

## Paul's Ponderings

One of the marketing promises of our culture is "Freedom 55". It set the expectation that at 55 retirement would be possible, and the burdens of work would give way to freedom. I don't know how many are able to experience that promise (having turned 55 this year, I am working on the freedom 63 goal!) Riverside United turns 55 this month and what does Freedom 55 mean for a congregation of faith. Are we ready to retire? Are we ready to move into a new phase of life? I hope it is the later, and we are in the beginnings of our Mission Forward process. 50 of us gathered on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> to think about our values and vision as we move into the future. Through November, several of us are going to be visiting groups, agencies, faith groups in the community to get to know what they offer, what they see as needs in the community, etc. the 3<sup>rd</sup> step will be to see if there are places where our values and vision match up with needs and work of others.

It is my hope that this exercise will renew and focus our sense of mission in the community and give us a sense of freedom to be and become who are we called to be. That is a sense of freedom that is available at any age

### Grief: Myths and Facts - Faith Conversation - Sunday, November 12, 2017 - 12:30am

Come to share stories of your grief due to the death of a loved one and learn something of the facts and myths that you encounter when bereavement occurs. All are welcome whether your grief is recent or years in the past. **Facilitators:** Hilda Sabadash and Gail Christy - devoted volunteers with Bereaved Families of Ontario - Ottawa Region.



**Fish Fry - Friday Nov 10<sup>th</sup>**  
5:00 to 7:00 PM Tickets: \$20.00  
children under 10 \$8.00 Only  
200 tickets will be sold. Joint  
Use Fundraiser - both

congregations - sign up sheet on the easel in the narthex. Please volunteer! Thank You

## Save the Date! Bazaar

**Saturday Nov 18, 10-2.**

This is our biggest Fundraiser and a proven fun way to contribute and get to know others a bit better.

Please consider offering to help - setting up, working at a table or helping with lunch, or cleanup, and have a look at the craft ideas board in the Narthex.

**Items needed** are: jams, relishes, etc; regifting items; attic treasures; crafts; baking; books.

**Wendy Graham**



**Singers welcome!** Tuesday afternoons from 12:30 to 2:30 pm in Room 4. Drop by and say "hi". Chris White and **The Merry Songsters**, a "just-for-fun" seniors singing group that has a delightful repertoire of folk, pop and country songs that are easy and enjoyable to sing. You are welcome to sit &

listen ... or join in if you like! There is no audition and no fee to participate.

Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm **ESP: Experimental Singing Project** is a community group that loves the beauty and power of singing together. The group gets together at RUC on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm to sing folk songs, pop songs, country songs and show tunes. Chris White founded the group in 2015 as an "experiment" that looks for ways to bring songs to life in an atmosphere of cooperation and fun.

**You are welcome to drop by any Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday evening to sing along... or just to listen! For more information, please contact Chris White at 613-327-9621 or [chris@folkzone.ca](mailto:chris@folkzone.ca).**

**Cell Phone Tower Proposal:** Riverside Churches of Ottawa has been approached by Telus about constructing a 35 meter cell phone tower on a 40 ft by 40 ft. piece of our property. Negotiations are underway and the Councils of both congregations have given their approval in principle.



Two major cases have occupied us over the past month: **USA: A Mexican national, Ruben Cardenas Ramirez** is scheduled to be

executed in Texas on Nov. 8, 2017. This case suffers from a lack of strong evidence, his rights were denied him (he was not able to contact the Mexican consulate for assistance), new DNA evidence could exonerate him, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights concluded that the sentence should be vacated. We have been asked to write on his behalf to the authorities in Texas.

**EGYPT:** We have again been asked to write to the authorities in Cairo on behalf of **Ibrahim Metwaly**, a human rights worker, arrested, beaten confined in a cell submerged in water and denied access to his family. Mark your calendars for our annual **Human Rights Day Write-a-thon** on **Saturday, December 9, 2017** 9:00 am, at the church.

**CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH Sat. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 4:00.** This event is a way of being church which is particularly suited to families, but welcoming to all ages. We'll hear the Christmas message, learn, sing and celebrate together. A simple supper will follow. Please come and invite your friends.

**55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge:**

As we give thanks for the life of Riverside United, we are inviting folks to consider an anniversary gift to Riverside. Emerald is the traditional 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift, but we don't have a lot of need for emeralds. How about a gift that is a multiple of 55 - \$55, \$110, \$550, etc? We are projecting a deficit for 2017, so let's see how much we can raise!

**Calendar of Events - November 2017**

Date	Event	Details
Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am - 55 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service - <b>Pot Luck Lunch</b>	A Service of remembrance as we share in an act of remembering - memorial candle lighting
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm <b>Pondering at the Pub</b>	Moos McGuire's - McCarthy Rd. Focus Question: <b>"What's our understanding of God?"</b>
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>	HIGH HORIZONS LUNCH	
Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 to 7:00 pm - Fish Fry	Tickets \$20
Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am - Worship	
Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	after service - <b>Faith Conversation</b>	Grief: Myths and Facts
Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:15 pm - <b>Book Club</b>	Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am to 2:00 pm - <b>Bazaar</b>	
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am - Worship	
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm <b>Who is My Neighbour in Faith?</b>	Kit Nelson will talk about what it means to be a part of the Baha'i faith.
<b>Nov 25<sup>th</sup></b>	2:00 to 7:30 <b>Out of the Cold Program</b>	at Southminster United Church - Need volunteers for various shifts
Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am - Worship	
Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am <b>Men's Breakfast</b>	at Dunn's Famous Deli, Bank St.
Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	4:00 pm <b>Messy Church</b>	An alternative experience of worship includes music, story, crafts & supper
Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11:00 am - Worship	Advent 1 - Communion