



TRINITY-ST.ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

RENFREW ONTARIO

FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office: 291 Plaunt Street South, Renfrew Ontario K7V 1N2
Tel: 613-432-2285 Fax: 1-844-270-1372 website: www.tsarenfrew.ca
Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Email: office@tsarenfrew.ca
Minister: Rev. Russell Wardell email: rmwardell@me.com

MINISTERS MESSAGE

'Tis a season of incredible change at TSA and throughout the United Church of Canada. Let's start with the changes at TSA:

We have spruced up the Narthex! (That's the entry way off Plaunt before you enter the sanctuary.) The historical display has been moved into the chapel. Our Statement of Purpose has been stenciled onto the wall. A beautiful table has been placed in the narthex to display information. A new pamphlet and magazine rack is up. Two chairs have been added to make the space more inviting. Combined with the automatic door openers and outdoor signage the place is looking great.

Less visible changes include improvements to our accounting so that future reports to council and the congregation will be more transparent and easy to understand.

We have a team working on how we will provide faith formation to the community in the future. As you will have noticed attendance in programs such as Godly Play has been in decline and we want to make sure that we are providing opportunities for people of all ages to explore their spirituality.

Now, in the denomination the changes we talked about last year are coming into effect this January. Presbytery and Conference are being eliminated. We will be part of a new region and the region will help us to set goals and live intentionally as a ministry of the United Church. Pastoral Relations processes will change (that's how you hire a new minister). Many such tasks will be done on line and through a central national office. We will support the national office through a new assessment that will cost TSA approximately \$10,000 per year. This is close to the amount we have given in past years to run the Presbytery and Conference system.

All of this is being done to streamline the denomination in an age of fewer volunteers and less money. The changes are designed to save the national church \$17 million a year. TSA will be selecting a lay representative to the region soon and that person will keep us abreast of the changes.

In such times it is good to remember that Jesus alone is the corner stone of our faith. Everything else we do is done to better serve and live that basis. We put the Statement of Purpose up in the Narthex to help us remember our calling. We change financial reports so that money can facilitate mission and not become a distraction in and of its' self. We change governance structures so that we can free up time to be the hands and feet of Christ rather than weary volunteers.

As always if you have any questions about anything you read in this newsletter ask any council member or myself.

God bless. *Rev. Russell Wardell*



Affirming



On Sunday, October 21st, we shall vote on whether or not to become an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada. This has been a long process but let me start with the basics:

Affirm United is an organization of the United Church of Canada that seeks to live out the inclusive nature of our church by explicitly lifting up and supporting the LGBTQ community. Since beginning in the 1980s Affirm United has grown to have a broader mandate of encouraging churches to be welcoming of all peoples (as our own statement of purpose says), “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.”

This ministry is necessary because some continue to feel excluded or unwelcome in faith communities.

If we choose to become an affirming ministry then we will be part of a network of churches sharing resources and making explicit our belief that God’s love is broad.

In order to become an affirming ministry we will need to have 75% of the members and adherents of TSA vote in favour.

The vote will be taken following worship (Sunday, October 21st) at a congregational meeting. You must be present at the meeting to vote.

If we do vote in favour then a service of celebration will be held. A symbol of our membership in Affirm United will be on display and most importantly we will prioritize living out this choice each year as we set our goals. Other community organizations such as the Robbie Dean Centre are waiting to see the result of our vote and are anxious to partner with us in supporting the LGBTQ community should we move forward.

While a lot of information has been imparted we will be having one more special event this fall in preparation for the decision. Emmet Cameron of St. Paul’s United Church in Perth will be joining us in worship on September 16. Emmet has been a part of that congregation’s work to become affirming and brings a unique voice and passion to this ministry.

Materials related to this are available in the Narthex of the church and more information can be obtained at www.affirmunited.ca.



MISSION AND SERVICE

The Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada is the primary way in which our denomination shares God's love and justice in the world. The Mission and Service Fund funds projects around the world from soup kitchens in downtown Toronto to farming projects in Haiti.

The fund raises approximately 30 million dollars each year and our own congregation contributes approximately \$30,000 annually.

Contributors to TSA designate what amount of their giving's they want to send to M&S. Check our progress on the banner in the narthex.

The UCW adds around \$4000 annually to these gifts.

A significant change is taking place this January as the United Church of Canada changes its polity. As of January 2019, 100% of monies given to M&S will go to ministry projects. No money will be spent on administration or church governance.

Each week in the bulletin we tell the story of one project of the Mission and Service Fund. Hopefully you gain a sense of the scope of this work as you read these Minutes for Mission. Other ways to find out more about Mission and Service is to go to YouTube to the United Church's channel. There are many videos about our work. You can also go to united-church.ca to learn more (Look under "social justice").

FROM THE DESK OF CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Council has been working to meet the goals established for 2018-19, which are aligned with our Statement of Purpose. Considerable progress has been made towards each of our six goals:



1. *... to move towards a more sustainable future.* We have met with Admaston representatives to share insights on issues of aging congregations and building maintenance and costs. We have increased the permanent space used by the Robbie Dean Centre, made office space available to Rev. Sheryl McLeod, minister of the Admaston Pastoral Charge, and opened up the Godly Play room and a lower storage room for meetings. We have established a Property Reserve Fund and a Human Resources Reserve Fund to help offset unforeseen or large expenses in those areas.
2. *... to complete the Affirming Process.* A vote on whether or not to become an Affirming Ministry will be held on October 21st. Each week an article in support of this process, written by a member of the congregation has been published in the bulletin. In addition, our affirming team met with Perth and Smiths Falls churches for discussions. A guest speaker has been invited for September 16.
3. *... to improve building accessibility.* A government grant was received and work to add power assists to the Quarry St. entrance is underway.
4. *... to produce statements that clarify roles in the community.* We have established a Behavioural Covenant, updated our Wedding Policy and Funeral Policy and drafted a Baptismal Policy for approval in the fall.
5. *... to improve communication* with the congregation.. We are providing more updates in the bulletin to help keep the congregation informed of activities and decisions.
6. *.... to update the physical appearance of our building with a specific focus on the narthex and exterior signage.* We have accomplished a lot in this area. A welcome banner was put up outside, the TSA sign was updated, the pillars and light posts were painted to better match the brick of the church and the door handles were polished. We moved the heritage display cabinets and pictures into the chapel to create a new heritage area. Chairs have been put in the Narthex to welcome people to sit in that area. Our Statement of Purpose has been posted on the wall so that it is easy to read as you leave the Sanctuary. Beside the Statement of Purpose a table displays our programs, activities and passions.

We welcome your feedback on progress to date.

Judy Ryan, Chair

MURRAY CHOWN LIBRARY

The Library continues to be busy on Sunday mornings. It is also open during the week when the office is open. We have purchased some new books and DVDs, and others have been donated. Every month, our book cart reflects a new topic of interest.

One donated new novel is, *Burden of Failure*. It is set in Uganda, where there have been military dictators over the years. It follows a young man who fails his high school exit exam; this prevents him from entering college, to develop job skills to improve his life. In the last year, two TSA members worked on the draft manuscript of this book before it went to the publisher. *Ginette Raaphorst, Laura Cooke, Beulah Wright*

FINANCE

At the end of June we were half way through our fiscal year and our revenues were tracking at about 50% for both the general budget and for mission and services. Thank you all for your generous giving. During the summer months things slow down a bit and this would be a good time to consider starting PAR (pre authorized remittance/giving) since this will ensure a steady and uniform revenue and be less work for you (and Joy).



SPECIAL EVENT SUNDAY SEPT 23RD
PRESENTATION BY

JOHN WILSON
On Estate Planning

MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW !!

FUND RAISING

Chicken BBQ Net Profit \$4,370.00

****Our next opportunity to raise funds and have some fun****

Renfrew Fall Fair September 5th -- 9th

A few hours at the booth, selling, preparing or baking at home
Please call the church office if you can assist in some way



ANNIVERSARY ROAST BEEF DINNER

Saturday OCT 13th 4 TO 7 PM (note-later date than usual)

If you can assist in any way, preparing food, baking a pie, setup, serving or clean up, please be sure to sign one of the sheets in the narthex or contact Barbara Symington 613-432-5300.

BE SURE TO ATTEND \$15.00 each or \$6.00 child Tickets available in the church office.

PROPERTY

Progress is being made and hopefully by October we will have new doors in place at the Quarry St. Entrance.

This will make our building fully accessible on both floors. This project will be fully funded by the grant received earlier this year. We have also had approval to replace the heating unit by the parking lot door and upgrade the hot water heater with a hot water on demand system. Both of these units were overdue for an upgrade. A new emergency lighting unit was required and has been replaced. The wall on the back left side of the sanctuary was repaired with new gyp rock and foam insulation was added. Our ageing building with its heavy usage is constantly requiring repairs. Your support for these and future project is well appreciated.

Garry Scott, Chair

MEMBERSHIP, PASTORAL CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

This summer we saw friends and visitors enjoying worship services in the cool comfort of Stewart Hall. The comment was made that fellowship time after service is very important in supporting our community of faith, especially for those who spend days alone while friends or family are away. We are very grateful to over 30 volunteers who signed up in June, July, and August to come early to prepare and serve refreshments. Thank you also to those additional volunteers who offered a helping hand with cleanup.

Looking ahead, remember to mark your calendars for TSA's 90th Anniversary service on October 14.

Fellowship time will include cake!

Our TSA Photo Booth will continue in late September. We estimate over half of our congregation have had their photos taken. Mickey McDonald is looking forward to wrapping up the project and getting our updated TSA family photos on display.

Margo Aubert, Chair



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

PURPOSE – To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and means by which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

Summer is coming to a close and Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church Women look forward to a busy and fulfilling fall, beginning with the Renfrew Fair and followed quickly by the Annual Roast Beef Dinner in October, Tea and Talent Sale in December, as well as other catering events. Our regular meetings resume in September with a box lunch meeting on September 10th at noon. On Tuesday, October 9 meeting will have a guest speaker, Lynn Smith, Executive Director of Renfrew County Poverty Action Network. CPAN was created in 2000 and their mandate is to eliminate the effects of child poverty, through numerous programs such as Tools for Schools and Operation Snowsuit. Lynn will provide us with disturbing statistics on the need for these programs within our own community. Everyone is welcome to attend to hear this guest speaker and become informed. Refreshments follow, of course.

Another important contribution UCW makes to TSA is the preparation and serving of coffee, juice and treats after the Sunday service. This is a social time and gives everyone an opportunity to visit and to meet new members and visitors and welcome them to TSA. You do not need to be a member of any committee to volunteer for a Sunday. If you don't bake, the treats are provided by UCW, so no baking skills are required. All assistance in keeping this time of fellowship active is greatly appreciated.

The UCW could not accomplish all our fund raising goals without the cheerful volunteers who have given of their time and talents. We have called upon and relied upon the TSA congregation numerous times in the past, and will so again in the future, and we express our sincere appreciation and thanks. We look forward to the autumn season and all the colour and splendor that comes with it. We encourage current and prospective members to come out and enjoy sharing in friendship, fellowship and spirituality.

Sharon Hanniman, Secretary

FOODGRAINS GARDEN



Weeks of high summer temperatures and unusually low precipitation presented challenges for our garden and made us mindful of the problems faced by small scale farmers whose one or two acre plot is their sole source of food.

The conservation agriculture techniques of planting close together and applying a thick mulch of straw in June helped most of the plants to survive. While we have not had a bountiful harvest like last year, fortunately we have had some peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, onions, parsley and basil to share. We expect that our tomato, kale and red cabbage will be satisfactory.

Questions and requests for taste testing have made for interesting conversations.

Margo Aubert

Canadian Foodgrains Bank – icare Campaign

We think Canada can (and should!) play a bigger role in helping to fight world poverty and hunger.

Here's why:

- **Canada is a wealthy country, with much to share.** Canada currently provides about **\$5 billion** a year toward helping to address world poverty. That's about **0.26 percent** of our national income (OECD) and about 1.7% of our overall budget. It sounds like a lot of money—and it is. But think of it this way: Canada's defense budget is about \$20 billion a year. We spend \$6.5 billion on our pets every year. And we spend \$22 billion on alcohol each year.
- **Canada can demonstrate global leadership by increasing the amount it spends on international aid.** Canada lags behind other developed countries in our development spending. Other countries give a lot more. The United Kingdom, Norway and Germany all give over **0.7 percent** of their national income, for example.
- **It helps us, too.** Helping people in other countries climb out of poverty contributes to a more stable, prosperous and hopeful world—and this benefits us all.
- **For people of faith, it's what we're called to do.** In scripture, we are called to love our neighbours. *For when I was hungry, you gave me something to eat...Matthew 25:35.* It's also what we aspire to be as Canadians—compassionate and generous.
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank has launched the "I Care" campaign to help us demonstrate to the government that Canadians care about ending global poverty and hunger.

We want as many Canadians as possible to sign one of our "I Care" postcards to let the Prime Minister know that when it comes to ending global poverty and hunger, they care! So, at many Canadian churches, festivals, agricultural fairs, and public events this summer and fall, there will be opportunity to sign postcards. These cards will be collected in specially marked grain sacks to be presented to the Prime Minister on World Food Day, October 16th, on Parliament Hill.



The **Use of Facilities Committee** would like to remind you that our building is used by many, many varied groups and we appreciate your welcoming them and being considerate of their needs. In view of recent security issues, with doors being left open etc, please be sure to close all outside doors, as we do not want to encourage those who do not have legitimate business. (including birds and cats).

Every member is responsibility to keep our building and contents safe and secure. If you see someone who is not familiar to you, politely inquire if they need assistance, then direct them to their room, if they have no purpose, escort them to the door.



We are always excited to announce such successful results for the Thrift Shop and this quarter is no different. Thank you to all the faithful volunteers who continue to contribute to these excellent results. The Thrift Shop continues to seek new volunteers for tasks such as cash, sorting and pricing, organizing and displaying books, general cleaning, window displays and scheduling to name a few. If you are interested please contact Linda Boldt 613-432-8528 or Cathy Morris 613-432-2815.

After hearing on the radio that donations to the Food Bank drop during the summer months it is gratifying to be able to make a significant donation of \$1,100 to them.



2018 Second Quarter Report

For the period April 1 to June 30, 2018

- \$11,000 will be given to the Church
- \$1,100 will be given to Charity – Renfrew Food Bank
- \$758.85 will be given to the UCW to reimburse for sales
- on Saturdays that they operated.
- Number of days open: 37
- Average number of customers per day: 53
- Average sales per day: \$360.80
- Average sale per customer: \$6.79
- Net sales for Q1: \$13,052.89

Net sales in Q2 were up \$1,851.17 from Q2 last year with 1 fewer day open in 2018.
Total given to the Church for the year 2018 is \$20,200 which is \$2,100 more than budgeted.

COLLECTIBLES

Ongoing collection of items to assist in our mission statement can placed in Narthex:

- Used eye glasses - to third world countries
- Pop can rings - for wheel chairs
- Coloured milk bags - sleeping mats for Haiti, Peru and Kenya
- **Check out this dress made completely out of milk bags?**
- Used postage stamps - to OXFAM
- Canadian Tire money - to replace kitchen items at TSA
- Egg cartons - Renfrew Food Bank
- Non-perishable food items - Renfrew Food Bank
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The newsletter is issued three times a year, late August, late November and before Easter.

This is **YOUR** newsletter; please assist us by sending any picture or article you wish to be printed (at the discretion of the committee)

please send news, photos and articles to daphne.hanneman@sympatico.ca

Advent submissions due on or before November 20th, 2018.

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

*Please keep this calendar and check the website [www.tsarenfrew.ca] or
call the office (613-432-2285) for details and updates*

(Note: Services at Bonnechere Manor, Groves & Quail Creek are listed in order for families to attend with their loved ones.)

Sep	2	Sun	10.00 am	Worship Service		
	5-9	Wed-Sun		Renfrew Fair		
	9	Sun	10.00 am	Worship Service		
	10	Mon	12	UCW General		
	12	Wed	Noon	Bible Study, Crafty Ladies, Mat Group –first day of new season		
	16	Sun	10.00 am	Worship Service – Guest Speaker		
	18	Tue	9-4	Upper Valley Presbytery		
	18	Tue	7 pm	Church Council		
	23	Sun	10.00 am	Worship – Godly Play starts		
			11.30 am	John Wilson Estate Planning		
	30	Sun	10.00 am	Worship (Rev. Russell vacation)		
Oct	7	Sun	10.00 am	Worship - 2.30 Manor Service		
	9	Tue	1 pm	UCW General –Guest: Lynn Smith, CPAN		
	13	Sat	4-7 pm	Anniversary Roast Beef Dinner		
	14	Sun	10.00 pm	Anniversary & Communion Service		
	15	Mon	9.00 am	UCW Presbyterial		
	16	Tue	7.00 pm	Church Council		
	18	Thu		Presbytery		
	21	Sun	10.00 pm	Worship	- 11.30 Affirming Vote	
	23	Tue		T&T meeting		
	28	Sun	10.00 am	Worship		
Nov	4	Sun	10.00 am	Worship		
			3.00 pm	Canadian Food Grains Concert		
			4.30 pm	Community Dinner		
	11	Sun	10.00 am	Remembrance Day Service		
	12	Mon		UCW General		
	18	Sun	10.00 am	Worship Service	2.30 Manor Service	
	20	Tue	7.00 pm	Council		
	25	Sun	10.00 am	Communion Worship Service-Reign of Christ		
	Dec	1	Sat		Tea & Talent Sale	
		2	Sun	10.00 am	1 st Advent Worship Service	
9		Sun	10.00 am	Worship		
16		Sun	10.00 am	Worship		
19		Tue	7.00 pm	Council		
23		Sun	10.00 am	Worship		
24			7.00 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service		
30		Sun	10.00 am	Worship Service (Rev. Russell vacation)	2.30 Manor Service	