



Barrhaven United Church

called to worship sent to serve



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FROM THE MINISTER'S STUDY: Living in the Light

By Reverend Maggie Melanson

"My, it's so nice and bright in here", a visitor said recently as she came in to see me. I like to think that my office, or what is sometimes called the minister's study, is a bright place. Like our sanctuary and narthex, it is frequently filled with light. How theologically fitting for a church! Light and life as embodied in the person of Jesus Christ is a metaphor for the church's hope and possibility. How wonderful that Philip Sharp, the architect who designed our church, captured the power of light in this building!

As I write this in the Season of Epiphany, it is actually a dull January afternoon. Many of us are fleeing Ottawa for points brighter and warmer. I wonder if the compilers of the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) who set out the weekly scripture readings many Christian churches (our included) follow, realized that this time of year is a bit of a letdown after the excitement that is Christmas. I think they must have known that it's time to get back to basics because that's what we've been doing since then. We have followed the early days of Jesus' ministry: his baptism, his calling disciples, and his first works or miracles.

In our worship life, we've come forward to remember our own baptism or affirmation of faith as we dipped our fingers in water blessed by the children of our Sunday School. Members of the congregation have stood together offering prayers of the people which we echoed with "here I am, Lord". Last Sunday, our Communion Table was covered in a fishing net and surrounded by shells, fishing

rods and scoops. People came forward with colourful paper fish; some bringing the fish of neighbours in their pew. These fish signified that they were willing to leave behind that which held them back and answer Jesus' call to service. What a catch it was!

Barrhaven United Church is gloriously blessed with an abundant catch. Our net is overflowing with an abundance of talent and experience, enthusiasm, and devotion. It comes from some of the youngest among us, like one of our Sunday Schoolers who, when asked during children's time what she'd say if she heard Jesus calling, responded with: "I'd say, I can come!" It comes from drivers and visitors on our Pastoral Care Team that respond with support and a listening ear to the ever-growing numbers of BUC-ites who need them. It comes from our choir and from our BUC Band who are ready to take on any musical challenge their minister lobs their way! It comes from hard-working UCW members and friends who bake those fabulous meat pies we ordered at the Christmas Bazaar. It comes from the unspoken heroes who turn the lights on, run the sound system, greet the folks and usher them, who make the coffee...the list is long. But, isn't that what 'church' is about? People, inspired by the love of Christ in their lives, who cannot but help share it with others?

You, like me, know that this faith community we lovingly call BUC is a place where Christ is found and shared. We want to keep it strong and ready to continue living in the

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Light in this New Year. In sermons, in the Life and Work, in the efforts of our outgoing Chair of Council, you've become aware that we need you to answer the call to leadership in our church especially as a member of Church Council. As I consider the current and soon to be vacant positions, I will be proposing that we re-examine our committee structure. Can we simplify and streamline it and make it easier to address the needs of BUC and the communities it serves? We can't do that without you to come forward with your ideas.

This year we have a direction to name a search committee and call a second minister on a part-time basis. It would make an important difference to our youth, adults, and young families to have educational programs on the United Church, on faith, and to support youth, families and all our constituents more fully in these areas.

Some of you have suggested new and different ways of fundraising and raising our profile in Barrhaven, let's be about following the light of Christ forward into new ventures together.

In the work of the wider church, the General Council 41 of the United Church is meeting in Ottawa, at Carleton University, this August. Some of you are already involved in helping to get things running smoothly long before the delegates arrive. In the weeks ahead we are asked to vote on adding new statements of faith to the basis of union or the 'constitution' of the United Church of Canada. Our vote as a pastoral charge will be added to those of other churches and presbyteries across the country. The essence of the question before the entire church is: are we willing to add to our doctrine or teachings, statements of faith written since the Basis of Union was agreed to at the turn of the 20th century?

The vote or remit before us, the changes in our demographics, in the way we worship, in how the work of the church gets done are all signs that we, as individuals and as church, are living, changing, evolving parts of the body of Christ. Our scripture lessons reflect the rhythms of our life in Christ from the anticipation of Advent, the birth at Christmas, the foundational ministries of call in Epiphany, and on to the introspection at Lent that leads to Good Friday and then Easter. We are in a foundational time of laying new bricks and mortar, repairing ones that have stood the test of time. Let us give thanks to God for the faith, the energy, and the inspiration to continue our journey of living into the Light.

Santa Claus Parade

photos by John Neal



LEARNING MORE ABOUT YOUR CHURCH...

Marketing And Communications

Did you ever wonder how information is generated for our Church? Let us tell you how it happens.

We get information from others who plan, develop and run the programs, projects and events that we enjoy throughout the year. Making you aware of these is a shared job between the committees and the Marketing and Communications committee. We use various methods to do it. Most of the work is to inform members, which is mainly internal to BUC. This is the communications component of the work. Making the community aware of the presence of BUC is the challenging part of our mandate. This is the marketing component.

Perhaps the two most visible tools that we have are our external sign board and the newsletter. The sign is changed weekly with upcoming events and an indication on the theme of the next service. There are physical limitations on the amount of information that can be posted as it is limited to 24 characters per line. Our sign has less capacity than a Twitter message but that isn't an obstacle but is a challenge to the 4 people who rotate changing the sign every Monday or Tuesday. The newsletter, both electronic and paper, is produced 3-4 times a year with info on current and future events. We also, at the request of the committees, compose inserts to the community newspapers, the Citizen and the electronic media. In this way we are directing information to the community at large to make them aware of the activities at BUC such as the Bazaar, Springfest, Bible Studies, Vacation Bible School and Come Sing Noel.

In our efforts to proactively market BUC to the community, we participated in the Canada Day event, providing young people with a quiet place to do some coloring and get out of the heat. We were involved in BUC getting a float together for the Christmas parade last few years. In the past we arranged special speakers for our service, including Laurie Boschman of the Ottawa Senators, as an initiative to attract newcomers to BUC.

The committee is currently composed of a hard working group of 5 members. The Chair position remained vacant through the year, with individuals taking turns to organize and lead the meetings. We would like to continue and, if possible expand, the marketing efforts to provide more creative ways to have our presence highlighted to the

(Continued on page 4)

Preparing for Advent

photos by Heather Chang



(Continued from page 3)

community. We are always open to new ideas and initiatives that we could pursue to have BUC identified as a vibrant and outgoing part of our community. You don't have to be a member of the committee to suggest ways to make the community.

Additional members are needed and would be warmly welcomed. If you would like more information talk to Diane Filby, Ron Melanson, Laird Stewart, Cathy Stone or Brian Williamson.

WORSHIP

Music is a very important element in the worship life of BUC. This November the BUC Praise Band started up and livened up services with a more contemporary expression of praise. Thanks to Derek Uttley, Kirsten Baker, Kieran Hauser, Ian Venables, Kiley Venables and Megan Venables for sharing their musical gifts.

The Senior Choir blesses us each week with inspiring anthems and leadership in congregational singing. The director Barb Ackison and the rest of the choir welcomes new members. They are willing to help you out if you think you have limited musical training. Each voice contributes to the beautiful blend of sound.

Another musical highlight happens at the February 26 morning service with the Rideau Park Bell Choir. This is a great opportunity to hear a hand bell choir in person.

As we look forward to the seasons of Lent and Easter, upcoming services include

February 26	1st Sunday in Lent
April 1	Palm/Passion Sunday
April 6	Good Friday (evening service)
April 8	Easter

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION... How can you get involved?

Attend an Adult Study group, "Coming Home to the Holy" is being offered Wednesday evenings Feb 29, Mar7, Mar14. Join the Meditation and Prayer Circle on Thursday mornings. Teach a Sunday School class, no experience is needed. Debbie MacMillan and Leona Crumpler are the co-superintendents and will get you started. Assist with the Youth group by sharing a talent, talking about your hobbies and interests or being a chaperone. Fiona Smith leads this enthusiastic group and can be contacted at youth.buc@gmail.com. Help Heidi Krogh in the nursery. Borrow a book or video from the Library. Jean Rutherford, keeps many on display in the narthex bookshelf. Bring a child to Youth group, Sunday School or Nursery. Volunteer to coordinate or help with Vacation Bible School or the Advent event. Eileen Proulx chairs this committee and is happy to answer any questions. These are fun and enlightening short term commitments that will re-energize your spirit. Respectfully submitted by Eileen Proulx, chair CE.

ATTAWAPISKAT BEING HELPED BY THE UCC

The crisis situation of substandard living conditions on this northern reserve was highlighted in the media and the United Church responded. The Moderator approved the expenditure of \$10,000 emergency aid by partnering with the Red Cross to provide sleeping bags and warm winter clothing. This humanitarian response was needed to deal with the cold temperatures now enveloping the community. Subsequently the Federal Government has contracted for 22 new modular homes to be delivered by winter roads over frozen lakes and rivers from a firm in New Brunswick who are proud that they could help and worked overtime to complete construction in a timely manner. You can help too. On the Outreach bulletin board in the Narthex there is information concerning ongoing First Nations fundraising initiatives, some supported by Kairos.

You can make a difference!





UPDATE — 2 DEC 2011

Bonnie Dillon and Liz Nieman attended an information session sponsored by CFGB at the Hebron Christian Reformed Church in Renfrew ON. About a dozen farmers attended from the Ottawa Valley. Jim Cornelius, Executive Director of CFGB, was the guest speaker and updated us on areas of global concern as well as his summer spent in East Africa. David and Kathryn Mayberry were the regional hosts for this event.

This main story was told at the end of the evening:

In Monkton ON, about a half hour north of London ON, two young fellows leaving church were concerned about world hunger. One said to the other, "I have this crazy idea". Being hooked by his curiosity, the other guy listened and the idea took form. The group grew to 9 and then to 12. They held meetings and invited representatives from the Canadian Food Grains Bank to attend. They wanted to see how many combines they could get to cut a field of soybeans and set a world record for the shortest time to do it.

They invited people and businesses to participate in the event but would only accept them if they donated something. There was some discussion about "what if we get a gift we can't use?" It never happened. From pork to photographers, skyjacks to sign painters, food to fuel, from tables and to tee shirts, all gifts offered were used. Even voluntary services were offered from firefighters, the ladies coffee group, youth and Old Order Amish, who parked 1600 cars. The snowmobiler club provided signage pickets. More than 3000 people came to celebrate this harvest.

Because of an unusually wet fall these beans were the first to be harvested. On October 5, 2011, 120 combines left their own fields waiting, in order to harvest a crop for people they would never see. It was like a combine square dance. They cut an acre and a half of soybeans in less than 12 minutes and auctioned off the crop afterwards from \$36 to \$1000 per bushel and there were 56 bushels/acre and 160 acres. This raised a total of \$225,000 in this Christian response to world hunger. CIDA matches donations 3:1.

This miraculous initiative was like seed falling on fertile ground. One person had an idea, and had the courage and faith to share it with another. It grew into a community of caring and compassion. They harvested beans but it really was a harvest of the spirit.

See the video of this event on the CFGB website: http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/video_harvest_for_hunger.aspx

Kate Windall, a barber from Renfrew, is making a video of the event to be released next year.

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP ROCKS

BUC will be hosting Alternative Worship Rocks (AWR) on Feb 26 with a light supper at 5:00 followed by worship at 5:30. The theme is Talking with God/God Responding. A free -will offering will be collected for BUC's foster child.

AWR provides a biblically inspired message through popular music and videos, and conversation that deals with our everyday lives. Their goal is to present a family-friendly casual alternative to spiritual seekers who do not connect with Ottawa United Churches on Sunday mornings. AWR meets monthly at various churches around Ottawa.

For more information, their website is www.awrottawa.ca.



*Welcome Rev.
David
Sherwin!*

*Music Director
Scott Auchinleck
and special
musical guests!*



MULTI-MEDIA TASK FORCE



In the past year, BUC has displayed words of hymns; and videos and images to support sermons, anthems and prayers with a small portable projector. The Multi-Media Task Force is investigating a more permanent system of either a projector and screen or a large screen television.

We are conducting a survey of other churches but we are interested in input from the congregation on how BUC can enhance worship with this equipment. The members of the task force: Ralph Cameron, Peter Manson, Rev Maggie Melanson, Lorna Sukey, Derek Uttley, Lavonne Venables, Mary Walker-Smith, and Carrie Webb would welcome your comments and suggestions.

CONCERT FOR THE GRAND

Among a number of BUC members there has always been the dream to, one day, purchase a grand piano for the Sanctuary. For as many years as I can remember there has been a "Piano Fund", more recently renamed the "Musical Instrument Fund", to accumulate monies for this purpose. Monies have been donated to this fund, from time to time, as folk have felt the personal need to do so. No concerted fund raising effort for this fund has ever been attempted.....until now!

On Saturday April 21st, 2012, the choristers and musicians of BUC will be partnered with the Manotick Brass ensemble, to present a concert of sacred and secular music. The proceeds from this fund raising effort will benefit both the Musical Instrument Fund of BUC and a musical trip that the Manotick Brass ensemble are preparing to the British Channel Islands. Over a two week period the Manotick Brass will present a number of concerts at local island churches and other venues and will also take its children's program into several local primary schools. It is hoped that our concert will create the momentum required at BUC to attract more donations to the Musical Instrument Fund so that a grand piano can be purchased for the Sanctuary during 2012.

Tickets will go on sale in due course.

So, mark the date in your calendar and prepare to enjoy an evening of musical entertainment, the likes of which BUC has never seen before.

To read more about the Manotick Brass and hear some of their music go to

<http://www.manotickbrass.com/>

For more information contact Derek Uttley (derekuttley@ncf.ca or 613-825-0038).



GUESS WHO IS COMING TO TOWN?

From Saturday August 11 until Saturday August 18, 2012, Ottawa Presbytery (that's us) will be hosting General Council 41 of The United Church of Canada.

This is a once in a life-time opportunity - General Council last met in Ottawa in 1958!

Hundreds of United Church people from across Canada will be meeting in Ottawa at Carleton University.

Hundreds of volunteers from Ottawa Presbytery will be needed to make this a success.

As host, our presbytery will be responsible for the local arrangements. This includes all local transportation needs, welcoming and registration, coordinating snacks and breaks, setting up meeting facilities, arranging local special events, coordinating with local media and more.

In short, whatever your talents, there will be a spot for you to volunteer.

For more details, please speak with one of your BUC presbytery representatives (Jane Burgess, Diane Filby and Sara Surjadinata) or check out:

www.uccanottawa.org/General_Council_2012.html