

## **GREENWOOD NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2022**

*Our members willingly fill the positions on our various committees that are necessary to keep our Church healthy. In this issue we are recognizing the members and the work that is done by Stewards and M and P committees.*

**Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P)** Provides a consultative and supportive group for the staff of Greenwood United Church and for members and adherents of the congregation in matters relating to the staff. We meet approximately once every month or two, or as needed.

### **Anne Wilson**

I am the youngest of three children. I attended Keene United Church until I married. After being confirmed, I began teaching three and four year olds in the Keene Sunday School and found my love of children, which led to my career as an Early Childhood Educator and then later, a Social Service Worker.

I have always known the United Church to be open to change and welcoming to all people, which is an essential building block for my Christian beliefs. The United Church has made mistakes over the years and admits those mistakes and does its best to rectify them, which is so important to my being a United Church member. After St. Matthew's closed and amalgamated with Donwood to become Greenwood, I was made to feel so welcome. I love Greenwood for its friendly people who are open minded and forward thinking! I enjoy being on M&P as it has given me an insight into a different part of Greenwood, the staff. I am so impressed with the dedication and talent of our staff and I feel very blessed to be a member of this church.

### **Sue Gleeson**

I was born and raised in Lindsay, and attended the Catholic school, the Catholic church and took piano lessons at the local convent from my beloved Sister Mary. When I went to university I met my husband to be, who was a staunch Presbyterian. When we decided to get married, we couldn't agree on which denomination we would align with as a married couple, so we chose a whole new one- the Associated Gospel of Canada. We attended Bethel Church in Kingston, as it was the 'student friendly' church near campus. We moved to Peterborough when our children were young, and raised our 2 daughters at Ferndale AGC church. After the girls were grown and my first marriage came to an end, I began looking for a new church home. The day I came to Greenwood, I felt welcomed, safe, and at home. So now, I have experience with the United Church too!

I like serving on M and P because I am very interested in people and what makes them tick. As a family physician and a life coach I have gained experience with all kinds of people, which I think stands me in good stead for the type of work M and P does. Of course, working with and getting to know Anne Wilson and Ann Barrett, two amazing women, has been a huge bonus!

## **Ann Barrett**

I lived most of my life in Toronto before moving to Peterborough about 5 years ago. I have always had a connection to a United Church, whether as an active member or at times when I was questioning my beliefs. CGIT, a youth group, church camps and outreach activities were just a few of many parts of church life that have been important to me. Because of my work as a Sexual Health Educator, I was part of a group of lay people who led workshops across the country when the United Church was studying issues about sexuality and spirituality. It was a challenging and rewarding way for me to learn more about the national church and its members.

When we moved to Peterborough I went “church shopping”. In Toronto I had been a member of a larger church that was involved in social justice work including ministry with people who were disenfranchised. I was hoping to find a church here that was similar but smaller in size. And I found it at Greenwood! Being on M&P has been a way I can contribute to our church and support our terrific staff. It also helped me get to know and develop friendships with Anne and Sue, the other members of the committee.

**Stewards Committee:** Oversees and transacts all business of the church, including buildings and maintenance. Sets policies and oversees fund-raising activities relating to all financial obligations of the church. Or as Ken says - fund raising through church dinners, yard work in the spring and keeping the buildings and property up to standard

## **Ken Minion**

I have been a member of Donwood United now called Greenwood since the early 70' s when my parents joined and so did I and Marilyn and our three boys Jeff, Chris and Scott My job is Property Manager/Caretaker and Chairperson for the Steward Committee. I enjoy all the members over the years and I have got to know each and everyone like family. It's nice coming to church early Sunday mornings and playing on our Grand Piano which is a very relaxing time. In summary my wife and I and grandchildren like Greenwood with its avery inspiring and fantastic minister Rev Allan. It's a very quiet church and our bees are excellent in the back 50 and the path through our Sacred garden is so peaceful and is appreciated by our neighbours.

## **Lynn Jondreville**

I grew up in a small church community in rural Quebec - about the same size as Greenwood – so I feel at home in this setting. When I moved to Toronto in my late 30s I joined a big downtown church, Trinity St. Paul's. TSP as we affectionately call it, has a Building Management Board separate from the Official Board. Rental of space to resident groups and to causal users is what keeps the congregation afloat. Some of the learnings from that model may be transferable to a smaller setting. I enjoy the opportunity to be a member of Stewards.

### **Ann Austin Cardwell**

My beginnings at Greenwood United (Donwood) began in 1993 when George and I married and moved to Donwood. I grew up Presbyterian, but was at that time, an Anglican and George, a United. As I was more ecumenical than Anglican, we visited Donwood United and were welcomed openly and authentically.

I was involved with the National Women's Inter-Church Council, sponsor of World Day of Prayer as President, which kept me away travelling many Sundays. I was involved in a few committees when time allowed and became a UCC member during Rev. Marg Goodwin's tenure and later Rev. Jim Feirs encouraged me to become a Lay Pastoral Minister. I began a year of discernment with three Donwood congregational and two Presbytery members. After 4 grueling years of education and internship I was accepted into Accountable Ministry. Before my retirement I served a remote British Columbia First Nations community in Bella Coola for 3 years. I was asked to provide in a retired supply capacity upon my return to Ontario. Presently I am the VAM at Queen Street United in Lindsay. Always being involved in spiritual roles, I wanted to bring my interest and somewhat knowledge to Stewards. With a Business Administration education and background, my father a carpenter, and dealing with the maintenance on two residences, I felt I had some gifts to share. I enjoy carpentry and all that entails.

### **Emil Varga**

It has been my pleasure to serve Greenwood/ Donwood United Church as a member of the Board of Stewards. This was to be my niche, being able to participate in projects as an organizer/contributor in church fundraising, church activities, financial health, etc. During my initial term in a large board of seasoned members, I was overwhelmed by their competence and I barely said a word - totally mesmerized by my peers! It was my dormant period in the cocoon.

Thanks to all who have been great Stewards over the years, which I supported and who have supported me. Great Team!

### **Ruth Benson**

I grew up in Toronto; my family vacationed in Haliburton, where Don and I met. We now own his family cottage in Haliburton and love time there with our family. I worked as an elementary school secretary, in Toronto, then in Peterborough. Later, I began to work for the Township of Douro, and through night school achieved a Municipal Administrator designation that led to becoming Deputy Clerk-Treasurer. We joined what was Donwood in its early years because my parents built a home and moved up on the hill near the church. Early enough to remember Children's choir, Sunday School, Plays, Skits, Music, Picnics, Christmas Bazaars, and Teas - wonderful times. My first invitation to serve was to join Stewards, and my acceptance of the Treasurer position later meant you report to Stewards, so might as well belong. I love our warm, friendly congregation and enjoy some work with the bees and the gardening.

## **Roger Clapperton**

I was born and raised in the little village of Baltimore just north of Cobourg. I was the youngest of three kids. My parents were both active in the community and the Church. I joined the Junior Choir at the church at a very young age, even before I had a grasp of reading all the words. Luckily the Choir director was also my Grade 1 teacher so she would help me with the words. When I was old enough to work I would divide my time between working at a horse farm in the fall & winter months and a golf course in the spring & summer months until I landed my job as a groundskeeper and Arena attendant at Trinity College School in Port Hope where I worked for 32 years. Since my background in these types of jobs was dealing with issues related to the upkeep of grounds, equipment, and buildings, it fits in well with my role as a Steward of the Church. Sometimes I get frustrated when everyone wants something done but the money is not there to do it but that's when I can donate some of my own time and money to lessen the load on the church coffers.

## **Greenwood News**

- We were saddened to learn of Cliff Wood's death. For many years Cliff was very active in our church work. I remember working with him to organize activities for the St. Matthews and Donwood Sunday School picnic. Cliff was best known for his music - our No 1 fiddler. So many of us went early to the church dinners so we could listen to Cliff's group play the old familiar songs.  
Our sympathies to Betty for her loss. She is now living at Peterborough Manor and sharing meals with the lady who was the pianist in Cliff's music group.
- Doreen Hawkins says she is very happy at Jackson Creek with lots of activities and new friends.
- Congratulations to Kathleen Whyte to have achieved her Licensed Lay Worship Leader certification. Well done!
- The Outreach Task Team Force have prepared a policy to go to the Board and to the annual meeting. Thanks to you for your support and comments.
- Through these challenging times with Covid-19 our thanks to those who work so hard to bring church to us on Zoom.
- Recently we have had requests from Mary Kay to help with items needed for One City, who help homeless people and from Lynn Jonderville regarding furnishings, etc for a family he helps as they moved into their first home in many years. They had spent years in refugee camps. I thought that it was a good time to think of what other lives look like and how lucky we are. Thanks to Mary and Lynn for the following stories.

## **Update on the Al Khalid family**

The Al Khalid family – mother, father and six children - arrived in Peterborough in mid October under a government refugee sponsorship administered by the New Canadian Centre. They had fled their native Syria about 10 years ago and had been living in a refugee camp in Turkey.

They spent about two months in temporary housing at Glebe House (next to St. John's) before moving into a four-bedroom house in East City just before Christmas. It's what a realtor would describe as "cozy"- the bedrooms, bathroom, and dining room are on the

small side, but the kitchen and living room balance that out with more generous dimensions.

Any thoughts they had of settling into the comfort of their newfound haven were upended just a few days after Christmas – Ahmad, the youngest boy, came down with a fever. After the first visit to the emergency department at the hospital he was sent home with instructions for him to be given Tylenol. The fever would abate for awhile then come back. Just after New Years he was admitted to the hospital, and after a week of no improvement was sent by ambulance to Sick Kids in Toronto, accompanied by his mother.

5. Khalidya stayed with him for the entire duration of his hospitalization – three weeks sitting at his bedside, watching him night and day. Because of Covid protocols Sick Kids would only allow one caregiver at a time in the building. So Dad, Mohammad, could visit but only if Mom exited to Toronto’s cold streets. The city is an unwelcoming place under quarantine.

The family did, however, get to experience the wonders of the Canadian health system – a whole team of specialists working to identify the disease and bring it under control. By the end of January he was given the “all clear” to return to the full, active life of a teenager. Time for celebration. This family has been through so much together and have become very tight knit. Ahmad’s illness had been a shared burden and their happiness at his return was overflowing. A special cake was prepared. A video of traditional Syrian music and line dancing was brought up on the big screen TV. Father, middle son Ussama and youngest daughter Lana got the room rocking. In the end it was just nine-year-old Lana, eyes closed, shoulders shimmying, dancing with abandon to the music while the rest of the family clapped in rhythm.

*Lynn Jonderville*

**ONE CITY** Peterborough is a charitable organization focused on housing, food security, community safety and inclusion. It is a joining together of Warming Room Community Ministries and Peterborough Reintegration services. It is dedicated to challenging homelessness, food security and social exclusion. It is committed to building a city where everyone can flourish, where no one is disposable. We are all one city.

As a volunteer at One City I can say that their outreach is truly commendable, really outstanding. Some staff walk around town, checking on the homeless, offering hot coffee, extra blankets and sending them to One City for their other needs. Other staff help with finding housing, with applications and other issues where support is needed

I volunteer in the Resource Room where we provide tarps, tents, sleeping bags, blankets, men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, boots, socks and undergarments. We also supply snacks, (granola bars, apples, etc.), juice and water. When we can, we provide Ensure or Boost to those needing extra nourishment. Several of us from Greenwood United provide cereals and sandwiches for those seeking shelter in the Stop Gap which is open from 12 am to 6 am. The sandwiches and cereal are really appreciated. I have found that those seeking help are very polite, patient and so grateful for all that is done for them. They are treated as valued citizens and respond accordingly. I feel so blessed to be able to work with them. It gives me a whole new appreciation for what is important in life and that which is really unnecessary.

Brian Nichols runs an art program at One City on Monday afternoons that is well attended and much enjoyed by the participants. He also runs a similar program at Haley House for men coming out of Federal Prison who are elderly, palliative or have mobility issues. Apparently there is also recording sessions on Wednesday afternoons. I think Peterborough is very fortunate to have such an organization in our midst. If you wish to donate items please feel free to drop them off at One City, 541 Water Street beside the back of Emmanuel United Church between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm..

*Mary Kay*

### **GREEN BUCKET – PURPLE BUCKET**

Have you ever noticed the two buckets at the back of the church? Usually, you can find them in the area where the coat racks are located. I call them buckets while others might call them tubs or storage containers. You might have something quite similar at home where you store Christmas items or summer clothes when it is wintertime. Sometimes a parent or grandparent might find these as the perfect place to put children's toys or games or all those special photo albums that make an appearance on anniversaries or other special occasions. Have you ever looked inside Greenwood's buckets? The history of these two buckets is quite simple. They came from the Fairview congregation but didn't have their start at Fairview. I no longer recall the church in Peterborough Presbytery from which we copied the idea, but I do know that it was Mary Kay who brought the idea to Fairview. Mary had been involved with that church and they had a group of people who knitted or crocheted and decided to make Prayer Shawls.

If people had spare wool at their homes, they were invited to bring it to the church and some of the folks who were interested in knitting or crocheting would take the wool and create a Prayer Shawl. The shawls would be a variety of lengths and widths. When we had a "few" shawls we simply included in the worship service a "Blessing of the Shawls". We would display the shawls on the Communion Table and offer a simple blessing that whoever would receive this shawl might know that they were being remembered by our rural church outside of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. Hands of love and caring created this shawl in the hopes that as the recipient received this shawl they might know, whatever their circumstance, they were being remembered and prayed for by a little church with a big faith.

What a range of situations it could be. Maybe it was a person recovering from a health crisis, or someone experiencing a deep loss. Possibly it was an impending surgery with uncertain results or any occasion that could cause one to feel isolated or alone. What we discovered was the rich blessing that was the invisible connection between the creator of the shawl and the one who received it even if neither knew the other person. These shawls have gone off to different parts of the world. I see these prayer shawls as having a ministry unto themselves of simply caressing a person in a time of need. I guess a little bit of kindness can go a long way.

We had a simple way of remembering which bucket contained the blessed shawls and which bucket were the yet to be blessed. Someone said, "Green is for Go so that's where the Blessed Shawls will be" and the shawls not yet blessed are placed in the Purple bucket. I guess that made as good a reason as any. I wondered how far the Green bucket shawls

really would go? Well, the shortest trip would be to a neighbour just because of their need or circumstance. The message would be simple. We want you to know that our church is remembering you and we pray God's blessings upon you. No, there isn't a cost for this gift. No, you don't need to make an offering, it really is just a gift. No, you don't have to tell us to whom you are going to give the shawl. No, you don't need to return it after the circumstance has passed. It's a gift. One of the most touching moments was about a decade ago, when a prayer shawl was sent to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut following the December 2012 shooting that led to the death and injury of 30 people. A lovely note of appreciation was received by the church. On a happier note, another shawl was sent by a visitor to a friend in Europe who was awaiting a surgery. We were later told that every evening the shawl would be wrapped around his shoulders to offer him warmth but more important to remind him he wasn't forgotten. The act of kindness in making the prayer shawl, its blessing, distribution and being received by someone in need of a moment of encouragement is a great gift. Please feel free to share a shawl with someone in need.

Blessings in this New Year,  
Rev. Bill

From the Editor.

I would like to thank our contributors to this our winter newsletter. Their stories tell of the love and caring that is shared by the members of our church.

If you have comments please send them to Joyce Fee [jfee@accel.net](mailto:jfee@accel.net) 705-743-9315



## **Sacred Stewardship**

Reverend Allan Smith-Reeve

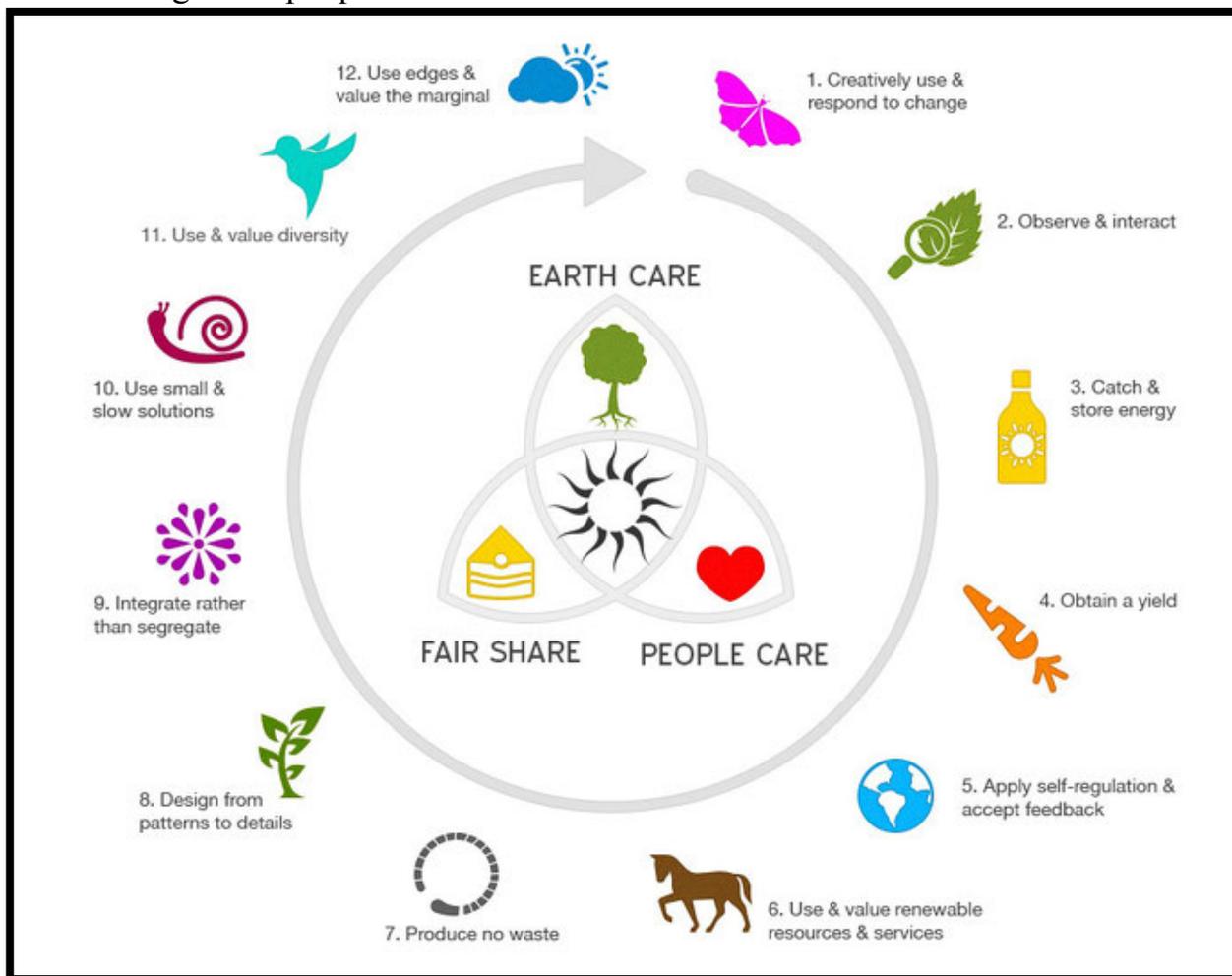
Stewardship is a word that encompasses all aspects of our lives. It's another word for our "worldview". How we choose to steward our resources is an expression of our faith walk. In this newsletter we celebrate the Stewards that invest their time and talents into the care and maintenance of our property and financial assets.

We honour our Stewards who take on the responsibility of ensuring that the way we use these resources are an expression of what is most important to us as a Community of Faith. (eg. An unused back lawn has become a Sacred Garden enjoyed by neighbours and loca.

An unused back lawn has become a Sacred Garden enjoyed by neighbours and other wildlife.)

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As you know, I've been exploring the spiritual dimensions of the global Permaculture movement. What excites me about this modern approach is it's fit with the ancient wisdom of both indigenous peoples and the Jesus movement.



The movement's three core values of **People Care, Earth Care, and a Fair Sharing**, seem to be a good fit, or summary, of Greenwood's priorities.

The dozen practices in the graphic represent spiritual disciplines we can adopt as we walk together as people of faith. The concepts of watching, listening, and learning from the ways of nature are lessons that Jesus offered. These lessons have been lost in our modern, high-tech, march to conquer nature and enslave our human potential in the service of economic growth.

Returning to the ancient wisdom that connects us with God's creation, offers ways to re-balance our priorities. Our colonial, consumer-driven, so-called civilization has forgotten its inter-dependent relationships with all the Creator offers.

As we discern what is core to our calling as a Community of Faith, may we listen to the spirit's voice in the wind, water, soil, and creature songs of our soul's knowing.

May our stewardship of our physical resources be an expression of what is closest to our hearts.