

Easter 2019

BRITANNIA UNITED CHURCH

THE  **Britannian**

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Peter Bain, Editor

Leigh Bain, Assistant Editor

Editorial

What goes round comes round

Today is bread day in our house. I use a sourdough starter which I got from a friend twelve years ago, who got it from a friend, who probably got it from another friend... Sourdough starter is wonderful stuff: the more you use it, the more you have. You can give it away as many times as you want and you still have it, like Reverend Jim's magic penny. If you lose yours, you can always get it back from someone else.

Helping in the church and community activities is the same: giving a few hours to help with a sale or a park cleanup pays dividends of building relationships and a feeling of contributing. To use another Rev. Jim quote, "what you put energy into, you get energy out of". There are lots of chances to do that, like helping with the garden, volunteering for the garage and used clothing sale, or getting some of the Sunday School's Friendship Bread.

Peter Bain
Editor

Minister's Message

You Took My Parking Space at Church

One day, a man went to visit a church, He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver, got out and said, 'I always park there! You took my place!'

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, 'That's my seat! You took my place!' The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the Sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, 'That's where I always sit! You took my place!' The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandalled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, 'Hey, what happened to you?'

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns and a tear fell from his eye, 'I took your place.'

Recently, I received this story from a member of our congregation, and it really touched my heart. I've seen this happen all too often, and I've heard too many stories about how visitors were received in this way when they were visiting a church for the first time. Most never went back.

And then there was Grandma Sample.

Lola Sample was a true matriarch of Munster United Church on the outskirts of Ottawa. Her family had worshipped there for generations and it was not uncommon for three generations of her family to be in church on any given Sunday. Grandma Sample always sat in the very same place: the second pew, by the entrance, in front of the pulpit.

One Sunday morning, as I organized my things on the pulpit, I was surprised to see Grandma Sample and her family sitting at the back of the church in the centre section of pews. It could only mean one thing; we had visitors in church. Sure enough, there was a new family in church, sitting in the second pew, by the entrance, in front of the pulpit.

They never knew they were sitting in Grandma Sample's spot, and no one would ever have told them otherwise. If they had, the first one to reprimand them would have been Grandma Sample herself! She loved sitting in that pew, but more than that, she loved to see new people in church and gladly and humbly moved to another place.

Jesus constantly spoke about putting others before ourselves. He said that the last shall be first and the first shall be last, so we should be servants to others, and we should treat our neighbours the way we would like to be treated. He said we should never take the best seat at a banquet, but rather, we should take the lower place...and if someone asks for your shirt, you should offer him your coat as well. He talked a lot about kindness and self-sacrifice, he went

as far as to say that there is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends, and then he went farther, and did just that. He would have liked Grandma Sample.

The story about the visitor in church is appropriate at any time of year, but it may be circulating now because we are just a few weeks away from Holy Week and it is a wonderful reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for us all. It is a very busy week with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and our Easter Sunday celebration. And our choir and Worship Committee have been busy planning for a very meaningful experience. I know that it is a challenge to get to all of the services, but I encourage you to come when you can. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday scriptures can be difficult to hear, but when we walk the road with Christ through the week of his Passion, when we understand what it meant for him to take our place, then we truly understand the significance of the Easter story; renewing our hope and our joy in the risen Christ.

I look forward to seeing familiar faces and visitors too! If you do see someone new, make sure to give them a warm, Britannia welcome...maybe even offer them a seat ;)

Rev. Jim

Friendship Bread

On February 3, 2019, Rev. Jim talked, in his sermon, about the concept of Friendship Bread that he discovered in Saskatchewan when he preached there at the beginning of his career. Friendship Bread is a type of bread made from a starter that is shared in a manner similar to a chain letter. The starter is a substitute for yeast.

Starting small, the Sunday School children and youth, and their parents, guardians and leaders will be baking bread on April 28. If you have Pyrex loaf pans and would be willing to lend them for this project, it would be greatly appreciated. The recipe works best with this type of pan.

The starter for this bread comes from Danielle Nicholls' mother. Danielle and I grew up near the rural village of Embro, located about 20 kilometres south of Stratford.

The Sunday School will begin with three starters, which we will divide into 12 new starters. We will bake 2 of the starters, making 4 loaves of bread. The bread will be shared with the congregation. We will have 10 starters plus the recipe to give away to members of our congregation. If you are interested in receiving a starter, please let Kelvin Stanke or me know.

In the context of Britannia United Church's Stewardship Campaign, this opportunity has the potential to spark new life into our outreach. It could connect those who want to help with those in need. You could bake bread for members of our congregation who are shut in, for delivery by the Pastoral Care Team. I am sure that you can picture the statue of the "circle of friends" holding hands that Rev Jim has shown to the children during his theme presentations.

Then [Jesus] ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. (Mark 8: 6)

Helen Hutcheson

Three Years on the Journey – and into the Fourth

Our local Syrian Refugee family (Rim, Abboud, Jack, Christian, Nadia and Raymond) have been on a big journey. Sponsored by Rim's brother Salem, they left their home country as part of the diaspora from Syria and reached Canadian shores in December 2015. Salem's neighbours Don and Marie-Therese, who attend Britannia United Church, realized that the family would need help to settle in Canada and reached out to the Britannia congregation and to immediate neighbours for clothing, household items, furniture, etc. As well, the church agreed to set up a special fund to help the refugee family, and congregation members and neighbours in the vicinity of the church faithfully supported the family's search for housing, healthcare, schools, etc.

There have been many challenges along the way. Dealing with serious health issues, adapting to the climate, learning the languages, transportation and training have all proved complex and required the assistance of many neighbourhood volunteers and volunteers in other cities.

Nevertheless, at this point in their journey, Rim, a former obstetrician/gynecologist and mother of Jack and Christian, has completed most of her training to be a fully accredited midwife in Ontario. She is currently in an internship position in Kingston and received her first pay cheque in February of this year. She has had to stay away from her husband and sons who live in Gatineau, to study and work in Ottawa, Toronto and Kitchener-Waterloo for many extended periods.

Rim is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in Kingston so that she can travel back to Gatineau every few weeks to be with her family. All the separations have been hard on the whole family. Her husband Abboud has had his two young sons to look after on his own most of the time. He has also been busy with language studies, teaching some Arabic and volunteering at Britannia United when able. Salem and Mary continue to be busy looking after Salem and Rim's parents Nadia and Raymond, who are greatly challenged by the weather and by many health issues. Rim's sons Jack and Christian are doing well in school.

Rim and Abboud are optimistic now about their future in Canada. They will probably need to move to Ontario as soon as Rim finds a more permanent job. The family is very grateful for all the assistance they have received. They are hopeful about their ability to become fully independent new Canadians.

A special thank you goes to all who have played a part in this family's success through their kindness and givings.

Don Cullen and Marie-Therese O'Sullivan
Local Syrian Refugee Family Project coordinators

Free to a Good Home

Free storage space! In your own home! The Garage and Used Clothing Sale is coming up on May 11. See Page 9 for a list of things to donate after May 5. Can you spare a couple of hours to help? You can sort merchandise, assist customers, or help with cleanup. See the signup sheets going up soon.

Memorial Gardens

I hope you have seen the beautiful shrubs and flowers in front of our church. The garden was established in 2013 to commemorate the 140th anniversary of Britannia United Church and dedicated to the memory of those whose faith inspired work and worship in this community. It is a living memorial, a legacy that we leave for future generations.

It is maintained spring through fall by a small group of faithful helpers, who plan and plant flowers, replace plants as necessary, and keep the weeds at bay. If you have suggestions, please contact Roelie Jackson, Dianne Tupper, or Heather Wallace. Donations to help defray costs would be gratefully received; please mark “memorial garden” on your envelope.

Queensway Terrace North News

From the local community association

Neighbourhood cleanup

We’re nearing the end of winter and as much as we love the snow, it tends to hide a fair bit of trash.

Come help clean up our neighbourhood. We will be cleaning our greenspaces (Frank Ryan Park, Elmhurst Park, Connaught Park, Pinecrest Creek Trail) and the surrounding areas.

Meet us at Frank Ryan Field House on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM to get supplies and choose an area to clean. Latex gloves and garbage bags will be provided. In the event of rain, we will reschedule to Saturday, May 4, 2019. If you are willing to help coordinate alternate pickup sites for supplies, such as the

frequently recommended Connaught Park entrance, please send us an email at qtncommunity@gmail.com as we would appreciate your help.

Winter Carnival

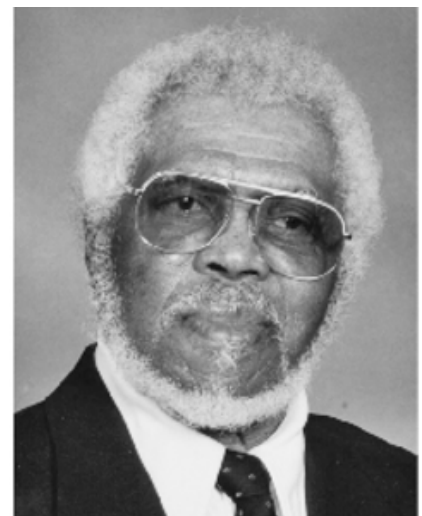
The QTN winter Carnival was a great success this year. With some of the best weather in recent memory, we had a great turnout from across the neighbourhood. We also had visits from our MP, MPP, and city councillor, as well as a special consultation with city planning staff ahead of the LRT station study for Queensview. Everyone enjoyed skating, sledding, marshmallows on the fire and the horse-drawn sleigh. Special thanks to Britannia United Church for supplying hot chocolate and volunteers who served it!



Our Sympathies

We are saddened to announce the passing of Mary Ann Walker, long time member of Britannia United Church, on January 31, 2019. Details regarding any services will be provided once they have been confirmed by the family, but we do not anticipate such until the summer months. Please keep Mary Ann’s family and friends in your prayers.

Eric Augustus Hall (photo right) passed away peacefully on January 2, 2019, at the age of 94. Eric was the loving husband of Enid Grace Hall and a long time member of Britannia United Church



A Thousand Cranes...Or Prayers

What do the 1000 cranes, or “sembajuru” in Japanese, mean? In Japan, the cranes are created in origami paper and strung together, usually 25 strings of 40 paper cranes each. The crane is a mystical creature of hope and happiness and is believed to live a thousand years. The creature is believed to carry souls up to paradise on its wings. Tradition holds that if one folds 1000 cranes, one’s wishes will come true.

The crane has become a symbol of hope and healing in difficult times. Recently, a Japanese Canadian friend of ours and her daughter decided that they wanted to present a special gift to a close friend of ours who has been struggling with brain cancer for over two years. We and our neighbours were asked to contribute messages of support for our friend Chris and his family.

Our messages were added to a multi-coloured rainbow mobile of 1000 cranes. It is a beautiful gift and Chris and his wife and young children were very happy to receive it and to feel its energy and love. A gift of 1000 cranes or prayers uniquely crafted: art in the form of a very moving symbol of God’s grace, love and kindness in a difficult time.

Don Cullen



A handful of patience is worth a bushel of brains

The Mousetrap

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package that contained mousetraps. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse yelled, "There is a mousetrap in the house!" The chicken clucked, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell it concerns you, but it is of no consequence to me, please don't bother me with it." The mouse turned to the pig; the pig sympathized but said, "I'm sorry Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray." The mouse looked at the cow, and the cow replied, "I hate it for you, but it's no skin off my nose." So the mouse returned to the house feeling rejected and alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house, the sound of a trap catching its prey. The farmer’s wife rushed to check the trap, not seeing that it was not a mouse but the tail of a venomous snake. As she approached the trap, the snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, but she returned home with a fever. To treat the fever with chicken soup, the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard to retrieve the main ingredient. His wife's sickness continued, so friends came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig, but the farmer's wife continued to get worse, and she finally died. So many people attended the funeral that the farmer had to slaughter the cow to provide enough meat to feed them all. As they ate, the mouse looked through the crack in the wall with great sadness.

The next time you hear someone has a problem and you think it doesn't concern you, remember, when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk! Never forget that we are involved in this journey called life.

EASTER COOKIES

To help children learn about Easter

Make this the evening before Easter. You need:

- 1 cup whole pecans
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- 3 egg whites
- pinch salt
- 1 cup sugar
- ziploc bag
- wooden spoon
- tape
- Bible

Preheat oven to 300 degrees (this is important--don't wait until you're half done with the recipe!)

Place pecans in ziploc bag and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read *John 19:1-3*.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read *John 19:28-30*.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read *John 10:10-11*.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read *Luke 23:27*.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read *Psalms 34:8* and *John 3:16*.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the colour white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read *Isaiah 1:18* and *John 3:1-3*.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read *Matthew 27:57-60*.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF.

Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read *Matthew 27:65-66*.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read *John 16:20* and *22*.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read *Matthew 28:1-9*

Toastmasters, and Britannia United Church's Garage and Used-Clothing Sales: an Unlikely Combination

What do Toastmasters, a Garage Sale and a Used Clothing Sale have in common? This is not a riddle; I really am going to tell you!

I have been a Toastmaster since October 2012. Toastmasters is an international organization that helps you improve your communication and leadership skills. As part of my program, I am required to complete a High Performance Leadership project. This project is supervised by a Guidance Committee. Eileen Ball, Tom Harris, and Barry Meredith, all Toastmasters, have agreed to be part of this Committee to provide me with helpful feedback and suggestions for leadership improvement.

To select a project, I had to find something that I was passionate about. Did you know that more than 400 Burundians filed refugee claims in Ottawa between 2013 and 2017? During that period, more claimants from Burundi landed in Ottawa than in any other Canadian city. All refugees transitioning to a new life need support to become accustomed to their new communities and to adapt to life in Canada.

This need became glaringly apparent to me through my friendship with Franci Lynka Keza, a vibrant, outgoing, genuine young Burundian woman who lived with me and my husband Don from December 2016 to March 2018.

I decided to design a project to facilitate the integration of one or more Burundian refugees into Canadian society and the community by eliminating the financial burden associated with their application for permanent residency. And combining this project with the social outreach mission of Britannia United Church and its tradition of welcoming and nurturing Burundian refugees and their families was a logical next step.

This year's **Garage Sale** will be held in conjunction with a **Used Clothing Sale** on May 11, 2019, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Our Used Clothing Sale will provide new-to-you items for the benefit of new to-be Canadians! The proceeds from the sale will be used to offset the \$550 cost of the permanent resident application for one or more selected Burundian refugees.

The revenue from the Garage Sale, as usual, will be contributed to the general operating fund of the Church: to purchase learning resources for Sunday School, Bible Study, worship services and music; to pay for expenses related to heat, hydro, water, building maintenance and snow removal; and to pay our hard-working staff.

An Action Team has been struck to organize the sales. This team is composed of:

Helen Hutcheson, Coordinator, Used
Clothing Sale
Peter Bain, Coordinator, Garage Sale
Leigh Bain
Rev Jim Baldwin

Tom Harris
Roelie Jackson
Kelvin Stanke
Dianne Tupper
Heather Wallace

For the Used Clothing Sale, we welcome clean, quality items, such as:

- clothing suitable for summer, spring, and fall
- professional clothing
- children's clothing
- shoes, boots, jewellery, and scarves
- coat hangers

As well, we are looking for donations of Garage Sale items, such as:

- household and kitchen goods
- books
- toys
- games and puzzles
- sporting goods
- small furniture and decorative items
- small appliances and electronics
- plastic shopping bags

All items should be in good condition, and in safe working order. We cannot accept the old-style (CRT) computer monitors/televisions. Your donations may be dropped off at the church from Sunday, May 5 to Thursday, May 9, 2019. If you need to arrange pick-up or early drop-off, please contact Helen Hutcheson or Don Miller, by email at helen.m.hutcheson@gmail.com or by telephone at 613-726-0113, or Kelvin Stanke, by email at kelvinstanke123@gmail.com or by telephone at 613-407-9382.

Bulletin inserts and posters will be available shortly. We invite you to pick them up from the vestibule, and post them in your apartment building or condo, or in any public building. As well, please like and share this event from Britannia's Facebook page to maximize its reach through the power of social media.

There are many opportunities for you to contribute to these sales. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work." Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule. In addition to donating used clothing and household articles, we need many volunteers to sort, organize and set-up display racks and tables; direct parking; greet customers at the door; assist them as they do their shopping; collect payments; tally financial results; clean-up; and deliver surplus items to needy organizations. We are also organizing a snack bar, with muffins, coffee and tea, and a bake counter. So, heat up your oven and start baking ... all baked goods would be appreciated, including gluten-free options.

If you have any questions about the Garage and Used-Clothing Sales, please see any member of the Action Team.

Through this project I will personally challenge my capacity to mobilize people to accomplish a worthwhile result. And through this event, as a church, we will honour our tradition of inclusivity, of collaboration, of a sense of community, of integrity, and of showing respect to new to-be Canadian citizens. Rev. Jim wrote in his Minister's letter entitled, "*Where Do We Go from Here?*" printed in the 2018 Annual Report, "People are often attracted to churches that are involved in their communities and their world. ... new members (are) interested in how we live our faith in the world, and how we bring life to the teachings of Christ."

As written in Hebrews 13:16, "*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*" Together, we can make a difference in the lives of Burundian refugees and in the work of our church!

Helen Hutcheson

Lenten Meditation and Yoga

Rev Jim wrote in his Minister's Letter in the 2018 Annual Report that, "This year our observance of Lent is focused on prayer and meditation". What better way to appreciate the Lenten season than to practise Meditation and Yoga! Join us on **Saturday, April 6, from 2 to 5 pm, at Britannia United Church, for Lenten meditation, reflection and light yoga.**

Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in ancient India. It became popular in the West in the 20th century. The word, "yoga," means "to unite" and "to concentrate." Thus, yoga is the practice that aims to join the mind, body and spirit.

The instructor, Jane Dawson, is the Minister Supporting Communities of Faith, Clusters and Networks for the United Church of Canada's newly formed (post-Presbytery) Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council. Although her title is "minister," she is not ordained. She has a background as an adult educator, spiritual director and writer. She completed a 200-hour yoga teacher training program certified by the Yoga Alliance in 2011. The training program was offered through the Rama Lotus yoga studio in Ottawa. She also has a subsequent certificate in teaching Yoga for Seniors (also offered through Rama Lotus). She has led a number of meditation and yoga sessions over the years.

This practice will involve a combination of light yoga poses, reflective writing, meditation and an optional sharing of observations. During the session, Jane will invite us to reflect on the symbolic meaning of yoga poses and scriptural texts. The yoga practice will be contemplative, rather than strenuous, with a focus on breathing and meditative awareness.

The session is accessible to everyone. The light yoga practice can be done from the floor or a chair. No meditation or yoga experience is required. A variety of herbal teas and water will be served.

Pre-registration is preferred; sign-up with the Church office, by email at office@brituc.ca, or by telephone at 613-828-6018. Come wearing comfortable clothing, and bring a yoga mat, blanket or towel, and a notebook and pen. A free-will offering will be collected.

By breathing God in and meditating on His word through prayerful poses, we will unite with God in a deeper way.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! (Psalm 150:6)

Helen Hutcheson



**LENTEN
MEDITATION &
YOGA**

Join us for an afternoon of meditation, reflection and light yoga.
No experience required

2 PM TO 5 PM | APRIL 6, 2019
BRITANNIA UNITED CHURCH - 985 PINECREST RD

Wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat, blanket/towel,
notebook and pen

PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED: office@brituc.ca 613-828-6018

FREE WILL OFFERING
ACCESSIBLE & OPEN TO EVERYONE

Queensway Terrace North Community News

Light Rail, Phase 2; Lincoln Heights Mall

Britannia is located in the Queensway Terrace North neighbourhood, represented by the Queensway Terrace North (QTN) Community association <https://qtn.ca>. The Association has been looking at Phase 2 of the LRT, the expanded transit station at Pinecrest and the Queensway, and redevelopment of the Lincoln Fields Mall and how they will affect this area: Pinecrest Road, our neighbours on Moncton Street, and Foster Farm. The association has invited us to participate as an affected party. Some points from their analysis so far:

- QTN dwellers enjoy a rich natural habitat and make use of outdoor spaces and close-by recreation facilities. They walk, bike, or drive to essential services, all located within a reasonable radius (3 km), and they have relatively easy access to public transit. Housing costs remain somewhat affordable, allowing new families to start, and successive generations to stay.
- QTN is a neighbourhood in transition from suburban to urban. This includes some growing pains, such as high traffic and sound pollution during peak hours, densification (e.g. infills) and urbanization (e.g. sidewalks). Residents recognize that there will be substantial change as a result of LRT Phase 2 and population growth in Ottawa. They want city policies to guide those changes in a way that enhances the essential elements of what makes QTN an attractive neighbourhood.
- On the south side of QTN, the new Queensview LRT Station and future development along Queensview Drive will also affect our neighbourhood. A new pedestrian bridge over the Queensway will connect QTN with the commercial district and neighbourhoods on the south side of the Queensway. The new LRT station will also lead to redevelopment along Queensview Drive – an opportunity and a challenge.
- Reasonable access to the Queensview LRT station for residents of QTN remains an issue, as well as the impacts of redevelopment in that area. Earlier plans included upgrading the Queensway and the Pinecrest Overpass. The province has cancelled those plans.
- Reasonable access to all LRT stations from all parts of QTN by foot and bike is desirable.
- The owners of Lincoln Fields Mall have submitted a partial plan to redevelop the mall. A new grocery store and a new drugstore will be built and the rest of the mall demolished. Then plans for the rest of the site will proceed. We know housing and other retail stores will be included, but plans are vague. At the same time the City of Ottawa is starting work on a larger plan for the area around the mall, from Carling Avenue to Richmond Road.
- Replacement of the old mall and the new Lincoln Fields LRT station will change the way QTN residents relate to the streets and services on the north side of our neighbourhood. Concerns include safe and easy access to the LRT station; what kind of services will be available in walking distance; green space; what kind of street Carling will be; and traffic and safety.

For further information, contact Barry Meredith or the QTN Association.

Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy

The Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy is an ecumenical grassroots-based Christian community Chaplaincy presence in the multicultural, multifaith communities in west-end Ottawa. OWECC also supports the housing communities in Foster Farm, Morrison Gardens, Pinecrest Terrace and Regina Towers. This area is generally referred to as Pinecrest Queensway area,

Britannia's congregation, along with other congregations and organizations concerned about the effects of poverty in these neighbourhoods, support OWECC financially. As a nonprofit charitable organization, OWECC is governed by a working board on which Marg Tyers and Marilyn Bruce currently serve. Wendy Gallant is the liaison for Britannia, providing pertinent information through the Minutes for Mission.

August 2018 marked the second anniversary of the revitalization of OWECC. The chaplaincy under the leadership of Rev. Steve Zink currently offers three main programs: a bible scripture drop-in at Regina Towers, a youth martial arts program at Pinecrest Terrace (Kelly McGilvery from our congregation assists Steve with this program when time permits), and pastoral counselling; connecting with people at the Ottawa food banks in three of the four communities we serve. Steve also conducts special services; Blue Christmas, Easter and others as requested.

In 2019 the board hopes to expand some programs with the help of volunteers and are currently in dialogue with Britannia Woods Community, with a view to formalizing our involvement with that community. A summer highlight was a day-away at Tucker House in Rockland for 30 adults from the communities we serve. Plans are in the works for a weekend family camp in September at Camp Otterdale. Another highlight for this year was the Community Choir in December, 2018 co-ordinated and directed by Rev. Jim. Thanks to his support and leadership it is hoped the Community Choir will be an annual fund-raising event for the Chaplaincy. St. Stephen's Anglican Church has already agreed to host the December, 2019 Community Choir event.

The OWECC 2019 AGM is being held on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at Bell's Corner's United Church from 2 – 4:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Marilyn Bruce, board member

**Bible Word Search:
CROSS, TOMB, & RESURRECTION**

Z	C	W	B	D	M	L	O	K	S	S	Y	Y	H	X
U	D	R	E	E	R	V	E	A	Q	P	Z	Q	E	G
I	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	V	V	S	D	D	H	L
Q	T	F	R	S	D	R	P	V	A	O	U	W	E	O
V	C	O	O	O	E	G	E	L	D	Y	E	S	N	E
O	C	R	M	Q	M	X	V	I	E	C	J	W	E	F
P	A	G	U	B	P	A	S	S	O	R	C	K	L	J
S	F	I	H	C	T	C	N	N	X	K	S	I	A	I
O	Z	V	Q	I	I	R	I	S	N	W	W	Z	D	S
A	R	E	O	P	O	F	S	K	K	M	Y	K	G	Q
L	E	N	L	H	N	O	I	S	N	E	C	S	A	E
H	T	E	T	J	K	D	I	X	V	K	B	A	M	R
L	S	S	U	M	E	D	O	C	I	N	P	R	Y	C
N	A	S	K	M	Q	Q	C	N	G	O	Y	B	L	O
R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	E	I	X

AROSE	ASCENSION	CROSS
CRUCIFIXION	DISCIPLES	EASTER
FORGIVENESS	HEAVEN	JESUS
MAGDALENE	NICODEMUS	REDEMPTION
RESURRECTION	ROMANS	SALVATION
SINS	THORNS	TOMB

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Living the Good Life

Sermon, February 24, 2019

I will be officiating at the funeral of an old friend tomorrow. I've known her for 30 years and she lived to be 102 years old. Thelma Crigger was a member of my congregation in Ashton, when I was called to the church thirty years ago, and I don't think she ever missed a Sunday during the twelve years I was there. She was a dedicated, lifetime member of her church, but every now and then when the minister was away she would show up here in Britannia for Sunday worship, and she was very clear that I was still her minister.

By the world's standards Thelma lived a simple life; some might have even called her poor. During the Ice Storm of '98 when we were without running water or electricity, she just shrugged and said "That's how we used to live." Indeed, that's how she was raised, and when she was first married she raised her own children in a little cabin in the woods. Later she moved her family to a small log house beside the bridge in the village of Ashton, where she lived until she was a hundred years old.

She grew her own food, she made quilts, tended her flower garden and earned what little income she had cleaning other people's houses. She didn't have much of an education, she didn't travel until she was in her eighties, her home was decorated simply, with curtains she made herself, but her door was always open, and there was always a cup of tea and some homemade cookies ready for anyone who dropped by.

Thelma sang in the church choir with her brother Wes. She was a member of the United Church Women's group, she cleaned the church every week and helped out at all of the church fundraisers; not just for the United Church, but also for the Anglican church down the road. And I expect that when we gather to celebrate her life tomorrow, the church will be full of people who loved and respected her.

By the world's standards Thelma lived a simple life; some might have even called her poor, but her life was rich in faith, she had a wealth of family and friends, she was surrounded by nature's beauty, and her heart was filled with joy.

Just last week we studied the blessings outlined in Jesus's Sermon on the Plain and talked about the hope of resurrection, which can be experienced here and now. Indeed, we are called to live our resurrection faith now and in our living we will create God's kingdom - on earth as it is in heaven.

This week, as the season of Epiphany approaches its end, with Lent just around the corner, our readings point once again to resurrection – but not to some far away place; it is here and now.

You may recall that Luke focused on a living faith that could be seen in action, and in our Gospel reading for today he outlines the kind of actions that are illustrations of the life of Christ. They may not seem wise by the world's standards; they might seem foolish to those who subscribe to society's model for success, and some of his teachings might even seem impossible to follow, but they do indeed point the way to "the good life" in way and example of Christ.

The Gospel of Luke speaks of loving enemies, giving generously, lending without asking for repayment, and refusing to judge others. We so often think of resurrection as an event that happened long ago, or one that is going to happen at the end of time, but these teachings of Christ present an idea of resurrection that is here and now. Because following his instructions are all ways of living that bring life to others and free us from ideas and standards that prevent us from living a deeper, more vibrant life.

What Jesus teaches us is that we do not have to wait for some future judgement to experience resurrection. God offers us life, renewal, re-creation, restoration and liberation right here and now. Whenever we embrace the values and priorities of God's reign, and seek to bring life to those around us, we are living the reality called resurrection.

In chapter 37 of the Book of Genesis, we are told the story of Joseph and his coat of many colours, a story that Andrew Lloyd Webber made into one of his most popular musicals.

It's the story of eleven brothers who were jealous of the attention and favour that their father gave to Joseph. At first they plotted to kill him, but with a last minute change of heart, they sold him into slavery instead; telling their father that he had been killed by a wild goat.

In time, Joseph's ability to interpret dreams gained the attention of Pharaoh and saved the people of Egypt from a coming famine that would ravage the land. Joseph's family in Canaan were not so fortunate and, in time, came to Egypt begging for food.

Little did they know that the man who was in charge of the Pharaoh's stores of grain was the very brother they had abused, but Joseph recognized them immediately.

He could have sent them away empty-handed. He could have had them thrown into the same jail where he had been held as a prisoner, and who would have blamed him? But Joseph chose a different path: he chose forgiveness. In doing so, he not only offered new life to his brothers; by letting go of vengeance and bitterness, he created a new life for himself.

Joseph's transformed relationship with his brothers can be viewed as a resurrection in the here and now. By forgiving them, he saved them from a certain death, and he discovered the life-giving power of forgiveness and love.

In our Gospel reading from chapter 6 of Luke, Jesus suggests that loving only those who can love us back, and giving evil for evil is the way of death and invites us to a different kind of life which can also be thought of as a resurrection. It is the way of life in which we believe that love ultimately wins over hate, forgiveness over division, life over death, and in which we live the resurrection here and now; finding our ultimate joy in a life that is congruent with the teachings of Christ.

John van de Laar is a Methodist minister who describes living the resurrection here and now in this way:

If resurrection is to be revealed and experienced in our world globally, then it must be nurtured and made available to people locally. This is the task of the local church, and of any community that seeks to oppose the forces of death and evil, and nurture and share whatever brings life, beauty, truth, and goodness into the world. When we claim that certain people are evil and beyond God's love and salvation simply for who they are, in

terms of their religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, or political views, then we are not the church of resurrection. God calls us to die to this very human, “mortal” way of living. But, when we proclaim that God’s love is available to all, that God welcomes and accepts all for who they are, we become a church of the resurrection.

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” These are not easy things to do. And one of the questions I am asked most often, is how to forgive people who have harmed us.

In the past few weeks, I’ve seen a series of stories about people who have wrestled with the concept of forgiveness. Some were physically harmed themselves, others had lost a loved one to an act of violence. No one would have blamed them for harbouring anger, hatred, or even thoughts of revenge. But instead, they chose to forgive.

One woman had been the victim of a brutal beating that nearly killed her. Initially, she was angry. She lost her trust in humanity, and she pushed everyone away who tried to help her. Eventually she realized that she was miserable and lonely and wanted people in her life. So she made the decision to forgive the man who hurt her, so that she could heal her spirit and move on.

The significant thing is that he did not want her forgiveness. In fact, when she sat in front of him and opened her heart to him, he refused to acknowledge his responsibility and told her it was her own fault for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

But she forgave him anyway and she continues to this day to pray for the man who abused her. Did it change him? No. But it changed her. The act of forgiveness gave her new life. It empowered her spirit. It opened her up to trusting people once again. Today, she is married with a daughter and a job that fulfills her, and her life can only be described as joyful, because she lives her resurrection faith.

Jesus said “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.”

This week our call to resurrection can include such simple things as learning patience with ourselves, and others, and God as we wait for healing or restoration to happen. It can include forgiving others instead of allowing our hatred and pain to lead us into a death of our souls. It can include releasing the values and material wealth of human society in order to share what we have and bring life to those in need. And it can include loving ourselves enough to do what feeds and nurtures our souls, what brings life to our bodies, and what deepens and strengthens our relationships. In these ways we can experience our future hope of resurrection right here and right now.

One of my favourite sayings is “what you put energy into, you get energy back from.” This sentiment is echoed in the final verse of our Gospel reading for today: “the measure you give is the measure you will receive.”

So let us put our energy into the ways of Christ that lead to life, not just in some future kingdom, but right here, right now, so that we may experience the freedom and new life that is offered to us here and now, in Christ’s name. Amen