



The Bell Ringer

Volume 16 Issue 3 ~ April 1, 2018

Bells Corners United Church ~ Rejoice, Renew, Respond

Family Ministry continues to expand at BCUC with a meal before children's choir practices for the families and a praise band!



Youth Ministry Look UP! Look Out! ~ with Kim & Alex Culley

While winter makes up its mind weather (get it) or not to melt away, the UP group's year has March-ed on. In February, we had a movie night at the Church, a double-feature! We made comfortable use of the UP room's couches as well as the church's projector for a great screening.

The UP group attended a 'pottery painting party' at Colour Me Mine on March 25th after church. They again enjoyed a successful afternoon of fashioning a new batch of beautiful creations.

On April 21st we will be hosting the "Cards with the Congregation" event. We would like to invite any interested member of the church to join us in the main hall for an evening of card games and camaraderie. Participants should bring a deck of cards and a snack. The youth are keen to learn new card games and strategies from the Aces in the congregation. More information will be posted soon.

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"Above Board": Updates from the Church Board



The Easter season brings signs of rebirth, renewal, regeneration, and the promise of a bright future. After our Annual General Meeting on March 4th, there can be no doubt that all of these words describe the path that we are headed on at BCUC!

Many thanks to all who attended and participated at this year's AGM. Spirited and positive conversations were the order of the day, and we made some important decisions and listened to excellent presentations about items such as the upcoming replacement of the roof, our new church website, and the purchase of a new long-throw projector system. All of these items demonstrate our commitment to the future of this church, and to attracting new congregation members and retaining those who are already in the pews.

The AGM always makes me reflect upon how lucky we are to have such wonderful staff and volunteers at BCUC. On behalf of the Board and the entire congregation, I would like to thank our staff and ministry team for their year-round hard work, and all of our members who volunteer their time and talents to making our church run so smoothly.

Easter Greetings to you all!

Jordan Berard
Chair, BCUC Board



'RAISE THE ROOF'

A special "THANK YOU" to the many people who have contributed to the 'Raise The Roof' project. We now have over \$ 120,000. contributed or committed. Please consider the 'Raise The Roof' fund - donation envelopes are in the Church pews for your convenience. Special thanks to all who have contributed in 2017!

For further information please contact: Chair, Bert Donnelly: [613-435-8152](tel:613-435-8152) - Bob Boynton: [613-828-3820](tel:613-828-3820) - Doug MacKechnie: [613-828-5213](tel:613-828-5213) - Gord Ritcey: [613-828-5008](tel:613-828-5008) - Ken Kim: 613-271-8367



LAWN AND GARDEN SUPPLIES SALE

Spring is in the air and your lawns and gardens need some nourishment to get a good start. **All the proceeds will be going toward the new roof for the Sanctuary. The "Raise the Roof" project has reached \$120,000 so far.**

The supplies offered include regular fertilizers, organic fertilizers and products to add humus to your soil. All the products are being supplied by Ritchie's Feed and Seed, long time provider of quality garden supplies in the Ottawa area. A complete list of

the products offered and an Order Form can be obtained from the Church Office or any member of the Committee listed below. Spread the word to your neighbours.

Products you order can be picked up at the Church on Saturday morning April 21st. Advance orders are necessary. Watch for an opportunity to place your orders after the Church service on April 1, 8, or 15th or by telephone from the names listed below. Final day for orders is April 16th.

This is an opportunity to feed your gardens and support the "Raise the Roof" project.

Bert Donnelly: [613-435-8152](tel:613-435-8152) Doug MacKechnie: [613-828-5213](tel:613-828-5213) Gord Ritcey: [613-828-5008](tel:613-828-5008)



BCUC Children and Youth Choirs

The Christian Generation Singers (CGS)

- Kindergarten to Grade 4
- Practise Thursday evenings 6:00pm; Child friendly meal provided 5:30pm
- Sing at worship services about once a month
- Perform at Seniors' Residences, on occasion, as part of their outreach
- Directed by Erin Berard

Bell Canto

- Grade 5 & up
- Practise Thursday evenings 6:40pm; Child friendly meal provided 5:30pm
- Sing at worship services about once a month
- Perform at Seniors' Residences on occasion, as part of their outreach
- Directed by Erin Berard

If you have a child or grandchild interested in joining our BCUC Christian Generation Singers (CGS) or Bell Cantos, please do not hesitate to contact the children's choir director, Erin Berard at erin.berard@sympatico.ca, or the BCUC Music Director, Abe TeGrotenhuis music@bcuc.org. It is never too late to start!

Benefits of Singing in a Children's Choir

There are many benefits of singing in a children's choir, here are a few from a studies mentioned by the [Toronto Children's Chorus](#) article, children who sing in a choir receive the following benefits:

Enhances Brain Development

It's no secret that getting an education in music enhances many aspects of a growing brain's development – it has been shown that on average, children who are exposed to a structured program of musical study perform better in school and on tests than those children who do not. Music is highly mathematical by nature so it's unsurprising that a causal link has been made between enhanced spatial-temporal skills – the ability to visualize how various elements go together – and music education. These spatial-temporal skills are key to success in many 21st century occupations – architecture, engineering, math, art, gaming and working with computers.

Beyond the books, studying music also speeds up language development. These effects can actually be physically seen in the brain:

"Recent studies have clearly indicated that musical training physically develops the part of the left side of the brain known to be involved with processing language, and can actually wire the brain's circuits in specific ways. Linking familiar songs to new information can also help imprint information on young minds."

This helps children not only succeed in school, but in their social environment as well – competence with language is associated with confidence when making friends and integrating oneself into a social circle.

Creates Resiliency in Children

An increasing body of research is emerging about the importance of creating resiliency in our children – the ability to bounce back from life's challenges and crises, effectively learning from them to become a stronger, wiser person. The key to resiliency is an inner knowledge that you are capable of handling whatever roadblocks life throws at you rather than succumbing to self-doubt and fear of failure.

Everyone is born with some sense of natural resiliency, but there are things we can actively do for our children to develop and strengthen this ability. An education in music is a challenging experience that requires students to continually practice to improve their abilities. Students of music education learn that each road block they encounter can eventually be overcome with persistence, discipline and not giving up. Each achievement then acts as a reward for this persistent behaviour leading to a sense of mastery. This sense of mastery after having risen to face a challenge is what creates resiliency later in life by building confidence in the child that they can overcome a problem. Further benefits noted here: www.choirfire.org

"Resurrection Revisited: We Are Made Alive in Jesus!" - Rev. Kim Vidal



Dear friends,

A few years ago I came across a wonderful website magazine called SMITH, founded by storyteller Larry Smith – the home of six-word memoirs and a collection of stories from a vibrant

community of storytellers - all contribute their life experiences captured in six words. Some of the contributions are catchy - "Find focus. Fulfill missions. Build camaraderie." Some are romantic - "Secret of life: marry a Korean" (that's for me!); Some inspirational, "Thank God, Good things still happen" Or even political: "Liberal body, conservative mind. At odds."

I find it both fascinating and challenging to try to fit one's life story into such a narrow form. And this made me think that for all the joy and fanfare of Easter, for all the complexity and mystery of what resurrection is about, and for all the millions of words we use to try and explain it, the Easter story, according to post-Easter theologians, has a six-word punch line: **"Jesus is risen from the dead."** These are the words, according to the four gospel writers, that women like Mary Magdalene, Joanna & Susanna carried from the empty tomb back to the distraught, unbelieving disciples. These are the words that have been passed from one generation to the next for over two centuries. Six words that have taken us from scattered, broken, suffering people in need of hope and given new life. These are the words that are whispered at bedsides or preached at church services and shared at dinner tables: "Jesus is risen from the dead."

About six years ago, in one of my study weeks, I attended a lecture here at BCUC of the renowned scholar and theologian, Bernard Brandon Scott, on the topic of Resurrection. His opening statement caught my undivided attention. He said, "**the greatest mistake preachers do on Easter is to mislead their congregation by preaching resurrection**

based on the lectionary readings, with all the visual imagery and drama connected to the narratives based on the gospel accounts, and not by chronological order or its starting point." What Brandon Scott was trying to emphasize is the fact that too often we are misled into thinking that the books in the New Testament are in the order that they were written. This is not the case at all. It does not mean that because Matthew was put first in the list of the gospels, that it was the oldest account of Jesus ever written.

In fact it was Paul, not any of the gospel writers, who first penned the early accounts of resurrection around 40 CE found in his genuine letters, particularly to the community in Corinth. And the gospel writers followed along between the periods of 70 to 125 CE. When I heard this from Scott, I was speechless. I was one of those who love to preach the account of resurrection from the dramatic depictions of the empty tomb and of the Risen Christ especially the story of Mary Magdalene in the gospel of John. I was challenged by Scott's remarks and I felt that it's time I make use of my learnings from his lecture.

So, what is this resurrected body that Paul leans on? What does this 'resurrection body' look like? Paul believed and taught the Corinthian congregation that Jesus was raised **not with a physical body but with a spiritual body**. Paul captures his resurrection account of Jesus in these two groups of six words: **"We are made alive in Jesus"** and **"Jesus is made alive through us!"** No more, no less. This isn't a debatable issue for Paul. Resurrection for him is a real, living experience of Jesus in the lives of the faithful believers. The faith community, both past and present, is Jesus' spiritual body. And through this resurrected body, Paul says God has made a statement about where the Risen Christ lives: **he lives in this body of believers** through love -- and love is victorious over all, even over death itself.

Teresa of Avila's powerful words constantly remind us that: "Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body."

What is your six word story for resurrection? And how will these words change the world? What does our Easter story still have to say to a violent world, a congregation at odds, a people in pain and suffering? How will we be sure that they will hear this story of hope?

Every day we write our stories over and over again, perhaps in six words or more.

Today we have a message for each other, a message for this desperate world gripped in its own hopelessness. Hope finally found its way through us, this resurrected body of Jesus. We are made alive in him!

Easter blessings,

Rev. Kim

Ministry Candidate ~ Lorrie Lowes



This has been a busy and exciting few months for me as I reach one more milestone on my journey to the ministry. In February I completed my Conference Interview Board Process – two and half days of interviews in Montreal with a psychologist and a panel of ministers! Then, at the

March Presbytery meeting here in Ottawa, I was approved and covenanted as a "Candidate for Ministry". I still have at least two years more of study to complete but that is on track so far!

All through this process, I have received incredible support from my faith family here at Bells Corners United Church. For the interviews in Montreal, you are required to bring along an accompanying person for support. It is an intense process and this person is there to listen to the interviews and help you debrief afterward. It's like taking a trusted family member with you to an important medical appointment. Nicole Beaudry accompanied me to the Montreal interviews. She was my "guardian angel" for

those three days. You can't imagine how calming and grounding it is to know that someone who really cares about you is sitting behind you (literally right behind!) while you bare your soul. This process went very well and the final report from the panel literally brought me to tears. Again, it was great to have Nicole there to share that moment!

There was one more interview following that with the Education and Students Committee here in Ottawa, and more paperwork to complete showing that I have completed some specific certification training requirements – and then a vote at Presbytery. The night of the March Presbytery meeting was a messy one weather-wise. It was in the middle of March Break as well, so the number in attendance was expected to be a bit lower than usual but I arrived at Glen Cairn United Church to find an entire row of smiling faces from BCUC who had come just for the 10 or so minutes of the meeting that included my covenanting!

Have I told you lately how much I love serving here at BCUC? This is a place where the concept of faith community and faith family is very much alive. I feel truly blessed to be here. Thank you all for the love and support you offer me on a daily basis. My heart is full and "my cup runneth over"!

Shalom, Lorrie



Please look for this special offering envelope in hard copies of the Bell Ringer or pick up one at the church to assist in the on-going work of the church.



Digital copies of *The Bell Ringer* are available on the BCUC website at www.bcuc.org
Editor: Nancy Meyers



Worship CE

During Advent and continuing on into Lent twenty-six participants from BCUC met on Monday evenings to discuss Gretta Vosper's book 'With or Without God'. The discussions were informative and stimulating under the capable guidance of our facilitator, Rev. Kim. As the theologian, Bishop John Shelby Spong, says in the foreword of the book, "This is a powerful book, a provocative book, a book that needs to be read and debated...I commend her penetrating insights into the new generations of spiritually aware and spiritually open people." I am grateful to belong to a congregation of "spiritually open people", who are open to learn and discuss. This is so important as we continue to grow together on our faith journey. David Donaldson

"A group of BCUC "seekers" explored and discussed Gretta Vosper's book, *With or Without God: Why the Way We Live is More Important Than What We Believe* in Advent and Lent. The book offers a provocative way of changing and challenging the landscape of the Christian faith by discarding dogmas and doctrines that are no longer relevant and embracing a new emphasis on just and compassionate living. It is the hope of the group to continue to meet regularly and study similar books that allows progressive thinking. The group welcomes new seekers, those who have questions and doubts about their faith and those who long to reclaim Christianity as a living, prophetic and life-affirming spiritual path."



Progressive Learning Circle

There is a new group in BCUC called the Progressive Learning Circle. The group was formed a few months ago and is committed to holding learning events and conferences that engage noted theologians, scholars, authors or motivational speakers who will address relevant topics of faith, history, theology, praxis and spirituality from a progressive perspective.

The first Conference will be held September 21 and 22 at BCUC with noted theologian Bernard Brandon Scott, the Darbeth Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Phillips Theological Seminary, University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who will discuss the Parables of Jesus in three sessions ([see page 12](#)).

See the bulletin board for the full program and registration, or contact the Registrar at plconference2018@gmail.com or the church at 613-820-8103

'**Two men and a stove**' will provide a **Spaghetti Feast** on Friday, April 27, 2018 in support of CODE (Canadian Organization for Development Through Education) with the goal of raising \$1000 to help CODE support global literacy. Tickets will go on sale in April! Prices: \$10 per person; \$5 child, 12 & under; \$25 family.

Sittings at 5:30 and 6:30. Please support the two men and a stove (aka: David Stafford and Neil Lowes) in their cooking endeavors and support the learning opportunities provided by CODE!

Lenten Project 2018



SOSA is inviting you to donate to two very worthy causes. The money collected will be divided equally to support the educational needs of each initiative. The first is to the Zambia Partnership for the purchase of laptop computers at the Chipembi School to which Hazel and Doyle Smith and Lorrie Lowes will be going. The second is to support Susan Young from our congregation who will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in July to raise funds for CODE (Canadian Organization for Development through Education) The group is doing this to draw attention to the need for resources to promote children's

literacy development in Africa, in the Caribbean and among first nations, Inuit and Metis in Canada. In both cases the funds collected will not be used for the personal expenses of the participants but for educational materials and awareness of the needs of both organizations. Envelopes for your donation can be found in the pews, on the table in the Narthex and in the church office. Make cheques payable to Bells Corners United Church with SOSA Lenten Appeal on the memo line. We will keep you informed of the amount collected.

Interfaith Bridge Building

We are working on meeting with our friends at the mosque for a couple of events this coming year. The first will take place in April, either Friday 6th April or Saturday 7th, and will be held at Jami Omar Mosque. The date will be announced shortly. The subject of the first educational event is 'Pilgrimage'. One of the Imams will talk about the pilgrimage to the Hadj that each Moslem is expected to do once in their life if they able. We had a very successful pot luck meal with the members of the mosque last year and will have another one this time on September 29th at the mosque. Please keep these events in mind.

West End Community Chaplaincy

Please mark your calendar for an opportunity to learn more about the current work of the Chaplaincy in the housing neighbourhoods of Foster Farm, Morrison Gardens, Pinecrest Terrace and Regina Towers. Our annual general meeting will take place on Sunday April 29th, 3.30 pm at Britannia United Church.

A warm welcome awaits you. Refreshments will be served. For more information please contact Peggy Aitchison 613-270-0478

Community Advertising

Stafford **I.D.A.** Pharmacy

1861 Robertson Road, Nepean
Beside Giant Tiger & National Bank in Bells Corners
613-726-7999

Your Community Pharmacy - We take care of you!

Mon - Fri 9am - 7pm
Sat 9am - 4pm
Sun 9am - 1pm

Free City-wide Delivery
Free Blood Pressure Measurement
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We will match your current dispensing fee

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www.staffordida.com

Community Advertising

Your Ad here!!

*If you're interested in advertising please
contact office@bcuc.org or Olly Chuchryk*

ochuchryk@rogers.com

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT

The focus for the Property Management Committee has been on the roof replacement and improvements to the CE Office. A roofing consultant was hired to advise us on the types of roofs available with rough estimates of their cost. These were presented to the congregation on March 4th and a decision was made to proceed with a modular metal roof on the Sanctuary and asphalt shingles on the CE Wing. We have met with Rory Gardiner and he has generously volunteered to act as project manager. We hope to be able to present a firm quotation to the congregation before the end of June. The decision was also made to close the skylight that has been a continuing problem but we expect to be able to create the same effect with LED lights. A decision about replacing the cross will be made once its condition can be assessed.

With the assistance of members of the Christian Education Committee, the CE office was cleaned up and unwanted items discarded. The original cupboards were replaced with IKEA units and a table, originally from the UP Room, now makes the room a good meeting area during the week and a classroom on Sunday morning.

The committee has begun investigating our options for replacing the gym floor and electric baseboard heaters in the classrooms. We regularly re-glue parquet tiles on the gym floor but we are losing the battle and the surface finish has been worn away in several areas. Also, two electric baseboard heaters are no longer working and due to their age, spare parts are not available. Once we receive advice and cost estimates, we will determine what can be achieved within the budget recently approved by the congregation..



The committee is glad to welcome George Young as our newest member.

Neville Reed, Ross Brown Co-chairs

Financial Management

The audited financial results of the Operating Fund for the year 2017 are summarized here and the approved 2018 Operating Fund budget is summarized below. Full details can be obtained from the church office.

2017 Results (Audited)

<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Actual 2017</u>	<u>Budget 2017</u>	<u>Actual 2016</u>
Revenues	\$ 402,658	\$ 412,100	\$ 397,073
Expenses	\$ 412,967	\$ 413,430	\$ 408,248
Surplus/(-Deficit)	(\$-10,309)	(\$-1,750)	(\$-11,175)

<u>Directed Funds</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
Committee Directed	\$ 11,450	\$40,860	(\$-26,272)	\$ 26,037
Building Mtc&Repair	\$ 11,442	\$ 6,299	(\$-1,533)	\$ 16,109

Capital Directed

Labyrinth/landscape	\$ 7,979	\$0	\$0	\$ 7,979
Audio/Visual	\$ 1,731	\$ 1,691	\$ 0	\$ 3,422
Roof Fund	\$ 74,250	\$ 27,555	(\$-1,951)	\$ 99,853
- Other roof donations		\$18,272		\$118,272 **

Notes:

** Donated as pledges, securities, and Endowment payouts

Budget 2018

The Congregation approved a 2018 General Budget at the Annual Meeting on March 4, 2018. This is a summary of the approved Operating Fund budget for 2018.

<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Budget 2018</u>
Revenues <i>Total projected</i>	\$ 415,400
Expenses <i>Christian Service Committees</i>	\$ 70,575
<i>M&P Salaries</i>	\$ 238,956
<i>Property Management – Operations</i>	\$ 61,300
<i>Mtc. & Repair (net of DFunds)</i>	\$ 11,000
<i>Administration, Presbytery, Other</i>	<u>\$ 48,147</u>
<i>Total all expenses</i>	\$ 429,978
Surplus/(-Deficit)	(\$-14,578)

The Board will work with committees to reduce the deficit by taking action to increase revenues, reduce expenses, attract new members, and use directed funds where possible.

Bill Johnson, Chair Financial Management

COMING SOON!!

A new website, to replace our current site, is in the final stages of development. The new look and approach is appealing for sure!

Check it out at: [New BCUC Web Site](https://hugh-frampton.squarespace.com/) <https://hugh-frampton.squarespace.com/>

SUNDAY NITE LITE

Celebrate **Earth Day** by coming to the next SNL program April 22nd.

7 pm at BCUC.

Camp Awesome

What will the theme for Camp Awesome be this year? In the past we have had Bible Surprises, Fruits of the Spirit, and Great Escapes from the Bible. No matter what the theme, there will be singing, crafts, and Bible Stories. Camp Awesome will be held at BCUC July 23-27, 2018. It is for children 4-12 years old. After that they are encouraged to be Leaders in Training and then counselors. Volunteers are always needed to keep sign in and sign out safe, as well as to prepare snacks. I would be happy to talk to you about how you can be involved. Tamara Glanville 592-4575



Ecumenical Breakfast



Presentation of funds from the Ecumenical Breakfast 2018, held at St. Martin de Porres this year.

Pictured left to right - Vickie Townson (CCBC), Charlene Nixon (St. Martin), Jocelyn Parent-Lewis (Director of Community Resources, OCAPDD), Bev Wilcox & Nancy Wiles (BCUC).

Photographer Sam Paquet (Chairman of this year's breakfast), Absent - Julie Gant (both from St. Martin)

Funds will purchase a Garden Shed and build a raised garden bed for use by persons in wheelchairs, between the 2 residences at Silver Spring Farm, Bells Corners.

Many thanks, Nancy Wiles

Opportunities for Recycling

1. Eye glasses: For over 25 years Lens Crafters associates and Independent doctors have given their time to OneSight to provide vision care to more than 9 million people in 41 countries from North America to Indonesia. So please don't throw those unwanted glasses away. Instead bring them to church and SOSA will take them to the local Lens Crafters business.

2. Stamps: Oxfam's Stamp Out Poverty Programme has raised over \$300,000 to alleviate poverty in third world countries since its inception in 1980. Used stamps and envelopes are sorted by volunteers and then sold to collectors. Any Canadian or foreign stamps are acceptable but especially commemorative ones. The whole envelope should be saved if there is a clearly defined town postmark, otherwise cut them from the envelopes, leaving a margin all round. Contact person Desna Sulway delivers them periodically to the Ottawa office of Oxfam.

3. Pop-can Tabs: The better quality of the aluminum in the tabs means that it has a higher value when separated from the cans. Jeff Stoate takes them periodically to a scrap metal dealer and the money raised credited to the UP Group. **Please note** that Campbell's Soup labels are no longer collected for school supplies as Campbell's has closed the programme.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Spring Concert
BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
Come hear our talented
CHOIRS – VOCALISTS – INSTRUMENTALISTS
& SPECIAL GUESTS
Sunday May 6th 2018 at 7:00pm



Spring Garage Sale

Saturday May 12, 9 am – 1 pm

As you do your spring cleaning please set aside things you no longer need for the Garage Sale. All the usual sales areas including Books, CD's, DVD's, Children's toys & games, Furniture, Good used Women's & Children's clothing, Plants (indoor and outdoor) and Sporting goods, as well as Household items, will be offered for sale. Scouts will also be offering an e-waste opportunity on the day. If you have an idea for any other sales areas please let us know.

If you need donations picked up, please contact coordinators, Bob & Ellen Boynton, 613-828-3820 or eboynton@rogers.com. Things we cannot accept

include: window blinds, mattresses, carpets, curtains, drapes, sofa beds, bed frames, closet doors, microwaves, computers, monitors and printers or out of season sports equipment. In the books sales area, please don't donate encyclopedias, magazines or textbooks.

If you can help with any of the sales areas, please contact the Boynton's. It's a fun day of fellowship and fundraising! Watch Sunday bulletins in coming weeks for further details.

PLC A PROGRESSIVE LEARNING CIRCLE EVENT
PARABLES OF JESUS

with

Bernard Brandon Scott

Darbeth Distinguished Professor of New Testament
Phillips Theological Seminary,
University of Tulsa, Oklahoma



September 21 -22, 2018
Bells Corners United Church
3955 Old Richmond Road, Nepean, K2H 5C5

Registration Costs

Full Event - \$75

Early Registration - (by July 31st) - \$65

Student (with Student ID) - \$35

Single Lecture - \$40 (please indicate which session)

Refreshments provided: Coffee, Tea, Juice, Water, Muffins

Session 1(Friday night): Jesus' New World in Parables

What is a Parable: The Leaven as a New Revelation of God

Session 2 (Saturday): The Good Samaritan: Breaking the Boundaries

Session 3 (Saturday): The God of Jesus

Progressive Learning Circle is a Learning Ministry of Bells Corners United Church
www.bcuc.org



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