



Spirited Summerlea

United Church of Canada

Newsletter

September 2018



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EDITORS:

*Jane Cowell Poitras,
Susan Hawke & Lynn Closs*

OCTOBER CALENDAR

07	10:30am	Thanksgiving Sunday Communion Sunday
14	10:30am	Sunday Worship
21	10:30am	World Food Sunday Soup Sunday
28	10:30am	Peace Sunday

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

4	10:30am	Sunday Worship Communion Sunday <i>(Daylight saving time ends)</i>
09	10am-6pm	<i>Book Fair</i>
10	9am-2pm	<i>Bazaar & Book Fair</i>
11	10:30am	Remembrance Sunday
18	10:30am	Children's Sunday Food Sunday / Soup Sunday
25	10:30am	Reign of Christ Sunday

A WORD FROM AN EDITOR:

As our unusually hot summer draws to a close, September sees Summerlea folk back in the pews and gearing up for a busy Fall. A new face in our midst is Colleen Kilkenny, our new Office Administrator. Since August, Colleen has been occupied learning the ropes of her new position. We thought this issue of the newsletter, would be a good way of introducing her to the congregation.

Colleen, hails from Verdun, and is the oldest of three children. As an adult she moved to the West Island and has resided here ever since. She and her husband, Michael, raised their shared children of 6 in Dorval. Most of their children are on their own but they still have their beloved dog Betty to keep them company.

Initially Colleen had a career in the financial sector working among other things as an executive secretary in a bank. Once the children started to come, she decided to focus her energies on raising her growing family. While doing this however, she has for over 20 years maintained her own fitness business which has specialized in working with seniors. She has offered her services to various West Island cities and community centres.

Colleen is very people-oriented and has a ready smile for all who enter her office. She said the job at Summerlea attracted her as it afforded an opportunity to be employed in something that contributed to the community and "made a difference".

We are so happy to have Colleen join our Summerlea family. Welcome!

Susan Hawke

on behalf of the Summerlea Newsletter Editors

A Word from the Minister

With all the warm, summer-like weather we've been having lately, it makes it difficult to believe that summer is actually over. But my July holidays are a distant memory now, and if the weather is trying to trick me into thinking it's still summer, all the activities that are starting up again quickly bring me back to reality. And Labour Day has come and gone, and that, for me, is usually the signal that summer is over, and it's time to get back to some serious work again.

This year, Labour Day weekend took on a special significance, and the events to which I'm about to refer have inspired me in many ways to begin a new church year with hope and enthusiasm.

The special event that took place at the church on the Sunday afternoon of Labour Day weekend was the marriage of Robert and Sylvain. As a gay couple, they had been looking for a place of worship that would accept them and welcome them, and that search led them to Summerlea. I don't yet know a lot about their background, but it is usually safe to assume that, as gay people, they have experienced the homophobia and intolerance that most (if not all) of us gay people have experienced. Sadly, this is how many gay people see the church in general – as a place that would not welcome them, or might in fact be openly hostile to them. I know, because I have experienced this in some sectors of the church myself (for more on this, go to our website, www.summerlea.ca, and click on “The Winding Path”). But, even though the church has not always been welcoming of people in the LGBTQ2S+ community, it is God who continues to call to those whom the church has sometimes rejected, and individuals have continued to respond to that call. But in order to respond, people need to know (that is, to be assured) that the worshipping community is not going to add to the rejection and hatred to which they have already been exposed.

It is for this very reason that our church board began to think about how we can better get the word out that we are a welcoming and inclusive congregation where LGBTQ2S+ people (and, in fact, ALL people) will find a place of acceptance and love. This is what led to the installation of our two rainbow flags that fly over the two doors leading to our sanctuary. To many, our rainbow flags could be like a beacon of light, signalling that this is a place where all are accepted and embraced as the people they really are,

and where God's love for all people is proclaimed and celebrated. As I get to know Sylvain and Robert better, perhaps I will learn more about the search process that eventually led them to come to Summerlea. All I know right now is that they are very happy to have found a worshipping community where they feel at home, and to know that they are truly welcome.

How do I know this? If I didn't know it before, I certainly would have known it following their marriage ceremony that took place in the church. When we met in my office to begin to plan the ceremony, they had told me that they wanted to prepare their own vows to say to each other at the wedding. So, at the appropriate time in the service, I turned things over them, and they each, in turn, professed their love for each other and their commitment to each other. But part of that was something that I had never experienced before at a wedding. As part of their vows, they expressed their joy and thankfulness at finding a congregation that was loving and accepting of them. In other words, that was something that had so much meaning for them that it was actually expressed in their marriage vows to each other! Then, following the service, several family members expressed to us how thankful they were that we had welcomed Robert and Sylvain into our midst, and how much that meant to them.

In order to become an official Affirming Congregation, there is a study process that the congregation must go through. The reason for this is that, sometimes, congregations may want to think of themselves as being welcoming of everyone, but in reality, there may still be some barriers that the congregation has yet to work out. Congregations need to know what it really means to be a fully welcoming congregation, and this study process helps them to know the full reality of what they are taking on. Summerlea United went through this process at a critical time in its life, and I can say with all sincerity that, even if it was ONLY Sylvain and Robert that have benefitted from this, I would say that the process has been more than worth it. It reminds me of the story that Jesus told of a shepherd that leaves the 99 sheep (once he knows they are safe, of course) to search for that one lost sheep that needs to be brought into the fold. I hope that many more people come to know of the love and acceptance that we not only profess, but live out of,

at Summerlea. But to know that we have helped even one couple to feel truly welcome and to be reminded of God's great love for them and for us all, I am inspired to begin a new church year with hope and a renewed sense of purpose.

Scott A. Patton



We offer a very warm welcome to Colleen Lowrie who is a field placement student from the United Theological College. Colleen will be with us for 8 months as part of her training for ordered ministry in the United Church. She will be with us for part of her time and will also be working with "La Presence" community-based ministry, which will provide her with a good cross-section of modern ministry in an urban setting. Please feel free to introduce yourself to Colleen on Sunday morning as she gets to know us, and we look forward to learning and growing together with her during this year.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!
Summerlea Annual Bazaar and
Book Fair, November 10th 9a.m. –
2p.m.

The Book Fair will take place on
Friday, November 9th from 10am –

6pm as well as during the Church Bazaar.

Christmas Bazaar

Summerlea Bazaar November 10th, 2018

It's coming soon! Less than 6 weeks to go! Work is already in progress around Summerlea's 2018 bazaar.

Items are being collected for the famous **gift baskets**. Susan Hawke will co-ordinate the assembly of these at Summerlea and is looking for volunteers to help her sort, package, wrap and prettify these popular items. Please bring in any contributions by October 4th.

Books are coming in and are already being sorted on the stage. (We have received positive comments about our alphabetization of books) Once again we will sell books on Friday, November 9th as well as on Saturday, November 10th. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer in the book room.

We will continue to make only the large **tourtieres** again this year. The pastry is prepared. 400 bases have been rolled for filling in October. **See below for dates.**

Muir's Scottish Meat Pies will be for sale on the day of the Bazaar only. Cost will be \$3.00 each or \$30.00/dozen.

Complete dozens (\$30) may be pre-ordered by calling the church office prior to November 4th.

Toys will be on the stage, where there will also be the **Christmas Boutique**.



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 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!

Volunteer Schedule:

Oct 02	1:30pm	Make pie boxes. Cook and cool 10 pots of meat.
Oct 03	8:30am	Roll pastry tops. Fill pies. Package and Freeze.
Oct 10	8:30am	Cook & cool 10 pots of meat.
Oct 11	8:30am	Roll pastry tops. Fill pies. Package and freeze.
Nov 6-8		Sort books
Nov 09	10:00am	Sell books in 2-3 hour shifts
Nov 10	All day	Anyone anywhere!

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

Nancy 515 634 1243 nancyruthmark@yahoo.ca

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, doll clothes (barbie & others) or any other handmade items that you would like to make. Please contact Barb Costello at 514-630-8098



William Hunter Memorial Fund – September/2017

We continue to sponsor three children overseas. They are Noami, a 17 year old girl from Ghana, Santiago, a 4 year old boy from Paraguay and also from Paraguay little 2 year Alba Abigail. Currently it costs \$468.00 per child per year for sponsorship.

We are helping children and families by providing hope through education, health, clean water and improved self-confidence. We cannot do any of this without you – our wonderful community of donors.

Thank you for your generous support.

Dale Romagosa

Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition Committee

News from our Syrian refugee Family. Sept 2018

The Karzai family have settled in well in their apartment in St. Laurent. We are fortunate that they live close to Salman (Bilal's brother) and his wife Basma, who are able to provide a lot of logistical support.

Abdullah (10) and Baraa (6) enjoyed their summer at the YMCA camp, and gained some skills in language. They are now enrolled in a Classe d'accueil near their home, which is good.

Hazaifa (4) is registered for a Garderie near their home and started there early September. This means he is now starting to learn French.

Dalal (12) spent the summer with her cousins in the nearby Park program activities. She is going into the Welcome Class at Secondary 1 level at École Saint Germaine.

Bilal (Dad) now understands more English, and will be continuing with classes in English, while Farah (Mum) will be returning to her French immersion classes.

Farah had to have a broken tooth repaired and another one pulled. She will now begin the process of dental work to have a bridge. As we know, dental care is expensive but the SRSC thought that the replacement of Farah's missing teeth a justifiable expense.

Music Notes



September 2018

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.

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. or calling 514-634-2651.

RECIPE CORNER



With the official start of autumn around the corner, it's just about that time to hit up the orchard for the season's best activity: apple picking. I think we can agree that the real fun is getting those crisp apples back to the kitchen, then cooking and baking them up every which way! Here are two recipes using apples - one even uses leftover turkey! Jane

APPLE PIE NACHOS

Ingredients

Crispas

- 2 [tortillas](#)
- 1 tablespoon [cinnamon](#)
- ½ cup [sugar](#)
- 2 cups vegetable oil

Apple Pie Mix

- 2 [baking apples](#), diced into 1/2 inch pieces
- 4 teaspoons [fresh lemon juice](#)
- 2 tablespoons [brown sugar](#) (light or dark)
- 1 ounce [Amaretto](#)

TOPPINGS

- 1 cup [heavy whipping cream](#)
- ¼ cup [sugar](#)
- 1 teaspoon [vanilla](#)
- ¼ cup [pecans](#), chopped

Directions

1. Heat oil until it "speaks" when you sprinkle water into it. Cut each tortilla in half, then cut each half into 4 wedges.
2. Mix cinnamon and sugar in a shallow dish with another paper towel lined dish right next to it.
3. Put 2-4 tortilla wedges into the hot oil and cook until light brown on each side, flipping only once (this should take about 1 minute). Remove immediately from oil one by one and completely cover in cinnamon sugar mixture on both sides before placing on towel lined dish to cool and drain.
4. When finished with crispas, toss together diced apples and lemon juice.
5. Put apples, lemon juice and amaretto into a medium-sized skillet and cook over medium heat until apples just start to get tender and barely break down.

6. Add brown sugar and stir well until evenly distributed. Remove pan from heat.
7. Beat heavy whipping cream just until stiff.
8. Gradually add sugar and vanilla and beat until stiff peaks form.
9. On a plate or platter, set out each crisper individually. Top with a teaspoon or more of apple mixture, then a dollop of whipped cream.

TURKEY APPLE CHEDDAR BAGEL MELTS

Ingredients

3 Plain Bagels, halved

6 tsp horseradish Dijon mustard, divided

6 to 12 slices thick cut turkey breast

2 large honey crisp apples, thinly sliced

6 slices Colby-jack cheddar cheese

1 cup Micro-greens

Instructions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place bagels cut side up on a large baking sheet and lightly spray with cooking spray. Bake bagels in oven for 5 minutes, or until lightly toasted.

Spread the mustard over each bagel and then top with the sliced turkey, apple slices and cheese slices. Return to oven for 5 to 7 minutes, or until the cheese is melted. Top with the micro-greens and serve immediately. Enjoy!

The Book Nook

By Jane Cowell Poitras



***JELL-O Girls*, by Allie Rowbottom**

This is a complex and fascinating memoir. Yes, it's about Jell-O, but it's so much more! The book covers three main topics: the history of the company including how it was founded, the litany of health issues that ravaged Rowbottom's family, and of course, the Jell-O curse! Jell-O was purchased in

1899 for \$450 then sold twenty years later for \$67 million dollars. This left a legacy of wealth, prestige, and privilege to the maternal side of Rowbottom's family, but it appears this legacy is more of a curse than a blessing.

Rowbottom tells her family's story as she sees it and it is beautifully written. I was captivated from beginning to end and pleasantly surprised by the lyrical and poetic writing style. Oddly enough I really enjoyed the historical chapters on Jell-O as a cultural icon and, of course I was totally engrossed by the family's history of alcoholism, suicide, and cancer. The imagery and descriptions are vivid and you get a front row seat of what happened with the original Jell-O heirs.

There is nothing better on a warm Fall day than heading out to Hudson. I like to visit Finnigan's Market, pop into the various stores and cafés then take the ferry to Oka for apple picking and the amazing cheese factory run by Agripur. However, I have discovered another great reason to head out to Hudson in the Fall – The Greenwood StoryFest. Over several weeks, between September 21st and October 28th Hudson will be showcasing many Canadian authors from Ken Dryden to Zoe Whittall. Tickets are in the \$15-\$20 dollar range and the line-up looks really interesting! For more information, visit: <http://www.greenwood-centre-hudson.org/storyfest.html>

Thanksgiving Day Thoughts

Thanksgiving is the time to feel gratitude to God for all the good things in life. It is a time to acknowledge the good deeds of fellowmen and be thankful. Thanksgiving thoughts of people give us an insight as to what people feel about it.

Life can be very trying. When your child is hungry, your body wracked with pain, or you have no idea where you and your family will find a place to sleep, it's hard to find something for which you can be thankful. So, for just a few minutes on Thanksgiving Day, step outside your situation and just "be". Find something, no matter how small, to be thankful for because in giving thanks, you will be lightening your load, even if for only a moment

People in Europe were living in squalid conditions, battling hunger and the aftermath of the plague, were being terrorized in the name of religion and came to America, the land of opportunity, in the hopes of building a new and better life. These immigrants, called Pilgrims, were welcomed by the inhabitants of America, the Indians, who were hospitable to the newcomers in every sense of the word. How is it then that the descendants of the Pilgrims managed to take over all the land in America and banish the Indians to hot, arid reservations in the middle of nowhere? Somehow, that has never felt right to me. Do the Indians celebrate Thanksgiving?

Who does not thank for little will not thank for much.
(Estonian proverb)

Thanksgiving thoughts are the kind of thoughts that we should have all year long. For it is the folks with thankful hearts whose lives are filled with song. We should take time for kindness to those we hold most dear, and just extend a helping hand to others through the year. Let's set aside some quiet time and share it with a friend. For friendships brings a special joy and pleasure without end. So may the blessings of this day that I would ask for you, now fill you with Thanksgiving Peace that lasts the whole year through! From: <http://www.thanksgiving-day.org/thanksgiving-day-thoughts.html>



NEWS AND NOTES

On May 20th, the Congregation joined in celebrating the baptisms of Keon Isaiah Donais-Colley and Amelia Rose Denischuck-Barton. Each time a child is Baptised, God smiles from up above knowing he has someone new to shelter and to love.

Our sympathy is extended to Marva Interlino, their family and friends on the sudden passing of Ross Porter on June 13th.

Bruce Mackay passed away peacefully at Lachine Hospital on August 5th. Bruce cherished caring for his father, Ronald, a past member of Summerlea's Congregation.

Congratulations to Robert & Sylvain on celebrating their marriage on Sept 2nd. May your love bloom forever. May goodwill & friendship always stay in your marriage.

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,

Colleen Kilkenny