

Between Friends

Fall edition, 2017 (Vol. 5, #3)

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Minister's Message: "Imperfect Beauty"

In the early summer, Marjorie and I drove east to spend some time in Newfoundland. We were "hunting" icebergs. In the process, I learned a few things.

We had done a lot of trip planning of course, but every day's schedule was modified by two things. The 1st thing was that having lots of Wi-Fi access, we were able to get up-to-date information on everything (including where individual icebergs were) so we kept modifying our plans enroute. And the 2nd thing was that the weather was not "good". At least, not "good" if you like sunny warm conditions. We had more rain on that trip than I can ever remember. Even today, when I have to use the wipers in the car – it feels like we're on holidays. But between all the changing conditions and the huge number of unknowns on every trip, we ended up being in very beautiful parts of Newfoundland when it was rainy and cloudy. In classic terms, when the view was "lousy".

And in the process, I learned to appreciate the beauty of those "lousy" conditions. Yes, a majestic range of mountains against a blue backdrop is beautiful. But it is also beautiful when the clouds are "dancing" in the mountains. Yes, it's beautiful when you see sights under bright blue skies. But when there is less light due to overcast conditions, there seems to be better contrast. There is a fascinating beauty when the mists are in constant motion that I don't appreciate under clear blue skies because they are static. In fact, if you have only ever seen Gros Morne under ideal conditions, I highly recommend going back during a storm because it will still be beautiful, just in a different way. That's a great metaphor for life - even when not on holidays. We often think we want our lives to unfold under "ideal" conditions, and we complain to all who will listen when life unfolds ... in more creative ways. But there can be great beauty in whatever life throws at us if we only have some imagination and great vision. Life does not have to be perfect to be beautiful. God is still there after all.

My wish for all of us is to have a beautiful, imperfect, autumn!

Rev Paul



CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL UPDATES

Worship Committee

Our summer went well and in Rev. Paul's absence for his vacation and study time, we had a service by the UCW, welcomed two student ministers, a speaker from the Scott Mission and Elaine had a Worship Service of Hymns. We were preparing for Thanksgiving Sunday and on October 15th we had our annual "Taste of Martin Grove" This is always enjoyed by all. Our Remembrance Day Service will be on November 12th and we will be honouring our own veterans and spouses.

Communion will be held on November 26th and then we will be planning for the Advent season. Please see a further list of upcoming events and services.

Sheila Avery



Financial

Our annual Wishing-Well BBQ was very successful and we were able to have it outside. The weather was great and we exceeded our objective. We thank everyone for their help and Rev. Paul for his support and leadership.

We also held a successful Yard Sale on September 16th. It was held inside and we had very good attendance. This also included a BBQ in the parking lot and it was enjoyed very much. We cleared from the Yard Sale \$1020.00. We thank Cerene Johnson for heading this up She worked very hard to make it the success that it was.

Our Christmas stocking fund raiser is always a popular project and it will conclude this year on December 10th.

Any suggestions for fund-raising projects, please pass along for consideration.

George Avery, Chair of Finance

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Committee has been busy making calls, checking on many who are not well. Unfortunately, some of our calls were regarding funerals and we are saddened to lose Church friends. Please let Rev. Paul or the Committee know if you need a visit or a friendly phone call.

Sheila Avery

South West Presbytery

The first meeting of the season was on September 26th. It dealt mainly with support for the two Community Ministries - Davenport - Perth Community Ministry and Jane Finch Community Ministry.

The REMITS have all been voted on and passed. There are 8 Remits that were passed:

Remit #1's approval means moving to a three-council model for the United Church of Canada. We now have four courts or levels.

Remit #2 concerns the elimination of transfer and settlement for members of the order of ministry.

Remit #3 creates a denominational Office of Vocation. This office would ensure the United Church continues to be served by trained, skilled and responsible ministers with accountability to this elected Board of Vocation.

Remit #4 talks about a new funding model for the church.

Remit #5 approves a new category of "ministry partner" e.g. ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements. They are full members of the presbytery and are equivalent to ordered ministers of the United Church.

Remit # 6 asks for approval of the creation of one order of ministry.

Remit #7 asks for approval of the implementation of the Candidacy Pathway.

Remit #8 asks for the approval of a change in membership for the United Church of Canada. For example, the full members of a local ministry may consent to allow adherents to vote on all matters that come before meetings of the local ministry unit.



The whole church will eventually see changes if the Remits are enacted. General Council 43 will decide whether to enact the Remits. There are many people involved in the implementation right now. This will increase as Presbyteries, Conferences and the soon-to-be regions get involved in winding down, getting started and setting priorities. A small group of senior staff leaders have been appointed. Rev. David Allen, former executive secretary of Toronto Conference is providing staff support. Rev. Jody Maltby is the new executive secretary of Toronto Conference. Congregations and ministries within the United Church will not see any immediate changes during the implementation period leading up to January 1st, 2019. Current Presbyteries and Conferences and their staffs will continue to function even as plans are being made for post-January 1, 2019 In the meantime, current structures are encouraged to start thinking about what the future will be as the church evolves. Information about the Remits implementation process will be available on a regular basis on the web. www.united-church.ca

Joan Carr

United Church Women

The U.C.W.'s program began on September 20th. We were all in the movies as we saw pictures from our dinner at the Mandarin in June and from the June 25th worship service when we celebrated the 55th anniversary of the UCW.

The organization began in 1962.

Angela Schwarz was our guest speaker. She is the President of Toronto Conference UCW. We also saw pictures of Joan Carr's visit to Vancouver where she attended the celebrations of the



55th anniversary. Thank you Juli for taking pictures and thank you Paul for all your help to organize them.

Our next meeting will be on October 18th. The November meeting will be on November 15th. All ladies are welcome. We will be having our annual pot luck dinner probably in early December. We usually have a Christmas Tea in December.

Watch for information.

We now have a new treasurer - Lilly Fraser. Congratulations Lilly. We also have an Honorary Member of the Martin Grove UCW.-.Rev. Dr. Paul Shepherd. Congratulations Paul. You are always welcome. Please watch for further events of the UCW.

Joan Carr

Choir

Our choir invites all who like to sing, and enjoy the fellowship & fun of singing with like-minded people. We invite you to join the choir on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for rehearsals and on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. The music ministry is a very important one in our Sunday morning worship. We look forward to seeing you!

We are in the midst of preparing for our Festival of Lessons & Anthems for December (that means singing Christmas anthems during this hot weather spell) as well as our fall repertoire. Right now the date is TBA. The choir will also be hosting a Concert for Hunger on Sun Nov 26. This concert will consist of familiar & new music of former resident of Mississauga, Ron Klusmeier. Many of his music is in VU & MV and we have sung such hymns as Deep in Our Hearts & It's a Song of Praise to the Maker. The proceeds of the concert will go to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank which supports about 40 charities across Canada. We would welcome anyone who would like to sing with us in two rehearsals on Tues Nov 14 & Tues Nov 21 at 7:00 pm. Look in the Life & Work for further details. If you have any questions, give me a call.



Elaine Weimer, Music Director

“A Tribute to Fran Thede”

It is with great sadness, that our church has lost a dearly beloved member and friend, Fran Thede. Fran was a long-time member of Martin Grove United Church and a faithful servant of the Lord. Fran was one of the kindest, caring, talented and creative people that one could ever meet. She always had a smile for everyone and was full of life and fun. She came to church dressed to “the nines”, on Sunday. And on special occasions, she would top it all off with the most fascinating hats that she wore so well. She was a real lady.

She had a passion, for decorating the Church, for special holidays and her work was absolutely beautiful. We were so blessed, to have our own Martha Stewart at Martin Grove United Church. Fran loved to work with flowers and make beautiful floral arrangements. She helped Doris Hardy, with the Memorial flowers for the communion table on Sundays. She was very creative and knew how to make them look so nice.

Besides, her contribution of her time and talents at Martin Grove United Church, she volunteered for a very long time, at Etobicoke General Hospital, helping out with floral arrangements for patients who received flowers. I'm sure they appreciated her time as well.

Fran was on the Worship Committee, for a very long time where she dedicated her time and talents as needed.

Fran joined the Monday Morning Meditation group, sometime after the sad passing of her husband Louis and we were delighted she felt the need to nurture her faith. However, she was a little hesitant at first, as she

was concerned that she might not fit in, because English was her second language and she didn't think we would understand her. We assured her, that she was one of us and there was no pressure for her to do anything she was not comfortable with. Within a couple of weeks, she began reading scripture out loud and saying beautiful prayers and we encouraged her to keep it up. We definitely had no problem understanding her. She did her home work and sometimes, she would come on Mondays and share with us, a beautiful poem or prayer, she had come across during the week. She loved coming on Mondays and she felt so happy with us and she told us one day, we were her "sisters" and we were. Occasionally, she would come with gifts of flowers, wrapped in cellophane and a pretty bow for each of us to take home. Such, a generous spirit! She was a lovely person inside and out.

Fran loved her family very much and she was so proud of them. She was a great mother and a grandmother to all her family and each one of them was special to her. She was a "mother hen" for sure.

She also loved being with people and enjoyed travelling with her daughter Mary, on all the excursions cruises and day trips from the church. They had such a good time.

Thanks, for the lovely memories Fran. You will be sorely missed by your friends at Martin Grove United Church. God Bless



"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."

Office Changes

Our church office keeps changing. No, we have not repainted the walls, but we have had some changes in our administrative staff. When Carol Burke had to step down, Romita Walter filled the position wonderfully, until she found full-time employment elsewhere. Thanks so much for her time, energy, and positivity! After Romita left, Shirley Irvine has taken those duties while we are searching for our next administrative assistant. Shirley has taken the job in hand and we haven't missed a beat. Carl Pinnock and Rev. Paul have been interviewing candidates for our next admin assistant, and we expect a decision to be made soon. And then, off we go into the next chapter.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Carol Burke, Romita Walter, and Shirley Irvine, as well as to Carl Pinnock and others who have helped deal with the administrative side of church affairs during our transition.

Rev. Paul

Keep up to date on goings-on at MGUC

Wait – what time does the rummage sale start? Sometimes, it feels hard to keep up with the activities at MGUC. But we have 2 tools to help with that:

Our web site at mguc.ca, which includes an online calendar.

Our "Happenings" weekly email. Sign up on our web site for your weekly reminder of what's going on and a "teaser" for what to look forward to on Sunday.

And of course, we continue to offer low-tech ways to keep informed. Thanks to Shirley Irvine for creating Life & Work, and thanks to Jack Davidson and Liz Gosse-Davidson for keeping our church sign up to date.

Rev Paul

Our “This-n-That” Sale

On September 16th at 9:00 am we had our THIS-N-THAT sale, which was a success. At last count we made over thousand dollars.

People were arriving ever before 9am and the barbeque was a great hit.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped to make this a tremendous success. It was a real pleasure to see so many from the community that came out to support our little fundraiser, but I would like to also call it a friend raiser.

I have already received a call from one of our community partner asking if we are having another at Christmas. There were two other individuals from the community who would have liked to participate, but we had already closed the table rentals.

It really shows what a great church family we have here at Martin Grove United Church, and may God bless us all as we continue to be drum majors for Christ Kingdom here on Earth.



Cerene Johnson, Chair of Council

South India Outreach Program – 2017

Once again we launch our annual appeal to raise funds for our South India Outreach Program. This will be my 24th year and the 21st year as a formal part of the outreach program of Martin Grove United Church.

Our Christmas program as in the previous years will be held in December at 11 institutions in 8 different locations in and around Nazareth, South India. All the residents of these institutions live in abject poverty and many of them with various disabilities. We sponsor orphaned, fatherless or destitute young girls to follow a 1-year skills-based diploma course at the Community College, leading to employment. We sponsor and pay for the tuition of a few post-secondary female students who grew up in children’s homes. These institutions receive no financial grants. Wherever we can, we make some cash donations.

Residents of these institutions each receive a new set of clothes and a towel or bed sheet. Each program includes a sumptuous Christmas lunch or dinner. Year after year they eagerly look forward to our program.

All this is possible only with your generous support. Thank you and we look forward to your support this year too.

Robert Koil

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” —Galatians 6:9

15th Annual Taste of Martin Grove

Wow, what a feast! Martin Grove is truly a multicultural haven. It just shows how much pride and love we have for our heritage. Thank you to all who provided genuine gourmet dishes from their homeland. Thank you to Cerene & all the others who helped organize & serve at our annual affair. Rev. Paul, I know you enjoyed your food, even if it wasn't completely vegan.



Schedule of Worship

Oct 22	10:30 am Worship Service Peace Sunday
Oct 29	10:30 am Worship Service Reformation Sunday
Nov 5	10:30 am Worship Service All Saints Day
Nov 12	10:30 am Worship Service Remembrance Sunday
Nov 19	10:30 am Worship Service Children's Sunday
Nov 26	10:30 am Worship Service Christ the King Chancel Communion
Dec 3	10:30 am Worship Service 1 st Sunday in Advent White Gift Sunday
Dec 10	10:30 am Worship Service Choir Cantata

Dates To Remember

Mondays	12 noon Lunch @ Wally's 1 st Monday of the month
Thursdays	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Saturdays	11:00 am Prayer Group 2 nd & 4 th weeks
October	
Wed Oct 18	1:00 pm MGUCW Meeting
Sun Oct 22	Worship Committee Meeting
Sun Oct 22	11:45 am Guitar Group
Tues Oct 24	7:00 pm Council Meeting
Tues Oct 31	Halloween
November	
Sun Nov 5	Daylight Saving begins
Mon Nov 6	12 noon Men's lunch @ Wally's
Sun Nov 12	Youth Without Shelter
Tues Nov 14	7:00 pm Concert for Hunger Rehearsal
Wed Nov 15	MGUCW Meeting
Tues Nov 21	7:00 pm Concert for Hunger Rehearsal
Sun Nov 26	Concert for Hunger Concert

Please note that these schedules may be subject to change, and for that reason we encourage you to regularly check your weekly "Life and Work", or our "Online Calendar" for the most current info possible.

Content Editor, Juli Roslin ~ Design & Format, Romita Walter

In Loving Memory

Audrey Laurene Anderson	Sept 3, 2017
Frances Joan Thede	Sept 30, 2017
Diane Gertrude Goundry	Oct 10, 2017

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." —Isaiah 40:8