



Bell Ringer

Bells Corners United Church

Volume 17, Issue 1

FALL

October 2018



Oct 28 – All-Ages Homecoming Sunday /Dedication of the New Roof/ Potluck Lunch. Please invite your family and friends! Coffee available before and after the service. Bring your mug and yes, you can drink coffee in the sanctuary during the service!

Sermon: "Seeing with New Eyes" (Mark 10: 46-22)

Nov 4 – Zambia Sunday / All Saints Sunday

A time to listen and reflect as Lorrie, Doyle and Hazel share their experience of the Zambia Partnership Visit in May 2018.

Nov 11 – Remembrance Sunday/Veteran's Breakfast

Sermon Focus: "Everything She Had" (Mark 12:38-44)

Nov 18 – Celebrating Youth and Children Sunday / All-Ages Service

Theme: "How Can We Keep From Singing?"

Nov. 25 - Reign of Christ

Sermon: "Take Heart, It Is I!" Mark 6: 45-52



Fostering intergenerational interaction, seeking and expanding partnerships with community and faith-based groups, and engaging young families at BCUC!

Contact Erin or Jordan Berard

(jordan.berard@sympatico.ca)

United Church of Canada 2019 Calendars:

Copies of the 2019 Canadian Church calendar, United Church edition, are available from the church office for \$6 each. Enjoy images of United Churches from across Canada as you go through the next year. ❖



Whatcha UP to?

Our very active Youth Group ~ UP (United People)

By: Kim & Alex Culley, Coordinators of Youth Group

UP Group has started! We started later this year than normal but now we are back in the full swing of things. Below are our planned upcoming events but we are always looking for ideas for new outreach and activities. Alex and I are always open to new suggestions so please feel free to come and speak with us before/after church or through email at akculley@rogers.com. (Our photos are in the church directory if you need. We are also known as Lily's parents)

Also, please reach out to us if you know of a youth that would like to join our group, we are a welcoming group and open to new members.

Sunday November 11th: Veterans Breakfast

Thursday November 15th: 'Baking with Ruth' for Christmas Bazaar

Saturday November 17th: Christmas Bazaar

Saturday November 24th: Escape the Diefenbunker

Saturday December 15th: UP Christmas Party

We would also like to express our gratitude for all the support the congregation gives the youth each year. We would like to highlight the monthly can and bottle collection that Ruth and Ian Howes organize at the end of each month. The money raised by the bottle collection is donated to the youth fund which allows us to continue to have our program and events run. The whole congregation helps by donating their cans and bottles and we appreciate all the effort and collecting. Thank you from all the UP group.

By the next Bell Ringer issue we will have participated in some events and will update the congregation on our fun.

Kim and Alex Culley ❖



Christmas Music Concert
Sunday December 9th – Time: 2:30 pm

*Please join us for an afternoon of
seasonal choral music, and individual
performances.*

- *Special guests*
- *Refreshments to follow*
- *Free will offering*

Music director: Abe TeGrotenhuis

**IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO
START THINKING ABOUT
CHRISTMAS!**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 17th

9:00-1:00PM

***By Co-conveners: Mary Jones,
David Stafford***



Bells Corners United will once again hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 17, between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, in conjunction with the other churches on 'Church Row', Christ Church Anglican and St. Martin de Porres Roman Catholic. This is the major fundraiser of the year and we are looking forward to greeting you as you arrive!

We are looking for helpers to set up and take down tables, volunteers to staff the boutiques, and donations of gently used women's clothing, children's toys, baking, preserves, and books. Two Men and A Stove will provide coffee and muffins until lunch time, when the chili and soup come out.

There will be NO New To You table this year, but items for the Silent Auction are needed and will be welcomed. Come on out to contribute however you can: move tables; sell stuff; buy stuff and stuff yourselves at lunch! Come out to support this major fundraiser for BCUC. Questions? Call the Co-conveners - Mary Jones, 613-828-9759 or David Stafford, 613-592-0296.

COFFEE AND FRIENDS: Looking to meet friendly people, learn things and experience good conversation. Drop in at the church's Main Hall Thursday mornings for a morning of lively, fun conversation on different topics and tea or coffee sometimes we even have cookies! We meet in the Main Hall at BCUC at 9:15 am. We have different topics each week such as show and tell, Christmas party, movies and book reviews, and everyone is welcome! If you have questions please contact Bev Wilcox at 829-1180.



SPRING EVENT /MUSICAL Plan to be a part of our event in late April! Preparations will begin in earnest in January 2019. We will need singers, musicians, actors, artists, set designers and technical folk who are willing to dedicate the time to attend planning, construction and rehearsals. More details will be forthcoming but speak to Abe if this is something you want to be a part of. It's bound to be a lot of fun with lasting memories for all!



FALL FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES:

Please support these upcoming fundraisers with all proceeds going to the enhancement and continuation of our community and international outreach.

Christmas Bazaar: November 17, 9-1pm

Vendors Market: December 8, 9-2pm

Christmas Music Concert: December 9, 3pm



Check out the ever changing **ART WALL** at BCUC! Artwork of our church family is shared here for all to enjoy and appreciate. The Communications Committee will change the display several times a year, and welcomes art from all ages, as we celebrate the many gifts and talents God has given us. The criteria is simply that it is flat and will fit into the frames for protection and hanging. Fabric and photography, as well as drawings, paintings, etc. are appropriate. For more information, or to contribute your work, please contact cc@bcuc.org

Seasonal Thoughts and Prayers!



A Homecoming Message

“No Place Like Home-Church!”

Dear friends,

The spectacular season of changing colours and falling leaves is upon us. Soon we will gather joyfully for Homecoming Sunday! Continuing a tradition that started in 2015, BCUC will celebrate its 3rd All-Ages Annual Homecoming Sunday on October 28th. This year, the highlight is the dedication of the \$260,000 new roof that was completed in early fall.

The Homecoming is a gathering of current and former members and adherents of BCUC. It began as a direct result of the EDGE visioning process in 2015 to focus intentionally on young families. A small musical band was put in place where upbeat and reflective songs were offered. Coffee/Tea was served before and after the service and yes, people were able to bring in their cups into the sanctuary while service was going on. Being All-Ages, the service was “power pointed” from top to bottom showcasing photo slides for everyone to enjoy. And after the service, a potluck lunch awaited the people in the main hall where conversations were shared and friendships kindled. After its huge success, the Worship and Christian Education Committee recommended that an annual Homecoming be celebrated on the last Sunday in October.

There are many things to celebrate at BCUC. Wonderful and inspiring events and occasions have happened and continue to happen in this place. We have regular Sunday and special services, baptisms and weddings, communions and celebration of life services. We gather for concerts and dinners, bazaars and learning events. We take pride in the diversity of our community and honour the vulnerable and the aging. The young ones have a safe place to call their own where their voices are heard and their presence is celebrated. We respect our neighbours no matter what faith or colour or ethnicity they come from. The church building is a hub for community groups and organizations. There is a place for everyone, young and old, at BCUC! As your minister for five years (and counting), I continue to witness the growing love and friendships among you and I delight in your enthusiasm, energy and faith that inspires me in my ministry.

There’s an attitudinal shift in the September-October-November air, a readiness to take on new challenges and to learn new things, and I pray all the folks of BCUC will embrace it. We have much work to do together and celebrate in the coming months. We continue to look forward to discerning the kind of church we are called to be in the coming years. I will be your guide, your companion, your friend in these tasks. I will be present, available, and steadfast in this time of hope and renewal. But, you know I can’t do it alone. Please join me with goodwill and open hearts. There’s no place like home-church!

Blessings for a wonderful journey,

Rev. Kim

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES

You will find special offering envelopes, in the Narthex-or with a hardcopy of the Newsletter, that are available as an additional method of supporting the work and ministry of Bells Corners United Church. Thanks so much!

ABOVE BOARD!

Updates from the Church Board

By: Jordan Berard Chair, BCUC Board

How fitting it is that we are celebrating and dedicating our new roof in the season of Thanksgiving and Homecoming at BCUC!

Indeed, our new roof is a very tangible, very visible reminder of all that we have to be grateful for. When I think of what this new roof represents, two things come to mind: at the most literal level, the roof is a physical structure that protects us from the elements and that envelops and contains all of the warmth, comfort, and safety that I associate with home. Perhaps more importantly, the roof is also a symbol of this congregation's commitment to the long-term future of BCUC (it's made of metal after all!). For both of these, I am very grateful, as I know we all are.

On behalf of the Church Board, and the congregation as a whole, I want to extend sincere thanks to all the members of our congregation who have been involved in the roof project in one way or another. Thank you to the Raise the Roof and Property Management Committees for their work in planning, organizing, and overseeing the project. Thank you to Rory Gardiner for serving as our Project Manager. Thank you to the members of our congregation who so generously loaned the financial resources required to cover the payments for the roof.

And thank you to each and every one of you for continuing to organize and support the many fundraising events that will help us ensure that we can pay back these loans in a timely manner.

Most significantly, I think the roof is a reminder of what we can accomplish as a congregation when we work together!

Jordan Berard

SERVICE, OUTREACH AND SOCIAL ACTION

The Three Objectives

By: Clarke & Ellie Topp

Is SOSA Off-Balance?

The SOSA committee has a three-objective title – Service, Outreach, Social Action. SOSA can be thought of as a three-legged stool. Let's consider how well-balanced is SOSA activity and consider if there is need for correcting the balance.

Service – BCUC has a stellar record of offering and delivering services to many societal problems and has been generous in its contribution to the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. BCUC was a founding member of FAMSAC in providing emergency food to those in need. In the past there has been strong involvement for many international projects including building a school in Lesotho and providing soy milk for children in El Salvador. Currently BCUC is part of Multi-faith Housing Initiative, a nationally recognized organization providing affordable housing and limited advisory service. The congregation strongly supports the Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy in the low income housing area of west Ottawa.

Outreach – Effective outreach involves learning about a need and developing ways that can assuage it. Research and analysis is a fundamental step in providing a path for meaningful and appropriate service. In the 1980s, SOSA spent over two years in outreach to the Foster Farm housing group before we could describe to BCUC how the church could assist and led to the development of OWECC, which continues today.

Social Action – It is more difficult to assemble examples where BCUC has maintained involvement in social action because of the complexity of most social issues and the difficulty of evaluating the merits of alternative policies. Generally, United Churches have shown reluctance at the local level to be involved in what is described as social action, but have given generous support to nationally organized specific

campaigns. The United Church of Canada was an integral part of the social action movement which inspired Canada's Medicare. The Bible contains abundant references where adherence to faith includes responsibility for our neighbours. Is it time for all faiths to join and take increased action toward impartiality?

We Want Your Help

The SOSA Committee would like to see a restoration of balance in SOSA activity with BCUC and we need your help. Below are several questions on which the SOSA committee would welcome your comments and suggestions.

1. Would you support and attend SOSA arranged learning events with the intent to discover what is involved with social action and explore some of the possibilities in a faith setting?
2. If SOSA held workshops on social action for faith groups would you participate?
3. If you can't say "yes" to the earlier questions would you be willing to share your feelings in small group setting with SOSA and others?

Please send your responses to Clarke and Ellie Topp at clarketopp@gmail.com or via 613-828-0863.

FINANCE UPDATE!

Summary

By: Bill Johnson, Chair Financial Management

Financial Summary - October 2018

This table presents the unaudited financial status of the BCUC Operating Fund on September 30, 2018.

<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Sept 2018</u>	<u>Jan-Sept 2018</u>	<u>Jan-Sept 2017</u>	<u>Budget 2018</u>
Revenue	\$ 32,573	\$ 305,225	\$ 281,017	\$ 415,400
Expenses	\$ 41,230	\$ 345,347	\$ 312,738	\$ 429,978
Surplus/(-Deficit)	\$ (-8,657)	\$(-40,122)	\$(-31,721)	\$(-14,578)

The church programs were back in full swing in September and expenses were higher. Revenue was higher than a year ago but we still had a deficit for the month of September.

Please keep the needs of the Operating Fund in mind as you plan your donations for 2018!

Vendor's Market

Saturday Dec. 8th from 9-2pm

Another opportunity to find one of a kind gifts for those special people in your lives! Funds raised will go toward, Mission Exposure. Come and join us for multi-vendor one stop Christmas shopping!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 613 820-8103



SNL

Sunday Night Lite is back!

Sunday November 11 at 7 pm join us for a "Remembrance" themed evening of music and an interesting talk on relationships during the War years. Tea/coffee at 6:30, and following the program.



PROGRESSIVE LEARNING CIRCLE (P.L.C.)

The PLC committee which organized the recent lecture series with Professor Bernard Brandon Scott, on the weekend of September 21-23, was pleased with the attendance of 76 individuals.

Brandon Scott coped extremely well with the power outage (due to the tornado) since we were without lighting, sound system and the use of power point. He presented an excellent series of lectures on 'The Parables of Jesus', providing new insights and meaning. We appreciate his efforts in travelling all the way from Oklahoma to join us.

The PLC committee has taken note of the evaluations and suggestions for further educational events and is hoping to offer another weekend event next Fall. Stay tuned as further information becomes available!

The members of the committee are: Rev. Angela Bailey (Chair) David Donaldson, Ian Howes, David Stafford, Clarke Topp, Ellie Topp, and Rev Kim Vidal.

Thanks to all for their endeavours to make this recent event so worthwhile, despite the weather!

PASTORAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE COMMITTEE

Learning Opportunities

By: Suzanne Ogden

As we enter a new season, we find ourselves blessed with learning and educational opportunities to enhance the compassion and support we provide to those in our circles of care. One of our newer team members is currently undergoing a six week training course with the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Group at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Woodroffe. As this is being written, plans are underway and we look forward to hosting guest speaker Kim McDonald from the Nepean Rideau Osgoode Community Resource Centre who will be addressing the topic of Elder Abuse and how to recognize and deal with this issue.

On Tuesday November 6 from 1-3pm or 7-9 pm at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, some of our committee members and supporters will be attending a learning session with the Ottawa Pastoral Training Group on the topic of The Impact of Suicide on Families.

And on Friday November 9th, Tara Cohen from the Champlain Hospice and Palliative Care Program will be coming to BCUC to deliver a workshop on bereavement support and developing group facilitation skills. Looking ahead, we will be planning our Blue Christmas Healing Tea and Service, to take place mid-December. Stay tuned for more details on this.

As always, many thanks to the dedicated service of our team members and trusted support of our office staff, Ellen and Nancy, UCW ladies, Bookkeeper Carolyn, and interested and involved members of our congregation. Yes, that might just be you! Please contact us if you know someone who would like a friendly visit or phone call, or if you are interested in joining our team.

Warm autumnal blessings to you and your loved ones!

RAISE THE ROOF COMMITTEE

We did it

By: Bert Donnelly – 613-435-8152; Doug MacKechnie – 613-828-5213; Bob Boynton – 613-828-3820; Gordon Ritcey – 613-828-5008; Ruth Howes – 613-726-9540; Ken Kim – 613-271-8367

The roof replacement is finished! The Property Management Committee has worked diligently over the past four years to oversee the completion of the project. We were blessed once again to have congregation member, Rory Gardiner, as Project Manager. Thanks to the generosity of some of our congregation members, who advanced funds, totaling \$42,000, in the form of loans or promissory notes, we were able to meet all of the contract draws. These funds will be paid back over the next three years, therefore the fundraising continues!

Please continue to support the “Raise the Roof” with cash donations, stock securities, pledges, loans and through fundraising initiatives such as **EBATES**.

THE FUNDRAISING THERMOMETER WILL SHOW OUR PROGRESS!



Roof Fundraiser with Ebates.ca!

Sign up for a new account at [EBATES.ca](https://www.ebates.ca) and make a minimum purchase of \$25. You will get a \$5 bonus rebate on your purchase and BCUC will get \$10 for each new referral.

EBATES.ca is a great website that actually **pays you Cash Back every time you shop** online and works with over 750 stores that ship to Canada including Indigo.ca, Amazon.ca, eBay, Old Navy, Forever21 and Groupon! Check this link on the [BCUC.org](https://www.bcuc.org) web site for direct access and happy shopping!



Volunteering is a great opportunity to give back to your community, learn new skills, meet interesting people, gain career-related experience, and just have fun! [Harmer House](https://www.harmerhouse.ca) is a non-profit senior's supportive housing building in Bells Corners. If you would like to become a volunteer and make a difference in your community and gain experience, then this is the place for you!!

We are currently replacing our building elevator during the months of October, November and December. Due to the work being performed, it might be difficult for some of our residents to get their walking support devices (canes or walkers) and/or belongings up and down the stairs. As a volunteer, we are looking for friendly, compassionate and honest

volunteers willing to help our residents transporting their walking aids and belongings.

We are in need of friendly, compassionate and honest volunteers every weekday, Monday to Friday, for the following peak hours and you can sign-up for multiple shifts/days:

- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

If you want to give back to the community and if you enjoy working with seniors, we would love to get your application! Please email us at assistadmin@harmerhouse.ca

Contact Kate or Jessica

613-726-8882 Ext: 222



"The Blessing of the Animals Service took place on Sunday, October 21st at 2 pm in the Main Hall, attended by a dozen people with their pets and animal friends. The service was led by Rev. Kim and Erin Berard on the piano."



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