



Bell Ringer

Bells Corners United Church

Volume 16, Issue 2

December

Advent 2017

SOSA News:

Inter Faith Bridge By: Alison Bridgewater

On Saturday 4th November the Inter Faith Bridge Building Committee hosted the second event with the Jami Omar Mosque entitled Substance Abuse in Youth and Family Values in Christianity and Islam. It was attended by about eighty people mostly from BCUC and the Jami Omar Mosque. Dr. Ferrukh Faruqui and Dr. Andra Smith gave excellent presentations on depression, addiction and the effects of marijuana in youth. This was followed by Rev. Kim Vidal and Imam Owais Tilly presenting family values in both religions. It was a celebration of our similarities and not our differences. The meeting offered the opportunity to ask each presenter questions. It was followed by a social time with samosas donated by the ladies of the mosque and juice by BCUC. It was a very successful evening.

If you wish to read the presentations of the first two speakers please let me know at alison.bridgewater@gmail.com ❖

Advent Project: By: Alison Bridgewater

Next Sunday marks the beginning of Advent a time of year during which we prepare for Christmas and support the annual Advent Project. This Advent, Service Outreach and Social Action (SOSA) is asking you to support Hein House at the Ruddy Shenkman Hospice which was recently opened in Kanata. Hein House is the residential wing of the Ruddy Shenkman Hospice named for Roly Hein who before his death in 2013 campaigned tirelessly for a hospice in the west end of Ottawa.

As our population ages, more and more people will need support on their palliative and end-of-life journey. Hospice care is more effective for our health care system yet the government only makes up roughly half of the operating budget. The hospice must raise \$2 million annually to continue to provide services at no charge. Several months ago Rev. Grant Dillenbeck of Stittsville United Church

challenged several United churches in the west end of Ottawa to work together to raise \$50,000 by the end of March 2018. We are, therefore, asking for a financial donation this advent rather than a donation of practical gifts which is what we usually ask for at this time of year. I know that the UCW plans to make a donation and that the proceeds of the choir concert on December 10th will also be donated to this project. Cheques for the donation should be made out to BCUC and marked for The Hospice. Envelopes have now been placed in the pews in readiness. Hein House is a 12,592 square foot addition to the Ruddy Shenkman Hospice on the corner of Maple Grove and McCurdy in Kanata. It offers 10 hospice rooms and two short term respite rooms providing 24 hour quality hospice care. Each room has a private bathroom and access to the outdoors where there are beautiful gardens. Loved ones are able to stay overnight and sit in quiet places where they can rest and refresh. I was at the opening and can attest to the fact that it is a beautiful place.

Please support this project. Thank you.



This envelope is available at the Church or in your print copy of the newsletter. Please support the Work and Mission of Bells Corners United Church!

Kim's Advent Message



Advent Message: "Listen, God is Still Speaking!"

Dear Friends,

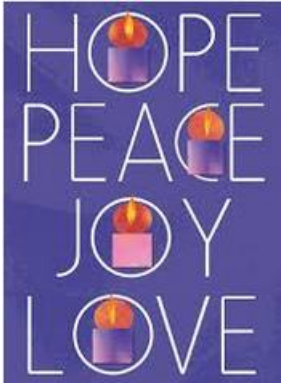
A few years ago, I had the opportunity to attend the Queen's School of Religion's Annual Theology Conference and the theme of that gathering was "God is Still Speaking!" As we enter the season of Advent, a good question to ask ourselves is this: "How is God speaking to me in this season?" Advent, as we know, is a time of preparation, of anticipation, of waiting for the coming of the Christ Child. We look forward to the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us, the gift from the stable, the One who will anoint us with the oil of hope, peace, joy and love. In the moment of waiting and preparation, the frenzy of Christmas will enter in and maybe even take over our hearts and minds. I'm sure shopping and gift-giving, not to mention the hosting of dinners and parties top the list of "what to do" in this joyous occasion. But what matters most is our desire to put Christ first in all the things we do. As the famous adage puts it: "*Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season!*" Let God speak to us - in our quiet moments, in our busy and frantic schedules, while doing house chores, grocery-shopping, driving to work places, as we clear the snow on our driveways, or those times when we feel lonely or messy. Let God's voice nudge us and wake us up to getting ready for Christmas!

Advent can be overwhelming to many of us, perhaps even puzzling. This year I will intentionally move away from the usual stories and images we hear each Sunday in Advent. The lectionary readings we read right up to Christmas have nothing to do with a young pregnant Mary, a disconcerted Joseph, host of angels, shepherds in the fields, and a manger waiting in a lonely, cold stable with animals surrounding it. Instead we will hear passages from the book of Isaiah who will challenge us in understanding the God of Jesus: the God who disturbs, the God who comforts and the God who hides. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday School under the leadership of our Congregational Designated Minister, Lorrie Lowes, will engage us with a Christmas pageant, a retelling of the nativity story. A communion service by intinction on Christmas Eve will gather families and friends in celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. In addition to these worship services, an Advent study group will endeavour to discuss and reflect on Gretta Vosper's book, *With or Without God* based on Vosper's argument that if the church is to survive at all, the heart of faith must undergo a radical change. As this Advent season unfolds in quiet darkness, we invite you to join those who have experienced loss of a loved one, a pet, a job, good health or a relationship. If you have suffered such a loss or a change in your life circumstances that may weigh heavily on your heart, you are invited to come to the healing tea followed by a service of hope and renewal and labyrinth walk which will be held on December 13.

Come and listen to God speaking to us in Advent and on towards Christmas. Let us celebrate the beginning of a new season of hope, the season of waiting, of wondering and expectation. Leave your cluttered busy life behind and prepare your hearts once again in welcoming the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ, whose birth brings us both joy and healing of the world.

Listen, God is still speaking!

Advent blessings to all,
Rev. Kim



Lorrie Lowes ~ CDM

Hurry up and wait!

This seems to be the mantra for this time of year. All the hustle and bustle as we wait for Christmas makes us feel like we are always in a hurry – to go somewhere, to bake something, to decorate the house, to shop and wrap presents... It's so easy to forget to stop and enjoy the wonders of the season.

The season of Advent marks the beginning of another church year and so this is a time to both look forward to the next year and to reflect on the one just past. We have so much to be thankful for and so much to celebrate in this BCUC family. We are a vibrant faith community in a time when many churches are struggling to keep their doors open. We have many generations participating in Sunday morning services and in other activities throughout the week. Many community groups use our building as well, and so it is always full of life and laughter. We are taking church out into the world through service projects, sing outs, Seniors Residence church services, and our M&S givings. Our Youth and Young Adults are remaining connected to the church through the UP group, attendance national United Church Youth Events, and Global Mission Exposure visits. We are reaching out to our Muslim brothers and sisters with Interfaith Bridge Building activities. Our music program under Abe and Erin is spectacular. We may need a new roof and we may have our struggles, but we have so many blessings! We need to take time to celebrate those things that make the struggles all worthwhile.

Life at BCUC is especially busy at this time of year! To the usual meetings and services and fundraisers, we add the Christmas Bazaar, the Christmas Concert, a Healing Tea and Contemplative Service, Wreath Making, an Advent Book Study... it's enough to make us tired just thinking about it! But please, make sure you take the time to enjoy, to wait with excitement, and to feel the blessedness of this time. "Keeping Christ in Christmas" means so much more than giving gifts and sending greetings. It is a time to celebrate the gift that came to our world more than two thousand years ago in the form of a baby boy who grew to become a revolutionary teacher and who did amazing things to change the way we view this world. While you "hurry up", don't forget to take the time to also "wait" with contemplation on the awe of this gift to the world.

Wishing you the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of this holy season,

Lorrie

Service of Healing and Hope

The Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team of BCUC invites you to our annual **Service of Healing and Hope on Wednesday, December 13th**. The evening will begin with a Healing Tea at 5:00pm in the main hall, with guest speaker Judith Campbell. Judith, a long time friend of BCUC, is a teaching Reiki practitioner and author of several books on wellness: *energywellness*, *I Brake for Butterflies*, *The Caregiver's Companion*, and *Walking Between Worlds*. She also volunteers at Hospice Care Ottawa as a Complementary Therapist.



The tea will be followed by a contemplative worship service at 6:00pm in the music room and the Labyrinth will be open for walking from 7:00pm.

For those who find Christmas a difficult time, we hope this evening will be the balm you need in this season of festive hustle. Please speak with Suzanne Ogden, Lorrie or Rev. Kim for more information.

Rendez-Vous 2017 Celebration!

Youth led service to celebrate the Rendez-Vous gathering for youth in Montreal this past August. Lively music and memories of the events were shared with the congregation!



'RAISE THE ROOF'

A special "THANK YOU" to the many people who have contributed to the 'Raise The Roof' project. We now have over \$ 115,728.77 contributed or committed. As the end of the year approaches and you are finalizing your charitable donations for the year please consider the 'Raise The Roof' fund. Donation envelopes are in the Church pews for your convenience. If you are considering donating shares from a company please complete your plans **before December 15th in order to qualify for a 2017 charitable** receipt and you will not be required to pay income tax on the capital gains of your donated security.

For further information please contact: Chair, Bert Donnelly: [613-836-8151](tel:613-836-8151) - 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



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- Run personal errands (groceries, drug store, etc.)
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Do you have a loved one at home or in a home care facility? Dedicare offers peace of mind visits and companionship to loved ones. Please call or email to set up your appointment today!

Marie Mayer
613-897-4410

Email: marie@dedicare.ca

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Jillian A. Chuchryk Roloff, B.A., J.D.
Barrister, Solicitor, & Notary Public

Wills, Powers of Attorney, Marriage Agreements,
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1580 Merivale Road, Suite 401
Nepean, ON K2G 4B5

Tel: 613-224-1621
jroloff@avsj-law.com

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SOSA Mitten Tree



For four Sundays during Advent season, beginning Dec 3rd, the SOSA Mitten Tree will be outside the office awaiting donations of mittens, hats and scarves. Items have been donated in the past to Bells Corners Public School, Bayshore Public School and the Family Shelter on Carling Avenue.

Shalom Room Renewal ~ Fundraising is Underway

The Shalom Room renewal will allow us to extend the use of this room for:

- A chapel for intimate services or meditation ~ Advent and Lenten reflections
- A family room prior to weddings, baptism or funerals
- A meeting room for small groups
- A Sunday School classroom
- A rehearsal room for Bell Canto & CGS Choirs
- To watch video presentations in a small group setting

The room will be equipped with:

- security cupboards to store various users' equipment
- new chairs and tables appropriate to the proposed uses
- improved lighting options
- audiovisual equipment



Fund-raising is being initiated by the Lectionary Study Group, which meets in the Shalom Room every Tuesday morning. During the Advent season and preceding the Christmas season, we will be selling Magnets, from the office or on Sundays, which can be affixed to your car, door, refrigerator, or elsewhere – the message is **“Keep Christ in Christmas”**. Your contribution of **\$5.00 per magnet** will go towards the Shalom Room renewal fund!

Christmas Music

With the Choirs of BCUC

Featuring

The BCUC Choir

Grace Notes, Men's Chorus, CGS, Bell Canto

&

Special guest performers

Sunday

December 10th @ 2:30pm

Free Will Offering

Free Will Offering from this concert will go towards the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



FAMSAC

Christmas Hamper Project: A sincere thank you for your continued support of this local mission. Your donations of food, cash, and assistance are appreciated. We were nicely settled into the new location at 2006 Robertson Rd. Unit #11 however had to move to Unit #8 which

had no water facilities so a washroom needed to be installed at extra expense. Clients are able to pick up and choose their food and are grateful.

We are now receiving requests for Christmas hampers. Our goal this year is to supply 225 hampers to needy families. Since our expenses have doubled this past year, having to pay rent etc., we are in need of financial assistance to meet this goal. In light of this we are hoping that your organization / office / family will contribute \$100 which will provide a family with food for a Christmas dinner (turkey, stuffing, veggies, and cake) as well as a week of meals. A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for each donation. We also refer children 12 years and younger to the Toy Mountain program. Please call 820-5428 if you require help, or if you know someone who would benefit.

Your assistance is needed for the preparation of these hampers. In order to make these jobs more orderly, each church is designated to have a specific number of volunteers.

Our schedule is as follows indicating the number of people that are needed from BCUC:

Monday, Dec. 18th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm; 10 volunteers to help with sorting the food from the schools

Wednesday, Dec. 20th, 9:00 -11:00 am; volunteers to load hampers into cars and many volunteers to do deliveries noon to 3:00 pm.

All these activities take place at St. Martin de Porres Church. If you and your family are able to help with this local mission, please sign the form at the Information desk. With your assistance and concern, many less fortunate families will have a Merry Christmas. Thanks Glenna Jackson. 828-8525

United Church Observer

Observer renewal time is here! Please support this award winning United Church magazine with your subscription. If you would like to renew or to begin a subscription, please watch for a table after worship on upcoming Sundays. You may also write a cheque for \$25 (the group rate) made out to Bells Corners United Church with 'Observer' on the memo line and place it on the offering plate or drop by the office with your payment. Deadline is December 24. Please consider giving a subscription as a gift. It is a stimulating magazine which covers a wide range of topics relating to our everyday lives. Information: Ellen Boynton - 828-3820 or eboynton@rogers.com

Canadian Church Calendar 2018: Copies of the calendar are available from the church office for \$6 each. Each month includes an image of a United Church from across our country. Help support the BCUC Operating Fund by purchasing your copy. Calendars make great gifts too!

Ecumenical Breakfast 2018

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, January 27, 2018 to be held at St. Martin des Porres. Eaters and workers will be needed! More details coming soon!

Christmas Bazaar

The Bazaar on November 18 was very successful again this year. It was a rainy day but we had many attendees. We want to thank all of the volunteers in the BCUC congregation who gave their time and efforts to make this happen. We had many children and youth volunteering this year so huge thanks to them! Their participation bodes well for the future of the Christmas Bazaar. New volunteers each year will make it an ongoing success. Mary Jones and Betty Graham



Advent & Christmas Services:

Season of Advent – we will begin at 9:45 am for Carol-Sing
Dec 3 – First Sunday of Advent / Celebration of Communion / Hope
Sermon Focus : “When God Hides” (Isaiah 64:1-9). Wear shades of green.
Dec 10 – Second Sunday of Advent / Human Rights Sunday / Peace
Sermon Focus: “When God Comforts” (Isaiah 40:1-11).Wear shades of blue.
Dec 10 – 2:30 pm The Music of Christmas Choir Concert
Dec 17 – Third Sunday of Advent / Joy / Wear shades of white or pink.
Sermon Focus: “When God Disturbs” Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Dec 24 – 10:00 am - Fourth Sunday of Advent / All-Ages Worship / Love
Sunday School & Youth lead us in a Christmas Pageant. Wear shades of red.
8:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service / Communion by Intinction
Dec 31 – 10:00 am – Joint Service with Glen Cairn United Church hosted by BCUC

*Please note that Sunday Dec. 31st will be a joint service with Glen Cairn United Church to be held at, BCUC at 10:00 am. Worship and CE Committee, with the blessing of the Board, have come to an agreement with Glen Cairn UC to have a combined/joint worship service on the first Sunday after Christmas.



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