



this issue

A Tribute to Roxanne Delmage

Family Story: Hilde Reynolds

Isaruit: Reconciliation in Action

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

This is the tenth issue of our Newsletter, Enquiring Minds. We hope that you continue to enjoy the stories, poems, prayers and pictures of our Emmanuel life. This month we are including memories of some of the members of our community that we have lost in the past six months. They have left a large gap in the life of our church family, and we are missing them.

At the same time we are grateful to have welcomed nine new members by Profession of Faith, and six young people by Confirmation.

Emmanuel continues to grow!

"God is not finished with us yet."

Rev Michael Blair, General Secretary
United Church of Canada

Phyllis MacRae, Editor
June 2023



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



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

“Seasons”

It was just last week when the rain, drizzle and fog finally lifted while the last of the snow continues to melt on the Avalon Peninsula of the island of Newfoundland. From my own observations watching national news and weather forecasts, Ontario Spring always was a month ahead of where I grew up. Since I prefer warmer temperatures and an earlier Spring, it is just one more reason why I like where God has planted me for ministry here at Emmanuel.

I have shared with you for the first time the liturgical seasons of late after Pentecost and Creation Time, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Easter. As I write these words for the Spring newsletter, Pentecost is just around the corner. We are beginning to plan celebrating Confirmation and the Profession of faith of a few youth and newcomers to the United Church faith tradition. We are blessed to have new and fresh expressions of God's love among us. A community ought to show that we are expanding our experience of the love of God. Thank you to our newcomers and new professors of the faith. May God continue to bless your journeys and our shared journey as Emmanuel United people.

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



FROM THE ROVING DESK OF THE PASTORAL CARE PROVIDER

When I shared with Carol Scott my intention was to retire this summer, she said, “Those you have walked with in their most vulnerable moments, will always be a part of your story”. I feel this deeply as I begin to contemplate life outside of Emmanuel United Church. It has indeed been a privilege and an honor to serve, when folks are vulnerable, and due to loss or circumstance, they share their story with me.

The Pandemic did add an extra layer of complexity to Pastoral Care; and oh so many Zoom meetings! But it also added opportunity. The book “Braiding Sweetgrass” (which I reviewed in a previous newsletter) reminds us to “show up to the damn meeting”. I have learned to say yes to new opportunities while working at EUC, then to trust that whatever I needed to do the job would come my way through the Spirit, along with intention and a good effort. This is a very rewarding revelation to me, one which I will continue to nurture.

It is said that whatever you focus on grows. I have tried to focus on lifting up others, and “holding space through God’s Love” for those in the congregation who receive Pastoral Care (PC) through our PC team. Our team at Emmanuel is a resourceful, resilient, and a deeply caring team. Please reach out to them at any time if there are times in your life when sharing a part of your story is a comfort. This is sacred work. Thank you for your trust; it has indeed been a Blessed Journey for the past 4 years - one which I will treasure for my life story.

Roxanne Delmage



Roxanne with Tilly



FROM CHAIR OF COUNCIL

My husband, who doesn't normally come to the church (except to drop me off or pick me up) recently came in with me on a weekday morning. We parked in the only available spot, near the front doors. The back of the parking lot was full of paid user parking and the rest with people involved in that day's activities in the building.

It was a Kiwanis music week and the sanctuary was in use; an extra grand piano in place, the narthex full of hushed parents and volunteers. Pat and Grant were in their offices and I chatted briefly with a couple of familiar folks, checking on the progress of one or two church-related projects.

When we got back into the car Aaron said that it must be very satisfying to know that the church is such a successful community place. This, made me very happy; first because he seldom seems to notice "church stuff", but he had and secondly, because he was expressing such a positive impression of what he saw happening at our church.

God's church. Emmanuel's community. It's growing strong and purposeful again.

I think we are all aware of how much the pandemic closures shifted things for everyone—people, communities, social structures, workplaces, travel, governments, the world we know. Or knew.

When I think of this post-pandemic time we're now living in, I have an image in my mind's eye of a cinematic-type scene that could be from any number of 20th Century movies; a dramatic storm or battle has finally ended and an eerie stillness fills the theatre for a few profound moments. Then, the actors begin to move, to peep out of doorways or to push up from behind the rubble. They stagger out and discover that others have also survived. They begin to compare notes and to dust themselves off. And someone asks, "what do we do now?".

In the past year, our community has been asking ourselves that same question, in different ways:

- ✚ Do we meet for worship or stay online?
- ✚ Do we resume our pilgrimages?
- ✚ Do we meet in our small groups? Stay on Zoom? *Prefer* Zoom?
- ✚ Where is everybody?
- ✚ Will more people want to come back if we stay masked? If we don't?

The answers, as always, are complex and some things can be decided sooner than others. *Patience* and more importantly *grace* should be our watch-words. We've started up, then had to be quarantined again. We came back...again.



We began to have events, then had to cancel them or move them back out-of-doors. Then, we began to allow rentals in the church, limited use of the kitchen, then full use of the kitchen. And just last month, we allowed the wearing of masks to be optional.

In the last couple of weeks, I've finally felt it—a buzz in the room during Coffee & Conversation. It's not just more relaxed than it has been for a while; it feels happier! We've wanted to see each other but, for a while I think it felt a bit forced; like friends who were very close in school but haven't seen each other for many years. Now we're starting to remember how to be with each other, how much we need each other.

Isn't it exciting that we've recently welcomed new members and added members-by-transfer? We've baptised a few babies and are hoping to confirm a few of our youth this spring. We're starting to see some more familiar faces and young families return.

We have visitors who stay and chat after worship. I've met several different people recently, who freely admit that they're "church shopping". This is a legitimate way that younger adults seek a community of faith. For a generation that may not have grown up attending church, (and instead have the entire planet available to them through social media) the idea that they would simply go to the church up the street is beyond imagining. First, you look at a website. Then maybe you email the church to ask a leading question about policies. If this seems promising, then you attend worship and see what it's like. If you're really feeling positive, you stay and chat over coffee. So really, by the time we meet someone upstairs on a Sunday, we've been engaging them for some time.

At Emmanuel I think we take these opportunities to grow our community seriously. We maintain our online presence by live-streaming worship each Sunday and maintaining a website where folks can usually find the latest news. We are part of a string of Facebook pages. We have a monthly news packet and this newsletter. Our Keeping in Touch Committee works very hard to engage those who are at church and those who are away, in many less traditional ways. For pastoral care, Roxanne has a weekly Zoom chat, enjoyed by many. We have a newly engaged minister. We are so thankful for Grant, who willingly engages in pastoral care, worship and whatever else is needed.



Photo: Ottawa Tourism



Could we do more? Probably. But we need to remember that the energy source for all of this activity is mostly *volunteers*.

From the chair I currently occupy I can see that many of our hard-working committees that do all this communicating, have put in “overtime” through the pandemic. We kept a great deal of programming going, despite the shut-down and that is to our tremendous credit.

I believe this is all possible because we are a people of faith, who remember to trust in the strength of that faith when hard things happen.

I hope that we are listening faithfully to know where to put our energy next.

Faithfully yours,

Christine



*Christine with grandson Percy, and Trooper
Photo: Evelyn Hywarren*



A TRIBUTE TO ROXANNE DELMAGE

Roxanne became Emmanuel's Pastoral Care Provider in July 2019. She embraced the role whole heartedly and has been a gentle and caring support for many people for the past four years.

During Covid, she looked for additional ways to connect with people when in-person visiting was not possible. She organized a match of families with isolated seniors, allowing them to connect and exchange notes which both the families and seniors appreciated. She started a weekly Zoom call which includes discussion on a topic that Roxanne chooses each week. This weekly call has nurtured new relationships for the participants. She worked with the Keeping in Touch team to provide lunches and other deliveries to seniors at various times during covid. She asked young families to provide items to go with the deliveries, thus involving the wider community in pastoral care.



Roxanne at a Pastoral Care meeting, multi-tasking, as usual!

Roxanne has been an active participant and co-leader of the local Pilgrimages. She has organized various speakers and workshops, including a session with Dr. Maggie Mamen on youth mental health and a recent event by Compassionate Ottawa on 'Live Well, Die Well'.

Roxanne spent time to research ideas and when she found something that she thought would be beneficial to someone else she passed it on. It is due to Roxanne that the amazing prayer song video from Spencer LaJoye was part our youth service in the fall of 2022.

We have appreciated all that Roxanne has brought to us. However, we understand that there comes a time to retire and that this is the time for her. We wish her a wonderful retirement, filled both with fun adventures with friends and family as well as time just for herself.

Val Lines and Jill MacLean

Photos by Jon Jones



Roxanne with Nellie



GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME (GLI)

The idea of a Guaranteed Livable Income (also referred to as Guaranteed Basic Livable Income) is to provide a federal and provincial income supplement to citizens without qualifying conditions. Over many years pilot projects have taken place and studies have been carried out. Costs of implementing GLI are potentially high, but the results are shown to improve fairness and quality of life for all Canadians.

Jesus said that it is essential to help low income people, especially families and children. Since 1972 the United Church of Canada has endorsed plans for a GLI. In March of 2023, the Church issued another call for GLI. There are initiatives underway in many United Church congregations. In our Region EOORC there is a GLI group led by Clark and Ellie Topp. Lorraine Busby leads a group at Rideau Park United Church and is encouraging GLI activity in our South East Ottawa Cluster. In Ottawa there is a growing city-wide group – Basic Income Ottawa (BIott). Lorraine Busby is the contact for that group. Rideau Park UC sent a letter to Alta Vista Ward city councillor Marty Carr to encourage her to support a city-wide initiative.

Across Ottawa supporters of GLI are meeting with their city counsellors to encourage an initiative to bring a motion to Ottawa City Council. They would like City Council to send a motion to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Motions are being taken to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as well.

On June 7, the City Council of Hamilton, ON passed a motion supporting the proposals for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income, and calling on the Federal and Provincial governments to collaborate to implement such a program nationally.

At the federal level there is a Bill in the Senate (S233) and in the House of Commons (C223). Both these Bills have been sent to Committee for debate.

In May a report was released by the Community-University Institute for Social Research at the University of Saskatchewan: *“Basic Income: Calculating the Cost Savings and Downstream Benefits”*.

The terms GLI and BLI are interchangeable. They refer to a general principle of fair basic income for citizens, and do not present detailed plans for methods of implementing the principles.

If you would like to work to support the ideas of GLI/BI you can contact Lorraine Busby (lbusby@mun.ca) and Clarke Topp (clarketopp@gmail.com)

Bill McLeish and Phyllis MacRae



Somewhere a dog

A solitary thrush and I arouse
to a padded footfall on the hill;
he sings a rote phrase only,
comes to himself and holds his peace
through the last dark hour.

The far shoreline stretches
and scrapes against the silken sky.
In the stern of a runabout,
feet on the transom, a fisherman
casts once more into the weeds,

and goes to breakfast, waking the lake
behind his forty eager horses,
leaving it trembling
shore to shore for an hour
after his passing.

Neighbours across the bay
make love on the verandah.
Now, at the cutting edge of day,
the lake is washed with a dry
brush on coarse laid paper. Pine trees

droop and lift against it, dark and
unforgiving. A loon with her young
yodels her morning watch. The kingfisher
rattles to his perch. Somewhere a dog
barks at his own echo.

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THE STORY OF HANDBELLS AT EMMANUEL

The original three octaves of handbells at Emmanuel were presented to the church as a memorial to Beth Collins by Malcolm Collins and friends. It is unclear exactly when they arrived, but there was a service of dedication on Sunday evening, Dec. 9, 1979, at which one group played several selections.

At first they were directed by Lee Langner who learned about playing them from our friends at Rideau Park United Church. The most active group was a teen group which learned very quickly and played several times at other churches as well.

There was also a group of women, who met and played the bells but rarely performed. Lee directed until 1984 at which time Anne Montgomery became director for a short time.

When I joined Emmanuel in 1994, I was already a handbell ringer and knowing that Emmanuel had handbells, was a consideration in choosing our new church. However, I didn't realize that the bells were inactive at the time. I began to wonder if I would be welcome to reactivate the bell program at Emmanuel and whether I had the skills to do it.



Probably 1981 - L-R: Joan Campbell, James Read, Peggy Seely, Moira MacLeod, Valerie Hamilton (Lines), David Langner, Greg Squires, Eric Armstrong, Paul Langner (hidden), Rob Filipkowski



While I have degrees in music education and many years as an orchestral musician, my conducting skills were pretty rusty. The minister, Bill Smith, encouraged me and when I attended the 1995 Handbell festival, I attended every workshop for directors that I could. I also found a handbell chat-list which was very helpful. In autumn 1996, I finally felt ready to try directing bells.

In 1996-1997, we met after church on Sundays which was not a great time! After that we moved our rehearsal to Thursday evenings before choir practice, which allowed ringers who sang in the choir to do both.

The British call their handbell groups "teams" and I prefer that term to "choir" because it more accurately describes how people work together in a handbell ensemble—each with their own bells but also sharing other bells if necessary. The original team working with me was small and required some creative assignments to cover the bells, but as we gained experience, we attracted more people and decided on a name—The Emmanubells.

Over the years there has been a large turnover in the team though some have rung for many years. We recruit ringers shamelessly and have many not from Emmanuel, some of whom have become active church members.



Probably Summer 1984 L-R: Stephanie Lines, Sheila MacLeod, Cathy Squires, Peggy Seely, Karen Amundrud, Moira MacLeod, Valerie Hamilton, Greg Squires, David Langner, Paul Langner, Blake Lines



We have added more bells, starting with the fourth octave in 2000–2001. Then we acquired the low F3 which gave us a solid bass note. The little bells of the upper fifth octave were acquired in 2007–2008. The final bell, the C3, was acquired in 2011. It is the lowest pitched bell we own and is a memorial to Eleanor Cox, an Emmanubells member who died in September 2009. We also acquired three octaves of chimes which provide a contrasting sound to the bells and are wonderful for children learning basic skills. I would love to see someone start a children’s chime choir.

In 2010-2011, when Emmanuel was under construction, our friends at Gloucester Presbyterian Church offered rehearsal and storage space. We played at some of their services and used Rideau Park’s bells for Emmanuel services held at Rideau Park.

Our bass chimes were acquired in February 2017. These 12 low chimes are memorials to Pat Fancy (Emmanubells member), to Andrew Boothroyd (Lynn’s husband) and to Robert Sartor (my brother-in-law), all of whom passed away in November—December 2016.



2000 Front row L-R: Esther Mak, Hazle Sokolich, Kim Perkins, Ann Frederking, Heather Perkins, Shirley Maguire, Mary Jean Beddall
Back row L-R: Laura Montgomery, Nancy Jamieson, Irene Bakker, Drew Pihlainen, Elizabeth Jenner, Anne Montgomery



Those chimes complete the bottom of the 4th and 5th octaves and we often use them instead of bells if there's a sustained bass line. We don't have all of the lower 5th octave bells (and don't plan to acquire them as they are large, heavy, and very expensive). All the bells and chimes were purchased in memory of, or in honour of, someone and each carries an inscription in the handle. Please see the chart of our memorial inscriptions:

<https://www.emmanuelunited.ca/worship/memorial.php>

Since 2001, we have attended eight provincial handbell festivals—four in London, two in Ottawa and one each in Hamilton and Peterborough and in 2017, we attended the Vermont Spring Ring. The 2023 Ontario Festival will be in Kingston. We also participate annually in the Bells in Spring Concert at Rideau Park United, held on the first Sunday in May.



*2011, Early May – Front L-R: Samantha Chambers, Nancy Bass, Joan Craig;
Middle L-R: Elizabeth Jenner, Lynn Solvason, Mary Jean Beddall, Ann Frederking;
Back L-R: Lynn Gullins, Catherine Costain, Pat Fancy, Kirsten Johnson, Irene Bakker*

During Covid, the Emmanubells were able to play distanced and masked in small groups as composers offered some very good arrangements with no bell changes, for small groups.

It has been very rewarding to see the team grow in competence over the years to the point where we are making music and not just rendering the notes. There is always room in the group if someone would like to join us. However, the ability to read music is necessary, as is making a commitment to attend rehearsals regularly.

Ann Frederking



2023, February 12 - L-R: Maila Gray, Mary Jean Beddall, Theresa Clarke, Kirsten Johnson, Joan Foster-Jones, Maggie Park, Pam Stuart, Irene Bakker, Catherine Costain, Lynn Gullins, Vanessa Kraus, Ann Frederking

SPRING GARDEN SALE AT EMMANUEL, MAY 13

Photos: Phyllis MacRae



Steve Taylor finds a priceless bargain



The ladies at the baking table: Irene Bakker, Judy Huard, Hilde Reynolds



Shoppers taking a break before more shopping: Carol Campbell, Sue Longstreet, Pat Harris





Erin and Roxanne enjoying the sale



The plant table, back by popular request from last year



Jessica Williams, Jeannie Taylor and a Lady in a funny Beannie Hat





Nanette Whitwam and Nyla Garrett. They never miss an Emmanuel event!



Plants galore!



It's Emmanuel, so there is food!



FAMILY STORY: HILDE REYNOLDS

Hilde Reynolds is a founding member of Emmanuel Congregation. She will celebrate her 93rd birthday with her twin sister Gerda in Michigan in August this year.

Hilde lives in her own house in old Ottawa East next door to her daughter Judy McDonald. Both Hilde and Judy have beautiful shady gardens side by side. The gardens are joined by a swinging "Saloon Door" so they can easily visit back and forth.

EARLY LIFE IN GERMANY

Hilde and her twin Gerda were born in 1930 in Freiberg (Breisgau) Germany. They were born weighing only 3-½ pounds each, but both survived and have lived to a robust and healthy senior age. They had one younger sister Liz born in 1934. Liz lived in Florida and died in 2013 of cancer. Hilde used to visit her and her family in Florida.

Hilde's parents were Alfred and Else Kienle. The family lived in Freiberg for one year after Hilde and Gerda were born, and then moved to Konstanz on the border of Switzerland on Lake Bodensee. Else was a homemaker and Alfred worked for the German railways. He didn't join the Nazi Party, as was strongly encouraged for all workers, so he never gained promotion in his work.



Hilde and Gerda in Oma's back yard in Konstanz



WAR YEARS

In September 1939, just as war was declared between Germany and the Allies, Hilde and Gerda were confirmed at age nine in the Roman Catholic church. On the same day as their confirmation, their father Alfred was called up to enter the war. He was away from the family until the end of the war. He spent most of the war years on the Eastern Front in Russia near Leningrad (St Petersburg). He served as a cook in the German army, and survived many Russian attacks to come home when war ended in 1945.

The sudden departure of her father to war was very sad for Hilde and her sisters. This left their mother home alone to care for three small girls. At age 10, it was decided that Hilde would leave her family and go temporarily to stay with her aunt and uncle Connie and Clara who lived in Heidelberg, a famous medieval university town. Her aunt and uncle had no children of their own, and they were relatively well off. Originally the visit was intended to be short-term and Hilde planned to return to her mother and sisters in Konstanz.



Map of Germany showing locations of Freiburg, Konstanz and Heidelberg
Image: PBS Learning Media



However, as the war progressed, it became impossible to travel around Germany, so Hilde ended up staying in Heidelberg until the war ended. Although she was separated from her mother for five years, she was happy to be the only child, and adapted well.

Uncle Connie was a sales representative for a medical instruments firm. He continued to operate in business and was not required to serve in the military. Hilde had a relatively peaceful life with her aunt and uncle in the war years. She made friends and went to elementary school. Like all children her age, she was obliged to join the girls' brigades of the Hitler Youth. She has few memories of that time. The children went camping and to youth rallies and "sang army songs". As children, they were not aware of what was going on in the wider world.

Hilde's uncle was a sports hunter and had the heads of his trophies mounted in the house. Hilde had to dust the house including the antlers. Her aunt Clara was a fastidious housekeeper and Hilde learned her excellent housekeeping skills from her. Because the family lived in Heidelberg, they were spared the violent bombing by the Allied Air Forces that wreaked such damage on the industrial cities of Germany such as Dresden and Manheim and other centres. Hilde remembers hearing the bombers going over the city at 11 pm each night on their way to bomb other cities. The American bombers dropped pamphlets on Heidelberg telling the citizens that their city would not be bombed because that is where they wanted to live.

She does remember that a Jewish couple were hidden for several months in the third-floor attic of her aunt and uncle's house until they could find another safe place to escape the concentration camps.



Gerda, Liz and Hilde in 1944



WAR ENDS

In May 1945 at the war's end, Hilde's father returned to the family in Konstanz. Hilde was 15 when the war ended. She stayed in Heidelberg which had been taken over by the American Army in 1945. The American soldiers wanted to trade for good German items such as cameras and binoculars. A woman American soldier named Penny, a translator with the US army, came to their house for a camera that her uncle wanted to exchange for specialty foods and other American products. She spoke fluent German and became a close friend of the family, visiting often and taking Hilde for rides in her army jeep. Later, Penny became very important in Hilde's life.

In 1946, Hilde finally returned home to her parents in Konstanz. Her sister Gerda then went to Heidelberg to stay with their aunt and uncle. Hilde went to a convent school for a few years. She did not enjoy that school or the teachers. Then according to German government policy, she went as a young adult to work for a year on a farm near the town of Dompden. Then she returned to Konstanz to live with her family. For three years she worked as a waitress and hostess at a fancy restaurant. During this time Hilde played an accordion in a three-piece band.



Photo: Ottawa Tourism



EMIGRATION TO CANADA

After the war, the family friend Penny, who had lost her husband, remained in Heidelberg. Before being transferred to Berlin, she and her American friend Josephine, also a widow, decided to take a vacation to Digby, Nova Scotia. While staying at a small inn called The Hedley House, they decided to buy it. Penny reached out to Hilde back in Germany and invited her to come to Nova Scotia to work at the inn. Penny paid the cost of ship fare (\$150) and applied to sponsor Hilde to immigrate to Canada. Some time passed as Hilde had to wait for her Canadian Visa. In November 1951, she finally sailed for Canada from Hamburg at age 21. She sailed on the Home Line ship MS Italia and the crossing took 8 days of rough seas. Like most of the passengers, Hilde spent most of the voyage being sea sick.

Once she arrived in Halifax to meet Penny, Hilde found the situation had changed. Penny and her business partner Jo were “on the outs” as Jo had hired a young German man to work at the inn. There was no longer a job for Hilde. The inn was closed for the winter. Subsequently, Penny found a job for Hilde as a live-in nanny for the family of a Canadian naval officer at Base Cornwallis. Hilde worked for the family over the winter. In March 1952, she returned to work temporarily at the Hedley House. However, the opportunity then arose for Hilde to accompany the family to Ottawa when the officer was transferred.

HILDE ARRIVES IN OTTAWA

In 1952, Hilde moved to Ottawa and lived on Springfield Avenue with the family. Hilde made friends in Ottawa and often went to dances and social events at the YM-YWCA. When the family was transferred to Victoria BC, Hilde decided to stay in Ottawa. She started working at Singers on Sparks Street in the merchandise of sewing machines. She studied English at Glebe Collegiate.

In 1954, Hilde’s parents and her sister Liz immigrated to Canada. Hilde found an Ottawa doctor and family to sponsor them. They worked as live-in housekeeper and handyman for the doctor’s family. Hilde’s sister Liz loved dancing and the two sisters often went to dances at the Y. After a short time, the family moved to Toronto. In 1955, Hilde’s twin Gerda immigrated to Canada to live in Toronto. There Gerda met and married a German man and they settled in Chicago. Gerda now lives in Taylor, Michigan, near Detroit. When she had her car, Hilde used to drive to Michigan to see her sister. In August, Hilde will fly to see Gerda to celebrate their 93rd birthday together.

MARRIAGE AND MOTHERHOOD

In 1954, Hilde met Carl McDonald, an RCMP officer, at the Y dances. She started dating Carl and began to attend Chalmers United Church with him. In 1955, they married at Chalmers United and lived on River Road for a year, while they waited for their new Campeau house to be built in the brand-new suburb of Elmvale Acres. When their daughter Judy was born, she was baptized at Chalmers United.



They moved into a bungalow on Olympic Crescent. Hilde stayed home and babysat two little girls, so Judy had children to play with. In 1959, the family became Founding Members of Emmanuel United Church and began to worship at Vincent Massey School.

When Judy started Kindergarten at Hawthorne Public School, Hilde started working part-time for a family friend who opened an independent pharmacy at the new Elmvale Acres Shopping Centre. Later on, she worked full-time at the pharmacy and trained as a cosmetician and later as a pharmaceutical assistant. Hilde worked for many years at the pharmacy and always loved her job there. She was able to have good working hours so she got home by 4 pm when Judy came home from school. She retired after 28 years working at the Elmvale Pharmacy.

YEARS ALONE AND THEN WITH GLEN

In 1984, after 29 years of marriage, Hilde and Carl divorced. Hilde moved and bought her house on Tawney Road. There she built another one of her wonderful gardens in the front and backyard. Hilde was on her own for seven years. She continued to enjoy her work at the pharmacy. Carl remained on his own and died in 1997.

Hilde met Glen Reynolds who was a family friend and also an RCMP officer. He was living in Winnipeg but moved to Ottawa where he and Hilde were married in 1991. They were married at Emmanuel by Rev Bill Smith. Hilde and Glen were very happy together. Hilde remained close to Glen's children and now to his grandchildren.



Uncle Connie; Baby Judy; Aunt Clara; Judy's dad Carl (Hilde's first marriage), 1961



Hilde and Judy in 2023



AUGUST 31, 2010

SHOWCASING INCREDIBLE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES OF THE LAST CENTURY...

TIME

Konstanz Researchers Unlock Secret of Eternal Youth

Twins Hilde and Gerda, collectively 160 years old, carry unusual genes. Scientifically dubbed GHKonstanz1930/2010, it is more commonly known as eternal youth and perpetual charm. Thought to be the product of a supportive family, dear friends and laughter, researchers have isolated the specific DNA that manifests itself in a youthful appearance, unstoppable energy and enthusiasm for everything.



www.time.com

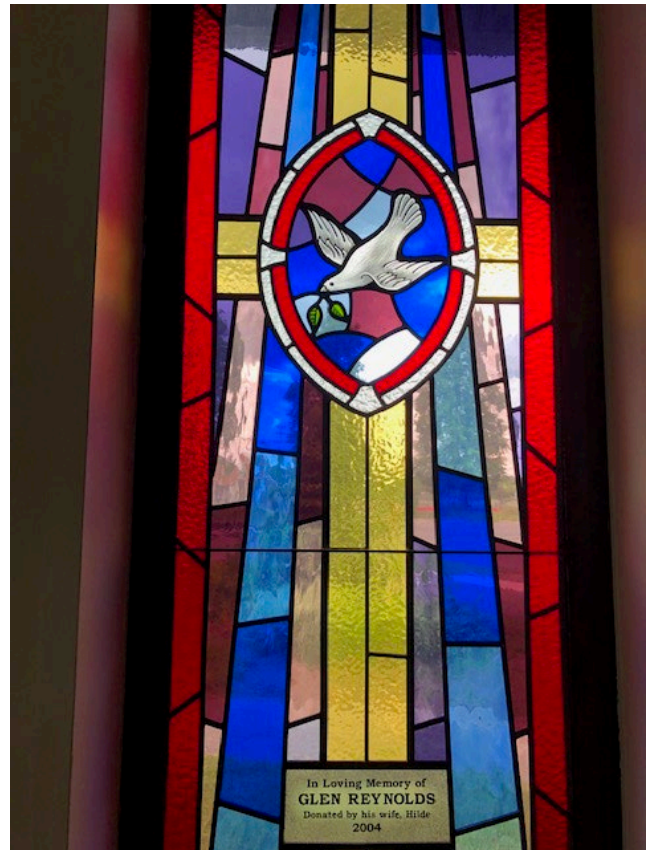
A "Time" Cover made as a gag, and given to Hilde and Gerda in 2010. The larger picture is of Hilde and Gerda at their first communion, aged 9. The smaller picture was taken at Hilde's second wedding, to Glen Reynolds.



They were married for 13 years until Glen's passing in 2004. Glen loved attending Emmanuel and was an avid volunteer. They enjoyed going to dinner dances at the RCMP HQ. Hilde loves to dance—especially the polka. Glen and Hilde traveled a lot with the RCMP vets and attended conventions. They traveled to Germany to visit her home towns. Glen had a number of serious health problems and Hilde nursed him until he died. In the lounge at Emmanuel, Hilde erected a memorial stained-glass window in Glen's memory.

LIFE AT EMMANUEL

Hilde has been a active volunteer at Emmanuel all her adult life. In early years, she taught Sunday School with Anne Squires and Bev Amundrud. For years she sewed banners for the church. She has been a member of Keeping in Touch Committee for many years. She visited older Emmanuel members frequently in their homes before Covid. She writes cards and greetings. She likes to usher and welcome worshipers on Sunday as a greeter at the front doors. She often is a lay reader. She helps serve communion, prepares dinners, bakes for all events and works every year at the Bazaar. She is blessed to have many rides to church with Graham and Janet Campbell, Mary Turnbull, and Joan Foster-Jones. For many years she drove herself, and hers was the only Cadillac in the parking lot.



*The memorial window for Glen Reynolds
Photo: Phyllis MacRae*

In 2018, Hilde decided to downsize and took the opportunity to sell her house and beautiful garden on Tawney Road. She was able to buy a lovely small house that is located next door to her daughter Judy in Old Ottawa East. She immediately set about creating another lovely garden. She calls it her "oasis" and her retirement home.

Hilde loves visiting others and receiving visitors from Emmanuel. We are very lucky to have Hilde in our Emmanuel family. With her joy and upbeat spirit and great energy, she is an inspiration to us all.

Phyllis MacRae

Photos and images courtesy of Hilde Reynolds, except where noted



Kerygma

*And the LORD God said,
'The man has now become like one of us,
knowing good and evil.'*

Genesis 3:23

The useful tale of Eve and Adam
tells us that evolving humankind
has left its innocence upon the shelf,
and so been rendered subject to itself.

To help with this bizarre engagement,
Jesus bodied forth, then left behind,
the Logos that had ruled before his birth,
the Word that sorted Adam on this earth.

© E. Russell Smith 2023

“Kerygma” is the essential gospel of Jesus, as preached by
the early Christians.



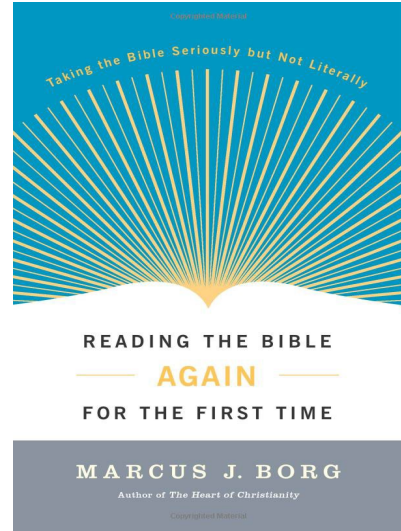
NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time

by Marcus J. Borg

Borg, in this book, encourages Christians that reading the bible can reconcile a scientific and critical way of thinking with their spiritual needs. The book encourages Christians to look at the bible in a new way – rejecting simple literalism and being open to living a life of authentic faith.

This book is found in section 25, Christian Education.



Lectio Divina: Renewing the Ancient Practice of Praying the Scriptures

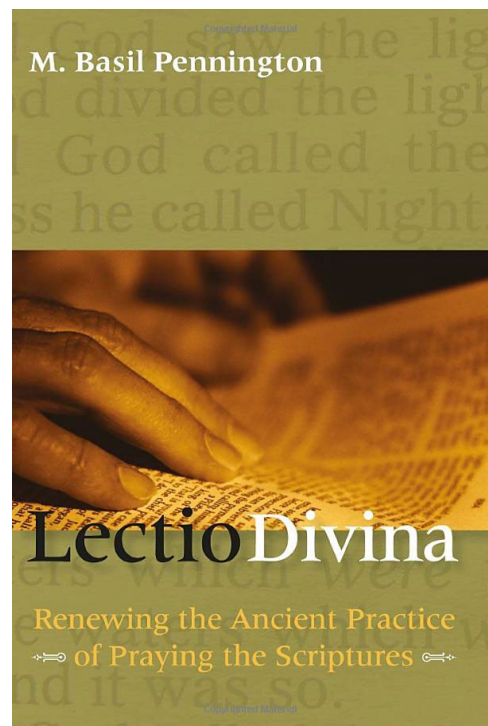
by M. Basil Pennington

This past March during the Lenten period, Rev. Stuckless led a bible study based on *Lectio Divina* and the four movements used to study scripture. Historically *Lectio Divina* was a community practice used by monks – a way of praying the scriptures. This book was purchased as a resource for church members to study this ancient practise.

The four movements are as follows:

1. Lectio – the reading of a scripture,
2. Meditatio – mediate, ponder and reflect upon the scripture passage,
3. Oratio – praying and dialoguing with God re the scripture passage,
4. Contemplatio – understanding and interpretation of the scripture passage.

This book, found in section 65, Personal Development, is useful for understanding of the concept and principles of looking at scripture.



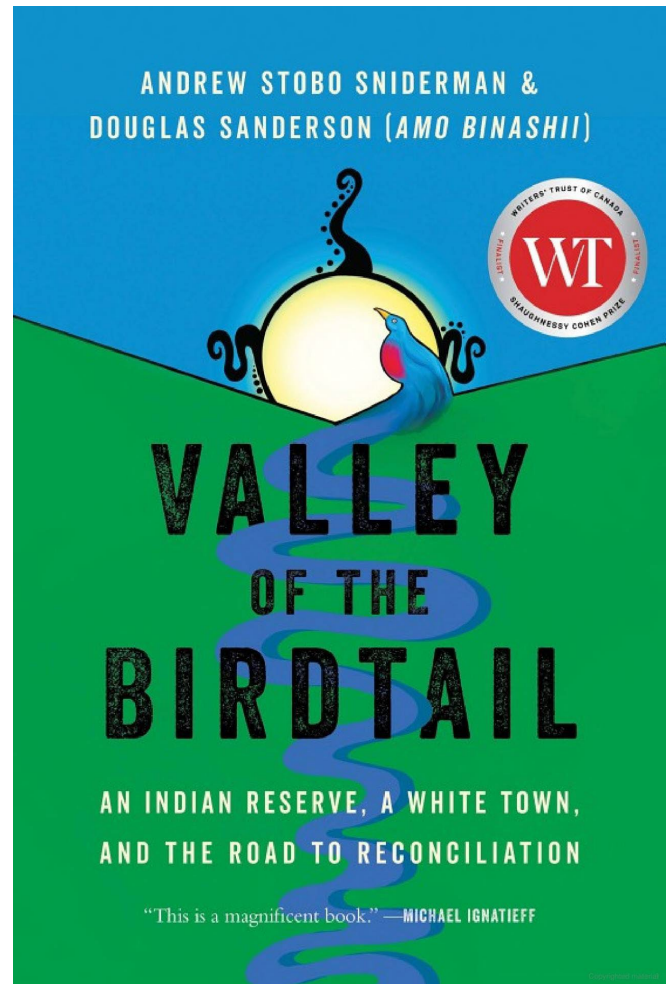
Valley of the Birdtail by Sniderman, Andrew Stobo & Sanderson, Douglas
(Amo Binashii)

The book, *Valley of the Birdtail*, tells the story of two communities, Rossburn, Manitoba, settled by non-Indigenous Canadians and Waywayseecappo, an Indian Reserve - the two neighbours for almost as long as Canada has been a country. The authors give us a glimpse into the lived disparities between the two communities. Rossburn citizens' family income is near the national average and about a third of their population are university graduates. While the reserve families live below the national poverty line and less than a third of adults are high school graduates. This Indigenous community also lives with horrific memories of the time many spent in residential schools.

The story focuses on the generations of two families - one Canadian and one Indigenous and tells how they live out their lives. The authors have the readers look at the past with its systemic racism and its effects on the Indigenous people. The reader is compelled to look to the future and seek out solutions to achieve a more equitable society for all.

This book is found in section 15, Justice, Christian Ethics.

Sue Hodges
Emmanuel Librarian



ISARUIT INUIT ARTS: RECONCILIATION IN ACTION

Emmanuel's Social Action Committee has been exploring options for an indigenous partner for a couple of years. We tried a couple of the well-established agencies, such as Wabano and Odawa, but they did not seem interested. We then learned of a new organization devoted to Inuit women, called Isaruit Inuit Arts, and started talking with their Executive Director, Bev Illauq. As a small, nascent agency, it became apparent that there was potential for a real partnership involving more than just the modest financial resources we might provide. But we needed to move slowly.

Isaruit means "wings" in Inuktituk. The Isaruit Women's Sewing Center was founded in 2017 to give wings to Inuit women living in the Ottawa area. Ottawa has the largest Inuit population of any city outside of the North, but the culture shock for Inuit moving here is great.

A group of Inuit women decided they needed a safe place to practice their traditional sewing skills - and chat with others in their own language. In 2021, it was decided to expand its mandate to cover a wider range of art and handicrafts, and to include men. A new name was chosen, Isaruit Inuit Arts: Pijunarnivut.

An office and work space was secured in the old Rideau High School building at 815 St. Laurent Blvd. They now have a large, high-ceiling room which used to be for technology classes. This provides space for a workshop where men can produce traditional tools as well as sculptures and other works of art, while women have access to two dozen sewing machines and supplies.



Isaruit now has an impressive website at www.isaruit.ca where you can find a full set of Inuit artist profiles, as well as information on their annual artists' conference, among other things. Initially it was thought that Isaruit might provide a venue to market Inuit art. Now it has been decided that the focus should be on providing an environment which encourages creativity, and then coaching artists on how to sell their work. Nonetheless, they are organizing an Inuit Creators' Market Place at their shop on the first Wednesday of every month.



It was agreed that the first step in our budding relationship should be educational. So Bev proposed a 4-session course over one month focused on Inuit culture. About 25 persons from Emmanuel and a few other churches attended via zoom in February 2022. It was a powerful eye-opener. Next, Bev indicated that she needed help to obtain charitable status, which Emmanuel also needed if we were to provide financial support. So Linda English contacted her sister, Rosemarie, who agreed to help. She soon gained their confidence, and became their governance advisor, providing support on the role and responsibilities of the Board, and help in preparing a strategic plan. Charitable status was obtained in February 2023.



Bev and Isaruit are now ready to grow our partnership further. Most Inuit in Ottawa do not have a car or a driver's license. Unfortunately, public transport and even taxis are problematic, especially for Inuit women, given the frequency of abusive experiences. So we received a request to drive two Inuit sculptors to North Gower to pick out some soap stone. Lynn Solvason and Russ Pastuch immediately responded, and enjoyed the adventure. Apparently the sculptors were also happy. We are now looking for other people who might be available to drive on an occasional basis.

Never short of ideas, Bev has bigger plans. Many Inuit in Ottawa are lonely and have few friends or family they can call upon. Bev is hoping we can identify a few members of our congregation who might be willing to "pair up" with an Inuit person. Someone who is not only available for a ride, but would perhaps go out for a coffee or lunch once in a while, or just pick up the phone and chat. Someone out there in the big, white world who actually cares. We are still working out the modalities and how to manage expectations. But to kick off this expanded partnership, we are planning a small potluck dinner at Emmanuel sometime in May or June. We are also hoping to organize an on-line presentation of Isaruit by Bev.

So how can you get involved ?

1. Check out their website at www.isaruit.ca.
2. Drop into their market place on the first Wednesday of any month, 1:00 to 4:00 pm.
3. Donate at the May 28 communion service when Isaruit will be the beneficiary.
4. Look out for an announcement of the on-line presentation on Isaruit.
5. Contact Phil English to sign up as a driver or participate in the potluck.

This might just lead to reconciliation in action...

Phil English

penglish407@gmail.com 613-853-0024

All photos courtesy of Isaruit Inuit Arts

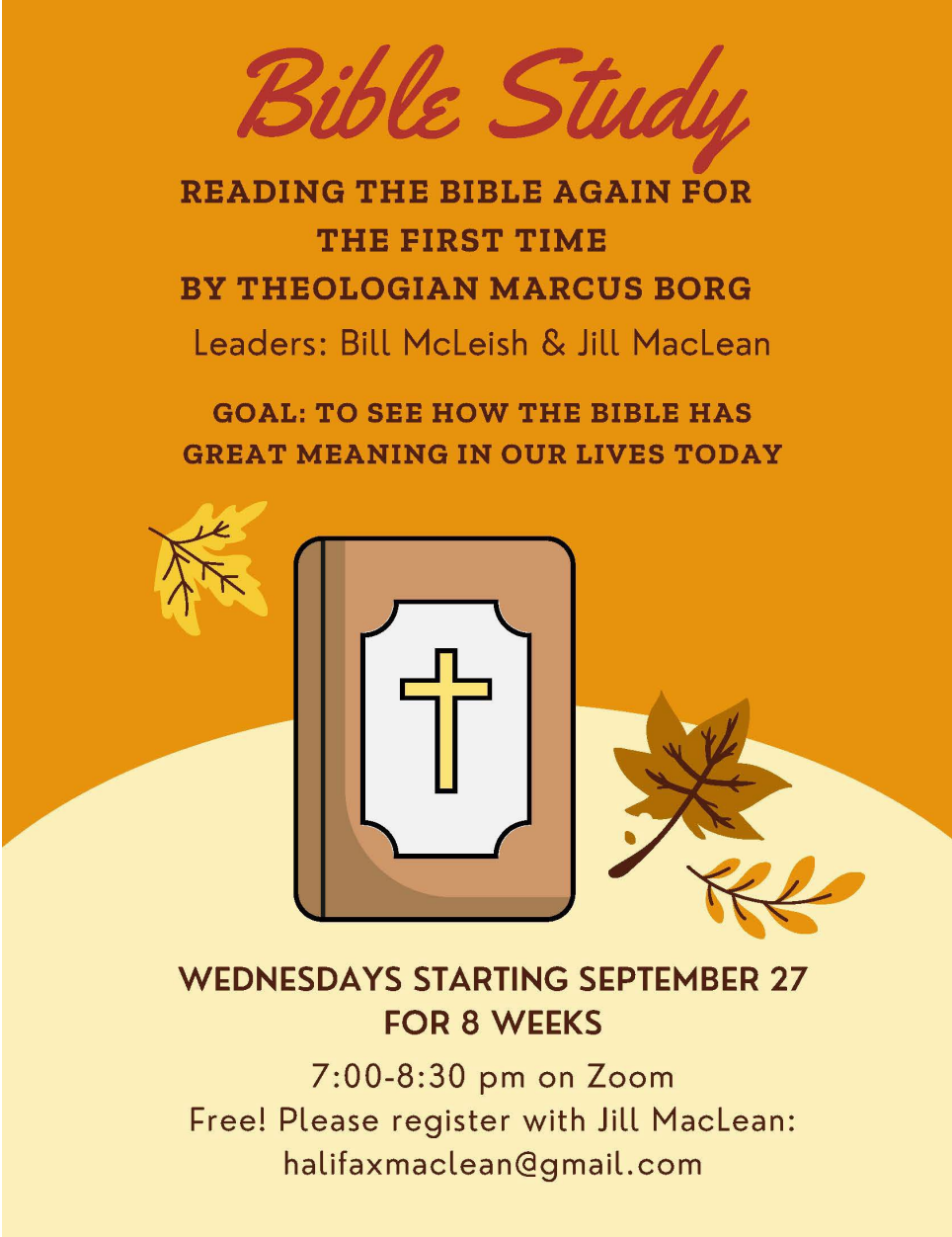


BIBLE STUDY: FALL 2023

Starting on Wednesday September 27, Jill MacLean and Bill McLeish will be leading a Wednesday evening book study and discussion of:

Marcus Borg: *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*. Join Bill and Jill for an interesting conversation about this classic text by Marcus Borg. This is an opportunity to understand a modern view of the Bible and how it has meaning in OUR lives. The program will run for 8 weeks on Zoom. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please register with Jill MacLean at

halifaxmaclean@gmail.com. All are welcome.



Bible Study

**READING THE BIBLE AGAIN FOR
THE FIRST TIME
BY THEOLOGIAN MARCUS BORG**

Leaders: Bill McLeish & Jill MacLean

**GOAL: TO SEE HOW THE BIBLE HAS
GREAT MEANING IN OUR LIVES TODAY**

**WEDNESDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 27
FOR 8 WEEKS**

7:00-8:30 pm on Zoom
Free! Please register with Jill MacLean:
halifaxmaclean@gmail.com



RED DRESS DAY AT EMMANUEL

To draw attention to more than 1200 missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, men, and two-spirit people (MMIWG2S+), May 5th has been designated as National Red Dress Day in Canada

Since 2021 Emmanuel United Church has participated in the RED DRESS Project by hanging red dresses and a shirt in the trees outside of the church building along Smyth Road. The installation is intended to draw the eye of those passing by and introducing them to the on-going plight of the MMIWG2S+ people and their communities.

The first Red Dress installation at EUC was blessed by Anishinaabeg elder, Barbara Dumont-Hill, in keeping with the significance that the installation is a solemn memorial to those whose lives were lost, and in support of grieving families still waiting for justice.

Although that is the official day, we need to give honour and support every day.

On Tuesday May 2, 2023 a motion was brought forward on the floor of the House of Commons. It read: given that:

- i) on October 27, 2022, the House unanimously recognized that what happened in residential schools was genocide,
- ii) decades of insufficient action from all levels of government have failed to address the effects of this genocide, including the crisis of violence against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people with the urgency it deserves,
- iii) families in Winnipeg and throughout the country continue to experience the tragic loss of a loved one to this crisis,

the House calls on the Government to:

- a) declare the continued loss of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people a Canada-wide emergency (from coast to coast to coast); and
- b) provide immediate and substantial investment, including in a Red Dress Alert System, to help alert the public when an Indigenous woman, girl or two-spirit person goes missing.

This motion was passed unanimously by all parties.

So this is the talk—now we need to see action! Implementing the Red Dress Alert system is a start. In addition, the most recent budget included a \$150 M cut for women's shelters.



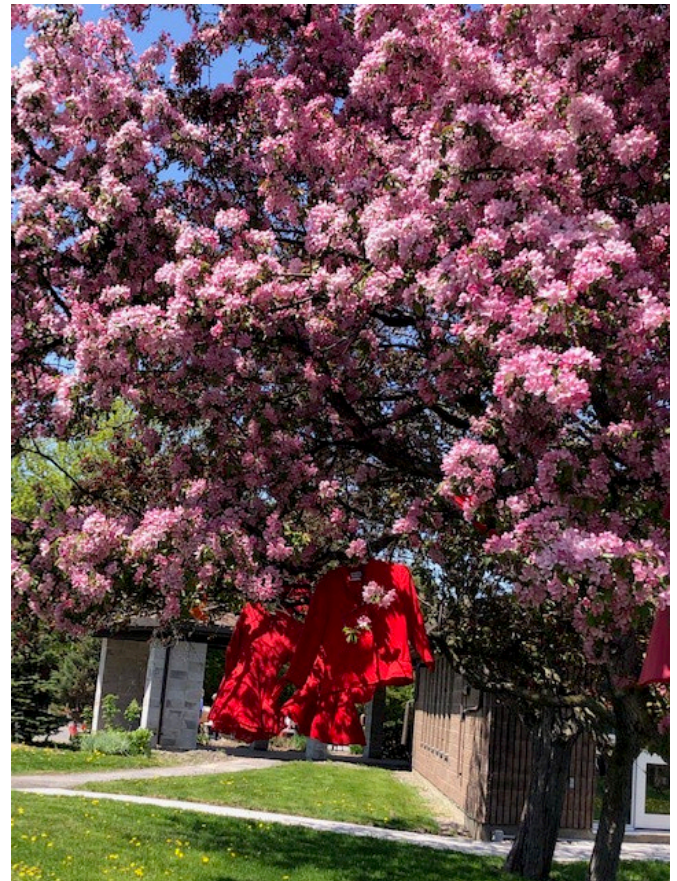
The government said the pandemic is over and so the need is not as great. In fact, we all learned that domestic violence greatly increased during the pandemic and the fallout needs to be dealt with. So, at a minimum, the cut should NOT be made.

Living in Ottawa, we have the opportunity to encourage our government to keep the “pedal to the metal” and make the crisis of MMIWG2S+ a thing of the past. What can YOU do?

Adapted from online CBC news reports. Motion recorded in Hansard 189.

Jill McLean, Areta Crowell and Carol Scott

Photos: Phyllis MacRae



TELEOS RETREAT, APRIL 26

On Saturday April 1st Teleos held a day-long retreat at the church. It was good to join in fellowship with other Teleos members after three years of Zoom meetings and it was inspiring to have Rev. Catherine Gutjahr as our retreat leader once again.

Catherine's theme was "exploring the wisdom in our stories". We began by telling stories that we remembered from our childhood. The importance of telling our own stories was emphasized as they hold us together and, when shared, can become wisdom stories.

Photos by Joyce White and Roxanne Delmage



This activity was followed by reading some familiar fairy tales. Each was examined in the context of when they were written and how we view them today with regards to ideas of power, privilege and social justice.

The afternoon's activities included a choice of three creative workshops - Soul Collage, Social Justice Exploration and Street Theatre. Each group presented their results to the others. Jeannie closed the day with a worship service.

Emma Dowd provided us with a delicious and nourishing lunch. Many thanks to Catherine, Jeannie, Roxanne and Joan for organizing the day.

Teleos Members



PILGRIMAGE TO CLAUDETTE CAIN PARK MAY 10, 2023

Photos by Phyllis MacRae and Russ Pastuch

Our Emmanuel Spring Nature Pilgrimage was at Claudette Cain Park, on River Road on the east bank of the Rideau River. The pilgrimage committee (5 persons) picked this park for location, varying walk lengths, as well as washroom availability; practicality prevails! We (25 congregants and a guest from Parkdale United who'd seen Russ's poster) met near the gazebo under a tree where the history of pilgrimages was explained.

In a nutshell, Nyla had asked Rev Peter Lougheed years earlier if, as others in the congregation went to far away Pilgrimages, could there not be Pilgrimages arranged close to home as well? Thus, the Nature Pilgrimage close to home was born.



The pilgrimage group - tired but happy



Our Pilgrimage began sitting in a circle, for Worship. Following a land acknowledgement recognizing this as Algonquin Anishinaabe territory full of beauty and diversity, we listened as Prayer and Scripture with the theme “Take My Hand” were shared. There was music including “ I the Lord of Sea and Sky” reminding us “I am here, Lord” to listen to where God’s hand leads us. Although managing sound outdoors is always a challenge, folks sang out despite not having the words (with some encouragement from the Pastoral Care provider who didn’t get the “for listening only” memo).

Following the Worship sharing, we formed groups of 4 to discuss 3 questions: “When have you offered a hand to another, when have you been given a hand from another and when have you seen someone give a hand to someone else?” Lively discussions took place.



Nyla leading worship



Grant and Roxanne prepare the worship



Then, we all walked in different directions depending on the level of activity desired. There was a short jaunt to the historic Moodie family cemetery, a stroll to the lookout over the Rideau River, or a longer walk to the board walk along the Rideau Conservation area on the west side of the River where shoreline restoration has been ongoing and habitats for turtles, birds and fish have all been restored.



View of the Rideau River



Robert Sims and Major enjoyed the spring sunshine



Jill MacLean giving directions to the group about the hikes



After nourishing our souls with this exploration, we nourished our bodies by eating our bagged lunches. Following fellowship during lunch, we formed different groups of 4. We brainstormed how many things we could think of that were done with our hands. Which group could get the most? The most unusual? The funniest? We then learned a little American Sign Language to say , “Hello, my name is” (and to spell it out) and teach it to everyone in our group. (Not easy with old arthritic fingers!)

We closed with Communion followed by evaluations and Lindt chocolate courtesy of Sue. Some left for ice cream at Purple Cow, others went for more walks or to leave for home. It was another beautiful pilgrimage day for Emmanuel.

Roxanne Delmage



Roxanne and Patricia Fairbairn leading worship



Molly enjoyed watching the group have lunch.



Irene Bakker and Lynn Solvason at the river lookout



YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Photos by Val Lines

Our teen group met on January 29, March 26 and April 22. Our tween group met on the afternoon of Feb 4 and attended the EOORC Worshipful event that evening. They also met during March Break on March 15.

One of the activities that both groups did was floor curling – very fun!

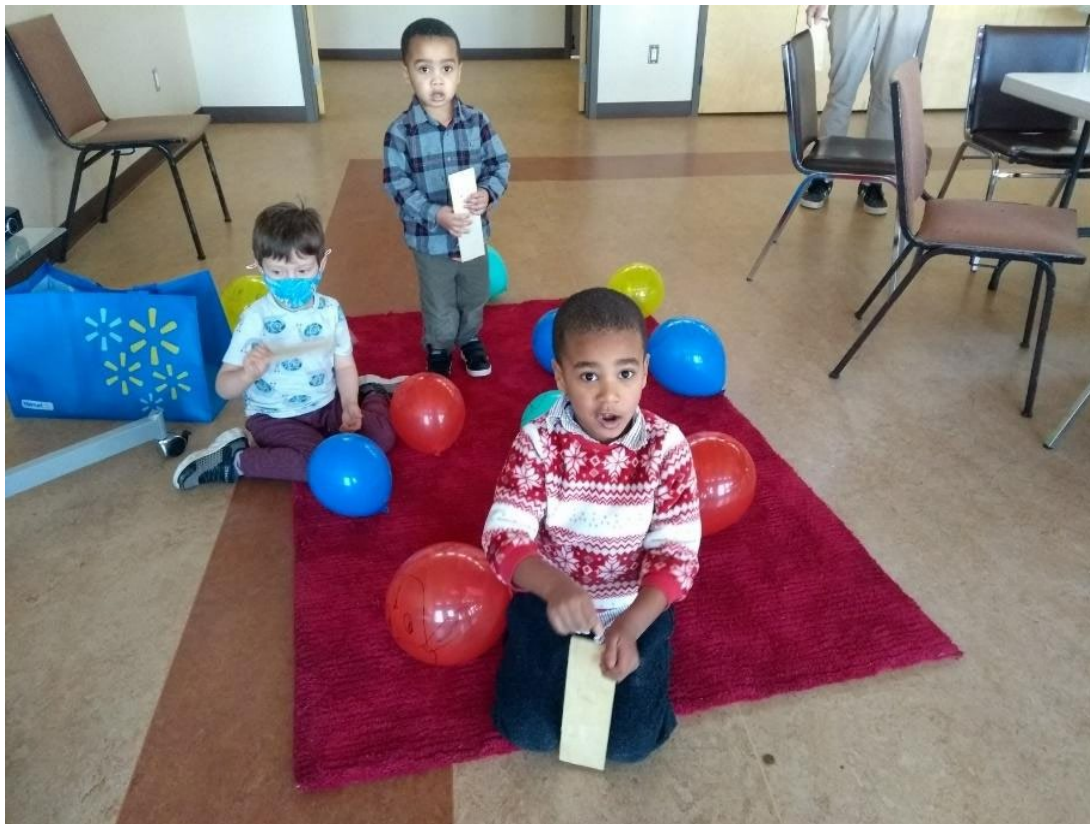


Both groups also had a cupcake decorating event. The tweens had a monster theme at their event; the teens had an Easter theme. We have some very creative and talented decorators!





We had Messy Church on Feb 12 when we explored the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin. One of our activities was herding balloon sheep around the hall. On April 2 we had a Palm Sunday Messy church. The activities included making our own palm branches and waving them during the story and some songs. There was also a very fun Palm Sunday parachute game.





We celebrated our covenanting service with Rev Grant on January 29 with a lovely service and of course, cake!

Val Lines



TULIPATHON, MAY 28

Photos by Phyllis MacRae, except where noted



On May 28 the Emmanuel Team took part in the annual fundraiser Tulipathon for the Multifaith Housing Initiative. Team members: Colleen Calvert, Grant Stuckless, Phyllis MacRae, Pierre Peron, Janice Peron, Areta Crowell



Photo courtesy of Multifaith Housing





Janice and Colleen displaying the Emmanuel banner created by Sandra Copeland in 2022.



Children from the Haven housing community reading a welcome to the participants



Children from the Ottawa Muslim community led the singing of "O Canada"





Participants lining up for the judging of the Banners. The winner was "the Haven Kids"



Participants waiting for the signal to start



Photo courtesy of Multifaith Housing



PASSAGES, BLESSED EVENTS AND NEWCOMERS

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

Frank Kavcic, December 27, 2022
Erma Uhryniw, January 1, 2023
Ann MacLeod, January 15, 2023
Muriel Peterson, January 22, 2023
Hazle Sokolich, January 26, 2023
Bill Meek, February 4, 2023
Betty Warburton, February 12, 2023
Graham Campbell, April 3, 2023
Dick Russell, April 4, 2023
Laurine Pointen, April 18, 2023
Shirley Monsebraaten, May 4, 2023
Willie Selkirk, May 7, 2023
Lottie Orton, May 11, 2023
Don Wells, May 18, 2023

Baptisms:

Chrispin Masu Zahinda, January 15, 2023
Ali Zahinda May 28, 2023
Loli Zahinda May 28, 2023

Reception of new members, April 23, 2023

Helen Sedgwick
Stephen Sedgwick-Williams
Bob Gander
Dorcas Bihamba
Neema Bihamba
Cleophas Nemoso
Jean Neale
Margaret-Anne Park



Reception of new members by Profession of Faith, May 28, 2023

Anne Bihamba

Reception of new members by Confirmation, May 28, 2023

Ali Zahinda

Loli Zahinda

Idi Zahinda

Erika Langner

Samantha Collins

Denis-Guillaume Casault

Weddings at Emmanuel

Korlu Soriba and Gloire Vagheni, June 18, 2023

Chrispin Zahinda and Rebecca Ikweze, June 24, 2023

Thank You, God!

A little, short story of a woman in a hurry.

She hurried to the pharmacy to get medication, got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said: "I don't know how to use this."

She bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within 5 minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off of his cycle and asked if he could help.

She said: "Yes, my daughter is sick. I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?" He said: "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute, the car door was open.

She hugged the man and through tears, softly said: "Thank you, God, for sending me such a very nice man." The man heard her little prayer and replied: "Lady, I am not a nice man, I just got out of prison yesterday; I was in prison for car theft."

The woman hugged the man again, sobbing: "Oh, thank you God! You even sent me a professional."

Contributed by Colleen Calvert



BILL MEEK: GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

with contributions by Roxanne Delmage, Gord Hodges, Blake Lines and Rev. Stewart Hewlett

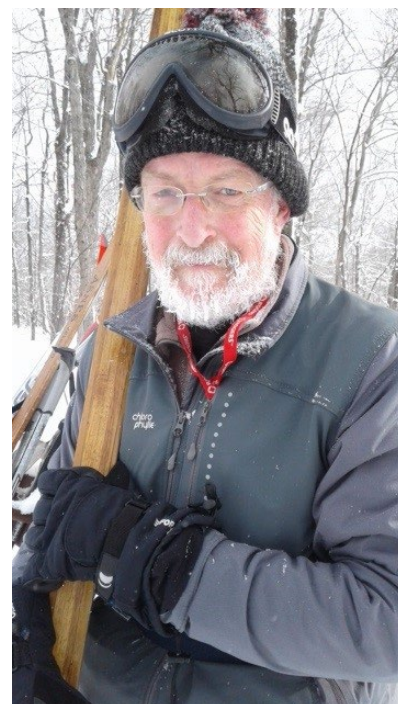
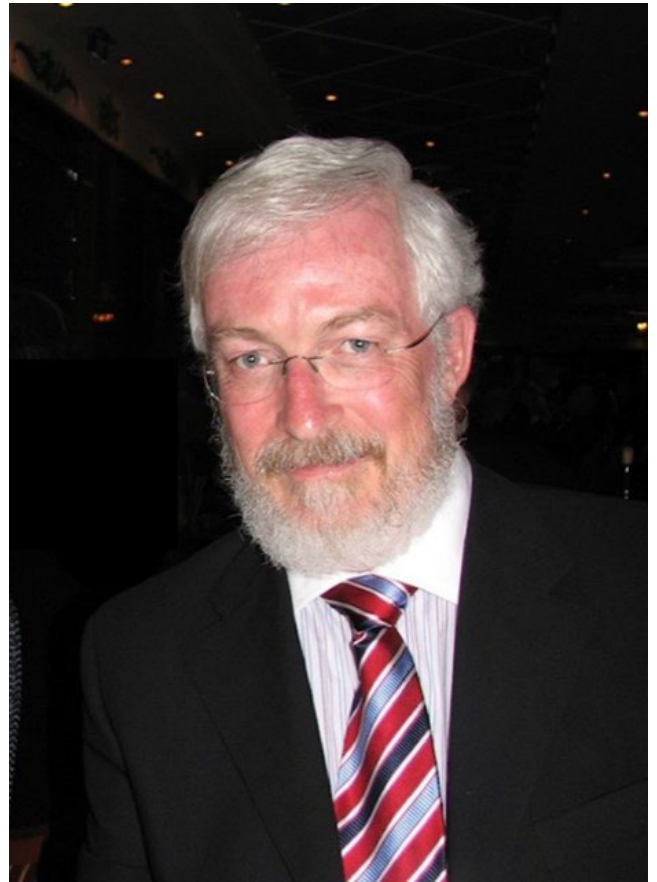
We were invited to share some thoughts for the Newsletter, about Bill Meek, since his passing February 4, 2023. There are three threads which correspond to three of Bill's passions: Meditation, Property & Grounds (Church) work and Model railways. Bill's faith journey runs through all of these.

Roxanne writes: Firstly, Meditation. I joined the Meditation group at the beginning of the Pandemic (March, 2020). It seemed like a rich resource that could be helpful enduring this uncertain reality we all found ourselves in. In addition, it was available on Zoom at no cost. I was warmly welcomed by the group.

Bill's Meditation group consists of approximately 10 loyal folks, about half of whom are from Emmanuel United Church. I'm told the roots run deep for this group, having begun in 2007, previously led by Ron Dyck. It is part of a broader connection to the World Community for Christian Meditation (check out their website-it has many resources). Bill had organized many community activities around this community, through this broader network. The group is presently led by Brian Delaney who Bill would appoint on the rare occasion that he was unable to lead the meeting.

Our meetings are every Monday evening 7-8pm; all are welcome. There is an opening and closing Prayer, which we take turns reading, a 20-minute meditation, a video, and then a time to reflect on the teachings of the video.

Photos courtesy of Debbie Meek



Bill set a tone of openness, and vulnerability with deep respect, ensuring it felt like a Sacred Space, despite being virtual. Each person is treasured as an individual - Bill's legacy to our group.

Gord Hodges and Blake Lines write: We had the privilege of working with Bill on the Property and Grounds Committee of Emmanuel United Church for many years. Bill had been the chair of the committee for some time with a break, and then again for the last year of his life. During the intervening time, he was an active, and supportive member. His influence on the committee and by extension in the church, was extensive. He worked in the background often identifying potential problems, and then solving them before they were problems. He preferred to get things done without any need for accolades. Bill felt strongly that the Church needed to be a safe, inviting and aesthetically pleasing space to hold the many community activities.

He was very active in the development of the plans for the revitalization of the Christian Education building. There were many meetings with the architect and builder to develop and carry out all the plans.

The latest Emmanuel United Church project, Opening Our Doors, was a project spearheaded by Bill. The project had been discussed by members of P & G for a few years, but it was Bill who developed and ran with the idea. Bill was tireless in his work to maintain and enhance our church building and grounds.

Many of the improvements created, such as our electronic sign, are due in large part to Bill's ongoing dedication. Bill was a wonderful person of faith, a very good friend, and always fun to work with.

Stewart Hewlett write: Bill loved trains and model railroading. He had a beautiful example of one in his basement. In 1996 when I retired from active ministry, I bought a set of trains and built something simple. Over the last few years, I hadn't played with it and thought I needed to give it away. I called my friend Bill to come over and suggest what I should do. He came over and with his friend, Mike, and his little bag of tricks, they made my model trains come alive. We enjoyed it every Tuesday morning for many weeks afterwards.

Bill led a life of devotion and commitment to his family, his profession, his Emmanuel Community and to God. His strength of faith, and confidence in God led him to trust and rest secure with whatever else happened. We shall all miss him.

Compiled by Roxanne Delmage



Photo: Russ Pastuch



So technically Moses was the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



Meanwhile in Canada
@MeanwhileinCana

No one gets in. No one gets out.



GRAHAM CAMPBELL: “COME IN, COME IN AND SIT DOWN”

with contributions by Ross White, Joyce White, Jennifer Mogridge, Hallie Cotnam.

Photos: Jon Jones

We were invited to share some thoughts about Graham Campbell: March 26, 1947-April 3, 2023. We remember how Graham touched so many at Emmanuel; in an unassuming way he made a profound difference to the Emmanuel community.

Joyce and Ross write - Graham was a geophysicist, with the skills to solve problems and he volunteered for the big, complex problems at Emmanuel. When Emmanuel voted to Revitalize the CE Building, Graham willingly accepted the volunteer job of Debt Retirement Coordinator. Graham remained versatile and patient. He instilled confidence in the congregation with regular updates. His “it can be done attitude” succeeded and the debt was paid off early. He never failed to graciously thank people for whatever they could contribute and people responded.

We don't remember a time when Graham wasn't on Council, usually chairing a committee or heading a special project. Whenever we were in a group with him, we looked forward to his wise thoughts and long range view of things. He was a lifelong learner who often liked to present both sides of an issue and we all learned from that.

Graham enjoyed events in the church, he showed up to most of them and just by being there he usually motivated us to help in some way. Church gatherings like the Shantyman's Dinner were special to him. It was getting people together for a project that seemed to give him, and the rest of the group, energy and everyone had fun at the same time.

One event that was very important to the spirit of Emmanuel and to Graham was his organization of Christmas Readings.



Graham opening the 2014 Christmas Readings



Jennifer Mogridge writes - Graham Campbell was a man of many parts. I like to picture him as the conductor of an orchestra, wearing a red Santa hat with white fur trim, because Graham was the Maestro of the “Christmas Readings”.

Months before the big night Graham would approach various people, chat about this and that, and casually ask if you would like to be one of the readers. There would be more chats and emails, rehearsals with coaching and suggestions to “speak up”, “slow down” and “don’t touch the microphone “. Graham prepared us well. No detail was overlooked to ensure a performance worthy of the occasion.

It was only when you walked up to the lectern and looked out, that you realized that the readers were just one small section of an orchestra. Over there were the ticket sellers, now marking off names as people arrived. Behind the scene were the crew who brought in the tables and chairs and set them up according to a carefully crafted plan with regard to traffic flow and enough seats for all in attendance, and a few extras just in case. And the all important audio team who hooked up and tested the equipment before everyone arrived.

The decorators had been hard at work. Tablecloths, flowers, Christmas ornaments, perhaps there were candles, and music too. Each section played its part.

Then right on time, Graham gave the nod and it all came together. Introductions were made and “Christmas Readings” began. But wait, that was only the first half. Plates of Christmas baking were brought to each table. Shortbread, squares, cookies and cake, and pots of tea and coffee swiftly followed. Enough time to chat, sip and nibble and on with the show. All too soon it was over with a great round of applause to conclude a magical evening.

Only then did you appreciate Graham’s skill in bringing together so many people. He did it calmly, no fuss, a behind the scenes man who made it all happen. He reminded me of the proverbial swan gliding across the lake, unruffled, not a feather out of place, but paddling like mad beneath the surface.

We were blessed to have Graham in our Emmanuel family.



At the 2014 Christmas Readings



Hallie Cotnam writes - Graham was a masterful organizer. He loved binders. With color-coded dividers. Preferably with “D” rings. Graham approached me several years ago to participate in the annual Christmas Readings event at Emmanuel. He asked me in April if I could attend the event on a particular day seven months in the future. When I pointed out that it was early to plan, Graham assured me gently that it wasn’t. And yes, well ahead of time, he provided me with a binder. Each participant’s role had its own segment, marked by a colourful divider. Last year I missed my chance to bask in the goodness that was Graham, and the community that he drew together.

Graham always looked out for and welcomed new people as they came into the church. Some of his happiest moments were when he was able to “draw the circle wide”.

He loved Christmas Eve services when his family would gather and the camel would greet young and old alike. “O Holy Night!”

May we “hold the torch high” and honour the life of Graham by maintaining his legacy for years to come.

Compiled by Joyce White



Hallie Cotnam with Graham at the 2104 Christmas Readings



Hallie in receipt of a binder from Graham



GOODBYE TO A KIND AND GENTLE SOUL - A TRIBUTE TO DICK RUSSELL

If it weren't for Covid-19, I and many others, would never have had the pleasure of getting to know Dick Russell. Before then, I had occasionally seen Dick at Church suppers (only because I was unobservant! I understand he was always there and thoroughly enjoyed every one of them!)

After we went into lockdown, Emmanuel was very quick to switch a lot of it's activities, groups and meetings to Zoom. First, David Wray ran after-church coffee and conversation. Dick and Colleen were often there, but cut it short as they would go for their morning walk with Taco, their little dog. Dick maintained his 5 k walks right until he went into the hospital about a month before he died.



Colleen and Dick all ready for a Redblacks game



Alligators can live up to 100 years which is why there is an increased chance that they will see you later.

Edna Wright and Shirley Monsebraaten both said they really missed seeing him at bridge—as he had a great sense of humour and a very sharp mind! When it came to numbers and games like bridge or crib, in spite of his dementia, his mind was sharper than most! This “gentle man” had a competitive streak when it came to cards!

When our monthly EUC book club switched to Zoom, Dick was almost always there with Colleen. They had read the book together and some books he could relate to, while others not so much—just like the rest of us!

Where many of us really got to know and appreciate Dick was during Roxanne's weekly Zoom coffee time.

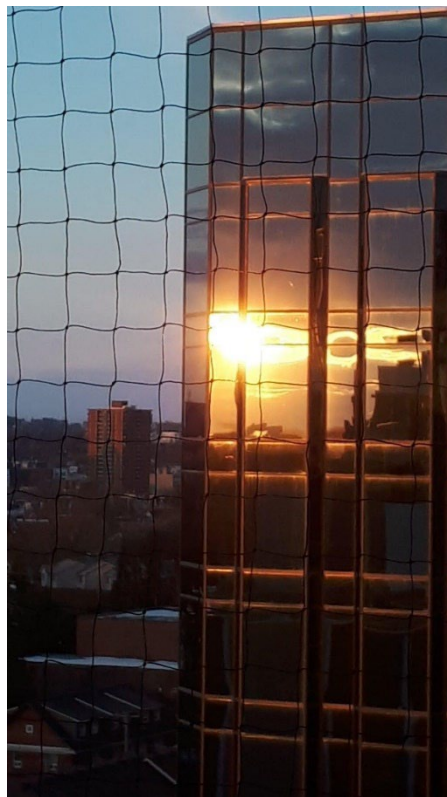


Dick would regale us with tales of his growing up on the ranch next to Waterton in Alberta. (See EUC newsletter issue 8 for full write up and pictures of Dick's early life). He would talk about his daily walks, his experiences working in the north, or what he'd seen that day in nature. During brief liftings of the lockdowns, Dick and Colleen would have great fun at Redblack games (see photo!) and then tell us about it. He was a real sports fan. But most of all, I remember Dick expressing his love and devotion for Colleen and his deep appreciation of her and their life together.

When the day nature pilgrimages resumed, Dick, Taco, and Colleen eagerly joined in. When asked, he always contributed to the conversation. While Dick took some shorter walks at these events, he was mainly content to sit and just enjoy being out in nature, while Colleen would venture off a little further.

Obviously, not knowing Dick pre-Covid, what I learned and sensed about him, was just the tip of the iceberg. What I did learn was that Dick was a simple yet complicated man, who loved nature, competitive games, his dog Taco, the ranch in Alberta where he grew up, his friends and family, but most of all, Colleen. We were all blessed to share time with him. Rest in peace, Dick.

Jill MacLean



*Sunrise on Kent St.
Photo: Grant Stuckless*



REMEMBERING SHIRLEY MONSEBRAATEN

In remembrance of a dear friend, colleague, confidante and so much more. It is a privilege to be given this opportunity to say a few words about Shirley and just how much she meant to myself and my late husband Ron.

I will begin with the year 1972 when the church office was looking to expand their staffing for the church office. I worked the morning shift and my role was labelled the 'Minister's Secretary' and Shirley was hired for the afternoon shift as 'The Church Secretary'. Thus began our working relationship. Dr. Wilbur K. Howard was our Minister at the time. Eventually Dr. Howard became the Moderator of The United Church of Canada which meant the workload became much heavier so another typewriter and desk were purchased for each of us. Imagine preparing the church bulletin, minutes etc., on a stencil then onto a Gestetner machine and crank out bulletin after bulletin. Many laughs. So between lunches in the kitchen with Dr. Howard fairly often and the overlapping of our workload our friendship grew over the years.



Shirley at the 2019 Fashion Show. Photo: Jon Jones



Shirley and Art with Verna in PEI



Once our family and Shirley's was grown up we were graciously invited to Art and Shirley's cottage in P.E.I. Better hosts you would not find. Visiting the farm where Shirley was born as well as her family members and going around the Island was a dream ... not to mention the church lobster suppers and lobster rolls. Playing games on the beach with lots of laughter, the beautiful sunset from their dining room table.

It was a sad day when I learned about Shirley's failing health – but never thought it would become so serious. Shirley was a gentle soul with a kind, caring smile ...always being there for me and others. Shirley adored her family – especially her grandchildren and her puppy dog.

Shirley left behind one of the greatest gifts for me – I am now 83 years old and at some stage I will experience death as well. Shirley modelled what it is like to die with Grace and shared that with me. A gift I will treasure and hold deep in my heart when my time comes.

Rest in Peace my dear friend.

Verna Nuttall

Photos courtesy of Verna except where noted



Verna and Ron



REMEMBERING WILLIE SELKIRK

William Alexander Selkirk, affectionately known to us simply as “Willie”, was born on 26 October 1954 in Exeter, Ontario, near London. He was the youngest of four brothers, and spent his formative years as a “military brat” with all the uprooting and transitions that come with military life.

Willie finished grades 4 to 9 in Ottawa, 10 in Pembroke, then back to Ottawa and Fisher High School. Sadly, both of Willie’s parents died within a year of each other when he was only 14 & 15. Thus, he lived with his eldest brother for a while until, realizing that he was a bit of a drag on his brother and young wife, moved out to a friendly rooming house and got himself a job as a security guard.

Then, one fateful night in April 1973 (at the age of 18), following a drive-in movie, Willie and a couple of friends went joy-riding near Tunney’s Pasture. Coming out of a turn, the driver of the car failed to recognize the traffic circle ahead – the car mounted the curb, went out of control, and hit a tree. The driver and the back-seat occupant suffered minor injuries; Willie’s head hit the windshield which broke his neck and left him paralyzed. For the next fifty years, Willie lived his life as a quadriplegic. April the 4th was a date etched in Willie’s memory – in fact, April 4th 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of his life-changing accident.



Many gruelling years of hospitalization and rehab followed. Nevertheless, during that time, Willie managed to finish high school with the help of a tutor. He enrolled at Carleton University and it was there he found his love for computers. After completing a few courses, he landed a job with Transport Canada, and later with Fisheries & Oceans, in the “IT” sector – Willie has been quoted as saying: “I got my job thanks to Employment Equity, but I’ve managed to keep it thanks to my technical skill.” For Willie, work was play, and working with computers provided him considerable joy and fulfillment.

Willie was married in 1977 and divorced two years later. Apart from this brief period of marriage and co-habitation, Willie took up residence in group homes and attendant living facilities. Thirty-five years ago, he moved into Daly Co-op (on Southvale Cres), and soon became a devoted friend, neighbour and indispensable Co-op board member. Over the years, Willie experienced frequent hospital and rehab stays, had many health scares and surgeries, and was the recipient of oodles of medication. But he remained strong of faith and spirit throughout, always with a smile and an unflinching sense of humour.



Despite his physical disabilities, Willie exhibited an unquenchable thirst for adventure. He travelled twice to Australia, experiencing the thrill of snorkeling and scuba diving off the Great Barrier Reef; he visited San Diego twice; he even went skydiving in 1998, strapped to an experienced divemaster – afterwards, he said something along the lines of “what did I have to lose? ... I’m already a quad!”. And, he loved the fantasy world of make-believe and sci-fi, often dressing up in theme costume and visiting Comic Con, whether held in Ottawa or in Montreal. It could be said that Willie was both a “techie” and a “Trekkie”.

So ... what’s Willie’s connection to Emmanuel? One Sunday in 1997, Willie headed out in his motorized wheelchair in search of a church where he might nourish his evolving faith ... and one that was wheelchair accessible. After checking out a few churches in Elmvale Acres, finding them lacking, he arrived at Emmanuel – he was welcomed with open doors and open arms ... along with an accessible ramp and a lift. That first Sunday was a Youth Service, and the choir anthem was “Shine, Jesus, Shine”, both of which spoke volumes to his heart and faith. The rest, they say, is history.

It wasn’t long after Willie’s arrival at Emmanuel that he was recruited to the Finance Committee, where he participated in the annual Financial/Stewardship Campaign and took over the scheduling of weekly Collection Counters; then he became an active, contributing member of the Communications Committee. In view of his unique technical and computer skills, Willie assumed the role of Emmanuel Webmaster, where he was instrumental in programming (coding and recoding) the ever-changing church website. Whenever an Emmanuel project arose requiring the development of spreadsheets and databases, Willie was called on – he rarely declined, and was always prompt to respond with quality product – above and beyond the call of duty – always the reliable, skilled, and friendly volunteer. It was so often expressed: “how could we have done this without Willie?”.

And, yes, despite his many physical challenges, Willie was also a gifted artist. Using a style known as Pointillism, he would hold a felt-tipped pen in his mouth and, patiently, dot-by-dot, produced many notable works of art – a few of them exhibited here. Patience was clearly one of Willie’s many attributes. In later years, he began using Procreate graphics software for digital painting.



Digital paintings by Willie Selkirk



Of course, one can't pay tribute to Willie without mentioning his unwavering loyalty to the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey club – through thick and thin – enough said.

Sadly, dear Willie passed away on the morning of Monday, 8 May 2023, in his 69th year. He is now at rest, in the arms of his God, after a long, arduous but remarkable life's journey. Willie's courage, unfailing sense of humour and perseverance in the face of adversity will long be remembered by so many. Thank you, Willie, for being a good friend and confidant, for your good humour and uplifting spirit. We celebrate your life, well-lived, and we cherish your memory in our hearts.

Terry Henderson



Photo: Jon Jones

Perhaps They Are Not Stars

Perhaps they are not stars,
but rather openings in heaven
where the love of our lost ones
pours through and shines
down upon us to let us know
they are happy.

Inuit Proverb

Credit: Hulse, Playfair and McGarry



These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services. To be read with suitable reverence:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water. 'The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

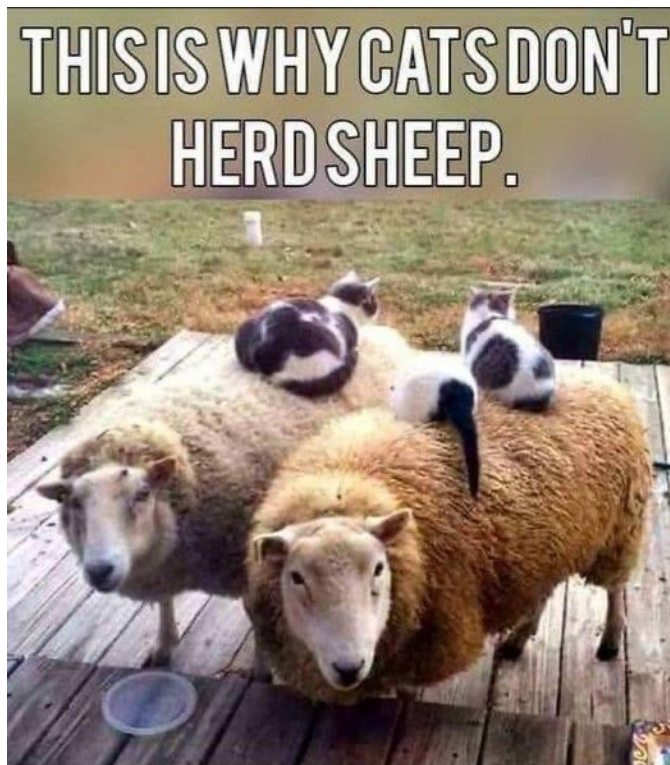
Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

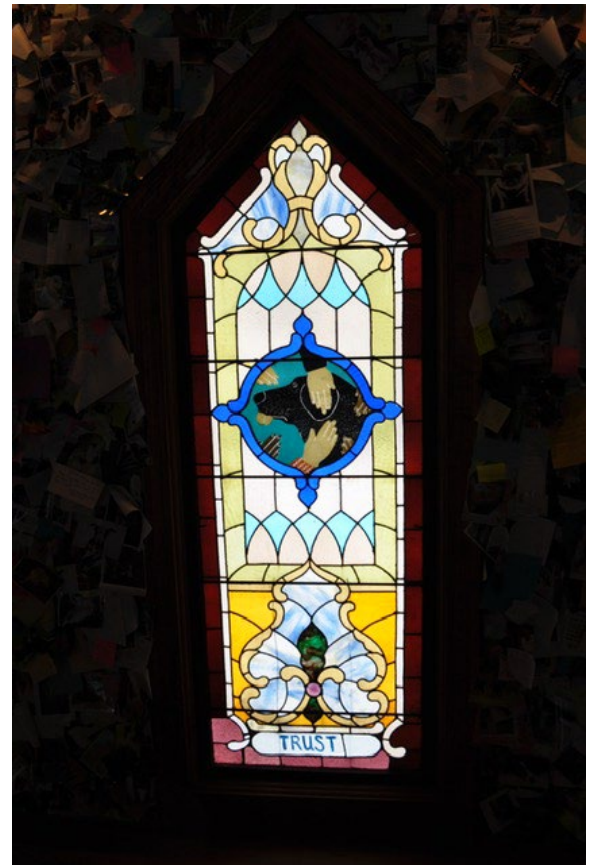


DAVID WRAY – PICTURES FROM HIS TRAVELS

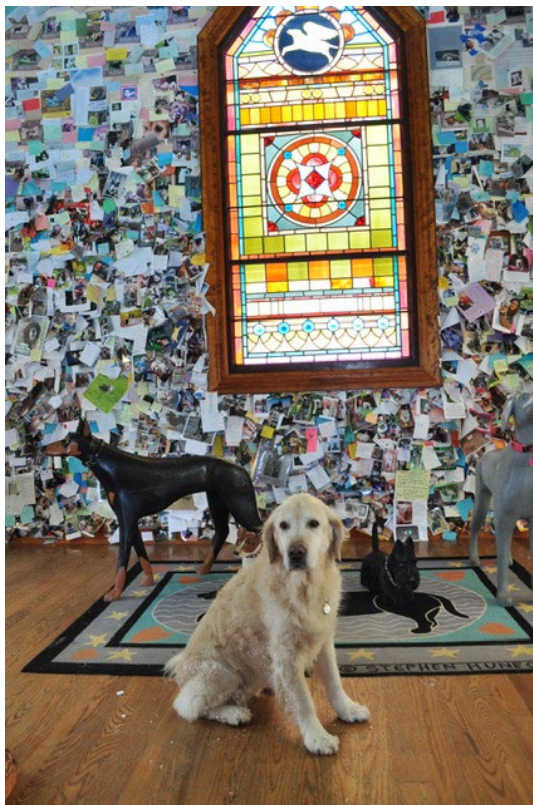
All photos by David Wray



The Dog Chapel, St Johnsbury, VT



Stained Glass Window Detail



Lily visits the Dog Chapel



EOORC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: BROCKVILLE MAY 26,27

On Friday and Saturday May 26,27, the first in-person Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional council (EOORC) since Covid was held at the Brockville Memorial Centre (hockey arena). Attending for Emmanuel were our EOORC lay representatives Janice Peron, Colleen Calvert and Phyllis MacRae.

The meeting was the third of three EOORC council meetings to be held each year. The other meetings are held in the fall and in the winter. President Susan Hutton chaired the meeting assisted by Rev Eric Hebert-Daly, our new regional executive minister. Early in the meeting the Council covenanted with Rev Eric in his new ministry. Eric is the Executive Minister of three Regions of the Church – EOORC, Nakonhaka (Quebec Region) and the East Central Ontario Regional Council, immediately to the west of EOORC.

Rev Michael Blair, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada attended the meeting in person on both days. A video of greetings was received from the Moderator, the Very Reverend Dr Carmen Landsdowne.

Greetings were brought by Brockville Mayor Matt Wren, a local First Nation, and from Rev Howard Cain from the United Church of Christ in the USA, a partner of the United Church of Canada. Rev Cain leads a congregation in upper New York State south of the St Lawrence River. Members of congregations in EOORC often visit the UCC/USA congregations to develop the relations between our two denominations.

Photos by Pierre Péron and Phyllis MacRae



Emmanuel Delegates to the EOORC AGM - Colleen, Phyllis and Janice

Rev Cain told the meeting that his denomination had undertaken a major reorganization. They value their relationship with the UCC, and they participated in a recent project to translate the Bible in the Mohawk language.

Rev Whit Strong, Regional Minister for Pastoral Relations made a presentation in memory of 14 regional ministers who had passed away in the past year. He mentioned 6 retirees and numerous milestones in Ministry. Some had up to 65 years of service in the United Church.



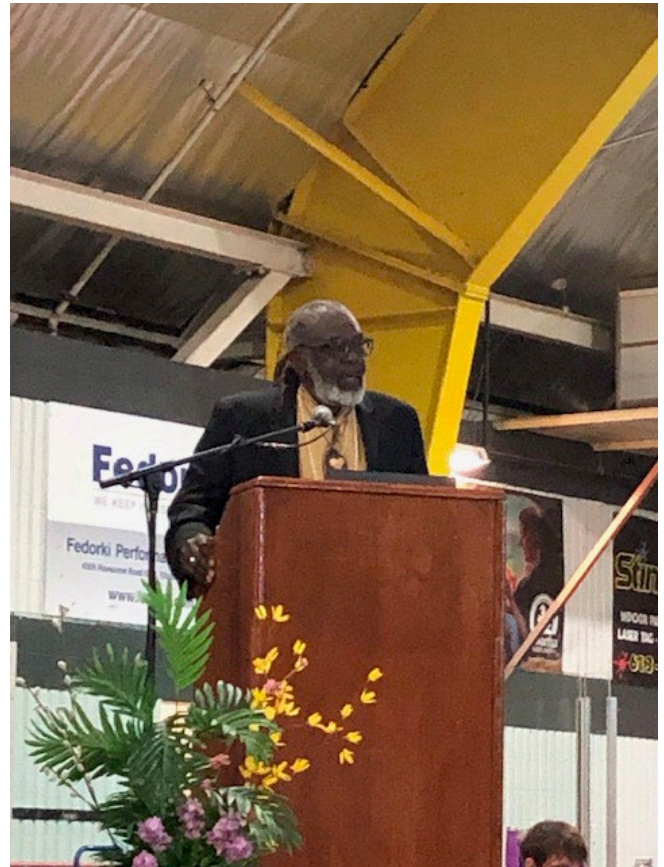
Rev Michael Blair: Inspirational address

Rev Michael Blair was originally ordained as a pastor in the Baptist church in Jamaica. He immigrated to Canada and was ordained into the United Church. He is now the General Secretary and leads the National Office of the UCC. He spoke passionately about how the United Church and its congregations must now look forward to the future:

“This is a great time to be in the life of the Church...This is a time for us to reimagine what it means to be the people of God as such a time as this... We cannot be held captive by a yearning for that which is gone and will never returnWe must think about what it means to imagine what is ahead of us, rather than lament what is past...We have to think again what community means... We have to give people a reason to get dressed and show up on Sunday morning. It has to be more than it was. We can’t assume people will show up as they did in the past....We need to focus on identifying the needs of the communities where we live...Do you know what the issues are in your community?”

He concluded by saying that our major challenge in the Church today is to be **Unapologetically Christian**. We are not called about our own individual survival as a community of faith, but we are called to be God’s family in the world.

His final statement was: **“God is not finished with this Church. God has invited us into partnership.”**



Rev. Michael Blair. Photo: Phyllis MacRae

Strategic Planning

At General Council 43 the Church adopted a Strategic Plan for 2023-2025. Eric Hebert - Daly explained the six strategic objectives that will guide progress towards the Vision of the Church. they are:

Growth: The leading priority is to work to revitalize and activate growth, working in partnership with the Regions and the Indigenous Church.



Supporting priorities are:

Embolden Justice: Collaborating to mend Church and World

Invigorate leadership: Adapting and Innovating for bold discipleship

Nurture the Common good: Equity and sustainability in resources

Deepen Integrity: Living climate commitments

Journeying Indigenous pathways: forging Right Relations

Eric told the meeting that the Region needs to engage in its own strategic planning to discern how we can carry out the above national priorities. Eric stated that *“Planning is an act of Hope. If we don’t do planning, we don’t know if we have a future”*. The EOORC executive has set up a small group chaired by Rev Paul Dillman to work on an initiative called “Setting our Sights”. The intention is to do consultation with the congregations in the next few months to discuss how we can address the Strategic Priorities in this region. The group will prepare a first draft of a regional plan in the fall of 2023.

Then Let us Sing: a new digital resource for our church music.

Paul Sales, a member of Orleans United Church, made a presentation on the new digital resource that is under development. It will result in a digital collection of all the music of the United Church, including most of the current songs in *Voices United, More Voices*, and the French hymnbook, *Nos Voix Unis*.

In addition there will be 150 newly composed songs. Congregations can subscribe to the digital resource through One Licence.net and will pay one subscription fee, which we were told would be lower than the present fees we pay. In the fall of 2023 a Sampler edition of 25 songs will be made available for congregations and music leaders to subscribe to in order to “test drive” the new material and give feedback to the planning team. In 2023-24 there will be webinars on the new resource. In April 2024 a final selection of songs will be made. The final version will be released in fall 2024, in time for the 100th birthday of the UCC in 2025.

Vote to become an Affirming Region

After two years of discussions at EOORC meetings, and in individual congregations, a motion was brought to the Council to make EOORC an affirming Region. The Motion passed unanimously. At the fall meeting there will be a celebration of becoming an Affirming Region.

Remit on the Indigenous Church

On Friday May 26 there was an initial discussion of the Remit that the General Council Executive has sent to all the Regions and the individual congregations. A Remit is a type of vote that is carried out by all the governance bodies of the Church in order to make changes to the UCC Manual. In this case the Remit asks the church to agree to change the governance structure of the Indigenous Church which is led by the National Indigenous Council and a Council of Elders. There are 66 Indigenous congregations in the United Church.



Although there are none in the EOORC Region. The Indigenous church has requested that a change be made to enable the congregations and leaders of the indigenous church to make changes to their structures without having to return to the national church each time to request another national Remit vote. The process to carry out a national Remit vote is extremely time consuming and cumbersome. All congregations are expected to vote on the Remit. Any congregation that does not vote, will be considered to have voted No.

On Saturday, the second day of the meeting, there was further discussion from the floor about the Remit Vote. The vote was held with a large majority in favour of the Remit. The result is that EOORC is the first Region to hold the Remit vote.

Translation of the Mohawk Bible

The meeting was informed of a project to translate the Bible into the Mohawk language. It is ongoing and is led by the people from Oka and the Kanesatake United Church congregation. The United Church of Christ in northern New York is also contributing to costs of this project as there is a significant Mohawk population in that Region.

Seen on a clergy T- Shirt at EOORC:

“It’s in the church bulletin.....It’s been there for weeks!!!”



The Mohawk congregations were the first in the indigenous church to come into the United Church of Canada in 1925. There will be a banquet at Oka in September to celebrate the publishing.

Closing comments from Michael Blair

On Saturday afternoon, Michael Blair made a presentation to the meeting on the characteristics of a courageous Church. The characteristics he listed were:

1. A practice of prayer and discernment
2. A practice of hospitality, welcoming to others in our worship
3. Cultivators of imagination and the use of story telling
4. Celebrate extravagance and being open to risk
5. Igniting leadership. Michael noted that there are 90 ministers of African descent in the UCC. All but 2 of them have immigrated to Canada and were not born here.

Fall meeting

The next meeting of the EOORC council will take place in person in the fall of this year, likely at a church in Ottawa.

Phyllis MacRae



THE REOPENING OUR DOORS PROJECT IS FINALLY COMPLETE!

The steps, columns, front doors and vestibule and front canopy ceiling and lighting at the front entrance have all been replaced. The exit doors from the lounge were also replaced and an access ramp installed.

We held our Dedication Ceremony with a Ribbon Cutting on the 4th of June 2023. The members of the Re-Opening Our Doors Committee Carol Campbell, Sandra Copeland, Tom Kannemann, and Pierre Peron look on as Blake Lines and Debbie Meek cut the ribbon.



The total cost to complete the project came in at approximately \$400,000. The Congregation approved a total budget of \$500,000 and we were able to reduce the scope in a few areas keep it at \$400,000. Your pledges, external grants and fundraising initiatives have raised \$300,000 to date. This leaves us with a deficit of approximately \$100,000 which is currently funded by an internal loan.

This deficit needs to be repaid to restore funds for other activities, so we are asking the congregation to consider additional donations and pledges or extensions to existing pledges to pay down the remaining debt.

Blake Lines
Re-Opening Our Doors Committee

Photos courtesy of Blake Lines



"A ship is safe in the harbour.....
but that is not what ships are for."

Prayer of Gratitude

Creator God

We give gratitude for this time together in fellowship with one another, during the days of isolation in the Pandemic, and onward. We know you walk with us, God, guiding us as we place one foot in front of another...the ground rising to meet our feet.

Thank you for our time of sharing in community, with our joys and the sorrows. Times of deep loss, where Spirit intercedes with groans too deep for words, as it says in Romans. Joys of grandchildren, and recovery from Covid, then of travel and exploration around our homes.

God, you want us to thrive in your love, to listen to our longings. Help us to be curious... To use the gifts, we are given to shine your love through us.

Be with each of us this summer and bless the intersections of our stories with one another as we share your love. Amen.

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