



# Bells Corners United Church - Christmas Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 2 - December 2019



**Advent Project 2019:** We are all concerned about the health and safety of

children, perhaps especially at this time of year when the weather turns cold and the magic of Christmas is just around the corner. "Sleeping Children Around the World" is an outreach project for the Advent Season that allows the children, youth, and adults alike to take part. Just \$35 provides a bed kit for a child, suitable to the climate and conditions in which they live. Sleep better knowing that you have given a child in need a cozy bed and protection from the elements, along with a soft toy or book. We can't personally tuck them in, but we can make them feel loved and cared for. Look for the donation can on the Narthex table on Sunday morning, on the chancel during the Time for the Young at Heart or make a contribution through the church office or Sunday offering plate.

## **Worship – Season of Advent/Christmas**

9:50 am Carol Sing; 10:00 am Worship Service

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>: Third Sunday of Advent  
Sermon Focus: "Restored in Love!" (Ezra 1:1-4, 3:10-13)

Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sermon Focus: "Blessed in Joy" (Luke 1:26-45)

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve  
6:30pm - Family Service  
9:00pm - Communion Service  
Sermon Focus: "Love Incarnate" (Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20)

Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas  
10:00 am Combined Service at Kanata United

PLEASE SUPPORT THE WORK AND MISSION OF **BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH** BY MAKING AN EXTRA DONATION DURING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS.

LOOK FOR OFFERING ENVELOPES IN THE NARTHEX OR THE CHURCH OFFICE



## BCUC Minister's Message



Dear friends,

Folks at BCUC are brimming with excitement as they prepare for Christmas. I walked into the entryway and noticed the Christmas wreaths decked with dazzling lights. I entered the main hall and I was greeted with the hanging green garlands with deep red and gold ribbons shining with anticipation. The sanctuary too is adorned once more with a tree, poinsettias, greenery and decorations, preparing for the arrival of Christmas. This must be a place of grace, I noted, a place where hope, peace, joy and love will again blossom in the hearts of people. Advent is here and then Christmas will soon come.

The season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing, can be overwhelming to many of us, perhaps even puzzling. The Bible readings I am preaching on the four Sundays of Advent have nothing to do with birth stories. Instead we hear the prophet Jeremiah telling us about a righteous branch who will bring justice and righteousness to the people who seemingly have lost hope. There is also a passage of hope when Isaiah invokes God to “comfort, comfort my people.” We are challenged to reflect on the prophet Ezra and the restoration of the temple in Jerusalem as the exiled people return to their homeland. We hear again of Mary visiting Elizabeth, pregnant women in the gospel of Luke, and how they interact and exchange blessings as the babies in their wombs leap for joy! All these readings are in anticipation of the coming birth of Jesus.

The birth of Jesus was not a one-time event, but a ritual we repeat over and over again. Advent reminds us that every heart is called to prepare a room, as creation groans in eager longing for justice, peace and the love which shatters oppression, hatred and violence. And we will sing a favourite Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” that speaks soulfully to us.

Come, God-with-us, as footprints in the snowy path and show us the way.

Come to bring the homeless home.

Come to give food to the hungry.

Come, Emmanuel, to the coldness of our hearts and the pains of our world.

Come, take away our fears and journey with us toward Bethlehem where the star shines through the darkness, casting the light of peace and justice into our lives, into the whole world.

This Advent, I hope and pray that we will give in to the wonder and grace we know is alive in our lives. Let us celebrate the beginning of a new season of hope, the season of waiting, wondering and expectation.

On behalf of Ken, Justin and Jacob, I wish you all Advent blessings and a Christmas that is merry and meaningful.

In the name of Jesus who we celebrate this season,

Rev. Kim



### Sunsets are proof that endings can be beautiful!



It feels strange to leave a position that I have loved being in for 17 years, not just because of the people and the work, but because of the person that I have become through the journey and for the experience to grow, change and be thankful for the presence of love and compassion in my life. I leave my position in acquiescence, that it was time to move forward into my next career.

Over the years with spiritual guidance and under the mentorship and patience of many at the Church, I have been supported with compassion and truth and I am full of gratitude.

Thank you all for the skills building and opportunities as I continue to learn to serve others. To my colleague and friend, Ellen Boynton, your warmth, generosity and kindness have helped shaped my outlook and you are a dear and kind person. Working as part of the Office Staff has been inspirational and it has been my pleasure to serve and be a part of team at BCUC.

To the congregation of BCUC, Thank you for being the light which guides my path.

Sincerely with blessings,  
Nancy Meyers



**FAMSAC Christmas Hampers:** This annual event has now begun. This year we are anticipating approximately 250 requests for a Christmas hamper from needy families. These hampers contain a turkey, fresh produce and many non-perishable items. To help with the cost of this project, cash donations would be greatly appreciated.

Income tax receipts will be issued. Please call 820-5428 if you require some help, or if you know of someone who would benefit.

The preparation of these hampers requires many hours of work by many people. If you and your family can be of assistance with this important program, please sign the sheets at the information desk for specific tasks.

The schedule for all of these activities which will take place at St. Martin de Porres Church, 3891 Old Richmond Rd as follows:

**Monday, Dec.16th:**

8:30 a.m. Help load truck to transport food from the food cupboard to the church basement

Church set-up for Tuesday's activities of filling hampers: 1:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, Dec.17th:**

Fill hampers with food - 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, Dec.18th:**

Pick-up and Delivery of hampers - 9:00 a.m.

We need your help to perform this local mission. With your assistance and concern, many less fortunate families will have a Merry Christmas.

Thanks, Glenna Jackson 828-8525





**“It’s the most wonderful time of the year!”**

Christmas has always been my favourite time of year. I love all the bustle that leads up to that big day and I love the thought that, in a world where so many were suffering and unsafe, the birth of a baby heralded a fresh new start and a beam of hope in the darkness of the times.

The world hasn’t changed so much over the last two thousand years. We know that there are many places where war and poverty and suffering are part of people’s everyday existence. We know that there are many, right here in our own country, who live with hunger and fear. And the amazing thing is that the birth of a baby can still bring joy and hope, no matter how bleak things may seem.

Christmas is a time to celebrate all the hope for the future that a child represents, the hope that God’s dream for this world is possible.

I believe that this is one of the blessings of being a member of a faith family, a church community. We are here to remind each other of the hope that Jesus brought into the world. We do this every week of the year, of course, but at Christmas all that hope and wonder come alive in the joy on the faces of our children and in the outpouring of love for our neighbours.

When I was a little girl, I wished it could be Christmas every day. I still have the same wish – but perhaps for different reasons.

As we enter this season of hope, peace, joy, and love, may every moment fill you with the expectant happiness of a child and the sacred wonder of a newborn’s first cry.

Merry Christmas!

Lorrie



**Watch for the Mitten Tree** again this Advent season. We invite you to decorate the tree with lots of colourful mittens, scarves and hats to warm so many in the coming winter.



Look for **‘Keep Christ in Christmas’** fridge magnets for sale at \$5 each from the church office. Sales of these magnets, which can also be used on your car, your front door or as stocking stuffers, will go to fundraising for renewal of our Shalom Room.



## Financial Management Report - Dec 1, 2019

This is an overview of the status of BCUC's Operating Fund to the end of October and a forecast to the end of December under the assumption of **business as usual** (unaudited). A small deficit is forecast for year-end 2019 within a normal degree of forecasting error.

<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Jan-Oct</u>		<u>Nov-Dec</u>	<u>Year-end</u>	<u>Budget/2019</u>	
	YTD	+	(est)	=	(est)	(approved)
Revenue	\$ 324,000		\$ 84,000		\$ 408,000	\$ 432,300
Expenses (*)	\$ 355,000		\$ 55,000		\$ 410,000	\$ 432,300
Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>(\$-31,000)</b>		<b>\$ 29,000</b>		<b>(\$-2,000)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

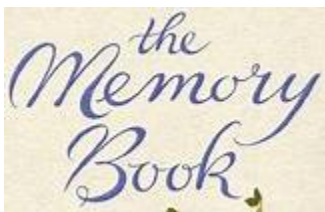
Note (\*) – Expenses each month include notional monthly allocations for M&S that are accumulated over 12 months and paid out in December (\$38,500).

<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Jan1 Balance</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Nov 12 Balance</u>
Directed Funds	\$ 20,437	\$29,387	(-\$21,365)	\$ 28,459
Bldg Mtc & Repair	\$ 17,367	\$11,499	(-\$ 8,981)	\$ 19,885
Capital Funds	\$ 19,574	\$41,019	(-\$52,254)	\$ 8,339
Memorial Fund	\$ 88,282 (#)	n/a		
Stinson Bequest	\$158,787 (#)	n/a		

Note (#) – Source: Audit Report Dec 31, 2018

Bill Johnson

Chair Financial Management



The Church Board would like to update the Book of Memories created as a millennium project in the year 2000. The new version would cover the last 20 years of course, but also give those people who didn't submit a memory or story or photo for the initial Book of Memories another opportunity to do so.

Our church has been an active institution in our area for over 150 years giving many families a home to live their faith and providing leadership to many community initiatives. It is important to record our memories, stories and achievements so future generations can read and remember them. In particular, our youth are encouraged to send in a contribution.

There is an established committee to produce a second volume of the Book of Memories and hope that many of you will want to send us a story, photo or memory for this new edition.

These memories or stories can be lengthy or just a few lines or paragraphs are fine. We would like to include events at the church, people you have met, the contributions of the various groups that have meant something

to you and other stories and photos which have contributed to church life over the years. Some of you may like to write about what the church has meant to you over the past years. You may also submit photos with a note explaining what is happening and who's involved.

Please help us to continue capturing the history of BCUC by contributing to the **Book of Memories, Volume 2**. Send your contributions to:

1. Bob Ferguson c/o [bferguson@sympatico.ca](mailto:bferguson@sympatico.ca) or mailed to:  
15 Dickson St., Nepean, ON K2H 7H6

or

2. Church Office: [office@bcuc.org](mailto:office@bcuc.org) (email or hard copy)  
3955 Old Richmond Rd., Nepean, ON K2H 5C5

**Deadline for Submissions: April 5, 2020**

This is a project for the whole church, children, youth and adults! Together we can produce a collection book that will have captured the many beautiful memories of our church!

Thank you for helping to complete this project!

Bob Ferguson  
Editor, Book of Memories, Volume 2, 2020



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