

# SPIRITED SUMMERLEA



## Advent 2022 Edition

### Editorial

For many of us, the stress of getting ready for Christmas can be overwhelming. The shopping, the cleaning, the Christmas cards and letters, the baking, Christmas parties, and getting the Christmas decorations up, can add considerable stress to our lives.



A few years ago, I read a news story about Tesco—a British grocery store chain – that was trying to help its customers with these seasonal stressors. They posted ads for the job of Christmas Light Untangler for their stores. The company's website offered the following description for the 36-hour-a-week job: "This new position will offer you the chance to show that every little bit helps, by running the unique in-store service with a friendly, flexible approach and making a genuine difference to the little things that matter to our customers at Christmas."

It seems to me, Christmas is a time where everything can get a little jumbled and knotted up. When my life gets twisted up, I can feel my blood pressure getting higher! A large part of my problem is allowing all the loose ends of the season to get tangled and to forget what Christmas is really about.

We may not have Christmas Light Untanglers here to help us destress – but we have something even better – the Summerlea Candlelight Service. For me, it has always been a source of inner peace in the midst of a hectic season. The music, the prayers, and the lighting of candles in the dark, seem to lift the weight from my shoulders and I walk out feeling considerably lighter. I am confident that I am not the only one who feels this way!

I wish you all a peaceful, stress-free Advent and a Happy Christmas!

Jane Cowell  
Co-Editor

## A Message from Our Minister



Dearest congregants and friends of Summerlea United,

My granddaughter was thrilled to show me the Christmas tree her mom had placed in the living room. It is fun to see the children, even little ones, look at the tree without touching the decorations or the Crèche. There is something like awe on their little face in front of the tree and its lights, that my little girls do not dare to touch them. They really enjoy the magic.

At Summerlea, we are preparing for our Christmas Season and there is a need for bringing back traditions this year as we were deprived of gatherings for two years because of Covid. The Candlelight Service and Christmas Eve Service will happen in our beautiful church but at last! There will be no caroling again this year, maybe in 2023?

I am impressed by the beauty of the decorations in the church and by the cooperation between all who were involved in decorating the church. Proceeding to that task right after the Bazaar is demanding for the volunteers who love to be involved in both events. I thank you all for this work. It makes our church feel like home. It is home to us.

I am looking forward to this Holiday Season to be with you and celebrate the essence of our faith: that God came to dwell among us, and to make sure nobody would be afraid, God took flesh the way we do by being born as a baby.

I pray. I pray for our good health. For our happiness. For our prosperity, our peace in the world and in our families. We oftentimes look for occasions where we will be taken out of our comfort zone and live new experiences. Well, this year, I wish things would calm down a little so we can concentrate on what is important: being centered on life's essential values and enjoying every minute of this Season.

Welcome to my home, Mary, and Joseph.

Rev. Christine

# Church News

## Key Dates – December

December 04 - 10:30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent

11 - 10:30 am, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent & White Gift Sunday

15 - 7:00 pm, Candlelight Service

17 - 7:00 pm, Fundraiser for Summerlea United Church  
performed by The Blue Mondays Jazz Orchestra

18 - 10:30 am, 4<sup>th</sup> of Advent & Food Sunday

24 - 7:00 pm, Christmas Eve Family Service



## **BIG News! SouthWest United coming to Summerlea! *Presented at the Sunday service, Nov 20, 2022, by Barb Moffat, Chair of Summerlea Board***

Good morning, everyone. I have special news for you today, and I hope you will share my excitement about a big change that will be coming to Summerlea as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, just a few weeks from now.



We are going to be welcoming another United Church congregation into our midst. I'll start with a little background, then tell you what arrangements have been made.

The people of SouthWest United Church have sold their building in Verdun and have decided to stay together as a congregation with their designated lay minister, music director and administrator. Since the summer they have been searching for a place to rent for Sunday worship and have asked Summerlea if we would provide that place. In late August the Executive Board of Summerlea proposed a rental plan to SouthWest, taking into consideration needs and practicalities for both congregations.

The options of renting space for their own worship versus merging with Summerlea have been explored and discussed by our friends at SouthWest. As of this past week, they have decided to accept the rental agreement for a period of 6 months beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. An important factor is that the contract with their minister finishes at the end of June. The situation will be re-examined during the 6-month period, to determine the direction that SouthWest will take thereafter. Our hope is that they will be comfortable at Summerlea and will stay here, possibly amalgamating the two congregations in the future.

You can imagine that this has been a difficult journey for SouthWest. A journey of losses, of change, and of uncertainty. Those among us who worshipped at St Andrew's Presbyterian, St. Andrew's United, Grace United and Dorval-Strathmore, will be able to relate to the experience of losing their church home.

There will be one significant change for Summerlea, and that is our worship time. **Starting in January, our Sunday services will begin at 10 o'clock, instead of 10:30.** The congregation of SouthWest will use the sanctuary starting at 11:30. Coffee time will take place between the two services, from 11 to 11:30, allowing members from both groups to get acquainted and build new connections. The minister at SouthWest preaches at another church one Sunday per month. Those Sundays when she is elsewhere, we have invited the SouthWest folk to worship with us at 10 o'clock.

If you have questions about this plan, please speak to me or any other member of the Board, and we'll do our best to answer them. Most importantly, please join us in offering a warm Summerlea welcome to the folks from SouthWest United Church.

### **Candlelight Service**

**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** Summerlea United Church welcomes the community to a joyful evening of carols, scriptures, meditation, and candlelight to help put the glow of Christmas deep into everyone's heart. Bring your friends and neighbours for a beautiful service of Christmas hymns and music. The free-will offering will be much appreciated by those in need in our community.



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022, AT 7:00-8:00PM**

**Fundraising Concert for Summerlea United Church,  
by The Blue Mondays Jazz Orchestra**





## **Bazaar & Book Sale**

Despite cloudy and damp conditions, the Bazaar and Book Sale on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> was a big success!

Our friends and neighbours came out in droves to support us once again, on both Friday for the Book Sale and Saturday for the Bazaar and Book Sale. It was so much fun seeing people from the community we had not seen in months - if not years! Not all the figures are in yet, but we made more than \$15,000!

A big thank you to the Summerlea folk who were involved in preparing, donating, and picking up all the things that we sold - from tempting treasures to books, baking and candy to gift baskets, pickles, and jams to knitted goods, and from chili and hot dogs to centerpieces.

A big thank you to all those that worked at the Bazaar. The set-up and take-down teams, all the booth convenors and helpers, the money counters, door minders, those who made coffee for the volunteers and those who roasted hot dogs and served chili. Helpers came in all week long to tidy and organize the books which was much appreciated, and the Scouts did an amazing job of cleaning up!

I am deeply grateful to Lynn Closs for all her help in organizing this event. And a special thank you to Sinclair Harris and Nancy Mark for being my mentors and to George and Colleen for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Jane Cowell  
Bazaar Convenor

### **A note from Barbara Davidson**

Dear Friends,

My daughter Jane and her husband Tim invited me to stay with them in Calgary. After spending more than 2 months in the Verdun Hospital in Lachine. I was unable to live by myself due to health issues. Walking is a challenge because of a wound on my right heel. It is getting better! It is a change in lifestyle, but the company is wonderful as well as the food. I bake cookies with my granddaughter a couple of times a month. I beat almost everyone at cribbage! I do miss apartment and the friends I've made there who are very dear to me. I am thankful that Linda and Greg helped me with the move. I have been to the Tyrell Museum with my daughter and granddaughter, the dinosaur exhibit is quite interesting. My daughter Karen from British Columbia came to see me with her daughter Lana. I was able to meet my newest great granddaughter, a pretty in pink happy girl. Jane's younger daughter Nathalie will be joining us for Christmas. I hope the holidays find you well and in good spirits!

I would love to hear from you, my new address is; 94 Thornlee Crescent, NW,  
With love, Barbara  
Calgary, Alberta T2K 2W6

## Outreach

### Living Gifts for St Columba House

We will again be selling Living Gifts in aid of various programs at St Columba house. You may make your contribution "online" at [Welcome - Saint Columba House](#) or after church on Sundays December 4, 11 and 18 during coffee hour. Cards will again be available for you to give to your gift receivers. Tax receipts will be issued for donations.



### William Hunter Memorial Fund

Thank you for your support of the William Hunter Memorial Fund which honours the memory and contribution of William Hunter. We receive loose offerings from the service on

Christmas Eve and from special envelopes you will find at the back of the church. These offerings are our only source of funds to support our overseas family. We appreciate all your donations which are tax deductible.

We currently sponsor 20-year-old Naomi from Ghana, Santiago, a 6-year-old boy from Paraguay and Alba Abigail, a 5-year-old girl also from Paraguay which is a total annual cost of \$1584.00.

Through your generosity, we provide services to these desperately needy families and help improve their standard of living. We are helping children in need from infancy to young adulthood. We are grateful for your continued assistance.

Dale Romagosa

### Miles of Pennies

The maple syrup bucket at the back of the church has been resurrected! Some generous folks have already added their change collected during the pandemic. This loose change accumulates as "miles of pennies" and is sent to St Columba House from time to time. Over the years we have collected at least 25 miles of pennies - about \$20,000. Empty those pockets and lighten your change purse!



### Amnesty International Write for Rights -

We have chosen 3 cases this year from several suggested by Amnesty. You will have the opportunity to write your own letters, send electronic versions of letters pre-prepared by members of the Outreach committee, or sign printed versions of these letters for mailing to the appropriate address by the Outreach committee. These letters will be available after church on Sunday December 4. There will be a donations jar on the signing table for those wishing to help with the cost of postage.



## White Gift Sunday

The Gift Tree. Please remember to purchase a gift of a toy suitable for the age and gender of the child on your gift tag and bring the wrapped item to the White Gift Service on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> along with the gift tag. Be sure to mark on a label attached to the gift what it is. (Ex. Lego, boy 8 years old or jewelry kit, girl 10 years old). You may also bring donations of non-perishable food items for the Lachine Food Bank at that time as well. Your generous gifts will accompany Christmas Food Baskets for families in the community. Thanks to St. John Paul II Church for supplying Summerlea United Church with the gift tags again this year.



## Used Jigsaw Puzzle Sale

The Outreach Committee has decided to organize another of our popular used jigsaw puzzle sales. Our last puzzle sale in the Fall raised \$1,100 for the Language Nest in Kahnawake - a grass roots initiative trying to preserve indigenous languages.

Our next sale will be Saturday, January 14. Our stock of puzzles is low so please bring in your gently used puzzles. Spread the word about the event to friends and those you know who love puzzles. Proceeds for this sale will go to Summerlea.

## Stewardship

Advance thanks for returning your stewardship forms either in the box at the back of the sanctuary or by mail. If you don't have one, and would like one, please speak with John Coffin.



## Recipe

I must confess, I LOVE Brussels Sprouts – the rest of my family, not so much! A few years ago, I added this easy Martha Stewart recipe to my Christmas Dinner repertoire – and there were far fewer leftover sprouts!

Jane

## Roasted Brussels Sprouts and Grapes with Walnuts

Servings:

8

### Ingredients

- 24 ounces Brussels sprouts (about 8 cups), halved or quartered, if large
- 24 ounces grapes
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 tablespoons fresh thyme
- Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup walnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped



### Directions

- **Step 1**  
Heat oven to 450 degrees. On 2 rimmed baking sheets, toss Brussels sprouts and grapes with oil and thyme. Season with salt and pepper. Roast, until caramelized and tender, about 20 minutes.
- **Step 2**  
Drizzle each tray with 1 teaspoon vinegar and scrape up any caramelized bits with a wooden spoon. Toss in walnuts.