

## this issue

Molly's Story

40 Days of Anti-Racism

Send a Little Love

## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to another issue of our Emmanuel Newsletter for the fall of 2022. This fall we are gradually moving back into in-person worship and some activities. Sunday School is getting underway once again. Emmanuel members are delighted to be able to greet each other in person after so long apart. More worshipers are joining together in person and many others continue to take part in our streamed services.

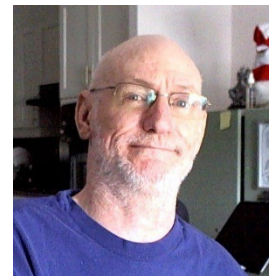
In this issue we have many interesting stories and articles including the story of our new, and very welcome Minister Rev Grant Stuckless and his life in Newfoundland and Labrador; a commentary from Areta Crowell on the outcome of the midterm elections in the USA; and photos of the weddings of Emmanuel young adults that took place this summer.

*If you have items for publication, suggestions or comments, please send them to:*  
[newsletter@emmanuelunited.ca](mailto:newsletter@emmanuelunited.ca)

We enjoyed the popular on-line Christmas Market and an in-person Just Gifts sale on December 3. Now we are counting the days to Christmas and all the celebration that brings to Emmanuel.

We wish you all a Blessed Christmas season and a healthy and happy New Year.

Phyllis MacRae, Editor  
 December 2022



## FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

### “Journeys”

It's a blessing to write the first note from my desk in this middle-Autumn season.

First of all, thank you for all of the welcoming and hospitality provided as far back as July, when I made my first visit to Ottawa to look for a place to live and to meet many of you. Ministry is what I love to do. There are days over 20 years that the act of responding to the call has felt heavy on the brain and emotions and leading me to carry matters at home inside me. But in those same days, I also feel a tugging, a leading, a probing, a moving of the Spirit that motivates me to be who I am as a human creature on this earth, in service. With a call to live out the common spiritual, human witness of kindness, joy, peace, love and mutual respect, I hope I do my part to walk in the footsteps of Christ and follow the commandments. With all that, I also hope that I can draw on the resources of my intuition and to pause in order to be present and still to listen to your stories, experiences and wisdom so that I may faithfully serve you.

Learning is a journey. The life-long pattern of living by the Greatest Commandment discussed with the Pharisees in Matthew 22:34-40 is, I believe, our call. I have been learning that the congregation at Emmanuel United Church is already doing this well. While oftentimes ministers are called to lead by example, we are also called to learn from your example. I've believed for a long time now that a pastoral relationship is all about the phrase, “We will grow as we go together.” I'd like to think I made that up but I probably absorbed it from somewhere else.

So, second and finally, thank you for all that many of you have done to help me settle in to a new home and ministry.

In that theme, I leave you with this short conversation between a Buddha master and a seeker of wisdom. After journeying a long way and climbing a mountain to reach the wise teacher, the seeker asks, “Master, how do I get to Nirvana?” The teacher replies, “Practice, practice, practice.”

May God bless us as we continue to do what we already do well. We grow as we go. We journey to keep learning. As Christ teaches, we keep on loving one another.

Again, thank you for welcoming me into your ministry at Emmanuel. Blessings to you in this season of Autumn Harvest.

Rev. Grant Stuckless  
Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care  
Emmanuel United Church



# FROM CHAIR OF COUNCIL

## Letter to the Congregation

Christmas is Coming Soon.

This year has been an exciting year for our Congregation. We have learned to accept change some of which is still in process. Our congregation is evolving. Sometimes we see change occurring and sometimes we just wake up and see what has happened.

Covid is in a new stage and more and more of us are coming to church services in person and enjoying the experience of prayer, lessons, music and fellowship.

The lessening of Covid restrictions is also accompanied by a change in Ministers. While we will not forget the leadership of Brian and Sandra Copeland, we are now welcoming Reverend Grant as he gets to know individual Emmanuel members, and as he comes to understand Emmanuel's complicated worship, committee and outreach systems.

We are also in the process of hiring a Youth Leader. The future of our Congregation depends on having faith in the future and the need for greater emphasis on youth and young families, both those among us now, and those who will choose Emmanuel in the future.

Our Re-Opening Our Doors project is well underway and at this time we are hopeful that the physical side of the project will be done by Christmas, although funding will take some years to complete. At the same time our 2023 Stewardship campaign this year is "Our Church, Our Gift" and is addressing our General Fund challenges.

Emmanuel's reach beyond our Congregation remains active and strong. Our Mission and Service contributions, our Social Action, Global Partners, Health, Refugee support, and providing church space to worthy outside groups; all show our commitment to giving.

Within our Congregation, Christian Development, Pastoral Care and Keeping in Touch are active in maintaining relationships through a variety of means. Our Communications committee has effectively managed on-line Sunday services, the Emmanuel web site and our now essential Zoom accounts.

I hope that everyone who is contributing to our church will be thanked for their care and their work. It is easy for me to say "Thank You" in writing but I hope that we will all look carefully and see opportunities to show appreciation to each individual who joins us with joyful hands and joyful spirits.

At this time of Advent we make clear the path to accept the gift of Christ and for the giving of our gifts to family and friends. It is a time of peace, a time to enjoy traditions of music, food, decorations, and worship. May we take time to pause, look carefully, and understand the gift that comes with Christmas.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,

God Bless,

Ross White

Chair of Council



## PASSAGES AND BLESSED EVENTS

**We remember the following members of our Emmanuel family who passed away this summer and fall:**

Donald Stevenson – May 31, 2022

Pauline Oliver – August 9, 2022

Mary Probert – October 2, 2022

Cy Chapman – October 5, 2022

Joan Halliday – December 10, 2022

### **Baptism:**

Lucan Trejo, son of Benjamin and Raquel Trejo,

December 4 2022



*Credit: Facebook*



## THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

### YOUTH IN THE CHURCH

Spiritual, but not religious (SBNR), is how my youngest daughter's (27 years old) generation describe themselves. This **might** translate to: there is a higher power which inspires moral / ethical living and supports hope and courage through life's challenges. In addition, **possibly** values around respect for nature, as we are all connected to the earth. I thought I might dig a bit deeper, and perhaps stimulate some conversations.

What about youth in the United Church? At Emmanuel UC for example, you might not see youth at Worship, but we know they are in the Church community. Church must be about more than Sunday Worship. Many at Emmanuel work hard to keep these connections vibrant.



*Where are the Youth at Emmanuel...?*



*...Cooking Dinners with Emma Dowd*

Of course, it is a benefit to all to have more interactions among different age groups. Cooking dinners with Emma Dowd and this summer's watercolor workshop are two recent examples. The pandemic has heightened the challenge of maintaining these connections.

To understand some of these issues further, I asked a few key folks at Emmanuel for their input, spoke with our regional Youth and young adults (YAYA- EOORC) staff Dana Ducette, and read the book *Listening to the Echo* by Tom Sherwood. What follows are some observations.

Youth, by definition, like to do things on their terms. Anyone living with teens has encountered this. Indeed, this is a healthy part of human development.



It is, and always has been, a time of exploration, and vibrancy; the development of our identity. Boundaries are tested, and new experiences and ideas are explored. Youth can and do contribute greatly to the lives around them. Dana shared that often youth have ideas, but need some direction, guidelines and logistics to bring them to fruition. She referred to the book *The Art of Gathering: how we meet and why it matters*, as particularly helpful. For example, inviting a group of seven teens to watch an indigenous theatre group performance, then going out for coffee to discuss it, can provide a meaningful interaction with discussion for learning about right relations with Indigenous people. Justice work around LGBTQ2SI+ and sexuality, racism, and environmentalism are especially relevant to their lives.

Emmanuel folks surveyed had these thoughts: The days of feeling guilt from family for not attending worship are over. Youth need to be able to express their passions and feel a sense of belonging from their community. This community needs to have a clear message of God's love and to be upfront and intentional about this aspect. There are so many modes of communication - email, text, Messenger or Instagram to work with to keep lines of communication open. It boils down to connections and relationship-building like so many meaningful things.



Youth Camp Summer 2022



There is also the busyness of schedules that makes group work a challenge logistically. Teens, of course, vary by demographics and activities of the past might not work given changes in their lives, e.g. technology. On a positive note, we are more aware of varying neurodiversity including learning styles, anxiety, and moods. Youth can be asked to facilitate events with volunteer hours.

In his book *Listening to the Echo* Tom Sherwood reminds us that we need to meet the youth where they are, addressing their mental, physical and spiritual health. Activities such as playing music, or other arts activities can unite and transcend barriers. Sharing food and or drinks in a gathering can also draw people into community.

For example at the Campus Ministry at the University of Calgary, youth gather to discuss “Dirty Theology”; a discussion of the more challenging Scriptures in today’s context. They meet in the Sanctuary Café inside Knox United Church.

Finally, it is clear to me that the work of the Church like Emmanuel United, must continue to include the voices of youth. This is a conversation which enriches all of us and there are many opportunities for growth. Cluster church work would fit well in my opinion, simply due to numbers of youth and the value of the potential connections for the future. Why not work with other faiths to broaden the discussions?

Roxanne Delmage  
Pastoral Care Provider



*Seniors' art workshop led by Emma Dowd*



## **And God created Cat**

**On the first day of creation, God created the cat.**

**On the second day, God created man to serve the cat.**

**On the third day, God created tuna, mice, and all the animals of the earth to serve as potential food for the cat.**

**On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labor for the good of the cat.**

**On the fifth day, God created the ball of yarn, the feather thingie on a string, and the catnip mouse so that the cat might or might not be amused.**

**On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the cat healthy and the man broke.**

**On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but the cat woke him up at 5:00 AM.**

*Credit: Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society. Facebook.*





## THE RAINBOW HUB AT EMMANUEL

Thanks to a generous grant from UCC, Emmanuel has been able to partner with the EOORC youth and young adult leader, Dana Ducette, to create a monthly meeting space for LGBTQ+ youth ages 11- 18. The meetings take place at Emmanuel one Friday night a month. Due to Covid-related delays, our first meeting was in March with a few fun and enthusiastic young people. We have more than doubled our numbers in the past couple of months, through word of mouth alone.

Our meetings include adult volunteers and a paid mental health worker, a young adult from Parkdale United who identifies as part of the rainbow community. The meetings include a meal, games, conversation and activities planned by the participants. We have made crafts, decorated cakes and plan an improv night for our next meeting. The young people have made it clear that they appreciate the chance to be private and to be in a place without judgement. They also want a program that is fun and lets them be silly and creative.

We have advertised quite widely but so far the participants come from EOORC or come with friends from EOORC. I am also hoping to address the next EOORC meeting to speak about the hub and encourage all churches to spread the word.

Thank you to Emmanuel for your enthusiastic support of this initiative.

Ellen Brohman

" every day somewhere in the world the nativity scene is alive."



*Credit: Pamela Drobot Holmes, Facebook*





*United Methodist Memes*

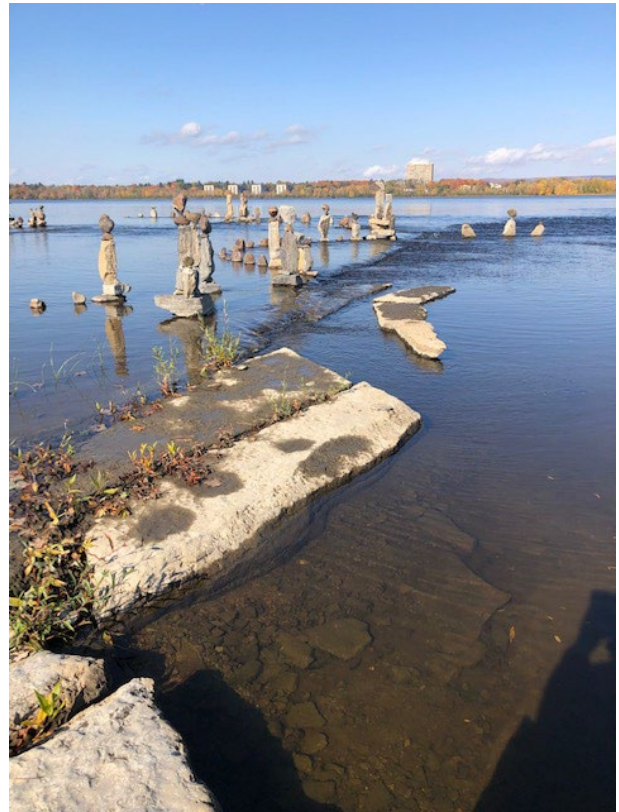


## NATURE MINI-PILGRIMAGE FALL 2022 AT REMIC RAPIDS

Remic Rapids is in our backyard, off the Sir John A. MacDonald Parkway here in Ottawa. It is indeed a scenic place and with fall in full color, our Mini Pilgrimage was held here in the sunshine on Oct 14, 2022.

We met at 10:30 am for a short land acknowledgement, and a few facts about the Ottawa River; it is the interprovincial border of Ontario and Quebec, has an underground water cave system at Westmeath near Pembroke, and direct access to the mighty St. Lawrence River. Odawa is in fact, the Anishinaabe word for traders, and the river was a big trade route.

While walking or sitting, we were asked to find something that really touched our soul and/or something that may have been here when the Indigenous people first met the French fur traders.



*Sculptures at Remic Rapids. Photo: Phyllis MacRae*



*John Felice Caprano - from the website of Ottawa rock art*



Our walk on the paved path could go towards the Champlain Bridge or to Parliament Hill; the choice was ours. Near the parking lot, we observed the balanced rock sculptures by the artist John Felice Ceprano. He has been making these sculptures since 1986 using fossilized and colorful rocks on the shore of the river. Ceprano states on his website, that when he arrived on this spot in 1986, he felt peace, empowerment and healing here. His “art of balance” sculptures have been inspired by his lifelong study of Taoism, and Transcendental Meditation. All the rocks for the sculptures come from the site. This year’s theme was “the shine of balance; an homage to the lost children”. He goes on to say “when we shine, we see and experience the past and future in the present moment, where we meet silence. Love without speaking is a sample of shine”. This art is sponsored by the National Capital Commission and begins again each spring after the winter ice absorbs the sculptures. For more information see his website: Ottawa Rock Art ([www.jfceprano.com](http://www.jfceprano.com)).

Following our walk, we gathered for a bagged lunch and shared some thoughts about our experience. There was discussion about the trees, including the Willows, and how they likely populated this area long ago. In addition, the Balanced Rock Sculptures recalled a sense of a “community “with designated groups, with the river. We closed with a Gratitude Prayer; truly we have much to be grateful for!

Roxanne Delmage



*Photo: Phyllis MacRae*



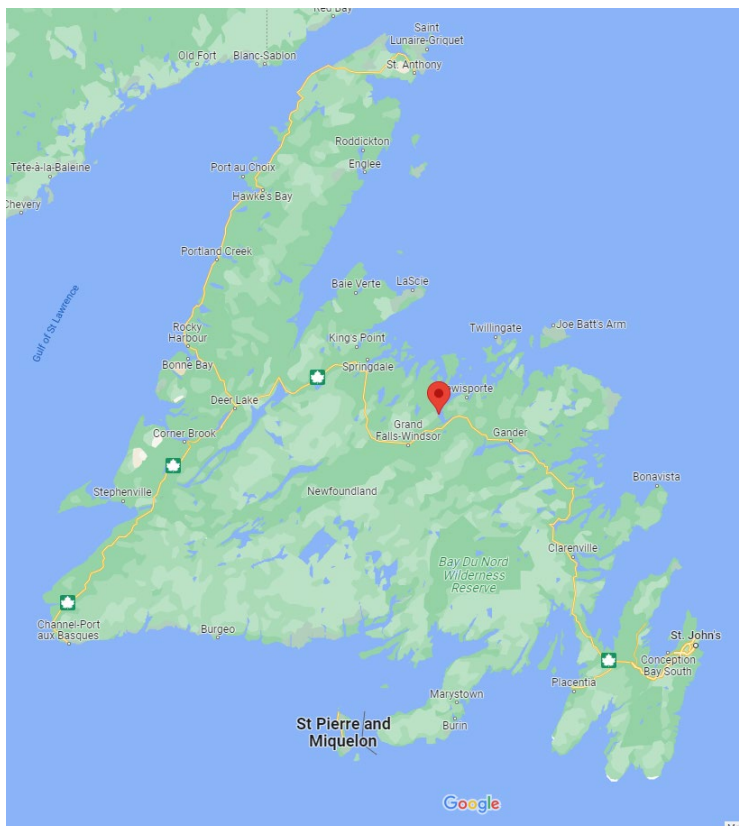
*Photo: Russ Pastuch*



## GRANT'S STORY

Grant Stuckless was born in 1974 in Botwood on the Bay of Exploits, a seaport on the north central coast of Newfoundland, west of Gander.

Botwood was a fishing and sawmill town, settled by colonists from England in the 1800s and it later became a shipping port and a seaplane base. When Grant was born it was a town of about 5000 inhabitants, but population has declined since. Grant's father Tony was from the nearby town of Point Leamington. His mother Linda worked in the Botwood Cottage Hospital. Grant has one sister Leanne Brinston, 19 months younger than Grant. She is married to Trent Brinston and they have a 9 year old daughter Eve. Grant's parents live in St Johns, where Leanne and Trent also live.



Map of Newfoundland. The pin shows the location of Botwood

## Family history

The name of Stuckless is common in Newfoundland. It was mandatory for students in Newfoundland schools to study the history and cultural history of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Stuckless ancestors were among the original settlers from England who began to overwinter in the summer coastal fishing settlements around 1648. Grant's dad does research into the family history. He thinks that their original ancestors emigrated from Winterbourne, Dorset in England. His theory is that the name Stuckless was invented by the men who overwintered on the coast to look after the fishing boats. There are other related family names such as: Stuckley, Stookly, Stuckles and Stockley in the area of Botwood. There are lots of Stucklesses in Fogo, Twillingate and Whitebay. Family members were loggers and foresters and worked for the Anglo Newfoundland Development Company.



Grant's mother's family name was Sharpe. They settled in Greens Harbour on Trinity Bay in the 1800s. His maternal grandparents worked on building the Churchill Falls power development in Labrador. His grandmother was later a housekeeper at the General Hospital in St Johns. Grant's parents met through a friend of his mother who was her classmate in nursing training school. Grant's father grew up in the Salvation Army but rarely attended service. His aunt Pearl was an officer in the Army. Grant's mother grew up in the United Church but Grant and his sister were often taken to Anglican services by their mother. Grant was very active in Sunday school and youth church activities.

Grant's dad was an active entrepreneur. He worked for many years running grocery stores for the JM Sheron and Son grocery company. When he was 12 he opened a barber shop in Point Leamington. Later he was briefly a regional manager for Coca Cola. For many years he collected antiques - books, guns, old grocery items and others- and ran a museum in the basement of the family home. He was an amateur historian and published a history of the Stuckless family, *The Stucklesses of Newfoundland: Our Story*. He bought and restored old stores (one was an old marijuana hangout in the town). He retired at age 47, a self-made man. In 2005 Grant's parents moved to St Johns to be closer to family.

Grant's mother became a specialist in gerontology and worked in long term care. She was a supervisor in the long term care centre. Gradually the staff was reduced from nine down to one supervisor. She retired in 2006.

### **Early life**

Grant and his sister attended elementary and high school in Botwood. In school and at church Grant was very active in choir and youth activities. He became very engaged in *Allied Youth* (AY), an organization that focuses on development of youth leadership, and which has been active in Newfoundland and Labrador since 1963. Grant participated at the regional, provincial and international level of AY. In 1989 he attended an international conference in Dallas, TX as well as provincial conferences in Newfoundland and Labrador. AY is active in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

### **Post-secondary education**

In 1992 Grant graduated from high school and began studies at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Grant loved science but he found math a challenge. He started out in Food Science and graduated with a degree in Nutrition in 1996.



## Calling to the Ministry

Grant felt “his first tug” to ministry when he was in grade 7 attending a United Church Camp. When he graduated from university he worked for his father in local businesses. In 1997 he started a period of discernment in his home congregation in Botwood. He was encouraged to apply for ministry studies by his minister. In September 1998 he enrolled in the M Divinity program at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. In 1999 he was accepted as a candidate for ministry. In 2000-2001 he spent a year of internship at Zion United church in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. He spent two summers as a chaplain at the Sea Cadets summer training camp at Fort Qu'appelle, Sask. He loved his time on the prairies.



*Grant with his parents visiting Ottawa*

## Grant's Ministry

On June 2, 2002 Grant was ordained at Twillingate by the Newfoundland and Labrador Conference. He was settled in his first congregation at Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador. Happy Valley and Goose Bay are two communities on the Churchill River. Goose Bay was originally the site of a large US Air Base until 1986. It is now occupied as a Canadian Forces air base, CFB Goose Bay 5 Wing. Grant served at Happy Valley-Goose Bay for 6 years until 2008. He enjoyed sports such as working out in the gym and playing golf. He says his driver shot in golf is not very strong but “his short game is good”. He did not drive a snowmobile at Happy Valley but he did enjoy hiking on snow shoes in the deep Labrador snow.



*Grant making a gingerbread house*



In 2008 Grant moved to a charge in Gambo, Newfoundland where he stayed for two years. In 2010 he wanted a larger community of faith and was called to Pouch Cove/Bauline, (pronounced Pooch Cove) a two-point charge on the northeast Avalon Peninsula, 27 km north of St Johns. He served at Pouch Cove/Bauline for 12 years until accepting his call to Emmanuel.

### **Grant comes to Ottawa**

In 2022 Grant sought a change in his life and ministry and was happy to accept a call to Emmanuel. He is looking forward to living in a large, diverse city with a wider urban culture. He is enthusiastic about Emmanuel and finds it to be an active and diverse church community with a lot of drive. He finds the Emmanuel folks to be very welcoming and accepting of him. He is watching and learning and soaking everything up. He says he is not here “to tell us how to be church”.

Grant enjoys working out in the gym and has a gym in his condo building. He enjoys reading and has some favorite Canadian authors. He likes watching movies on DVDs and Netflix. He enjoys cooking and trying out different recipes. He has been exploring downtown Ottawa and he attended the celebrations of Orange Shirt Day on Parliament Hill.

Grant’s hopes for Emmanuel are that it will continue to grow, and be active, welcoming and diverse. He wants us “to keep our doors open” and to serve God.

Welcome to Rev Grant from everyone in the Emmanuel community! We are very happy to have you in ministry with us.

Phyllis MacRae



*Grant welcomed to Ottawa by Emmanuel friends*





## MOLLY'S STORY SUMMER 2022

In July of 2022 a new member of the family came into our home. Molly is a pure-bred Australian Shepherd from Nova Scotia.

In the summer of 2022 Richard and I began to search for a new family dog to fill the gap left when we lost our Duck Toller in November 2020. In Ottawa I researched dogs available for adoption at local rescue organizations. We met a few possibilities but were not able to find the right one for us.

In early July we travelled down to our family cottage in south-east New Brunswick as we do every summer. One of my cousins who is very engaged in the dog world of New Brunswick, notified me of a Facebook post from the owners of a breeding kennel located in Canning, Nova Scotia, not far from Wolfville. The breeders were offering to sell Molly, a four-year old breeding female who they had decided to retire.



*Molly*



We drove down to Canning, about 3 ½ hours from our cottage. We visited with Molly and her owners. We learned she was born in a breeding kennel for Australian shepherds in Quebec and had lived with Les and Robyn for four years with their other Aussies. Aussies are bred as working sheep herding dogs and are common on sheep farms in the south western US. Molly had given birth to three litters, the last one in May 2022. She was very shy and timid and had lived a very sheltered life with 5-6 other dogs but had very little interaction with other adults or children.



She and the other dogs lived in a stable and had a penned yard to run around in. Molly was extremely attached to Les, her owner. She had no experience living as a family pet in a house. She was a happy and well-cared for little dog but had no experience of social life.

We agreed to take Molly and the next day we returned to pick her up and drive her back to New Brunswick with us. This was not a good day for Molly. She was very upset when we took her from the owners, and she resisted going into the crate for the long drive. It was very traumatic for her. On the way back home we stopped for a break at a park by the Bay of Fundy. Molly was frightened and tried to get away from me out of her collar.

Once we got back to our cottage around supper time that day, Molly hid under the couch on the porch and would not come out. Finally, when we persuaded her to come out of the house so she could have a pee, she took the chance to bolt away from us and ran into the woods. We thought we could get her back by searching and calling for her. It soon got dark and all the cottage neighbours and children came out and spent several hours searching with flashlights and calling her name. Later on we realized that this was the worst thing to do as it likely just drove her to hide deeper in the woods. She was driven by blind fear as she did not know where she was, didn't know any people and was afraid of the sound of all the strange voices.



After a very sleepless night, we began days of hunting for Molly. We learned the value of a local Facebook connection when my cousin posted a photo of Molly and asked people to look for her. With amazing good fortune, that Facebook post was seen by a local cottager named Julie who was staying with her family just down the road. Julie and her friend Bonnie live in Moncton and operate a volunteer group dedicated to finding lost dogs and cats. Julie contacted me and offered her services to track down Molly.



Julie and Bonnie had a couple of large “live traps” that are large metal cages used to trap animals (cats, dogs, skunks, racoons, foxes) by luring the animal into the trap with food. Once the animal has entered the trap to investigate the food, the back door slams shut, locking the animal in the cage, but not harming them. Julie advised us that as Molly was so timid and terrified, we would likely never get her back without using the traps.

Thus began an 8-day saga of searching for Molly up and down the rural roads, cottage lanes, barns and houses in about a 5 km radius. We posted numerous signs along the road with her picture and my phone number. We posted updates on Facebook and contacted all the local dog rescues ,SPCAs and veterinary clinics around the area. I even reported her loss to the local RCMP detachment.



I spoke to dog walkers, joggers, the rural post driver and the garbage men. When Molly was spotted near a disused barn and an old truck nearby, we placed the traps there and baited them with a (supposedly) tasty mix of dog food. We placed water dishes all up and down the road hoping to lure Molly to the traps with water.

The trapper women also had an elaborate set up of a motion-triggered video camera that they attached near each trap. The plan was that the camera would activate when it caught an animal entering the trap and would send a Wi-Fi signal to Bonnie's cell phone in Moncton. This sounded like a good idea, but never actually worked, even though Bonnie called the US supplier of the camera and had many fruitless conversations about how to fix it.

Night after night the traps were re-bated with more food and checked in the morning. Molly may have been hungry but was not attracted by the bait. We did manage to trap 4 raccoons (or the same racoon 4 times) and one barn cat, who were happy to be released in the morning. On the second day as we were getting more discouraged, we persuaded the breeders Les and Robyn to drive up the 3 ½ hours from Canning and spend a couple of hours around the barn where Molly had been spotted, calling to her. We were sure that their voices were the only call she would respond to. However, that attempt failed as Molly did not come out of hiding. They returned home discouraged.



*Raccoons and Barn Cat, but no Molly*



By this time, the neighbours in a wide range around were aware of the loss of Molly and we got calls about dogs being spotted, but none of them the right one. One nearby dog owner posted a picture of her own dog on Facebook and told people that this was her dog and to please not try to kidnap him.

Finally, on the afternoon of the 6th day when Richard and I were in the depths of depression and hopelessness, we spotted Molly trotting down the cottage lane towards our cottage. She went onto the deck to drink from a water bowl. She looked at us, then deliberately headed off into the woods again. We immediately called Trapper Julie who was ecstatic that Molly had been spotted so close to where she had run off from. The following day we moved one of the traps down and set it up on our front lawn. I had arranged with Robyn to ship by courier some unwashed clothes of Les that would have a smell familiar to Molly. We baited the trap with a shirt and some smelly socks and went to bed with a tiny bit of hope.

The next morning Richard was awake at 6:00 am and heard a clear “clunk” which was the door on the trap falling shut. Followed by a startled “Woof!”. Richard woke me up and proclaimed, “She who was lost, has been found!”

You can imagine the relief and joy that we felt when we went out to the trap in our pyjamas and there was Molly sitting quietly with a resigned look on her face. She did not make a sound!

The next step was to wrangle Molly out of the trap and get her into a harness and leash so that we wouldn't lose her a second time. Although it was 6 am, I texted several neighbours and managed to find a collection of people who were willing to come and carry the heavy trap into our shed, where we could safely let her out. Since everyone for miles around had been engaged in the Great Molly Hunt, they were delighted to be involved in the happy ending.



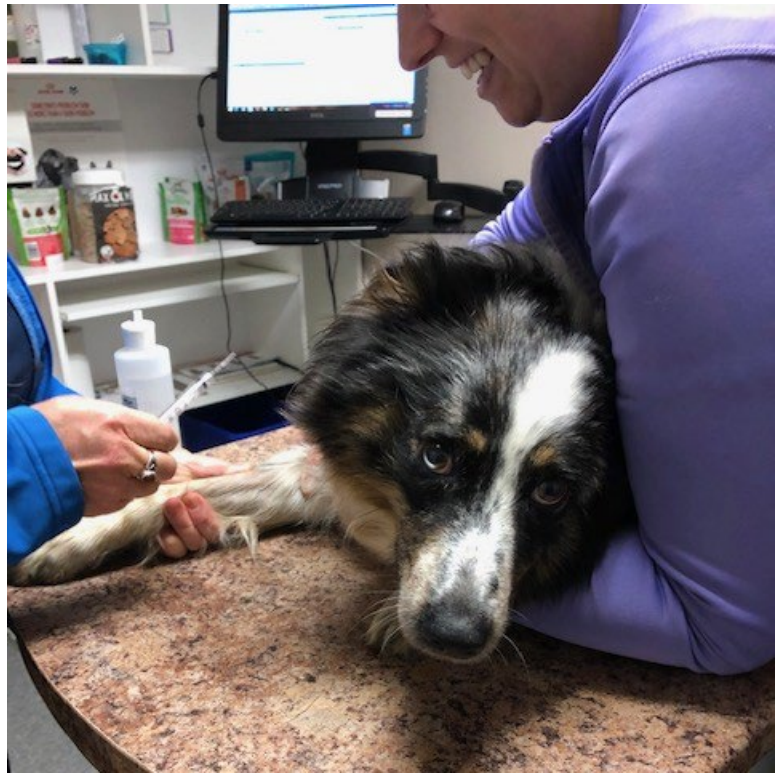
*Found at Last!*





*The Jeacle family shops for pumpkins*

By the time we got Molly out of the trap and into a harness, she was so exhausted and emotionally drained that she made no attempt to resist us. We got her into the back of our car and drove the 30 km over to the Veterinary Clinic in Amherst Nova Scotia. We had been in contact with the vet several times and they were expecting our call. They were used to seeing dogs who were returned from the wild.



*Getting checked out by the vet*



So, in the end, Molly was on the run lost in the woods for 8 days. She was healthy and a bit scruffy, but none the worse for wear from her adventures. She was a bit overweight when she came to us, so her week in the woods on a diet slimmed her down quite nicely.

After Molly returned to us, we started over with settling her into the family. We spent another 6 weeks at the cottage and she quickly settled in and began to feel like she was in a safe place. We took her to a few sessions with a dog trainer nearby and the trainer was helpful in teaching us about how to live with a very timid dog. We are hugely grateful to Julie and Bonnie and all the help they gave us to get Molly home. We could not have done it without their advice and help.

Molly quickly bonded strongly to me and now likes to stay within a few feet of me at all times. I am her safe, go-to human. She is also bonded to Richard and likes to go for a long walk with him every morning. She has become more relaxed with other humans she meets on the street and has favourites who she likes to say hello to.

After a very rough start, and an adventure that ended happily, we are now very happy to have Molly with us filling the dog-shaped space in our family.

Phyllis MacRae







## Beyond Account

*And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job  
more than his beginning.*

All serious gardeners east of Eden  
sweat to raise reluctant fruits and flowers,  
in tilt with strangler vine and bittercress,  
hemlock and every other noxious weed.

And so it's natural, that once upon a time  
old Job contested God: "Do not condemn me!  
Let me know why you contend against me  
and neglect the systems of the wicked."

God mused aloud, "Shall this faultfinder  
fight with his creator? Has he gifted me,  
that I should owe him? — I, the moral order  
over all that lies beneath the whole of heaven?"

Job withdrew. "I am of small account," he said.  
"I'll ask no more. Let me proceed no further."  
His friends' cajolery withal, he was content  
to lack the charge and purpose of existence.

© E. Russell Smith 2022



## COMMENTARY FROM CALIFORNIA - A FIELD DAY FOR THE PUNDITS

### *A commentary on the results of the US midterm elections*

The far-right deniers of the 2020 US election results have had a lot of attention in all the media in Canada, US and worldwide. Retuning to our Pasadena home and watching local TV, even for the few days we were here before the election, was eye-opening! Ads galore, often with more lies- misquotes, etc. Since January 6, 2021 there have been acts of violence linked to those ideas, lots of lies repeated and repeated. The mainstream news I watch and listen to report all this while always noting the truth- but we know they are not the media “the others” watch and hear. The division in what people believe is distressingly clear. So I expected, based on all the calm assessments made by the pundits of the intensity of the rightists, that there would be huge Republican gains. That’s what all the pundits predicted.

The midterm elections only proved again how divided Americans are but how hard it is to judge the nuances of voting decisions. The pundits are still busy explaining why the deniers and Trump supporters did not get as many votes as was so widely predicted. Hours of analysis on CNN! The consensus is: “The Republic is saved but still not secure”.

I personally am relieved by many instances of rejection of the Trumpers' candidates - but their vote totals are still alarming. There is no strategy yet for the future to strengthen civil discourse and get some compromises to solve real societal problems like poverty, health care, immigration, student loans and climate change.

Democrats are advised to continue to emphasize the progress made towards climate solutions, new jobs, reducing inflation. Abortion rights were very significant, in the elections and so was inflation. Voting rights were important to Democrats, not so much for others.

Much depends on control- tenuous at best in both the Senate and the House. The Republican majority in the House appears to be small and internally divided thus making governing difficult.

We appear to have won a measure to have rent control in Pasadena- a measure mightily fought for by the interfaith group I have worked with for housing justice and better services for our unsheltered neighbors- of whom there are about 500.

I don’t expect the next two years to be easy. I don’t expect much progress on reducing arms sales and production, on climate initiatives, on civil rights. The list of things that should get action is very long. Instead everyone will spend the most of their time preparing for the presidential election in 2024 rather than on solving problems.

I chose to stay in the US and became a citizen because I thought I could do good and make a contribution as well - or better- here than by searching for a job in Canada.



My experiences gradually made it possible for me to help effect big change in our county and state mental health services in California. I think my vote counts here, as it would were I in Canada.

Every vote is a moral statement wherever we are. Every voter should also strive to put action into our values between votes. I believe we are each responsible for being and living as Christians with love for our neighbors as our guiding principle. My faith gives me hope that the arc of the universe bends toward justice- and we must strive to help it bend!

Areta Crowell

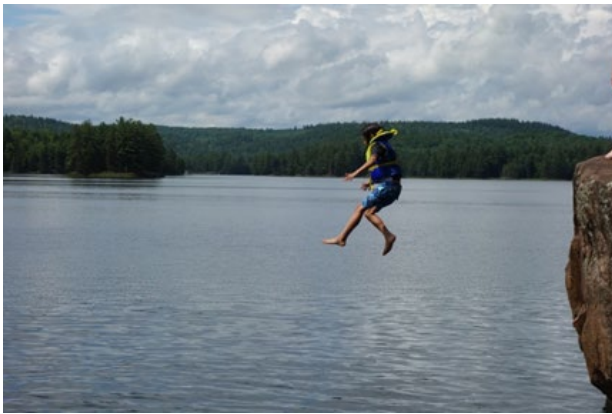


Bulletin board art by Emma Dowd. Photo: Joyce White



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Our **Cook and Canoe Camp** was back this year! The first two days were spent at the church preparing food to take with us, playing games and doing crafts, one of which was making cyanotype print bandanas. Six youth and three leaders canoed to Site 8 on Lac La Peche for two nights. We swam lots (in the sun and in light rain), roasted marshmallows and made smores, practiced paddling skills, spent an afternoon at the jumping rock, roasted hot dogs, had vespers each evening beside the lake, watched a beautiful sunset, skipped rocks, and played cards. It was a fantastic few days!



**Camp Awesome** was also back this year. Emmanuel hosted a camp the week of July 25. Four of our youth worked to prepare snacks for the campers and homemade pizza for Friday lunch. We also played croquet, spoons and some board games.



Youth also helped with the **vegetable garden** this summer. We made rhubarb juice and muffins. We grew lots of beans, some of which we delivered to Russell Heights food bank. The spinach, kale and zucchini were used in our Canoe Camp cooking. Tommy and Rustom picked and washed our big crop of carrots and made delicious muffins. Some were also given to the food bank.



Our monthly teen evenings have been fun! Evenings have included an outdoor BBQ and games night, a mobile Escape Room activity, an Improv workshop and a very fun scooter and bible exploration in September.

We usually start each evening with games, followed by dinner together, an activity and end with more games. The evenings are full of fun, community and learning.

Val Lines

All photos: Val Lines



## SUMMER WEDDINGS



*Cleophas Namosa and Anne Bihamba -  
August 7, 2021 in Kenya*



*Michelle Huxtable and Brett Jeacle - July 23*



*Michael Harris and Emily Sams - May 28*



*Greg Campbell and Natasha Wright – July 30*





*Zaina Maua and Aganze Bihamba – August 11*



*Kat Lorimer and Brad McVey - August 20*



## 40 DAYS OF ANTI RACISM

Almost 140 people across Canada attended the first of seven sessions on Anti-Racism that the United Church is offering for free every Tuesday from Oct 11-Nov.22. If you sign in through United-in-Learning (now called ChurchX) you can also watch the taped sessions. Each one has different speakers. The 7 weekly topics are: An Evening With Desmond Cole, Anti-Racism for White People, Unconscious Bias of Anti-Asian Racism, Being Metis, Anti-Racism Authors, Mixed and Multi-Racial I.D., and Then Let Us Sing. A writeup on the first 3 weeks follows.

### Week 1: An Evening With Desmond Cole

Desmond is a journalist, author and activist. His passion is “black liberation in Canada”. He explained that blacks cannot be liberated until every person in Canada is liberated. For example, he talked about a “class” war, saying those at the bottom of our society have never had the opportunity to set any rules, so there is a class struggle as well as a race struggle. In addition, there can be no black liberation on “stolen land” so he sees it as an anti-colonial struggle as well.

He talked about what it meant to be a Christian and what part “risk taking” had in that. He asked us to think of our own lives. WHO are we willing to take risks for? WHAT are we willing to take risks for and WHY are we willing to risk? The answers were predominantly: family or those close to us, but also included things like, the ignored, those with mental illness, those who are not hurting others, the voiceless, etc.



He said he felt truly privileged to be able to have the time to think about these struggles. Not everyone does. Desmond said that studying the issues and having conversations is NOT “doing the work”! We have to take risks, not just for those closest to us. There are people being taken advantage of, harmed, jailed, or on the streets. The only way to change this is if we are willing to take risks to advocate for them.

He referred to his book “The Skin We’re In” and said how Canadians are very familiar with American names such as George Floyd, but not familiar with the multitude of Canadian cases/murders still happening today.

One attendee mentioned a podcast “The Secret Life of Canada” and Desmond agreed that it was an excellent resource.

When talking about “land back” for Indigenous people, he said that does not mean they are coming to kick you out of your 2 bedroom bungalow. But 87% of land in Canada is Crown land—land that was just “taken” by those representing the Crown and that Indigenous people should now have the main say as to what happens on these lands.

Desmond talked about Moses Erhirhie, a Black man, who was shot dead by an officer of the York Regional Police in January, 2022. There was no advance warning or apparent reason why. The Special Investigations Unit (SUI) should have had an initial report for the family within 4 months. 9 Months later, the family has still not heard a word.





They have hired a lawyer, paul.slainsky@bell.net. Desmond asked us all to take a risk—to write our own MP or the Ontario Human Rights Commission, or to the lawyer—just a few lines to say this is not right. Will we answer the call?

A link to the CBC news report on this case (you may have to copy and paste it into your browser) is:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/siu-investigating-man-shot-police-shooting-markham-1.6338848>

## **Week 2: Anti-Racism for White People led by Jordan Cantwell, the 42nd Moderator of the United Church and Daniel Hauge**

They very quickly broke us into small groups to discuss if there was a racial situation you had encountered that confused you and to see if anyone else had experienced the same thing. Some of the things that surfaced were:

1. Inter-cultural music in a very white congregation. Is that cultural appropriation or appreciation?
2. If you invite someone to speak with whom you have no previous relationship, is that tokenism?
3. When is the time for me to advocate and when to sit back?
4. Who should lead the anti-racist work? (white people need to do the work). Jordan said, “The work never gets tied up in a bow. It is really never done.”

Islington United in Toronto is examining all aspects of their Church to see how much racism they find.

They are looking at Children’s Programs, Sunday School material, the music, the artwork, banners, library books, liturgy etc. They had large pictures of all 5 former ministers—all male and all white, hanging in their Church.

They have reduced them in size and put in a leather binder along with a history of their Church and it can be found in their library.

The following is a random sample of things that were raised.

1. How should we approach another group or person to connect with and not offend. (trust takes a long time.) A black man in my group suggested we focus on common values. He believes we have more similarities than differences.
2. After talking and learning, what should the action be? Don’t wait for the perfect way forward before taking the first step. Just step, reflect, hear feedback, step again and realize we will make mistakes.
3. Recommended book: “Valley of the Birdtail”. Set in Manitoba, it is the story of reconciliation between a small town and a First Nation community.
4. The United Church Manual is white persons’ rules of ways to do things colonially.
5. The goal is to get to be a Church where people REALLY belong. Ask new people, “What matters to You?”

Daniel talked about an organization he had been with that was attempting to be inclusive with a multiracial group of young people. They assessed where they stood.



After one year, they felt pretty good about how the teens responded to questions about how things were going. The organization gave their staff sensitivity training, But after year two, there were way more criticisms from the youth. The facilitator said, “Now the youth trust you—so they are willing to be honest!” Our ancestors took centuries digging a racist hole—we cannot climb out of it quickly!

### **Week 3: The Unconscious Bias of Anti-Asian Racism—Henry Shiu Page**

Henry is a professor of Chinese/Buddhist studies at Victoria College, University of Toronto. He came to Canada from China to attend University and he has stayed. He shared stories of some of his experiences.

The thing that stayed with me the most, was one of the things he said near the end. It really hit me how insidious unconscious bias is. We are probably all aware of the Asian student stereotype—very hardworking, intelligent, and definitely math/science/technology leaning. He said he too, had bought into this stereotype. He started his university studies in Mechanical Engineering. In 3rd year, he had to choose an elective course. He picked Buddhist Theology which, for the first time, got him thinking outside the box and he recognized a passion academically, that he never knew he had. After realizing this himself, he then had to convince his parents that philosophy and not engineering was where lay his life dreams. In addition, the University was resistant to thinking an Asian student could be interested in or good at the Humanities.



During Covid, he and his wife were trying to buy a house in Toronto. They were bidding against another couple—and lost. They did not get that house. Later, his agent discovered that the house had sold for LESS than Henry and his wife had bid. The agent was wild and wanted to press human rights charges. (The seller, buyer, and seller’s agent were all Caucasian).

Henry said that while it appeared to be racism, he couldn’t know what was in another person’s heart, and that there may have been some totally unrelated reason.

He said election day in Ontario on Oct 24 fell on Diwali, a religious holiday for many religions including Sikhism, Hinduism, and Newar Buddhism. Well before the election, they contacted the minister of Municipal Affairs asking that the date be changed as this was a holy day for them. The letter was not even acknowledged! In Brampton alone, over 150 election workers resigned. They had to choose between earning much needed money or observing their religious holiday. He asked us to reflect on what would have happened if the date had fallen on Christmas, Easter, or even Thanksgiving. He said this is an example of unconscious bias of one group over others.

Vancouver is now listed as the worst city for anti-Asian hate in North America. It is worse than the top 10 U.S. cities combined! Frustration, anger, and fear lead to hate crimes. Henry explained that these crimes are overt, whereas unconscious bias is very subtle. However, he feels that it took the real violence of the hate crimes, to wake the public up regarding the unconscious bias.

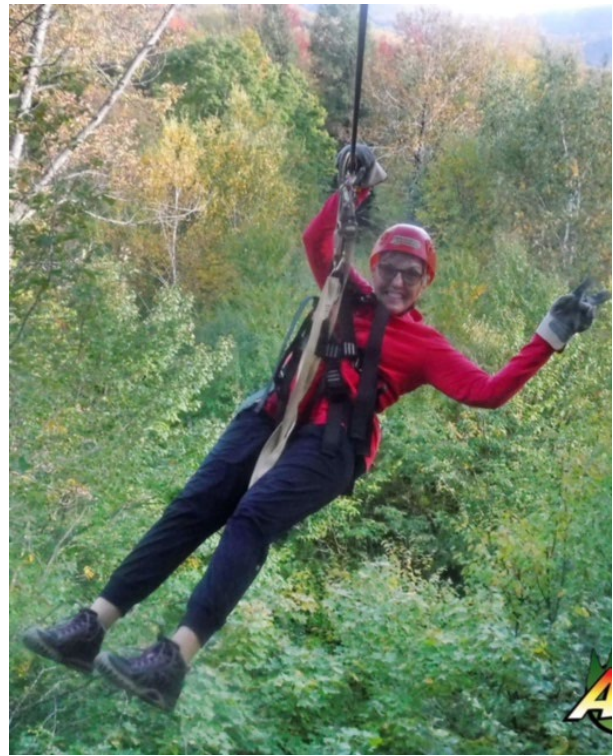


Bias can come from how news is first reported, by books, music, social media, our parents, our upbringing, and friends. We don't look at people directly, but through the lens created by all those factors. We can easily believe myths about those we don't know and become racist—we are not conscious of these influences.

There is a corporate glass ceiling for Asians described as a “bamboo” ceiling—totally impenetrable. This is not due to a lack of ability, but rather due to stereotypes—they are not seen as potential “risk taking” leaders.

He said most religions embrace inclusion. In practice, however, it is very different. He recommended we all use critical thinking to see people as people, and not as stereotypes.

Jill MacLean



*What Emmanuel members do on vacation. Carol Campbell zip-lining at Smuggler's Notch, Stowe, Vermont in October*



*Photo: Joyce White*



## EMMANUEL'S CHRISTMAS MARKET



*Emma Dowd hosted a table offering her original paintings*



*Childrens' items on sale at the 2022 Global Partners Christmas Market. Mittens and camels made by Joyce White.*





*Credit: Jan Bailey, Facebook*



*Credit: David Wray, Facebook*



## CHURCH OFFICE BUILDING PROJECT – CHIPEMBI, ZAMBIA

You may remember back in June of 2021, Emmanuel United Church along with Bells Corners United and the Chipembi Congregation of the United Church of Zambia entered into agreement to jointly construct a church office building adjacent to the church in Chipembi. Funds were raised by all three parties, with the labour supplied by members of the congregation and the community.

The Church Office Build has progressed very well as you can see from the pictures here:



The project is nearing full completion. The remaining work includes purchasing and installing wash basins and toilets; lighting fixtures; floor tiles; and interior doors. The final touches will involve the painting of both internal and external walls.

Once completed the office block will include a main conference room, a lounge area, an office for the minister, a vestry room and washroom facilities.



The project is nearing full completion. The remaining work includes purchasing and installing wash basins and toilets; lighting fixtures; floor tiles; and interior doors. The final touches will involve the painting of both internal and external walls.

Once completed the office block will include a main conference room, a lounge area, an office for the minister, a vestry room and washroom facilities.

In order to complete the project approximately 75,000 Kwacha (\$6,000 Cdn) is required. The Build Project Committee envisions opening and dedicating the new office block in March 2023, provided the funding can be received.

The congregations of Emmanuel United Church and Bells Corners United Church have been invited to attend and witness the celebration of the official opening of the new Church Office block. A pilgrimage to Chipembi is being planned for the March break in 2023. Interested parties should speak to Keith Jeacle, or contact him at:

[k.jeacle@outlook.com](mailto:k.jeacle@outlook.com)

Keith Jeacle



## MHI ANNOUNCES ITS NEW HOUSING PROJECT WITH DREAM LEBRETON

The green light has now been given to permit the building of two rental residential towers, 31 and 36 stories in height, to be constructed on the Lebreton Flats site. The project is an initiative of Dream Lebreton, a developer from Toronto. Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is in the process of completing an agreement in which it will purchase 130 units in one of the buildings. 30 of the MHI units will be dedicated for indigenous families. The buildings will be located at 665 Albert Street between the Pimisi LRT station and the National library and Archives building now under construction.

The Dream project is intended to be net zero on energy including solar energy and heat recovered from the sewage system.

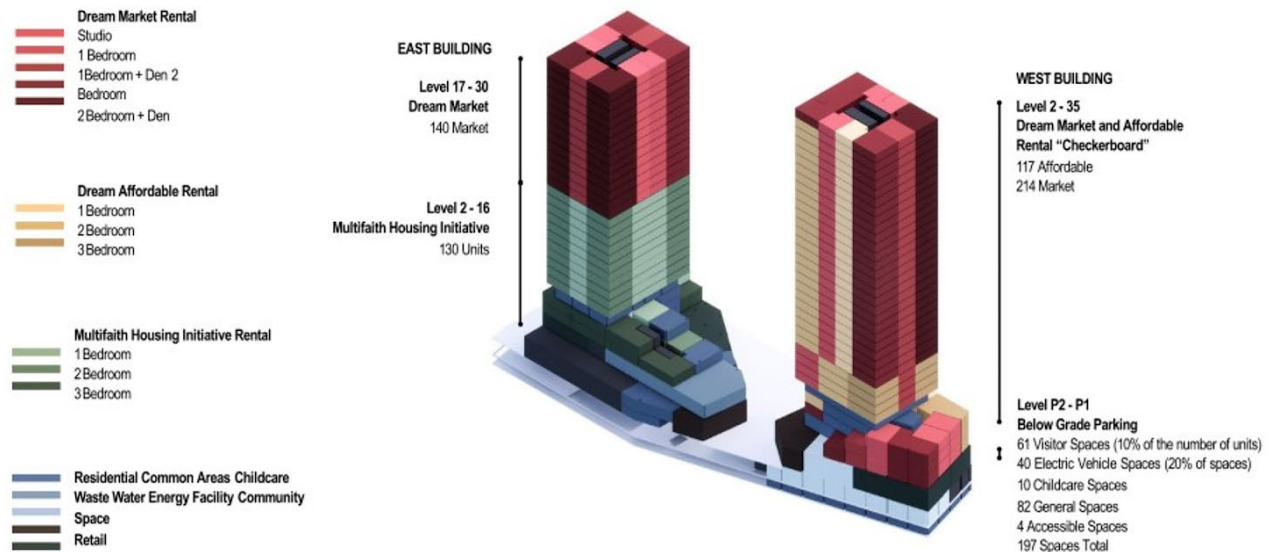
A total of 247 units in both buildings will be affordable. The units owned and operated by MHI will be affordable in perpetuity, based on median income in the surrounding neighbourhoods.

But that's where we come in. MHI has 22 United Church Communities of Faith memberships. A fundraising program has already begun in 2022 and will continue to 2025. The fundraising target is \$1.5 million. (The cost to MHI of construction and purchase will be funded separately). Shovels in the ground are planned for spring 2023. Expected completion of the buildings should be in 2026.

Janice Peron

Emmanuel representative to MHI

### CREATING A PLURAL COMMUNITY





## BOOK REVIEW

“*Tilly and the Crazy Eights*” by Robin Wall Kimmerer

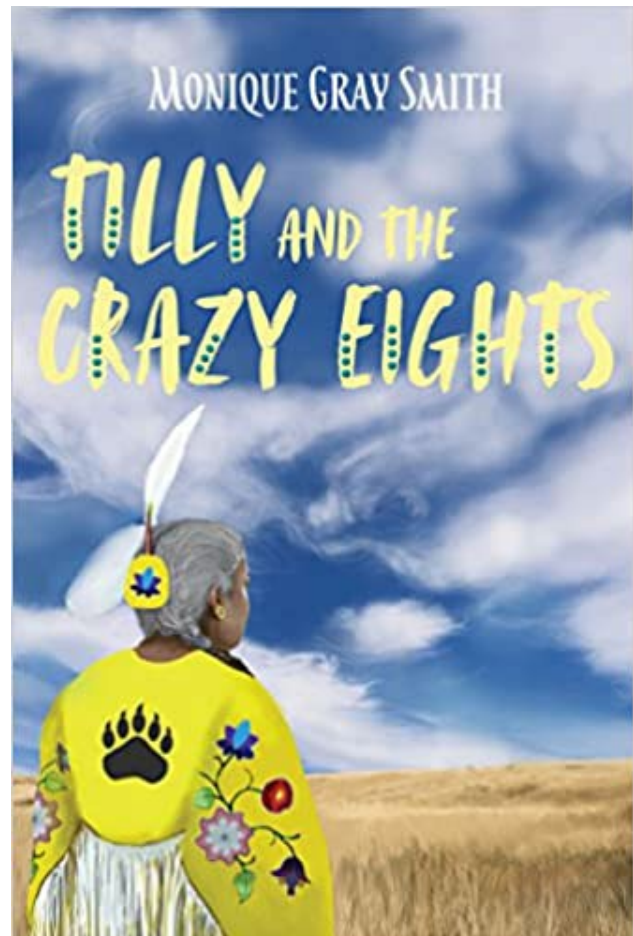
Second Story Press

*Winner of the 2019/20 First Nation Communities READ Indigenous Literature Award*

As I sang “We are pilgrims on journey” in church I thought of the fictional characters I got to know so well in this book. As they journeyed to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow, they take the reader along with them. It is a journey where each of them could dare to dream of the full life denied to them by the cruelty and discrimination of growing up Indigenous in Canada.

The book brings to life issues of residential schools, missing and murdered women and children, generational lines broken with the resulting myriad of family dysfunction, suppression of the availability of natural medicines and dignity denied with the attempt to extinguish cultural ceremonies. These are presented with a subtle touch so the horror can dawn on the reader gently. Running through the whole novel is the Indigenous humour that brings such a healing perspective to unimaginable tragedies the characters have suffered. Imagine a van stopped at a red light and seniors spilling out, circling to find a new spot to sit as they resume their journey. I can't promise there won't be tears, but there are lots of laughs!

Kathryn Thompson



## THE HERETICS THURSDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

The "Heretics" is a discussion group that meets by Zoom from 10:00 to 11:30 am every Thursday morning of fall, winter and spring. It is open to everyone, but especially to seekers. Yes, we do mean everyone - participants or observers. Two active participants for various reasons are not regular attenders at Emmanuel. The aim of the group is to have discussants express their view and to learn from one another. The Heretics are not just disrupters, as were Heretics in the early church. We are just folks often conscious of the need for change in ourselves and the church.

The group began as a Bible study group led by Professor Larry Read, but the emphasis has changed over the past twenty years to feminism, and more recently to "liberal" or "progressive" Christianity. Larry Read led sessions from 1987 to 1990. Subsequently Bob Armstrong and Ted English were coordinators. Anne Squire was a central organizer and participant for many years.

Topics are proposed by participants, but we often stray off topic.

For our volunteer discussion leaders it is a bit like herding cats.

We have had guests to help with Process Theology and Quakerism, and have used videos. Over recent years we have read books by Prof Amy Jill Levine, Fr Richard Rohr, Matthew Fox, Diana Butler Bass, Marcus Borg and Bishop John Strong and others.

Recently we discussed 'Christianity, Revisited' from Broadview magazine, October/November 2022. We usually read a book to prompt discussion. We are now using Brian D. McLaren's Do I stay Christian? A guide for the doubters, the disappointed and the disillusioned.

All are welcome to join us on Thursday mornings to participate in the discussions or just to listen and learn.

For further information contact a participant. For the weekly Zoom link contact:  
Evelyn Perkins: [perkeve@hotmail.com](mailto:perkeve@hotmail.com)  
Lynn Solvason: [lynn.solvason@sympatico.ca](mailto:lynn.solvason@sympatico.ca)

Bill MacLeish



*Bill (centre) in New Brunswick with Tonia, Richard and Molly.  
Photo by Phyllis MacRae*



## SEND A LITTLE LOVE

Every October Emmanuel prepares “thinking of you” gifts for postsecondary students at a time when they are facing added stress with midterms and assignments and some who are studying away from Ottawa feel a little lonely. This outreach has been going on for many years, starting with Christine Williams and the CD Committee. Keeping in Touch took over the project about ten years ago.

This year, fifteen care packages were assembled for mailing or local drop off. The shopping begins in September when school supplies are on sale. There were homemade cookies and tea plus favourite snacks: hot chocolate, kitkats, granola bars, pringles and microwave popcorn. Thank you to Patty Henderson for baking the most wonderful ginger cookies for the students. We care about their health too, so included bottles of hand sanitizer, Kleenex and clean new dishcloths crafted by Clarice Dewar. Most dentists are happy to hear that we provide a new toothbrush and floss to students and will give extras when you go in for a checkup. Good to send these along with the snacks.



Isobel Oakley made special note cards with a fall theme for messages written by Keeping in Touch. Thank you to Clara Brownlee who provided reusable cloth gift bags to hold everything. Clara is using up her seasonal fabrics! Merry Christmas!

We love receiving messages back from students:

“Thank you so much for the beautiful care package I received! After a long time I am back in school and appreciate it immensely.

All the snacks and goodies, especially the beautiful tote bag and dish towels were spectacular and very handy! “

“Many thanks to you and the Keeping in Touch Committee for the care package!

I look forward to seeing you when I'm home for Christmas! My program has been good so far, although it's quite busy! Thankfully I've continued to avoid COVID and will hopefully maintain my streak of never having it.”

“Thanks so much for the amazing gift! I definitely will be using everything. Please help me thank everyone involved.”

“Thanks. I am having green tea with lemon for afternoon tea. Thank you for the Subway Gift card. It is the best!”

Thanks to Pat in the office who remembered the Free Tuesday parcel delivery offer by Canada Post and printed the labels! Miracles, the parcels sent within Ontario, arrived the next day!

We appreciate the generosity of congregation members who pledge to the General Fund during the Stewardship Campaign so that Committees like ours have a small budget which allows us to reach out and share a little love from Emmanuel.

Joyce White

Chair of Keeping in Touch



## KITCHEN PARTY CONCERT

On Friday Nov 18th, the Kitchen Party was led by the Lyon Street Celtic Band. Dan Perkins, a member of Emmanuel and the band, sparked the event after a two-and-a-half year hiatus. The original was planned for March 27th, 2020. That date did not work out for obvious reasons. Spirits were high on Friday evening. There was a lot of toe tapping and humming along to the music. Attendance was great with many Emmanuelites but also others from neighbouring churches. We especially enjoyed the mop dance, the chicken dance and the spoons. But my favourite had to be a soulful rendition of "It's a Wonderful World".

Volunteers appeared to fill all the needed tasks. We express our gratitude to them and to the band for donating their musical skills.

And by the way, we raised over \$750 for our local food banks, the final tally is pending. How wonderful to gather like this. All said, it was quite a success.

Janice Péron

Fundraising Coordinator



## ORANGE SHIRT DAY – SEPTEMBER 30

September 30 is a national holiday to observe Orange Shirt Day in Canada. "Every Child Matters" is the slogan to help Canadians increase their awareness of the violence and damage done to indigenous children in the Residential School system. On Sunday, September 25, members of the Emmanuel congregation wore orange shirts and gathered under our crabapple trees in the front yard to express our solidarity.

Phyllis MacRae



Photo: Jon Jones



## ALBERT ERNEST RICHARDSON – LEST WE FORGET

### *A Veteran Profile*

Albert Ernest Richardson was born in Toronto on September 25, 1931. He led a distinguished military and policing career for more than 43 years.

Albert joined the Canadian Armed Forces in May 1949 and served until his release in November 1971. He was first sent to Japan with the Military Police, attached to the British Commonwealth Unit. Secondly, he served in the Korean War from 1952 to 1953, during which he was assigned to the First Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, as well as the First Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery "Charlie Battery", as part of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group. Later, he was sent to Egypt with the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) where he served from 1964 to 1965.



During his 22 years of military service, Albert was awarded the following medals: Korean War Medal; Volunteer Service Medal Korea; Special Service Medal with a Clasp; United Nation's Emergency Forces Medal Egypt; and, the Canadian Forces' Decoration (CD). He is a 48-year member of the Royal Canadian Legion, John McMartin Branch 297 in Cornwall.

Beginning in 1975, following an extensive military career, Albert served as Special Constable with the Ontario Provincial Police for some 21 years, working out of the Ontario Legislature at Queen's Park.



Albert comes from a long line of family members with active military service, including in WWI, WWII and NATO. Their daughter Maureen, of Kingston, served in Haiti as a UN Peacekeeper following the 2010 earthquake which devastated that country.

Albert is frequently honoured and feted by the Korean Embassy in Ottawa for his dedicated service during the Korean War. This recent photo is of Albert receiving a QE II Platinum Jubilee (70-year) lapel pin from Senator Yonah Martin, on June 19, 2022. Senator Martin is the first Canadian of Korean descent to be appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2009.

Albert most recently sang tenor in the Emmanuel senior choir. He lives with his devoted wife, Pauline, of 57 years, in the Perley apartments on Russell Road. He was featured in an interview with CBC Broadcaster Rosemary Barton on November 11 as part of the CBC Remembrance Day programming.



*Albert with Senator Yonah Martin*

Terry Henderson





## THEATRE REVIEW

### “Bloodline” by Albert Dumont

19 November at St. Paul’s Eastern UC

The performance of this play was at St. Paul’s Eastern United Church, which is currently rented by L’Eglise St Marc, a Franco African United Church congregation in Ottawa. Presently, their Elgin St Church is being renovated, due to some structural difficulties. St Marc’s UC has partnered with the Indigenous Community for a reconciliation project, the Ottawa Urban Indigenous Outreach, which will set the stage for new visions and continued work.

The evening began with a smudging (Sweetgrass) done by Albert Dumont’s grand daughter, Kyrstin Dumont. Kyrstin spoke to the audience introducing her grandfather. She was dressed in her Indigenous native dress of a Ribbon skirt. Albert is an Algonquin Elder and Storyteller, as well as the City of Ottawa’s Poet Laureate.

This autobiographical play, or series of stories, from Albert Dumont’s life, began with the first of many slides shared: his status card, issued by the Department of Northern and Indian Affairs. This card defined him, as well as his family. It is one thing to read books, reports, partake in intensive projects, read the Royal Commission at Emmanuel, but quite another to reflect on this status card, and its implications.



Albert Dumont - Photo: Albert Dumont, Facebook

The colonization of the Americas, attempted extermination of Indigenous culture, spiritual practices, language; a deliberate program of transformation of ‘faux’ white civilized members of Canada, leaves a legacy.

Albert continued to share slides and reflect on each with a story. There were photos of his parents and grandparents. We learn his father needed the permission of the ‘Indian Agent’ to travel to a nearby community to earn his living. We are invited to reflect on the arrogance requiring someone to get permission to leave land that was theirs in the first place. The British and Canadian Imperial Project of white settlement, supine celebration of the power of a distant Monarchical family, land theft, destruction of habitat, confiscation of property is no longer hidden.



The 'birch bark' story places it all in context. Albert's teacher, when he was 10 years old, asks him "Albert - What good are Indians?" He thinks of his father, and his affirmation the Algonquin make excellent Birch Bark canoes, so shares this perspective. The teacher contemptuously invites him to demonstrate this skill with a roll of birch bark, tape, and stapler. Once made, the teacher takes the canoe to the front of the class and tells everyone "they would sink in this", proceeding to laugh, along with the whole class. Albert is humiliated; his indigenous heritage demeaned, his rage results.

Another story of sitting in a bar and being attacked by "his best friend" who was white with racist language and the intent for murder. Albert grabs a chair, uses it to attack, escapes, and then finds himself pondering his father's gun for suicide. The thought of what his grandmother would encounter, along with no available ammunition, prevents the attempt.

His life was saved by the 'Trickster' with the outline of the Raven's Head. One of the slides was of a path through woods with the tree roots on each side interconnected with each other. In his own words this is where he felt at home, where he belonged. Reconnecting with the land and his culture has helped him to heal.

After this play, there was a community offering of soup, and Bannock as well as fellowship.

The Emmanuel UC community was represented by Robert, Russ, Lynn, Roxanne, Grant, and Phyllis.

Robert Sims and Roxanne Delmage



Photo: Almonte.com





*Nativity Figures by Anne Squire. Photo by Phyllis MacRae*

### **Emmanuel United Church**



691 Smyth Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 1N7  
613.733.0437 ph  
613.733.0125 fax  
[www.emmanuelunited.ca](http://www.emmanuelunited.ca)

