

Spirited Summerlea

PANDEMIC SPECIAL EDITION 4

Remember – social distancing does not mean social isolation. Now, more than ever, we need to find creative ways to stay connected.

Church News

The Plant Sale held on Sinclair Harris' front lawn on June 6th was a lovely, relaxed morning - with customers arriving constantly over a two-hour period. Thanks to those who dropped off plants. Nancy Mark helped Sinclair and despite many neighbours and church friends coming by, it was easy to keep "social distancing". We are thrilled to announce that the sale generated \$530.00 for the Haitian literacy project.



Following this small-scale success, the Outreach Committee decided at their meeting on June 18th to hold a **Jigsaw Puzzle Sale** to help folk stay home on their "staycations".

Date: Saturday June 27th, 10.00- 12.00 RAIN OR SHINE

Location: Outside the church on Acadia lawn.

In aid of St Columba House Food Security Program.



We will be setting up at the church at 9.00am. Puzzles can be dropped off at the church between 9 and 10 a.m. or you can contact the church office at summerlea_united@videotron.ca or 514.634.2651 for pick-up. Hand sanitizer will be available, and we ask that everyone **wear masks.**

Please note that we will not be making change. Puzzles will be priced at \$5 or \$10. Please bring exact change.



EDITORIAL

The images of police brutality on our television screens of late have been most disturbing. As the daughter of a former policeman, I have always been very pro “law and order” and supportive of the police. That being said, I cannot get those images out of my head. People of colour do not deserve to be killed or brutally stomped on for minor offenses.



In Canada and Quebec, there is a common misconception that we are exempt from systemic racism and white supremacy – which is not true. Anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism thrives in Canada and since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-Asian racism has also reared its ugly head. To deny its existence, is to deny the lived experiences of hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

I have come to realization that there is so much that I do not know about the lives of my Black, Asian and Indigenous friends, and of their struggles. In conversation, we tend to casually skip over any problematic discussions - and are just friends - somewhat superficially, I now realize.

I also recognize that there is a great deal for me to learn, and I especially need to learn about how MY country has dealt and is dealing, with racism - warts and all. I also need to dig deeper with my friends of colour, and to listen actively to the voices of those who are affected by systemic injustices, and to collaborate as an ally to help share their messages. The death of George Floyd has sparked a revolution that I want to be a part of. The days of sweeping these problems under the rug and looking the other way are over. As a white ally, I have a role to play.



Jane Cowell

How are you doing? The congregation want to know! Please send us your news so we can share with our church community. You don't have to write a novel – just a couple of lines would be fine – we hope to hear from you all – to know if you are healthy and how you are spending your days! Send to: jane.cowell.poitras@sympatico.ca

THE STORY OF AFRICVILLE

Black settlement in Nova Scotia

Black people have lived in Nova Scotia since before the founding of Halifax in 1749. However, it was only after the American Revolution, in the late 1700s and early 1800s, that large groups of Black settlers began to arrive in the province. Many of them were former enslaved people who had been promised freedom and land in Nova Scotia, but when they arrived, they encountered white settlers who viewed them as inferior. Because of racism, Black settlers were pushed to the margins of society and forced to live on the most inhospitable land. Despite this, they persevered, developing strong, vibrant communities. Africville was one such place.

A close-knit community

Africville was a primarily Black community located on the south shore of the Bedford Basin, on the outskirts of Halifax. The first records of a Black presence in Africville date back to 1848, and it continued to exist for 150 years after that. Over that time, hundreds of individuals and families lived there and built a thriving, close-knit community. Unfortunately, discrimination and poverty presented many challenges for the community of people in Africville. The City of Halifax refused to provide many amenities other Haligonians took for granted, such as sewage, access to clean water and garbage disposal. Africville residents, who paid taxes and took pride in their homes, asked the City to provide these basic services on numerous occasions, but no action was taken. The City of Halifax eventually decided to relocate the residents of Africville to then build industry and infrastructure in the area. But it also used the language of human rights, claiming that relocation would improve the standard of living for residents.

In January 1964, Halifax City Council voted to authorize the relocation of Africville residents. Before this decision was made, there was no

meaningful consultation with residents of Africville to gather their views. In fact, it was later reported over 80 per cent of residents had never had contact with the Halifax Human Rights Advisory Committee, which was the group charged with consulting the community.



The destruction of Africville

The destruction of Africville took several years. Residents who could prove they owned their land were offered payment equal to the value of their houses. Residents without proof – some residents did not have deeds, even if their families had lived on the site for generations – were offered \$500. Those who resisted relocation could have their lands expropriated by the city. There were also some accounts of bribery and intimidation being used against residents to force them from the neighbourhood. In the end, despite resistance, all residents were relocated; the last remaining Africville home was destroyed in January of 1970.

The legacy of Africville

Despite these challenges, former residents did take action and seek justice. In the 1980s, the Africville Genealogy Society was formed and it began to seek recompense for all the suffering caused by the destruction of the community. In 2010, a settlement was reached and the Mayor of Halifax made a public apology. Part of the settlement was used to rebuild Seaview Church, which now serves as the Africville Museum. Not all former residents accepted the apology, however, and some are continuing to seek individual compensation for what they suffered.

Source: Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Girl Guide Cookies Please note that we will not be receiving Mint Girl Guide cookies this fall, however, we do have some in stock right now. If anyone would like to reserve them for when we return to the church, they are \$5.00/box and can be reserved by emailing **Sinclair** at sinclair.m.harris@gmail.com

PANDEMIC COOKING

I don't know about you, but on hot, sticky days I don't really feel like cooking AND I want to eat something cool and refreshing.



Enter the barbecued chicken! Barbecued chickens are available in most grocery stores, but I think the best ones come from Costco. The most expensive ones I have seen are about \$9, which also makes them fairly reasonably priced. Also, whole, fresh chickens can also be had much more cheaply on special and you can roast it yourself!

I get three meals for two out of one chicken!

Meal 1: Cold chicken leg or breast with a mixed green salad and bean salad

Meal 2: Remove the skin and bones and chop the remaining chicken. Depending on your taste, you can add thinly sliced celery, green onions, sliced water chestnuts, etc. and mayonnaise. Serve a scoop on top of a plated salad and serve with French bread.

Meal 3: Make stock with the chicken bones. Strain and defat the stock. Use as the basis for a cold soup like Vichyssoise or Borscht...

Commented [CJ1]:

Do YOU have any easy dinner recipes that you would like to share? If so, please email me at jane.cowell.poitras@sympatico.ca by June 26th.

Events

DO YOU KNOW ANY YOUNG FAMILIES THAT MIGHT BENEFIT FROM AN ON-LINE CHILDREN'S SERVICE? Feel free to pass this along! ALL ARE WELCOME!



To help faith communities and families continue to support the spiritual lives of our children during the COVID-19 pandemic, Shanna Bernier, the Nakonha:ka Regional Council Program Support Minister for Youth and Young Adults, is offering a weekly online children's church service on Facebook Live at 9:00 am on Sundays. Videos of all past services are available on the Nakonha:ka Regional Council website:

To join in the Facebook Live Children's Church go to Shanna's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/shanna.bernier> 9am Sundays.



West Island Citizen Advocacy WICA is reaching out to the community with three programs to support those who are vulnerable. **NEED SOCIAL SUPPORT? NEED HELP WITH GROCERIES?**

<http://volunteerwica.com/en/wica-can-help/> **ABLE TO HELP? CALL US! 514-694-5850 Ext. 22** www.volunteerwica.com Want to send support? here is their donation link: <https://volunteerwica.com/en/giving-tuesday-covid19/>

Book Nook

I just finished reading **Talking With Strangers** by Malcolm Gladwell for my book club. It's a rambling book that covers a multitude of examples of how we fail to understand other people, and has a very pertinent section on how the police in the United States treat people on traffic stops.

Here is a review from the Guardian:

"He crafts a compelling story, stopping off at prewar appeasement, paedophilia, espionage, the TV show Friends, the Amanda Knox and Bernie Madoff cases, suicide and Sylvia Plath, torture and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

The tale begins with Sandra Bland, the African American woman who in July 2015 was stopped by a traffic cop in a small Texas town. She was just about to begin a job at Prairie View A&M University, when a police car accelerated up behind her. Doing what almost all of us would have

done, she moved aside to let the car pass. And just like most of us in that situation, she didn't bother indicating. It was on that technicality that the cop, Brian Encinia, ordered her to pull over.

Agitated and annoyed by Encinia's ploy, Bland lit a cigarette to calm herself down. Encinia demanded that she put it out. When she protested, he instructed her to get out of the car and, after some minor resistance on Bland's part, she was arrested and put in jail. Three days later, while still being held, she killed herself.

As Gladwell notes, it was one of several high-profile incidents in which the aggressive behaviour of police officers led to shocking deaths of African Americans, thus inspiring the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement. But why, Gladwell asks, did things go so badly wrong on that Texas highway? What were the misunderstandings that led to such a needless conclusion, and where did they come from?"

I thoroughly enjoyed this book! Highly recommend it – even if it does ramble from subject to subject!

Smile Corner

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:



The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water. 'The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow..

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

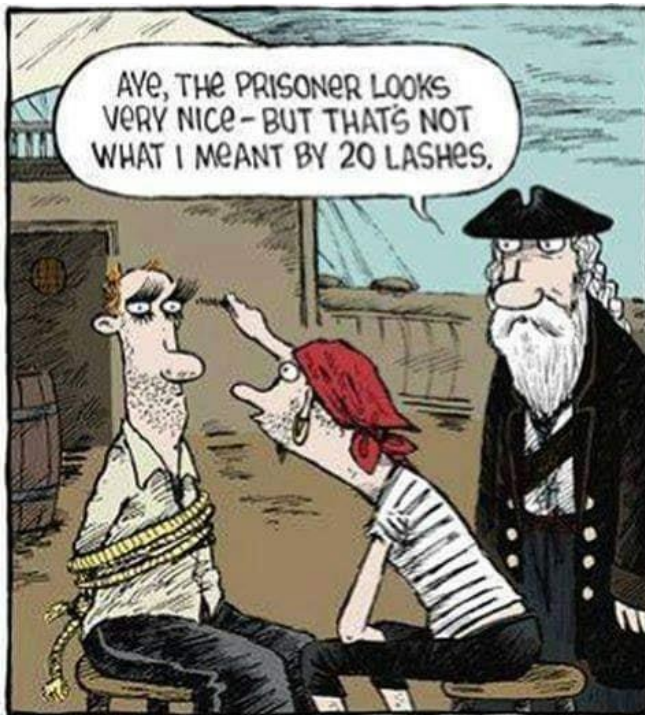
The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM .. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

And this one just about sums them all up The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'



Diversions

When my family gets together, we love to play games. Because of social distancing, we have not been getting together and I miss playing games! To help make up for this loss in my life, I have been playing games online on my iPad. I asked people for recommendations for games to play, as there are literally thousands of games available in the App Store. I tried all the recommended games, but not all were to my taste!

Here are some titles I have enjoyed playing recently:

- ✓ Who Wants to be a Millionaire
- ✓ QuizUp
- ✓ Jeopardy World Tour
- ✓ Word Stacks
- ✓ Cribbage

SUDOKU Answer from last edition

Here is the solution. Did you get it right?

3	7	4	5	6	2	8	9	1
2	5	9	7	1	8	6	3	4
6	1	8	3	4	9	7	5	2
5	4	3	1	9	7	2	8	6
1	9	6	2	8	4	5	7	3
7	8	2	6	5	3	1	4	9
9	6	7	4	2	5	3	1	8
8	3	1	9	7	6	4	2	5
4	2	5	8	3	1	9	6	7

DEADLINE for submissions or ideas for the next newsletter: June 26th : jane.cowell.poitras@sympatico.ca

