



Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

“Nurturing the Spirit”

Fall 2017

Ministry Message

Irene Greenwood

*Please join us for worship -
Sundays at 10:30 am*

Ahhh – summer! That time of rest and relaxation. That time of rejuvenation and peace. That time of letting go of cares and responsibilities. I soooo look forward to this time every year so that I can come back to work refreshed and full of energy. That is what summer is for. That is what vacations are about.

But somehow, the world did not get the message this year. The world kept happening. The worst fire season in history in British Columbia. And yes, that is where I spent a part of my vacation. Breathing in smoke, looking for mountains behind the haze. At one point we were within 10 km of one fire and caught up in the evacuation of 15,000 people from a rock festival and a number of people who were threatened with the loss of their homes.

And these fires are a big reminder of an issue for the world: climate change. It is climate change that has enabled the pine beetle to devastate BC and Alberta forests and make them ready fuel for a match or lightning strike.

And then there was the “you know what” match between two world leaders and their nuclear weapons threats. Seriously? Who in this day and age really wants to send us into a nuclear war? With us in the middle! Apparently, there are world leaders who will at least make the threat.

And if this is not enough for one summer, we had to face the reality that vehicles are now the weapon of choice for many in our world. The attack in Barcelona and the attack in Charlottesville demonstrated for us just how easy it is for people to act on their hatred of others.

And the whole thing about white supremacy knocks the wind right out of me. Yes, I know there are always going to be pockets of hatred (even large pockets), but surely a world leader would have the guts to stand up and clearly denounce such hatred.

Apparently, not!

So, I come back from my holiday, not rested and not refreshed. But I do come back with a conviction that now, as much as any time in history, we need to continue to be about the work of peace and justice in our world. If we have any faith at all in a God of hope and love, we will keep working. I have no illusion that any one of us will change much on our own, but I do maintain a belief that together we will make a difference. And who knows, maybe the world will notice.

JUSTICE

I have a few plans in mind. By the time you read this, I will have attended an event on Palestine/Israel, hoping to better understand the kind of unrest and oppression that exists in that part of the world and how we might work to ease that situation.

This Fall, Bill C262 (An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) will come before Parliament for second reading. I am currently working with a coalition of folk whose mission is to promote this Bill through a letter/postcard/meeting with MPs campaign and through a rally to be held on **September 23**. The rally will consist of a walk from the Oodena Celebration Circle at The Forks to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. We anticipate that not a lot of people will do the walk portion (13km), but we are hoping to draw a large crowd to the rally at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba. As a signatory to Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord, our Leadership Team made a commitment to Reconciliation. This may be one way our congregation can begin to fulfil that commitment. It would be one way of addressing white supremacy in our own community.

Reconciliation

I come back this fall thinking about the work of PATH 2 and ArtFest. At their root, both these pieces of work in our church are about building a stronger, caring community – not within our walls, but beyond our walls. I would invite us as a congregation, to hold this up as our guide, whenever we are making any plans or decisions about where we go with these two endeavours. Will our plans build a stronger community? Will they enable hope, and justice, and love to be real elements of our lives among our neighbours. Even this is a significant step of hope for our world.

So, we come back from summer – perhaps not totally rested, but hopefully ready to continue the work to which we have been called. And if, from time to time, we find we need a break, a time of refreshment, a time of fun, I hope we will all know that this too, is ok. We do, from time to time, need to replenish our spirits and our bodies. It is why we have Sabbath.

Finance Committee Update

The 2nd Quarterly Financial Update has been prepared by the Finance Committee to show you the financial health of our church.

Please note that Fundraising is now being shown as a net income with the expenses associated with fundraising removed.

Donations to M and S continue to be generous for the first six months of the year but income has fallen behind expenses by \$17,589. Thank you for your ongoing support.

| Crescent Fort Rouge United Church Quarterly Financial Update Financial Summary for January to June 2017 | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| | Totals for Year to Date (Jan-Jun) | 2017 Annual Budget | Percentage of 2017 Budget |
| Income: | | | |
| Local Church | \$78,790 | \$167,975 | 47% |
| Building-Critical Repair | \$19,403 | \$3,000 | 647% |
| Fundraising (Net) | \$2,510 | \$7,500 | 33% |
| Other | \$52,976 | \$77,850 | 68% |
| Total income | \$134,276 | \$255,825 | 52% |
| Expenses | \$151,865 | \$255,825 | 59% |
| Income less Expenses | -\$17,589 | \$0 | -7% |
| | | | |
| M and S | \$17,563 | \$40,000 | 44% |

Check In with the Chair

Murray Gibbings, Leadership Team Chair

Welcome back to those who have been away over the summer. This year promises to be very interesting as changes are happening in our church. Our three new members on the leadership team are Peggy Barker, Debbie Girard and Mike Edwards. Thanks to these new members for offering to help our church. A special thanks also goes out to Ron McKinnon for accepting a position on our Finance Team. I look forward to working with these kind individuals during the year.

Of course we have many exciting events happening this year including our annual Pancake Breakfast and Fall Supper. I would like to encourage everyone to support these events as they are an important part of our fundraising activity.

I hope you had a pleasant summer and are ready for another great year at Crescent Fort Rouge United Church. I look forward to seeing you.

From The Pew

Dorian Phillips



As I sit here on a nice summer's day thinking about church, I cannot help but think of our recent losses - Eleanor, Dora and others. Death is never nice, it's always hard to say goodbye. These losses remind me of the saying "say what you want to say today, do not wait until tomorrow". How true. We want to take advantage of the opportunities that we have. We never know where our personal journey will take us.

When I look around the church with the summer's sparse congregation, I see fewer members and I worry about our future as a church. On the positive side, I remember one Sunday in June, during conversation with our children time, there were too many children to fit in one pew. In the situation of the emergency exterior brick work, members of the congregation supported what needed to be done. It makes me be cautiously optimistic about our future!

This speaks well to our future.

I do not know the path "From The Pew" is going to take, as this is a new project for me. If you have something that you think should be explored, please let me know.

Gardeners Ministry Group

Jane Natrass

The CFR Gardeners have been busy at work doing the thing we like best: getting dirty! This year we have increased our numbers and are very happy to have extra hands to make work easier and faster! Jane, Barb and Sharon are still getting down and dirty but we have added Alex and Maddie. They live close to the church and are willing to water, dig holes and pull weeds! Yay!



New additions to the garden! Two Peonies, two Shasta Daisies, one lime green Barberry and one Dwarf Shasta Daisy!



Shasta Daisies were beautiful this year but have finished blooming, making way for the beauty of the Hydrangeas!

Compost Distribution:

Monday September 18; 5:30 to 6:00 pm

{Just prior to the potluck supper}

Bring your own bag or bucket to the compost bin and we will fill it for your garden or potted plants.



Editors Note:

We are very excited to have a new column in our newsletter - "From the Pew" Dorian Phillips (page 3). New contributions like this are what we need to keep our newsletter fresh and engaging. If you have an idea for a feature you would like to provide please share your idea and let us know. We will all benefit!

~ Maureen

NEW

Congregational Potluck Supper

Monday September 18

6:00 pm



Everyone is Invited and Welcome.

Nina Logan, from *Grands 'n' More Winnipeg*, will give a presentation about the "Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign", and the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Both Nina Logan & Deb Radi will speak about their experiences visiting the Grandmother projects in Africa.

The SLF works with community based grassroots projects in 15 sub Saharan African countries, supporting the courageous grandmothers caring for their grandchildren orphaned by the AIDS pandemic.



Bag Sale

A wonderful array of beautiful Tote bags, Shoulder bags, Mini-bags, Zippy bags, Toonie bags, and more, all made by Manitoba volunteers, will be for sale. Proceeds go to support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Prices from \$2.00 to \$50.00.

African Grandmothers - the Unsung Heros

The grandmothers through the support of local grassroots groups are the lifeline for their communities: they provide counseling and education about HIV prevention, care and treatment; distribute food, medication and other necessities; reach the sick and vulnerable through home based care; help orphans and vulnerable children access education and work through their grief; and support grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren.

There are almost 17 million children in sub-Saharan Africa who have been orphaned by AIDS, (almost half the population of Canada).

40 to 60 percent of AIDS orphans live in grandmother-headed households.

They have found strength and resilience in the middle of all the challenges that they face.



Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

Working for the grandmothers and AIDS orphans of Africa

Grands 'N' More Winnipeg

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg came into being in October 2007, and is one of over 250 groups of grandmothers and "grand-others" coast to coast in Canada. We are committed to improving the lives of the grandmothers and the orphaned children in their care in the face of the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

We raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation which works with community-based organizations which are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa by providing care and support to grandmothers, orphaned children, women and people living with HIV and AIDS.

Membership is open to all women and men interested in making a difference in the lives of the grandmothers and the grandchildren they support.

Bill C-262 is one of the most important pieces of legislation to come before Parliament in recent history. Second reading is anticipated this fall when MPs will debate and vote on the Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Will you join in the movement of reconciliation by supporting Bill C-262?

The recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) has called all sectors of Canadian society to adopt and comply with the *United Nations Declaration (2007)*. Crafted over a period of 25 years, the Declaration is a short, life-giving document outlining the basic rights and minimum standards that should guide relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples (see www.goo.gl/yWc9sE).

In 2010, Canada supported the *declaration* as an aspirational document. In 2016, the Canadian government took a further step under Liberal leadership by promising to adopt and implement the *Declaration*. **Bill C-262** can help Canada actually do this. Endorsed by Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations across the country – including the Assembly of First Nations, Indigenous World Association, Grand Council of the Crees, Amnesty International and KAIROS – Bill C-262 would

- affirm that the *Declaration* has legal application in Canada
- invite a national action plan created by the federal Government and Indigenous representatives to discern how to go about implementation
- invite a yearly report on how progress is being made.

The TRC has stated that the Declaration is the blueprint for reconciliation in Canada. Senator Murray Sinclair (who chaired the TRC) has endorsed Bill C-262. This is an incredible opportunity to walk the talk of reconciliation, justice and healing.



“Let’s Walk the Talk” – On September 23, there will be a walk & rally in support of Bill C262. The walk begins at the Oodena Celebration Circle at The Forks and travels 13km to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba.

At 6 :30 PM the rally takes place at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Together, we can honour Indigenous Human Rights and mend broken relationships in Canada!

2nd reading of Bill C-262 is happening this fall so let's make this big!

All are invited to join in the walk and/or the rally at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba.

Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

Flapjack Fundraiser

at



Grant Park location

Saturday September 23rd

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Tickets \$14 – with \$10 going to CFRUC

from Shirley W, Louise Y & the church office

“Serving Angel” positions still available

Community Ministry
St. Matthews Maryland



Emergency Food Pantry Urgent Appeal!

Our Emergency Food Pantry is in rough shape!
We are in urgent need of non-perishable food items (canned food, pasta and sauce, Kraft Dinner, peanut butter) to be distributed to our community members.

The pantry is empty, and so are many of the stomachs in our community!
Please help us to fill both!

Any food items can be dropped in the green boxes in the Lower Hall.

Passages

Marriages

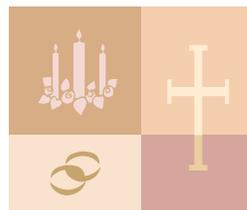
July 8 • Ashley Duncan & Dallas Friesen

Baptisms

- April 2 • Jacob Anthony Scott {Son of Sajani Joykutty & Brett Scott}
- May 14 • Grace Olga Benson {Daughter of Amanda Hardie & Paul Benson}
- June 25 • David Archibald Reed Edwards {Son of Shannon Reed & John Edwards}
- June 25 • Landon Conner Nichols {Son of Alyssa Goulart & Charles Nichols}
- June 25 • Lucas Damon Goulart {Son of Alyssa Goulart}
- July 30 • Emilee Rene Bergeron {Daughter of Jennifer Sypulski & Jesse Bergeron}
- July 30 • Ethan Liam Bergeron {Son of Jennifer Sypulski & Jesse Bergeron}

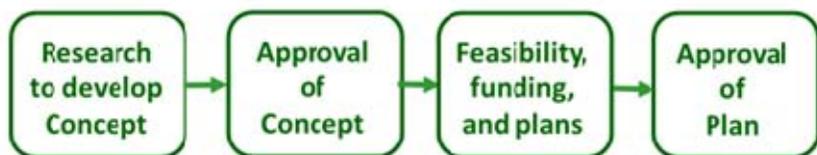
In Memoriam

- May 12 • June Malabar
- June 26 • Dora Bonner
- July 6 • Ralph Algner
- July 28 • Eleanor Brown



Planning and Transformation Hub (PATH 2 UPDATE)

In January, CFRUC's congregation approved the PATH team to move forward on analyzing the feasibility of expanding our outreach to children, youth, families and seniors in the neighbourhood while also expanding our hospitality to the arts community. PATH has been working steadily and with focus towards this plan. At the same time, we wish to ensure that we are always on solid footing as we discover new aspects and opportunities towards this end. Thus, we are carefully analyzing the



advantages presented to CFRUC, always ensuring that CFRUC will NOT incur any new costs. We ask for your patience as we continue along this path through the fall. As always, should you have any questions, feel free to approach the PATH 2 team.

It's time to Re-commit to Racial Justice and Equity

The United Church's anti-racism policy notes that, "we believe that racism will never end, that it is an obstacle we face in our efforts to follow God... We believe that the struggle against racism is a continuous effort." The work towards racial justice, therefore, cannot only be a reactive response to racial riots in the news; rather, it must be an ongoing, proactive, and persistent effort.

It is time to re-commit to racial justice, equity, and to confronting White privilege and all of its manifestations. The church has many resources for people who want to become more involved in mending the world.

~ Excerpt from the United Church of Canada

Website Post - August 14, 2017



The United Church
of Canada

Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

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9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday to Friday

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The **Advent** newsletter submission deadline is **November 13** will be ready for distribution by **November 26**.

The Newsletter is published four times per year:

~Beginning of Lent

~Near the May long weekend

~Near the Labour Day weekend

~Beginning of Advent

