



Spirited Summerlea

United Church of Canada

Newsletter

September 2016



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EDITORS:

Jane Cowell Poitras,
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OCTOBER CALENDAR

2	10:30am	Sunday Worship
09	10:30am	Thanksgiving Sunday
16	10:30am	Sunday Worship
18	2pm (Chapel)	Executive Board mtg.
23	10:30am	Soup Sunday
25, 26, 27		Large Pie Production
30	10:30am	Communion Sunday & Stewardship Sunday

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

6	10:30am	Remembrance Sunday (Daylight saving time ends)
13	10:30am	Sunday worship
19	9am-2pm	Bazaar & Book Sale
20	10:30am	Food Sunday
27	10:30am	1st Sunday in Advent Communion

Elders' Corner:

World Communion Sunday is October 30th

A WORD FROM AN EDITOR:

It never occurred to me how much of my life centered around public transit before I started to write Summerlea's newsletter editorials. It seems every second one I write is about an experience that happened to me riding the bus. I bet it makes those of you who are confined to your cars quite envious, no? Also, makes me wonder whether I might find a job in the public relations department of STM (Montreal Transport)!

For a number of years now, I have seen a rather unique young fellow in and around the Lionel Groulx metro station. Invariably, despite the weather and even in the winter, he wears Bermuda shorts, knee-high rubber rain boots and a Tilley Hat. He is also visually impaired and uses a white cane. I marvel at the ease in which he navigates the steep escalator at Lionel Groulx and finds his way to the correct level and train. I am also intrigued as to why he wears the Bermuda shorts 12 months of the year. Guess that will remain one of life's little mysteries.

A few months ago, this young man was directly ahead of me on the metro escalator as we rose to street level. His cane hit the floor as the escalator reached the top and he began to tap his way to exit door. He misjudged its location and veered off to the right into the window. I asked if he wanted assistance and was curtly told "no". I backed off but hovered in the background just in case he needed me. He didn't. Within seconds, he had reoriented himself and was off out the door.

Relieved I was about to trot off to my bus when I noticed that he had stopped several yards outside the metro and was just standing there gazing off into space. Gosh was he okay? Had he hit his head on the window? Was he lost? I was reluctant to approach him a second time. Several minutes passed. Should I just leave him? What a quandary!

Finally, I gathered up my courage and asked “Is everything okay?” “Oh yes” he replied. “I am listening to the music”.

Music? What music? I strained my ears. There was the sound of rush-hour traffic – horns honking, tires screeching. Hundreds of commuters added their voices to the din. “Music?” I mumbled. “Yes, it’s lovely”, he replied. Again I strained my ears. And indeed there was music! Off in the distance a street musician was playing a violin among the hubbub. And it was lovely.

Bidding adieu, I scurried off to my bus. Settling into my seat I wondered how many times I missed “listening to the music” because it was obscured by “noise” or the general everyday bustle of my life? Probably too many to count. As Fall approaches and brings with it the wonder of the changing seasons and its harvests bounty let us all take the time to really hear and see it. Let us listen to the music so to speak!

Susan Hawke

A Word from the Minister

Welcome to the summer edition of “Spirited Summerlea”! Oops. Did I say “summer edition”? I meant the “autumn edition”. I have to keep reminding myself that summer is over (I believe that either today or tomorrow is the official first day of fall). When I was at the cottage in July, I had to turn on the heat for about a day and a half around the middle of the month, as one night the temperature went down to 9 degrees. But all of that is a distant memory as we continue to enjoy temperatures in the high 20s, even in the middle of September. We’ve even had many days when the temperature was in the low 30s, but I’m not sure all of us enjoyed that to the same extent! In any case, it’s hard to remind ourselves that another summer is over, and a new church year has begun at Summerlea United.

We’re now revisiting some projects and events that we left behind when the summer was just beginning. Perhaps at the top of the list is our sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family that we have been working towards for some time. Many of us are now being reminded (in case we had forgotten) of how long it

takes to see such a process through successfully to its completion. We originally were to sponsor another Syrian family, but that fell through for various reasons, and we have heard of other similar situations where Canadian sponsors had made significant contact with a family they were to sponsor, only to discover that it was not going to work out. It now appears that we are well on the way to sponsoring this second family, and to quote from a notice in our bulletin from last Sunday: “the Syrian family we had applied to sponsor has now been approved by both the federal and provincial governments. *Action Refugies Montreal* has informed us that the file has now been transferred to Abu Dhabi for processing.”

Of course, getting them here is but the first step in our sponsorship, but we have been preparing for this moment for some time, and I have no doubt that the rest of the process of getting them settled and oriented to life here in Canada will go smoothly. The reason I think this, of course, is because of all the people who have rallied around this project, donating household articles and helping prepare for the arrival of our family in so many ways. Especially in light of all the “anti-refugee” rhetoric that has been coming from our neighbours to the south, I know that Canada’s welcoming of refugees puts us “on the right side of history”, and we can rest in the thought that we have done what we can to help those whose lives have been shattered and torn apart by war and violence.

If one were ever to doubt the severity of the Syrian refugee crisis, even a few minutes spent on the Internet looking at such images as desperate refugees trying to make their way out of Syria, or the disturbing images of bombed-out buildings in Aleppo, will convince you of the horrific situations they face on a daily basis.

When Jesus was asked what is the most important commandment, which is really another way of asking “what is most important for those who seek to truly live their faith,” he responded by saying that we are to love God to the best of our ability, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. He was then asked, “who is my neighbor?”, and Jesus responded by telling the story of the Good Samaritan. The one in the story who helped a stranger in need was the one who was truly doing God’s will.

This story of Jesus reminds us that our “neighbours” are sometimes people who live on the other side of the world, people we don’t even know, but we know that they need our help, not only to re-establish their lives but to deal with the traumatic situations they have been through. We can only imagine what it would be like to be in such a desperate situation, having to leave behind the only home you’ve ever known, only to discover that you are not wanted or welcome anywhere else. I am proud of our country of Canada for the leadership it has taken in letting these refugees know that we are doing what we can to help alleviate their suffering, and to know that they are indeed welcome as our neighbours – people with whom we share this world and people we are being called to help during this critical time – and that they are welcome to become our actual neighbours, people living beside us and in our midst who seek to make Canada their new home. It may be true that we cannot solve the problems of all the refugees, but Canada has been a world leader in showing that we truly can make a difference, just as our Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition has been a leader in this community in showing what can happen when we work together to reach out in love and caring to all our neighbours.

Scott A. Patton



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Summerlea’s Annual Bazaar and Book Sale, November 19th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Summerlea Bazaar November 19th 2016

Please mark your calendars for this popular event!

In order to be a little more efficient and also to better serve our community, we have made a few changes this year.

Please note that this year there will **NOT** be a White Elephant stall on the stage. All white elephant items can be taken directly to Renaissance.

We will move the toys to the stage, and will also have on the stage a Christmas boutique.

Yes: to any quality items for the Tempting Treasures!

Yes: to books including non-fiction and quality magazines!

Yes: to toys, games and puzzles! (These will now be sold on the stage)

Yes: to Christmas ornaments! (No trees or lights please)

Yes: to lovely items for gift baskets! (Re-gifted gifts accepted!)

Yes: to any jewellery! (please leave in the basket at the back of the church)

Yes: to plants and plant cuttings!

NO Thank you: to garage sale type items!

Because the stage is currently being used as storage for items for our refugee family, we respectfully request that you keep your treasures until Thanksgiving.

We have a few members of our very large bazaar team who are less able to help. We welcome anyone, on the day or with the many tasks to be completed in the weeks before the bazaar. Please feel free to contact Sinclair or Nancy any time.

Bazaar Knitting and Craft Table:

We need KNITTERS!! For the Bazaar, we are in need of new handmade adult slippers and mitts, children's mitts and sweaters (sized 4-6), aprons and any other handmade items that you would like to make. If you need some, yarn and fabric are available. Please contact Barb Costello at 514-630-8098 or after church, or Elizabeth Wightman at 514-484-0722.



New! Summerlea Craft Group

Some very enthusiastic ladies would like to start up a craft group to work on new or on-going projects at Summerlea Church. The group plans to meet in the Parlour on Tuesday mornings from 10am- Noon. They welcome crafts of all types as well as fresh ideas for projects. So drop by on Tuesday mornings

to see what it's all about!! For information, chat with Elizabeth Wightman or Barbara Costello, or call the church office for contact information. ☺

Sleeping Mats for Homeless Children

Please continue saving bags and putting them in the box above the display case in the church hallway. Volunteers are always welcome to help weave the mats and to cut the bags. If you would like to help, please contact Elizabeth Wightman at 514-484-0722.



Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition Committee

Our Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition Committee is delighted to report that the Syrian refugee family we had applied to sponsor has now been approved by both federal and provincial governments. Action Réfugiés Montréal has informed us that the file has now been transferred to Abu Dhabi for processing. For more information on the project, please visit our website at www.summerlea.ca.

Request for Email Addresses for Newsletters

In the past few years, many Summerlea members have requested to receive the "Spirited Summerlea" Newsletters via email. If you receive a paper copy but would prefer to be on our email list, please contact Susan Ippersiel at summerlea_united@videotron.ca. We would love to hear from you.



Summerlea Friends abroad - We always love to hear from our Summerlea friends who have moved out of the province. It is always a pleasure to receive an email or note from you. Thanks for keeping in touch, friends!

If your contact information has recently changed, please let the church office know via email: Summerlea_united@videotron.ca, or calling 514-634-2651.

Music Notes Fall 2016

Well, believe it or not, the summer is almost over and the new season of music at Summerlea is just beginning. The choir met last Sunday and got caught up with everyone's news over a bagel breakfast, our tradition in recent years. It was good to see each other again.



This Fall has a wrinkle in it, as I prepare for hip surgery on October 11th. Kris Epps, whom many of you will remember, will replace me as organist and choir director for about six weeks, and I should be back in time for the Advent season, if all goes well.

I will miss Summerlea, but I know I am leaving you in good hands.

Connie Osborne, Music Director

Tourtieres



1,000 mini tourtieres have been prepared and are now for sale at \$9 for a box of 4 minis. Thanks to all the amazing volunteers who helped on the production line. Great team work!

Volunteers will be needed for **Tuesday, October 25th, 26th and 27th** to prepare a batch of large pies. Look for a sign-up sheet which will be circulated during a service in October. The large pies will be meatier than ever (4 oz. more meat) and sell for \$10 a pie.

Mile of Pennies/400 metre dash

We now have \$771.25 in the mile of pennies account. So we are close to completing our 25th mile.



This recent increase is due in part to a young man associated with our community. He was moving out of his apartment and donated the contents of his change pot - including not a few pennies! Why is it that men do not like to carry change? Any more of you out there who would like to donate your "change pots"? Pennies are still accepted!

Sinclair Harris

Green Tips – Recycling

Lighting with Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

One important way to decrease your household energy consumption is to consider the different home lighting options: the traditional incandescent bulb versus the compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulb versus the light emitting diodes (LEDs).

Love it or not the incandescent light bulb is the least energy efficient artificial light source and is quickly becoming an endangered species as countries around the world (including Canada) are moving to ban their sale and use.

CFLs (commonly the white spiral shaped 'twirly' bulbs) are an affordable alternative that will decrease your energy costs. A CFL will, if treated carefully, last almost seven times as long as an incandescent bulb and use only 13 – 15 watts of electricity to produce the same light as an old 60 watt bulb.

Downsides of CFLs: rapid switching on and off will decrease the life span; CFLs sometimes take up to a minute to come to full illumination; CFLs are relatively delicate and should not be jarred or shaken; CFLs will not operate properly in temperatures below -10°C or above 49°C; CFLs contain the toxic substance mercury and **must** be disposed of properly. The Eco-Centre in LaSalle will accept CFLs for recycling so save your old ones and we'll see if we can arrange a drop-off box at the church.

The advantages of LED lighting (which are considerable) will have to wait for a future issue.

Submitted by Dawn Boyles

He was just a little boy,
On a week's first day.
Wandering home from Bible school,
And dawdling on the way.

He scuffed his shoes into the grass;
And even found a caterpillar.
He picked a fluffy milkweed pod,
And blew out all the 'filler.'

A bird's nest in a tree above,
So wisely placed up high.

Was just another wonder,
That caught his eager eye.

A neighbor watched his zigzag course,
And hailed him from the lawn;
Asked where he'd been that day
And what was going on?

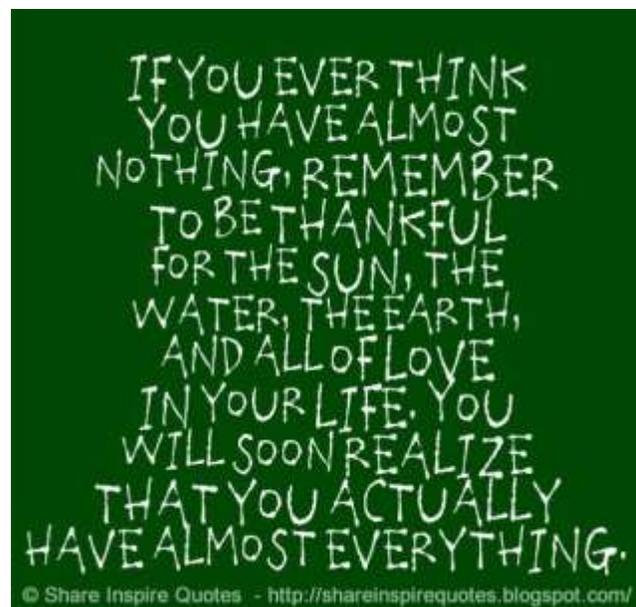
'I've been to Bible School'
He said, and turned a piece of sod.
He picked up a wiggly worm replying,
'I've learned a lot about God'.

'M'm, very fine way,' the neighbor said,
'for a boy to spend his time'.
'If you'll tell me where God is,
I'll give you a brand new dime'.

Quick as a flash the answer came!
Nor were his accents faint.
'I'll give you a dollar, Mister,
If you can tell me where God ain't.'

Have a great day . . .
Enjoy God's many blessings!
Submitted by Dawn Boyles

Author unknown



RECIPE CORNER

With the harvest season upon us here is a nice recipe for all those apples.

**Apple Upside Down Cake**

Nectarines, peaches, pears or pitted cherries may be substituted for the apples specified in this recipe.

To make one cake 8 inches square

4 tbsp butter
 ½ cup light brown sugar
 ½ tsp grated nutmeg (or cinnamon)
 2 large apples, peeled, cored & sliced thin
 - enough to fill the cake pan (I usually need 3)
 1 tsp lemon juice
 1-1/3 cups cake flour
 ¾ cup sugar
 1-3/4 tsp baking powder
 ¼ tsp salt
 3 tbsp vegetable shortening or butter, at room temp.
 ½ cup milk
 1 tsp vanilla extract
 1 egg

Melt the butter in a 8 inch square pan. Add the brown sugar and nutmeg and blend well. Remove the pan from the heat and arrange the apple slices, slightly overlapping them, on the brown-sugar mixture. Sprinkle the apples with the lemon juice.

Sift the flour with the sugar, baking powder and salt. Stir the vegetable shortening or butter just to soften it, then stir in the flour mixture, milk and vanilla extract. Mix until the flour is dampened.

Beat the batter for two minutes with an electric mixer at medium speed or beat 300 strokes by hand. Add the egg, and beat for one minute longer with the mixer or 150 strokes by hand. Pour the batter over the apples.

Bake in a preheated 375 deg F over for 35 minutes. Cool the cake in the pan for five minutes and then invert it onto a serving plate; let it stand for one minute more before removing the pan. Serve warm (or not).

NEWS AND NOTES

There is a sense of Fall in the air with the hustle and bustle of September activities starting up in the church halls with Badminton, Pickleball, Tai Chi, Square Dancing and Scouts and Guides. Meal preparation for Meals on Wheels clients continues on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with a crew of lively volunteers. Another sure sign of Fall is when the kitchen and St. Andrew's hall fills up with many helping hands busily preparing yet another batch of pastry, measuring out spices, and/or cooking up meat for our ever-popular tourtières. Welcome Autumn!

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Summerlea members, Erin Moffat and Ryan Kelly who were married on August 13th and to the proud parents Rick and Sheri Moffat and Frank and Carol Kelly.

Our Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jane Cowell's mother, Evelyn Cowell, who passed away peacefully on May 20th at the Jewish General Hospital following a stroke; and to the family of Peter Dyck who died peacefully on May 20th at the Lakeshore General at the age of 94; Muriel Hill, a long-time member, passed away in August in West Vancouver.

Please continue to keep in your thoughts and prayers our Summerlea friends recovering from surgery or an injury, or undergoing medical treatments. We wish you all speedy recovery. Let's remember our shut-ins as well.

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 for keeping our website updated weekly.

Until the next time,

Susan Ippersiel

