Supplies – May 24 (9am-Noon)

Tupperware donated by Lucy French will also be for sale.

Come and buy some new perennial plants for your garden, or browse through the gardening books and craft supplies. Proceeds from the Craft supplies will go to the roof fund, while proceeds from the plants and Tupperware will go to the Dominica Literacy Fund in Haiti.

Thanks to the support and generosity of the Summerlea community the following organisations benefitted from the proceeds of the Artisan fair and book sale

Distribution of Funds

Soupe Maison	\$200
Auberge Madeleine	\$200
Social Justice	\$200
Montreal City Mission	\$200
Le Parados	\$200
Kids Help Phone	\$100
West Island Wellness	\$250
Kairos	\$250
Maple Grove Breakfast Club	\$250

It is with sadness that we accept the resignation of Barbara Davidson from our committee. We always appreciate her wisdom at our meetings. On the other

hand we are really happy to welcome both John Osborne and Marion McKinney. New ideas and new members are always welcome!

November Bazaar donations

We thank everyone for considering the Summerlea Bazaar when they have items they wish to donate. Unfortunately, due to a lack of storage space at the church, we would ask everyone to store their "Bazaar" items at home and only bring them to the church after Thanksgiving in October.

We are just unable to cope at the present time with the number of items being dropped off each week at Summerlea. We currently have an ever-increasing number of community groups using the church facilities each week and there is just not adequate storage space for any "extras" at the present time.

Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Property & Maintenance Committee

William Hunter Memorial Fund May 2014

We currently sponsor three children at a cost of \$456.00 per child each year, a total commitment of \$1368.00 per year. They deserve a chance to succeed in life. The path to their dreams will be a result of your help. Through your generous donations these children will receive an education, medical care, clothing and nutritional support. We are making a big difference to children and their families in the developing world. Special envelopes are at the back of the church and all donations are tax deductible. We appreciate your continued support.

Dale Romagosa

The Dominique Literacy Centre in Haiti

This is a letter from Cindy Casey, chair of the Montreal Presbytery Haiti Relief Committee. Please read to see how your generous support is making a difference in the lives of these children.

Undeg Edwards

On behalf of the children, their families and the teachers of the Literacy Centre in Haiti, we want to thank each and every one of you for your support over these past three years!

With your partnership, we have provided 27 children with the opportunity to become literate - learning to read and write and perform simple computation! This is a **life changing opportunity!**

With your partnership, we have provided clean drinking water not only to the children and staff, but to their families and the wider community! This is a **victory over disease!**

With your partnership, we provide a daily meal for each of the children and staff members attending our Literacy Centre. This nourishment of their bodies promotes their overall well-being and ability to do more than survive – **it helps them learn and alter their future!**

With your partnership, we are building a school facility! (90% complete) This will open our doors to **an additional 50 children!** This will allow us to receive **International Funding for food supplies!** This will allow the **Gardening Project** to begin producing food for the Centre and to generate self-administering funds through the sale of produce at market. This moves the Centre several steps down **the path to becoming self-sustaining!**

We thank you for all you have done and we ask you to stay with us, as we continue to:
Bring Hope to a Community,

Incite the imagination of children, and
Create a new ending of
possibilities to a troubled story.

In partnership with you, we are moving activity into action and ministry into motion. Continue to journey with us!

Two Bursary funds are available through the Finance and Extension Board for students registered in Universities and post-secondary institutions. See <http://www.montrealpresbytery.ca> . Applications must be submitted by June 1, 2014.

Music Notes

I am writing these words fresh



from our very successful performances of the musical, **Once Upon a Parable**. A huge thank you to all who contributed in any way to this production. To my cast---you are amazing, and you get better and better with each year's experience! Thanks for all your hard work. I am so fortunate to be working with such naturally talented people! A big thank you, also, to my costume and set designers, who spent hours on the coordination of props and scenery. Without your great set the show would be flat indeed!

Thanks to Jacob Osborne and Linda Rodd for filming and pictures, and to George for all his help.

We are taking a break next year, in order to give us all a chance to do other creative things, but hope to do another show in two years.

By the time you read this, Octet Plus, which I direct, will have performed here in aid of the Food Bank at Resurrection. We are happy to be able to help this very worthy local cause.

Thanks to all who came out to support us.

One exciting upcoming event is a concert on **June 14th** which will take place here at Summerlea (check your bulletins for the time which is not yet fixed). The Gospel Choir of Union United Church which sang for Rolanda's last service here (our student minister) has asked our senior choir to join them in concert and share this time of fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to re-connect with this church whose members really enjoyed their experience of worship here at Summerlea at that time. I hope you will all come out to enjoy this interesting concert!

We have had a very exciting musical season here at Summerlea with a talent show, chamber concert and all the above events. A heartfelt thanks to my choir who turn out every week faithfully to sing lovely anthems for you. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome John Torunian (who played for our musical) to the senior choir. Thanks for joining us, John!

I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer after the hard winter!

Connie Osborne

Concerto Della Donna and the Art for Healing Foundation are thrilled to present C'est l'amour, an exciting evening celebrating music and art, on June 1st at 7pm in Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, (McGill metro, University St. Exit) with proceeds benefiting both organizations. Joint collaborative efforts will include a silent auction and cocktail for VIP ticket holders prior to the concert, starting at 5:00 pm. Honorary Chairperson for the evening will be Margaret Trudeau.

The concert program will include a wide range of repertoire and styles surrounding the theme of love. Highlights include Eric Whitacre's Five Hebrew Love Songs in which Concerto Della Donna will be joined by Montreal's all-female string quartet, Birds on a Wire. Other repertoire will include a humorous peek at marriage, traditional love songs, French lieder arranged for choir and a set of modern love songs with jazz trio accompaniment. The ensemble's resident composer (and choir member) Marie-Claire Saindon's set of arrangements of three Finnish songs will be given its Canadian premier. Birds on a Wire will be joined by Juno and Grammy award-winning jazz musicians John Sadowy (piano), Jim Doxas (drums), and Scott Kingsley (bass) for this special presentation.

This program promises to be Concerto Della Donna's most inspiring and diverse concert to date! Tickets will be available as of May 1st at 514-359-5904 or from Undegf Edwards. Prices are: VIP and Auction; \$100. General admission \$40. Seniors (65+) \$30. Students \$20

Out and About in Montreal

This is a wonderful day trip for anyone who likes trains (and don't we all, young and old). The museum has the largest railway collection in Canada with both indoor and outdoor exhibits. Inside the museum, visitors can climb aboard some of the vehicles on display - engines, passenger cars, cabooses, etc. - and pretend to be an engineer. You can even walk under a locomotive to see how it really works. Trains and railway history come alive for everyone.

To see the outside exhibits you can take a ride on a streetcar which goes completely around the extensive property, stopping at a replica station on the way. Both adults and children can also ride on the mini train which goes over and under bridges while you sit on the cars.

You can take your lunch and eat in the picnic area or buy your lunch in the cafeteria. The gift shop sells all kinds of railway-related items, including books and memorabilia. Inside the museum there is a separate room which has a complete working model train set-up which is beautifully displayed.

The museum is a short drive to Delson on the South Shore. Take the Mercier Bridge to Delson. Turn right on rue St. Pierre (in St. Constant) and then left on rue Perras. Telephone 450-632-2410 for information and admission prices. For pictures and more details, look up "railway museum", Delson, QC on the internet. Enjoy your visit!

Ruth and Euan Crabb

Tolerance: The Other Side of the Story

Ralph W. Sockman, the great American pastor, writer, and broadcaster, once said "The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority."

Tolerance is not about giving up any of your own beliefs, but accepting differences in others. It's about seeing the other side to every story. Parents and teachers have an opportunity to teach tolerance to our children and to let them see for themselves that difference is not a bad thing and that when we celebrate our religious, cultural, or other differences, we are much stronger as individuals and as a community.

There are many ways we can teach tolerance, but perhaps the most important way is to be aware of our own attitudes and subtle prejudices against others who aren't the same as us. Children learn by imitating the adults in their lives. If we practice fairness and tolerance, they will try to be fair and tolerant. If, however, we reinforce stereotypes and intolerance, children will pick up that behavior as well.

Another thing that we can do is to help identify negative portrayals of minority groups that we see in the media or popular culture. Our children are shaped by the society in which they live, and the media can have a powerful effect. We need to monitor what they are watching and listening to so that we can point out intolerance and show them a different path to follow.

It's also important, starting in children's early years, that we have open discussions with them about the differences in people and that we answer their questions as honestly as possible. America has not always been a fully tolerant society and we need to acknowledge that, but that doesn't mean that we cannot be a better society today and into the future.

Tolerance does not mean that we have to accept inappropriate actions or behaviors, but it does mean that everyone deserves a measure of respect. Children who learn to respect themselves first will have an easier time respecting and accepting others. Perhaps the greatest lesson we can pass on to our children is to help them learn tolerance and to fully accept the other side of the story.

Gratitude Lowers Stress

When you are feeling stressed and your life is in chaos, take a moment to write a list of twenty things for which you are grateful. Since your brain can't focus on two different thoughts at the same time, focusing on what's going right in your life will keep the stressful, negative thoughts out of your mind. It will also put your life into perspective because you will be seeing the broader picture.

Keep your gratitude list where you can see it throughout the day. Whenever you are feeling stressed, add ten more times.

News and Notes

On April 13th the congregation welcomed the following people into full membership on Letter of Transfer from the former St. Andrew's United: Myrtle Dash, Rita Erskine, Barbara Harbert, Arthur Rogers, Gladys Rogers, Mary Sadko, Marge Thomson, and June Tosh. We also welcomed Don and Ruth MacDonald and Barbara Costello who moved from "adherent" to "full member" status.

Our Sympathy is extended to Stanley Rodgers and his family upon the death of his son, Harold, who passed away after a brief illness on April 11th. Harold was 56 years old.

Our Sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of Jane Black who passed away on May 8th after a brief battle with cancer. Jane was 52 years old. A funeral service was held at Summerlea Church on May 14th.

There will be a Memorial Service for the late Robert Laing on May 20th at 11am. The service will take place at Rideau Memorial Gardens. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

If you would like more information on Summerlea's monthly activities, or would like to view Sunday's service along with current events at the church, please visit us at www.summerlea.ca. Many thanks to John Osborne who is doing a fabulous job keeping our website updated weekly. If you are receiving this Newsletter via regular mail, and would prefer to receive it via email, please contact Susan at summerlea_united@videotron.ca. Thank you.

Until the next time,

Susan Ippersiel

