

# Greenwood United Church

*God's Creation is our Inspiration*  
*Spring Newsletter 2021*



**Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!**



Easter is the high point in the Christian calendar. While Christmas celebrates the birth of the divine in our midst, Easter celebrates the life-beyond-death reality of the divine cycle of earth's renewal. If we can embrace death as one of life's passages, we can lose our fear of lives many passages -through the thresholds of loss - towards new beginnings.

Since last Easter we've been rudely awakened to the gaping holes in our country's social safety net. Nature's divine judgement - through the work of a microscopic bug - has revealed the fragility of a worldview where rugged individualism trumps our collective health.

As I write this Easter message, I'm still in the journey of Lent. I'm still wrestling with the colonized injustices of Jesus' day - and how they remain in our so-called "developed" era.

How can I make the leap from the heavy burdens carried by neighbours - to the joyful, light-hearted, abundance of Easter's message of renewal?

I rejoice in this generation's prophets who raise their courageous, counter-cultural, cries on behalf of the earth and its impoverished peoples.

I rejoice in the power of nature to heal - if given a chance - from the march of human "progress" that ignores the natural cycles of rest, restoration, and rejuvenation nature requires.

And I rejoice in our community of faithful saints - each one of you - who do your part in our collective ministry of care, compassion, and courageous witness.

May we all receive the gifts of unexpected grace and joy surpassing what seems so final - that those women at Jesus' tomb discovered and shared.

Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

Yours on the journey,

*Reverend Allan Smith-Reeve*

## Bedford House and Bridges Peterborough

You'll find below a link to podcasts from some of the graduates of the [Bridges Peterborough Program](#), a grass-roots community Association of people who want to bridge poverty and privilege. Greenwood Church is one of its sponsors. Incredible stories in the podcasts. To join the mailing list and receive updates, email [support@bridgespeterborough.ca](mailto:support@bridgespeterborough.ca)

<https://bridgespeterborough.ca/storytellers-podcasts/>



### Fond Memories...

Like many of our Greenwood members I have been a member of other churches. Changing churches brings both loss and memories. Several years ago our family country church closed. It had been a part of our family's life for over twenty years. We moved to a church different than the other members did. It was difficult settling into a new church while missing our church friends. Now, I think fondly of that former church, remembering setting up the play pen in the back of the church for our younger children, and teaching in the children's summer program. On the first anniversary of our covenant with Fairview members, we asked them for their memories. Here are some of them:

- My wedding 38 years ago with Reverend Marion Davis officiating;
- A country church where the members were very welcoming;
- Reverend Bill and Kim singing together making our service special;
- Making the apple pies with the men peeling the apples; sales were never a problem!
- Reverend Bill marrying two of my daughters in our backyard;
- Reverend Bill remembering his beginning at Fairview, when with a young family and while still studying, Christmas was coming and money was tight. The week before Christmas the members presented him with a turkey, groceries, presents for his family and an envelope with money for the extras;
- Supporting one another in good times and in bad;
- The best of all: Timbits and visiting after the service.

Now, these most welcome members are making new memories at Greenwood.

*Joyce Fee*

**In Memoriam:** Sadly, Dorothy Helen (Bullock) Nichols passed away March 24, 2021. She was the beloved mother of Brian Nichols a very active member of Greenwood church. We send Brian and Paulette our prayers and loving thoughts.



## **New Beginnings at Greenwood**

Church has been an important part of my life since I was 2 years old. Recently, my life changed at many levels: new marriage, new city, new retirement, the recent loss of my dear Mom and a new way of living because of COVID.

Soon to be residing in Peterborough full time, I started attending services at Greenwood. My husband Bill, had introduced me to new friends at Fairview United church shortly before their difficult decision to close, and we were all invited to make Greenwood our new church home.

The warm welcome I personally received as Bill's new wife was lovely, and week by week new faces and names became familiar (the kind offer of name tags was very helpful). The choir was a reminder of the joy I received in experiencing beautiful music. Our grandchildren joined us in weekly worship and experienced the joy of new friends, stories and crafts. And who doesn't love potluck lunches! Greenwood's usually included a speaker on various ministry and community happenings and opportunities. Then COVID struck. I never thought I would be inspired by attending church services on Zoom, but seeing and hearing from those who are becoming dear to me, even in a format we jokingly refer to as Hollywood Squares, has kept church worship and fellowship alive for me.

As I have had the privilege of working in short term ministry in 11 countries, I am inspired by hearing reports of what Greenwood is doing to minister to others, outside our walls and country. As well, I have found it a welcomed challenge to be encouraged to consider how I can be involved every day in making our world "more green", a growing concern since those grandkids came along.

I look forward to making new friends and having new opportunities that will bind us together. Thank you Greenwood congregation!

*Darla Walker*



### **Busy Bees' Tip: Wait to clean your gardens!**

Greenwood's head gardener believes in the crucial role pollinators play, so much so, that the church has many beehives. The reason to wait: to help pollinators like bees and butterflies. They spend overwinter in dead plant material, ride out the cold weather and emerge in spring to do their good work. So wait to clean your gardens until temperatures are consistently above 10°C degrees!



## Let's Go Green...!

We all want to help and do our share when it comes to the environment. Each and everyone one of us has found ways to reduce our green waste by composting, our dry waste by recycling and limit our use of plastic.

The congregation of Greenwood is no different and prides itself in being green. We re-use every item we can, bring our own dishes when eating together (pre-COVID) and we try to minimise our use of plastic. We have beehives and a garden filled with native plants and shrubs from this area, to encourage pollinators. We believe respect for the environment translates into self-respect and respect for others. In that spirit, many years ago Susan Bunting, a member of Greenwood United, heard about Bullfrog Power and suggested we investigate it. If you're not sure what I am talking about, here is an overview.

Bullfrog Power is a Canadian green energy retailer operating in Canada since 2005. It offers clean energy for your electrical, natural gas or green fuel needs. It buys electricity only from suppliers that meet or exceed the federal government's standard for renewable electricity, that is electricity that comes from regionally sourced wind, solar and low-impact hydro facilities. It also sells green natural gas produced at facilities that have met environmental standards (ICP) and green fuel. For every litre of traditional fossil fuel we use, a litre of green fuel is blended into the Canadian fuel system. Green fuel is low-carbon, providing at least an 85% reduction in greenhouse emissions vs. conventional petroleum-based fuel. The green fuel comes from waste, (including cooking oils produced by restaurants), and it's turned into biodiesel.

Greenwood United has been using Bullfrog Power for many years. The extra monthly expense is small and goes towards re-furbishing existing green facilities or building new ones.

Many farms, businesses and individuals are choosing to buy Bullfrog energy to help diminish our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For example, south of Peterborough, the Hiawatha First Nation has launched a 22 kW solar installation on the Old Railroad Stop, a popular meeting place that has a restaurant, gas bar and convenience store.

Every small change can make a difference in the long run. So let's all Green Up!

*Joanne O'Donoghue*

(The source for this information came from Bullfrog's website, a Spark Power company.)