***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 22, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by Barbara Moogk, in loving memory of her parents, Lillian & Lynn Fair.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Wed. July 25** Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00

**Sat. July 28** Teaching on the Wheel of Life – Stewart
 Hall, 10:00

**AUDIO SYSTEM** July 22 – Garry Scott
 July 29 – Geoff Roberts

**COUNTING OFFERING**
 July 22 – Lois Desjardins & Sadie Smith
 July 29 – Doris Handford & Barb Symington

**MEALS ON WHEELS** July 22 – Jack Craig & Gerry
 July 29 – Dan McCarthy & Felicite Stairs

**Annual Chicken BBQ**: Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the chicken barbecue. Without all the volunteer help, we could not make this event a success.

**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.

**Upper Room Daily Devotional**: If you are looking to obtain the Upper Room daily devotional, they are now located in the Office, during office hours. The booklets are $2.00.

**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.

**Affirming**

Ooh, what a sweet little baby. Is it a boy or a girl? That’s a common question to the parent of a newborn.

Some children are comfortable with the gender assigned to them on their birth certificate, whereas some children and youth question the M or F sex they have been assigned. They do not fit neatly into either. They may grow to understand themselves as gender creative, gender independent, genderfluid, genderqueer, trans, two-spirit, intersex, agender, or non-binary. They also grow to understand that they face social exclusion, hostility or moral condemnation by those who fear them because they are “different”.

**Q:Are you a boy or a girl? A: No thanks** was the title of a workshop I attended at the Renfrew Public Library in February, 2018. The presenters Cara Tierney and Behc Jax-Lynx of BECK- describe themselves as a dynamic duo dedicated to the de-stigmatization of transgender individuals. Their workshops are designed to foster constructive, affirmative and forward-thinking dialogues on how we can make space for everyone in society.

Instead of being regarded as unwell or pathological oddities to be studied and defined by the medical profession, trans or gender diverse people define themselves by their own backgrounds and gifts. Cara and Behc help us go beyond terms such as transgender, non-binary, gender fluid, and gender non-conforming by offering a beautiful and expansive understanding of humanity in which all are included.

There is growing understanding that M or F binary identification is restrictive, one of the categories by which the world seeks to divide and exclude. In 2017, Canada passed Bill C-16 which amends the Canadian Human Rights Act to add gender identity and gender expression to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination. If we at TSA desire to be affirming, we need to go beyond intellectual understanding and be guided by the law of love that is written in the heart, love that can transform the world.

Our Statement of Purpose says, ”Inspired by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ we strive to recognize the light of God in each person, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression”. I am in favour of TSA becoming an Affirming Congregation so we can proclaim that our church is a safe and respectful place of worship where everyone is valued and truly welcome.

Margo Aubert



Compassion in Life and Death

We celebrate that our gifts for Mission & Service have supported Wesley Urban Ministries, which has been offering support for the homeless, refugees, and working poor of Hamilton, Ontario, for over 30 years.

In downtown Hamilton sits a building that looks like any other apartment building, yet when you enter the front doors of the Ferguson Street Centre of Wesley Urban Ministries, you are greeted with the sights and smells of hospitality. Here, meals are served, the coffee and tea are always on, and usually there is a board game that you can join. Journeying from the hum of conversation on the first floor up the stairs, you will encounter a simple room, the chapel. On one wall is a beautiful painting of Christ’s life and the cross, along with plaques bearing names. The names tell stories to those who knew these people, stories of addiction and homelessness, but also of friendship and care.

One name on the wall is that of a young man who found a family at Wesley Urban Ministries. People from the community came together in the chapel to say goodbye to him, a man taken too early in life. A few months after his death, a woman came to the centre asking about him. She was his mother and had been searching for him. She was taken to the chapel, and when she saw his name and heard that he had died, she sat and prayed. The staff spoke to her about how many people had come to his funeral and how he was loved in the community. She was so thankful to Wesley Urban Ministries for loving her son and being in his life.

Wesley Urban Ministries is present for those on the margins in life and in death, and their compassion makes a huge difference.

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.