



Spirited Summerlea

United Church of Canada

Newsletter

May 2012



EDITORS: Jane Cowell Poitras, Susan Hawke & Lynn Closs

It was not until I started writing for the newsletter that I realized how much of my life is caught up in my commute to work. (Those of you who actually read my editorials know what I mean!) Not only do I spend 10 hours a week in transit but over the years I have developed relationships with the people on my daily ride. Some people have become good friends and others I simply share the journey with but do not actually know. For example, there is the harried mother with the stroller trailing Cheerios who is on my morning run and coming home there is the young man who prefers to stand and always takes his coat off even on the coldest of days. I catch myself wondering what their lives are like and sometimes, much to my dismay, forming stereotypical judgments about them – as the following incident illustrates.

My favourite past time on the bus is reading. I do enjoy my quiet time for myself. One morning last week, I was well “into” my book when two women boarded the bus and sat directly across from me. They were laughing and chatting. One was playing her music so loud that I could hear it despite her earphones. I looked up in annoyance. Her friend seemed quite a bit older. Perhaps it was her mother, I thought. She was busily applying copious amounts of makeup while carrying on an animated conversation with her music-listening companion. She had to speak loudly because of the other woman’s earphones. The pair of them was so distracting that I could not continue reading.

Rats! I closed my book and watched the two of them in irritation. Unkind thoughts filtered through my head. How typical of people these days, I thought to myself as I gazed out the window, they do not give a darn about the world around them. Suddenly, the younger woman exclaimed “What a beautiful day! Let’s give thanks to God.” I could feel my head snap up and my jaw drop. They joined hands, bowed their heads and said a prayer. Those of us seated around them looked on in amazement.

What an eye-opener. Not only had I mislabeled the two women as frivolous and uncaring but I was in awe of their courage to exhibit their faith in a crowded bus. It is one thing to profess your beliefs in church on Sunday with

like-minded individuals but quite another to do so in public. The incident made me vow not to be so quick to judge others. It also is making me consider how I can be more open in expressing my faith in the diverse communities I pass through every day. This willingness to share our spirituality must certainly be one of the biggest challenges we face as Christians.

Susan Hawke

CALENDAR

June

3	Sun	10:30am	Communion Sunday
10	Sun	10:30am	Worship
17	Sun	10:30am	Worship (<i>Father’s Day</i>)
24	Sun	10:30am	Worship
26	Tue	6pm	Congregational Bd. Mtg. and Potluck

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The church will be closed in July

For pastoral care, please leave a detailed message on our voice mail 514-634-2651, and someone will return your call.

August 5, 12, 19, 26 **10am**

2	Sept	10:30am	Worship
9	Sept	10:30am	Worship

- Sunday, June 3rd

A Word from the Minister

Our newsletter, "Spirited Summerlea", is one of the ways we keep in touch with those of you who make up that large group of people who are a part of our congregational family. There are those among us whom we see every Sunday as the community gathers for worship or other events, and there are some who may only drop in to see us on occasion. There are also those who have been a part of our congregation for many, many years, but whose circumstances prevent them from being able to be present with us on a regular basis. I am very much aware that, at Summerlea, being "out of sight" does not mean being "out of mind". There are many people who make a point of letting me know if someone is ill, or is in need of pastoral care for whatever reason. I appreciate this, not only because it helps me to do my job more effectively, but also because it is a sign of the "ministry of caring" that is lived out in so many ways at Summerlea. I would like to come back to this in a moment, but for now I would like to express my appreciation for another aspect of Summerlea's life.

Summerlea is a church of caring and compassionate people, as well as a church that is active in the wider community. We raise funds for various mission projects, we give generously to the Mission and Service Fund, we donate food to the Food Bank to help the hungry in our midst, and these are just to name a few (an exhaustive list would probably take over the whole newsletter!). However, people give of themselves in many other ways, as well. For instance, take the recent auction that was held here at the church on Saturday, May 12. All of the items that were auctioned off were donated by church people and community members, and even the services of Len, the auctioneer, did not cost us anything. As a result, there were only incidental costs associated with putting on this event, so most of the money that was made was profit for the benefit of the church. But ask the people who coordinated and ran this event (very successfully, I might add), and you will begin to see the real "cost" of putting on an event on such a scale. There were many people who worked for many days and who put in innumerable hours getting everything ready for auction day. During the Sunday service the next day, Sheila Hebert offered a very big thank you to all those who helped make the event possible, but even that still did

not fully capture the tremendous amount of work that such an event entails.

It is heartening to see what is possible when people work together for the common good, and to see the level of commitment that is inherent in people's generosity in giving of their time and their resources. And now, having mentioned these two important aspects of Summerlea's life (namely, care and compassion for people and commitment to the work and ministry of the church), I would like to put these two together and offer an opportunity for further involvement in the life of our church. I have said on a number of occasions that I could spend all of my time doing nothing but pastoral care, and this would be more than a full-time job in and of itself. Of course, if this were the reality, there would be no Sunday worship service (at least, not one led by me), I would not be present at any church committee meetings, I would not devote any time to church administration, and the list goes on and on. The point is, as much as I might like to keep in touch with, and provide pastoral care for, each and every member and adherent of the congregation on a regular basis, it is a much bigger job than one person can handle.

At one time in my ministry, I made the mistake of assuming that I was alone in providing pastoral care for the congregation. When I was in my last church in Toronto, I went to visit an elderly woman in hospital, and when I arrived in her room, there sitting in a chair next to the bed was a woman from the congregation. This was not all that unusual, except, through that event, I came to discover that this woman was a regular visitor of the sick and shut-ins, and I had no idea she was doing this work. Like so many church people, she wanted no recognition or thanks, she was just responding in her own way to God's call to a ministry of caring.

One of the tasks that I have offered to take on is the formation of a lay pastoral care team at Summerlea. This will allow for not only some much needed assistance with the pastoral care needs of the congregation, but will also help us to carry out this work in a much more coordinated and intentional way. I will soon be making an announcement regarding a training session that will help us to get this project underway, but for now, I am asking members of our church to seriously consider whether this might be the kind of ministry in which they might like to be involved. Some of you, I know,

already do this kind of ministry and I know it is appreciated by those who benefit from it. My goal is to get more people involved in this important work that too often gets neglected, as well as to provide support and resources for those who might offer themselves for this important ministry. Is God perhaps calling you to be involved in this kind of work? Think about it, pray about it, believe in your God-given gifts and abilities, and step forward in faith, knowing that your commitment to this work and ministry will truly make a difference. And watch for further information about our upcoming training session as we respond to God's call to reach out to others with love, care, and compassion.

Rev. Scott A. Patton.

Thank you George!

George Provias, our caretaker, reached his 25 years of employment with Summerlea this May. In recognition of his long and dedicated service, a reception was held during coffee hour on May 13th. And what a celebration it was! There was even a delightful cake, decorated with handyman tools. A long line of groups and committees queued up to thank George for not only being a "Jack of all Trades" but for going "above and beyond" on so many occasions. Holding the title of caretaker is an apt name for George, as he has certainly taken good care of us for the last 25 years. Thank you George!



By Susan Hawke

Good-bye to Marg and Bill

A farewell reception for long time Summerlea members, Marg and Bill Lynn, was held after the service on May 6th. The couple will be moving to Toronto. Bill said that he and Marg wanted to be nearer their family and were looking forward to the relocation but acknowledged that leaving "their Summerlea family" was difficult. Many of those in attendance found saying goodbye difficult too and there were many misty eyes in evidence as the event drew to a close.

They will miss them enormously. Both Marg and Bill have always been very generous with their time and talents over the 47 years they have been part of Summerlea and they have done much to enrich

and further the work and life of our church. The couple were presented with two memberships to the Royal Ontario Museum as a parting gift from the congregation.

Good luck and God speed Marg and Bill!

Memorial for Virginia Carlisle.

Virginia's family invites you to share with them a celebration of her life to be held at 2 pm on Saturday, August 4, 2012 at Summerlea. Virginia was well known and respected in Lachine. Please extend this invitation to Stoney Point families - to the children and parents whose lives she touched.

Going, Going, Gone! Summerlea's First-Ever Auction



One of the things we are encouraged to do as Christians is to step out in faith. That is what we thought we were doing when we decided to hold an auction in support of the Summerlea Roof Fund. Now that it is a 'fait accompli' we know that it was actually a giant leap.

Luckily the faith of the people of Summerlea was equal to the task because it armed us with the patience, tenacity, physical strength, good humour, co-operation and team spirit that would have been the envy of the NHL!

Our auctioneer, Len Dupuis, donated his services so our expenses were limited to advertising costs and the purchase of some material.

Bidding was at times brisk, at times painfully slow and in a few instances fast and furious. From our vantage point on the stage, Leonard and I saw some interesting scenarios, husbands bidding while their wives were rolling their eyes and saying, "But where will we put it?", a young bride teary-eyed with delight at her purchase of sparkling crystal for her new home, and grand-parents happily buying toys for the grand kids all the while asking each other, "How does this thing work?"

Final figures indicate that we will be able to donate about \$5000 to the Roof Fund. Unsold items were either saved for the Christmas Bazaar or transported to Renaissance. Nothing was wasted.

Our step of faith allowed us to raise needed money for our church but it also afforded many opportunities for us to discover new depths of co-

operation, friendship, generosity and mutual support that made the whole under-taking so worthwhile.

I thank each and every one of you who gave so willingly of your goods, your time, your wise counsel and sheer hard work. You will never know how much you are appreciated.

Sheila Hebert

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee had a very busy spring. We had a combo service on April 22, 2012. We were fortunate to have as a guest speaker, Aileen Smiley, the manager of Dix Mille Villages Pointe Claire. She gave an interesting presentation on Fair Trade coffee. Later in Saint Andrew's hall she had a display of some of the many items made from recycled materials available for purchase from Dix Mille Villages.

During the service we presented a cheque of \$845.00 to Patricia Lisson the director of Saint Columba House. This was the pennies rolled by Barbara Davidson and represented our 23rd mile. The money will be used to support the lunch programme at Saint Columba House. They currently supply a hot lunch to more than 100 school children.

As it was also Earth Day we shared a 100 mile lunch prepared by the Outreach Committee with ingredients purchased locally. Several people mentioned that they would like the recipes we used so here they are.

Recipes

Ruth Crabb's Potato and Leek Soup: (serves 4)

1 Tbsp butter
2 leeks (white part only) sliced
1 cup milk
3 cups chicken stock
2 large potatoes (peeled and cubed)
¼ tsp salt and pepper

In a heavy saucepan, melt butter over low heat; cook leeks, covered and stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes or until softened. Add chicken stock and potatoes; increase heat to medium high, cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium; simmer for 20 minutes.

In a blender or food processor, puree in batches until smooth. Blend in milk. Heat: do not boil. Serve. Can be chilled and served cold as Vichyssoise.

Sinclair's Oatmeal Bread: (makes 2 loaves)

2 cups boiling water
1 cup oats
1 pkg yeast (or 1 tbsp)
1 tbsp sugar
½ cup warm water
¼ cup molasses
1 tsp salt
¼ cup oil
6 – 6½ cups flour

Pour the water over the oats, leave for ½ hour. Prepare the yeast (Put yeast into warm water, add sugar and let it grow!). Add the molasses, salt and oil to the oats, mixing well. Add the yeast mixture. Work in the flour. Knead (add more flour if sticky!). Coat lightly with oil, and let it rise in a bowl for approximately 1½ hour. Punch down, knead, shape into loaves, let rise again. Bake for ~45 minutes at 375F. Bread is done when it falls out of the pan and tapping the bottom produces a hollow sound.

Outreach also did a free will offering at the lunch and raised \$230.00 for the Benevolent Fund which supports the Lachine Food Bank at Christmas time. We would like to thank the congregation for their wonderful support.

In early May we made our 58th Kiva loan – a sum of \$25 was loaned to “Patrick” in Kenya as part of a loan for university fees. Also in May, Kiva reported that \$17.37 had been repaid to Summerlea's account for a total of 10 loans that have now been repaid.

If you would like to follow Summerlea's Kiva account, go to www.kiva.org. When you log in the user name is: crego2@gmail.com. The password is: outreachkiva.

May 13th was Christian Family Sunday (aka Mothers' Day) We again sold mums for Moms and raised \$224.00. This money will be forwarded to the Stephen Lewis Fund “Grandmothers to Grandmothers”. These remarkable women raise their grandchildren who have been orphaned as a consequence of AIDS.

Dix Mille Villages and Girl Guides of Canada

On Thursday, May 31, from 6-9 p.m. there will be a community shopping night at Dix Milles Villages.

20% of all takings will be go to help finance the new well that is being installed at Girl Guide camp. This event provides an opportunity to buy Fair Trade coffee and other items while at the same time supporting Girl Guides.



Dear Summerlea Friends,

What a wonderful, caring send off you created for us on our last day at Summerlea. Bill and I were very touched with the choice of some of our favourite music, your loving reception, and the amazing gift of a two year membership at "The ROM", Royal Ontario Museum, as it is such a very special place. The art and sculptures exhibits, lectures and concerts, and city walks will be something we can enjoy over and over again and we thank you most sincerely.

We are also so very appreciative of your friendships which have been such a vibrant part of our lives for many years. We feel quite blessed to have had the rich experience to live among you. Each of you will always have a special spot in our hearts.

Since our arrival we have attended two lovely musical concerts in which our grandchildren participated, had family BBQs and dinners together with lots more to come. This is a new and special treat for us. We are quickly settling in, have looked around, and both of us have said, "We like it!" It is already feeling like our place.

We will look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the coming days. Do keep well, and know that we love you and really appreciate your generous gifts to us..

*Warmly,
Marg and Bill Lynn*

Annual Church Picnic

Time and place to be announced at a later date. Please watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin in the coming weeks.

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> *What's New.*
Applications must be submitted by **June 1, 2012.**

Annabel Roddan Mclauchlan

Dear Friends,

I apologize for not updating you sooner; but briefly, I wanted to let everyone know how and where my mother, Annabel, is.

Mum is now living until May 29th, at Amica Whitby, at 200 Kenneth Hobbs RD., in Whitby, closer than her last residence in Oshawa. Annabel is getting around remarkably strongly with a walker, still having regular physio for rehab and feeling stronger. The shock of being limited physically is still affecting Mum, as it would be very frustrating and depressing to any of us. We feel with good support and regular contact with our families young and old here in Whitby and the others who will visit as often as possible, Mum's spirit will lift. Even now, we notice she is feeling more energetic and cheerful, seeing her little grandchildren of Rod and Catherine (Sophie, 3, Thomas and Hector, 9 month identical twins...busy!) and my older children. As mum gets to know more people in her residence, many of whom she can befriend and help and feel needed, she is feeling more comfortable and relaxed.

So, while an exact address for permanent residence is as yet undecided for mum, she has realized that she will likely stay closer to us here in Whitby, and therefore faces the task of returning to Lachine, probably in early June, to sort/clear our family home with a view to selling it in the not too distant future.

For now, I'd suggest any written correspondence for mum be sent c/o my address, and her current Amica tel number, until May 28 is 905-665-9758 probably best to call after 8:00 pm or 3-4 in pm. My address is: 3 Forest Rd., Whitby, ON, L1N 3N7.

Thank You to everyone for your care, interest and support for our wonderful mother, grandmother and friend. Cheers,

Shona and all the Mclauchlan Sadler 'crew'
(my tel: 905-725-9794)

PS...Diarmid and Hamish will be visiting here on May 26-29 to visit with mum and discuss future plans with all of us together.

Some people take on a job in the church. Others invite themselves into a ministry. What is the difference, you ask?

If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a job.

If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you quit because someone criticized you, it's a job.
If you keep on serving, it's a ministry.

If you do it as long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a job.

If you are committed to staying even if it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you quit because no one thanked you or praised you, it's a job.

If you stick with it even though no one recognized your efforts, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job.

It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.

If your concern is success, it's a job.

If your concern is faithfulness and service, it's a ministry.

If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job.

Lord, strengthen your servants and move us to a true sense of ministry and service, through your grace and mercy. Amen.

Music Notes

I can't believe we are nearing the end of another season of music at Summerlea. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who participated in singing and making music over the last several months, including the patient families who allow their folk to come out early to rehearsals, etc. and who lift pianos, and move furniture for us!! Your support is greatly appreciated.

I was very pleased to be able to play for the wedding of Joey Madden and Isabelle Quevillon who have been attending services here at Summerlea for the past couple of years. Lucky me, and congratulations to you both!

Our Candlelight Service was very well received this year...many in the congregation



felt it was one of our best performances. Kudos to the Senior Choir!!! Our youth participated in the Christmas Eve Family Service again this year, singing and helping me with the young people in the audience as we experimented with musical instruments. Thank you, guys! You're very good sports!

We were blessed with several excellent concerts this year. In the Fall, we welcomed back Elias-Axel Pettersson, pianist, and towards Christmas, the Lakeshore Concert Band performed their annual Dessert Concert here.

We had a very large turn-out for the concert by Octet Plus in aid of the Scleroderma Foundation in early December. This concert and its reception afterwards was organized by Ann Cockhill, assisted by Mel, and raised a record sum of money (over \$6,000) for the Foundation. Bravo, Ann!

Our Dec. 4th Service was beautifully enhanced by the music of the Lakeshore Saxophone Quartet; a big thank you to all the musicians for this gift.

Thanks to all who participated in the Anniversary Variety Show in February this year. We certainly have a lot of talented people here at Summerlea. I'm glad you all came out to help make this show a great success. There can be no show without performers! It was a lot of fun.

In March, Concerto Della Donna returned to perform here, directed by Iwan Edwards. The choice of music was fantastic and the singing heavenly. Always a treat...thank you, Iwan!

In April, we heard a new artist, Chad Heltzel, pianist, and a young cellist, Noemie Raymond-Friset, playing several classical works. How lucky we are to hear this calibre of playing in our own backyard!

I would also like to thank Leslie Field for playing so beautifully on her sax in honour of her dad, Donald Vincent. I would also make mention of Union United's Gospel Choir, who sang with us on Rolanda's last service here. They did a great job and were a wonderful group of people. I hope this will not be the last time we hear them. Many thanks!

Thank you, also, Rolanda, for all your musical contributions during the year you spent with us in student ministry. You were great to work with, and I came away with several little musical gems that I can use in the future. Your next congregation will be lucky to have you!

Happy summer to all!

Connie Osborne

Life is Often the Best Teacher

The vicissitudes of life and the workplace are sometimes our best teachers.

Many philosophies and religions postulate that life teaches us what we need to know. Keeping an open mind is important when you are struggling with a difficult problem. A person, event, or experience can put you in the realm of learning if you stay open to what you can learn; hence the adage, "When the student is ready, the teacher will come."

So don't be intimidated when a problem arises. Instead, ask yourself what can be learned from the situation at hand.

Before Conflict Explodes, Try This Strategy

Conflicts in the workplace can get out of hand when people stop listening to each other and instead concentrate on defending their positions. When you sense a disagreement is about to spiral out of control, follow these steps:

- **Be quiet.** Once you realize you're not saying anything constructive, stop talking. Let the other person continue until he or she realizes you've disengaged from the power struggle.
- **Listen and ask questions.** Pay attention to the other person's words, and try to figure out the real issue behind your disagreement. Ask questions and draw the other person out.
- **Respond to what you hear.** Keep probing and paraphrasing until the person calms down and no longer feels threatened or defensive. Once people realize that you're interested in understanding what they have to say, they'll get back to discussing the situation rationally.



Can You Be a Good Mentor?

You know how important mentoring can be to younger or inexperienced teachers. While you may be an excellent teacher to students, how do you know if you're cut out to be a good mentor to other adults? Here are four key characteristics of an effective mentor and questions to help evaluate how you rank in regard to that characteristic:

- **Commitment.** Are you willing to dedicate the time and effort necessary to a mentoring relationship? You should already be involved in helping teachers learn new skills and develop professionally.
- **Courage.** Do you have the courage to take risks, admit mistakes, and let others do the same? You'll have to tolerate the occasional error and use it as a learning experience, and at the same time teach others how to tell the difference between a reasonable risk and an unacceptable one.
- **Curiosity.** Are you hungry for knowledge? If you're always asking questions, trying to find out how things work and why, you'll be a good mentor.
- **Compassion.** Are you patient with others when they make mistakes? Do you try to understand situations from the other person's point of view? As a mentor, your job isn't to pass judgment but to create opportunities for insight and growth in others.

"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life. I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life." I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that you

shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back. I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— [Maya Angelou](#)

News and Notes

We bade farewell to very dear Summerlea folks, **Marg & Bill Lynn** who recently relocated to Toronto. Marg and Bill look forward to spending time with their son, daughter-in-law and their 2 grandchildren, as well as reconnect with special friends and other family members. We wish them much happiness, and will miss them terribly at Summerlea. Marg and Bill, we'll hold you to keeping in touch with your Summerlea family.

Congratulations to Gabrielle Poitras who has been chosen to be class valedictorian and will give the traditional speech to her peers during the graduation ceremonies in June for the Faculty of Arts at McGill University. Over the years, Gabrielle has been very involved in many church activities, as well as being a member of the Junior, Intermediate and Youth choirs. Many remember her great performance as the lead role of "Jonah" in the musical "Oh Jonah". Gabrielle, you've made your Summerlea family very proud, and we applaud you and send you our best wishes in your future endeavours.

Congratulations to our in-year-ministry student minister, **Rolanda Taylor** who received her degree in Ministry on May 9th. We wish you success and much joy at her pastoral charge in Saskatchewan.

Congrats to our wonderful caretaker, **George Provias** who celebrated 25 years of service with Summerlea on May 13th.

Congratulations to **Kirsti Harris and George Kamel** who were married on May 19th at St. George and St. Joseph Church in Pierrefonds. We wish them many years of love, joy and good health.

Sadly, **Betty Cole** passed away peacefully on February 25 at the Bayview, surrounded by her family. Our condolences to Sue, Kevin, Michelle, Keith, Cassandra, and their family.

Our sympathy is extended to Janet Smart and her family upon the death of Janet's mother-in-law who died suddenly in England on May 6th.

Please keep these families in your prayers as well as those listed in our prayer circle in each Sunday bulletin.

Have a safe, healthy and happy summer. Until the next time.

