

Mission Forward Moment

My name is Elizabeth Cameron. I first entered the Church in the early 70's when my parents, Lois and Bill Cameron, brought me to Sunday school. Many years and life events have passed, but this Church has continued to be an important influencing force in my life. When I think of the words to describe that influence they are: **Faith, Inclusion, and Constancy.**

Faith because Paul's insightful sermons help me reflect on and confirm my Christian faith in a way that is relevant to my world;

Inclusion because of the sense of community all of you provide, helping those who are ill or in need at home or internationally, knitting for babies, writing letters or sponsoring families.

Constancy many of us find comfort in life's repeating patterns, and this is true at Riverside: our friends and neighbours, special events, the generosity of this congregation, the reflections of our faith and more.

Like any successful organization filled with thoughtful individuals, planning for the future is a necessary part of responsible stewardship. Without a plan, we miss opportunities to grow and improve. We miss voices of people we forget to tap. We risk being less diverse, less inclusive. We may not know when we "get there". I am pleased to reflect on the treasures of RUC and to be involved in our future planning through Mission Forward:

To ensure we have an ongoing relevance in the community as we seek to be faithful moving into the future

I know everyone wants to be an active part of the future of this wonderful church, so please talk to those wearing "Ask Me About Mission Forward" badges - Council members, Mission Forward Circle members and Community Visitors. Ask them questions and share your thoughts. Or send an email to the church office - ruc@rogers.com.

Questions about Mission Forward:

Q. What has the Mission Forward Circle accomplished so far?

A. In March, 2017, several members of the Mission Forward Circle attended a Presbytery workshop on Congregational Renewal where we heard from others doing similar work and some of the skilled and experienced people and groups available to assist us. Through that opportunity, we met and eventually hired Andrew Hurrell and Bron Vasic of Lighthouse Communications to guide us through this process towards a clear articulation of our mission and a plan to use our gifts and resources to carry it out. They have worked on renewal with many congregations over the past few years.

Together, we have participated in and organized several activities:

- In October, we had a workshop of interested members of the congregation to discuss the things we treasure most about the church. We were so pleased with the participation of our congregation!
- We have connected members of the church with community organizations to discuss how we can be most relevant with our benevolent activities. Of course, we continue our work with the many organizations we have always supported.
- We have met with our community visitors to plan about 10 more community consultation visits which will be followed by a wrap up meeting with our visitors in late February

Our community outreach will help us target where we can have the most impact in the future.

Q. Is our Church in jeopardy?

A. Riverside United Church continues to be a vibrant member of the community, serving the congregation as it always has. To be sure we can continue God's work most effectively, we must think of our future. Forward planning is important for our Church and is a normal part of leadership in any organization seeking to thrive and be its best.



HERON EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE

HEFC continues to be extremely grateful for our ongoing contributions of non-perishable food and cash to support their program.

Thanks to Roger Ellsworth for faithfully delivering the contents of our yellow food bin every week.

Please remember the bin in the narthex whenever you come to the church. This month's need is for **TEA BAGS and COFFEE**, two items the food bank does not purchase, but which the clients (particularly the seniors) really appreciate.

Gwen Bell, Board rep from Riverside United



Kudos to you!

In providing thank you gifts to our wonderful church staff during the Sunday of the Pageant this past Christmas, the Ministry and Personnel Committee were

privileged to be able to use a card that Susan Wade produced from her own lovely winter forest painting. It was perfect for the occasion. We thank Susan for her artwork and all her generously shared talents.

Karen Ogston

Emerald Fund Raising

The 55th Anniversary Challenge was a great success. A total of **\$5,265** was raised. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Senior's Exercise Classes - starts February 7th until March 14th, at RUC. Time is from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Wednesdays. Cost is \$5 per class or \$30 for 6 classes. Juice break included. All monies are donated to the church. For information contact Shirley Garrow 613.733.7721

Tax Receipts and the 2017 Annual Reports
will be ready after Feb. 6th

What is the Christian Development Committee?

At Riverside it is much more than children and youth. It's everyone. It's about adults too. It's about giving people the opportunity to learn more about their faith and their church. It ensures that events take place such as Faith Conversations, Faith Exploration, Who is My Neighbour in Faith, A Time To Mourn (Grief), the Breakfasts (Men & Women's), the Pub Discussions, Book Group, the Seasons of the Church and of course Messy Church and children & youth ministry. It's an exciting part of Riverside United!

Christian Development Committee

Do you like helping people discover and learn? Then as our Annual Meeting approaches and Committees get set up, think about joining the Christian Development Committee to share your gifts. The Committee plans and monitors events which help adults, as well as children and youth, learn and explore their faith. Speak to Heather Smith or Bob Christy if you want to participate in an exciting part of Riverside's life!

Secretary of Council

Like to listen? Like to write? Want to be on the cutting edge of Riverside's life? A year from now, March 2019, you can put your skills to good use as Secretary of Council. Speak to Heather Smith or Rev. Dillman if you want to participate in an exciting part of Riverside's life!



Messy Church Saturday, February 10th 4:00-6:00.

The theme is "God's Love is Forever" and we will share stories, songs, crafts and activities as well as worship before sitting down together to a simple supper. Please come and invite your friends.

Next work party will be Tuesday March 13th 9:00 to Noon

**Kitchissippi United Church's
Annual Curling at the Granite Curling Club**

Saturday, February 17 (3pm- 5pm) at the Granite Curling Club, 2026 Scott Street. chili dinner around 5:30pm.

Cost is \$5 to eat, \$12 to curl (free to be a spectator).

Teams play two one hour games. We try to balance the teams so that there is a mix of men and women and levels of expertise.

The chili dinner option is quite popular and open to non-curlers as well. A vegetarian version is also available (people should specify that if that's what they'd prefer). **Sign up sheet on bulletin board outside the office.**



Calendar of Events - February 2018

Date	Event	Details
Feb 3	7:00 PM - Worshiplude Celebration	Worship at Parkdale United with 300+ youth
Feb 4 th	11:00 AM Worship	Focus: John 4: 5-42
Feb 10 th	4:00 to 6:00 P.M. Messy Church "God's Love is Forever"	An all ages alternative experience of worship. Includes activities, and supper.
Feb 11 th	11:00 AM Worship	Focus: John 9: 1-41
Feb 14 th	Ash Wednesday	The season of Lent begins.
Feb 17 th	3:00 to 6:00 PM - Curling Event	Curling with Kitchissippi United Church - Chili supper at Granite Curling Club
Feb 18 th	11:00 AM Worship - Communion	Focus: John 11: 1-44
Feb 18 th	12:30 PM Mission Forward Meeting	A gathering for Mission Forward circle and visitors
Feb 19 th	Family Day	Office is closed
Feb 25 th	11:00 A.M. Worship	Focus: John 13: 1-17 - Pot-luck Lunch & Annual Congregational Meeting.
Feb 27 th	8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast	at Dunn's - 2679 Bank St.
March 4 th	11:00 AM Worship	