

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

### Paul's Ponderings

In a recent sermon I reflected on the verse from 2 Cor. 4 that includes the phrase "...perplexed but not driven to despair ..." There is a lot that is perplexing in our world, including the horrific hate crime in London, Ont. As someone who has walked most days of this pandemic time, and greeted neighbors of various cultures, I am perplexed by hate and fear so strong that someone would drive into a family out for a walk - chosen because they were/are Muslim.

The residential schools revelations and the anti-black racism examples remind us of the effects of regarding a group of people as inferior. Where does that come from? Why does it take such hold in the systems and realities of our world? I am perplexed and most days not driven to despair because there is hope that some of these values and assumptions are being exposed and transformed. Earlier this week I sent a note to the Mosque community in our neighbourhood:

#### **To all our cousins in faith at the Mosque of Mercy and AMA Community Centre:**

The horrific murder of the family in London is a reminder of the hate and fear that can exist within the human mind. As members of this same community here in Ottawa, the congregation of Riverside United Church offers our compassion to the Islamic Community and our commitment to be agents of peace and understanding as we build a land that respects and honors differences and broadens our understanding of the humanity we hold in common.

May we continue to find ways to build bridges of connection and friendship.

Salaam. Peace.

Thexton Garden - volunteers for watering are still needed. If you are able to help out, please contact John Dixon at [johnldixon957@gmail.com](mailto:johnldixon957@gmail.com)  
Volunteers take a weekly turn and often work in pairs.



HEFC is located in the heart of what has been a COVID-19 "hot spot" so this has impacted their operation in several ways. There has been a marked decrease in the number of clients accessing the service as many have been, and some folks still are, reluctant to come to the Centre. Some volunteers tested positive for the Corona Virus, while some others quit through fear of becoming infected, which necessitated the training of new volunteers. The method of delivery to the recipients has undergone a few changes over the past 15 months, including being served outside during some of the colder winter months. The numbers served each month are now slowly increasing, The Board recognized that within such a racially diverse community there are those whose knowledge of English is limited, so posters, advertising HEFC have been created and circulated in several of the languages known to be spoken by the area residents.

Throughout this whole time monetary donations have continued to be made to HEFC specifically and also indirectly via the Ottawa Food Bank. As well as distributing food, we have bought grocery store gift cards which have been given out at various times during the pandemic They are usually \$25 cards, given in addition to the food supplied. Recipients can then purchase food items of their choice, and they are very appreciative of this.

We know that several RUC folks continue to support HEFC through online donations at <https://www.hefc.ca> and by other means. Thank you to all, and please know that your generosity is deeply appreciated by the Board, the Volunteers and especially by those who directly benefit from your kindness. Any questions – contact Mary Shaw 613-733-4600.



lawyer Chang Weiping in **China**, arrested for detailing incidents of torture that he experienced in detention. Or, Nassima al-Sada in **Saudi Arabia**, detained simply for her peaceful activism for civil and political rights, and for her advocacy for women's rights and the end of the repressive male guardianship system. Or, Baradine Berdei Targuio, in **Chad**, sentenced to three years in prison after sharing a Facebook post on the President's suspected ill-health and penning an open letter to the President, expressing concern for the human rights situation in the Tibesti region in Chad.

**Recent successes** include the release of journalist Khaled Drareni in **Algeria and Moroccan** human rights defender Maati Monjib. **Saudi Arabia** women's rights defender Loujain Al-Hathloul has been freed, although she continues to live under severe restrictions. **South Africa** has agreed to investigate the case of two women murdered in 2017. We participated in the campaigns on behalf of these individuals in 2020.

Our work may include writing letters, sending emails or faxes to the authorities in their countries and to the ambassador here in Ottawa asking that their rights be recognized and that they be granted freedom to continue their work. We can always use more people who are prepared to participate in any of these campaigns. Pat & Norm McLeod

**REFUGEES:** RUC regularly gets requests to assist with the sponsorship of desperate families. Other faith communities in the area are receiving the same requests for help. A network has been established to help address this problem and to coordinate efforts among the various faith groups in Eastern Ontario. This group, **EOORC Refugee Network**, will also provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on refugee sponsorships and settlement. Several meetings are planned as well as workshops. This will definitely help us as we move forward and plan.

We have had no further word on the position of our application to sponsor a Syrian family of 5 who are presently in Kuwait. We know that our application to sponsor this family was placed on the 2021/2022 waitlist. However, we have been informed that the UCC has filled their quota for 2021/2022 which means it will be some time before this application will move forward.

**Good news....** Hani Stephane recently sent us an email stating "I am now a fellow Canadian". They are all very proud Canadians!!!



With the very real possibility that the vaccination rollout between now and the fall will result in the easing of restrictions, we have been looking ahead to the fall and the Christmas Bazaar. On the assumption that we will be able to use the church premises for such a thing, we wanted to let you know our plan. First of all, we are planning for something smaller in scope than Bazaars in the past. We envisage using some combination of rooms 4, 5 and 6 to display the knitting and quilts that have been made and so generously donated over the pandemic months. We are also hoping that over the summer members of the congregation will be moved to take advantage of the abundance of fresh produce to make and donate jams, jellies and preserves for sale and that closer to the date of the sales (yes, that was plural) congregants will be moved to donate other baking and foodstuffs.

We are renaming this event the Church Bake and Craft Sale. For 2021 we intend to hold two of these sales: a Thanksgiving sale on October 9<sup>th</sup> and a Christmas sale on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

For those who don't want to wait that long before cruising the Bazaar tables, there will be a final Mini Bazaar for the season during the Farmer's Market on June 19<sup>th</sup> (rain date the 26<sup>th</sup>). We will have jams, jellies and marmalade, various baked goods and some freshly baked pies. We hope to see you there.

Peg Brandon, Chair Christmas Bazaar Committee

### **Congregational Meeting - tentative for Monday, June 28 at 7pm.**

A special congregational is being planned to make decisions regarding the chancel renovation project. This project includes renovating the chancel area (front of the church ) to include a ramp, to move the choir over to the same side as the organ, to make the platform one level to give more adaptability. It also includes a major audio-visual upgrade with improved audio system, projection through use of monitors rather than projector and screen, and live-streaming capacity. The second item on the agenda will be service time when we resume in person worship. We have been gathering on Zoom at 10:30 and our traditional time has been 11:00am.

It is our plan to hold this meeting at a time when non-Zoom users can gather at the church to participate in the meeting. This is why the date of June 28<sup>th</sup> is tentative.

## Calendar of Events - Summer 2021

Date	Details: Time	Event
	Paul's Summer holidays are in the month of August.	
<b>All Gatherings Cancelled Until Further Notice</b>		



## Call for Your Daily Dose of Connection

Toll-free: [1 \(855\) 892-9992](tel:18558929992)

Ottawa area: [\(613\) 692-9992](tel:6136929992)

### About The Program

Bring some warmth to your day.

A Friendly Voice is a free, confidential “warm line” for older Ontarians, 55+ who just want to chat with a friendly person who cares, without expectations or judgment. Whether you’re struggling with loneliness or simply looking to stay socially healthy and add some connection to your routine, we offer an empathetic ear and good conversation.

Maybe it’s been a while since you talked to someone, or maybe you’re grieving a loss, or maybe you just want to gush about your new grandbaby. A Friendly Voice is here to listen.

**Our phone line is open seven days a week, 8AM-10PM**

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Ottawa area: [\(613\) 692-9992](tel:6136929992)



# EARTHUB

## Pill Bottles



Sent to a disaster relief organization (Matthew 25: Ministries) to be as medical supplies

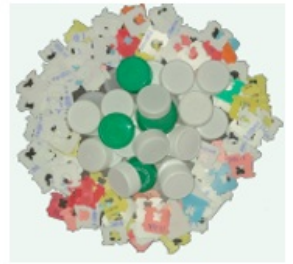
## Milk Bags



Reused to make milk bag mats in support of #LeaveTheStreetsBehind homeless veterans

## Plastic Bottle Caps & Tags

Plastic caps and tags are reused for an Earthub project (in the works)!



## Dead Markers

Marker still dead after adding a drop of water? We'll bring them to Staples in bulk - partnership with Eco West Enders & Ottawa South Eco-Action Network (OSEAN)

any plastic based writing utensils: including dead markers, pens, mechanical pencils, sharpies

Earthub; the hub of everything Earth! We thrive to spread awareness about sustainability, engineering, eco-friendly products, and much more! This local group has been created for our 'Items to Keep Out of The Landfill' Initiative. Rita Dean has brought this initiative forward, there will be a large bin outside and the baskets inside under the Narthex tables. For enquiries [treasures.ca@gmx.net](mailto:treasures.ca@gmx.net)

### Ottawa waste management lags

Community initiatives like these may help keep items out of landfills, but the real problems lie with the city's waste management procedures, according to Waste Watch Ottawa co-founder Duncan Bury.

In its Phase 1 Report, which gives an overview of the state of waste management in Ottawa, the city found that nearly 340,000 tonnes of residential and public waste were generated in 2019.

Only about 41 per cent of the city's waste was diverted from landfills, putting Ottawa far behind many major municipalities across Ontario, which divert more than 60 per cent.

According to Bury, the low diversion rate could be a huge financial burden in the future. If that trend continues, the Trail Road landfill will reach capacity by 2042. Replacing it would cost more than \$300 million.

"If we were diverting 65 per cent of waste, which is what York Region is still consistently doing, we would add another 20 years' capacity to that landfill site," he said.

To address these flaws, the city is developing a Solid Waste Master Plan, to determine what changes need to be made to the waste management system for the next 30 years.