

Greenwood Church Easter Newsletter 2023

Celebrating Our Choir

Our church has been truly blessed, over the years, with very talented choir directors, accompanists and music directors who established and have continued very high quality musical presentations that always enhance our worship.

Greenwood is such a special, inclusive place to be and I feel very blessed to have been a part of this wonderful family for so many years.

Muriel Nicholls



Muriel Nicholls

My family moved from St Catharines to Peterborough when I was 16. The high school would not allow me to take instrumental music in Grade 11 since it had not been offered to me in Grades 9 & 10. My maternal grandfather insisted that I should have music in my life so paid for private vocal lessons. I was involved in the junior choir at George St. UC (now Emmanuel). In 1968 I joined Donwood Choir (now Greenwood) and my mom followed shortly afterwards. We stood beside each other in the choir for over 30 years. While teaching full time and being involved in musicals produced by St. James Players and the Theatre Guild, I continued my participation in our church choir. Although I am only present in Peterborough for 1/2 the year, I still enjoy being a part of the choir.

John Jull

I started singing when I was 7 years old in the St. Simon's Anglican Church, Toronto. At Christmas we sang in Eaton Auditorium and Massey Hall. At times we shared the stage with Sir Ernest MacMillan and were followed by the famous comedian, Anna Russell. Some 50 years later, you would find me as one of the snowbirds who came down from Canada to sing with the choir of Christ Church, Bradenton, Florida.

Joy Gaskin

I began singing in choir at Brownsville United as a youth and have enjoyed my times in choirs at St. Matthews in Toronto, Trinity Centennial in Rosemont and now at Greenwood.

Making music in harmony with others always lifts my soul.

Kathleen Whyte

My involvement began at Trinity United in Peterborough in the Junior Choir under the direction of Dianna McLeod (Danny Reynolds). My father's influence, I am sure, was instrumental in leading me to a love of singing. He was in the Senior Choir at Trinity. For many years our choirs always placed first at the Kiwanis festival. All our family car rides involved lots of singing, it always made the trips to the east and west coast each summer pass quicker. In Coquitlam, B.C. I belonged to the Como Lake United Church choir, then returning to Peterborough, Donwood United Church choir under the direction of Shirley Lannen, also Warsaw United Church choir, in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Beacon United Church choir, in northern Ontario, Sprucedale United Church choir, in Saskatchewan, a tiny United church in the Qu'Appelle Valley associated with the United Church camp, I was directing, I sang with their choir. In Alberta, I sang with Barrhead United. Susan O, my choir director and I still have weekly Sunday night calls to keep up our friendship. In between my travels I would always come home to what had by that time become Greenwood....so, this is my third time back and the choir has grown and is a wonderful part of my life and I truly thank both Marion and the other members for their ministry of music and the joy I receive in being a part of my church family choir.

Dawn Cox

When Wib retired, we came to Donwood because it was almost rural and we'd grown up in the country, but mostly because we knew Shirley Lannen and Mary Hinan. Roger came at the same time, so we've always had good harmony, but my heart soars and I feel closer to heaven with the solid 4 part (or more) harmony we have now.

Susie Bunting

I have been singing in school, church and community choirs almost continuously since the age of 6 but have never mastered an instrument.

I joined the Donwood choir shortly after we moved to Douro in 1984. So many voices then, many of whom are now singing with the angel choir. An early memory is having to sing a high note for a solo at Christmas of 1985 when I was 8 months pregnant! I started as an alto, but now find myself in the soprano section. While it is satisfying to sing melody, I miss the challenges of working on harmony.

Donald Lamond

I have been a musician forever, playing first ukulele then guitar and piano, as well as composing my own pieces and singing in local choirs wherever I found myself.

In the early days of Donwood, I stayed home to look after our little ones so Susie could attend choir practices. Later when they joined the junior choir, I sometimes sang with the grown-ups. More recently, with the passing of my dear mother who was so keen on church music, I have found comfort in rejoining the Greenwood choir and singing for her.

Mary Kay

I was raised in a family that loved to gather around the piano on Sunday afternoons and sing hymns and old favourites. From an early age I have sung in church and community choirs in Bancroft, Belleville, Mississauga, Madoc, and Marmora, in Ontario, as well as Salmon Arm, Canoe, Gabriola, Parksville (Ron Klusmeir was the pianist and choir director) and Nanaimo in British Columbia. In 1988 I had the privilege of singing Rutter's Requiem with the Coventry Singers in Bermuda. As well I sang with the Peterborough Singers for several years and sang in the chorus of Les Miserables and Phantom of the Opera in Belleville. When I began my teaching career in 1965, I taught music and led the school choirs. I also directed the Madoc Men's Chorus before moving to Peterborough. Music is a huge part of my life and the primary reason I joined Greenwood Church.

Hilda Suurd

I do not read music, so I am grateful to all the choirs who let me sing with them. I have sung with Bethany United Church choir, Pontypool United Church choir, Millbrook Community Choir and now Greenwood United Church choir.

I enjoy singing along with songs on the radio, especially from the '60's.

Mary Hinan Grose

I have been a member of a church choir for over 70 years, including being a church music director for many of those years. Church choir music has been a staple of my life and I am most grateful for the opportunities that came to me through my association with the church and music.

Paulette Nichols

For me, singing is spiritual and the music enriches my spiritual life. The choir has provided an opportunity for me to share this gift with the congregation. One of my fondest memories is

seeing the children sing with the choir, particularly seeing multi-generations in the choir - Gladys and Andrew McNabb, Dorothy Archer and Muriel, Susie, Donald and William (and Emily on flute), Naomi and I. Singing was part of my family growing up, and singing at Donwood/Greenwood has continued that family tradition.

Aileen Castle

I've been with the choir for a few decades!! The leadership of the choir has been outstanding. With each director I've learned new things. In addition to the beautiful harmony we make, I enjoy the interaction with my fellow choir members.

Roger Clapperton

I grew up in a Rural Church in Baltimore during a time before Sunday shopping or the sporting craze in which every little place needed a sporting venue; so Sunday was the time for Church. I was coerced to join the Junior Choir at the age of 5 and since then singing has been a part of my life. I was never one to be nervous about singing in front of a large crowd so I was asked to do more solo work throughout my early years and although I never thought of myself as an accomplished singer, I could tell that through my singing I could bring people either joy or tears as the words that I was singing brought back memories to people of past experiences in their lives or loved ones that they missed.

Marion Griffin (our Music Director)

I am involved in a number of choirs in Peterborough and the surrounding area. The Buckhorn choir, which I conduct, has rented space at Greenwood on Tuesday mornings. This is a group of people who simply love to sing. We do sing outs in retirement residences in the area.

The Jubilaires / Bonachord choirs are led by Arlene Gray. We have two performances a year, and our last one is in May. The KLS (Kawartha Lakes Singers) choir, also led by Arleen Gray, rehearses in Lindsay. We have a concert at Cambridge Street Church in Lindsay on March 26.

Jubilations, which I lead, is a group of 12 female singers who sing three- and four-part harmonies. We also perform in many retirement residences in the surrounding area. I am also heavily involved in the Peterborough Theatre Guild as President. We are so happy to have had a highly successful season. I am thrilled that so many in our congregation support our efforts at **PTG**.

Remember New members are always welcome to our Greenwood Choir. We practice on Wednesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Shirley Lannen

I came to Greenwood as organist/pianist and after Mary (Hinan-Grose) retired as Music Director, I became Music Director and Organist. With our own talented group of singers (and some imports when needed), we were able to provide a variety of service music relating to the church calendar and observed community events. All in all, my **34** year musical tenure

at Donwood/Greenwood, was at times **challenging** (tricky timing, my nemesis); **wonderful** and **exciting** (I can close my eyes and hear and feel the warm soft sounds and the rich full sounds coming from the choir loft), and most of all, the **emotion** felt after presenting a piece of music we worked soooooo hard on, and it **goes very well!** It's nothing short of a thrilling REWARD....that's the power of music.

When health issues forced me to retire, I was quite devastated....music was my heart and soul and the music, choir, Minister and congregation at Greenwood were an important part of my life.

However, the world does keep turning and the music goes on and with great thanks for Zoom (and those who run it), I remain a part of the Greenwood congregation.

What else is there to say but "Thanks Be To God."

A few words about the Greenwood Choir and its involvement in events outside of Sunday morning. by Shirley Lannen

Over 50 years ago, the Greenwood choir was the Donwood choir, Senior and Junior and they didn't just sing in church. They were a large part of "The Donwood Players" who every spring, celebrated live musical theatre, under the direction of Ollie Harding. Yes, with song and dance and hilarious skits and talent with both St. Mathews and Fairview joining in, this group of budding thespians provided wonderful family entertainment for a number of years.

Later on, the Choir was involved in "Dinner Theatre at Donwood". I believe it started as a Valentine Fundraiser and continued for again, a number of years. The evening, directed by then Organist Shirley Lannen, featured a delicious meal (Shirley DID NOT cook) followed by a musical performance by special guests with the Choir rounding out the evening with songs of Inspiration. This one evening involved many church members with cooking, serving, cleanup, decorating, etc. and like its forerunner, was enjoyed by many members of the surrounding communities. Others will tell you how important music is and has always been at Greenwood, including many appearances at the Kiwanis Music Festival. Mary Hinan-Grose is to be remembered as the founder of this musical movement and we look forward to its continuance.

Good Friday Cantata

'No Greater Love'

10:30 am, April 7

Greenwood Church

The Greenwood choir is presently preparing music for Good Friday. We hope that church members and others will come out to support not only our group, but also our charity (TBD).

Following the latest rules from the Health department you may choose to wear a mask or not.

Greenwood News

Board Chair: I was honoured to be asked to be Official Board Chair this year. What a team to work with; statistically we have an incredibly dedicated congregation with 68 out of 71 registered members serving in some capacity in 2022. Our highlight for this report is the creation of a short-term Pastoral Care Coordinator position, which was brought forward jointly by Session and Ministry and Personnel for approval by the Official Board. Watch for more details about this position coming soon in weekly announcements.

Susan Bunting

Committee Reports

Session

Since the onset of COVID, Session has been working hard to ensure the safety of Greenwood's congregation. Our work is not over yet: even if the safeguards have been relaxed, we will not know until the end of the month if mask wearing and distancing are definitely out. Until then, it's up to each individual to choose their level of comfort when in public. Rest assured that our 10-member team will continue to work hard to keep everyone safe.

Chair Joanne O'Donoghue

Stewards

Welcome to new members Lynn Londreville and Art Hopkinson. Our new windows are installed and are excellent. We just upgraded our internet to 5G fibre optic, 940 speed which should be perfect for wi-fi and Zoom.

Also, the stewards will be having a yard clean up including painting and lawn care. A few trees need to be cleared up from winds over the winter, the back door painted, the south side eaves trough to be repaired and both rain barrels to be installed.

We work to keep everything moving forward.

Chair Ken Minion

Outreach

Our cheques were delivered to our five agencies with much rejoicing. In February, we heard about the refugee family we will be helping -Muhammed and Sirin El Yusuf and son Bera. Muhammed's father and brother came to church to tell us their story. The children in our Sunday School are making bracelets featuring the three red stars that are on the Syrian flag. So far they have raised over \$320 to send to the family who now have additional suffering due to the earthquake.

Chair Joyce Fee

Resurrection & Lament, hand in hand

Reverend Allan Smith-Reeve

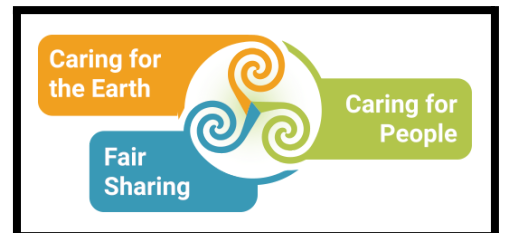
As I write this note, the signs of spring are arriving daily. Easter is just a few weeks away – but we're still in the midst of the Lenten Season that encourages us to slow down and consider...

An essential part of the contemplative path toward deepened intimacy with nature is to discern what we are being called to release in terms of habits, practices, and ways of being that burden us and weigh us down - as well as those habits that bring harm to the earth.

Lament releases the layers of grief we are holding and makes room within us for the spirit to break through in new ways. We must journey through the experience of abandonment and death to reach resurrection. There is no way out, only through.

We can discover a kinship of grief with one another and feel a deeper solidarity with all of earth's creatures. Our capacity to grieve is evidence of our ability to enter into compassion. (from "Earth; our original Monastery" by Christine Valters Paintner)

Our faith walk calls us to weigh both what's life-giving and what's lost to us. The Psalms offer both thanksgiving and lamentation. The journey of Jesus to the cross invites us into both Palm Sunday parades of celebration, and into the worst of false imprisonment, torture, and execution at the hands of an Empire.



Together we find the inspiration and courage to face the habits of a Consumer Culture - of today's Empire - that have divided us one from another (people care), and from our roots in earth's care. Together, we take steps to live more simply – so that our kin may simply live!

Habits are so difficult to change. And yet, the Christ story calls us beyond the temptations of getting stuck in guilt and despair. By owning our loss, by sharing in Good Friday's lament, by letting go of the burdens of yesterday – we make room for new perspectives, new life-giving habits, and a renewed solidarity with this hurting, hopeful world.

May the peace of Christ, that surpasses all understanding, be with us all as we embrace both Lament and Resurrection in our journey together

Happy Easter!!

Reverend Allan reminded me a few weeks ago that it was the fourth anniversary of Fairview closing and joining Greenwood. I have come to witness the ever vibrant Greenwood United Church and Bedford House Ministries that is rich in so many different gifts.

As I look back, it was time for Fairview to discern a different opportunity to share in Christian ministry as fewer people were trying to carry the responsibilities of keeping the church going. It can be physically and emotionally exhausting. I think a number of folks from Fairview just needed to deal with the grief and exhaustion of losing the battle to keep the little country church both open and vibrant and discerning how to move forward. I have discovered that the grief of closing the church can be one of great sorrow as with any occasion of grief. As a minister, professor and community member I have walked with many, on grief's path, trying to share the insight I have gained from personal and professional losses, as well as the testimony of others who have experienced a range of loss and how it has impacted them.

I am hoping this Easter time may be a season for us to think about our personal, professional, family and faith losses to understand the journeys which we have been walking, and at the same time, consider the opportunities as to how we can be used and to that which we have been called.

It's not always an easy journey, especially for the Christian Church as we find ourselves drawing ever closer to God's Friday which we have called "Good Friday", an ironic name in my mind for Jesus' crucifixion. We attempt to reach back over 2000 years to understand a time and place where Jesus, a faithful preacher/prophet laid down his life on the black Friday. Is Jesus just a good man or is He the Son of God who prayerfully offers His life? So we who would follow after Him would be able to discern a rich and meaningful life, both individually and as a community of faith. Jesus becomes the bridge between this life and a loving God who reaches out to all of us with a Love that in the Easter morning resurrection speaks of a love that is eternal.

I know it has been a tough time as we have battled Covid, personal losses and change. My hope and prayer for all of us is to accept an invitation to come back to Greenwood. Even if we have been there every Sunday, to come back renewed with a desire to rediscover not only what our community church, Greenwood, is able to offer us, but the blessing that we might be to others in both the church and community in sharing the Good News of God's love for all.

Love and blessings,
Bill (Rev) Bill Peacock

