



this issue

Making Masks at Emmanuel

Living with Racism

Locomotives at Lockdown

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

When I wrote the Editor's note for the winter issue of Inquiring Minds in March of this year, I never expected that at the end of June we would still be living with Covid 19 and entering the 16th week since we shut down so much of our daily life. Now we have had to readjust all of our expectations about our church and community and family lives. As they say, we are playing "the long game".

There has been a lot of discussion in the news and on social media about whether the church is "essential" and whether congregations should resume in-person worship. Some parts of the US allowed and encouraged church congregations to re-open at Easter for communal worship. In Canada and Ontario we have been very cautious about the idea of opening our church buildings. At Emmanuel our building will remain closed until August 31.

If you have items for publication, suggestions or comments, please send them to:
newsletter@emmanuelunited.ca

However, this raises the question of what it means for the church to be "open". On our Emmanuel sign one of the messages says: "The Building is closed: the Church is Open".

In this issue of our newsletter, we can see how busy and occupied our Emmanuel community is while we continue living with Covid. We are demonstrating how our church is both Essential and Open.

Phyllis MacRae, Editor

Jon Jones, Publisher



FROM BRIAN'S DESK

It looks like this will be the summer of staycations. I would love to go to PEI but they still require 14 days of self-isolation and even Sandra's home province of Manitoba requires a two week period of isolation for anyone living east of Terrace, Ontario: which means we are here for our summer holidays.

Before Jesus went off to preach in the 'neighbouring towns' he had a staycation. He went off early to a 'deserted place' and prayed. Which is really the best kind of summer holiday, whether you travel or stay at home; the kind where you feel ready to go back to work or to your fall routine with new energy and enthusiasm. That's what Jesus was doing in the deserted place; preparing for a fall preaching tour which I suspect he knew would be very exhausting.

The world around us is in such flux right now. Nothing is for certain. September could bring even more changes and rules and adaptations. We aren't even sure when we can all gather in the sanctuary again and have coffee and conversation in the Main Hall. Won't those be glorious Sundays? For now it's staycation.

I have seen more people out walking than ever before. The golf course on Monday has been jammed with everyone who has ever had so much as a remote interest in golf. I understand that camp grounds are filling up their reservations and Recreational Vehicles have never sold out like this spring/summer. And the new neighbour behind us is actually using their pool.

Whatever you decide to do this year on our community staycations may it be a time of reflection, re-energizing, a sacred and holy time in your life. And may you find peace in a time of chaos and uncertainty. With Jesus beside us we pray. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Brian



PASSAGES - SUMMER 2020

We remember the following members of our Emmanuel family who passed away this spring:

Phyllis Watts - 26 April, 2020

Harold Wayne Pointen June 4, 2020

Mary "Tony" Hawley June 14, 2020

Walter Terentiuk June 27, 2020



"Never build a higher wall. Always build a longer table."

Right Rev Gary Paterson, former Moderator of the United Church of Canada



PASTORAL CARE IN COVID TIME

Covid time for me has me at my desk - working about 3 hours a day, Monday to Friday, on the top floor of my home. My toolkit includes: internet, phone, computer, and various cards, transporting me out of my own life, and to another in this uncertain time. I call folks about once a week, and check in. For some people, who live in care homes, there is no phone, so I use the mail to send a note. In some care homes, the activity department will facilitate passing out printed packets/newsletters, that I forward in email. This is to maintain community. Our Pastoral Care team meets on Zoom monthly.

Another part of Pastoral Care has been Friday Coffee Chats on Zoom. These check-ins include various folks, some regulars, and others once in a while. A few seniors have taken me up on my offer to assist them getting to know Zoom by running a meeting while on the phone; always an adventure, and so gratifying when it works.

In early June, Dr Maggie Mamen, a local psychologist, visited the Emmanuel Zoom room to talk about Mental Health in Youth. There were about 10 people who "arrived" to hear the presentation. The PowerPoint from this presentation is available to anyone from Emmanuel who would like it; simply send me an email or call me.

One joint venture with Ellen Brohman from CD, is the pairing of families and seniors. We have 10 families who are partnered with seniors in what we are calling our Adopt-a-Senior program. Young people, guided by their parents, provide letters, notes, pictures, plants, and treats to seniors (without internet) from the congregation. So far it has been a positive experience on both sides. A quote from one family:

"As a parent, I also find it helpful to have real-life activities for the kids to do while I work. Many of the projects that they have been assigned for school feel like "make-work" projects, which are not very motivating. In order for me to be able to get my work done, we as a family need to agree on a set of activities to keep everyone busy in a constructive way. The kids can work fairly independently on finding crafts on Pinterest, doing them, writing the letters, etc. So, this is a great project to supplement their limited "home schooling" activities."

All in all, Pastoral Care is continuing at EUC. The scripture that comes to mind is: 1 Corinthians 12:5 *There are different ways to serve the same Lord ⁶, and we can each do different things.* Stay safe and have a happy summer.

Roxanne Delmage

Pastoral Care Provider



THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

THE FACE MASK PROJECT

The Emmanuel Face Mask Project started just before Easter. The CD committee decided to prepare Easter treat bags for the young Sunday School families and wanted to include a face mask for the grocery shopper in each family. When the public health experts announced that people should wear a mask when moving about in public areas, a small group of sewers started up production. Phyllis MacRae agreed to become the head of distribution. She also coordinated any donations of fabric that came to the team. In the early days none of us had access to elastic so the first masks were made with ties. However, various people dug around in the back of cupboards and elastic started to appear – many thanks to all those who were able to make such donations. Now that fabric stores have opened up it is much easier to acquire supplies. Over time we have reacted to feedback from mask recipients and have modified our sizes and fabric choices.

A team of people has formed to produce the masks: Joan Foster Jones, Jim Lamb, Roxanne Delmage, Clara Brownlee, Barbara Henderson, Christine Miles and Clarice Dewar. They have produced over 350 masks as of the end of June. Volunteer drivers, Keith Jeacle, Patty Henderson, Ellen Brohman, Roxanne Delmage and Christine Hywarren have helped deliver masks to people at home.



Clarice Dewar



Richard and Phyllis



Clara Brownlee



Roxanne Delmage and Family



To date we have distributed over 250 face masks to members of Emmanuel. Many people have been very thankful for these masks and donations of over \$1000 have been received by the church.

As requests have slowed down and our supply of masks is at a healthy level, we have made a donation of 60 masks to the Centre 507, the United Church supported drop-in centre at Centretown United Church. Scrub caps were also made for Kormassa Soriba's hospital team at the Ottawa Hospital. Kormassa donated some colourful African cloth to make the masks.

Some reminders about using your mask: Wash the mask after using, don't touch the front and wash your hands after removing. Some people like to add a filter in the space between the layers of fabric – not all masks are designed to accept this filter.

For the rest of the summer if you need masks contact Joan Foster-Jones at 613-656-9393 or joanfosterjones@gmail.com.

A big thank you to the production team, to those involved with distribution, to donors of fabric and elastic, and to donors to Emmanuel.

Joan Foster-Jones



Kormassa Boi and colleagues at the Ottawa Hospital



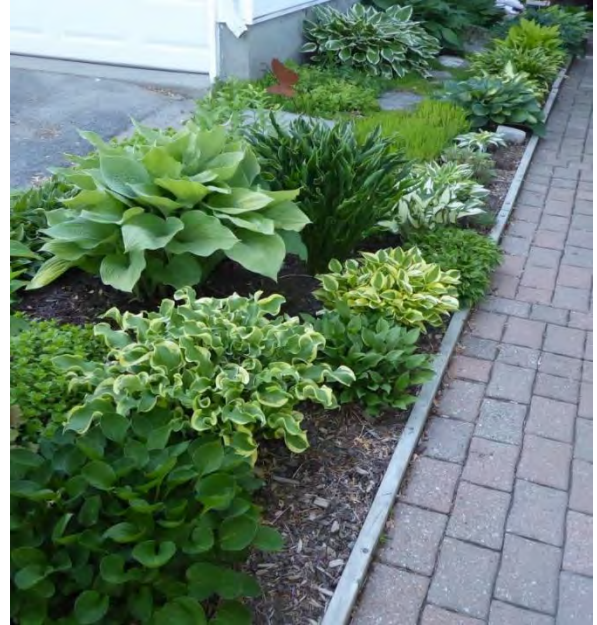
Jim Lamb



GARDENS OF EMMANUEL

Ann Frederking

My garden, on a city lot in Beacon Hill North, features a collection of around 200 varieties of hostas, mostly of the small-medium size range because of space limitations. Mixed in I've got quite a few other perennials including daylilies, Evening Primrose, Heucheras and Astilbe. In addition, I've got a reasonable vegetable garden with garlic, beans, tomatoes, tomatillos and some squash as well as dill and cilantro growing wild. But my main focus is the hostas and I've become a bona fide hostaholic and have spoken to five garden clubs about hostas.



SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



The Transition Team has continued to meet regularly to develop the next steps in the *Shaping our Future Together* initiative.

On Wednesday June 24, we hosted a Zoom meeting facilitated by Rev. Joe Ramsay to review the results of the previous discussions by the six small groups and three other Emmanuel groups between January and April of this year. Many thanks to the 25 people who took part in the discussion.

Everyone was provided in advance with a summary of the conversations to date grouped under three headings: Worship, and Faith-In-Action (Congregation-Focused and Community-Focused). The summary under each heading contained lists of things we value, observations made during the conversations to date, and ideas for new things to try out and learn from.

During the June 24 meeting we:

- reviewed the ideas, themes and suggestions gathered in the “harvesting” process from the conversations to date that has been carried out by the Transition Team;
- confirmed that this is what people heard in the small group discussions, to check whether any ideas have been missed which should be added; and,
- explored ideas about new and different things we might try out to further enrich our life at Emmanuel as we go forward.



The conversation on June 24 was very lively and engaged. Participants observed that it is important to put more explicit emphasis on our faith and spirituality in our worship and other activities. Breakout rooms were created where groups of 4-5 people shared their views. Some of the ideas raised were: the need to explore other faiths; greater engagement with the youth and young adults in the congregation; and, a desire to explore the experiences of the Black, Indigenous and Hispanic communities. Several safe-to-fail ideas were suggested that we could try out and learn from in the fall.

In the fall, we plan to invite the congregation to get together, either in person or by Zoom, to identify actions and activities that we would like to try going forward to further enrich the life of Emmanuel. To propel these actions and activities forward, we will share what we have heard on June 24 and will encourage the interest and participation by members of the congregation to develop these ideas further and give them a try in the fall.

Transition Team: Phyllis MacRae, Brenda Ashe, Rev. Brian Copeland, Chikwa Zahinda, Graham Campbell, Rev. Joe Ramsay.



GARDENS OF EMMANUEL

Joyce and Ross White

The picture on the right hand side is from our cottage, which is a wild garden. The other three are of our home in the city, both the vegetable and ornamental plots.





SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

The Search ...

“is a Marathon, not a Sprint”

The saying “It’s a marathon not a sprint”, is probably one of the most overused phrases, but I believe it speaks volumes about the search process for our new minister.

On Saturday, June 20th we, your Search Team, held our 16th meeting as a group since the process began in late 2019. We continue to meet regularly, via ZOOM, in the search for our new minister. We undertake review of new postings on ChurchHub of ministers from across the country who have indicated their availability for a new opportunity or pastoral charge.

We have broadened our search reaching out to ministers in the local church community who have the skills and qualities which we believe align with characteristics we are looking for in our new minister. We recognize that God sometimes brings people to a place for a reason, and that ministers might, in this time of reflection and introspection, feel God calling them to serve in a new way.

And just like the marathon, we continue to move forward, one stride at a time. We are now making preparations for the interview stage of the search process, drafting interview questions and ensuring we are ready when potential candidates are available to meet with us. The vacancy for our ministerial position will continue to be advertised, and the search sites will remain open for applications.

We thank you for your support and patience as we move forward. We have appreciated all of your feedback and input to date, and encourage you to continue to communicate with us if you know of someone who we should consider.

Many of you have received the latest version of the Broadview magazine and were unable to find the ad for our position which was to be included. We too were disappointed, but were informed that COVID-19 has impacted those in the print media as well and our ad will now appear in the September issue. We can assure you that the electronic version of the ad is, and has been, available on the Broadview website.

The phrase “It’s a marathon, not a sprint” often concludes with the following - “Pace yourself and finish Strong”. That is our commitment to you – to take the time, follow the process and find the right minister for all of us at Emmanuel.

Your Search Team,

Carol Campbell, Christina Clark-Kazak, Keith Jeacle, Korlu Soriba, Lynn Solvason, Malcolm Collins, Ron Squires, Shelley Ferrell, with Graham Campbell and Val Lines as M&P support.

Keith Jeacle



LIFE UNDER COVID-19

Koko Zahinda

Our lives have been transformed by the coronavirus pandemic the past few months. Idi, Sifa and I experienced alterations to our second semester of school when we had to transfer from in person learning to online school. As a graduate, I had to work harder than usual to keep up with the school material playing the student and teacher roles for the most part. Even though my courses were challenging, I managed to adjust to the new reality eventually with time.

Idi's soccer practices were cancelled and have been postponed to a later date this summer. At the moment, his regular soccer season will resume in August with practices starting this July. Luckily, Mom had already finished her studies in December so she wasn't academically impacted by the pandemic. However, there was little traffic in the job market and job opportunities were scarce for her. This pandemic rocked our lives but we managed to survive by the grace of God. Hope to see everyone soon.



Sifa, Mamy, Koko, Chrispin and Idi Zahinda with Bill Walsh, Principal of Lester B Pearson High School

Alexa in Covid Time

Me: Alexa: What's the weather today?

Alexa: Why? Where do you think you're going?



EOORC MOVES FORWARD

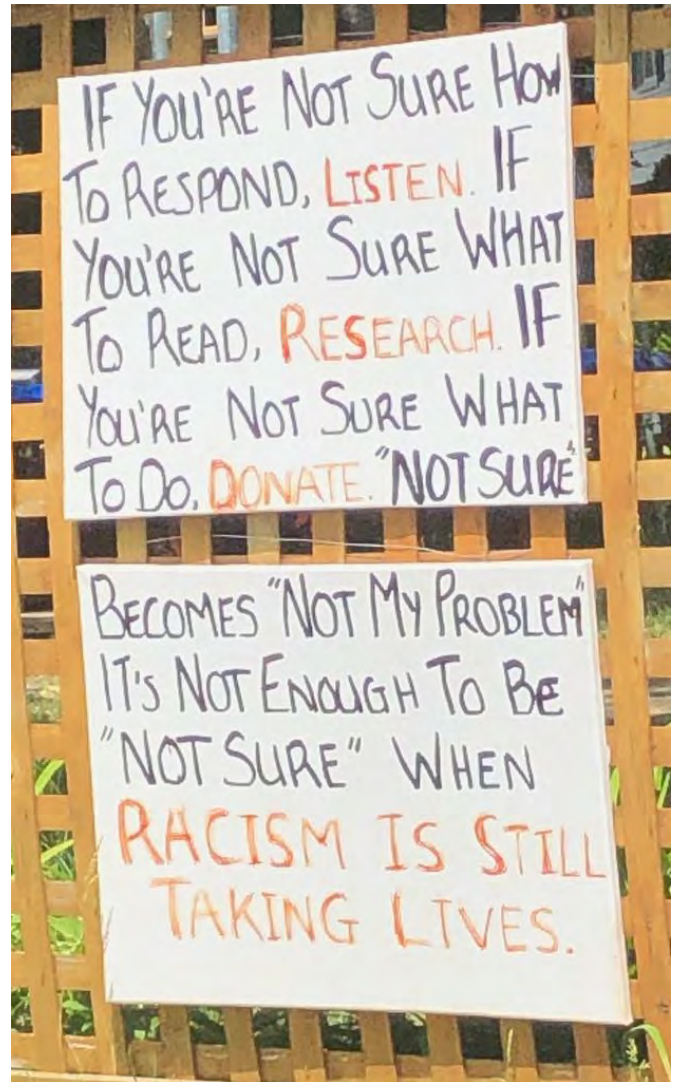
Like the rest of us, the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC, otherwise known as Eeyore) is progressing and even thriving under our changing circumstances.

The EOORC website (<http://eoorc.ca/>) is a major communications tool, and includes a bi-weekly newsletter to which you can subscribe.

On the EOORC website you will find many online learning and networking opportunities, as well as interesting articles which show how effectively we are the church. The Spiritual Care Hospital Ministry, the Right Relations Network, the Multifaith Housing program – all these and many more have taken innovative approaches to meeting objectives.

The fall annual meeting (October 16 -17, 2020) will be held online, as will Camp Awesome. A different experience, that is for sure, but one from which we can live and grow.

Evelyn Perkins



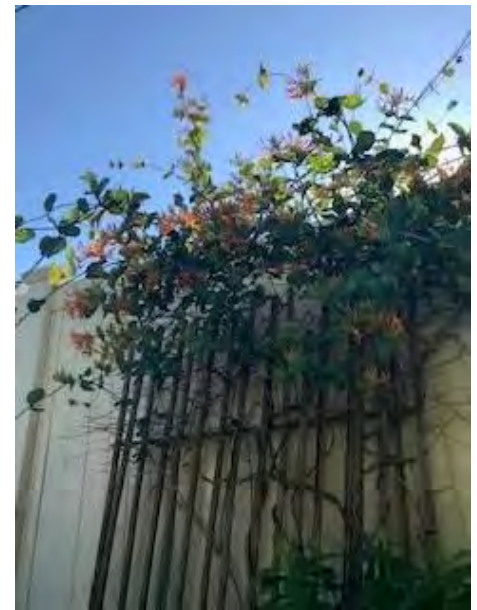
From a fence on Dauphin Ave., Elmvale Acres



GARDENS OF EMMANUEL

Carol Campbell

The gardens at 780 Wingate have evolved over the years after having served as a great playground for our boys for the first 10 years of our life on Wingate Drive. We have a 16x32 foot jellybean shaped cement pool, so that doesn't leave an awful lot of space to create gardens. I have a small pond in the back corner that has matured into a focal point over the years. A small Greek statue spews water into the pond providing some lovely background ambiance. I have a garden bench at the back also laden with pots of tomatoes and peppers which are doing extremely well this year. The remaining bed in the backyard is comprised of perennials which I was so pleased this year transitioned from one set of blooms to another, to my great satisfaction. I thought to myself "finally, I've got this right" until a neighbour suggested that "this year I was home to see it transition!" Ah yes, one good thing that has come out of this pandemic. My garden is enjoying a lot more of my attention and in turn I am enjoying being in it!



Appreciation for Rev. Catherine Gutjahr's Ministry at Emmanuel Marking Two Life Milestones

On May 24, we celebrated Catherine's ministry with Emmanuel during her final worship service with us before her upcoming retirement on June 30 2020.

This was also an occasion to celebrate Catherine's ten years in ministry. She has served congregations in Lively, Ontario, in Springdale, Newfoundland and Labrador, in Orillia at Forest Home United Church, and then with us since September 2016 at Emmanuel. We expressed sincere congratulations on Catherine's ten years in ministry.

We had hoped to celebrate Catherine's ministry in the sanctuary with everyone present but this was just not possible in the midst of the pandemic restrictions.

Catherine had carefully designed the worship service to reflect her passions and to share some of her favorite hymns. In keeping with her love of nature and the outdoors, the opening of the service was held outdoors under the pergola.



In her sermon, Catherine reflected on our journey together and how this service was an occasion to celebrate all aspects of our time together. She ended by saying that as we reflect on the last four years together and should look forward to what's ahead, always remembering that God is with us, beside us, and within us.

Her many contributions were highlighted in pre-recorded videos presented by:

- Nyla Garrett, celebrating Catherine's worship leadership during Nature Pilgrimages;
- Evelyn Perkins, with thanks for creative and inspiring faith studies;
- Robert Sims, expressing appreciation for support of Emmanuel's Affirming Ministry;
- Roxanne Delmage, with gratitude for Pastoral Care support; and,
- Jeannie Page, celebrating Messy Church, faith study and worship leadership.



During the service, Christine and Evelyn Hywarren shared the Children's story The Rainy Day and Dan Perkins sang I Am The Dream And You Are The Dreamer.

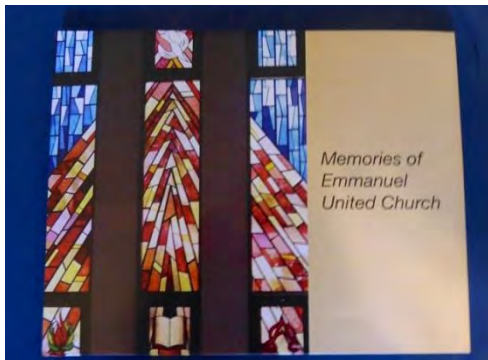
Following the congregational prayer, we expressed the congregation's appreciation for the many caring ways she has contributed to the life of Emmanuel since September 2016. We echoed what had already been heard: "We thank you for the love, care and grace with which you have worked with us and served us."



On behalf of the congregation, we presented Catherine with gifts of appreciation and mementos of her time at Emmanuel.

Her farewell card expressed good wishes and personal messages filling five insert pages.

A beautiful memory book created by Joyce White containing pictures and personal messages from over 60 people was presented as a memento of her time with us.



We also presented her with a book of poems by Carol Scott, entitled *of earth and ether and the turning of the tide*.



For her garden, we chose a forsythia, also called the Easter plant. We hope that when it blooms with vibrant yellow flowers next spring it will be a reminder of her time at Emmanuel.

A gift of funds donated by members of the congregation will help make Catherine's and Steve's travel plans a reality.



We offered Catherine a warm message about her memories of Emmanuel: *“We pray that you will hold in your heart warm memories: of times of fellowship with your Church families, times when you led and inspired others, times when you felt touched and inspired by another, and, times when you cared for a person in need. May God be with you as you look back on your accomplishments, and as you look forward to new adventures”.*

Catherine closed the service by offering her blessings and a touching farewell message: *“It has been a joy and a blessing to be part of Emmanuel United Church for the past four years. I have had many good experiences and good friendships. I have been blessed to walk with you in joy and sorrow. I will miss you all. Until we meet again”.*

We wish Catherine a very happy and fulfilling retirement.

Looking ahead, we are planning an opportunity for everyone to say good-bye to Catherine in person as soon as the pandemic restrictions are lifted and we are able to return to the building, hopefully in September.

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Lynn Boothroyd, Graham Campbell, Val Lines, Jill Maclean



Mothers' Day, 2020

Daffodils stand yellow in the cold.
New snow melts as morning shadows
slip aside. The sun and wind assess
the pluck of early doggie-walkers.

This year no congregation is allowed.
The faithful peer through windows
melding grace and high technology,
and quaver hymns about Whoever,

confident that every mother
somewhere in the ether recognizes
that their love is here and there
regardless of resurgent winter.

Ottawa, 9 May 2020

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GARDENS OF EMMANUEL

Patty Kavcic

The seasons of the garden:

Winter: I make use of the winter months, imagining each space with a refreshed look or an extension on the already established plots. The deer came to visit everyday in the back yard to eat apples we threw on the ground and to nip the tops off of the hydrangea bushes and other treats. The impatiens plant in my kitchen window was a 99 cent 4 inch specimen that I bought at the end of the gardening season last year. Through the winter it flourished with the light but not sun and the humidity from the cooking and steam from the tap. The flowers are double the size of a 50 cent piece if you remember what they looked like so many years ago.

My friends are very aware of my sacred place of nourishment, so donations begin arriving as soon as they see seedlings sprouting from their gardens where they already have a sufficient supply. Very few are ever turned away.



Spring: The first to create a wonderful display is a blanket of white and mauve violets that find their way into our salads as long as they bloom. The tulips, narcissis and daffodils follow. Soon there is a sea of forget-me-nots everywhere while sensation and antique lilacs tumble over the patio fence.



Summer: In the front bed I cherish my tree peony especially because when I bought the bulb, the sales clerk said it was in poor shape and they would not give me a warranty. To date I get 9 robust flowers both last year and this. The petals are like white onion paper with a flush of pink and pastel green in the centre. My yellow peony is just opening. Its heads are so heavy they have to be picked right away and enjoyed in a peony bowl indoors. All are treasures that I am so very grateful for.



The red one is also a peony, a Fern peony that is very antique looking, almost a cross between a carnation and a rose. The other photos are shots of beds. The clematis is a mix of two growing together.

Fall: In the fall the different grasses will perform their magic as they sway to the music of the wind. Glorious, Amen!



Patty and Frank Kavcic



Quarantine¹

Geraniums that perished over winter
shiver leafless in the east wind
on the sunny deck.

The farther woodland pinks
with maple buds or yellows
where the aspens tremble.

Only the scattered ash persist
in being dead², while spring is held
for two weeks in abeyance.

Grasshopper Hill, Ottawa, 1 May 2020

1 2020/05/01 during the Covid 19 pandemic.

2 victims of the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*),
like the coronavirus 19 an invader from China, present in
Canada since 2002.

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MY LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

Jeannie Page

On Sunday March 15th I led my last “live” worship service, at St. Paul’s United Church in Richmond. When I came in the door they offered me hand sanitizer instead of a handshake, but other than that it was a regular service with a full choir. It was the start of the Spring Break, and Jessica was excited to have a sleep-over at Emmanuel that night with the youth. We had no idea how our world was about to change. The next morning the youth were all sent home, as the call for social isolation had been made.

I usually embrace change. I like variety, and new challenges, but this is entirely different.

When we went into lockdown we thought it was temporary. It even seemed like a welcome respite. We dreamed of all the projects we would get done around home. I thought I would play piano more and write poetry and finally clean the basement. *Hasn’t happened yet.*

I did bake and cook more. Baked bread, banana bread and tried new recipes in the Instant Pot my son gave me for Christmas. And exercised, at least for the first few weeks. *Time to get back on that bike again!*

We were fascinated with Zoom at first, using it to connect with friends and family as well as work and church committees. But it didn’t take long to get Zoom fatigue, often attending 3 or more Zoom meetings in a single day.

In April my granddaughter turned 6, and we participated in our first birthday parade, decorating up our car with signs, streamers and balloons to drive by her house. My son’s birthday was a driveway visit.

I miss hugs from family and friends, especially on special days like birthdays.

We found a dairy that delivered milk to our doorstep, just like in the good old days; the Good Food Box that delivered fresh fruits and vegetables; and Montana’s who delivered fair trade coffee. *(All the necessities of life!)*

There were other novelties. I recorded my first virtual worship service during Lent. And now every Sunday morning Iain, Jessica and I watch the Emmanuel worship service from our living room couch. On Easter Sunday we participated in our first virtual at home communion service.

Sadly I have also attended two Memorial services on-line.

We have also watched a few “live” concerts, from the homes of musicians such as Suzie Vinnick, Ken Whitely, and James Keelaghan, and I’ve watched Pierre Breault do a couple of one man shows at the Gladstone Theatre on-line.



We were happy to support all the artists who found new ways to share their gifts virtually.

I miss live music. We usually go to at least one Folk Festival every summer.

Work changed a lot, though I was one of the few who was able to go into the office twice a week and work at home the other three days. This seems like a good balance that I will likely sustain for the next few months.

I miss work potlucks, in person meetings, and lunches out with my colleagues.

On the plus side, my garden is in the best shape ever. I'm grateful for plants and gardening advice from Ann and Colleen. And I'm thrilled with the new deck my nephew-in-law built for us and our new picnic table. Jessica loved having her birthday party out there in June, when we expanded our bubble to include my son Ben and his family and my sister Shirley and her friend Le. Jessica has also embraced posting themed artwork on the front window.



There have been many benefits of this sabbath time. Instead of my usual schedule of going out several times a week for meetings, Faith Study and choir practice, I am at home saving gas, time and money. Jessica doesn't need to be driven to her programs and we went down to one car as Iain seldom drives anywhere.

But I miss singing in church, being in a choir, and being in community with other families at Messy Church.

I appreciate my home more than ever, and the connections with others that are not broken by physical isolation. I am grateful that my job and our family income was unaffected, and that we have access to good, healthy food that others do not. I feel blessed beyond measure that we have all that we need and that my family is healthy and safe. And I feel hopeful that we will become a kinder, gentler society as a result of this shared experience.



“May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!” *Romans 15:13 The Message*





Ross White following his family baking tradition



Richard Johnston and Rowan Toller getting ready for life with Covid-19



EMMANUEL'S GARDEN

So many exciting changes have taken place at the front of our church in the month of June. As you know our huge spruce tree at the front of our church died and was taken down about 3 years ago. Junipers beneath the crabapple trees at the front had also run their life span course and were removed just this year.

The EUC Property and Grounds Committee and various gardening-loving volunteers have worked very hard in the last few weeks to sculpt a bed around our new sign, spread new soil and mulch and plant five new scrubs, three new grasses and lots of new grass seed. The sidewalk from the street has been repaired and the fence along our west property line has been weeded, seeded with wild flower seeds and mulched. The Smoke Bush was also pruned and lilacs and rose bushes tidied up.

Thank you to the Memorials Committee for generously funding the shrubs and grasses and a new Colorado Green spruce tree to be delivered and planted by Manotick Tree Farm in the weeks to come. Our raspberry canes are healthy and we also have some healthy lettuce and tomato plants striving in our raised beds.

Even though our building is closed, there is still lots of activity around Emmanuel. Come sit under our arbour or just do a drive-by to see our new changes. See you soon we hope!

Carol Campbell





And vegetables have been coming up in the Emmanuel garden!



LIVING WITH RACISM

Earnest Vinson

There has been much in the news recently about the shocking killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and the attendant protests, on “Black Lives Matter” and about “Defunding the Police”. Jon Jones talked to Earnest Vinson about his experiences of racism growing up in the Deep South.

I was born and grew up in Rapides Parish (Paroisse des Rapides), Louisiana, the oldest of four brothers. When I went to school, my mother was always careful to make sure I was well dressed, and told me never to get into trouble, and to keep off the streets as much as possible. She said I would live a longer life if I did. My three brothers have all spent time in jail. I was born in 1968, at the end of the 1960s civil rights movement, the year that Martin Luther King died. As a result, I was the first in my family to go to a desegregated school. I had white friends and some of them were good friends. When I got my driving license I drove over to the home of my white friend Paul Williams. His family had a nice house with a long driveway. I drove up and knocked on the door. Paul came to the door and told me I had better get out of their driveway, in case his father caught me there. His father was a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

All the black families had three pictures on their living room walls – of President John F. Kennedy, The Lord’s Supper and Martin Luther King.

A double standard operated then and still operates today, in which black people may get pulled over by the police on the slightest pretext and charged with petty offences, whether they did them or not. Young white people more commonly are just warned.

So, I was always very careful to avoid attracting the attention of the police. I always drive below the speed limit, even today. Sue’s and my children are always asking me why I drive so slowly on the Queensway!

When I went with my family on a visit to Louisiana to meet my parents, I was stopped by the police. We flew into New Orleans and rented a car. We drove to my parents’ house. They had recently moved, and I wasn’t sure of the house number, I drove slowly along the road looking for my father’s car. Soon I heard a police siren behind us. I stopped the car, turned off the engine and told Sue and the kids to wind down the windows and put both hands outside the car. I did the same and put the car keys on one finger. Sue asked why we needed to do this. I told her that I had always followed this procedure in the south to avoid a confrontation with the police. They can see you are not holding a gun, and that you are not about to drive away.



Talking on Zoom



I asked the policeman for permission to get the documents out of the glove box. He said it was OK. He kept his hand on his gun while I retrieved the documents. Four friends of mine have died as a result of reaching for documents in the glove box of their cars. When the level of deaths of this type reached high levels many years ago, the police started using non-lethal weapons such as tasers and beanbag guns.

Not all whites in the South are inherently racist, but the system tends to polarize opinions. With all the blacks who are arrested and incarcerated, this feeds the opinion among whites that blacks are thieves, murderers and rapists. The police are on the lookout for any possibility of criminal behaviour of blacks and look for any reason to apprehend them. This has led to a situation in which a high proportion of black men spend many years of their lives in prisons. Some cops are corrupt and use entrapment to apprehend blacks. The current political situation in the States also tends to vilify ethnic groups by association.

Because I went to high school and mixed with whites and then went to university, I was seen as “trying to be white” by some of my black friends. But whites saw me as black, so I didn’t fit comfortably in either world.

Now that cell phones are used to take video, it has given the opportunity for unjust treatment to be filmed and quickly shared.

Many young African-Americans spend time in jail. All three of my brothers have been incarcerated at one time or another.

The United States accounts for around 22% of the global inmate population with just 4.4% of world’s population (US Bureau of Justice). Since the resurgence of privately owned prisons in the USA in the 1980s, an incentive has existed for the justice system to incarcerate people, because the majority of private prisons are paid bed guarantees (or “lockup quotas”) that guarantee that they will be paid a certain percentage of their capacity, whether used or not. The most common percentage is 90%. At three prisons in Arizona, it is 100%.

One of my brothers was incarcerated. He had gone into Walmart to buy a small item, but didn’t have enough cash. He told the clerk that he would go to his car to get the balance, less than one dollar. He left the store with the goods and was stopped by the store detective. He was arrested and charged. He was given five years in jail.

Because of my brothers’ convictions, they cannot travel to Canada. So, I visit them in the USA. Whenever I cross the border, I am usually stopped and searched by border guards on the US side. As I drive south, my feeling of fear increases. The treatment of blacks is generally better in the north, but once I cross the Mason-Dixon line, I feel more anxious. On one occasion in Kentucky, I was with my daughter Veronica in the parking lot of a store when we were shouted at by two children who were less than 10 years old. They called us “(expletive) N-word”. I went into the store to tell their mother that her children had frightened her. She told me to mind my own business.



I have never been subjected to racial abuse in Canada; the only problems I have had are connected to the fact that I don't speak French. I live in an almost entirely white area of Kanata and get on well with my neighbours. The only time I have been stopped by police was when they were doing road stops at Kanata Centrum to check for drink driving. I don't drink so there was no problem.

Once when I was driving in Shreveport, LA with Sue and the kids, we went through a series of traffic lights where there were people by the side of the road collecting money. They were KKK. I went through the lights to avoid them. Mixed race marriages are particularly disliked by those people.

My parents wrote their wills not long ago. It's normal in my family that they would leave most of their possessions to the eldest child. They were devastated when I told them that I did not want anything. I told them that, after they die, I will not visit the States. The feelings of discomfort and always having to watch my back while I am there means that I have no desire to visit.

Recently, I have been in contact with Robert Townsend. Bob is a southern white guy from Louisiana. His son Mike was my best friend when I was growing up. Bob was in a Black Lives Matter protest march at the courthouse in Statesboro, Georgia. Bob spoke about racism eloquently: "Knowing something in your head is one thing but feeling it in your heart is entirely different. I knew that systemic racism and racial injustice are bad and should be overcome. I taught American history at East Georgia State College for over four years."

"I knew that slavery was a travesty and a sin, as has been the quasi-slavery that has existed ever since. I knew these things, but I had never felt their personal impact on other human beings like I was forced to do as I heard speaker after speaker talk about their deeply painful experiences with racism in America, which they had experienced their entire lives. I know that being a Caucasian male WASP has opened many doors for me, but I never felt a burden placed upon me to try to help change this inequity like I do now."

It was with Bob's son Mike that I went to play piano at a church many years ago and was asked to leave by the preacher because of my skin colour. Most of the fathers of my white friends were closet racists, whether they were preachers, lawyers, chief of police, or whatever. It tends to be baked into the local culture. I thought Bob Townsend was one of those, but then I realized he was different. That must have taken guts, because he could have been in jeopardy. So I recently reconnected with him on Facebook to thank him for watching out for me all those years ago. My daughter and Bob's granddaughter were recently accepted into a Disney College program in Florida and will be together. I asked Bob to ask Kaitlin to look after Veronica while she is there.



GARDENS OF EMMANUEL – WILLIE SELKIRK Daly Co-op

Installing individual garden boxes was an idea that took a couple of years to germinate, but the Daly Co-Op Board finally voted to provide them. With the quarantine lockdown, our members needed a creative outlet, one that was affordable and respected safe distancing guidelines. Voila, a row of vegetable garden plots.

They are growing Pumpkin, Strawberries, Radish, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Peppers, Spinach.

Roxanne Delmage



Emmanuel-made Masks



EMMANUEL GRADUATES 2020

We congratulate our high school and university graduates for this year, and wish them success in their academic career and job searches.

Commencement ceremonies will have to wait until the fall.

KOKO ZAHINDA

Koko graduated from Lester B Pearson Catholic High School and will be attending the University of Ottawa in the fall. She will study Biomedical Sciences. Koko has been a top student throughout her high school career. She earned several awards from Lester B Pearson, and has been awarded four scholarships from the University. Like many students Koko originally had a summer job, but it was cancelled due to Covid.



BEN NDANZE

Ben has graduated from Carleton University with a bachelor's degree in Economics. He is looking for employment and would like to find a job in the development field. He would like to work on projects that will improve the community at home and abroad.

Since March Ben has been spending his time living at home with his parents in Brampton. He spends a lot of time on the internet looking for an internship to give him professional work experience. He works on music to stay creative, and tries to keep his TV and movie viewing under control.

NICHOLAS LANGNER

Nick has graduated from Carleton University with an Honours BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice, with a concentration in Psychology.

Nick is actively searching for a job with the Government of Canada, hoping to do policy work to do with public safety. He is waiting to hear back from some applications. In the meantime he keeps busy with part time work.



Phyllis MacRae



LIFE IN THE USA – APART FROM POLITICS

To begin with, I should specify “Life in Pasadena.” How does it differ from life in Ottawa?

Casual conversation is more likely to be about the traffic than about the weather. The weather remains unchanged and glorious for days and weeks on end, whereas road traffic is in a constant state of imminent chaos — a spaghetti of multilane freeways full of rushing single-occupant vehicles (everyone has at least one, apparently!) patrolled by helicopters and beset by sigalerts. (A sigalert is an incident that significantly disrupts road traffic. There's an app for that).

Fortunately, Areta and I live in Pasadena, one of about seventy municipalities that make up most of the county of Los Angeles. It is largely residential, well supplied with the services that people need, mostly within our walking distance. Our apartment looks toward the nearby San Gabriel Mountains on the north. They protect us from the desert Santa Ana winds that, in combination with the El Niño currents of the Pacific can bring occasional significant variations in the weather.

Pasadena Presbyterian Church is our walking destination two or three times a week. We sing in the Kirk Choir, and support educational and social services there. PPC is also home to the Friends of Music who provide major concerts and recitals, support an orchestra, invite visiting performers and maintain a famous Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ (from Casavant.)

The New Years Day Rose Parade passes in front of the church. On the front lawns bleachers are set up and we serve as ushers to the public who reserve seats — an annual fund-raiser.

We can also enjoy walking for its own sake. Apart from the vigours of the mountain trails leading up toward the Mount Wilson Observatories, we have the Huntington Gardens — English, Chinese, Japanese, Desert, even Australian, plus library and galleries — and the huge Caltech Campus on our doorstep.

We can be in central Los Angeles quickly if we speed down the winding Arroyo Seco Parkway — perhaps to enjoy the Master Chorale at the Disney Center — always a musical and architectural treat. We can find excellent classical theatre closer to home. The Pasadena Playhouse is nearby. The county is full of unemployed actors who occasionally escape from bar-tending and waiting on table to join one of the many small companies for a short gig.

Areta has many old friends and colleagues from her professional years in Los Angeles County. She still involves herself in some municipal affairs, especially with respect to services to the homeless and the poor.

We enjoy our “winter” friends and activities in California, and look forward equally to summer in Canada, with Emmanuel as our spring and autumn spiritual home.

Russell Smith



GARDENS OF EMMANUEL

Val Dowd

After being in my new home for just over a year, this was the year I planned to install a garden — it has turned out to be a good Covid project to keep me busy. My ability to find wood and other building materials was delayed due to the shuttered stores after the pandemic hit. Unable to get what I needed in Ottawa, I researched various companies and decided to order direct from the manufacturer in British Columbia. They quoted me a five week delivery but it actually arrived in four. All hardware was included and panels were preassembled making the final project easy to assemble in four hours.



May 31, 2020



June 23, 2020

After three weeks, things are thriving. I've got five tomato plants, peas, yellow beans, Bibb lettuce, cucumber, leeks, green onions, chives, mesclun and a variety of herbs in pots. The raised bed keeps the rabbits out. In the past I've had my whole plot of beans devoured by rabbits when they were just ready to harvest. Squirrels and birds don't do as much damage.

I was very thankful that Leon Page was available to help with the assembly. He had the tools and know how to complete the project on time. Once I knew delivery was on the way, I ordered 4 cu. yards of soil and seeds and plants. Emma and I prepared the area for the garden by removing the grass and levelling an area which was about 10' x 10'. The raised bed is 8' x 8'. It is a U-shape with a gate to enter in and tend to the plants.



I also have a VegTrug which is about 2' x 6'. It is a little higher than my main bed but it's not doing as well I thought it would. Next year, I plan to add another smaller bed for rhubarb, squash and zucchini.



EUC-TV

Have you ever wondered what the Internet streaming system at Emmanuel looks like?

Do you imagine this:



Or maybe something a little simpler:



You would be wrong on all counts. This is what it looks like:



The streaming computer and monitor are mounted on a kitchen trolley. The keyboard is at the approved angle, the mouse is next to the headphones. The laptop is on the chair to the left for me to monitor the stream. I put cheat sheets on the chair to the right:



Zooming out you can see the main camera mount in front of the laptop. The Narthex TV mounted on the chairs for the Minister/lay readers to see what is happening, and the LED light (borrowed) to illuminate the scene:



The front view shows the clever placement of the equipment, right in the middle of the sanctuary near the front. To the left, you can see the second camera (borrowed) focused on the lectern. And of course, the highly skilled operator with that “what the heck just happened” look on his face:



And of course, the pre and post production facilities:



And that, folks, is EUC-TV.

Thanks for joining us on Sunday Mornings.

Russ Pastuch

CHURCH HUMOUR

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, "Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature."

Muldoon said, "I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why did ya' not tell me the dog was Catholic?"



LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF COVID

Christina Clark-Kazak

Many commentators have observed that COVID has exacerbated the inequalities in our society. When we first felt the effects of COVID-19 on March 13, 2020 - schools closed for three weeks (so we thought!) and uOttawa courses moved online - we counted our blessings. I have a tenured job at uOttawa and we own a house with a big backyard, a basement full of craft supplies, books and board games, and a pantry filled with dry goods (and toilet paper!). While it was challenging working from home with Anahita and Rustom mostly indoors (except for sledding off the back deck and walks to the woods surrounding the hospitals), we hunkered down and enjoyed the family time and a quieter pace of life.

As school closures continued, we felt better equipped than some to keep everyone busy. I was home-schooled for much of my childhood while sailing the west coast and South Pacific (my parents ran [SALTS](#)) and Sam directed YMCA camps in Canada and overseas for many years. Anahita started a journal ("This is going to be history one day!"), Rustom did endless science experiments, and they both learned to use the sewing machine and started a neighbourhood newspaper. As the snow melted, we also embarked on a major DIY landscaping project to unveil our "secret garden" - buried under years of neglect - which entailed 15 cubic yards of soil and rock, three different rental diggers and moving hundreds of flagstones we found in our backyard.

The kids have created summer cottages and a portal for the Borrowers to come on holiday from Leighton Buzzard, where we were supposed to visit my sisters this summer.

While we are fortunate to just be inconvenienced by the confinement measures, as the pandemic wears on, and in the shadow of global and personal tragedy, the overwhelming worry weighs on us. There have been deaths and major family emergencies in our immediate circles and it is hard not to be able to be there physically for our families in BC, Nova Scotia, the UK and Kitchener. Rustom has a serious metabolic condition (diagnosed at 3 days' old) and is at high risk if he contracts the virus. (Many thanks to Jim for the Toronto Blue Jays mask, which he proudly wears to his CHEO appointments!) Sam - as the designated shopper because I have a heart condition - experiences increased racism in the context of fear and perceived scarcity.



Anahita does some spade work



I took on teaching two extra courses for the spring term after my dear colleague [David Petrasek](#) died, and I felt ill equipped to deal with the increased stress and despair of my students - especially international students separated from their families - as they navigate a global pandemic, systemic racism and recession. We all miss the physical communities at school, work and church.

Especially in these times, we are grateful for the connections to Emmanuel: the online services; the Zoom meetings with Global Partners and the Search Committee; the Adopt-a-Senior Project; the face masks lovingly made and distributed; Ellen's women and girls' project with Anahita; the amazing home-based Sunday School activities and CD committee outreach; Joan's mother's piano, which fills our home with music; and, Val's generous "mobile library" service, which keeps the kids in supply of physical books.

As we look ahead with hope to a post-COVID world, we see opportunities to build on these new ways of being and doing. Through the homeschooling experience, we realized that both Anahita and Rustom needed different learning environments, so they will both be starting new schools whenever classes resume: Rustom at Riverview Alternative and Anahita at Au coeur d'Ottawa.

Anahita and I would like to continue our nightly mother-daughter walks (& talks), while Sam and Rustom hang out sketching at home. We want to hold on to these small new rituals while acknowledging our privilege in local and global inequalities so that we can do our part to contribute to a more just "new normal".

"I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship." — Louisa May Alcott, Little Women.



Sam and Rustom are hard at it



MORE CHURCH HUMOUR

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.
-- George Burns

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping"

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$25."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$200."

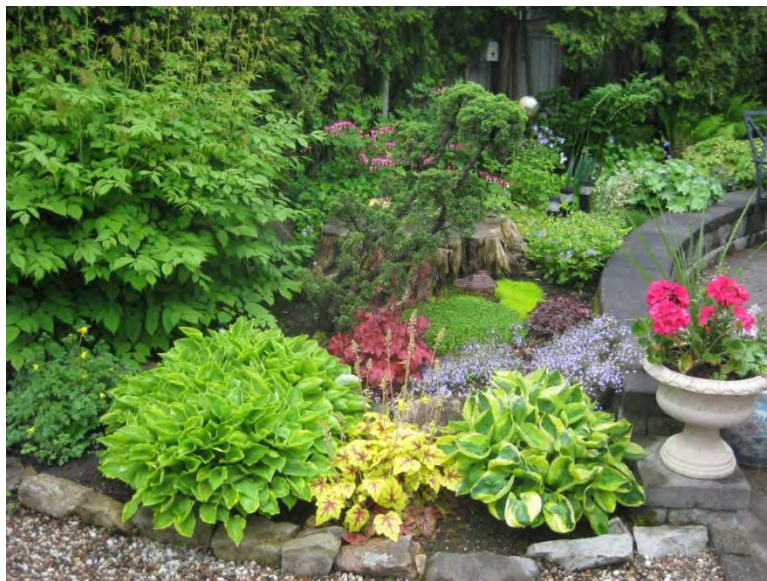
The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money!"



GARDENS OF EMMANUEL

Sandra Copeland

We have lived in our Bells Corners house for 32 years. This part of the garden began when we built our patio 12 years ago. The colourful patches are ground phlox and aubretia. My gardening always reminds me how much pruning, care and nurturing my faith requires if I want to be in spiritual bloom.

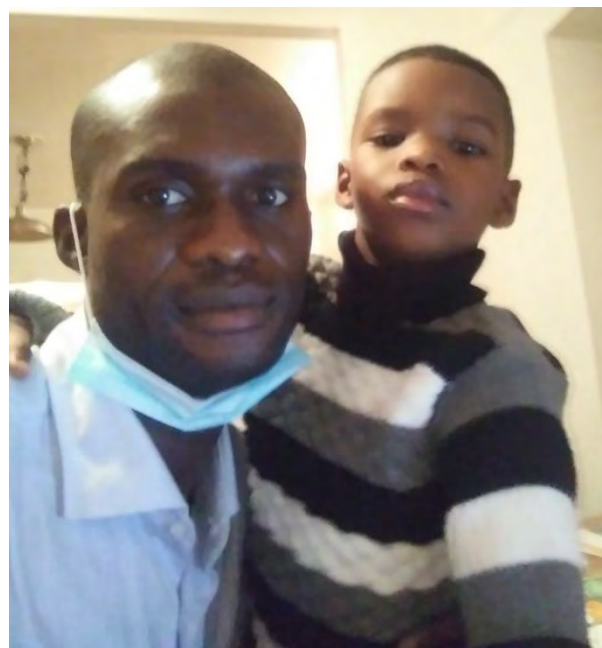


PATHOU BOTELWA

Pathou Botelwa is the oldest son of Julienne Bowesi, and the half brother of Vanessa Kamembele. He and his wife Yvette and son Gedeon have moved from Kampala, Uganda to Missoula, Montana. He is very happy to be starting a new life in the United States. As he said to me in an email on June 6, "GOD has opened gates of Heaven for me".

The family had to remain in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

Jon Jones



TRAVELING WITH COVID-19

Canadians abroad were told by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to come "home" by March 23, 2020. For various reasons —family, social and local church commitments, to say nothing of the weather — Areta Crowell and I stayed at our home in Pasadena for a month longer. The Covid-19 restraints did not affect us much because we live within walking distance of everything we need, and life was pleasant.

When we finally decided to fly to Ottawa, we were astounded at how easy it was. LAX Airport was practically deserted. Our Air Canada flight was 90% empty. (The airline stopped flying the route a week later.) We were welcomed by Canadian Immigration. My children had brought our car to be waiting for us in the parking at Ottawa International, and we drove ourselves to our home for two weeks of (mandatory) quarantine. (The authorities telephoned about ten days later to check that we were dutifully confining ourselves.)



Areta's Rock Garden at the cottage

Our children also picked up and brought us groceries that we had ordered before we left Los Angeles. We gave ourselves permission to walk in our own "back yard" — Grasshopper Hill and Pleasant Park Woods — so long as we avoided meeting other people. So we got our exercise. Recently we have been allowed to enlarge our bubble to include children and grandchildren — and have even gone out for dinner!

We have learned the capabilities of Zoom, Facebook and YouTube to find entertainment, sociability, worship and important meetings of committees and discussion groups — in both Ottawa and Pasadena. These capabilities extend as well to our island cottage on Eagle Lake (when Areta isn't gardening.)

All in all, Covid-19 has been kind to us until now, despite our peripatetic life-style. Let's hope that such kindness continues and becomes a forgettable recollection.

Russell Smith



GARDENS OF EMMANUEL

Elmvale Acres Neighbours

Neighbours in Elmvale Acres are cultivating vegetable beds in their front yard. No bother with lawn mowing.

Phyllis MacRae



Emmanuel-made Masks



Dharma Prayer Wheel

We look back over our shoulders
into the murky past
of over-consumption,
degradation of earth's resources.

We look squarely into the eyes
of those many consider disposable,
and wonder when we lost our humanity,
our compassion for worthy equity.

We look into the mirror
of our own souls
and know we participate in
thoughtless abuse of creation and its peoples.

We pause, reflecting
during this strange time
of imposed pandemic opportunity,
and know we must rise up ...

rise up to reclaim our true calling
as rainbow children of the Creator,
as peace-makers and stewards,
resurrecting life to its fullest potential.

The holy dharma prayer wheel
is turning turning turning,
gathering momentum with our participation
to create a golden new dawn

where all are equal under the sun
where all are safe to dream dreams
of peace, respect, and harmony
under blankets of sacred stars.

New green shoots
emerge under our feet
during this reflective time to pause,
and ponder a better way forward.

We sing hallelujahs of praise
as prodigal sons and daughters returned,
restoring hope among all-our-relations,
re-birthed, once more, through Love.

Carol Grace Scott June 4, 2020

© Carol Grace Scott 2020



Prayer wheel at Miaoying Temple

© 2007 Shizhao



LOCOMOTIVES AT LOCKDOWN – How I spent the first month of Covid-19

Deb and I spent a March weekend at a lakeside inn north of Buckingham Quebec. The four day weekend involved 17: some were quilting, some knitting, some painting, some creating arts and crafts, and some building locomotives, rolling stock, structures, and scenes for their model railroad empires. In addition to the hive of creativity, a greater time was spent sharing excellent cuisine and life experiences.

On March 11, the day before our Buckingham weekend, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced COVID-19 as a global health crisis and pandemic. Canada had only 100 reported cases. On the return home, we learned that Ontario schools would shut down for three weeks. Cancellations and postponements were being announced as organizers concluded that large gatherings could no longer safely go ahead. Shops closed their businesses and health officials urged us to stay home in efforts to defeat the pandemic and "flatten the curve".



As most know, I love trains. My latest project started in September last year. From September to March, time was spent designing and learning how I was going to build a trestle and plate girder bridge that would carry trains through a bucolic country scene on my model railway layout. Before the March weekend, rigid pink insulation sheets were glued together then carved and sanded to form 'pink' hillsides and river bed. The concrete bridge abutment was formed and cast in place using plaster. The bridge deck kit was also constructed, spray painted, and weathered. A lot more work was required and the weekend north of Buckingham was the time to get it done. Alas I spent more time socializing and eating that weekend; little progress was made completing the project.



After the Buckingham weekend and COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic and we were urged to stay home, I had lots of time to spend on the project. Hobby shops were now closed though and I had to rely on materials I had on hand. The trestle and bridge project progressed through the remainder of March and into April and the results are reflected in the photographs. Work items accomplished include:

- Created a jig for the trestle bents using a styrene sheet and pieces I had on hand in the workshop.
- Cut and glued the scale lumber pieces and dowel to create the trestle bents.
- Glued the trestle bents to the scale lumber stringers.
- Placed the trestle in scene and fixed in place with plaster of paris.
- Spread and carved plaster of paris to create the limestone cliffs and riverbed.
- 'Softened' the hillside slopes with a commercial paper mache product I found in the workshop.
- Painted the 'pink' landscape black and covered with Woodland Scenics ground foam.
- Planted trackside shrubs, vines, and low-lying bushes.
- Poured two lifts of epoxy resin to create the river.



It was now time to incorporate this scene into the model railway layout. It was also the end of April, the snow had disappeared, the sun was shining. Time to be outdoors hiking, cycling, and soon canoeing. Deb was already working in the garden. We had grown tired of being cooped up inside. It was time to break loose while practicing 'physical distancing' because COVID-19 was not yet over. So the last stage of this project will wait for a rainy day or, more likely, a series of rainy days.

All was not outdoor fun in May and June. A guestroom / office was updated and painted. The 34 year old side yard deck is now needing a facelift having removed some rotting timbers and deck boards.

Deb and I also enjoyed spending time with other church volunteers working on the front gardens at Emmanuel United Church. We also appreciate online worship while our church building is closed. I am spending time on Zoom these days for 'Coffee & Conversation', Thursday Morning Discussion Group, and Christian Meditation Monday evenings. I discovered the value of daily meditation during these troubling times. If you are interested in meditating and learning of its life long gifts, contact me at william_meek@bell.net and join us Monday evenings on Zoom for an hour of meditation and discussion.

Oh how I look forward to the days when we can be together again and I can hug my grandson!

Bill Meek



GARDENS OF EMMANUEL

Phyllis MacRae and Richard Johnston

It takes along time for a garden to reach maturity. At that point many people start to redesign and build a new garden. We have had perennial gardens since we moved into our house in Elmvale Acres 31 years ago. Our garden settled into a new format 13 years ago when we built an extension onto the house and reduced the size of the back yard. Now we have a large perennial border, including clematis against the back fence that grow, then die back and are replaced. For years we had a lovely, large Explorer Rose- Martin Frobisher- but it has died back to a few stalks. I am waiting to see if it will grow up again.



My major challenge is to keep on top of the weeds each spring. Even this year when I had more time to get ahead of the weeds in April and May, I failed. In June I hired 5 of the Emmanuel young people to come in for several days to weed. They worked hard and that allowed me to get back on top of things.

The back yard garden is mostly shaded by a huge old oak tree that is older than the houses that were built in this neighbourhood in the late 1950s. The shade is lovely for us in the summer but means I have no success in growing vegetables. The only vegetables that I grow are tomatoes in pots because I can move them into the sun. Garlic and mint do well in an enclosed garden box.

I inherited my gardening passion and skills, such as they are, from my mother. She always loved visiting our house in Ottawa so she could help establish and expand the garden. I wish she were still here to enjoy the fruits of her advice and support.

Phyllis MacRae



IGLESIA BAUTISTA EMMANUEL CELEBRATES 56TH ANNIVERSARY



Congratulations!

Our global partner in El Salvador, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel (IBE), recently celebrated their 56th anniversary. Founded in 1964 with a call to serve the poor, the Church today remains committed to work with the Salvadoran people for justice and peace in El Salvador.

In recognition of this anniversary celebration a congratulatory message was sent from Rev. Brian Copeland on behalf of the Emmanuel congregation:

Greetings from Emmanuel United Church

Dear Pastor Castro:

I am the new and temporary Pastor at Emmanuel United Church and I am so pleased and honored to send you, our congregation's greetings and congratulations on the 56th anniversary of your community of faith. This is truly an incredible witness to the work of Christ in your fellowship and a sign of the Spirit's presence working in and through you to bring God's peace and hope to your whole community. I am sure that you have been a rich blessing to all in these 56 years and will continue to be a shining light on the hill proclaiming Good News!

Emmanuel has been a part of your journey for 32 years now and we are also blessed through this partnership in faith and by your courage and strength through all the years. By God's grace we will walk together on the way Christ sets for us in the days to come and continue to be God's servants in the world, in whatever way we are called as faithful disciples.

May the Spirit continue to bless and keep you all. Bendiciones de Dios!

Sincerely and in faith,

Pastor Brian Copeland



The following response was received from Miguel Tomas Castro, Pastor, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel:

*Dear Brother Brian,
Greetings from San Salvador.*

Thanks so much for this very fine message of congratulations to our church.

For us, Emmanuel San Salvador, is very significant your words, for a wonderful experience of partnership with Emmanuel Ottawa, for several years; --34 years exactly -- since 1986.

Be sure that our church will know your message this coming Sunday in our service on Sunday. Please brother Brian extend our gratitude to our sisters and brothers in Emmanuel over there.

We wish you, many accomplishments and blessings in your pastoral ministry in Emmanuel,

*Blessings and Peace,
Miguel Tomas Castro
Pastor General*



Pastor Miguel Tomás Castro



MORE CHURCH HUMOUR

An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter checks his dossier and not seeing his name there, accidentally sends him to Hell. It doesn't take long before the engineer becomes rather dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell.

He soon begins to design and build improvements. Shortly thereafter, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. Needless to say, the engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day, God calls Satan and says: "So, how are things in Hell?"

Satan replies: "Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, and escalators. And there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

"What!" God exclaims: "You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have been sent to Hell. Send him to me."

"Not a chance," Satan replies: "I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him!"

God insists: "Send him back or I'll sue."

Satan laughs uproariously and answers: "Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?"



MHI TULIPATHON 2020 EXCEEDS FUNDRAISING GOAL

MHI organizes an annual Tulipathon at Dows Lake to raise funds for annual operations – think rent supports for residents in need. Emmanuelites have been participating in this walk for many years, often with banner in hand. This year such a walk was simply not possible, so the caring staff at MHI imagineered a Virtual Tulipathon with high hopes. Wonderful videos helped supporting communities to understand the plan to walk 3 km independently and so they did on May 31st, a number of Emmanuelites included. Signs were ready for us to carry or display in our home front windows. There was also a poster competition. Staff at MHI were overwhelmed by the success of the fundraising, which topped out at \$69,000, well over any prior year's total.

Many thanks to all who participated by walking and/or donating!! Now don't forget the Veteran's House build due to be completed in January 2021.



Janice Peron



GARDENS OF EMMANUEL

Tonia Tunnacliffe and Bill McLeish

Bill and Tonia are Covid refugees from Ottawa who have relocated to their summer home in Sackville, New Brunswick. They have planted a new garden in the backyard, growing rhubarb, kale and garlic.



Foster Family Farms has opened their fruit stand in the parking lot at Emmanuel. Make sure to drop by and pick up fresh local strawberries. Later on they will have local fruits and vegetables throughout the growing season. Watch for fresh local corn coming in August



PANDEMIC INSIGHTS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK

It's only been 3-1/2 short months since the Covid-19 pandemic shut everything down and kept us physically distanced from one another. The days blur into each other. Sometimes it feels as if this has been going on forever, and yet as I turn the calendar to July. I wonder where those in-between months went since mid-March?

How have you been filling your days and weeks? How has your life been impacted?

Mine was impaired when I couldn't travel to Ottawa in May as originally planned. I miss the hugs from my kids, grandchildren, and friends. Sometimes I've had to resort to hugging trees (*don't laugh!*). Seriously, time spent in nature has been the best antidote to living alone during isolation. That and the wonderful technology of Zoom. Whenever I zoom in for Heretics or Teleos, plus Coffee & Conversation following Sunday services, I realize how much I treasure my EUC friends!



Gradually, some regular activities began to seep in. A call went out to the people of Central United that the Inspiration Café (in the Peace Centre where Central is located) was looking for baking to supplement meals that are prepared for food insecure seniors and the homeless. That seemed purposeful. Baking a couple dozen muffins weekly could be my little contribution. Gradually, I learned more about what the Café was doing, that there was a need to help prepare take-out meals in the kitchen. My weekly muffin drop-off morphed into a bi-weekly routine - mask at the ready – the highlight of my week!



Debbie McInnis, executor-director of the United Way in the Peace Centre, coordinates the pandemic food relief program. Kalala, the Café's head chef, and Janet, of the Moncton Head-start program, plan and mastermind the cooking. The other 2 or 3 of us chop, stir, portion, sanitize and clean up. Take-out suppers are prepared for delivery 7 days a week for between 70-90 vulnerable seniors who would otherwise be struggling to have adequate nutrition. Every Saturday and Sunday evening 100+ homeless people arrive at the church doors to receive a hot 3-course take-out meal.

For me, the best part is getting to know the other kitchen regulars. I've had some great philosophical discussions with Kalala, especially regarding his Black Lives Matter reality. Janet amazes me with her 40 year passion for helping vulnerable people learn how to shop and cook well. Paul and Tanya of the John Howard Society hand out the weekend suppers, then go around the streets looking for people who need food or support. They have been at this for 20+ years and know the street people well.

Debbie, Janet, Kalala, Paul and Tanya are heroes within the little town of Moncton who will likely never receive the Order of Canada, but are people I am honoured to spend a few hours with each week.

Helping out in the Inspiration Café gives me pause each week to recall the learning I gained in the café where my friend Logan, a Cree young man, shared some of his reality and that of his friends, of growing up as an indigenous person from a remote fly-in community in Northern Manitoba. (Logan has since returned home following completion of the Katimavik program).



Lonely high school education far from home. Discrimination. Poverty. Expensive, inadequate housing. Unstable health care. The vulnerability of young people who can be prone to despair and often addictions from the multi-generational trauma of "the system". And on and on.

So when Indigenous people like Chantal Moore and Rodney Levi were shot and killed point-blank during mental health checks right here in New Brunswick in June, my body and emotions went into shock. And I think of Logan and the trauma that would cause my soul if something untoward ever happened to him ...

But now I'm going off on a tangent from writing an article meant to share a little about my pandemic life here in Riverview/Moncton, so I will sign off. Besides, this post is already longer than intended!

Stay well. Wear your masks. Be an Ally. Hope to see you all before too much longer!!

Carol Scott



CHURCH IN THE SUMMER

These past few months have certainly been strange and troubling times. Among all the other challenges of the pandemic, we are perhaps missing the comfort and fellowship of our church just when we need it most. With our building closed to most events, we ourselves have to be the church in the world.

Emmanuel United church is not a building on Smyth Rd. that now sits empty. It is and always has been a network of the hundreds of small actions of friendship, kindness and fellowship shared by the members of our congregation. I have counted over 106 different tasks on the Stewardship Time and Talent survey that you have volunteered for in the past. Those many gifts of time and caring are what make the church. Even though we miss the music and the choir, the potluck dinners and coffee time, I hope you will continue to offer those gifts of caring to your community this summer. This is the kind of living church in action that Jesus originally called us to be.

Meanwhile, we live in hope for the day we can return to worship together.

Many blessings for renewal and relaxation this summer.

Sandra Copeland

Stewardship Coordinator



MORE CHURCH HUMOUR

A bored young man decided life would be more fun if he had a pet.

So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?" This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"



JOURNEYING WITH COVID-19

David Wray

I have finally finished staining our backyard fence! Now, that may not sound like much of an accomplishment but I really dislike staining fences. But this year I had no excuse.

With the border closed such that I could not access my beloved covered bridges in New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont and New Hampshire, I had to resign myself to admiring the covered bridge bird feeder in our backyard. Travelling to see covered bridges hardly qualified as essential travel.

But there were some unexpected benefits to staying home.

I was finally able to test out my BirdCam Pro that I bought a few years ago and spot some visitors that I might otherwise not have seen. And watch the family of squirrels emerge from the hollow in the old branch high above.

Now that travel restrictions are finally being lifted, we are discovering new campsites and small towns in Ontario that we have long overlooked.

Life can be full of blessings after all.





FOOD SECURITY

Gardening is blossoming in Covid -19 time. Lots of folks are taking to planting in their space; whether backyard, balcony or pasture. People are planting less flowers, and more food, as they are home. Predictable outcomes (well sometimes) and reassuring rhythms of gardening, can provide comfort. It can be grounding to get your hands dirty (pun intended). There is something therapeutic about taking control by being more self - reliant. With these efforts, stores are having difficulty keeping seeds, and small plants in stock.

During Covid-19 food chain disruptions can and have occurred. We hear about outbreaks in large meat packing plants. There are other outbreaks among migrant workers. The living quarters for these folks are ripe for virus transmission. The border between US and Canada is open to essential goods only. With all these factors, the many challenges of getting food to table, and costs rising, it is no wonder gardening is more popular.

Gardens will help us recognize the miracle in creation; plant seeds, add water and sunshine, and you have food, and don't your own veggies just taste better? We can think of our neighbor and support our local food banks planting a few extra plants to share with those around us. Happy Gardening, and wishing you a bumper crop.

Roxanne Delmage



Candles to recognize our front-line workers in March



THE ESSENTIAL CHURCH

On Facebook recently I came across an inspired post by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Deon Johnson, newly ordained Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri in the USA. Bishop Johnson reflects on what it means to say that the Church is “essential”:

The work of the Church is essential.

The work of caring for the lonely, the marginalized, and the oppressed is essential.

The work of speaking truth to power and seeking justice is essential.

The work of being a loving, liberating and life-giving presence in the world is essential.

The work of welcoming the stranger, the refugee and the undocumented is essential.

The work of reconciliation and healing and caring is essential.

The Church does not need to “open” because the Church never “closed”.

We who make up the Body of Christ, the Church, love God, and our neighbours and ourselves so much, that we will stay away from our buildings until it is safe.

We are the Church.

Bishop Deon Johnson

The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Facebook, June 2020

Submitted by Phyllis MacRae



Rt. Rev. Bishop Deon Johnson



MORE CHURCH HUMOUR

Two priests die at the same time and meet St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says, "I'd like to get you guys in now but our computers are down. You'll have to go back to Earth for about a week, but you can't go back as humans. What'll it be?"

The first priest says, "I've always wanted to be an eagle, soaring above the Rocky Mountains."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and off flies the first priest.

The second priest mulls this over for a moment and asks, "Will you be keeping track of us, St. Peter?"

"No, I told you the computer is down. There's no way we can keep track of what you are doing. This week's a freebie."

"In that case," says the second priest, "I've always wanted to be a stud."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and the second priest disappears.

A week goes by, the computer is fixed and the Lord tells St. Peter to recall the two priests.

"Will you have trouble locating them?" He asks.

"The first one should be easy," says St. Peter. "He's somewhere over the Rocky Mountains, flying with the eagles. But the second one could prove to be more difficult."

"Why?" asks the Lord.

"Because he's on a snow tire somewhere in Alaska."



"My beloved spoke, and said to me: 'Rise up, My love, My fair one, And come away. For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land.'" ~ Song of Solomon 2:10-12



Image by Takashi Yanagisawa from Pixabay

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