

Paul's Ponderings:

“As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission ...”

This image from one of our hymns reminds us that the church is in the mission business. What is the mission of Riverside United Church? There are lots of responses to that question. There are different responses and associations with the word ‘mission’.

As I come back after vacation, I look forward to the opportunity to explore that question of who we are and what is our purpose. That exploration will happen in worship, in conversations, in meetings, in gatherings . . . and in particular it will be the focus on a Mission Forward process that the Council has approved that will include an event on Saturday, October 21st - morning and into early afternoon. We have engaged a pair of consultants to help us to dream and to discern what God is calling - inviting and challenging - us to be as a community of faith.

This process will not start from nothing. In November we will be celebrating the 55th anniversary of Riverside. But, we all know that the context of church has changed in that time. So, what will be our faithful and focused path as we move forward?



MUSIC:

Jill and I spent 11 days in Suffolk, UK. Our outings included small villages, ruins, cathedrals, shops, wedding in a barn, pubs, a baroque concert at St.

Martin-in-the-Fields, Cambridge, London, English gardens, thatched cottages, the "tube", etc.

I am looking forward to a new season (with a possible workshop with organist Leora Nauta, fresh from concertizing in Europe), our choristers, new and returning, music to engage and enliven, enrich and embolden.

Wayne Irschick, Director of Music

Reverse Offering for the Food Bank: Sunday, Sept 24th, (slips given out), and **Sunday, Oct. 1st**, (items taken to church). Monetary donations also gratefully received. If you are planning to be away, and wish to donate, items may be left in the church office. Thank you. Marie Hackett

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Here are four human rights issues we have worked on over the summer:

Imagine you are living in a rural area on land that the government wants to develop. They send in their troops to destroy your villages and capture your leaders. This happened in **Argentina when the Argentine National Gendarmerie invaded the Mapuche community** and captured activist **Santiago Maldonado** who has not been heard from or seen since.

Imagine you are a defender of land and labour rights and have just been sentenced to nine years in prison. This happened to **Tran Thi Nga in Vietnam. She was charged with "conducting propaganda"** because she posted videoclips related to issues such as pollution of the environment and corruption.

You are one of 14 police officers incarcerated. A judge has ordered your release. This has not happened. Your only response is to go on a hunger strike. This happened in **Venezuela.**

You are an **Amnesty International Director.** While at a workshop on Human Rights, you and some of your colleagues are arrested. This happened in **Turkey.**

Mark your calendars for **Saturday December 9th** - our annual **Write-for-Rights Write-a-thon.**

Norm Mcleod

Save the Date - Saturday, October 21st
Mission Forward Event - All invited!

Step up and Step Out to Stop Hunger! Heron Emergency Food Centre is **sponsoring a walk on Saturday, 23 September, 2017 from 9:00 am to 12 noon** to raise money to purchase food. Registration takes place at St Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church at 2345 Alta Vista Drive at 9:00 am and the walk will start at 9:30am. This is an easy 4 or 5 km walk through Alta Vista neighbourhood with light refreshments served upon completion. Our congregation has been a generous supporter of our local food bank and it is hoped that this will continue as HEFC endeavours to meet the rising cost of food and the increase in the numbers needing assistance. Many thanks to you all.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Collect pledges and walk, please see Lou in the RUC office for a pledge sheet.
 Pledge a walker, see list on bulletin board for the names of those walking; tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more.

Keep bringing in your **Wilson's Independent Grocer** (Alta Vista at Bank) grocery receipts, they help with the HEFC's bottom line. Please try to pick up an extra item (non-perishable) when buying groceries each week. "A tin in the bin" each week makes a difference in the lives of many. Thank You.

Gwen Bell



Affirming Circle:

Members of the Affirming Circle will meet on Monday, **September 18 @ 7 PM.**

A target date has been set for Riverside to become an Affirming Congregation by February 14, 2018.

New members for the circle are always welcome.

Wanda Maurais



Fish Fry: Friday, November 10th , 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Adult: \$20.00 Children under 8: \$8.00

Fundraiser in support of Riverside Churches

Marilyn Lindsay

Council News - June 2017

The Council of Riverside United Church met on June 14 under the leadership of the Vice-Chair - Alyssa Suthertown. The following are highlights of reports and discussions from the meeting.

- The Council meeting began with a sharing of life realities as well as joys and concerns of the congregation.
- The Ministry & Personnel Committee has completed work reviews for each of the staff.
- The contract with Cat La Force as Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator has been renewed for the coming year.
- Adopted the recommendation from the Mission Forward Circle to engage Lighthouse Communications to facilitate a Mission Renewal process in the fall/winter of 2017-18.
- Long Term Planning Committee to work on developing a "major projects" list for the building and property.
- Riverside Grannies raised \$402 from the Mother's Day loonies and twoonies project.
- Financial summary for 2017: (end of June)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Income	91,580	97,628
Expenses	<u>-98,673</u>	<u>- 95,814</u>
	-7,093.	1,814

- Next meeting:
 Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 7pm



**Riverside Churches
 Outdoor Work Party
 Saturday Oct 14th 9:00 to
 Noon**

Calendar of Events - Fall 2017

Date	Event	Details
Sept 9	Harmony in Cultures Event 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	This event was postponed from May and will be at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre. RUC will have a display table. 3320 Paul Anka Dr., Ottawa, ON K1V 0J9
Sept 10	Regular Worship resumes	11:00 am
Sept 16	Book Nook Sale	8:30 to Noon
Sept 17	Worship	11:00 am
Sept. 17	Book Club - 7:15 pm	Fifteen Dogs by André Alexis
Sept. 23 rd	HEFC WALK-A-THON 9:00 am to 12 noon	Step up and Step Out to Stop Hunger! For pledge sheets see the office
Sept 24	11:00 am Worship	Spirit & Spud - Luncheon following the service Sign up sheet in Narthex
Sept 26	Men's Breakfast - 8:00 am	Dunn's Famous Deli on Bank St
Sept 29	Swing Band - 8:00 to 11:00 pm	Tickets \$20.00
Sept 30	Messy Church - 4:00 to 6:00	Theme - Prayer is Friendship with God
Oct 1 st	11:00 am - Worship	Worldwide Communion
Oct 8 th	11:00 am - Worship	Thanksgiving
Oct 14 th	Outside Work Day 9:00 to Noon	
Oct 21 st	Mission Forward Event 9:00 am	
Oct 29 th	Jamaica Night 7:00 pm	14 th Annual event in support of our partnership with Providence Methodist Church