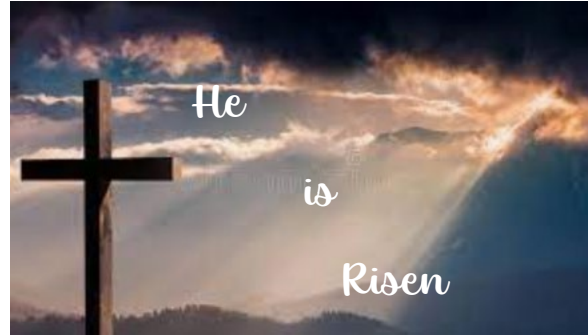


BellRinger

The Bells Corners United Church Newsletter



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New Members

2024 BCUC Board

Minister: Rev. Kim Vidal

Minister: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Chair: Rotating

Past Chair: Jordan Berard

Chair Elect: Vacant

Secretary: Will Wightman

Treasurer: Ross Mutton

Ministry & Personnel: David Stafford

Members at Large: Norm Pound, Alan Bentley, Ellen Boynton

Regional Representatives: Desna Sulway, Nicole Beaudry

Youth Consultation: Fiona Toth

Young Adult Consultation: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Worship

Onsite at 10:00 am with live streaming (links are sent prior to each service)

Nursery and Sunday School Available

Walk our outdoor labyrinth for prayer & meditation

May 05 – Anniversary Sunday

Please support the work and ministry of BCUC with additional donations where possible. Look for donation envelopes, at Church, or send to Treasurer@bcuc.org



CAMP AWESOME 2024

July 29 – August 2: Come experience fun games, crafts, science and Bible stories in a friendly, open Christian Community. Prepare for Fun, Faith and Friendship! All are welcome!

More information about and registration for Camp Awesome is [available here on the BCUC website](#). Vicki Martin is BCUC's Camp Coordinator.

Dates & Locations

July 8 - July 12: Emmanuel United

July 8 - July 12: LIT Camp

July 15 - July 19: Orleans United

July 15 - July 19: Grace United-Chelsea QB

July 22 - July 26: Barrhaven United

July 22 - July 26: Knox UC

July 22 - July 26: Zion Memorial United

July 29 - August 2: First United

July 29 - August 2: Bells Corners United

August 6- August 9: TBD

August 12 - August 16: Rideau Park UC

Other dates for Camp Awesome are shown here!



BCUC BOOK CLUB

The BCUC Book Club is open to everyone interested in reading books and sharing their ideas with others. We are a group with eclectic tastes and enjoy talking about books! We meet regularly on the third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the church, and always share light refreshments after our discussion. This season is winding down with sessions in May and June remaining.

Our selection for May is *Everyone Knows Your Mother is a Witch*, by Rita Galchen. In June we will be deciding on next year's selections (beginning in September), after a wind-up luncheon at a restaurant. Come and check us out – you will be welcomed! For more information, contact Ruth Abbott (613-829-2868) or Jan Pound (613-828-0548).



The Promise of Spring

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.¹*

These are the lyrics of the first verse of a well-loved hymn written by American composer, Natalie Sleeth in 1986, one of BCUC's favourite hymns! Known as "Hymn of Promise", it has become one of the most requested hymns for celebration of life and memorial services, as well as Sunday worship services. The words carry the promise of spring and the hope of Easter using symbolic words and deeply theological metaphors. It talks about how creation teaches us there is new life about to burst forth from dead-looking seeds, cold cocoons, and bulbs. It gives us a glimpse of the ebb and flow of life using words of hope needed to explore, to hope, to believe in new and better things to come. The hymn was written at a time when Sleeth was "pondering the ideas of life, death, spring and winter, Good Friday and Easter, and the whole reawakening of the world that happens every spring." She was inspired by a T.S. Eliot line, that became the overarching message of the hymn: "in our end is our beginning."

Spring has sprung! Eastertide is here. Signs of new life are all around us. God is always doing some new thing, in our hearts, in the world, in our congregation. Our lives go through different seasons, some joyful and celebratory, others disheartening and filled with sorrow. We experience both Good Fridays and Easters. One day, we wander through the dark valleys of illness or death, then on another day, we are ushered into the green pastures and places of comfort. The season of winter fades away and spring comes in bringing a new morning of singing and rejoicing.

As I reflect on the message of this beautiful hymn, I realized that here at BCUC, we need the promise of spring's renewal, refreshment and rebirth. We are beginning to feel the beauty of spring brought forth by the warmth of the sun, the freshness of rainfall, the verdant colors of plants and trees, and the multi-coloured crocuses and daffodils blooming everywhere. In the next few weeks, at BCUC we will celebrate the churches' 174th anniversary. There is a planned spring concert by the choir, a spring garage sale, baptisms and picnics and the anticipated gifts of summer. That's the promise of spring, and even more, the promise of new life and resurrection. God has good things in store for us which will renew our rejoicing.

As we rekindle this hope and this promise of spring, may we also remember those in our families, in our communities and around the world faced with many crises and tragedies. Equipped with the teachings of Jesus and the grace of God, may we continue with our commitment to love, serve and reach out to people and places in need of our urgent attention, healing and care.

The Hymn of Promise ends with these words:

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.²*

It is my fervent prayer that you will take a moment to reflect while looking around you to see the bright signs of life that are springing up everywhere.

And when you feel hopeless and sad, sing this hymn of promise. Let the lyrics be reminders that God makes all things new and God is at work in the world, through us.

Happy spring!!! - Rev. Kim

¹ First verse of the hymn, In the Bulb, There is a Flower (Natalie Sleeth, 1986).

² Second verse of the hymn, In the Bulb, There is a Flower (Natalie Sleeth, 1986).

Musings from the Diaconal Minister

REV. LORRIE

Support Camp Chipembi!



Make a \$100 donation and receive a handmade lined tote bag!
(Lovingly crafted by Rev. Lorrie with "Chitenge" material from Zambia)

Outreach, both local and global, is an important aspect of what we followers of the Way are called to do – and BCUC commits to this in our Mission Statement and in our actions. One of the most important ways we carry out this kind of ministry happens when we share our resources. We can help locally by filling direct needs such as donating non-perishable food to FAMSAC or collecting winter coats for people living on the cold winter streets of Ottawa. Many members of this congregation directly involved in this kind of help – delivering carloads of donated items to the places they are needed most, taking a shift at the food bank, delivering Meals on Wheels to shut-ins, working directly with refugee families as they set up their new homes here... there are many examples of this kind of rich and fulfilling work.

Not everyone has the time or the physical ability to work in this direct, hands-on way. In many cases, the best way we can help is by donating money. Often organizations are able to use that money more efficiently to buy the things needed in bulk. As well, when it comes to places as far away as Zambia, most often the best way to help is to send a cheque. The sharing of financial resources is also important and fulfilling work. BCUC has made great impacts on places far away over the years through generous donations that built a school in one country and a multi-purpose community building in another, that provided sleep kits to children living on the streets in faraway countries or funding the digging of wells for clean drinking water.

Our Zambia Partnership that we share with Emmanuel United Church involves both kinds of outreach. During COVID we raised money to enable the construction of a multi-purpose building in Chipembi that houses church and community offices and offers space for community events, meetings, and classes. This year we added to a large and generous donation from a member at Emmanuel UC to begin much needed repairs and upgrades to the Rural Medical Health clinic that serves not only the small local community but also the surrounding area.

Our partnership with this small community is flourishing as we work to make physical improvements to lives of those living in Chipembi. This kind of work where we share our resources, is important. Our three-way partnership – BCUC, Emmanuel UC, and the Chipembi Congregation of the United Church of Zambia – also strives to take “loving our neighbour” to a new level. Plans are underway for this year’s Camp Chipembi in Zambia, the 11th such day camp since it was first started by Ottawa Presbytery Youth and Young Adults. What an amazing impact it has had! It not only provides the means for 125 children to enjoy a week-long day camp



experience (a highlight of the year for the community), it also offers an opportunity of employment for young adults in the area. But, perhaps the most valuable aspect of this program is that it builds global awareness and real relationships between people from two very different cultures by sending young adults from here to work with the local team to plan and implement the program. Ask any young person who has taken part and they will tell you that it is a life-changing experience. From my perspective as a diaconal minister, I am most impressed with the way it changes our relationship with each other. “Mission Work” traditionally has meant a one-way flow of money or other resources to a grateful community in need. It tends to build a clear sense of Us and Them, where those of us with

privilege decide where and what our work is going to be. It is never intended to be that way, but it is the natural outcome when one group gives and another receives. This Camp Chipembi partnership project shifts that power balance by having the two groups live together and work together in a very cooperative way that acknowledges the gifts on both sides. It gives opportunities to build real friendships and real understanding of the context of each of our places in the world. We share not only resources but cultures, our similarities and our differences. It is a sharing of our emotional and spiritual resources as well as our financial and physical ones.

All of this important work has costs, of course and this congregation is very generous and enthusiastic in making outreach happen in many ways. As summer approaches and we ramp up the planning for Camp Chipembi, I would like to highlight that particular program. At BCUC we have two funds that make this possible:

The Zambia Partnership Fund raises money for the programs in Chipembi. It covers the costs of building supplies and labour for major projects, and it covers the costs of supplies and food and an honorarium for the Zambian leaders in implementing Camp Chipembi.

The Mission Exposure Fund is the one that is used to cover the travel costs of people from our congregation to take part in the work of outreach outside of the Ottawa area. It has been used to send folks to Nicaragua to build houses, to San Salvador to learn about the particular needs there, and to Chipembi, Zambia for both Partnership Visits and for the Camp Chipembi program. This separate fund ensures that money donated to projects is used in Chipembi and not for our needs.

Please consider contributing to our Zambia Partnership Fund or the Mission Exposure fund to help BCUC continue to make a difference to our neighbours half a world away.

Blessings – Lorrie



BCUC SPRING MUSIC CONCERT



Affirming Circle

SUBMITTED BY SUSAN YOUNG ON BEHALF OF THE AFFIRMING CIRCLE



The Affirming Circle continues to guide the congregation through a customized process of exploration and learning as we consider what it could mean for BCUC to become an Affirming Ministry. Thank you to everyone for your interest and active participation!

We have been communicating regularly with the congregation through the "Affirmation Station" section of the Sunday announcements and occasional in-person announcements at the beginning of the worship service. We also keep the BCUC Board and the Christian Education and Worship Committee up-to-date with a monthly report. This winter and spring, members of the Affirming Circle have continued visiting BCUC committees and groups to discuss the Affirming process and answer questions. We hope to have paid a visit to all before summer. In February the Affirming Circle hosted an information display at the Stewardship Fair. Thank you to the UP group for their collaboration in preparing materials and setting up the display.

On March 10, BCUC celebrated its first PIE Sunday with a special service, delicious pies and beverages during fellowship time and a learning event attended by about 40 people. The main theme of the day was "P= public, I= intentional and E= explicit". These three adjectives describe Affirming Ministries' approach to welcoming and fully including 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Our second learning event was held on April 2 after the worship service. About 40 people engaged in a lively discussion about the significance of the 2SLGBTQIA+ acronym. We also reviewed some case studies based on real life situations. We discerned the injustices in these sad stories and considered how an Affirming Ministry could make a positive difference. Another learning event is scheduled for Sunday, June 2. We look forward to having a good turnout of enthusiastic participants for this workshop too, especially since it will be the last one before the fall. Please check "Affirmation Station" for details closer to the date.

BCUC'S PUBLISHED AUTHORS

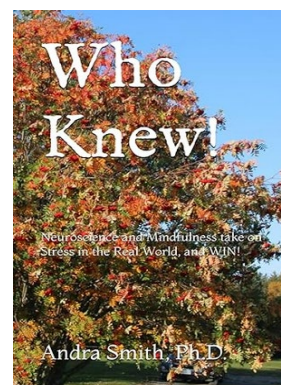
Strong Sweet Tea

a novel by
Judith M Campbell

How fortunate we are at BCUC to have such talent showcased in the latest writing offerings from Judith Campbell and Dr. Andra Smith.

With Judith Campbell's new novel *Strong, Sweet Tea*, you can cozy up and wrap yourself in a warm blanket of words, as Judith unravels a heart-warming story about the limitless meaning of life-giving love, the sadness of death and loss, and the adjustment to change set in the mid 1800's and turn of the 20th century. Both factual and fictional, prepare to restore your faith in humanity's most cherished commodity, love.

"Who Knew – Neuroscience and Mindfulness take on Stress in the Real World, and WIN!", by Andra Smith, PhD. Andra is a full Professor in the School of Psychology at the University of Ottawa and says this book is a memoir of her journey with her students as they discover the science and gifts of mindfulness. Through real life examples, we can demonstrate how powerful knowing your brain can be for your wellbeing and your life's day to day richness. Seeing the little things a beautiful things can counter our negativity bias and create a world we are grateful to live in, no matter what. Andra strives to empower everyone she meets, reaches, cares about, with the knowledge of how the brain works, how we have control over how we think and that brain health is Crucial to wellness.



I Saw the Sign!

IT IS RISEN – NEIL LOWES

For Many years, Bill and Nora McGee have faithfully and very manually changed the messages on the sign at BCUC.

When they decided they would no longer perform that task, it was suggested that we should invest in a digital sign similar to what our church neighbours had installed.

At the 2023 AGM approval was given to proceed with fundraising for a new sign. Over the following months approximately \$30,000 (as required) was raised and decisions made about the actual sign's design and details thanks to the dedication and guidance of Neil Lowes who knew someone with a reputable business to provide what we needed.

The first step was to apply to City Hall for a sign permit. The required design, and package of information was submitted and revised several times prior to us being informed that the church was listed on the Ontario Heritage Registry and therefore was not allowed to have an electronic message sign.

An appeal to the staff of our city councillor and some in depth research by her staff concluded that places of worship were exempt from that prohibition. After a very

protracted bureaucratic process, we got our sign permit.

The display components arrived, the old sign was removed, repairs to the sign base infrastructure were carried out and fabrication of the new sign commenced with a target date of Easter Sunday 2024 for the new sign to be installed and operational.

I am pleased that the

new sign is installed and working. The features of this product will allow our staff to change sign messages from a computer-based application, eliminating the need to “brave the elements” to change messages. It will also allow us to have several messages “scrolling” at various times and days of our choosing.

Canadian made in Calgary, the sign has a 10 year on-site warranty, ensuring BCUC has visible community outreach for years to come. Incidentally, the toolbox of letters used with the former sign have been donated to a church in Smiths Falls that needed them. Our thanks to all who financially contributed to raising the funds for this project!

To Bill and Nora, Thank You for all the years of ensuring our sign was kept up to date with special events notification and regular Sunday services the rest of the time.



BCUC Spring Garage Sale 2024

SATURDAY MAY 11TH, FROM 9AM – 1PM

We open our doors to the community and celebrate spring with our annual garage sale. All the usual sales areas will be available. These will include Plants, Baking, Books, CD's, DVD's, Movies, LP's, Puzzles, Linens, Women's & Children's Clothing, White Elephant, seasonal sporting goods, Children's Books & Toys plus household & garden furniture.



There will be spring rolls, thanks to Rev. Kim! She will offer pre-orders by signing up or cooked onsite.

If you would be willing to coordinate or help with a sales area, please contact Bob & Ellen Boynton, 613-828-3820 or eboynton@rogers.com

It is a fun day to open our doors to welcome our neighbours here in the community and to raise funds to help with the operating fund of BCUC.

Watch for details in coming weeks!!

BROADVIEW MAGAZINE RENEWAL – DON'T MISS OUT!



Broadview subscribing or renewal deadline is May 15. Please continue your support of this award-winning magazine whose mandate is Spirituality, Justice and Ethical Living. Gold Winner of the 2022 National Magazine Awards for Best Magazine Special Interest, *Broadview* struggles, as do all magazines, to maintain its level of quality journalism. Generic in most of the pages, the back section is 'The United Church in Focus' ensuring that our denomination continues to have presence. **Group subscription rate is still a bargain at \$30** and can be **paid to BCUC now**, preferably by cheque made out to BCUC or cash or e-transfer. Please consider **starting a new subscription!** This fine magazine needs all the support it can get to enable quality journalism to continue.

Remit 1

THE VOTES HAVE BEEN COUNTED!

REMIT 1: ESTABLISHING AN AUTONOMOUS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION HAS PASSED.

Across the United Church of Canada, just over 80% of pastoral charges voted in the remit. A great deal of education and work was done to "get out the vote". Thank you to all who participated in this process.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW? As is the case with all Category 3 Remits, if a remit has been approved by a majority of all the regional councils, the General Council must decide to enact it.

The decision on enacting the remit will take place at the Annual Meeting of General Council, on October 19, 2024.



Lakeside Players, directed by Cathy Manes-Dowsett will be offering 'Rumors – A Farce: by Neil Simon' Our very own Will Wightman will be seen on stage! Starting April 25-7:30pm [See their website for details.](https://www.lakesideplayers.com)

Synopsis: Four couples arrive at the townhouse of a deputy New York City mayor and his wife to attend a party celebrating their tenth wedding anniversary. However, the four couples soon discover that there are no servants, the hostess is missing, and the deputy mayor has shot himself in the head (it's only a flesh wound). Comic complications arise when, given everyone's upper-class status, they decide they need to do everything possible to conceal the evening's events from the local police and the media. (Warning Coarse language).

Lectionary Study



LEC-TION-AR-Y - NOUN - A LIST OR BOOK OF PORTIONS OF THE BIBLE APPOINTED TO BE READ AT A CHURCH SERVICE

Each Tuesday morning at 10:30 am, a group meets to discuss the theme of the upcoming sermon based on the Biblical text for the following Sunday. We are not Biblical experts or scholars, just interested in exploring the meaning of the Biblical references to our faith and our daily lives. Our discussions are open and inquiring. Join Rev. Kim and Rev. Lorrie in the Shalom Room for an hour of exploration and dialogue. All are welcome!



SEEKERS GROUP

Are you interested in pursuing honest and open inquiry about Christianity through critical, collaborative study of various theological writers? Led by Rev. Kim, the Seekers generally undertakes to learn from one or two books a year in the fall and spring, exploring how our faith and beliefs have developed and relate to the topic at hand. Watch for future announcements in the BCUC Happenings or Sunday bulletins and join us for interesting discussions - we'd love to hear your ideas, thoughts and opinions.

Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC)



A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE



The Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy is so grateful for the wonderful ongoing support from BCUC. Like all organizations, we are still working to overcome the aftermath of the COVID19 pandemic.

We continue to provide our ministries in the social housing neighborhoods as we focus on improving our ability to meet the changing needs of the communities. With the retirement of many of our longtime members - some of them founders! - we have a fresh new Board with energy and enthusiasm for the task, while also facing a bit of a learning curve.

Our AGM is happening right after the submission date for this edition of the BellRinger. I will ensure that a copy of the Annual Report makes its way to the church office next week. In the meantime, you can read about OWECC in the most recent editions of the EOORC newsletter posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

Just one of the many important ways BCUC shows love for our neighbours! Thank you!

Rev. Lorrie
OWECC Chaplain

Refuge NOW

BEV GRAHAM



Refuge NOW has been working to support two families this past year. The more typical situation is that we support one family at a time through a sponsorship, but this year the second family arrived sooner than expected.

The sponsorship for the Mohammadi family (four people) is now complete, as of January 2024. The family has coped with many of the general issues that we see in the news. They have slotted into the health care system but have no family doctor. They have bus passes, they have access to ESL for the parents, the children are in school and doing well. They have housing and also made it through the winter with warm clothes. Two of the family have found employment, but finances continue to be a challenge. Housing costs, food costs, general inflation have all had an impact. Refuge NOW arranged a meeting with Ontario Works for the family. The counselor was helpful and sympathetic, but the parental income was just above the cut-off and they were denied support. The family has applied for subsidized housing, but the wait is long. They then successfully applied to the Ottawa Mennonite Refugee Assistance (OMRA) and secured a monthly rental stipend for a year. A requirement of this stipend is that Refuge NOW will continue to offer periodic support for the next year to help the family in their continued integration into Canadian society. So, while we are no longer responsible for financial support we continue to offer practical support.

The sponsorship for the Al Mahameed family (five people) is ongoing. This is a co-sponsorship together with family who have already settled in Canada. Again, the family is coping with the issues that we see in the news. They have accessed the health care system and been directed towards ESL services. The children are in school. Employment is precarious. There are some concerns about financial management and we are working to get the family on a more stable footing. The extended family has a role in integration and their support is important to the success of the sponsorship.

We have not yet applied for a family for next year. We're in the early stages of planning for a fund-raising dinner in the Fall, and there will be more information on that to come.

I'm pleased to welcome Sam Tweedle to Refuge NOW this year. His input has been important.

Did you say Tim Bits?

THE BCUC MEN'S CLUB

The BCUC Men's Club has been functioning for well over ten years, providing a ministry to the men of the Church and community. Re-energized by the Rev. Don Maclean during his ministry at Bells Corners, we have held dinners, hosted presentations of interest, visited various local attractions and generally had a good time over the years. We are mainly retired and seem to be content with gathering weekly to enjoy general conversation and a few jokes that get us laughing. Thanks to Ross Snider and others who provide us with humorous anecdotes from time to time. In the main hall from 10:00am to whenever you feel like moving on, coffee and Tim Bits! Tell your neighbors and friends - All men welcome!

Adding to the family!

SPRING-ING FORWARD - NEW MEMBERS



Firstly, welcome to the new members joining our congregation during Membership Sunday service on 7 April. We are pleased to announce that Marg Eddy, Virginia Notley and Dorothy Peck have formally joined our congregation. Thank you to each of them for choosing BCUC as their home congregation. Also of note are several new individuals and families who have found BCUC to be a warm and welcoming place. When you see new faces, please take a few moments to welcome them to our congregation.

To get a better picture of our congregation's current demographic and update contact information a survey was conducted from mid-February to early April. Over 300 households were surveyed through in-person; telephone or email communications.

The intent of the survey was to confirm basic contact information, age data and level of involvement in BCUC's many programs and activities. While collecting this data we were also able to become aware of the general well-being of those we contacted. This, along with the other data, was passed along to the clergy and office staff for their information and action as required. The data collected will help current and future boards and committees with planning for the needs and interests of our congregation.

During the survey Bev and I had many great conversations with people who offered a variety of perspectives on the life of our congregation. Each of these discussions adds to the value and understanding of the diversity of our congregation. Knowing and respecting the values of those within our congregation is vitally important to its well-being.

One thing that stuck out the most to Bev and I was the fact that for a variety of reasons many people are much more restricted in their ability to get out of their homes and residences compared to pre-COVID times. So many people expressed gratitude for the phone call and were delighted to have a conversation with us. Both Bev and I feel that it is important for each of us in our congregation to take the opportunity to reach out to those we may not have seen in some time. We know that many of our conversations were bright spots, not just in the days of those we spoke with, but in ours as well.

We wish to thank all who participated in the survey. Your involvement in this vibrant and welcoming congregation is greatly appreciated.

We hope the spring season ahead is full of many good things for you and your family.

Larry Ryan & Bev Wilcox, Membership

Courtyard Garden Project

THE MOVE TO AN ENHANCED AND PEACEFUL SPACE TO REFLECT



Some years back Olly Chuchryk put a lot of effort into renovating the Courtyard Garden. More recently Nicole Beaudry and Gerry Okolowsky spent many hours tending the garden. Gerry and Nicole planned, acquired and nurtured additional plant varieties we see there today. The garden also became a memorial spot where some folks would add a plant to remember a loved one.

Gerry and Nicole wanted to do a "Sprucing Up" of the garden, but COVID intervened and with Gerry's unexpected passing, that project was delayed.

This year Nicole has revisited their dream and has approached several resources within BCUC about doing a significant overhaul of the Courtyard space. Recently several interested stakeholders met to provide insight on making the courtyard more accessible, more inviting, more amenable to reflection and social interaction.

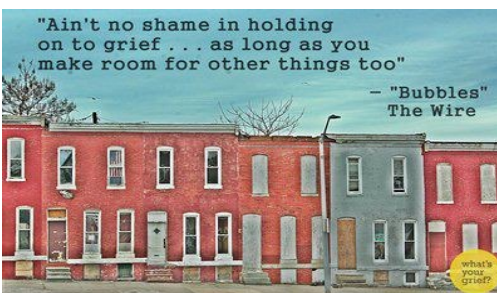
To be clear, this will be a major undertaking, and once project objectives have been set, courtyard features of the rejuvenated space have been defined, and the scope of work clarified, then the work of estimating project costs and identifying funding sources external to BCUC can begin.

Initial talks have suggested that there are several sources of funding that could be approached with a proposal that would fit their operational mandate, but this 'project' is in its infancy, and your input, ideas, labour, donations and efforts in moving the project forward will be welcomed.

You can contact the office, Nicole Beaudry or Neil Lowes, for more information.

Pastoral Care

SUBMITTED BY: REV. KIM VIDAL



"Ain't no shame in holding on to grief... as long as you make room for other things too." - "Bubbles", The Wire

The members of the Pastoral and Spiritual Care team are always available for each of you. If there is a need for compassionate listening, prayer or support during a time of illness, isolation, grief, crisis or a transition, please reach out to one of the two ministers, Reverend Kim Vidal and Reverend Lorrie Lowes, or call the church office. If you have any prayer requests to be included in our weekly prayer circles on Wednesday, please write your requests and drop them in the Prayer Chalice located on the narthex table or in the prayer box at the entrance way. You may also send a confidential email to our ministers.

Susan Young, our coordinator for the last several years, has stepped down for personal reasons. We will miss her as she did an excellent job leading the team. We welcome a new member, Margaret Eddy, to the group. If you want to learn more about what we do and what it requires to be a member of the team, please contact Rev. Kim. Plans for the fall include a learning event on Separation and Divorce with Dan Lanoue as our guest speaker. Details and dates are yet to be determined, but we will be able to finalize this by mid-June.

Finally, please look forward to the annual Healing Tea Service which will be held on Wednesday, December 11th from 5:00-8:00 pm. Details about the service will be announced as the date draws near. For now, mark your calendars!

Each Sunday as you move from the Sanctuary to the Main Hall for coffee time, you pass by the church library. Have you ever stopped to see what's there for you to read enjoy, learn and be challenged? For example, a copy has been added of the latest book studied by The Seekers group at BCUC: *Saving Paradise, How Christianity Traded Love of this World for Crucifixion and Empire*, by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker. It provides an interesting historical and theological view of the changing faces of Christianity throughout the ages, and where that leaves us in today's society.

The library offers a wide variety of resources - books for devotions before meetings, views from contemporary theologians, and more. Look for these titles recently studied by the Seekers group -

- *Beyond Belief, the Secret Gospel of Thomas*, by Elaine Pagels
- *Jesus Before the Gospels, How the earliest Christians remembered, changed and invented their stories of the Savior*, by Bart D. Ehrman
- *Geering Interviews* by Mike Grimshaw - following Geering's path into the church, then into modern theological thought and out to radical theology and postmodern philosophy

BCUC's Youth Group – United People (UP)

BCUC Youth – Our vibrant and active youth lending their talents to the Pancake Supper!





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