

Paul's Ponderings:

Welcome to this new format of communication, which will provide a monthly update on what is happening at Riverside.

And so we find ourselves in March. We also find ourselves in the season of Lent. It is a time of preparation and focus as we lead up to Good Friday and to Easter. As Lent unfolds at Riverside this year, there are a couple of special activities. One is combined meetings of committees to discuss some questions of identity and focus as we move forward. The second is gatherings held in the community to come together and explore the weekly scripture lesson for the upcoming Sunday. Details still unfolding: watch the website and bulletin.

<http://riversideunitedottawa.ca/who-we-are/news/>

February Highlights

Moderator visits Riverside: On Feb 5th, we were pleased to welcome the Rt. Rev Jordan Cantwell to our worship service. In an interview style message, she offered a word of hope and spoke of resilience of the faith, as she introduced one of her favourite hymns: "How can we keep from singing?"

Annual Meeting: The annual congregational meeting was held on February 26th. Reports on the life of 2015 were received, a budget was passed for 2017 and the Council was elected. Thanks are extended to Mary Shaw for serving as Convener of the Pastoral Care Team for the past 3 years. The budget anticipates expenses of \$189,585. A decision was also made to formally enter the process of becoming an affirming congregation.

Council News - February 2017

The Council of Riverside United Church met on Feb 8 under the leadership of the Chair - Clara Ballantine. The following are highlights of reports and discussions from the meeting.

- Discussed the chapter of Fishing Tips that focused on "Paying It Forward"

- Continued discussion on the "Mission Forward" plan which includes responding to ideas in the Edge Viability report and the Halo project report. Council members shared insights from conversations held with individuals about perceptions about church and neighbourhood needs.
- Approved the application of Rev. Kathryn Guthrie to be a Voluntary Associate Minister of Riverside for 2017-18.
- Voted "yes" to four remits on various changes proposed for The United Church of Canada:
 1. Three Council Model
 2. Elimination of Transfer and Settlement
 3. Office of Vocation
 4. Funding a New Model
- Christian Development is working on a plan for Adult Education for Sept 2017 to June 2018. Ideas are welcome.
- A Licence to print and project copywritten music has been purchased in conjunction with the Anglican congregation.
- Next meeting: Wed., March 8, 2017 at 7pm

Did you Know ...

- Riverside has a Facebook page and we currently have about 80 people following the posts of various events and activities. If you are part of Facebook, you are invited to "like" us. (The link button is on our website)
- We have said goodbye to Katherine Jesty (Children and Youth Ministries Co-ordinator) and offered our blessing as she has started work with the L'Arche community here in Ottawa.
- Trivia Night on Feb 17th was a great night. There were 12 teams participating and over \$1000 was raised for the Haven Project of Multi-Faith Housing. There have also been donations of over \$600 from the congregation. There is a goal of \$100,000 to be raised by United Churches in Ottawa. For more info see: <http://www.multifaithhousing.ca/the-haven.html>

KUDOS

* Thank you to all who have participated in the Sunday Serving Groups. Groups for April, May and June (and the fall) still need folks. If you are able to help, let Paul know.

* Thanks to those from RUC who participated in the Kitchissippi United Church's - Annual Curling at the Granite Curling Club - Saturday, Feb. 18 (3pm- 5pm) at the Granite Curling Club.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MARCH 2017

Date	Event	Details
March 5	11:00 am Worship	1 st Sunday of Lent - Communion Focus story: The Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25-37
March 5	7:00 pm - Transcript play	A play that explores gender identity & how understandings shift and change. Light Supper at 6:00 pm
March 12	Daylight Saving Time Starts	Move clocks 1 hour forward on Mar 12
March 12	11:00 am Worship	Focus Story: Luke 13: 1-9, 31-35
March 14 th	9:00 am - Work Party	A time to do some cleaning and fixing within the building.
March 19 th	11:00 am Worship	Focus Story: Luke 15: 1-32 Food Bank Reverse Offering Distributed
March 26 th	11:00 am Worship	Focus Story: Luke 16: 19-31 Food Bank Reverse Offering Collected
March 26 th	12:15 pm - Newcomer's Luncheon	A luncheon for persons new to the congregation in the past couple of years
March 26 th	7:15 pm - Book Club	Participants are invited to bring a book to highlight to the group.
March 28 th	8:00 am - Men's Breakfast	at Dunn's Famous Bank St. Deli, 2679 Bank St.
April 1st	4:00-6:00 pm - Messy Church	A time of song, crafts, celebration and supper - all ages are invited.
April 2 nd	11:00 am Worship	Focus Story: Luke 18:31-19:10

Mark Your Calendars:

Friday, April 14th - 10 am - Good Friday service

Sunday, April 16th - 7 am - Sunrise Service, followed by breakfast

- 11am - Easter Worship Celebration

Saturday, April 29th - Annual Garage Sale