



Greenwood News, November 2021

At Greenwood Church the bees are busy making honey in the sacred garden and we have some 'busy bees' who help to keep our church running smoothly. It takes many people to fill our different committees. If you are interested in keeping the property in good shape, managing our finances, hiring staff, working with the minister to ensure the Sunday messages, organizing for communion, helping with our Garden, there is a place for you. Our Nominating Committee are working now to fill the positions for the Annual Meeting.

Over the next few issues of our newsletter we intend to let our 'bees' tell their stories as to why Greenwood is the church for them and why they volunteer to help.

Meet our Session Members

Session Purpose: *To oversee the spiritual interests of the Congregation*

Kathleen Whyte

I am grateful to be a part of the Greenwood Community of Faith as I journey into a deeper relationship with God. As a church, you have sponsored me through the Licensed Lay Worship Leadership course. I most humbly thank you for your support. I will complete my study in December, of this year.

I am also thankful to be involved in the session as a welcoming place to offer suggestions and make decisions which affect our church in the worship leadership regarding our church. We are working on a church profile at the moment to enter on Church Hub.

My other work for the wider church involves developing church profiles for other churches to be placed on the United Church Hub and assisting churches with calling and covenanting ministers to new ministries in our region. I am on the Covenanting Team which supports Communities of Faiths, and Licenced Lay Worship Leaders and we are creating both a new Forum and a working network for those folk. Through Greenwood, I am enjoying my role on the Assembly of Elders at ECORC as your representative. I was privileged to offer the opening prayer this past weekend at the ECORC meeting.

I miss being with you, however I am enjoying my experience in Coe Hill.

Mary Kay

My name is Mary Kay. I was the eldest of 3 children, raised in the United Church. I met Jesus when I was 4 years old, and have entrusted my life to him. Since then. I have been actively involved in the church throughout my life (HI C, Young Peoples, choir, member of session, Sunday school teacher, church board secretary, presbytery rep, chair of oversight committee, co-chair of children at conference, staff associate responsible for children, youth and young adults, etc.) both in Ontario and British Columbia. I was also a Licensed Lay Worship Leader for 42 years and continue to do pulpit supply at a couple of churches.

I enjoy being on session and being involved in decisions regarding worship. Although I can worship on my own, worshiping in a group, being with people of similar values, learning of new ways to be the church, etc. takes my spirituality to a whole new level and I want to see that happen for everyone.

Joanne O'Donoghue

I was born a French-Canadian and raised in Montreal. I moved to Toronto after the FLQ (Fronde the Liberation du Québec) became active in Montreal in the 70s. Even though my family is still in Quebec, I remained in Ontario where I married.

A reformed Catholic, I see myself as a Christian first, who practices the most important of Jesus teaching "love your neighbor as yourself". I also follow in Jesus' Ministry of Healing, using different modalities such as "Hands on Healing".

I joined Greenwood United's congregation as a guest first and then as a healer. Before COVID, I was able to do healing sessions at the back of the church while the service was going on. I recently resumed the healing sessions, following COVID protocols.

As a member of Session, I get the chance to better understand the United Church's doctrine and have an influence on the spiritual aspect of the day-to-day operation... plus I get to meet wonderful people!

Darla Walker Peacock

My journey with the church began when I was 2 years old, at West Ellesmere United Church in Scarborough. My brothers and I grew up there, attending Sunday School, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and later our youth group took us through High school and University years. My Mom was involved in United Church Women and Bible studies, and my Dad attended the mens group, as well as working on the sound system and the heating system. Our family has continued to enjoy a rich church experience, wherever we have lived.

I am enjoying being a part of our Greenwood Session, getting to know other members and assisting on developing our Hub presence online, which lets people know all we are doing in and through our church community.

Joyce Fee

As a child I attended a small United Church, north of Lindsay. Almost everyone in the community went to church. After marriage our family church was in Mount Pleasant. When the church closed we went through the trauma of losing friends and transferred to Bethel United, another small church. Moving to Peterborough, I didn't feel comfortable in the large churches. I went to a Saturday morning "breakfast and speaker" at Donwood and immediately I knew I had found my home.

It has been a privilege to serve on our church committees and be part of the growth of our church. For me, Session is the pulse of the church. Together with the minister we get to plan for the services.

Bonnie Jull

I have been a church goer for many years and finally have found Greenwood. I grew up in a small town in Maine, spent time in Quebec City, moved to Ontario and now for the last 50 years have been attending, in turns, the Anglican Church and the United Church. My fondest memories as a child are of summers spent at church camp and at the family camp, which was built by my grandfather on the Methodist church ground on the coast of Maine. My Methodist grandmother instilled in me a strong sense of helping other people and singing from the "good old Methodist hymn book", all the while smiling lovingly at me. Greenwood has given me a sense of belonging that recalls those feelings of my past.

Today, my interests are to give a hand to Bedford House/Bridges Peterborough, knitting, sewing, Tai Chi, and walking on the trails here in Peterborough. I enjoy cooking, which is a good thing as our 21 year old grandson, who is living with my husband and me on the weekends, loves to cook and enjoy the end result.

Reverend David Reeve

I was born into a loving family in west Toronto on March 29, 1929: the year of the Big Crash of the Stock Market. Growing up during the Great Depression, I soon learned the value of a dollar. At 8 years old I had my first paper route and began banking my savings. The editor of the West Toronto Weekly advanced me to Route Captain and so I managed 16 paper routes, collecting the money.

My father felt I should learn a trade, so after high school I became an apprentice electrician. After four years I graduated as a journeyman, making good money and bought myself a brand new Plymouth car. Then I decided to go to McMaster University.

One time as I drove my motorcycle when it was raining, the clouds broke and bright sun shone through on me. I was singing "Living for Jesus", the verse in part said "I give myself to Jesus." That was my 'call' to the Ministry.

After marriage and our son was born, Marion and I were sent to Magnetawan in Northern Ontario. After 3 years we were invited to Burton Ave U C in Barrie.

With my sweetheart Marion, who was a pianist and soloist, we enjoyed 59 years in Ministry. Then retirement to Bobcaygeon. I had retired from First Church Unionville and until the age of 75, I served as a fill in pastor. Then we moved to Princess Gardens with great thankfulness for the journey.



More Greenwood News

We are still practicing all of the Covid rules for our health safety. Our attendance each Sunday is about 27 people. It has been a privilege to be able to return to church. For those members who feel safer to stay home we send out the message by Zoom. With the efforts of our dedicated Zoom team the quality continues to improve. It has been a learning phase and not always perfect due to fluctuations in power, etc. But our team always are working for improvement.

- * Thanks to our telephone callers who bring our information and good wishes to those who do not use computers
- * Our Condolences to the family of Gary and Pat Lounsbury on the death of their son-in-law and also a nephew.
- * Our thoughts are with Betty and Cliff Wood as Cliff is in hospital.

If you wish to comment on our newsletter just call Joyce Fee, 705-743-9315

From Reverend Bill Peacock: As Greenwood's Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) ordained by the United Church of Canada in 1977. I was actually fairly new to the United Church, having returned to the church of my childhood after decades of no involvement. At the ordination service it is declared that we are ordained to Word (preaching), Sacrament (baptism and communion) and Pastoral Care. Throughout my ministry this part has taken on many different meanings. Working in a larger church with youth ministry as its focus, in multi-point charges where folks may work easily together or be in constant tension. With Greenwood, it's a unique combination of a smaller church and what has often been seen as an inner city ministry with people who have been disenfranchised and others who look once again at their privilege, as well as being a Bee church, there are even more unique opportunities to express ourselves. As the former minister at Fairview I see my role as an opportunity to assist in the continuing integration and welcoming of all peoples to Greenwood, while at the same time, participate in worship when called upon and reach out in the sharing of the good news of God's love.



The fall season and Remembrance Day has always been especially close to my heart. The back corner of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258 was where I discovered many people who just needed someone to listen to their story or the pain they had been carrying. It was here that I witnessed the power of just listening to a veteran, even with my young ears, it could afford an opportunity to share the burden they carried and the struggles they faced as they looked back on their youth that was so compromised by war and a call to service. So much of Pastoral Care is simply the act of compassionate listening. May we all discover that we have the ears to hear this Remembrance Day and in the act of Remembering.

From your Minister's kitchen table:

(Reverend Allan Smith Reeve)

For the early Irish Celtic Christian communities, the new year begins in November as we descend into the darkness, the womb of the earth where new ways of becoming are waiting to be born.

For the Christian liturgical calendar, the new year begins with Advent's preparations for the birth of what's most sacred among us (November 28th this year).

When we honour the seasonal rhythms of the year, before the new life of Spring, we first move through the winter's slow, unrushed, germinating of our seeds of hope.

What seeds of hope are you planting this autumn? What has the Holy Spirit squirreled away in your soul's soil? What transformation has begun among us to be incubated by the dreaming of the coming winter months?

"Dreams, deepest desires, discerning, watching for serendipity, wandering, waiting... is an organic process, a gradual spiritual deepening, based on stories – old and new - that evoke what wants to emerge." From "Soul's Slow Ripening" by Christine Valters Paintner

There is a beauty in the process of waiting, witnessing, attending to what wants to emerge – in its own time – rather than our tendency to rush through the discomfort of transitions and get back into the old groove. Or perhaps there's an impatience to get through the changes and establish a new pattern quickly?

At this threshold of a new season, I encourage each of us to discover simple spiritual practices to allow for the slow transformation of ourselves, our church, our community into the world of God's imagination?

In the coming season of gift giving, let's consider the gifts we have to offer our church community. In this newsletter you've heard from the members of Session and their work of organizing the Worship & Pastoral Care ministry we all enjoy and participate in.

Where is God's Spirit calling your energy? As we let go and rest in the abundant love of Christ, let's spend time listening to what the Spirit is saying to us as individuals and as a gathered cluster on the vine.

Yours in the green energy of Spirit,
Allan