***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 – September 30, 2018***

The flowers today are a Thanksgiving decoration, by Judi Brisco.

***Congratulations:*** *Congratulations to Barbara Amona and Adam Purdie, on their marriage on September 22, 2018.*

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Mon. Oct. 1**  Unit 11 – Marian Roffey, 1:00 **Tues. Oct. 2** Unit 6 – Library, 7:30

**Wed. Oct. 3** Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00
 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00
 Crafty Ladies – Library, 1:00

**Thurs. Oct. 4**  Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00

**AUDIO SYSTEM** Sept. 30 – Debbie McDermid
 Oct. 7 – Gerry Blandford

**COUNTING OFFERING**
 September – Pat Blandford & Marg Crozier
 October – Bev Davis & Sadie Smith

**MEALS ON WHEELS** Sept. 30 – John & Laura Cooke
 Oct. 7 – Jeff Scott (Eli & Maggie)

**Guest Speaker**: We welcome Jon Williams as our guest speaker today.

**Office Hours**: Please note the office will be closed at noon on Thursday, October 4.

**Church Custodian**: We are pleased to announce that Merv Kusluski will be our new Church Custodian. Merv is a long time member of the congregation and has served the church in this capacity for a number of years in the past. We are confident he will again serve us well in this capacity. He begins his duties October 1, 2018.

**Unit 11**: Unit 11 meeting is Monday, October 1, at 1pm in the Marian Roffey Room.

**UCW Unit 6**: Meeting Tues., Oct. 2, 7.30 p.m. in the Library.

**UCW General Meeting, Tuesday October 9, 1pm, Chapel**: Our guest speaker is Lyn Smith of CPAN (Renfrew Country Child Poverty Action Network). CPAN was created in 2000 to eliminate the effects that child poverty has on our community. They provide numerous programs to help children and families in an empowering and inclusive manner – Tools for Schools, Good EGG, Operation Snowsuit, and many more. Lyn will provide us with disturbing statistics on the need for these programs for low income families in our own community. Everyone is welcome. Come join us and be informed. Further information at [www.renfrewcountycpan.ca](http://www.renfrewcountycpan.ca).

**Membership, Pastoral Care & Fellowship**: The MPCF Committee meets on Thursday, October 11 in the Marian Roffey Room at 9:30. Please note change of time.

**Roast Beef Dinner**: Our annual Roast Beef Anniversary dinner is set for Saturday, October 13, from 4-7pm. If you would like to sign up to volunteer at this year’s dinner, the sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Tickets are available in the office.

**TSA Photo Booth**: The TSA Photo Booth is scheduled for Sunday, October 14 and Sunday, October 28, with openings for photos both before and after service. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. We would ask that everyone who has not yet had their picture taken to please sign up for October, as we are hoping to complete this project.

**Thank You from Thrift Shop**: Thank you to everyone who assisted with the book sorting on Monday, September 24. “Many hands make light work.”

**A Message from Finance and Stewardship Committee**: Thank you all for your generous support of TSA and its mission. The summer vacation/cottage times are usually more difficult for continuous revenue streams. At the end of August we have reached the ***two thirds*** mark of our financial year. Our income for the general fund (*the operation of the church*) is falling behind with revenue of $103,800 (2018 Budget 163,000) and the mission and services fund is also behind with revenue of $17,249. (Budget $26,600.). Also to date our hydro and gas costs are about five thousand dollars higher than at this time in 2017. Please consider a small increase in giving and PAR for a more continuous means of support especially when you might be away.

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**October is Stewardship Month in the Bay of Quinte Conference**: While this will be the last year for the Conference let’s make this toonie fund raiser a big and final parting gift. The monies will go to the Friends of the North, an organization that supports poverty of our northern Canadian peoples by helping with food and other necessities of life. Start saving your toonies or loonies today. The funding drive runs through to the end of October.

**We welcome children at TSA**: We offer children's worship in our Godly Play Program, with Bible stories and creative response time for children in kindergarten and older. Children begin the worship service in the sanctuary, and go to Godly Play toward the end of the first hymn. Our leaders will guide them to the Godly Play room at the end of the hall. (If you come in after the children have left, you may bring your child directly to the Godly Play room). Children are welcome anytime in the sanctuary during the worship service. There is a quiet colouring area at the right side of the sanctuary as you enter, with Bible-story based colouring books and puzzles, mandalas to colour, and materials for creative work. For those times when young children and their caregivers need some "time out" there is a toy chest in the Marion Roffey room for use as needed. Caregivers are asked to ensure the room is left as they found it.



LGBTQ2ai++++? – The Gender Spectrum – Felicite Stairs

There is a huge generational gap in how we understand sexuality, gender and gender expression. When I was growing up in the 1950s and 60s, our understanding was that there were 2 genders, which corresponded with our assigned sex at birth. In other words, there were girls and boys. Unless there was something “wrong” with you, you were one or the other of these 2 options. We understood our gender identity, who we thought we were, as “binary”.

Our gender expression, that is, our clothes and our behaviours, was supposed to reflect our gender. Girls dressed and acted like girls, and boys like boys. There was some leeway, as we all knew some girls who were more “feminine” than others, and some boys who were more “masculine” than others. But the further you deviated from gender expression norms, that its, the more tomboyish you were as a girl, and the more “feminine” you were as a boy, the more suspect you were. There was a lot pressure to conform, to not be suspect of being homosexual (or “queer”, a strongly derogatory term at that time).

As I grew older, in the 1970s and 80s, it became more common and socially acceptable to be gay or lesbian or bisexual and then transgender. My binary understanding of general grew to include 4 more categories. I guess I should have been better prepared for what happened next. Now, we are told, by young people and scientists alike, there are no fixed number of categories. Sexuality, gender identity and gender expression is way more complicated than that, and always has been, we just didn’t pay attention.

Do you remember the Kinsey Report on Human Sexuality? Alfred Kinsey told us 70 years ago that sexual orientation, who we are sexually attracted to, is on a continuum, with some people exclusively homosexual and others exclusively heterosexual and many others somewhere in between. Now we understand that gender identity is also on a spectrum. For many of us, our assigned sex at birth is the same as the gender we identify with (“cis-gender”) while for other people, it is radically different (“transgender”). Still others don’t identify with any particular gender (“gender non-conforming” or “non-binary”). Some people describe themselves as “gender fluid” expecting that their gender identity may change over time.

Do people choose their sexual orientation and gender identity, or are people born that way? The answer is “both/and”, and more: it is “bio-psycho-social”. Scientists tell us there is clearly a genetic component to sexual orientation, but the biology is more complicated than that, depending in part on our brains and our chemistry as well as our genes. Gender identity too depends on our bodies, our biology. But it also depends on our deep-down sense of who we are, and on how we have responded to cultural expectations, our psychology. How we express our gender depends on our identity but also on cultural norms. As we as a society become comfortable with the diversity of human beings, people who don’t feel they belong to the “gender binary” feel freer to express themselves for fully, and that is where we are now.

We are indeed “fearfully and wonderfully made” as the psalmist says. How amazing to live in a time when we are constantly discovering more about the complexity of God’s creatures, including humans! And how wonderful to live in a time and place when we can truly affirm and celebrate that diversity, and enable everyone to more fully explore and celebrate who they truly are!