



St. James United Church

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately ...

2017 Summer Newsletter

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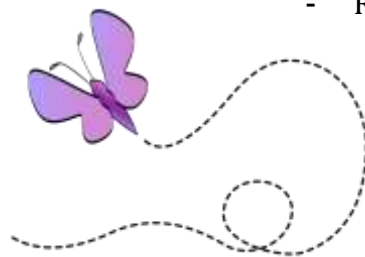
Greetings St. James Family!

We are almost half way through 2017, and it's proving to be another fulfilling and meaningful year of life and ministry together at St. James! I share with you some of the highlights...

The mural that is going up on exterior south facing wall of the large auditorium is well underway, and there is great enthusiasm for this shared venture with St. James, The Art School of Peterborough and the New Canadians Centre. The congregation also eagerly awaits the arrival of a beautiful new lawn sign for the front of our property, which will enable us to post and share the many ministries and happenings of St. James with the broader community. Lacey Dummitt, our Youth Ministries Coordinator and the Christian Education committee are busy planning for two weeks of summer camp, which continues to be an amazing outreach ministry - offering affordable, quality camp to everyone. Over the next couple of months, our website will be getting a much needed update under the leadership and direction of Jennifer Moon, our Office Administrator and one of our summer grant students. We anticipate continued successful and celebratory joint worship services this summer and are happy and excited to welcome Mark Street and Northminster United Churches to the group. The Affirm Committee continues to have a fantastic and interesting line-up of guest speakers between now and our congregational vote on September 24th.

Heartfelt thanks to the Official Board and the congregation for all of your hard work and dedication to the ongoing ministry of Jesus! On behalf of my family and the staff, I'd like to wish you a summer filled with beauty, adventure, fun and peace.

- Rev. Julie van Haaften



*Living fully, intentionally and
compassionately as we journey with
people of every age, gender, race, sexual
orientation and gender identity, differing
abilities, economic or cultural
backgrounds to be a hope-filled,
faith community.*

Affirm Committee

We have been on this journey for over 2 years now. We have a number of requirements to meet and we are close to achieving those.

By the end of June we will have had over 20 speakers who have provided a variety of educational topics for our congregation including such topics as gender identity, sexual orientation, mental health, living with disabilities, accessibility, poverty, homelessness, and diverse religions. We have had a question box, displays, a skit and video followed by open discussion.

A congregational vote by secret ballot is planned for Sept. 24th 2017 - If our vote is successful and I sincerely hope it will be, we will be joining approximately 160 churches in Canada who have become affirming ministries including: Emmanuel United Church and Trinity United Church here in Peterborough and our UCW Bay of Quinte Conference which was the first UCW Conference to become affirming. Should we receive an affirmative vote we plan to celebrate on Anniversary Sunday October 29, 2017 with guest speaker Rev. Ruth Wood. In addition to inviting Rev. Wood, the 20 guest speakers that we've had over the past 2 years will be receive letters of invitation, as will Trinity United (Peterborough) and Emmanuel United Churches (Peterborough).

I would like to thank you our congregation as we travel this journey together, and the Affirm Committee members: Susan Bott, Kate Ellis, Jeanne Ellis, Cliff Weaver, Joanne Rorke, and Julie Van Haften.

Sincerely
Jayne White (Chair)



Official Board

Greetings from your official board!

We have just begun to feel the touch of Summer with rising temperatures, after a very rainy Spring. This serves to remind us that our hard working Committees will have a well deserved rest! The individual Committees that make up your Board have spent Winter/Spring making decisions, and implementing plans, that you, the Congregation have agreed upon. Engaging new Staff, a new sign for our church, that hopefully will be ready soon, plans for sanctuary renovations, painting of a wall mural, joint church services that began in May, but of course will continue on holiday weekends all Summer. These are just a few of the highlights, and although we will be taking a break from monthly Board meetings, we will continue to keep in touch whenever needed. We hope that you will bring any ideas, thoughts and concerns to us, by approaching us on Sundays, or by phone or email.

In the meantime, stay happy and healthy, and enjoy your Summer!

Blessings,
Ruth Dwyer

Board of Stewards

It's been a busy start to this term with fire alarm inspections, the installation of carbon monoxide detectors, painting projects (both practical and artistic), repairs to the vestibule roof and blackout shades for the large auditorium windows, which benefit both the St. James Players and renters.

While much as been accomplished, we know there are still many projects to tackle such as completing the installation of the emergency lighting system and the regular maintenance of mechanical systems.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kate Ellis (Chair)

Visioning Committee

The Visioning Committee continues to work on projects to meet the strategic and priorities as identified by the congregation through our visioning process. Grant applications will continue to be submitted over the summer and into the early fall in order to be able to proceed with plans for updating and renovating the Sanctuary to make it a more inclusive and flexible worship as well as a performance space (which we agreed at our October 2016 congregational meeting, would enable us to potentially generate significant revenue with the help of a Lease Real Estate Agent). It would also allow us to continue building toward inclusivity and for our future will help to keep St. James United Church strong and an important hub for our community.

In April the Official Board distributed a document entitled "Our Vision 2014-2019" which explains, in greater detail the work of the Visioning Committee, which has resulted directly from the input from the congregation. We invite you to speak with members of the Visioning Committee should you have any questions or suggestions as we go forward in meeting the goals and wishes of our congregation.

Members of the Visioning Committee include: Wimpy Borland, Leslie Gutsole-Floyd, Joanne Rorke, Reverend Julie, and Susan Weaver.

Submitted by Susan Weaver

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has been busy! Summer and fall services are planned. Our own Rev. Julie, along with interesting speakers and special joint services will give you food for thought and reason to rejoice on Sunday mornings.

We are also excited to be planning for our new photo directory! Photos will be taken at the church on Aug. 24, Oct. 6 and 7th. Watch for sign-up information.

Submitted by Leslie Gutsole-Floyd (Chair)

Christian Education Committee

In April the C.E. committee was thrilled to welcome Lacey Dummitt as the Youth Ministries Coordinator. She has been busy getting things ready for our two summer camps. First, she and I interviewed for the five positions we were given through a Summer Student Grant from the federal government. We hired the five people and look forward to welcoming them to St. James on June 20th. They will help plan and carry out the activities for our Eco Camp which runs from July 10-14 and the Animal Adventures camp Aug. 14-18th.

The committee and Lacey were busy preparing activities and food for the Messy church on June 11th. Lacey and the children have made cupcakes that were decorated like beavers as part of our early celebration of Canada Day.

Submitted by Marney Horton



Fundraising Committee

We had a successful Hawaiian Dinner in February and a successful and fun Snack Room at the spring production of the St. James Players.

When you read this, hopefully our Victorian Tea and Fashion Show will have been a success too!

In the autumn, we are hoping for a dinner and maybe an evening of music with the St. James Players.

Enjoy your summer!

- Roxanne Murduff

Sign Up-date

The sign has been constructed by two Peterborough area companies: Taylor Made Signs of Millbrook made the fixed upper section and Zeebon Signs of Otonabee built the electronic portion of the sign. Everything is ready to go once we receive a permit of approval from the City of Peterborough. As soon as we get the required documentation, the sign will be installed and dedicated.

- Dale White (Board of Stewards)



Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry & Personnel committee is very fortunate to work with our wonderful staff Julie, Jennifer, Lynda, Shawn and our 2 new additions, Brian and Lacey.

A huge thank you to all our dedicated staff members!

Holidays are being planned and thus far we have Julie on vacation in August; Lynda will probably be taking some time in June & July when her daughter, Helen, and grandchildren are visiting from Australia; Jennifer is off during the week of July 10th; Shawn will be enjoying sailing the last 2 weeks of July and also a couple of weeks in August.

We wish everyone a sunny and terrific summer of 2017.

Your M&P Committee: Roxanne Murduff, Susan Weaver, Jim Lowes, Peter Floyd and Shirley Rolufs.

Kawartha Food Share Up-date

Instead of lugging a heavy bag of food to church the first Sunday of the month for Kawartha Food Share, please consider bringing in a loonie or toonie, and placing it in the jar found at the back of the sanctuary or in the jar found on the table just outside the sanctuary (in front of the ramp, by the office). Alternatively, you could put money or a cheque in an clearly marked envelop on the offering plate. For every \$1 we donate to Kawartha Food Share, they can purchase up to \$6 worth of food. Cash donations allow them to get food through many different sources including bulk purchases, food drives, and other food programs,. Cash donations also help them to purchase the types of food that they need most for distribution to those who need it most. If you have any questions, please speak with Ruth Dwyer, Chair of the Official Board. Many thanks to Karin & Ken DesChamp for delivering food and money each month to Kawartha Food share.

United Church Women

This year UCW is celebrating its 55th anniversary. The celebration will take place July 10 to 14th in Vancouver. Nancy Sutherland will be attending as National UCW President. Eileen Stanbury will be attending as St. James UCW president.

- UCW will be presenting the Sunday Service on July 30th.
- Camp Quin-Mo-Lac UCW weekend is Sept. 8,9 10th – Registration deadline is August 1st. More information is available either from Eileen Stanbury or from the UCW bulletin board.
- On Mon. Oct. 16, Unit 2 is extending an invitation to all who might wish to hear Jill Bates talk to us about her trip to Morogoro. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.
- Our Fall Muffin Party will be on October 18th from 9:30 to 11 a.m.
- The Annual Christmas Cafe & Bazaar will be on Saturday November 18th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A Co-Chair and other volunteers are needed. Please see Marney Horton if you are able to help.

Submitted by: Eileen Stanbury, UCW President

Men's Club

This past spring, St. James Men's Club sold seeds and bulbs as a fundraiser. We will be doing this again for fall bulbs. Please watch for the colourful Vesey's catalogue that will be available in August with an order deadline date of September 17th.

The fall catalogue has tulips, crocus, daffodils, hyacinths, anemone, buttercups, and more.

The Men's Club thanks all for their support in our initial spring sale and hope that you will consider us for your fall bulb needs.

We are also looking for volunteers for the Keith Wightman School breakfast program for September. Please contact Bob Heron or Ron Horton for more information.

- Joe Greer (Chair)

Treasurer's Report

The following is the year-to-date financial update as of May 31, 2017.

Our overall receipts are up slightly in 2017 compared to the first 5 months of 2016. Both room rentals and gift card sales are up significantly but unfortunately the largest single source of income, envelope and PAR givings, continues its four year downward slide.

Overall expenses are almost exactly the same as in 2016. Staff salaries and benefits are reduced due to us not having a youth ministries coordinator, nor a music director, nor an office administrator for the full five months. Our electrical and heating costs are up somewhat over 2016. Repairs and maintenance have increased significantly; this is because our snow plowing expenses doubled from the previous year to \$8800, unexpected repairs to our alarm system, a new roof over the vestibule at the parking lot entrance, and the repair of a significant crack on the exterior of the large gymnasium wall.

As a result, our year-to-date deficit is almost \$15,000, about \$200 less than it was on May 31, 2016. In 2016, we had a year-end deficit of about \$900. It would be wonderful if we could at least break even by the end of 2017 or even show a small surplus. For this to happen, it would mean that church members need to support the various fundraising efforts the church and its organizations have; this will help to compensate for the lower envelope and PAR givings. It means turning off lights in rooms that are not being used. It means thinking about how much you put into "local expenses" in your church envelopes. It means thinking about the advantages of being on PAR. It means buying more gift cards from Jim (which doesn't cost you anything but produces revenue for the church).

As always, the latest financial report is on the bulletin board beside the ramp outside the sanctuary. Please see me if you have any questions.

- Ron Horton

In conversation with...

Interview with Nancy Sutherland: National United Church Women President and long-time member of St. James.

UCW Purpose:

To invite women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and service.

1. Everyone is very excited and proud to have a United Church Women National President in our congregation! When did your position begin and when will it complete?

It's a four year journey for a National President. I became President elect in September 2015, and in September 2016, I became President at our annual national meeting. This is a two year term, followed by a year as past President.

2. Can you tell us what the UCW means to you?

UCW means to me exactly what the UCW Purpose states (see above). I love UCW! The women in UCW across Canada are an amazing. In 1962 there were 300,000 charter members, and at least 100 of them were St. James Women.

It's the spirit of the 300,000 charter members that has carried and offered strength to UCW today. It could not have been easy bringing the Women's Auxiliary and Women's Missionary Society together to form the UCW in 1962. Sadie Post was the first UCW President at St. James, with Verna Rolufs as the second president. There are currently 44 Charter UCW members at St. James.



Being part of UCW means lots of hard work - but it's worth it. I've been president of congregational UCW's since 1963. I was president of Shining Waters Presbyterial, and I was president of Bay of Quinte Conference UCW, prior to becoming national president I have met so many wonderful woman, and it feels so amazing to want to live out the UCW Purpose with other's who also want that. We encourage each other to nurture and embrace our gifts to work together to help and love others all over the world.

3. What drew you to consider the position of UCW National President?

Well, I never thought that I would have this role. However, I got a phone call from the National Presbyterial meeting and they asked if I would let me name stand. My first thought was "No", but after a short time of deliberation and research, and a conversation with Floyd - who was extremely supportive (which is essential for this role), I agreed to let my name stand. Very shortly after that, I was called and informed that I had been elected as the new National President. I consider this role an honour, and appreciate the support from General Council.

4. Share with us some of the places you've been and things you've done as National President.

In the next year I anticipate more travel across the country. In July I am going to Vancouver for the 55th anniversary celebration of the UCW, and the theme is Celebrating Spirit.

I recently attended the Presbyterian International women's event in Richmond Hill - there were over 600 women there and I had the privilege of sitting at a table with people from all over the world. I've had the pleasure of traveling to many places in Ontario, as well as various parts of Canada and the USA.

It feels good to be part of something so big and so positive. It restores faith in humanity and helps me to realize how much good there is in the world.

5. Has this position impacted your faith and/or transformed you as a person?

I feel that I have become more tolerant and understanding of other people, and more aware of what is going on in the world. It has given me greater insight into the workings and challenges of the broader church, and more appreciation of it. I am more proud than ever to be part of UCW and the United Church of Canada. I am learning new ways to include people who feel that they no longer have a place or a role - because everyone has a gift and something they can contribute to the greater good and be an ambassador.

Getting to know Lacey Dummitt

Interview with Lacey Dummitt - Youth Ministries Coordinator at St. James.

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I grew up in Lakefield, and went to Lakefield United Church. I attended Sunday School, Youth Group and Confirmation class there. After high school, I attended university. I did my Bachelor of Science and Neuroscience at Carleton University, and then my Master's of Science and Occupational Therapy at Western University.

During my last three years of university I worked at the Buckhorn Daycare as a summer student, which awakened my interest in working with kids. Since then I've had a couple of jobs working in Occupational Therapy, but my dream is to work with kids. As a result, I'm currently working at the YMCA Childcare in Lakefield, as well as here at St. James as your YMC. I also volunteer organizing the "Kid's Zone" for the Winterfest Fundraiser for Five counties Children's Centre. For fun, I like to go hiking, decorate cakes, go to the cottage with my family, travel when I can, and cook. My Mom and Dad are very involved in the community, and I'm sure that I get my sense of community outreach from them.

2. What drew you to St. James?

Having grown up as a member of the UC, the opportunity to work with Youth at St. James seemed very exciting to me. Being able to organize and run summer camps is a true bonus!

3. What excites you about St. James' Children's programs?

I like to play and I like to watch children learn and see how they learn things in different ways. This then teaches me to learn in new ways. I enjoy connecting with kids, each in their own way and helping them to have the same positive experience of Sunday School and church that I had.



4. What are some goals and/or dreams that you have as YMC?

I would like to have a very successful summer for camp participation and am excited to work with 5 summer grant students as well as volunteers. I'd like to be able to engage the current Sunday School kids we have, and hopefully try to draw some more children in to join. Teach the congregation how to have fun at church is a dream of mine. In addition to working with the camp, one of the summer grant students will work with Jennifer in the office to help to update our church website! It's great to have people from different committees and groups helping one another in the church!

Getting to know Brian MacDonald

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am fortunate to have called Peterborough both my home and birthplace. I come from a family of 6, where I am the 3rd of 4 children (and if you don't ask my siblings; I am my parents' favourite). Both my parents have always called Peterborough home. My mother comes from a large Irish Catholic family of 13, and my Father comes from a smaller family of 4, but both having families that love music in common. I grew up in the Catholic church, where I was involved in choirs, youth ministry and lecturing. I have also been fortunate to learn about other Christian denominations as I have worked for the Anglican Church (as a choral scholar), the Presbyterian Church (as Music Director) and now the United Church, with a home at St James. Currently I work as a Regional Director for Starbucks Canada in Toronto, and have taken a position in August that will allow me once again to reside in my house in Peterborough. My hobbies include mainly music and theatre, and have been blessed to develop my love for these two things with many companies, including St James Players. I have had opportunity to direct, act, sing, dance, be a musical director and even be a choreographer, and find I learn more each day. One venture I am very proud of, is being co-creator of our company *Art for Awareness*, where we have worked with many local agencies (Canadian Mental Health Association, Peterborough AIDS Resource Network, Lynx Early Psychosis, Youth Emergency Shelter and Hospice Peterborough to name a few); to raise awareness through Art and raise needed funds for local projects.



2. What drew you to St. James?

To be truthful; prayer and timing. Living in Toronto has many advantages; being my home is not one of them. I was looking for a way to feel more fulfilled (aren't we all?) and I knew I had to get back to music....so I prayed. I prayed to help me be open to change; to help me listen when maybe I wasn't hearing a way to be challenged. I prayed to help me try to get back home; even if I failed. The next day, I saw the advertisement for the Music Director position at St James. My affinity and love for the United church as a spiritual home combined with the chance to make music; I couldn't have thought of a more perfect direction for me to try....and the rest is history.

3. What are your goals and/or dreams for St. James' music ministry?

My main goal with this position is growth, and this growth comes in many forms. I want to grow our presence in our community by inviting new people to our church, either to visit or stay as part of the choir. I want to grow the extremely talented choir I have been blessed with; to grow their excitement for singing and music and to grow their capabilities to the best of my abilities. I want to grow the connection between the liturgical message and the music and the connection our congregation feels when they share in our music. Lastly; I want to grow; to learn and be challenged. I know these may sound like simple changes, but I have seen what the power of music can do, and combined with how my spirit has already grown as being part of this collective, anything is possible.