

GREENWOOD UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER MAY 2022

Sabbatical Sojourn Spring Rev.Allan David Smith-Reeve

What a privilege and a joy it is to serve this congregation.

As I look towards the summer's holydays and sabbatical time, my heart is full of appreciation for all of you. Together you are the body of Christ in this place and time. Together you are a bunch of grapes on the vine that is Christ. Together you all represent many circles of relationships that span the Peterborough community, this nation, and the world.



I am stepping back for a few months knowing that our congregation is in good hands. I'm looking at our brand-new Greenwood Member Directory (thanks Susan!). What a beautiful garden we make! Each of us unique and blossoming with the joy that is rooted in our faith.

With this sabbatical opportunity to travel, study, write, and rest – I am so very aware of how many workers who serve are suffering from burnout. These last few years of a global pandemic have pushed our capacities as a caring society beyond their limits. Too many have become exhausted and too sick to go on. We've learned some harsh lessons that will prepare us for future challenges.

Lessons like – how to live one day at a time because the best laid plans can change. Or, how important our wireless communications systems are to us. And, how important our informal community relationships are to our well-being.

We each play a vital role in the well-being of the whole. No one can cover all the bases, all the time. When we each offer our care, compassion, gifts, and prayers – our laughter, tears, songs, and stories into the mix, God's spirit will take them and weave hope, joy, peace, and love into the web of relationships.

I pray that this summer you'll each make time to find contentment for your soul's hungers and thirsts. I pray that you'll each make time to renew the web of relationships you have with friends, family, and god's wonderful wild creation. And I pray that the

blessing each of you are – will grow green and ripen as I look forward to gathering with you all again in the fall's abundant harvest time.

Reverend Allan

PS Reverend Cathy Gradante, the minister at Bridgenorth Church, has agreed to be available if a minister's service is needed during the next three months with Reverend Allan on Sabbatical and Reverend Bill having some holidays.

News We are again in-church for services, still with masks and distancing. But it is so good to see our choir again. Our thanks to our soloists who have carried us through these two plus years. And a very special thanks to our Music Director, Marion Griffin for her exceptional support. Our Zoom team have been fantastic, learning on the job, dealing with a lack of carrier service and always doing their best to bring our service to us. Sessions are planning some outdoor services for the summer months.

Session News

As the newly appointed chair of session, I would like to welcome Dawn Cox and Joy Gaskin to our group and thank Joyce Fee and Bonnie Jull for their dedication to this group over the last 4 years. We were sorry to see your time end.

Session oversees all that pertains to *worship, baptism, communion, church membership, special services* and the regular weekly services. Since the onset of COVID we also have had to decide whether to open or close the church for worship – a very difficult decision to make- and provide the use of Zoom for alternate worship. As well we try to stay in touch with those congregants who do not have access to computers through telephone calls and the Newsletter. We are the group you would approach if you have questions, concerns or suggestions regarding worship.

Mary Kay, Chair

New Session member: Dawn Cox: One of my first memories is sitting on Grandpa's lap in church. Church and music have always been a focus for me. In my teen years Young People's week at Quin-Mo-Lac made a lasting impression. Wib and I directed a Family Camp, and in later years I usually have gone to UCW week ends there. I graduated from Ottawa Teacher's College in 1963 and Wib and I were married in 1965 and had 3 sons. We lived in manses in Stirling, Castleton and Humber Valley, and purchased 1401 Dobbin Ave when we moved here in 1978. We were at St. James U. C. until 2000 and while there we did 2 months exchange in Australia. In 2000 we came to Donwood, mainly because of Shirley Lannen's connection to the St. James Players. And it's been a good fit. I've often been Presbytery rep and now that we have the bigger region I am interested in the whole church, but would be pleased to again be an alternate

New Session Member: Joy Gaskin: I was born in Brownsville Ontario and baptized in the United Church. We moved to Toronto when I was 17 and I attended St. Matthew 's United on St. Clair. In my first year at U of T, I left the church and looked for other spiritual practices. I was attracted to a school of energy where I learned Seneca teachings from a shaman. All life is based on the medicine wheel of truth. We walk our earth walk moving on and off of our truth line.

Later in life I came back to the United Church in Rosemont where I integrated my teachings, my loving to sing in the choir and feeling accepted with open arms. Not unlike the feelings I got from Greenwood United congregation and ministers.

I was thrilled to be accepted. So here I am. *Joy Dancing Heart.*

Stewards News

This year we are looking into getting new upper windows installed on both sides of the church. We have had the Organ repaired, which is a bonus, and I hope you have noticed the plexiglass installed in the stairwell for safety

We will be organizing our work-bees to clean up the yard and possibly to redo the yellow parking lines.

Ken Minion, Chair of Stewards

Ministry and Personnel

The committee has worked successfully in organizing worship leaders for June, July and August. We have a good lineup of summer worship leaders. The Official Board approved the reappointment of Allan to continue his work with Bridges Peterborough.

Ann Barrett

New M&P Member: Carol Hopkinson I have been a member of Greenwood (Donwood) for over 15 years. The church has always been warm and welcoming and I think of the church members as family. Over the years I have been involved with UCW, the Stewards, M&P (2017-18) and I am now a member of the choir. I like to help wherever I can.

Pastoral Care

Pat Lounsbury has retired from her enjoyable duties of sending greeting cards to the Greenwood congregation and Carol Hopkinson has graciously taken over. If you know of anyone who is ill or has experienced the loss of a loved one and you feel they would enjoy a card, please contact CAROL @ 705-743-7966 or chbeads@gmail.com Details aren't necessary but having their permission is required. Also, individuals who are 90 or over receive a special birthday card on behalf of the congregation.

Our Sanctuary Garden

'Tis the season to start gardening!

Despite the harsh winter and our dry summers, our garden is a survivor! The daffodils were beautiful against the raw field grasses and our perennials and trees continue to grow. Due to wildlife, some of our younger plants didn't survive but we have moved on to improving and planting. Our garden committee continues to work faithfully for the enjoyment of the bees and our community members.

Pat Lounsbury

A Bee Story

A quiet Sunday afternoon became exciting, very quickly. The Greenwood Beekeepers had been feeling pretty frustrated and sad that we lost our bees this past Winter. I had tried to find some bees but since so many local Beekeepers had lost many of their hives this past Winter, I had been unsuccessful. I had noticed on Facebook that Quentin Day, who had given the Ecology Garden Beekeeping course to the Greenwood Beekeepers a

number of years ago, was doing well beewise. I reached out to Quentin and asked if he had any bees that he could sell us. He said that he didn't at the time but that he would keep us in mind. On Sunday, May 29th, 2022 I received a message from him that he had found two swarms of Bees near his Hives. He and another Beekeeper, Mike had caught the one swarm but they had run out of equipment to catch the other. He offered to try to catch the other swarm for us, if I brought a bee box for him to use. By the time that I arrived, Mike had left and twice they had been unsuccessful in catching the second swarm. The trick is to catch the queen and the rest of the bees will stay. It sounds like they hadn't been able to catch the queen. The swarm had moved to a lower location on the apple tree and we realized that we could reach the swarm from the ground. Quentin held the bee box while I clipped the three branches holding the swarm. It dropped into the box and we were able to shake the bees off of the branches and put the lid on the box. Now the trick was to get the remaining bees that were at the box entrance inside so that I could duct tape it closed. Quentin had to leave and I patiently waited for most of the bees to go in the box. I placed the box in the trunk of my car and contacted our mentor, Ahmad, to meet me at Greenwood to assist in settling our new bees. We got the hive set up and they seemed quite calm. The next day, I fed them sugar water and they seem to be doing well. We are so grateful to Quentin and Ahmad for their help .Quentin has told me to “stand by” so I may be getting another call that he has found another swarm for us.

Stay tuned!!

Anne Wilson

Treasurer: Ruth Benson

It was very interesting recently to listen to what brought people to Greenwood church, and when. My story is this - I began attending a large city church in Toronto, where we had a gymnasium that served the neighbourhood, two floors of pews, often a junior choir, a “young peoples” group which met after the evening service (yes, 2 per day), several Sunday School rooms and other meeting rooms. As you grew up it was natural to teach Sunday School and be on the church basketball team.

After marrying and coming to Peterborough, Don and I tried two large churches, stayed at George St. for a number of years after moving to Douro Township. Then my folks built in Donwood and began to attend the nearby church. We were visited for a donation to the installation of the elevator – and for me to join the Stewards group, which I did. Glenn Brown was our visitor – he had been a township Councillor and knew me as Deputy-Treasurer for our township, so he thought that a good background for Stewards. We transferred membership quickly. And, we had family there too.

I probably have been on every committee but Trustees at least one time. Harry McNabb was the Treasurer for many years, followed by Christine Hushagen. She asked me if I would consider taking over for 2 or 3 years. It stuck! Probably close to 15 years now.

We have encountered two amalgamations during my time, plus the addition of Bedford House Community Ministry. Adventures together, beginning with our new name, Greenwood, chosen democratically with the St. Matthews folk, dinners, our bees and garden, then the Fairview members and other projects make us all feel United, working together. And the music!

The graciousness and generosity of our two 'sister churches' have made it possible for us to be able to concentrate on things other than raising money to keep the building open, and we are so much better to and for the world to have this freedom to explore. May your sorrow at the loss turn to joy for all we can accomplish ahead together.

As mentioned in that morning chat, the friendliness and closeness of a small, rural church has a great deal of draw for everyone. Hope you all feel the same way.

Ruth

Official Board Chairman Emil Varga

My responsibility is to provide impartial leadership for all congregational and board meetings and to be the spokesperson for the Official Board to the congregation.

My position at GE was to manage a product line, be able to listen to customers, finance and production personnel and make decisions based on their collective input.

I use the same process as Board Chair; to listen, disseminate the information and recommend to the Board and congregation what Greenwood's position should be. Not easy, as we all have traveled different roads as I have discovered, when our investment and its use were being discussed.

I appreciate the counsel I have received from the former chair, Mary Hinan-Grose.

And thanks to Emil for the specially designed cards for our Pastoral Care group.

Outreach Committee (our newest committee)

Mary Gordon: I have been a member of the United Church of Canada from infant baptism to now, although there have been gaps in my attendance over the years. I taught Sunday school, sang in choirs, led services through CGIT (Canadian Girls in Training),

participated in the church revolution of the 1960s through YPUC (Young Peoples United Church), and served on every standing committee, except for Trustees. I joined the Nominations Committee last year so that I could get to know more members, and the Outreach Task Team because my Methodist ancestors keep prodding me to do more. And this year, I put my hand up for the Board of Trustees, just because it was the missing piece in my portfolio. Prior to joining Greenwood, I was a member at George Street United, and one of the founders of Seeds of Change, a partnership with the community.

I raised two sons on my own, and am now married to Joan Moriarty. I have had two full careers - first in mainstream media (radio, television, newspapers, and CBC) and then with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, working in the Indigenous Policy Unit. I retired in 2011.

Raye Flatt: Hello, my name is Raye and no, my Dad did not want a boy. I grew up and had the majority of my schooling in four different army camps, I was a tomboy, loved playing football, tackle of course, much to my Dad's dismay. I was captain of the girls' basketball team, our tallest player was 5 ft 8 inches but still we came in second at the Winnipeg round robin. For two years in Shilo, Manitoba I was sure that I was supposed to go to the Catholic Church, but it didn't happen. I have lived in the Kawarthas for 70 years. I attended church off and on and only got really involved 10 years ago at Fairview Church with Bill Peacock.

Anne Wilson: I joined the Outreach Committee because I am interested in charities locally and around the world. This has enabled me to work with a dynamic group of people on the Outreach Committee who are interested in helping others. I have learned about some charities that I didn't even realize existed. There is such a need and if we are able to help a few it will give me great satisfaction. I realize that this ability will vary from year to year, depending on the revenue (or lack of) from the Greenwood investments.

Lynn Jonderville: I began working on the Outreach Fund Committee at Trinity-St. Paul's in Toronto many years ago. As at Greenwood, it had its origins in the investment income from the sale of a church building after amalgamation. The original mandate was ambitious - applications for funding were accepted from both local and global partners. Projects that might otherwise have difficulty securing funding were given priority. The evaluation of projects and the follow-up reporting requirements were challenging to say the least. Over time it was realized that we didn't have the capacity to do this work effectively. The mandate changed to focus on local projects, with preference given to those aligned with our mission priorities. Local projects offer opportunities for engagement by members of the congregation and reporting usually takes the form of an in-person presentation during worship.

Joyce Fee: I put my hand up for this committee because I know that our best way to live is to help others. There are many ways to do this - sharing time, helping hands, listening ears, as well as financial assistance. Our committee is comprised of a member from each of Fairview, Donwood, St Matthews and Greenwood congregations. Our goal is to select one charity from each of the five categories that have been established in the Outreach policy.

From **Reverend Bill Peacock**

June 5th this year is the **Celebration of Pentecost Sunday!** In the world wide church, this is when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and apostles. In many ways, this is the Birth Date of Jesus' Church or as we tend to call it, the Christian Church.

How appropriate that this year both Pentecost and the day when we celebrate the coming together of different churches to form Greenwood is celebrated.

Hopefully, COVID numbers will be lower and we will be able to celebrate in person, if not, we will continue to be together while apart through the grace of Zoom and the lovely team that makes this all possible. If you haven't gotten into the habit of joining the church service on Zoom, we would invite you to give it a try. There is a weekly e-mail that provides you with the contact information to connect to Greenwood by Zoom, as mentioned earlier, we also hope that COVID numbers in our area will continue to fall and we will be able to meet in person once again. I can hardly wait for the return of our choir (although the solos efforts have been much appreciated) as we discover a new or a return to normal for celebrating the Good News at Greenwood.

Darla and I had anticipated travelling much of this summer and into early fall to visit friends and family from coast to coast. A few obligations that have arisen, as well as continuing risk of COVID, may result in our being closer to home longer than we had originally expected. I look forward to being able to lead our worship services on June 5th and 12th and to see smiling faces.

Blessings to all,

Rev. Bill