***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 in every aspect of our lives.

***Our Week at a Glance – July 15, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by Barbara Moogk, in loving memory of her husband, Barry Mahar.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Wed. July 18** Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00

**Thurs. July 19** Annual Chicken Barbecue

**AUDIO SYSTEM** July 15 – Gerry Blandford
 July 22 – Garry Scott

**COUNTING OFFERING** July 15 – Noma Deshane & Geoff
 Roberts
 July 22 – Lois Desjardins & Sadie Smith

**MEALS ON WHEELS** July 15 – Barb Moogk & Barbara
 Hollywood
 July 22 – Jack Craig & Gerry

**Annual Chicken BBQ**: Mark your calendar!! This year’s annual chicken barbeque has been set for **Thursday, July 19, 2018**. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. As this is our major fundraiser of the year, please sign up to help us with this large event and let’s make this a success again!

**“The Teaching of the Wheel of Life”**: Join Algonquin Elder Pat Aird at TSA on **Saturday July 28** from 10am-4pm to learn more about Algonquin spiritual wisdom. The cost is $30 and includes a booklet, lunch and snacks. Subsidies are available if needed (see Russell). Pre-registration is required. The deadline for registration is **July 20**. This event is part of our church’s process of reconciliation with indigenous peoples.

**Summer Coffee Roster: TSA Coffee Volunteers Needed**: Please join us downstairs in the refreshing coolness of Stewart Hall for fellowship after the service. Thank you to all the helpers who prepare and clean up. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.

**From The M&P Committee**: The staff at TSA does a wonderful job and are friendly and always willing to help. However, it is a job and there are lines between any job and personal time. Sunday before during and after service are examples of personal time and this time should be respected so they can enjoy worship and fellowship like everyone else. Except in cases of true emergencies, communication with staff regarding matters relating to their job responsibilities is to be conducted during work hours. Staff has developed an efficient system of communication to accommodate the part time nature of the roles. As always, concerns about staff performance are to be discussed with the M&P Committee, NEVER directly with staff.

**Missing Library DVD**: If you have the DVD, Prayers for Bobby, would you please see Beulah in the Library.

**Shawville Farmers Start Foodgrains Project**: Farmers growing wheat is nothing special—that’s what they often do. But giving away the profit from the sale of that wheat? That’s different. That’s what a group of Shawville-area farmers are doing this year, teaming up to grow ten acres of wheat for Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a partnership of Canadian farmers and churches working together to end global hunger.

The project is being coordinated by Ralph Lang, a local grain and cash crop farmer. He decided to donate his land to the Foodgrains Bank after hearing about it through the Quebec Farmer’s Association. “We wanted to use what we know how to do—farming—to make an impact on people around the world who are suffering from hunger,” says Lang, of why he and other area farmers decided to team up with the Foodgrains Bank. “We’re lucky to live in a country like Canada,” he adds. “Giving back is a part of who we are—being a part of making the world a better place is important to us.”

For Lang, the project goes beyond just being involved in a good cause, though. He’s also hoping to reach out to individuals and families in the Shawville area who don’t have a farming background, and inviting them to be part of the project.

“Anyone wanting to get involved is welcome to sponsor an acre or part of an acre of wheat,” he says. “Contributions to inputs like seeds, chemicals and the other costs involved with growing a crop are greatly appreciated. A lot of people these days don’t have a farming background, but they’re curious about how food is grown. This a great opportunity for them to drive by the field of wheat, and know they’re making a difference for people around the world.”

Anyone wishing to sponsor all or part of an acre can contact Lang for details. The Union des Producteurs Agricoles (UPA) has already dedicated $500 toward the project. DuPont Pioneer and its dealer rep M & R Feeds has donated the seed. All donations to the Foodgrains Bank are eligible to be matched by the Canadian government on a 4:1 basis through a special agreement the Foodgrains Bank has with Global Affairs Canada. This means a donation of $100 becomes up to $500.

The Foodgrains Bank uses the donated funds to buy food in the developing world for people facing shortages, or for food-related programming such as helping farmers grow more and better crops. One example of a current Foodgrains Bank-supported project is in South Sudan, where 3,400 people who have been displaced from their homes by conflict are receiving emergency rations of sorghum, maize flour, lentils and vegetable oil for four months through a project totaling $357,000. Another project, in Ethiopia, is training 8,500 farming households in improving their agricultural productivity in order to better support themselves and their families.

*– Amanda Thorsteinsson, Communications Coordinator CFGB*

Traveling east towards Shawville on Hwy 148, watch for the blue and red Foodgrains sign just like the one on our TSA garden.

**Why Become Affirming?**

Affirm United has been a valuable resource in my education toward TSA becoming an affirming ministry. AU is an independent organization within the United Church of Canada that supports our quest. Their website, “ause.ca”, has: links to other United Churches who have gone through this process, books and video resources for us to use and a link to “Open Hearts” – Affirming Ministry Resource.

“Open Hearts” has been my main resource on this website. Particularly “We’re Already Welcoming, so Why Become Affirming?” (pg. 12, Open Hearts).

To me, becoming affirming takes it up a notch. It is more inclusive to those who are or feel marginalized. As in our own Statement of Purpose: “… 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.”

It more than our being welcoming, which suggests we are charitably “letting” them join us. It is more that we all desire to become part of a community. As we all show up together we become a cohesive blend of individuals and families. It is God’s love that brings us together, and the desire to worship collectively. Those of us who believe in this possibility of togetherness need to speak up and make it happen. The world, countries, communities, and church are made up of diverse family units that lend their distinctive qualities to the whole. We have things to learn about love and friendship from others.

Since outside negativity has probably shaped much of the attitude of LGBTQ, and other individuals regarding church, a need has risen for a safe place to worship that accepts and includes the marginalized seamlessly into a family/home. A community of inclusiveness that strives to understand the distress created by ignorance and cruelty can form a sanctuary of justice and safety. This is, to me, an Affirming Ministry.

Leslee Gervais



Hope under Occupation

Our gifts for Mission & Service support Palestinians in Gaza. About 1,300 Christian Palestinians live in the Gaza Strip, enduring three wars in five years along with their Muslim neighbours. Israel controls the land, sea, and air around Gaza, with one crossing into Egypt through Rafah controlled by Egypt and monitored by the European Union in coordination with Israel. The Near East Council of Churches (NECC) works in Gaza with both communities, focusing on providing education and health care to a population under blockade.

In Gaza City, the NECC operates apprenticeship programs for young men and women to develop skills such as fashion design and aluminium engineering. Yet even these programs are adversely affected by the blockade. For example, not all the materials needed for aluminium housing are allowed into Gaza.

The NECC also operates three primary health care clinics in Gaza, serving over 150,000 people. The clinic in Shijaia (built with contributions from Canadian churches and CIDA, among others) was destroyed in 2008 during Israel’s Operation Cast Lead and has since been rebuilt. At these clinics, patients receive primary health care, antenatal and postnatal care, malnutrition and anemia treatment, psychosocial support particularly for children, family planning services, and dermatological care. The latter was recently introduced due to the high prevalence of skin diseases as a result of the effects of war and the poor water quality in Gaza.

Through these programs, the NECC gives hope to a civilian population facing blockade, unemployment, poverty, and frequent wars.

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.