

The Delivery

Sharon-Hope United Church
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September 2015

Rev. Kathi's Message:

*"Behold, I am about to do a new thing"
Isaiah 43:19*

As I write this, it is one of those exceptional September days – sunny, warm with the memory of summer and yet there is a hint in the air that the glory of autumn is not far away.

There is an old Chinese saying that translates as: *Falling leaves return to their roots.* I understand this as demonstrating that new life inevitably rises from the old, new traditions are rooted in the past. Jesus said that a grain of wheat must die so that a new plant can grow.

When you think about the nature of the gospel, it is odd that in the Christian Church we find ourselves so often suspicious of anything that sounds new or different. The church began with Christ's death and resurrection – the ultimate in original events. The writers of the Gospels all seem to struggle with putting into words an event that has pushed them beyond their ability to understand. Added to that is the fact that the gospel calls for us to undergo a conversion of thought, life and lifestyle in order to be a follower of Jesus. We cannot remain the same and be a disciple – change is required. Jesus did not simply come talking about some new ideas, he represents nothing less than a whole new world.

Most of us seem to want "church" to be the way it was when we were young –whether that was five years ago or fifty. But the truth is our faith has to keep growing to stay alive. We have to be open to what is new – a new fundraising idea, a new Sunday School program, a new hymn, new faces in the family. The trick is in learning to accept the new in balance with the traditional.

This weekend we are celebrating 148 years of being a faith community. That is a long stretch of tradition and our Anniversary is a wonderful time to remember, but it is also a wonderful time to dream of what can be, of what new thing God is calling us into.

As St. Paul said, "If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation." Jesus keeps making all things new, including us.

Rev. Kathi

Sharon Hope Church Council

At the Congregational Meeting on September 20th the list below were elected to our new Church Council. Many of the teams have persons volunteering on the team. All of the teams would like to welcome new persons to their teams. Over the next few weeks look for descriptions of the teams in our Bulletin and in emails from Communication.

Council Chair	Phil Mannell
Vice Chair	Barry Kelly
Secretary	Gay Vancaeyzeele
Presbytery Representative	Laurie Cook, Mary Belyea, Keith Carson
Trustees	Jim Greig
Ministry and Personnel	Don Mitano
Health and Pastoral Care	Lynn Mitano
Property	Munro Armstrong
Finance	Steve Elmer
Worship	Steve Robertson
Communication and Membership	Pearce Thomas
Mission and Service and Outreach Team	Dyanne Marlok
Christian Education	Vacant
Congregational Life	Cheryl Telford

Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark is a Christian based program operated by Sharon-Hope United Church for children ages 3-5 years.

This September we opened our doors for the 19th year. We are very excited to report that we are at capacity with 16 children.

We have a fun year planned filled with activities designed to prepare the children for the kindergarten classroom. Our focus is on learning through play. This month will be a time to get to know each and then we will celebrate God's bountiful harvest in October.

For more information about Noah's Ark, please contact the church office.

Dale Knight & Cheryl Telford
Coordinators

Pie Baking Extravaganza

Please plan on joining us on Thursday, October 1 at 10:00 a.m. with your favourite paring knife or rolling pin as we assemble 30 apple pies. The pies will be frozen and baked on October 17 for our Community Harvest Dinner.

No experience needed---come and join in on the fun! Lunch will be provided.

Please sign up at the church on Sunday or contact Dianne Pegg, Lynn Jewell or Dale Knight to let us know you are coming.

Messy Church - Come and join us.

Life isn't always tidy, why does church have to be? Have you ever wondered what church would look like if we didn't have the ritual and the rules? A church without the restrictions on moving around and making noise might look pretty "messy" to some people.

We will have crafts, games, music and family-friendly worship and - of course - food.

Take a night off from the kitchen and come have dinner with us.

Bring along the whole family and meet with other people who are looking for a place to belong, a place to create community and learn about faith.

This is an all-ages event, everyone is welcome and we especially want to reach people who have difficulty making it to Sunday morning worship.

Please let us know if you are planning to join us so that we can prepare for you.

Call 905-478-2231 or email the church at sharonhope@rogers.com.

Camp Big Canoe

Camp Big Canoe is located on several wooded acres surrounding Hart Lake at Fraserburg near Bracebridge.

Living Waters Presbytery provides financial assistance and oversight.

The Mission of Camp Big Canoe is to;

1. Provide an environment that contributes to the physical, emotional and spiritual development of each camper
2. Provide a supportive atmosphere where campers and staff learn personal life skills and build meaningful relationships
3. Offer a challenging, dynamic and enriching camping experience for 6-16 year olds.

This year a record 456 campers attended camp. 175 of these received financial assistance through the Campership Fund generously supported by many churches, UCW members, corporations, individuals and Fund Raising events.

Eric attended from Sharon-Hope and had an awesome time. He really enjoyed the camping experience. One of the highlights was learning how to build a Sweat Lodge.

Eric would like to thank all those who made it possible for him to attend Camp Big Canoe.

Greetings from the Mission, Service and Outreach Team

The Mission and Service Fund is central to the life and work of the United Church. Your generosity helps to transform lives and provides healing and hope to people in Canada and around the world. Having money available makes it possible to respond quickly to crisis and emergency situations and many other needs, working with partner churches in many locations. It is something like a “pot luck” meal, the more people that contribute the more there is to share.

Locally our Outreach helps support:

- a. LOFT community services (Street Van) with donations of clothing, boots, shoes, food and personal hygiene products.
- b. Blue Door Transitional Housing - Porter Place and Leeder House with clothing, linens and toys
- c. Good Mom group with clothing, food and children’s items on request.
- d. Newmarket food Bank
- e. East Gwillumbury Food and Toy Drive

The recipients are very grateful for your contributions. Thank you for caring and sharing.

Awards

On Sunday September 20th our very own Alex Vancaeyzeele was presented with the Baillie Award by Ken Clarke from Toronto United Church Council. The Baillie Award recognizes young adult volunteers for continuous weekly or monthly commitment to a ministry endeavour or for an extraordinary commitment to a major one-time project.



Property and Capital Campaign Updates – Major Building Projects at Sharon-Hope

At a Sharon-Hope Congregation meeting on Sunday, September 20, 2015, Property Committee gave a short presentation on the status of the major building projects we have planned and the Capital Campaign Committee provided an update on Capital Campaign finances.

Property report

The new roof (a permanent steel roof) is now fully installed and this particular project is now complete. Installing the new insulation will be deferred until the parking lot project is

drainage, grade, etc.) and resurfacing with asphalt and installing a concrete walkway. If all goes well (weather, etc.) the work may actually be completed this Fall. Very good news, indeed!

Capital Campaign report

The Capital Campaign is coming to the close of its second year, with one year to go.

The target for the Congregation for the Campaign was \$180,000. To date we have received pledges of \$164,000, a little short of the target, and we have physically received about \$140,000 of the pledged funds. The remaining \$24,000 of pledged funds is expected to be received later this year with some receipts extending into 2016.

The generosity of our Congregation in responding to the call for contributions to the Campaign and the wonderful \$120,000 Trillium Foundation grant we received late last year allowed us to be in a position to commence the two main building projects – roof and parking lot – earlier than originally planned, which we are truly grateful for.

The cost of the new roof was about \$135,000, including new eavestroughs, which was under the budget given to Property. However, the cost of repairing and resurfacing the driveway and parking lot will be about \$142,000, significantly higher than first estimated, but a necessary investment, as we all know. We can pay the cost of repairing and resurfacing the driveway and parking lot but it will be tight, especially given the timing of the payment vs. the timing and amount of current year receipts.

We ask the Congregation to consider moving their current year contributions forward (for those giving annually or monthly), if possible, so that more funds are received in October instead of December, also to consider whether adding to their original pledge is possible (recognizing this may not be possible for many and also recognizing that any increase should not reduce gifts you are planning to make towards Church expenses and M & S, both of which are important).

Finally, we want to reach out to those who may have started coming to Sharon-Hope after the Campaign got under way and who may now wish to participate in making a pledge towards the Campaign. We would be pleased to provide a Campaign Kit which includes a Pledge Form, and this will be made available through the Church Office.

As always, if you have any questions about the Capital Campaign, please contact any member of the Campaign Committee!

Messy Church

Another exciting year of Messy Church has begun. Our first session was September 25th, and we had a good turnout. The theme was Welcome and Shannon Hardman had a great Visual for the wall How does God welcome you. How do you welcome God. Everyone enjoyed the crafts games stories and music and of course dinner.

We are looking to enlarge the team so if you know someone who would like help with crafts, or who has a gift for food planning and preparation or for organizing people to help set up and clean up, Please contact the Church Office.

This is a great group and we would love to have you join in the fun.

Community Harvest Dinner

Saturday October 17, 2015

\$16 adults, \$6 6-12 years, 5 years and under free

\$40 family 2 adults and 2 children under 12 years

Tickets are available in Harmony Hall today –

from the church office or call [905-478-2231](tel:905-478-2231)

We have created a harvest menu and we need your help!

We need food, your time, and financial contributions!

Here's how you can help...

Sign up to make a food contribution.

Set up for dinner on Thursday October 15 @ 7pm.

Make our famous coleslaw on Friday October 16 @ 7pm.

Make scalloped potatoes or pumpkin squares in your home - recipe provided

Sign up for 2 hours to serve and clean up on Saturday October 17.

Contribute money to purchase food items or ingredients.

Join us and sign up on the sheets in the hall. We need everyone's help to create the ultimate Community Harvest Dinner---there's something for everyone!

Any questions...please contact Lynn Jewell, Dale Knight-Mannell or Phil Mannell

Thanksgiving, Thanksliving, Gratitude

Life giving God we give thanks for all creation

For the colour and design of this magnificent nation

Thankful for the brilliant sights and sounds of Fall

With a bountiful harvest you surround us all

We are amazed at the plentiful fields of corn

Waiting into new products to be reborn

Fields of pulses, veggies, grain and wheat

Providing life-giving food to eat

Migrating people, butterflies and geese that call

“Goodbye we are heading south again this Fall”

Thankful for those who willingly plant seeds

A Harvest of Hope to suffice the needs

Of many people some less fortunate than others

Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers

In Thanksliving gratitude we thank God the great inventor

Master designer, colourful painter, awesome creator

Three Ways to Help Syrian Refugees

Syrian refugees who have been displaced by violence desperately need the world's help. The United Church of Canada and our partners are responding in a number of ways and are inviting you to participate. Here are three important ways we can help Syrian refugees in this time of need.

Donate

Please provide your support today. Donations to the Mission and Service Fund received and designated "Syria Relief" will be applied directly to support United Church M&S partners and associates in this work. The Canadian government will match, dollar for dollar, donations made between September 12 and December 31, 2015.

Sponsor Refugees

The General Council Office has been supporting efforts by faith communities in Canada to sponsor the resettlement of Syrian refugees since the conflict began. You can learn more about how we can sponsor a refugee at the United Church web site: www.united-church.ca

Pray

- Pray for the millions of Syrians facing conflict and displacement, and for the host communities in the region who welcome those seeking refuge from the conflict.
- Pray for United Church Mission & Service partners and humanitarian relief agencies working to meet the needs of those affected.
- Pray that the international community will work together to address the current crisis, and help bring peace to Syria and the region.

Margaret, Gay and I have been working on a new website for the church all summer and just this week we have published it. Check it out at: www.sharonhopeunitedchurch.ca