

“Living faithfully in the Spirit of Christ to make a loving difference in the world.”

Paul's Ponderings

As I write this, I am getting ready to take a May trip to Nova Scotia to open the cottage in Pugwash. There are times when I think it is crazy to have a cottage 15 hours away. But, when I think of going there and being there, my heart and soul lift. There is a joy that emerges when I close my eyes and imagine being there. It is holy ground. It is Sabbath space.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the cottage and so it has defined summer for me since I was 6. There are only 3-4 years that I haven't been there at all (Saskatchewan was further than 15 hours!) Are there places, experiences, traditions that define summer for you? It is good to have a time of the year where the pace and routines change a bit to give us rest and renewal.

Amidst that structured change of pace season, I also know that such a change is not an experience for all. There are health challenges, grief realities and family dynamics that don't diminish or take a holiday. However, I hope that in these summer weeks, there will be some time for healing and experiencing wonder and grace.

Enjoy the places and experiences that lift our hearts and souls!

Recognition of Graduates

The annual recognition of graduates will happen during the June 3rd service. If you have persons in your household who are graduating from high School or a post-secondary program please let the office know.



The choir will continue to sing through May and June. Expect some favs like "You Raise Me Up" and "Down by the Riverside"; anticipate "Come Build a Church" to celebrate (Dr.) Jessica Hetherington's ordination. June will be capped off by rousing pieces entitled "Jubilate" and "Alleluia."

Director of Music, Wayne Irschick



A special note of thanks and appreciation to the members of our choir and Wayne Irschick, for their wonderful gift of music that they share with us every Sunday morning! The choir will be

taking a well-deserved break over July and August and will reconvene after Labour Day.

Riverside's Vision Statement:

At the congregational meeting on May 6th, a vision statement for Riverside was approved. The wording for our mission statement is still being sorted out. Our vision statement is: *“Living faithfully in the Spirit of Christ to make a loving difference in the world.”*

Conversation Circle

One of the outcomes of the Mission Forward community engagement process was to hear the need for English language conversation circles in the community. In partnership with the Catholic Centre for Immigrants, plans are emerging to host a circle here on Wednesday afternoons beginning July 11th. If you would be interested in helping make this happen, please contact the church office



Jamaica - 56th Anniversary of Independence Thanksgiving Service:

The Jamaican High Commission in Ottawa has asked Riverside United to host this annual service on August 12th. It will be our regular service at 10:00 am.

Our Pathway Towards Becoming an Affirming Congregation

Wendy Graham

Riverside embarked upon the process of becoming an Affirming Ministry quite a while ago. So here is a question. What's the holdup? Can't we just apply, get the accreditation, hold our celebration, and BOOM, we're done? This will hopefully give some insight into the requirements and the progress we've made.

Education and Discernment: So far: a movie and a play with discussions after, a discussion on relevant bible passages, definitions on the bulletin board, (please take a copy, by the way), Minutes For Affirm, newsletter articles, guest speakers, field trips to other churches that are already affirming, conversations in many groups, committees and circles, and 2 surveys soliciting feedback and opinions. The topic has also been woven into sermons and other aspects of many worship services.

Documentation: 3 main things need to be submitted: ONE - Marriage policy: ours, for many years, has included same-sex marriages, but it now declares that we recognize and celebrate the sanctity of marriage between couples of all gender identities and sexual orientations, cultures, races and backgrounds.

TWO - A Vision Statement (with some mandatory wording), concerning the inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life and work of the Ministry. Here, we've aligned our work and timeline with Mission Forward, the process that's been focusing on Riverside's future. Proposed Mission and Vision statements were discussed at a recent special Congregational meeting and work on them continues.

THREE - A Plan of Action for the future must be submitted. In plain words, we don't just become accredited and that's the end of it. Our goals and Mission Forward's align in this area also. Possibilities include ongoing educational events and involvement with an LGBTQ2 support group or organization. The Affirm Circle, or possibly a new Circle, will carry on this vital and exciting work.

Ongoing work and involvement is the key. I look at this particular aspect in this way. Affirming is both an adjective and a verb.

To make the rest short: A vote, accreditation, a public celebration, & moving into a future where we continue our valued traditions of treating everyone with respect, dignity, and kindness. A future where everyone feels loved, cherished, safe, included, and embraced.

SOMALILAND: Two men have been convicted for publicly exercising their rights to the freedom of expression. We have asked for their immediate and unconditional release.

ISRAEL: Four members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) are at risk of losing their permanent residency status in Jerusalem after the Israeli Knesset issued a law that allows the Israeli Minister of Interior to revoke residency status for "breach of loyalty". We have asked that the authorities not revoke the permanent residency status of Palestinian Jerusalemites and reminded them that the deportations or forcible transfer of Palestinians in East Jerusalem are prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



After Service on Sunday **June 10th**
- Our annual Bar B Q.
Hamburgers and Hot dogs will be provided. Sign up sheet in Narthex to bring salad or dessert.



Just a reminder that those who rely on food banks continue to need our help throughout the summer, and the yellow bin in the Narthex is available any time the church is open. Although all the usual non perishable food items are always appreciated, donations of soup, tomato sauce, dry pasta and tuna would be most welcome at this time. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Mary Shaw

COR Refugee Outreach The Church of the Resurrection has been providing support to Leila and her family who arrived in Canada about 2 years ago.

Leila is building her hairstyling clientele, male, female, old and young at Jazi's Hair Salon, AND she has a very special offer of a **20% discount on your first visit**.

Please consider booking an appointment with Leila at Jazi's in the Blue Heron Mall (1500 Bank St.). Call to book at 613-738-0455, and let Leila know that you are from the RUC/COR group, you won't be disappointed!

Calendar of Events - June to Start of September 2018

| Date | Event | Details |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| June 3 rd | 11am Worship | Baptism and Confirmation - Recognition of Graduates |
| June 10 th | 11am Worship | Annual Picnic |
| June 14 th | 1:00 pm Quilting and Craft | Last craft gathering for the summer, quilting continues. |
| Jun 17 th | 11am Worship | |
| Jun 21 st | Quilting and Craft Luncheon | venue to be determined |
| Jun 24 th | 11am Worship | |
| Jun 26 th | 8am - Men's Breakfast | Dunn's Famous Deli - 2679 Bank St |
| July | 10 am Combined Worship begins for the summer | Anglican style services will be held on July 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , & 29 th |
| | | RUC Office closed July 2 nd to 26 th |
| August | 10 am Combined Worship continues | United Church style services will be held on Aug. 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th and Sept 2 nd |
| Aug 12 th | 10 am Combined Worship continues | Jamaica - 56th Anniversary of Independence Thanksgiving Service |
| Sep 6 th | 1:00 pm | Craft group returns |
| | 7:30 pm | Choir Rehearsal resumes |
| Sept 9 th | 11 am - Worship resumes | |
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Lost and Found

Starting May 31st - Have a look at the various items on display in the Narthex. Hats, gloves, mittens, umbrellas, shoes, scarves and coats. If you recognize something that's yours please pick it up. At the end of June everything will be disposed of in some way or another.