

Paul's Ponderings:

Through Lent, we tried four different "Bible Exploration" events: a Men's Breakfast, a Face Book discussion, a Women's Coffee Party and an evening at the pub. 37 different people participated in one or more of these "gatherings". The conversation was very helpful to me as I then prepared various worship services and sermons.

It was good to take "church" beyond the building. The Council of Riverside is working on how we engage with the community as we discern our mission forward.

In this Easter season, we cherish the promise of hope. In the Easter stories, the followers were able to connect a word or action they had known in the past, with their current reality and in that process knew the presence of the Risen Christ. It is a dynamic of faith and life that we can remember - as we connect past with future, stories with experience, questions with wisdom.

Revisioning the Bazaar: Maintaining the Enthusiasm

Because of the great ideas raised at the 'Revisioning the Bazaar' meeting last year, many of which were actually carried out, our bazaar continues to thrive. We encourage you to continue making things for the bazaar - old and well-loved items, as well as new and different ones - at home, with a friend, or bring along your supplies and work on them at Quilting and Craft on Thursday afternoons, while you chat with other busy bees. Also, we have put up sign-up sheets again. Please, put an idea at the top of a sheet, or sign up under any idea you are interested in working on. The next step is to contact others who have signed up and see if you can get together to carry out the idea. It worked last year: let's keep up the momentum! Wendy Graham and Lynda Barrett, co-conveners of the Bazaar.

RUC Historical Newspaper Clippings

For anyone who has interest in viewing historical Ottawa Journal newspaper clippings of Riverside United, Lou has kindly posted them on the church website in the Council area:

<http://riversideunitedottawa.ca/council-area/>

Home Canning and Preserving: Safety tips:

Current recommendations are to use a new self-sealing lid each time. There is a supply at the church for items to go in the bazaar. The screw band can be reused as long as it is not bent or rusty. Here is a link to more detailed safety tips provided by the government of Canada, if you wish to explore. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/general-food-safety-tips/home-canning-safety.html>. Some printed copies will be available at the church. For questions or concerns, you may contact Marg Lyon at [613-731-4010](tel:613-731-4010).

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Amnesty has been active in protesting against capital punishment (Arkansas), the imprisonment of a human rights advocate sentenced to 10 years in prison for charges including "insulting the UAE" (UAE), gay men abducted, tortured and even killed, according to credible sources (Chechnya) and a number of journalists detained during a new wave of arrests ahead of presidential elections (Iran) May 2017.
Norm McLeod

Grocery Cards/Cash Cards/Gift Cards

We all have to eat !!!!! and the purchasing of gift cards is an easy way to raise money. No heavy lifting, no meetings, no commitment of time. Check out how it works on our "info sheet". During the first quarter of 2017, we have earned \$1200. Thank you to all who participate! *Joan Sirrs*.

Food Bank

RUC collects the receipts for Wilson's Independent (President's Choice grocery cards). The store gives \$1.00 for every \$100. of purchases to Heron emergency food Centre. A "Double Whammy" for just buying food at one of our "CARD" participating stores. *Joan Sirrs*.



Music

The Easter Service at RUC was brimful with music: a *Tafelmusik* Trio (Telemann), arias from *St. John Passion* (J. S. Bach) and *Messiah* (Handel), a *Double Concerto* movement from Herr Bach for the slide show, an Introit that fairly danced, hymns that were fitted with double descants, and professional contributions from guest musicians Anna Baksheeva, violinist, and Keren Mugdus, flutist. The choir anthem included newly composed parts for our guests so the effect was entirely stirring. I'm very thankful for all those who contributed to the worship experience! *Wayne Irschick, Director of Music*

Youth Group (13-18 years old)

Cat LaForce, our new Youth Coordinator, would like to gather youth from both Riverside Churches twice a month to engage in activities that are fun and helpful. Please send your ideas and availability to RUCkidsWorship@gmail.com so she can use the interest of the group (and their parents) to incorporate preferred activities and dates to accommodate our youth. Please include your evening contact information. LET'S MAKE IT WHAT WE WANT!.

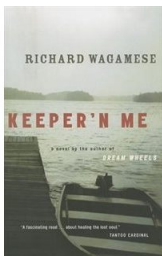
Harmony in Culture

South East Ottawa
Community Health Centre
(SEOCHC) is throwing
Canada a community
birthday bash called



'Celebrating Harmony in Cultures' on May 13th (rain date June 3rd). RUC will be stationed at a booth to explain our involvement as a Church and the programs and services we offer to our community partners between 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. If you can spare a few hours to assist at the event, at McCarthy Park, please contact Christine Rhodes at [613-853-7463](tel:613-853-7463) or Christine.rhodes3@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB. On May 28th at 7:15 p.m., we will be discussing *Keeper'n Me*, a novel by the Canadian author Richard Wagamese. To get a book, **there is a sign up sheet on the board outside the office.** Two copies are available in the library (room 4) to borrow.



A Couple of April Highlights:

Messy church happened on April 1st with about 100 participating. One family invited four other families on their street!

On April 2nd, a group of about 15 stayed after church to discuss the questions that Greta Vosper is raising for the United Church. It led to a discussion about various ways to view God.

Council News April 2017

The Council of Riverside United Church met on April 19 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 "Say Who You Are"
- Discussed the Halo Project recommendations; affirmed that we need to find ways to discover community needs.
- Heard a report from the 5 persons who attended the "Regeneration" workshop on March 26th
- Agreed that a Mission Forward Working Group be established to continue to guide the process.
- 5 Lenten gatherings were held with combined committees to discuss questions of identity and future direction
- 4 "Bible Exploration" events were held in Lent with 37 people participating in one or more.
- Communion service will be held at Landmark on May 9th
- Interest in a "Right Relations" circle will be determined over the next couple of months.
- The Swing Dance will be held on Sept 29th.
- Financial summary for 2017: (end of March)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Income	47,619	48,338
Expenses	<u>-46,841</u>	<u>- 45,982</u>
	778	2,356

- Our investment with Fiera (Endowment Fund) has increased in value by \$7,627 in the first quarter of 2017. (Not included in the above figures)
- Next meeting: Wed., May 10, 2017 at 7pm

Calendar of Events -May 2017

Date	Event	Details
April 29	Garage Sale	Sale starts at 9 am until noon. Book Nook will be open
April 30	7 pm -Worship	<u>NO morning service this week</u> , as the Anglican bishop is visiting the Anglican congregation (Their service at 10am)
May 7	Worship at 11 am	
May 9	Communion Service at Landmark Home at 2 pm	All are invited to join our friends at the Landmark for a communion service.
May 13	COR Garage Sale - 9 am	The Anglican congregation will hold their garage sale. Book Nook will be open.
May 13	Celebrating Cultures Event at Hunt Club Riverside Community Centre 11-4	Riverside United will have a table at this event.
May 14	Family Sunday Worship at 11 am	The service will include baptism.
May 21	Worship at 11 am	
May 28	Worship at 11 am	Reverse Offering for Centre 507 will begin; donations received on June 4 th .
May 28	Book Club at 7:15 pm	The book discussed will be Keeper’N Me by Richard Wagamese.
May 31	Men’s Breakfast - 8 am	A time at Dunn’s Famous Bank St Deli - 2679 Bank St.

Mark Your Calendars:

Transfer of Membership: If your “official membership” in The United Church is held in another congregation & you would like to transfer it to Riverside, please let the office know. We plan to receive members by transfer on June 4th.



June 11th - 10 am Worship - followed by the annual Picnic. This year we are having a combined picnic with the Anglican congregation. The service will include a **recognition of graduates**. Please let the office know if there is someone in your household graduating from high school or a post-secondary program.

