



# RU CONNECTED

The Newsletter of Riverside United Church

February 2016

**Riverside United Church**  
3191 Riverside Drive,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 8N8  
(613) 733-7735

Rev. Paul Dillman: [rucrev@rogers.com](mailto:rucrev@rogers.com)

Wayne Irschick: Director of Music  
Children and Youth Ministry

Lou Madaire: Office Administrator  
[ruc@rogers.com](mailto:ruc@rogers.com)

Website: [www.riversideunitedottawa.ca](http://www.riversideunitedottawa.ca)

Newsletter Editor: Anne Sanagan  
[asanagan@hotmail.com](mailto:asanagan@hotmail.com)

**Office Hours:**  
Monday - Thursday  
8:30 to 12:30

## PAUL'S PONDERINGS

At this time last year, a group of us were visiting our partner congregation - Providence Methodist Church - in Kingston, Jamaica. It was a wonderful time and one of the things noted was the difference of the place of the church in the culture. One of the most graphic images of the differences was that in the daily newspaper there were full page ads from one of the cell phone companies promoting various "apps" of Lenten devotions. Can you imagine Bell or Rogers or Telus promoting Lent?

The season of Lent is not apparent in our culture (although Tim Horton's Roll Up the Rim promotion seems to always begin at about the same time as Ash Wednesday.) It is a season where traditionally we have been taught to give something up. This was reflective of the sacrificial understanding of the meaning of Lent, remembering Jesus' death. As other interpretations and meanings of Jesus' death become part of our understanding, the sacrificial sense of Lent seems to have become blurred.

Yet, I think there is value in marking this Lenten time in some way. It is a time of preparation and reflection as we move into the Holy Week story of the death of Jesus and the Easter wonder of new life. Maybe this is a time when we remember the cruelty of our world that continues to crucify and destroy.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**For Easter Services, Book**  
**Club and Messy Church**  
**Details in this newsletter**

2.

Maybe it is a time when we evaluate anew our priorities and values of what makes life meaningful. Maybe it is a time when we find new or renewed ways of nurturing our souls as we seek to find the path of the sacred amidst so much which seems profane.

So, I have not given up any of my usual list: french fries, computer card games, or pop. But, I am trying to live deeper into understanding of various realities and cultures and living with more openness to differences. I don't think there is an app for that - except for applying respect and compassion.

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Congratulations to Miles Copeland on receiving the 2016 IEEE Donald O. Pederson Award in Solid-State Circuits. The award is in recognition of work on developing the electronics to convert voice from analog to digital and back. Miles received the award in San Francisco in early February.

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**Ottawa Presbytery youth** are involved in an exchange with the Zeballos Elementary Secondary School in British Columbia. Zeballos is a small community on the west coast of Vancouver Island (northwest of Campbell River). The Zeballos group were in Ottawa Feb 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> and the Ottawa group will be travelling to BC - March 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. Rebekah Dillman is one of the Ottawa youth and Paul Dillman is one of the adult chaperone's for the exchange. Riverside hosted the closing dinner for the Ottawa portion of the trip on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The exchange is made possible by Experiences Canada.

**Whatever Happened to the Original Gospel?** is a book written by Rev. Ken Robinson. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at 11a.m. there will be an opportunity to discuss this book with Ken and others.

## ***OUTREACH and SOCIAL ACTION***

### **Reverse Offering**

Reverse offerings are held four times each year, two for the Heron Road Emergency Food Centre (Food Bank), and two for Centre 507, which is a drop-in centre for people in need on Bank St. Items that are suggested on the slips are brought to the church, and also monetary donations are gratefully received. The next reverse offering is for the Food Bank, April 10<sup>th</sup> (slips given out), and April 17<sup>th</sup> (items taken to church). We ask for non-perishable food items. If you are planning to be away and wish to donate, items may be left in the church office. The last reverse offering for this year will be for Centre 507, and the dates are June 5<sup>th</sup>, (slips given out), and June 12<sup>th</sup>, (items taken to church). Thank you for your generosity.

### **Food Bank**



We are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to put in the yellow bin in the narthex. "A tin in the bin" each week is our motto. Donations of money are also very helpful and cheques can be made payable to the Heron Emergency Food Centre. Pat and Roger Ellsworth see that the bin is emptied regularly.

### **Jamaica Partnership**

Our partnership with Providence Methodist Church in Kingston, Jamaica continues, and we receive regular reports from the outreach work which we help to support. I was talking to the secretary of the school board of Wesley Basic School recently, and the help they receive from us is very much needed, and certainly makes a difference in ensuring that the school continues to serve the poor rural community of Dallas.

Also, the Nursing Programme under Providence Church is making a difference in Kingston. Our funding is an important contribution to this much-needed outreach. Althea Townsend, the nurse, works three days a week. People are assisted in getting prescription medications and paying for

3.

medical tests, they are provided with supplies, and medical equipment is loaned, when needed. Home visits are made, medical checks (blood pressure, glucose tests) are done, and health education and counseling is given when needed. Health fairs are held occasionally.

We send funds twice a year to Providence Methodist Church for these two projects. Donations will be received at Riverside Church on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> and Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. A small cookbook of Jamaican recipes and pictures was produced last fall, and these will be available after church on these Sundays. Price - \$8.00, or 2 for \$15. Many thanks for your continuing support.

Marie Hackett

### RIVERSIDE GRANNIES

The Riverside Grannies will be hosting a Tea and Fashion Show on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Join us and bring your friends to a relaxing afternoon of food and fashion with clothes from Lindsay and McCaffrey. Tickets will be available early in April.

### BOOK CLUB

On Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:15, the book under discussion will be Margaret Laurence's *The Stone Angel*. It is the story of an older woman coming to grips with the pride that has ruled her life and is consistently listed as one of the greatest Canadian novels ever written. Several copies are available in the church library.



### MESSY CHURCH

Join us

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

For our next Messy Church. The theme will be "the Promise of Easter." Our event is jointly put on with the Anglican Church of the Resurrection and includes gathering and

closing worship times. We explore our message through story, music, crafts and activities, followed by a ham and potato casserole supper. All ages are welcome to join us for this fellowship time, especially those families who find Sunday mornings a challenging time to come to church.

### QUILTING AND CRAFT GROUP

The Quilting and Craft Group continues to meet at the Church Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. We always welcome new members to join us in our projects. Currently, we would like to receive donations of embroidery thread. A good opportunity to clear out the unused ends of skeins. Please bring to the Church and consider joining us on Thursdays.

### ANTHEM ANATHEMA?

I admit it. Every time I hear another vocal "styling" to stand in place of the dignified singing of a national anthem at a sports event I cringe.

The *anthem* is a genre, a creation of the English Reformation, analogous to the Roman Catholic *motet*, and not entirely unrelated to the Geneva Psalter. Today the term anthem is so broad as to include a multitude of Christian denominations and a veritable plethora of styles: traditional hymnody, chant, Renaissance *a cappella* pieces, neo-modality, jazz, praise/gospel, "adult contemporary," pop, New Age, rock, folk song, "accessible" concert music, and the list goes on. The same multiplicity is represented in the realm of Preludes, Offertories, and Postludes. What to sing? What to play?

I have gratefully to acknowledge the choir's willingness to try, to embrace, to validate the many and multifarious anthem selections that I have chosen, arranged - and written outright. Together we found that genre and style, in proper and mutually supportive relationship,

4.

can engage most people in a meaningful and personally worshipful act.

I must also express my thanks to Paul, our minister, for his trust in me in finding suitable music for service use – even if the stylistic boundaries and the harmonic palette are challenging and strange at the time, as was the case when our little “choir that could” presented my newly written dramatic anthem for the Feast of the Transfiguration, with the finely honed reading of Janet Marshall. Here the anthem genre was stretched, hybridized, using a concert music style, while fusing a dramatic spoken component into the larger whole.

This latter artistic example is a way of invitation for others to explore with me alternative and finely crafted ways of presenting service offerings – dramatic, poetic, sacred dance related, and so on. O say, can we sing what the dawn’s early light will bring? Wayne Irschick

<p><b>UPCOMING AND ONGOING FUNDRAISERS</b></p>
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**GARAGE SALE**

Mark Saturday, **April 30<sup>th</sup>** (and the preparation days preceding it) on your calendar. This is the date of our annual Garage Sale. As always, we will have departments devoted to kitchenware, hardware, sports, linens, crafts, knick-knacks, pictures, toys, furniture and garden items. Home-made pies and books will also be for sale.

If you have worked at this in the past, you will probably be asked to contribute your efforts and skills once again. If you are new to our congregation and would like to be part of the 5.frenzy and fun, speak to John Dixon or any Finance Committee member. We would be

happy to find a job for you: either in set-up, sales or clean-up.

As you begin the sorting process looking for items to donate to the sale, remember there are certain items we do NOT collect. They include: large appliances, computer hardware and software, clothing, encyclopedia, textbooks, and any Christmas or winter items (skis, skates).

**BOUTIQUE FAIR**

The idea is simple. We have representatives from various direct sales companies (like you would have for a home party) come on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of May**, doors open 10:00 to 2:00. People come & either purchase that day or place an order. The church benefits from the percentage that usually goes to the Hostess, between 15 & 20% of sales. Orders will also be taken in advance. There is tea and coffee available and card tables with chairs set out so you can peruse catalogues or think about your purchases. The event is two weeks following the RUC Garage Sale. All are welcome so please pass the information on. Companies confirmed to date PartyLites, Fifth Avenue Jewelry, Discovery Toys, Tupperware and Epicure.

**GIFT AND CASH CARDS**

**An Investment/Fundraising project for the  
past 10 Years**

Gift cards are a fundraising opportunity offered to charitable institutions by some of our local stores.

**How does it work??** We purchase discounted gift /cash cards and sell you the cards at full value. You purchase by cash or cheque from RUC..... a gift/cash card... for the full face value of the card. When you spend the card, the store honours the card ... at full face value. We make \$ 5 to \$6. every time we sell a \$100 card: \$2.50 on a \$50.card : \$1.25 on \$25.

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This fund raising event only requires you to think ahead to what you might be spending in these stores in the week or month ahead. Use the same money to buy cash /gift cards. No heavy lifting. No commitment of time. The same money you would spend anyway. An easy way for you to help fundraise!

We offer cards in denominations of \$100, \$50, and \$25. For: President's Choice, Metro (Basics), Farm Boy, Produce Depot and Shopper's Drug Mart.

Ten years ago in 2006, RUC invested a total of \$20,000 in a separate account, to allow for the bulk purchase of **discounted** Grocery cards. The profit for the first 6 years was rolled back into the investment to increase our buying power. We have built up a sum roughly of \$35,000 that we keep turning over, buying and selling cards throughout the year. Tracking of the cash balance of this account and inventory are recorded on our Balance Statement.

We started taking profit out.

2012: \$3,500 profit paid part of the roof repair.

2013: \$2,787 profit paid one third of our Presbytery fee.

2014: \$3,181 this year-end profit was withdrawn and deposited into our Operating account.

2015: \$ 4,850 this total profit for the year was withdrawn on a **monthly** basis and deposited into Operating Income to help meet monthly expenses.

Cards are available on Sundays after service or from the office. Thank you to all who so faithfully buy cards. You are appreciated!

### SENIORS FUN EXERCISE CLASSES

Join us for gentle exercises that enhance balance, focus and auditory skills. Suitable for all levels of fitness and no floor work. Cost is \$5.00 per class for 6 classes.

New class runs Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. March 23<sup>rd</sup> - April 27<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds to the washroom renovation project.

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

**W**e have been involved with the following cases since the New Year:

**MEXICO:** Word from Yecenia Armenta, in prison in Mexico. She received cards and letters of good wishes, including birthday greetings. Many thanks to those from RUC who sent her a birthday card. "It is exciting to think that there are people who still care about the rights of other people .. and they don't even know me", she said.

**SAUDI ARABIA:** Word was received that Samar Badawi, a human rights defender has been arrested. She is the sister of Raif Badawi who has been sentenced to 1000 lashes.

**KUWAIT:** 26 Shi'a men were arrested and sentenced on evidence obtained through torture.

**EGYPT:** Three human rights activists were arrested prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "25 January Revolution".

**TURKEY:** 20 people were trapped in a basement and needed emergency aid.

**MYANMAR:** Concern remains for the health of a Facebook user and Prisoner of Conscience.

Anyone interested in participating in our campaigns can contact us at [pn.mcleod@sympatico.ca](mailto:pn.mcleod@sympatico.ca)

Pat & Norm McLeod

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

*If we had not winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.*

*Anne Dudley Bradstreet, Poet*

**WINTER/SPRING 2016 - Calendar of Events**

Date and Time	Description of Event
Sundays 11 a.m.	Sunday Worship and program for children and youth
Friday, March 4 7:00 p.m.	World Day of Prayer service at Elizabeth Park Protestant Chapel, 337 Breadner Blvd (CFSU Ottawa - Uplands) All are welcome!
Saturday, March 12 9-12	Book Nook open. Come and shop for a supply of books to get you through the rest of the winter! Over 4,000 titles available.
Sunday, March 13	Daylight Savings time begins - don't be late for church!
Sunday, March 20 11 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Palm Sunday Service with Communion Faith Conversation - bring a lunch and stay following the service. What questions do you have about the Holy Week story?
Wednesday, March 23 10-11 a.m.	Exercise classes begin
Thursday, March 24	Maundy Thursday Service at Carleton Memorial United Church
Friday, March 25 10:00 a.m.	Good Friday service combined with the Anglican congregation
Sunday, March 27 7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Early Easter Sunrise service, followed by breakfast Easter worship
Sunday, April 3 10:00 a.m. 7:15 p.m.	Combined worship with Anglican liturgy and Paul preaching Book Club: <i>The Stone Angel</i> by Margaret Laurence will be discussed. All welcome!
Saturday, April 16 4-6 p.m.	Messy Church <i>Theme: The Promise of Easter</i>
Saturday, April 23 2-4 p.m.	Riverside Grannies Tea and Fashion Show
Saturday, April 30 9 - 12	Garage Sale