



Spirited Summerlea

United Church of Canada

Newsletter

December 2018



225 - 50th Ave., Lachine, QC H8T 2T7
514-634-2651

Email: summerlea_united@videotron.ca
Website: www.summerlea.ca

CALENDAR

December

02	10:30am	1 st in Advent/Communion Sunday
09	10:30am	2 nd in Advent/Human Rights Sunday / White Gift Service
13	7:30pm	Candlelight Service
15	3:00pm	Christmas Carolling – meeting in Acadia Hall
16	10:30am	3 rd in Advent
16	7:30pm	Lakeshore Concert Band Christmas Dessert Concert
23	10:30am	4 th in Advent
24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
30	10:30am	Ecumenical Service at Beaurepaire United Church 25 Fieldfare, Beaconsfield



January

06	10:30am	Sunday Worship
13	10:30am	Sunday Worship / Communion Sunday
20	10:30am	Sunday Worship / Soup Sunday
27	10:30am	Sunday Worship

EDITORS:

*Jane Cowell Poitras,
Susan Hawke & Lynn Closs*

2017 was a difficult year for me. My Mom passed away in January and I spent the whole year adjusting to the loss. Countless times I picked up the phone to tell her something only to remember with a pang that she was no longer there to answer.

As the holidays approached last year, all my family mentioned how much we would miss my mother's Christmas box. Separated by the miles, we seldom were together to celebrate this special time, but we always had the tradition of the Christmas box to help fill the hole. Mid-December it would arrive in the mail - tied with string and decorated with colourful stickers. Inside would be a myriad of tiny packages lovingly wrapped and labelled for each of us. Best of all were the containers filled to the brim with homemade Christmas edibles. Sugar cookies, shortbread, brandy snaps, almond crescents, 8-day honey cookies, rum balls.... No one could bake cookies like my mother. She was the cookie queen!

Feeling rather glum, as the first Christmas without my mom loomed, a friend from church called to ask if she could drop something off. Perplexed as to what it could be, I murmured "sure". 10 minutes later the doorbell rang and there she stood with a large, flat box in her arms. She wouldn't tell me what was inside, nor would she stay, but hurried off into the night. Opening the box, I was overcome with emotion to see rows and rows of different cookies and squares all laid out in a tempting display. Why would she do this? What prompted her to this loving act of kindness? The cookie tradition had never been mentioned outside our family.

My friend never really explained her generosity other than to say that she thought I might like them.



I often refer to this gift as my Christmas miracle as I somehow suspect that my mother was at work looking out for me over that difficult time.

I purposely did not mention the name of the cookie giver in this article for two reasons. Firstly, she is the kind of person who would not welcome the attention. Secondly, in recent years as I have come to know Summerlea folk better, I have experienced so many unexpected gifts and kindnesses that it seems somewhat unfair to mention just one. Rides home after choir, seeds for my garden, jars of homemade marmalade, small presents dropped in my bag, and warm-hearted souls to share worries with - the list is endless.

As someone so aptly coined, "Summerlea is more than Sunday". How true. We are an active community working in faith to help each other. This "gift" of caring is a wonderful one that the congregation gets to open every day not just this Christmas season. How blessed we are!

A happy, safe holiday to everyone this Christmas from the newsletter Editors. *Susan Hawke*

A Word from the Minister

Colleen (office Colleen, not student Colleen) and I were recently invited for lunch at Resurrection of our Lord parish (to which Susan Ippersiel was invited also). The main purpose of the luncheon was to welcome some newcomers into our midst. Last August, Colleen replaced Susan in our church office, and Gene Walsh, the long-time secretary and office administrator at Resurrection parish, is also retiring and will soon be replaced by Brenda. Father Jack Kennedy, who retired about three years ago, was called back into service, but will soon be relinquishing his duties to a new priest who is coming to Resurrection parish, Father Michael. After we enjoyed a delicious lunch together, Father Jack rose to say a few words, indicating that the main purpose of the lunch was not only to welcome the newcomers, but also to continue to foster a sense of community among the church leaders in Lachine, be they Catholic or Protestant. It turned out that I was the only Protestant at this gathering, but it made no difference. I very much felt a part of the community of church people that had gathered, and the feeling was very much one of collegiality and mutual support.

At the luncheon, I was seated very near to Father Jack, and during the conversation, he was talking about the Polish congregation that also meets at Resurrection parish, and he spoke in very glowing terms about the very real sense of community that exists among the Polish people there, and how they stick together and support one another in so many ways. As marvellous as this all sounds, one possible pitfall can be that like-minded people can form a kind of community in which it is made clear that if you are not "one of us", then you are not welcome. We have seen far too much of this from the Trump administration in the United States, and it has only served to divide people in some very destructive ways.

The intent of the folks at Resurrection parish was just the opposite of this: it was to celebrate the sense of community that already exists among us, and to welcome some new people into this community that we have formed. It was not in any way about who was welcome or not welcome in this community, but it was definitely about the fostering of a community in which we care for and support each other and being open to the on-going building of community. In the conversation I was having with Father Jack, he recounted a time long ago when he was living with his parents in the rural community in which he grew up. He told of a time when a storm passed through the area and did some damage to the roof of one of the buildings on his parents' property. After the storm had passed, some neighbours came over to help fix the shingles that had been torn away in the storm. When the job was done, the father offered to pay his neighbours for what they had done, but the reply was immediate: "we will not take any money for what we have done, but if we ever need your help with something, we will rely on you to help us." It was made very clear that people in this community looked after each other, and that's just the way it was.

In a world that is too often divided, when there seems to be more of an interest in "circling the wagons" to keep people like "us" together and to keep "them" out, this desire to form open and inclusive community is a refreshing change. As the upcoming Christmas season approaches, we dream once again of "peace on earth" and "goodwill to all". The only way we are going to get there, in my mind, is to continue to foster this sense of community, where we care for and care about each other, where we help each other through the difficult times, and where we celebrate the joys together. Since my arrival at Summerlea, I have very much enjoyed

working with my colleagues of faith here in Lachine, and by this I know that we have already formed a sense of community with one another. And I know that sharing one lunch together is not necessarily going to change the world, but it most certainly reminded me that when we take these small steps to foster a sense of community and togetherness with one another, it will make all the difference in the world.

Rev. Scott A. Patton.

Getting to Know Colleen Lowrie

Since September we have had a new face in the congregation on Sunday mornings. She is not hard to miss as she is both vibrant and energetic - and has the biggest smile ever! Her name is Colleen Lowrie and she is a third-year student at the United Theological College in Montreal. Colleen is doing her field placement here at Summerlea until May 2019 and has already preached her second sermon on Remembrance Day. We are so happy to share in her learning journey.

Colleen comes to us from Belleville Ontario and plans to return to that area after her studies are completed. She says she was attracted to the ministry since her early teens and seldom wavered from that goal - though she admits to a short foray into cosmetic retail. She is particularly interested in youth pastoral care and hopes to pursue that once she is ordained. As she also speaks French, Colleen is currently doing another placement at "La Presence" where she is gaining experience in community-based ministry.

Colleen loves nature and being outdoors. Big city living has curtailed these interests somewhat, but she compensates by feeding the birds on her balcony. Though she does not currently own one, she is also a big cat lover. She also admits to being a Senators fan. One of the things Colleen adores about Montreal is the variety of food here, from the restaurants to the grocery stores. She marvels at the many different flavours and options available.

When asked about her experience with us so far, she replied "Summerlea has been so warm and welcoming, which is not a surprise I guess, but is very much appreciated! I am consistently impressed by the dedication and work of those who make the bazaar run, who coordinate soup Sundays, the talent

of the choir vocalists and the way in which the entire community comes together around things. It feels like how Church is supposed to be!" *Susan Hawke*

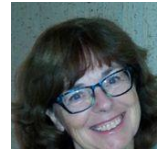
Two-day stay in Wakefield, QC

In September Rick and I headed out on a road trip to Wakefield to enjoy my retirement gift. We felt fortunate to have crisp, sunny weather, which enabled us to do some light hiking in this little town by the Gatineau River on arrival day and enjoy a gourmet dinner at The Village House. We spent the next day at nearby Gatineau Park for a hike up King Mountain to see spectacular views of Ottawa, followed by a picnic lunch and hike around Pink Lake Trail in the afternoon. Before heading back to the B&B, we stopped in Old Chelsea and enjoyed cappuccinos on Adirondack chairs in the afternoon sun (it's the little things, right?); later, dinner at Le Hibou followed by live music at the Black Sheep Inn. A perfect way to end the day!

Wakefield is a quaint touristy town with a lot of history, a beautiful wooden covered bridge, friendly people, walk and bike paths, and great restaurants. The B&B, Les Trois Erables, was charming and cosy with the perfect host who made our stay enjoyable.

Thanks again folks for such a thoughtful, generous and unforgettable retirement gift.

A very content retiree, *Susan*



White Gift Sunday, December 9th

Thank you to everyone who chose a labelled gift tag from the gift tree. Your generous gifts will provide 60 under privileged children with Christmas presents and accompany Christmas Food Baskets for families in the Lachine community. Thanks to Resurrection of our Lord Church for supplying Summerlea United Church with the gift tags again this year.



Candlelight Service Thursday, December 13th at 7:30pm

Summerlea United Church welcomes the community to a joyful evening of carols, scriptures, meditation and candlelight to help put the glow of Christmas deep into everyone's heart. Bring your friends and neighbours for a beautiful service of Christmas hymns & music, followed by lovely refreshments in the church hall. The free-will offering will be much appreciated by those in need in our community.



Saint Columba House Living Gifts 2018.

'Give a gift that will change someone's life – even in a small way.



Gifts include a card of acknowledgement made with original Hand in Hand Art on the front of the card with a description of the living gift you have chosen inside. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt for the full amount of your gift and a thank-you letter.

Gift packages available during coffee hour & office hours Mon-Fri 8:00am – Noon

\$15 Donation - Art supplies for Hand-In-Hand Program (Intellectually challenged adult)

\$20 donation - Snacks and hot meals for a child for 1 week in the Alternate School Preschool

\$30 donation - Hot meals for 1 month for a low-income person.

\$36 donation - Feed a family of 6 Christmas Dinner

\$50 donation - 5 hours of one-on-one tutoring for children struggling with reading and mathematics.

\$75 donation - Recreational activities for 3 seniors in our Senior Connection Program.

Income Tax Receipts

For income tax receipt purposes, you are reminded that all contributions to Summerlea United must be received by December 31st, 2018.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped prepare the tourtières this Fall. We had many volunteers come forward once again, and it made the preparation so much easier. We do have some pies left, it is not too late to purchase our delicious Summerlea Tourtières. They are a wonderful addition to your festivities.



A word from your Stewardship Chairperson

Envelopes will soon be available for those who requested offering envelopes for 2019 on their stewardship form. If you've not yet requested envelopes and would like some, please call John Coffin at 514.634.1116 and he will supply you with a number and a box of envelopes. A gentle reminder to please fill in and return your stewardship commitment forms so that the church can prepare its budget for 2019. Many thanks to those who have already returned their completed forms.



Summerlea Bazaar 2018

Bazaar Saturday was clear, cold and **windy**. The blustery wind blew in a steady stream of old friends and new friends.

Our congregational team was amazing! **Everyone** helped and ensured the success of our bazaar.

Thanks are due to the various youth organizations who worked hard and cheerfully.

We had **fun** too.

See you all next year. Save the date November 9, 2019.

Sinclair, Nancy & Kate

UPDATE ON OUR SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY

It is hard to believe that Bilal and Farah and their family have been in Montreal for 9 months now! Those months have flown by as the family became acquainted with their new home and community and immersed in the process of integrating into new customs, activities and languages....and they are

very grateful for the support and caring we have all offered them.

For the past several months, Bilal has been taking English lessons every morning, while Farah has been learning French on a part-time basis. Huzaifa, an active 3-year-old, attends pre-school each morning. Last Spring the other 3 children (now ages 6, 10 and 12) began special "classes d'accueil" at the local French elementary school. This Fall, they were eager to return to school to be with their friends. It will take many more months before they are all able to converse in their new second language, but they are already eager to test their listening and speaking abilities when they can.

The summer brought welcome warmth, and opportunities to make new friends for the 3 older children as the two boys attended the YMCA Cartierville Summer Day Camp program, and their older sister 'hung out' with her cousins enjoying the Ville St Laurent Park Program's youth activities.

With just 3 months remaining of our Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition's sponsorship for this family, the focus is now on helping Bilal to find work, so the family will be self-sustaining by the end of our sponsorship funding.

While Bilal worked as an electronic systems repairman for automobiles, and as owner of 2 car garages in Syria, entering that type of work here is not at all easy. He does not have the certification required by Quebec to work in auto mechanics, and his work experience in Syria was not as broad or thorough as what is a pre-requisite here. However, Bilal recently passed the driving tests for a Category 5 (truck driver) Quebec license, and he is now actively looking for that type of work. If he can find a company to employ him, the Quebec government will subsidize the employer to support the integration of immigrants and refugees into our work force. So, we are hopeful that Bilal will find such an employer and full time work this winter!

Farah is determined to steadily improve her French, so that once her youngest begins Maternelle, she can develop her dream of baking Syrian pastries for sale...and those of us who have tasted Farah's delicious offerings plan to be first in line to place our orders!

Amnesty International - Write for Rights.

Every year on December 10th, activists in more than 80 countries gather on their own or in large and small events to press governments to respond to a human rights concern on selected high-priority cases. Once again Summerlea we will be joining about 300 other groups across Canada to add our voices.

Prepared letters will be available for you to sign during coffee hour on December 9th.

William Hunter Memorial Fund

This fund honours the memory and contribution of William Hunter, a former member of Summerlea who died suddenly in his first years as a United Church Minister. We collect loose offerings from the early service on Christmas Eve and the special envelopes you will find in the pews or with this newsletter. All donations are tax deductible. These offerings are our only source of funds to support our overseas family and other local children's needs.

We currently sponsor three children at a cost of \$468.00 per child, an annual commitment of \$1,404.00. They are Noami, a 17-year-old girl from Ghana, Santiago, a 4-year-old boy from Paraguay and also from Paraguay 2-year-old Alba Abigail. Through your generosity, we provide services to these desperately needy families and help improve their standard of living. We are helping children in need from infancy to young adulthood.

We are also looking into the process of helping a child or two with cleft condition. These children suffer from torments, malnourishment and difficulty with speech. Volunteer medical professionals provide free cleft surgery for children. We can transform lives with surgeries that can take as little as 45 minutes and cost as little as \$240.00 for supplies per child. A smile can change everything.

We greatly appreciate your continued support.

Thank you so much

D. Romagosa

Music Notes



Well, rehearsals are in full swing for the Candlelight Service. The choir is joined this year by Dik Harris, Jean Stuart, Mona Abondanza, Brad Moffat and Selga Vitols. Thank you for helping us out with this very special event. The service is on **Thursday, Dec. 13th @ 7:30pm**. Proceeds from the Offering will go to the Benevolent Fund. Please invite your friends and family to join us. This is always a wonderful start to the Christmas season. You may remind them that there are fantastic goodies at a reception in Acadia Hall afterwards, also!

And a big thank you to all the members of the choir for coming out (sometimes twice a week!) to help prepare the music for this service. I really appreciate your dedication and hard work.

I hope many of you in the congregation will join us also for our annual Caroling at local seniors' residences. This is a wonderful time of fellowship and the residents really enjoy joining singing their favourite Christmas carols with us. Music sheets provided.

Please consult the bulletins and our website (summerlea.ca) for other musical events during the Christmas season, and have a very merry Christmas, everyone!
Connie Osborne

The Lakeshore Concert Band, is delighted to present its annual Christmas Dessert Concert, held once again this year here at Summerlea. Come and hear a selection of festive music and join us afterward for home-made desserts and coffee/tea. **Sunday evening, December 16th at 7:30pm**. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for seniors & students) at the door. Call Keith or Leslie Field at 514-428-0292 for more information

Chuckle Corner - Floral Disasters

I work in a mortuary and cemetery. Once, a co-worker was preparing for a service but noticed that the florist had failed to place a ribbon with the words "Beloved Brother" on the casket spray. An

employee rushed to the flower shop, had the ribbon prepared and hastily added it to the arrangement just as the family and minister arrived. Later, the sister of the deceased bent to pay her last respects and noticed the ribbon she had requested. To our horror it read "Beloved Bother".

Phoning the florist to order some flowers for a neighbour's funeral, I was caught off guard when asked what message I wanted on the card. "Message?" I sputtered. "Well, I guess 'You will be missed'". Visiting the funeral home, I was pleased that my floral tribute had arrived but mortified that the card had my exact words: "I guess you will be missed."



A Voice from the Outhouse

A young married British couple had been looking for a house to rent. After they had returned home, they could not remember having seen any water closet in the one which had appealed to them the most.

So, the lady wrote to the owner asking where the WC was. The owner couldn't tell what the letters WC meant, but finally deduced they referred to the Wesleyan Church and replied as follows:

"I have your letter of recent date, asking about the location of the WC and am sorry to advise that it is located about nine miles from the house. It is capable of seating two hundred and fifty people. This will probably be a little inconvenient for you, but you will be glad to know that many people take their lunch and make a day of it.

It is usually crowded and the last time my wife and I went, which was about six months ago, we had to stand throughout the entire proceedings. There is talk of having a bazaar to buy plush seats for the place, which we think will fill a long felt want. Also wish to add that it affords me great pain that I am not able to go oftener."

Anonymous

Book Nook



Looking for a good old-fashioned mystery? Then look no further than the charming Flavia de Luce novels by Alan Bradley. A Canadian author, Bradley shows that you don't have to be British, to write a good detective book! I must admit to being hooked on the series from the very first installment "The Sweetness At the Bottom of the Pie". Flavia is only 11 years old but wise beyond her years - and a chemical wizard to boot. She lives on a ramshackle estate that has seen better days with her distant and reserved father, two annoying older sisters and her father's majordomo the enigmatic Dogger. Her mother, Harriet, disappeared mysteriously years earlier.

Flavia runs riot through the English countryside on her bicycle Gladys solving mysteries that have the local constabulary stymied. She is a mixture of lonely little girl and mad scientist. With every book, the reader learns more and more about the characters - they become people we care very much about - especially Flavia. Bradley's writing can be both hilarious and poignant. He intends to write 10 books in the series. 8 have been done. 2 to go. Get busy reading! I don't have the first book but have the other 7 should anyone want to borrow.

Susan Hawke

RECIPE CORNER

Oatmeal Chocolate Chip & Pecan Cookies

These cookies were popular at the Christmas bazaar bake table. Several people asked for the recipe. It is modified from a recipe in Canadian Living.

- 1 cup butter softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 cup quick-cooking rolled oats (not instant)
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 cup pecans

In bowl, beat together butter, brown sugar and



granulated sugar until fluffy; beat in egg and vanilla. Whisk together flour, baking soda and salt; stir into butter mixture. Stir in rolled oats. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts. Drop by rounded 1 tbsp, about 2 inches apart, onto parchment paper-lined or greased baking sheets. With fork, flatten to 1-inch (2.5 cm) thickness. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven until edges are golden, 8 to 10 minutes. Let cool on pan for a few minutes; transfer to racks and let cool completely.

Note: This recipe can be modified by removing the chocolate chips and nuts and replacing them with one cup of raisins. *Samantha Torres*

Cranberry Coffee Cake

Grease and flour a Bundt pan well, very well. 325-degree oven for about 1 hour.

Topping:

- 3/4 c brown sugar
- 1/2 c all purpose flour
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 c soft butter

Cake:

- 1/2 c soft butter
- 1 c white sugar
- 2 eggs, 1 at a time
- 1 tsp vanilla

In another bowl combine:

- 2 c All Purpose flour
- 1 tsp Baking Powder
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1/2 tsp salt

Continue by adding 1 cup sour cream alternatively with 2 (dry ingredients) to 1(Cake).

Have on hand 3 cups cranberries, or more if needed.

Spread half of the batter in the Bundt pan, followed by half of the topping mixture and then followed by enough cranberries to cover the surface. Repeat this once more.

Cake will be ready when an inserted wooden skewer comes out clean. Cool before attempting to remove from the pan. Take a knife to release the cake from the sides and center of the pan since the cranberries (while baking) can adhere to the sides of the pan.

This is where it goes....

Ever wonder what happens to all the can tabs, bread tags, eyeglasses, stamps, bras and milk bags you collect and bring to the church?

Tags from Cans; - We collect these tabs for the Shriners, who then sell them by weight to an Aluminium Company. The money is used to purchase wheelchairs, or any other medical machinery needed at their Children's Hospital.

Plastic Bread Tags; - Plastic bread tags are also collected for the Shriners, and then sold to a Recycling Company. The money is used to purchase wheelchairs, or any other medical machinery needed at their Children's Hospital. Collecting bread tags, even broken ones, makes a difference to our environment too as they are recycled into seedling trays, picture frames, coat hangers and other items. Plastic (#6) bread tags are *not recyclable* in your curb side recycling bin, so do collect them and bring them in.

Eyeglasses; - Eyeglasses are collected for the Lions Club. The Lions Club has recycling centres where volunteers sort the glasses, clean them and determine their prescription strength. After carefully packaging the refurbished spectacles, Lions store them until they can be distributed, usually through humanitarian missions to developing nations. The very positive result is that the quality of life is improved for people who receive this gift of sight.

Stamps; - Stamps are for Oxfam Canada. What you should save; Canadian stamps, foreign stamps, commemorative stamps. Keep the entire envelope if there are; clearly identifiable town/village postmarks or registered/special delivery postmarks. Oxfam Canada's mission is to build lasting solutions to poverty and injustice with a focus on improving the lives and promoting the rights of women and girls. Oxfam Canada is part of a global movement for change made up of 20 Oxfam affiliate organizations working in more than 90 countries to mobilize the power of people against poverty.

Bras; - Bras in any condition are collected and delivered by UCC volunteers to Nourri-Source who has joined the "Dare to Give" campaign to raise money for the Breast Cancer Foundation of Quebec. The Foundation has been running this campaign for 5 years now across the province. Every bra (old,

new, breastfeeding, regular, sports, functioning or not) collected will contribute \$1 to the cause, bras in good condition are found a happy home; those that are no longer useable are recycled.

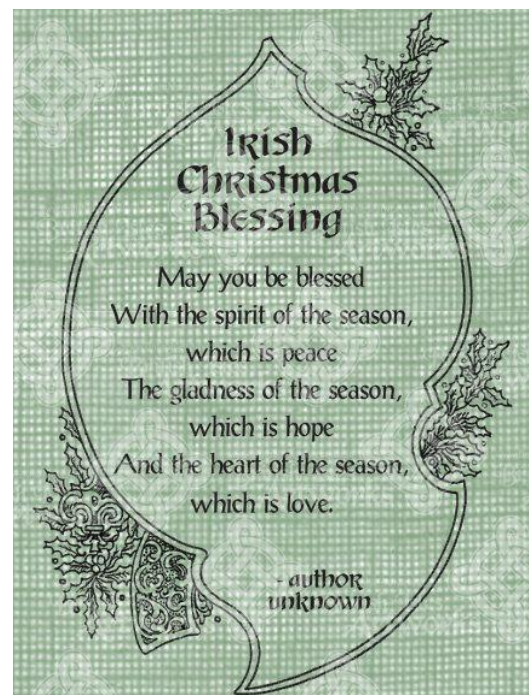
Milk Bags; - Summerlea Volunteers wash (if necessary), cut and attach together milk bags to weave into thick mats for the homeless here in Montreal. You can see the mats in process on the loom in St. Andrews Hall. It takes **630** milk bags to make just one mat, so please keep collecting your milk bags!

Thank you for making a difference in the world by helping these very worthy causes and recycling at the same time.

Colleen Kilkenny

News and Notes

Nancy Harvey will be celebrating her 101st Birthday on January 20th! For those who might like to visit Nancy, she resides at Centre D'Hebergement Camille-Lefebvre, 637, 13E Avenue, Lachine.



Wishing you all love, peace and good health.

Colleen Kilkenny