

LIFE AND WORK OF EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH DECEMBER 2024



Photo Credit: Val Dowd, Taken at Graham's Christmas Readings 2023

**January Issue Submission Deadline:
December 16, 2024**

Welcome to Emmanuel United Church

INCLUSIVE • COMPASSIONATE • JUSTICE SEEKING • WELCOMING ALL

Welcome to Emmanuel United Church, where the church is the body of Christ with each member having unique gifts to share and a ministry to offer. We invite you to come and visit, to worship, to join in our fellowship, to participate in our many activities, and to enrich your faith. As an affirming church, we welcome everyone.

We recognize the Algonquin Nation, on whose traditional unceded territory Emmanuel United Church is located. We gratefully acknowledge them as past, present and future stewards of this land.

Telephone: 613-733-0437
691 Smyth Road,
Ottawa, ON K1G 1N7
Website: www.emmanuelunited.ca
Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday
9:00 am-4:30pm

MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

Grant Stuckless revgstuckless@emmanuelunited.ca

PASTORAL CARE PROVIDER

Ron MacDonald pastoralcare@emmanuelunited.ca

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Emma Dowd office@emmanuelunited.ca

LEADER OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Amelia Brohman amelia.euc@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Val Dowd webmaster@emmanuelunited.ca

ENVELOPE SECRETARY

Keith Jeacle envelope.secretary@emmanuelunited.ca

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Phyllis MacRae newsletter@emmanuelunited.ca

MEDIA PUBLICITY

Steve Taylor publicity@emmanuelunited.ca

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Joyce White welcoming@emmanuelunited.ca

For Information on any of our church activities, please call or email the office and check out our website- the upcoming events and good to know sections of the homepage host excellent content; get to know us even better by exploring more!

Call for items for the Annual Report

Due January 20, 2025

You are welcome to send reports in to the office at any time, generally they are expected to be between 100-400 words; keeping things short is appreciated.

A photograph of a winter forest. The trees are covered in snow, and the ground is a thick layer of white snow. A path of tracks leads through the trees. The lighting is soft and golden, suggesting a low sun. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

In Memoriam

**Thank you to all those who
made donations to the
Memorial Fund, in honour
of a loved one or friend.**

***Blessed are those who
mourn, For they shall be
comforted.***

Matthew 5:4

ACTIVITIES & GROUPS

Emmanuel's Men's Group meets monthly for Breakfast; join them at Perkins's Restaurant, St Laurent from 8:15-10:15 am. The dates are: December 14, January 11, February 8 & March 8.

Monday Night Christian Meditation Group

Jesus says, "When two or three pray together in my name, I am there among them."

We live in a noisy world filled with ceaseless activity. We seek space to be quiet and be with God within ourselves. If you wish to learn how to meditate and find more quietness, you are welcome to join fellow meditators, who meet Mondays for an hour starting at 7:00pm on Zoom.

Christian meditation is a form of silent contemplative prayer. Simple, continuous, repetition of a mantra or prayer word leads us from the mind to the heart. Silently repeating the word creates a narrow path of silence we can follow through the noise, distractions, agitation, and turbulence of the mind. We are no longer talking to God or, worse, talking to ourselves. We are learning to be silent, to be with God, to be in God.

For many years we have been blessed with the leadership and guidance of our good friend Bill Meek. We will continue his legacy, even as we mourn his loss.

For further information and a zoom link, please contact Evelyn Perkins (perkeve@hotmail.com).

The Thursday Morning Discussion Group (Heretics)

Thursday Morning Discussion Group is now looking at the Hebrew Bible, using lectures by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine as a starting point. All are welcome to join us for our interesting and lively conversations. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings on Zoom, and there's always room for more. Please contact Evelyn

Perkins (perkeve@hotmail.com) or any member of Heretics for further information or a Zoom invitation. Our last meeting before Christmas will be December 12, and we will resume on January 9, 2025.



HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS

Emmanuel's Social Action Committee is working with St. Aidan's & St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Churches to prepare HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS. Emmanuel has agreed to collect donations to fill 35 bags for men who live in low-income housing in our neighbourhood.

There is a Christmas paper wrapped collection box in the EUC narthex to receive your donations. **Donations must be brought to the church by December 11.** Monetary donations of \$20 or more can receive charitable donation receipts if requested. Cheques should be made out to Emmanuel United Church.

If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact:
Colleen Calvert colleenecalvert@gmail.com

HOLIDAY GIFT BAG ITEMS

1. Winter hat & scarf
2. Pair of gloves or mitts
3. Pair of winter socks
4. Toothpaste (regular size)
5. Toothbrush (soft)
6. Dental floss (regular size)
7. Deodorant (regular size)
8. Bar of soap (regular size)
9. 2-in-1 Shampoo & Conditioner (regular size)
10. Pen & pencil
11. Unsigned holiday card
12. Festive treat: Christmas candy, cookies, or chocolate (100-200 gm)
13. Small present: Puzzle book, magazine, notebook, or pack of playing cards
14. Small stuff bag or Shaving kit
15. Disposable razors (2)



Shantymen's Dinner



THANK YOU to everyone who attended our Shantymen's Dinner on Saturday, October 26th.

We are pleased to report that we sold 85 tickets to the first sitting and 61 tickets to the second sitting. In total, we raised \$2,238.93 toward Building Maintenance.

Thank you to all of our bakers, cooks, servers and clean-up crew. Thank you also to the Emmanuel River Boys for their home-grown, toe-tapping music.

As it had been many years since our last Shantymen's Dinner, there were lots of lessons learned but we have already begun to plan for next year. We have moved the date to be one week earlier and adjusted the start times so that we have more time between sittings.

SAVE THE DATE of **Saturday, October 18, 2025** with two sittings at 5:00 pm and 6:45 pm.



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

The **Nursery** is available every Sunday.

Sunday School provides activities for children aged 3 to 13 during our Sunday church service.

Children's Choir – Ashley Roy and Amelia Brohman are starting a children's choir. If a child in your family is interested in taking part, please contact Amelia at amelia.euc@gmail.com

Rainbow Hub is a monthly social group for LGBTQ2+ youth who are 12-18 years old from across the city. The meetings are usually held on the first Friday of each month. For more information, please contact Ellen Brohman (ellenbrohman@gmail.com)

Let's Stay Together Sunday will next be **December 8**. Join us after the service for a lunch followed by a choice of making a gingerbread house, making a Christmas ornament, or joining in a carol sing. There will be no Let's Stay Together in January since Jan 12 is a cluster worship service away from Emmanuel. Stay tuned for the plans for the program on **February 9** which will be a celebration of Black History month.

Confirmation – We are holding monthly confirmation sessions. Interested people can still join; contact Amelia for more information.

COMMUNICATIONS

While the packet, bulletin and slide announcement change seasonally, our local paper, the Vistas, is published only ten months each year: January to June. We submit announcements, as well as ads, articles, and photos to them, allowing us to cast our net into the wider community, drawing in the curious and interested to our various events.

The second local paper, Riverview Park Review is published five times yearly in October, December, February, April and June. The Review might publish ads, articles and photos, but no longer publishes announcements.

Vistas is publishing again next month. **If you have ads, events or announcements, photos and/or stories for them, please send them to publicity@emmanuelunited.ca by the 15th of the month.**

An **Emmanuel Newsletter** is being prepared for January, and the ***deadline for articles is December 15th***. Items can be sent to Phyllis MacRae and Jon Jones.

COUNCIL

The November Council meeting was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 via ZOOM. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Bequest from Estate of Edna Wright (\$5,000) and \$1,000 to the Church Choir
- Thank You letter from Isaruit Inuit Arts in appreciation of our donation of \$20,000 to support their Inuit games and gym program.
 - *“... it has breathed life into the youth of the Inuit community of Ottawa. Your thoughtful donation helps our Inuit children/youth to hold on to our culture and therefore our heritage.”*
- Policy for Use of Premises - the policy documents for use of space at Emmanuel were reviewed and discussed. It was agreed that the policy itself was clear on our expectations and that any issues are probably the result of not necessarily having clear procedures to follow.
 - suggestion of additional costs added to rental rates for use of such items as projection system in CE Hall, sound and audio in the Sanctuary, use of tables in Sanctuary, kitchen utensils and accoutrements.
 - supervision of set-up and tear down – need to identify who will fulfill this requirement.
 - clearer description of expectations for clean-up conditions - perhaps end of event checklist.
- Property & Grounds and Finance Committees will continue to review of rental rates and procedures.

All members of the congregation may attend meetings of Council and Executive of Council as observers. There are no scheduled meetings during the month of December. Our next meeting will be an in-person meeting of Council on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the CE Hall.

FINANCE

The Finance committee extends gratitude and gracious thanks to everyone that was involved in the Fall Stewardship Campaign, *The Spirit of Fellowship, the Need for Caring*. We thank volunteers who shared their stories and testimonies of fellowship, those that helped create and distribute packets for the campaign, and to everyone that takes the time to give. Your time, your talent, your presence; together we answer the call for God's people to be compassionate, to be aware, to do justice, and to respond with the workings of the Spirit. Thank you for submitting your 2025 Pledge to our Envelope Secretary, Keith Jeacle. If you have not already submitted your Pledge, please do so as soon as possible.

The Finance team continues to prepare the 2025 Budget, which will be shared with the Congregation during the Annual Meeting, on February 23, 2025.

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Thank you to the Emmanuel community for supporting the **Just Gifts Christmas market**. The in-person market and online orders pick-up will take place on **December 7th, 10am to 1pm**. We are still looking for contributions to the baking table and for volunteers to help with set up and tear down and staffing tables. Please contact Keith Jeacle or Christina Clark-Kazak if you are able to help.

We have two exciting opportunities to **visit our partners in Chipembi, Zambia**. First, a general pilgrimage for all ages is planned for spring 2025. If you are interested in joining this trip, please contact Keith Jeacle as soon as possible. Second, we are looking for young adults aged 19-30 to volunteer at Camp Chipembi in August 2025. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Jim Lamb or Christina Clark-Kazak.

Global Partners will host a public information event on "Forced Migration and Social Justice" on Friday, January 24th at 7pm. All welcome. This is a free event.

Camp Chipembi 2024 Reflection

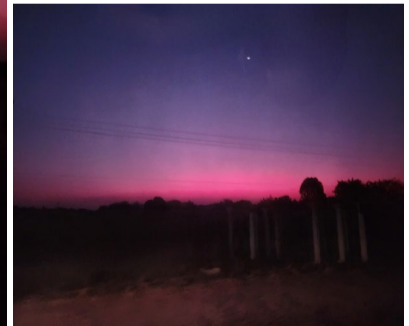
By Erika Langner

Chipembi Through Images

This summer I was privileged enough to have the opportunity to travel to Chipembi, Zambia, with two others from Emmanuel. I would like to share this experience through photos from our journey, because as the popular saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.



These are the first photos I got as we had our first moments in Zambia. Seeing many small planes scattered around near the runway was something I didn't expect, and the Kenneth Kuanda International Airport was very nice and welcoming.



The first sunset was stunning. The sky was filled with spectacular colours on our ride to the farm. It was a long and bumpy ride but with our lovely driver Solomon time went by quickly. Chipembi is only about 2 hours away, but during rush hour as everyone's leaving the city it quickly becomes 4 or 5.



Here are some of the animals that were staying on the farm with us, and some of the trees around as well. The roosters definitely made sure we didn't forget about them any time of day!



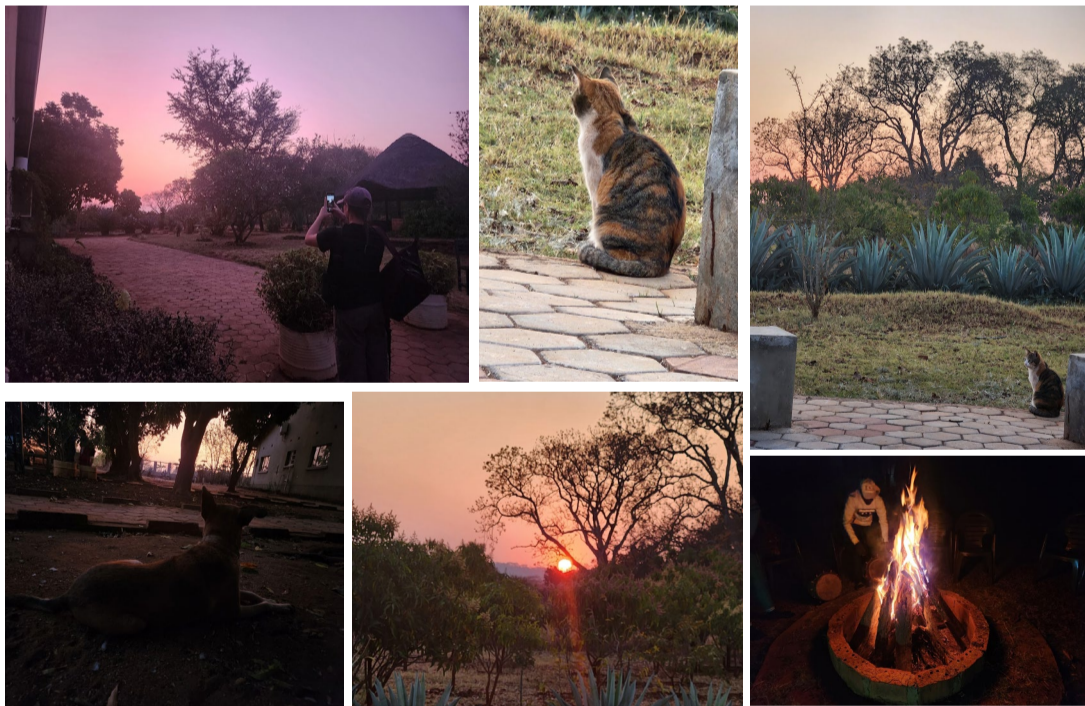
The left shows a picture of the Royal Palace View Shopping Centre, just outside the Chief Chamuka's Palace and across from the Anti Gender-Based Violence Centre. The other photos are views from the walk back.



These are photos of the field from sports day, with a quick cow crossing in the morning, our group photo with the leaders, and our walks to and from camp, picking up kids along the way.



Car ride to camp + dinosaur appearance during the family service!



Some final photos of watching sunsets and making bonfires with the Zambian leaders during their stay at the farm, comparing differences between our lives, with them teaching us how to eat with nshima and us showing them how to make s'mores!

FORCED MIGRATION & SOCIAL JUSTICE



Over 120 million people are displaced globally. Who are the people behind these numbers? How is Canada responding to forced migration? How can we - as concerned citizens committed to social justice - take meaningful action? Join us for a free public education event to learn more about forced migration in the world today.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025
7PM

doors open at 6:30pm



Christina Clark-Kazak is Professor, Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa, with broad experience in government, civil society and academia. She has authored and (co-)edited 11 books, over 30 articles and book chapters, and many policy briefs on forced migration, age discrimination, ethics & methodology. She holds a doctorate from Oxford, a master's from Cambridge and a BA from UBC.

Free will offering to support Emmanuel's general fund
Book sales to benefit Global Partners in Zambia & El Salvador

Emmanuel United Church
691 Smyth Road, K1G 1N7

<https://emmanuelunited.ca/>
(613) 733-0437



Fair trade & local food, handcrafts & gifts
Proceeds support Emmanuel's partners in
Zambia and El Salvador

Online orders: **Order pick-up & in-person market:**
November 15-30 **Saturday Dec 7, 10am-1pm**
euconlinemarket.ca **691 Smyth Road, K1G 1N7**



HEALTH

TAKE TIME TO BE WHOLEY- Exercise Programs for Seniors

Chair Yoga Exercise Program

Monday's from 10:30 to 11:30 am

Chair Yoga is a gentle and accessible way to enhance your flexibility, balance and overall well-being. It's perfect for individuals of all ages and fitness levels. No mat is required. Cost: Drop-in fee of \$5 per class.

Stretch and Strength Exercise Program

Friday's from 10:30 to 11:30 am

Exercise that consists of light exercises, some standing using light free weights and exercise bands. The program is designed to encourage seniors to stay or become more fit by stretching and exercising most body muscles. All the equipment needed is provided. Drop-in fee of \$5 per class.

PLEASE NOTE: The Fall Session concludes on *Friday, December 20th, 2024*, and the Winter Session begins *Monday, January 6th, 2025*.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Gratitude from Post Secondary Students

Some of the comments received when “thinking of you” parcels were delivered:

“Ann dropped off a student gift hamper for me today. Receiving these gift hampers throughout my undergrad has always been encouraging and warm and my sincere gratitude to you and the team for your support and love.”

“I just received the care package from the church and I just wanted to say thank you! The snacks were very good and all of the supplies will be put to good use.”

“Thank you so much for this gift! I always look forward to it at the beginning of the school year. It is nice to know that Emmanuel is thinking of me during the last year of undergraduate degree.”

Keeping in Touch, Advent Season

Advent can be a time of joy and hope. For others in the community, it can be a time of loneliness and loss. Advent is a good time to reach out to someone that you haven't seen or heard from recently. A phone call, a card, or an email will bring warmth and light to someone during the long, dark days of winter.

The Gift of Transportation

Looking for a gift to give others in the congregation? The gift of transportation to one of the Advent services is a welcome offering to someone who requires a ride. Contact Joyce at 613-324-8759 if you are available to drive.

Keeping in Touch Opportunities

In November the Bazaar, Let's Stay Together, the Youth Service, and Lunch and Learn, provided opportunities for us to gather together and make contact with each other. In December there will be the in-person Christmas Market of Just Gifts and order pick-up on Saturday, December 7 from 10:00-1:00. We are blessed with volunteers who offer their time and energy to organize these events and for everyone who participates.

Advent Blessings to All.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Grant will be attending a 3-day retreat for clergy of the EOORC region on Nov 25 to Nov 27. This is a time for building connections and spiritually preparing for the Advent season.

The church office will be closed from December 25 through to January 3, reopening on Monday January 6. Both Emma and Grant will be on vacation.

Update on Search for Leader of Music Ministry

Our search process is continuing. There have been some responses to our ad with which we are following up. We are also continuing to reach out to help spread the news of our opening.

PASTORAL CARE

FROM LOSS TO LIGHT

WHAT: A short service providing a sanctuary of peace and support, especially for those who are not feeling particularly merry and bright at this time.

WHO: It is for those experiencing grief for any reason—death of a loved one, health issues for self or others, job loss or difficulty finding one, family disputes of any kind, loneliness, or anything else.

WHEN: Sunday Dec. 15 at 2:00 PM

WHY: To know we are not alone, and to take just one step towards hope.

December Meditation and Blessing

In this season of quiet wonder, may the spirit of Christmas awaken your heart to the beauty of being fully present in the world, where love and kindness can be found in the simplest of moments. May you feel the deep bond that binds us all, a shared humanity that calls us to care for one another with tenderness and grace. As you journey through this time, may you offer light and warmth to those who need it most, knowing that every small act of kindness can make the world a gentler place. May you find joy in the people around you, and in the quiet, may you discover the peace that comes from being truly seen and heard. May your heart be filled with gratitude for the moments of togetherness that lift us beyond ourselves, and may you carry that love with you into the new year.

The Pastoral Care Team wishes you all a very blessed Christmas.

The Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team offers emotional and spiritual support to individuals and families facing various life challenges. The well-being of the Emmanuel community is our priority. To get in touch with the Pastoral Care Team, contact Ron MacDonald, Pastoral Care Provider at: pastoralcare@emmanuelunited.ca or contact the church at 613-733-0437.

Members: Rev. Grant Stuckless, Dr. Ron MacDonald, Malcolm Collins, Patricia Fairbairn, Terry Henderson, Jon Jones, Jill MacLean, and Joyce White (Keeping in Touch).

SOUTHEAST OTTAWA CLUSTER EVENTS

The Southeast Ottawa Cluster consists of Emmanuel, Glebe St James, Rideau Park, Riverside & Southminster United Churches

A Cluster Planning Meeting is being held at Emmanuel on December 12th from 11am – 1pm in the Lounge.

Riverside: December 7th join them and Write for Rights, writing letters as part of an Amnesty International campaign from 9am-noon.

Rideau Park: Attend a Christmas Carols Concert December 21st at 3pm, or a Christmas Jazz Concert at 7pm. They offer a worship service on Christmas Day at 10am.

Glebe St James: On December 7th from 7-9pm they are hosting a Christmas Gospel Concert.

Southminster: December 4th at noon they have a piano concert featuring selections from Handel, Messiaen, and Tchaikovsky.

Sunday, December 1st, 2024 at 4:30pm

Ottawa Mennonite Church (1830 Kilborn Ave.)

Please join us for our annual **Carol Sing**. Gather to usher in Advent by singing some of our favourite Christmas carols followed by a time of fellowship over a potluck "faspa"/ploughman's lunch-style cold supper. Think sliced meats, cheese slices, boiled eggs, pickles, bread or rolls, jam, vegetables and dip, and cookies or squares. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring food pre-cut and ready to serve to allow the kitchen committee to participate in carol singing.

WORSHIP

Looking ahead to worship in December

Sunday, December 1 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Communion, Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 pm ~ Advent Service on ZOOM

Sunday, December 8 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:1-6

Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm ~ Advent Service on ZOOM

Sunday, December 15 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 pm ~ From Loss to Light Service

Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm ~ Advent Service on ZOOM

Sunday, December 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1: 39-55

Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 pm ~ Family Service

Tuesday, December 24th at 7:30 pm ~ A Service of Carols and Readings

Sunday, December 29th ~ First After Christmas


“Angels in our Lives”

We are looking to add to our roster of people who are willing to volunteer to usher or to help with coffee and conversation. This is a great way to get to know people if you are new to the congregation (or even if you have been around for awhile). This doesn't need to be a huge time commitment. For ushering – see Bob Gander. For coffee and conversation – see Irene Bakker.

Emmanuel will be celebrating **Communion on December 1st**. Our Communion Offerings are dedicated to programs beyond our congregation, locally and internationally. Our next offering will go to a unique Ottawa program, orKIDstra, which brings music to young people who would otherwise be deprived of the chance to make music. Music can be such a source of joy and inspiration, but many don't have money for instruments or lessons. The orKIDstra motto is “Changing Children's Lives through Music: empowering kids, building community.” Kids in five “equity-deserving” communities are given opportunities to play and sing together. Instruments and lessons are provided, as well as lots of choral experiences. Theresa Clarke, our own recently retired music director, speaks enthusiastically about “this wonderful program” in which many of her colleagues are teachers. It is a great source of joy to hundreds of kids and their families! Their website (<https://orkidstra.ca>) tells a lot about all they do. Free concerts will be held on Dec. 11 and 17. We at Emmanuel know how important music is to our congregation; it fits who we are to support this program which brings so much value to our community. Let's play our part!



Simplify Your Celebrations



We would like to thank those
who have made contributions in the month of
October 2024 to Emmanuel United Church as part of
the *Simplify your Celebrations* project.
Donations were received as follows:

In memory of Shirley Maguire
by Sharon Noonan

Thanks to Joan Foster-Jones
and the Quilting Group
by Ross White



Donations may be made by cheque
payable to “Emmanuel United Church”,
e-transfer to envelope.secretary@emmanuelunited.ca
or through the CanadaHelps.org “Donate Now” button
on our website at www.emmanuelunited.ca

Simplify Your Celebrations

FORM TO ACCOMPANY DONATION

Donation to:
Emmanuel United Church
691 Smyth Road, Ottawa ON K1G 1N7

General Fund Capital Fund

From: (Name) _____

(Address) _____

In recognition of:

*Please provide a statement that could go into the next monthly packet,
along the lines of those on the previous page.*

If you do not wish for this to be published, please check here _____

Please send acknowledgment to:

If you wish this to be an anonymous donation, please check here _____

Amount: \$ _____

Thank You