***Our Week at a Glance – January 27, 2019***

 ***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

***In Memoriam****: The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Raymond Ciphery, on his recent passing.*

The flowers today are placed by Shawn Panesar, in loving memory of his sister, Sheena (Panesar) Dahl.

 **Wed. Jan 30** Library Cmte. – Library, 10:30
 Bible Study Marian Roffey, 12:00
 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00
 Crafty Ladies – Library, 1:00

**Thurs. Jan. 31** TSA Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00

**AUDIO SYSTEM** Jan. 27 – Geoff Roberts
 Feb. 3 – Marilyn Eady

**COUNTING OFFERING** Noma Deshane & Sadie Smith
 February: Leslee Gervais & Doris Handford

**MEALS ON WHEELS**
 Jan. 27 – Bryan & Jackie Hollingworth
 Feb. 3 – Garry & Carol Scott

**Annual General Meeting**: The Annual General Meeting is Sunday, February 10, after service.

**Renfrew Refugee Welcome Group**: Last week we received notice that the Syrian refugee family we are sponsoring had been granted permanent residence status, and this week we found out they will arrive on Feb. 7! After a long hibernation, the Coordinating Committee is springing to action to get everything ready to welcome the family. We will be holding a community meeting on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. in the TSA Chapel, and welcome all who are interested to join us.

**TSA Thrift Shop**

**2018 Fourth Quarter Report to the Trinity St Andrew’s Congregation**

For the period October 1 to December 31, 2018

* $12,500 will be given to the Church
* $625 will be given to each Charity: Renfrew Early On Programme and RCDSB Student Support Fund
* $1,582.60 will be given to the UCW to reimburse for sales on Saturdays that they opened and half of the Thrift Shop sales from the day of the Tea and Talent Sale
* Number of days open: 34
* Average number of customers per day: 67
* Average sales per day: $477.58
* Average sale per customer: $7.15
* Net sales for Q4 2018: $16,237.60

Net sales in Q4 2018 were up $4,934 from Q4 2017 with 1 more day open in 2018. Total given to the Church in 2018 is $44,700 which is $2,700 more than budgeted.

**TSA Thrift Shop**

**2018 Year End Report to the Trinity St Andrew’s Congregation**

For the period January 1 to December 31, 2018

* $44,700 was given to the Church
* $4,550 was given to 5 different Charities
* $4,125.65 was given to the UCW to reimburse for sales on Saturdays that they operated the shop and half of the Thrift Shop sales from the day of the Tea and Talent Sale
* Number of days open: 145
* Average number of customers per day: 56
* Total customers for the year 2018: 8,151
* Average sales per day: $379.38
* Average sale per customer: $6.75
* Net sales for 2018: $53,410.82

Net sales in 2018 were up $11,251 from 2017 with 3 fewer days open in 2018. Total given to the Church in 2018 is $44,700 which is $2,700 more than budgeted.



“The Fruit Machine”

The other day I ran into an old friend of mine. She has been an out and proud lesbian for all the twenty-plus years I have known her, but that day she looked very unwell and highly stressed. She told me she had seen “The Fruit Machine” and it had “triggered” her badly. She said “You know that stuff in the military? That was about me, too”. I hugged her and held her for a few minutes before she had to go. And when I went home I looked up “The Fruit Machine”, because, no, I didn’t know anything about it. But when I found out, I wanted to make sure all of us know.

I found the hour-long documentary on TVO’s website, and watched it there. The “fruit machine” was both a specific machine and a whole program of investigation. They were aimed at identifying and purging people suspected of being gay or lesbian from the Canadian public service and the military. It began after the Second World War, sparked by the cold war. The program ended around 1970 in the civil service, but not till the early ‘90’s in the military. The film features a number of former civil servants and military personnel who had been outed, investigated and fired as a result, often after being harassed and even raped by their co-workers. Their lives were shattered by the horrific investigations, the shaming and the destruction of their dreams. Some of the people were very young, fresh out of high school and away from home for the first time in their lives. My friend was that age when she joined the military. This had happened to her.

I was shocked that this had happened in Canada – it’s like what we read about in other countries like Uganda and Saudi Arabia. The justification given by the government was that gay and lesbian people were a much greater security risk because they could be blackmailed into giving up state secrets. Couldn’t they see that the other way to reduce that risk was to stop persecuting and shaming them so that there was no need to hide who they were?

“The Fruit Machine” is a powerful film about a mostly hidden chapter of our national history, and I urge everyone to take the time to watch it. If you don’t have access to a computer and would like to see the film, let me or Russell know and we will try to arrange a showing at the church.

Felicite Stairs