



Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

“Nurturing the Spirit”

Lent 2018

Ministry Message

Irene Greenwood

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

Last week I was contacted via Facebook by someone who was doing renovations in his house. It seems that in the walls of his house there was an attendance certificate from “Crescent Community Church” dated January 21, 1925. The person who contacted us wanted to know if we had any connection with this church and would we know anything about the person whose name was on the certificate. Well of course there is a connection. Crescent Community Church was also known as Crescent Congregational Church and was situated on the corner of Aynsley Street (now Arbuthnot) and McMillan Avenue. In 1925, the congregation entered union with The United Church of Canada and in 1935 it began an amalgamation process with Fort Rouge United Church.

The name on the certificate is “Evelyn Larson”. I have no idea who she was and a quick search of available records was not helpful. However, I did take a quick look at our history book and was reminded of the “good old days” of overflowing Sunday Schools and high activity churches. According to this history book, there was a time when Sunday School enrollment was about 1000. Yes, one thousand. I tried to imagine that many children and teens in our building on a Sunday. I am trying to imagine being a Sunday School teacher! My guess is that not all classes were held at one time – but I don’t know that.

I found myself wondering, how do you attract that many children to church?

Talking to a number of people in the congregation about this certificate, it brought to mind for a number of folks the old “cross and crown” pins and bars that many of us received in our youth for perfect attendance at Sunday School. Some people loved to get those pins. Others, not so much. We had them in our church when I was growing up – but we also had another incentive for attendance. If we went through the whole year, missing no more than one Sunday, we were loaded on a school bus, driven to the big city of Toronto (about 80 miles away) and were taken to Maple Leaf Gardens to see the Ice Capades. Now, that was incentive!



It seems that Crescent Community Church had its own incentive beyond the certificate. They had a church hockey league. In order to play, one had to have a good attendance record at Sunday School. (I wonder if girls got to play.)

On a Sunday morning these days, when we have between 10 and 20 children present, we get very excited. We are thrilled. And so we should be. There are many churches that have no children. But 20 is a long way from 1000 and sometimes it is very easy for us to get into that “what’s going to happen to us?” way of thinking. Are we going to survive? How many more years do we have in our church?

I certainly do not know the answer to that question. We live in a world that is changing by the moment and those changes can impact the church as much as any institution. But what I do know, is that there is life here. When 20 kids from the after-school day care program come into our fellowship hall on Monday afternoons to experience an art class offered by Art City, then I know there is life. It may not be a Sunday School class – but neither was the hockey league of the old Crescent Community Church.

Do these children learn anything about God? I think they do, although they may not know it. No one is talking about God or Jesus or anything else that is overtly religious. But they are learning something about a community that cares, a community that thinks they are important enough to offer this activity for them, a community that welcomes children – of all backgrounds, all religions and no religion, a community that offers a safe place for children.

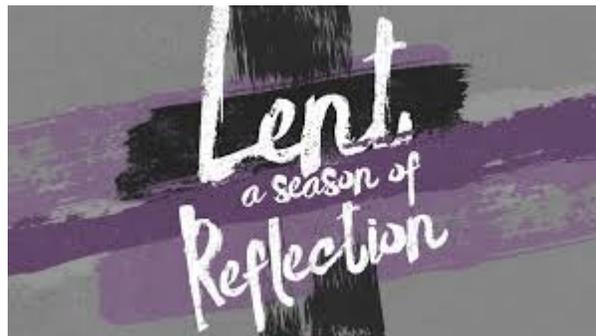
I am often amazed by the number of adults I meet who think of Crescent Fort Rouge as their church, people whom I have never seen in a church service. When I ask them about this, they respond that they used to attend Fort Rouge Day Care in our basement. For many of them, that is church. I don't think they are wrong. They associate the church with the organization that cared for them. That is what Jesus asks of his followers – that we care, that we welcome.

For as long as we are here, I hope we are known as *a community that cares*.

a community that cares

From The Pew

Dorian Phillips



Lent always used to confuse me. In my mind it seems like a season in which some denominations want people to confess all their evil deeds; punish yourself like Satan did to Jesus for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert.

Our denomination takes a more liberal view, seeing Lent as an opportunity for self-reflection, to see what we need to work towards.

I try to also remember the fact that Jesus was not perfect either just as we are not. I believe that we all make mistakes but are challenged to accept forgiveness, learn from them and try to do better next time along this journey of life.

Check In with the Chair

Murray Gibbings, Leadership Team Chair

The season of Lent is the time for reflection. Last year at this time I wrote about PATH exploring possibilities for the future at our church. I am pleased to announce that they have been successful in the grant funding and will have a program going until the end of the year. As you may know, PATH2 are planning events and we hope that these plans will become more permanent in the years to come. Congratulations to PATH2 on the excellent programs which are being brought to our church.

An after-school daycare program has opened at Gladstone School which has increased competition for daycare services in the neighbourhood. In contrast, infant care spots are in high demand. The Director of the Fort Rouge Child Care has made a request to the Leadership Team to use additional space in our building to establish an infant care room to accommodate up to four infants. Establishing an infant program at FRCC would help stabilize their numbers, provide a necessary service for families, and result in increased rental fees coming back to CFRUC. Moving ahead will first require CFRUC approval to devote the required space for daytime use by the FRCC, and then an assessment by the provincial authorities would be done to determine the modifications that would be required (e.g. additional washroom facilities). If the infant space is approved, provincial grants for such renovations as well as operating funds are available. The concept was well received by the Leadership Team, who will make their decision in February after consulting with the other user groups who might be impacted.

We have decided to replenish funds we used to help our church operate in the past with the bequest granted to us. We now have some of the funds needed to replace our roof. We could pay for the rest of the roof either through grants or a fundraising campaign at our church. The Leadership Team is now looking at ways to fix the roof since it is four or five years past due. Either by grants or through fundraising I am confident that the roof can be fixed.

Like last year, I anticipate an upbeat **Annual Meeting - Finance** on **March 25th** since once again we have a surplus. Our **Annual Meeting - Programs** is **June 3rd**. I hope to see you at these meetings since they form the basis of our plans for the year.

I thanked the congregation for the financial support and volunteerism in the last newsletter but now I would also like to thank all the supporters of our church. When Irene Greenwood started a Stewardship Campaign in thanking all the generous folks who support us I think we both signed about 200 letters. So thanks to ALL the supporters of our church because through your help we are able to operate and continue to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to our community and world.

Sobeys/ Safeway Gift Card Fundraiser (Spring Edition)

Orders for cards will be taken from April 8 to 30, with cards being delivered in early May. Watch for order forms and more information. The cards can be used for full value at any Safeway or Sobeys store for the full value of the card. CFRUC receives a percentage of up to 5% depending on the total volume of sales. We encourage you to invite others to participate (family members, friends, neighbours, work colleagues). The more volume we sell the greater the income for CFRUC!



Finance Committee Update

This Year End Quarterly Financial Update was prepared by the Finance Committee to show you the financial health of our church. This update used preliminary numbers that were available at the end of December. These totals could differ from the year end Financial Statements prepared by the accountant.

Crescent Fort Rouge United Church Preliminary Quarterly Financial Update Financial Summary for January to December 2017			
	Totals for Year to Date (Jan - Dec)	2017 Annual Budget	Percentage of 2017 Budget
Income:			
Local Church	\$170,212	\$167,975	101%
Building-Critical Repair	\$21,960	\$3,000	732%
Fundraising (Net)	\$15,649	\$7,500	209%
Other	\$77,396	\$77,850	99%
Total income	\$285,217	\$255,825	111%
Expenses	\$274,833	\$255,825	107%
Income less Expenses	\$10,384	\$0	4%
M and S	\$37,515	\$40,000	94%

Please note:

1. The totals used for the Year to Date values above are preliminary numbers and may change when the annual Financial Review is completed.
2. Fundraising is now being shown as a net income with the expenses associated with fundraising removed.
3. For clarity, the \$100,000 bequest received in 2017 has not been included in this summary.

Donations to M and S were close to the goal of \$40,000 and Income is almost \$10,400 above Expenses.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

“Just living is not enough,” said the butterfly. “One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.”

A reminder of spring - from Barb M and the Gardeners Ministry Group

Siberian Iris in the Memory Garden (2017)



A Note from the Treasurer

Debbie Girard

In 2017, Crescent Fort Rouge United Church received a \$100,000 bequest from the estate of Ruth Palmour. At the congregational meeting on January 21, 2018, it was decided to give \$5,000 of this bequest to the Mission & Service Fund, another \$5,000 to 1JustCity, and to receive the rest as a Local Church donation.

This gift addresses the church's accumulated deficit and puts us on solid financial footing going into the future. We have funds for priorities that have been identified previously, like repairing and enhancing accessibility in our building, supporting refugees, and enhancing worship.

The church still does not have recommended levels of operating reserves, but we now have a small financial "cushion" to help keep us from having to borrow from the bank to pay the bills.

Like most charities, a large portion of our income arrives in December, but of course our expenses are year-round. Your generous support is always appreciated!

Please plan to attend the **Annual Meeting Finance** on **March 25** where we will look back on 2017 and plan for 2018.

Pastoral Care Ministry Group *Life Story Project Update*

Marlene Beaty

On **Sunday February 25th**, there will be a Celebration of the Life Stories of approximately five members of our congregation. Short parts of each of their stories will be read aloud and their books will be on display during coffee time. All Life Stories are available to borrow at any time from the church. They are located in the cabinet beside Irene's office, along with a sign-out sheet.

**Annual Meeting
Finance ~ March 25**
**Annual Meeting
Programs ~ June 3**



Passages

Baptisms

- December 10 • Erik Michael Laxdal {Son of Lisa Goldsborough and Gregory Laxdal}
- January 26 • Charlotte Alexandria Cutler {Daughter of Justina Neepin and Michael Cutler}
- January 26 • Logan Alexander Charles Deroo {Son of Aynsley Banks and Justin Deroo}

In Memoriam

- December 1 • Dorothy Ruddock
- December 5 • Mary-Ellen Allen



A complete ARTFEST schedule will be available in March.

Films by Indigenous Women of Winnipeg (Friday April 6 @ 8:00 pm)

This is an evening of eclectic films by Indigenous female filmmakers working in Winnipeg. In a city with a growing Aboriginal filmmaker presence, we wanted to showcase the few female filmmakers in the city but in doing so we realized there are many women working in Winnipeg. We originally thought there were only a "FIWW" of us, but actually, there are quite a "FIWW" of us. This year we have invited back some filmmakers showing new and old works, along with a few filmmakers we are featuring for the first time.

Art Show (April 13 - 15)

Friday (7:00 to 10:00 pm) : Opening Reception Speaker Hope McIntyre @ 8:00 pm

Saturday (noon to 5:00 pm) : Graffiti artists, art demonstrations, music and community barbeque, Singing you Home Speaker Dot Harapiak, The Notebook Project Public Launch 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Sunday (noon to 3:00 pm): Speaker Series: Art and Spirituality (Liz Coffman @ 1:00 pm)

Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

Office hours:

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday to Friday

Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

525 Wardlaw Ave at Nassau St N

Winnipeg, MB R3L 0L9

Phone: 204-475-6011

Email: cfruc@mts.net

The **Summer** newsletter submission deadline is **April 30**. It will be ready for distribution by **May 13**.

The Newsletter is published four times per year:

- ~Beginning of Lent
- ~Near the May long weekend
- ~Near the Labour Day weekend
- ~Beginning of Advent

