***Our Statement of Purpose*:**

As a community of faith led by the Spirit, we welcome all to worship God and live in loving, just and respectful relationship with each other, our neighbours and the earth. Inspired by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ we strive to recognize the light of God in each person regardless of age, race, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, economic status or any other category by which the world may seek to divide. We challenge ourselves to deepen our relationship to God, to see the light of the divine in each person and in all creation, and to live the faith we proclaim.

***Our Week at a Glance – May 6, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by Al & Sandra Comba, in loving memory of Sheena (Panesar) Dahl, from the Panesar family.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Sun. May 6** Art & Spirituality Show – Stewart Hall, after Service
 Reception for Eileen Brydges’ 100th Birthday –
 Chapel, 2:30

**Mon. May 7** Unit 11 – Marian Roffey, 1:00

**Wed. May 9** Men’s Breakfast – Rocky Mountain House, 8:30
 Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00
 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00
 Crafty Ladies – Library, 1:00
 Finance – Library, 6:00

**Thurs. May 10** Worship & Music – Library, 6:00
 Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00

***PLEASE SEE BULLETIN BOARD FOR OTHER EVENTS AND DETAILS***

**AUDIO SYSTEM** May 6 – Geoff Roberts
 May 13 – Marilyn Eady

**COUNTING OFFERING** Pat Blandford & Marg Crozier
 June: Geoff Roberts & Noma Deshane

**MEALS ON WHEELS** May 6 – Ken & Karen Mullins
 May 13 – Darwin Phillips & Tyson Jessup

**Art & Spirituality Show and Refreshments Today**: Downstairs in Stewart Hall after the service. Thanks to everyone who brought in art items, and who come to enjoy the show. *Laura, Ginette, Beulah*

**Birthday Reception for Eileen Brydges**: The family of Eileen Brydges extends an invitation to join in the celebration of Eileen’s 100th Birthday today in the Chapel from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Your presence and best wishes are welcome to mark this milestone birthday. Come and enjoy a visit, light lunch and birthday cake.

**Men’s Breakfast**: the next Men’s Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, at 8:30 a.m. at the Rocky Mountain House.

**From the UCW**: Our next General Meeting is on Monday, May 14, in the Chapel at 1:00pm.

**Renfrew Youth Chorus Concert**: The Renfrew Children's/Youth Chorus present their annual Spring Concert: "Sing for Spring!" on Sunday, May 13 at 3pm.  Held at Trinity-St. Andrews United Church.  Tickets are $5.00 and available at the door.  Homemade butter tarts and raffle tickets for a Spring themed gift basket will also be sold at the concert.   Come and enjoy an afternoon of music from our 40 children's voices blended together in song!

**Upcoming Presentation**: Join Tom Sidney at TSA on Wednesday May 16 at 7pm for a presentation entitled: "Tom Sidney's Gratitude Attitude - from Fears to Tears to Hope!" Tom will talk about his recent illness, which paralyzed him for a time, and his spiritual/emotional journey to recovery. This event is sponsored by the Renfrew and Area Foodbank and is free to attend with a donation to the food bank.

**From Christian Education**: We're having a Church Family Picnic! Join us on June 3, after worship, rain or Shine: on the Plaunt Street lawn or in Stewart Hall. Family and friends of all ages welcome. Food provided – hamburgers, hotdogs, dessert & drinks (also vegetarian & GF food). Games too! Participate or watch: lawn games, parachute games, relays... Want to help? Have a favourite "church picnic" request? Contact Nancy Illman, Ginette Raaphorst, Yvonne Powell or Felicite Stairs. Mark your calendars now!

**From MPCF**: Please remind friends and family members who are unable to attend regular worship that *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide is available in the display case in the narthex. It is also available by monthly subscription online at <http://www.upperroom.org/visitor_subscriptions>.

2018 Affirming

Tone Cluster - Quite a Queer Choir

When the choir I had sung tenor with for 10 years underwent a change in direction, I began casting about for a new choir to join. A couple of years earlier, my sister had joined Tone Cluster, and when I attended their concerts I found this group's obvious enjoyment of singing together infectious! My niece joined the following year, and then it was my turn.

"Tone Cluster is a 35-voice auditioned choir for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people, and their allies in the Ottawa area. We pride ourselves on creating a queer-positive environment where singers can be themselves while striving for choral excellence.

"Tone Cluster is a proud “out” choir! We make sure that our audiences are aware of our point of view when we sing… and we trust that you, as a queer singer or straight ally, are proud to support a queer choir."

I love singing with this group of very diverse and chorally talented people, in part because it is so inclusive in its mandate. It is lovely to be welcomed as a straight ally. Many LGBTQ choirs are exclusive in their welcome of members, an understandable but limiting position.

During my time with Tone Cluster, we have welcomed and been intentional in our accommodation of several members with mobility challenges, supported a member who has transitioned from female to male, and provided financial support for those who wish to participate but are unable to pay their full fees.

This May, the choir will be travelling to Calgary to participate in Unison Festival 2018, where I will be singing alto. In the final concert of our season, "Queer as Folk (Music II)", I'll be in the tenor section again. This has led my fellow tenors to refer to me as 'bi-sectional'! It can be a challenge to remember which part I'm singing at any given time, but the unfailing support and appreciation of my section-mates and the camaraderie one experiences in this group have made my time with them memorable.

Nancy Illman



A New Approach to Farming

Our gifts for Mission & Service change lives around the world. Our global partner the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) is addressing the problem of severe drought by creating a conservation agriculture program. The conservation agriculture model uses mulching, crop rotation, and minimal tilling, combined with water harvesting and management, to move toward the ultimate goal: local food security.

The NCCK works with Kenya’s National Drought Management Agency and advises the agency of needs in drought-stricken areas. The agency then reports to the national government on areas where help is needed. The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) is doing trials and experiments on technologies in partnership with the NCCK to determine the varieties of drought-tolerant maize and legumes that are the most suitable for growing in parts of Kenya. The NCCK/ KALRO partnership started as a result of Mission & Service support of conservation agriculture. Now they share best practices and enjoy a collaborative work relationship.

Farmers appreciate the support this project has received from Mission & Service. In Tharaka Nithi County, a place characterized by perpetual food insecurity, more than 800 households have participated in the conservation agriculture project. These households “will forever be grateful to the partnership between NCCK and The United Church of Canada,” says the NCCK’s General Secretary Peter Karanja.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.