



# Spirited Summerlea



United Church of Canada

## Newsletter

September 2017

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### EDITORS:

*Jane Cowell Poitras,  
Susan Hawke & Lynn Closs*

### OCTOBER CALENDAR

1	10:30am	Worldwide Communion
08	10:30am	Thanksgiving Sunday
15	10:30am	Food Sunday
17	2pm (Chapel)	Executive Board mtg.
22	10:30am	Soup Sunday
29	10:30am	Stewardship Sunday

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

5	10:30am	Remembrance Sunday With communion (Daylight saving time ends)
07	7pm	Taizé Service
12	10:30am	Sunday worship
17 <sup>th</sup>	10-6pm	Book Sale
18	9am-2pm	Bazaar & Book Sale
19	10:30am	Food Sunday
21	2pm (Chapel)	Executive Board Mtg
26	10:30am	Soup Sunday

### A WORD FROM AN EDITOR:

When I was a little girl, my mother always seemed to be reading British history texts. At the time, I had difficulty understanding why anyone would want to read history books for enjoyment! My mother explained that she wanted to learn everything she could about the history of her native land. She described how as an evacuee during the war, she had attended many different schools. It appeared that every time she arrived at a new school, they were studying the Reformation and she wanted insight into other eras of British history...so she started with the Phoenicians and slowly worked her way into the 20th Century.

But my mother always returned to the Reformation and her rather prejudiced vision of Catholics vs. Protestants and I heard about this period on many occasions - especially when I became engaged to a Roman Catholic and there was a possibility of Catholic grandchildren!

The Roman Catholic Church has always fascinated me. It would appear that North American and European Catholics are a different breed from the traditional church, and if left to them, the Catholic Church would be evolving at a much faster pace. However, the dwindling numbers of Catholics in the Western world have reduced their influence in the world-wide organization where Third World membership is growing steadily. And this Third World membership is ultra conservative, very traditional, and against change.

At the end of October, it will be 500 years since Martin Luther nailed to the door his 95 theses at Wittenberg serving as the catalyst for one of the world's largest religious splits, as thousands broke off from the Roman Catholic Church. His legacy, 500 years later, is 560 million Protestants across the globe, making up more than a third of the world's Christians.

I confess I have inherited some of my mother's religious prejudice. The difference, however, is my lack of tolerance for some of my fellow Protestants! Personally, in 2017, I feel I have far more in common with Western Catholics than I do with the Evangelical Christian Right. One small example...

Almost 40 years ago, the Catholic Church was already reaching out to homosexuals. I used to occasionally accompany a friend of mine to gay Catholic masses on the McGill campus on Saturday afternoons - while many of the Evangelical churches at the time were promoting "conversion therapy" to turn homosexuals straight - and, in some cases - still are!

I guess that is why I am glad to be a member of the United Church! No - we are not perfect! But as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I think we can take pride in the progress we have made in less than 100 years of existence...We are open and we are inclusive - which I believe is exactly the way Jesus would want us to be...

*Jane Cowell Poitras*

### **A Word from the Minister**

This can be an overwhelming time for people who care. Ever since the earthquake struck Haiti in 2010, many United Church people (among many others) have sought to do what they can to help alleviate suffering and help, as much as they can, to get things "back to normal". In many cases, there is no going back to normal, because something else entirely may have become "the new normal". But many people

have been very generous and have helped out a great deal by doing so. However, recently, in the aftermath of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and not one, but two devastating earthquakes in Mexico, many have felt overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the devastation and loss, and we wonder how things could ever return to normal, let alone how we can help people in the midst of such widespread devastation. We are often left with a feeling of helplessness when faced with such large-scale need.

In fact, we don't even need to look that far afield in order to find people in extreme need. Our country of Canada has become a haven for refugees of various kinds from all over the world, fleeing possible violence and death in their countries of origin, fleeing these terrible situations with the clothes on their backs, and little else.

I remember back in the 1980's when a slogan emerged that I have always thought was quite a helpful piece of advice. The slogan was, "think globally, act locally". In other words, this notion comes from the realization that none of us can solve the problems of the whole world. None of us can feed the hunger of the whole world, none of us can solve the myriad problems of refugees and their desperate situations, but once we become aware of the needs of people right in our own midst, we can come to the realization that, even though one person cannot solve all the world's problems, each of us CAN do some things to address the needs of people right in our own community.

We have heard a great deal recently about the plight of the Syrian refugees, and this has moved a number of church congregations to action, raising funds and gathering donations to sponsor a Syrian refugee family or individual to come to Canada. In our own case, this has led to the formation of the Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition, which has been working to oversee the process of bringing one Syrian refugee family here to Montreal. The process has been

long and intensive, and we are still at least six months away from finishing the process in Saudi Arabia, which is where the family is currently residing, let alone actually bringing them here to Canada.

But the other reality, as many are aware, is that we are doing our best to help this one family, knowing full well that there are literally millions of others in the same situation, many still waiting to find sponsors. Again, we can't do everything, but we are doing this one thing, and we are doing it to the best of our ability, trusting that it will truly make a difference in the overall situation.

Recently, however, a "refugee story" of another kind came to light. A couple weeks ago, in the *Montreal Gazette*, there appeared the story of Joanne Clotaire, and her two boys, Looandjee and Lucas, and the article recounted the 8-year journey this family took, from Haiti to Ecuador to Brazil then north again to Florida and finally to Montreal. Joanne's husband, Louinel, was detained for 9 months, and then deported back to Haiti, and now they are trying to find a way to all be together again.

I remember seeing a picture in the paper two weeks ago that showed the small apartment where the family lives, with no furniture other than a sofa with no cushions on it. Not visible in that picture was a double bed that had been donated by a local church, which all three of them shared. In the *Gazette* on Tuesday, September 19, another story appeared indicating the number of people who had seen the previous article and wanted to help. This desperate family began to get phone calls from total strangers who were calling because they had some things they wanted to deliver to them. One person, who wished to remain anonymous, bought them a new fridge and stove, and this person said that their hope was that, when the boys were older, they would find some way to "pay it forward" to someone else in need. Some people from our own congregation of Summerlea United, as well as people from

Beaurepaire United and others, showed up with a van full of used furniture, and what came through most clearly from the article was how overwhelmed this family was by the generosity and concern of people whom they did not even know. My favourite quote from the second *Gazette* article, written by Catherine Solyom, is this: "Lucas, waking up on his seventh birthday last week in his own bed, did not want to leave it." Joanne, in reference to the person who gave the appliances, said, "If I could meet them I would get down on my knees like this. That's the truth. Because thank you is not enough."

So, next time you feel overwhelmed by the problems of the world, remember this story, and remember also that we cannot do everything, but there are many things we can do, and many ways we can reach out to others with love and caring, and it will make all the difference in the world.

*Scott A. Patton*



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

**Summerlea Annual Bazaar and Book Fair, November 18<sup>th</sup> 9a.m. – 2p.m.**

The Book Fair will take place on **Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** from 10am – 6pm as well as during the Church Bazaar.

The  
**THANKFUL HEART**  
 opens our eyes to a multitude of  
**Blessings**  
 that continually  
**SURROUND US**

*James E. Faust*

# Christmas Bazaar

Summerlea Bazaar November 18<sup>th</sup> 2017

Please mark your calendars for this popular event!

Once again the changes in our congregation and among our volunteers have lead to further modifications this year.

We are in **urgent** need of a **convener for the jewellery table**. This is a popular money making table for which we already have some experienced volunteers. They just need a coordinator to organize a few meetings to help sort and price the various items. Contact Sinclair or Nancy at the addresses below.

Another big change involves the making and selling of the famous Summerlea Tourtieres. As you probably know, after many years Marion and Undeg and their team have retired from organizing this particular activity.

We felt this would be a big disappointment for many of the patrons attending the Bazaar. After many discussions and advice from Marion we have decided to continue to offer the large tourtieres this year as an experiment. We will make a reduced number of the larger tourtieres and in addition we will offer **Muir's Scottish Meat Pies** for sale on the day of the Bazaar only. Cost will be \$3.00 each or \$30.00 dozen.

In order to give us an approximate idea of how many to purchase, you may pre-order complete dozens only by contacting Sinclair or Nancy.

Please note that once again this year there will be **NO** White Elephant stall. All white elephant items can be taken directly to Renaissance.

Toys will be on the stage, and will also have on the stage a Christmas boutique.



## So in summary:

**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 trees and lights!

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

**Yes:** to any jewelry! (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!

## Volunteer positions available:

Convener for the jewellery store.

Persons interested in rolling pie tops 2-3 days in October.

Persons to make boxes.

Persons interested in cooking meat 2-3 days in October.

People to fill pies.

People available to staff the book room on both the Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>.

As always 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.

Sinclair 514 505 1905

[sinclairharris@videotron.ca](mailto:sinclairharris@videotron.ca)

Nancy 515 634 1243 [nancyruthmark@yahoo.ca](mailto:nancyruthmark@yahoo.ca)

**Summerlea Friends abroad**



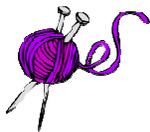
We always love to hear from our Summerlea friends who have moved out of the province. It is always a pleasure to receive an email or note from you. Thanks for keeping in touch, friends!

If your contact information has recently changed, please don't hesitate to contact the church office via email:

[Summerlea\\_united@videotron.ca](mailto:Summerlea_united@videotron.ca). or calling 514-634-2651.

### **Bazaar Knitting and Craft Table:**

If you are a knitter, crocheter, crafter, etc. and would like to contribute something to the craft and knitting table, we would appreciate slippers, socks, adult hats, children beanies, etc. or any other handmade items that you would like to make. Please contact Barb Costello at 514-630-8098



### **Summerlea's Famous Tourtieres!**

As you probably know, after many years Marion and Undeg have retired from organizing this particular activity.



Many people expressed disappointment and it was felt it would also be a disappointment to folk from the community who purchase tourtieres at the bazaar.

With lots of advice from Marion we have decided to offer only the large tourtieres this year as an experiment. (The small tourtieres will be replaced by Muir's Scottish meat pies.)

Once again lots of help will be required and we are counting on some new people to join the team and give us a hand. Don't be shy! We have lots of fun. The pastry is already made and 346 pie bottoms have already been frozen.

The preparation will take place over 2-3 days in October. Possibility of Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, or Saturday.

**Volunteers needed, Please!**

Persons interested in cooking meat (Starting early in the morning)

Persons interested in rolling pie tops.

Persons to make boxes.

Persons to fill pies.

And – dare we ask? Volunteers to chop onions!

Please indicate your preferred task, date and time to:

Sinclair: [sinclairharris@videotron.ca](mailto:sinclairharris@videotron.ca)

Nancy: [nancyruthmark@yahoo.ca](mailto:nancyruthmark@yahoo.ca)

Or by calling Susan in the church office. 514 634 2651

### **William Hunter Memorial Fund – September/2017**

There are some changes with our overseas family. One of our sponsored children, Angelica Escobar Bogado has graduated from her program after many years of working together. We have made a significant difference to her family and the safety and health of the entire community.

We continue to sponsor three children at a cost of \$468.00 per child per year. The new member to our overseas family is Alba Abigail Morales Cabana, a one year old little girl from Paraguay. We also sponsor Santiago, from Paraguay, who is 3 years old and 16 year old Naomi from Ghana.

We help to provide the basic necessities of food, clean water and medical care. We also help to empower a child's family and an entire community with skills, training and knowledge, which will assist them on the path toward self-sufficiency.

Thank you for your generous and continued support.

*Dale Romagosa*

### **Music Notes September 2017**

Welcome back to the choir members! We had an enjoyable bagel breakfast to start our season and look



forward to singing our favourite anthems, both new and old for your listening pleasure during the church services. If you are interested in joining the choir at any time, please give me a call. I will help you learn the pieces so you can enjoy this experience! 514-634-6362.

*Connie Osborne, Music Director*

### Miles of Pennies or Kilometers of Nickels

St Columba House is this year celebrating 100 years of service to the community.

Scott is now on the board at St Columba and recently attended a celebratory dinner in recognition of the work done by St Columba.

The Saint Columba House daily lunch program provides food security by community members for community members. For many years Summerlea has supported this program through our "Miles of Pennies" and have collected over 25 miles of pennies in our maple syrup bucket at the back of the church. The walking distance from Summerlea to St Columba is 8.5 miles. We could have laid our pennies along the walking path three times! With the loss of the penny, we are now collecting nickels and dimes as we attempt to complete the 13.8 Kilometer distance in 400 metre increments. Please continue to put your loose change in the bucket at the back of the church.



"Your experience of life is not based on your life, but what you pay attention to."

*Gregg Krech*

### RECIPE CORNER

#### Blueberry Lemon Cake

**Prep time:** 15 mins

**Cook time:** 55 mins

**Total time:** 1 hour 10 mins



*This Blueberry Lemon Cake is loaded with 1 pound of blueberries and every bite has sweet pops of juicy blueberry and fresh lemon flavour. It's not too sweet and not too tangy, but just right.*

**Author:** Natasha of [NatashasKitchen.com](http://NatashasKitchen.com)

**Skill Level:** Easy

**Cost To Make:** \$8-\$10

**Serving:** 9" blueberry cake



#### Ingredients

- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup (210 grams) granulated sugar
- 1 cup (8oz) sour cream
- ½ cup light olive oil or vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ¼ tsp salt
- 2 cups (260 grams) all-purpose flour\*
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 medium lemon (zest and juice), divided
- ½ Tbsp corn starch
- 16 oz (450g) fresh\*\* blueberries
- Powdered sugar to dust the top, optional

#### Instructions - Prep:

Lightly butter a 9-inch springform pan and line the bottom with parchment. Preheat Oven to 375°F.

#### How to Make Blueberry Lemon Cake:

Beat 2 eggs and 1 cup sugar with whisk attachment on high speed 5 min, or until light in colour and thick.

Add 1 cup sour cream, ½ cup oil, 1 tsp vanilla, ¼ tsp salt and whisk on low speed until well combined.

Whisk together the 2 cups flour with 2 tsp baking powder then add to batter ⅓ at a time, whisking to incorporate with each addition. Finally, add 1 Tbsp lemon juice and ½ Tbsp zest.

Rinse blueberries and drain well. In a medium bowl, toss blueberries with ½ Tbsp corn starch and 1 tsp lemon juice, stirring until well combined and no dry white cornstarch remains.

Pour half of batter into prepared springform pan and spread evenly. Top with half of the blueberries. Spread with remaining batter then sprinkle the rest of the blueberries evenly over the top, pushing them

slightly into the batter (about halfway). Bake at 375°F for 45 to 55 min (mine was perfect at 55 min), or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cake rest in the pan 15-20 min then remove ring and cool until room temp or just warm. Serve dusted with powdered sugar.

#### Notes

\*\*If using frozen blueberries, thaw and drain then in step #4: toss with 1 Tbsp cornstarch and omit lemon juice. Do not add more than 16 oz blueberries or they weigh down the cake.

\*measure flour by spooning into measuring cup then scraping off the top.

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#### The Book Nook

By Jane Cowell Poitras

*Two Books I read this summer:*

#### **Young Elizabeth: The Making of a Queen by Kate Williams**

An entertaining look at the child, teen aged, and young married Elizabeth and the effects of monarchy. World War II, and Elizabeth's coronation in the early 1950's are explored, and an altogether sympathetic portrait emerges of a woman in touch with her own destiny, but sometimes out of touch with the real world outside the Palace walls.

A keeper for those interested in The Royals.

#### **The Last Foundling by Tom H. MacKenzie**

Tom Mackenzie was born in 1939 to a single mother in England. Back in those days an unwed mother was usually shamed into giving up her baby. At nine weeks, the baby named Derek's name was changed to Tom. He spent the first five years of his life in a foster home with a couple, their birth daughter, and another foster girl named Janet. His time there was happy.

Then at five he was taken from his foster home and entered the very strict Foundling Hospital. As the title of this book suggests; he was the "last foundling" - this meant that the year he went in at five was the last year the foundling hospital took in orphans. For the next ten years Tom lived at the Hospital. He endured abuse from some of the staff and abuse from the older boys. During the "holidays" such as Christmas, Easter and summer, Tom was sent to foster homes. Many of these temporary homes did not work out, and Tom got into mischief. The final foster home worked fairly well with him being invited back on holidays. Tom still longed to meet his birth mother and hoped someday they would reunite. This is his story but there are also chapters by his birth mother Jean who also never gave up hope being reunited with the son she was forced to give up.

#### **Update on the refugee effort.**

As you may remember Bilal (brother of Salman, our co-sponsor here in Montreal) and his wife and four children have been waiting for the necessary medical forms in order to proceed in the emigration process. The forms were received August 30th to be completed by a medical doctor recommended by the Embassy and an appointment arranged for the family for September 11th at a cost of \$1500. Fortunately the Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition had recently sent funds of \$1700 that were raised from the various benefit concerts to Bilal and the family.

Once the results are posted to the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh the final security checks will begin at the Canadian regional office in Abu Dhabi. This should take about 6 (!) months. Once all is accomplished the family will need visas and tickets to be issued for their flight to Montreal.

Another cliché has been proven: "The Devil is in the detail." Thanks to all for their continuing support of these efforts. We are indeed a step closer to an airport reception.

*John Osborne*

#### **Now Is The Time For Being Thankful!**

Being thankful is one of the most rewarding activities you can possibly do.

Feeling gratitude not only helps you to feel good straight away, but it can also help you to soften your resistance about challenging situations

### **The obstacle to being thankful**

The only obstacle to being thankful is simply not observing with attention. We grow used to our blessings and we start taking them for granted, without realizing that they truly are blessings.

For instance, we take for granted having running water out of a tap - but go camping for three days and you will quickly notice how difficult and time-consuming the most common tasks become when you don't have running water.

You can overcome the tendency of taking things for granted by dedicating some time daily to developing an **attitude of gratitude**.

### **Practicing gratitude**

You can choose to be thankful any time. For instance, I like starting my day by feeling gratitude while I'm still in bed. I sometimes choose to create a grateful day.

At the time of writing, I also keep a gratitude journal and I write a full page of things I am thankful for at least once a week.

At times, I carry a gratitude rock to remind me to take a few moments to feel grateful.

You can also take advantage of the opportunities that arise throughout the day to be thankful for what you have.



### **NEWS AND NOTES**

Marg and Bill Lynn were warmly received by Scott and the congregation this summer with a surprise visit to Sunday worship one morning in August. It's always lovely to hear from our Summerlea members who have moved away, and keep in touch. Thanks for swinging by, Marg & Bill!!

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the following loved ones who recently

passed away: *Ross Moore*, a long-time member and elder for many years, passed away on May 18<sup>th</sup>. *Jim Moffat* died on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ontario; and Richard Legault's mother, *Dorothy Legault*, passed away June 12 at the age of 92. Dorothy's memorial service was held at Summerlea on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Rhodes Clark Oulton, who passed peacefully on September 19, 2017 at the Sunrise of Beaconsfield. He was 89 years old. Rhodes was a very active member for many years as elder and trustee of the church. Rhodes' funeral was held on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Sunrise Residence in Beaconsfield.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Lewis Guynan, as well as Elizabeth and Natalie Wightman during Natalie's stay in hospital.

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](http://www.summerlea.ca). Many thanks to John Osborne for keeping our website updated weekly.

*Until the next time,*

*Susan Ippersiel*

**"When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for your life and strength. Give thanks for your food, and the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies with yourself."**

**Tecumseh, Shawnee Chief**