



Spirited Summerlea



United Church of Canada

Newsletter

February 2013

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When I was a little girl, it seemed that everyone in my Protestant universe gave up something for Lent. Sweets seemed to be the most popular item to give up, but I remember very distinctly my pious grandmother even giving up smoking one year.

I attended Royal Vale School in Snowdon which at the time, was under the auspices of the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. The vast majority of the 800 or so students were Jewish. Perhaps you read Josh Freed's recent column about growing up as an Anglophone Jew in Montreal and how the Montreal Jews are the only Jews in the world that know all the words to "Jesus Loves Me" because they were required to sing it every morning at school! This was the kind of school I attended.

Like school sports and academics, I remember Lent being very competitive. As our Jewish friends always bragged about fasting on Yom Kippur, we Protestants felt an even greater need to demonstrate our devotion to our faith during Lent. After all, this wasn't just one day of self deprivation, but forty days! It started out with chocolate for me. Then chocolate and cookies the year after. My Protestant friends kept upping the ante, so the year after that was chocolate, cookies and cake. The next year was chocolate, cookies, cake and TV...When I left Royal Vale and started at Beaconsfield High School (where virtually everyone was Protestant and there was no Lenten competition), it was a great relief to get back to just giving up one thing for Lent!

I smile when I look back, because obviously Lent is not a competition of who can give up the most and it most certainly should not give one any bragging rights! What it should be, I think, is a promise to undertake a spiritual journey with God in preparation for the most important Christian holiday of the year.

With chocolate or without, it's the journey that's important. Wherever your spiritual journey may take you this Lenten season, I wish you "Bonne route".

Jane Cowell Poitras

CALENDAR

March

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 03 | Sun | 10:30 am | Lent 3 |
| 10 | Sun | 10:30 am | Lent 4 |
| <i>12</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>12:30 pm</i> | <i>Serendipity Mtg.</i> |
| <i>14</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>7pm</i> | <i>Outreach Mtg.</i> |
| 17 | Sun | 10:30 am | Lent 5 |
| | | | Outreach Sunday |
| <i>19</i> | <i>Tues</i> | <i>7:30pm</i> | <i>Executive Board mtg.</i> |
| 24 | Sun | 10:30 am | Palm Sunday |
| <i>28</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>6pm</i> | <i>Maundy Friday</i> |
| <i>29</i> | <i>Fri</i> | | <i>Good Friday</i> |
| 31 | Sun | 10:30am | Sunrise Service |
| | | 10:30 am | Easter Sunday |
| | | | with Communion |



April

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 07 | Sun | 10:30am | Sunday Worship |
| <i>09</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>12:30 pm</i> | <i>Serendipity Mtg.</i> |
| <i>13</i> | | <i>10-3pm</i> | <i>Artisan Fair & Book Sale</i> |
| 14 | Sun | 10:30am | Sunday Worship |
| 21 | Sun | 10:30am | Communion Sunday/Food |
| 28 | Sun | 10:30am | Musical |

Elders' Corner:

Next Communion Service:

March 31st, 2013

A Word from the Minister

We have now begun our Lenten journey, that 40 day period that leads us from the Transfiguration of Jesus, through Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week, to our final destination, Easter Day. And I can already hear some of you saying, "oh no, the minister is going to talk to us about Lent!" Don't worry, this is a reaction that I am used to. In fact, I heard it being expressed by one of our United Church ministers just hours ago at our weekly lectionary discussion group. This person, who shall remain anonymous (call it professional courtesy), does not find the season of Lent either meaningful or helpful. What inspired me to write this piece, however, was the reaction to that comment. At least three of us, myself included, said that we found the season of Lent to be quite meaningful, and a very special time in the church year. To be honest with you, it was this latter reaction that surprised me. This got me thinking about why some people would find Lent meaningful, while some do not.

I know that some people don't like Lent because, for them, it is only a time of self-denial and self-deprecation, and the two seem to go hand-in-hand. According to this view, once we self-deprecate, in other words, admit that we are sinners and acknowledge how bad we are, we then need to deny ourselves certain things we enjoy because that is supposed to make us more aware of our need for God's grace.

While not having done extensive research into this matter, I have been through enough seasons of Lent to know that much of our reaction to Lent depends on how the concept has been presented to us by others. Many well-meaning people who felt that the discipline of Lent would be "good for us" have too often erred on the side of believing that, if we do not follow a very strict Lenten observance, then that just proves we are sinners, and God's wrath will be the unflinching result. As the pendulum then swings to the other side, we find people who cannot abide this view of Lent, and so they end up dispensing with it all together. My question is, if the Gospel is about good news, why do some Christians look so unhappy? I remember seeing a movie many years ago that was set in a convent, and one of the young novices wanted to sleep on a bare bed frame because that was the way the monks in the middle ages did it, and she felt that this kind of suffering (self-denial?) would

bring her closer to God. The Mother Superior responded that she didn't think this would have brought them closer to God, and she was sure that when they got up in the morning, they were "as cranky as mules".

I would like to invite you to dispense with all this nonsense, but not to do as some have done, and dispense with the season of Lent itself. I have only ever given something up for Lent once (it was sugar, thank you for asking), but I didn't do it to help bring me closer to God. I was invited to do that by a member of the congregation I was serving at the time, who wanted someone to do this with her to provide moral support. That, plus the fact that I needed to cut down on sugar anyway.

I find great meaning in the season of Lent by using it as a time to reflect on how far we (all of us!) are from being the individuals, the societies, and the world that God would like us to be. I find great comfort in knowing that it is not up to me, or to any of us, to save humanity or ourselves all on our own. I find even greater comfort in knowing that God can and will do what none of us could do on our own, and that is to move us ever closer to becoming the creatures that God intended us to be. Lent reminds me of God's patience and God's love, and the fact that, even though we frequently break God's heart, there is nothing in all the world that could ever stand between us and God's great love for all of humanity. So, if giving up something you love brings you closer to God and the truths about God's love, then do so with my blessing. Or spend this Lenten time by doing whatever it is that reminds you of this good news that even the cross of Calvary could not destroy. God's richest blessings to you all as move together through this sacred season of Lent.

Rev. Scott A. Patton.

World Day of Prayer - March 1st at 11am

**St. Stephen's Anglican Church,
25 - 12th Avenue, Lachine,** is hosting
this year's World Day of Prayer
on Friday, March 1st at 11am. A light



lunch will be served.

Status of Roof



Fund as of December 31, 2012

Through the generosity of friends, members of the congregation, grants from the Quebec Government and Montreal Presbytery including many fundraising activities, Summerlea has been able in just 3-1/4 years to reduce the outstanding balance on its roof fund from its original cost of \$186,200 down to \$39,400. With your continuing support we anticipate reducing the balance down to zero by the end of 2014. Our goal in 2012 was to reduce the balance by \$20,000, we actually achieved a reduction of \$23,784. *Many thanks for your generosity from the Finance Committee.*

Prayer

Say a little prayer each morning
just before you start your day.
You will find with each new dawning
that your cares will fly away.
Say a little prayer each evening
when the toil of the day is through.
Count your many blessings,
that fate has been kind to you.
Say a prayer for someone,
maybe they will be saying one for you.
You will find the joy of living
if you think of giving too.
When you say a prayer for everyone
you could say, a little one, for you.

Submitted by Nancy Butt

Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper and Seder meal March 28th, 6 p.m.

At the potluck, we will share in the traditional Seder, using symbolic foods and asking the same questions that are used in Jewish family observances. This reminds us of the Last Supper, and of the traditional Jewish meal that Jesus and his disciples shared before he was put to death. *Watch for a sign-up sheet during coffee hour in March for the potluck, and more information in the bulletin.*

Good Friday Walk & Worship – March 29th

We will gather at Summerlea United on Friday at 9am before we begin our walk with the cross to

Resurrection of our Lord for the service at 10:00. If you are not able to walk, or would prefer to drive, please meet us outside Resurrection at 9:45. After the service, there will be hot cross buns and water in the church hall for everyone.

Easter Services March 31st

Sunrise Service at 7:00 am

Gather at Church for procession to Summerlea Park at the bottom of 55th. Then return to church for a breakfast of Hot Cross Buns, coffee and juice.



Easter Service with communion will take place at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

The Celebration of Passover

The Christian celebration of Easter embodies a number of converging traditions. Easter is related to the Jewish festival of Passover, or Pesach, from which is derived Pasch, another name used by Europeans for Easter.

Passover is an important feast in the Jewish calendar which is celebrated for eight days and commemorates the flight and freedom of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

A time of family gatherings and lavish meals called Seders, the story of Passover is retold through the reading of the Haggadah, the Book of Exodus. With its special foods, songs, and customs, the Seder is the focal point of the Passover celebration. Passover begins on the 15th night of the Jewish month of Nissan. This year the first night of Passover is Wednesday, April 7th.



Outreach News February/March 2013

Those of you who read your 2012 Annual Report will have noticed that during 2012 the Outreach Committee, on behalf of all members at Summerlea, disbursed \$6795 to various projects beyond the



immediate Summerlea community. Thanks to all of you who helped in many ways to raise all that money.

Current and future projects include:

Mid February until late March: collection of "lenten loonies" to help reduce child mortality in Haiti by improving midwifery education

March 17th Outreach Sunday with a guest speaker.

April 13th Annual Artisan Fair, Lunch and Book sale

May 12th Mums for Mums will again be available with profits going to the Stephen Lewis Foundation

May 25th * New this Year* Perennial Plant Sale. As you tidy up your gardens in the Spring, please take any cuttings and plant them in flower pots, label them and indicate whether they are shade or sun loving.

Miles for Pennies

Pennies for St Columba house. Lets clear out all those pennies, complete our 24th mile, and start on our 1st mile of nickels.



Anniversary Dinner and Variety Show



The congregation celebrated Summerlea's 61st anniversary with a grand home-cooked dinner on Saturday, February 9th. Approximately 65 attendees enjoyed soup, pork goulash, and apple 'n date cake. After the meal, there was a classical music concert with Duo Giocoso. Elias-Axel Pettersson and Roland Arnassalon played selections from Mozart, Szymanowski and Brahms on the piano and violin. A magical evening!

Thanks to all who gave of their time to make the evening possible including those who planned, cooked, served, and cleaned up. Your efforts were so appreciated.
Susan Hawke

Artisan Fair and Book Sale
Saturday, April 13th, 2013

The Outreach Committee together with the Girl Guides of Lachine will be holding another Artisan Fair and Book Sale on April 13th, 10 am – 3 pm. There will be tables filled with beautiful crafts, jewellery and tasty baking supplied by Summerlea's excellent bakers. Perhaps you can find the perfect gift for Mother's Day.



Lunch will be served from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Tickets (\$8 at door, \$7 in advance) include soup, Quiche, salad and dessert. We will again be asking for baking donations near the date. Call Linda Rodrigues 514-637-4916, or Sue McKenzie 514-637-7605 after 6pm for more information.



Flower Calendar

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary one particular Sunday, in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, please contact Shirley Ellison at 514-634-2962.

Lenten Loonies

We are once again collecting Loonies during the Sunday services of Lent. We ask people to give up 1 cup of coffee, 1 soft drink, 1 bag of chips or 1 chocolate bar each week and to place the Loonie in the bucket. It's simple!



RECIPE CORNER

With St David's Day on the horizon, I thought of this hearty Welsh soup:



Chicken Cock-a-Leekie Soup

1 Stewing chicken, cut up in pieces
16 cups of water
1 large onion, roughly chopped
2 tsp. Salt
1 bay leaf
12 sliced leeks - white part only

Oil

2 tbsp pearl barley

In a large pot, cover the chicken with water, add salt, pepper if desired, bay leaf and onion. Simmer for 2 1/2 hours. Remove the chicken, skim off fat and strain the soup.

In another pot, sauté the leeks until soft. Add the strained liquid and the barley. While the soup simmers for 30 minutes, take the meat off the chicken bones and chop roughly. Add to the soup just before serving.

And in celebration of St Patrick, here is an Irish bread you can serve with your soup:

Irish Soda Bread

4 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon salt

1 -1 1/2 cups buttermilk

Heat oven to 425 degrees F. Brush a baking sheet with melted butter or spray with non-stick spray. Combine dry ingredients in a deep bowl. Gradually stir in 1 cup buttermilk, beating constantly, until dough is firm enough to be gathered into a ball. If dough crumbles, add up to 1/2 cup more buttermilk, 1 tbsp at a time, until it holds together. Place on a lightly floured board and pat into an 8-inch flattened round loaf. Place loaf on baking sheet and slash a 1/2-inch deep "X" into the top of the dough with a small, sharp knife. Bake at 425 degrees F for about 45 minutes, or until the top is golden. Serve hot



Music Notes Spring 2013

Thanks to all who helped me organize (and feed!) the two musicians, **Elias-Axel Pettersson**, pianist, and **Roland Arnassalon**, violinist, who gave us a wonderful concert of chamber music for our

Anniversary Dinner in early February. They enjoyed performing for us and mentioned that Summerlea is always such a warm, appreciative audience.

By the time you read this report, we will be in the throes of rehearsing for our new **musical** this year, called **Malice in the Palace**. This is the story of Esther. Performances will be on Sunday, April 28th at 10:30am and Saturday, May 4th at 7:00pm. Please mark your calendars and come out to watch the show!

The **Lakeshore Saxophone Quartet**, which Leslie and Keith Field are part of, are again giving a fund-raising concert to help in paying down our roof! Many thanks to them for generously giving of their time and talents, along with the Chalumeau Trio (clarinets) and Leslie's saxophone student ensemble. This will take place on Saturday, April 20th, time to be announced.

Lastly, **Octet Plus**, a chamber choir which I am now directing and in which many of our choir members sing, is giving a concert here at Summerlea on Wednesday, May 15th at 7:30pm, in aid of charity. This is the **twenty-fifth** anniversary of the founding of Octet Plus, and we hope you will join us to celebrate this milestone!

Thank you to all the above performers for enhancing our musical season.

Connie Osborne, Music Director



The Book Nook

By Susan Hawke



Angela's Ashes: A Memoir/ by Frank McCourt

I found this treasure while rummaging around through the used books at the Christmas Bazaar. What a find! It was a book I had longed wanted to read but never seemed to get around to it. As I age, I find my reading tastes broadening and in recent years

have moved more and more into the realm of biographies.

This remarkable book recounts the childhood of Frank McCourt primarily in Limerick, Ireland. He grew up with an adored, alcoholic father who not only drank away his weekly wage packet but was too proud to ask for public assistance. His mother worn down by poverty, childbirth and despair often sat gazing into the fire – hence the title of the book.

Frank endures a childhood of loss, near-starvation and poverty. He writes a remarkable memoir that is both tragic yet uplifting. Readers will find it a powerful book. At times you will laugh and other times weep. I find it amazing that one could survive such conditions yet alone tell a tale with such eloquence and forgiveness.

This resilience and forgiving attitude of children is echoed in another book I read this year called **The Glass Castle**. It recounts the childhood of **Jeannette Walls** in the grinding poverty of the mining towns of Appalachia. A great read that changed many of my stereotypical attitudes towards poverty and the poor. Those who enjoyed McCourt's memoirs would like Wall's biography as well.

Angela's Ashes won not only the Pulitzer Prize in 1999 but also a National Book Critics Circle Award and the L.A. Times Book Award . *Susan Hawke*

Lenten Loonies for Haiti

The World Health Organisation estimates that women in Haiti have a 1 in 17 chance of dying in childbirth. Most women give birth without the help of a skilled birth attendant. During the earthquake the school of midwifery was severely damaged, and most of the students were either killed or fled the country. Three years later the Canadian government is threatening to reduce its support for Haiti, but the Canadian and Quebec midwives have now established a firm link with Haiti and are involved in the rebuilding of the Midwifery Education Program. Sinclair Harris has been privileged to be able to visit as part of a Canadian team of doctors, nurses and midwives, and to see for herself what marvelous work the small remaining group of midwives are doing with very few resources. Your "Lenten Loonies" will be used for direct support to midwifery education in Haiti. Thank you to the Youth group for passing the buckets.

Travel



Most of us like to travel and explore new places. However, the cost of travel to interesting destinations has become prohibitive for many of us.

We would like to start a regular travel column so we would like to hear from any of you if you have any tips to share on how to get the best value for travel of all kinds...Here is our first travel tip:

Repositioning cruises

In the summer of 2006, I took a nine-day cruise on the Crown Princess from New York to several Caribbean ports of call. The base cost of this cruise was \$1300 plus the cost of getting to and from New York (I drove) parking my car in the Princess lot in Brooklyn and staying in hotels in New Jersey the night prior to departure and the night I arrived back. The latter added another \$600 or so to the cost of my trip. So the actual cost of the trip was \$1900 or \$211 per shipboard night.

For this price, I had a balcony room, and unlimited access to great food and 5 ports of call. It was an enjoyable trip but frankly, if you have seen 1 Caribbean island you have virtually seen them all!

In the fall of 2010, I took another cruise on the same ship from Venice to Fort Lauderdale. For \$2200, I got air travel from Montreal to Venice, transfer by shuttle bus from the Airport to the ship, sixteen nights on board with a balcony room, unlimited access to great food, six European ports of call, transfer to the airport upon arrival in Fort Lauderdale and a flight back to Montreal. The shipboard night cost was \$137 per night. I also got to visit Venice, Naples, Rome, Cannes, Barcelona and the Azores.

Why the discrepancy in price? My second cruise was a repositioning cruise. I discovered that the major cruise lines move or reposition their boats twice a year, usually in the spring and fall. Because many people are tied down by the academic year or by jobs that prohibit travel outside of the traditional summertime, the cruise lines give very attractive discounts for these cruises. In the springtime, repositioning cruises leave Florida for Europe where the boats will be based for the summer. While most are destined for the Mediterranean, there are

repositioning cruises that move boats to the Baltic as well. In the fall, the boats are moved back to Florida.

There are also repositioning cruises from the Caribbean towards Seattle and Vancouver in the spring for those boats doing the Alaska runs and in reverse in the fall. Not only is the price discounted but you get to cross the Atlantic as an added bonus or to pass through the Panama Canal.

If you like to cruise and are available to travel in the spring or the fall, I would strongly recommend getting a deal on a repositioning cruise!

Jane Cowell-Poitras

St. Patrick: The Myth and the Man

For some, St. Patrick's Day (March 17) is a reason to wear green, go to a parade, and drink more Irish whiskey than usual. But just who was this St. Patrick fellow?



The most common belief is that he drove the snakes out of Ireland. Ireland probably never had snakes, though, and the myth may refer to Patrick's efforts to stamp out the serpent imagery used by the Druids.

Patrick also may have used the three-leafed shamrock to illustrate the concept of the Holy Trinity to the people he was trying to convert to Christianity as a missionary in Ireland during the 5th century.

Historians agree that Patrick was born in Roman-occupied Britain, the son of a Christian deacon. At age 16 he was captured and taken to Ireland, where he was a slave for six years.

During this time, his Christian faith strengthened, and one day he heard a voice (according to a letter he wrote about his early life) promising he would soon return home. Shortly afterward he escaped, found his way to a ship, and went back to his family.

An angel appeared to him in a dream, he later wrote, telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary.

After a long period of religious training, Patrick went back to the land where he had been a slave to convert the Irish and to minister to Christians living there.

March 17 is believed to be the date of his death. Although never formally canonized, Patrick came to

be considered a saint, and March 17 was celebrated as a religious holiday until 1903, when it became a public holiday in Ireland by an act of the British Parliament.

Bonnets & Bunnies--The Origins of Easter

During the 4th century, consuming eggs during Lent became taboo. However, spring is the peak egg-laying time for hens, so people began to cook eggs in their shells to preserve them. Eventually people began decorating and hiding them for children to find during Easter, which gave birth to the Easter egg hunt. Other egg-related games also evolved, such as egg tossing and egg rolling.



The Easter Bunny is a cute little rabbit that hides eggs for us to find on Easter.

In the rites of spring, the rabbit symbolized fertility. In 1682, a German tale was told of a bunny laying eggs and hiding them in the garden.

The Easter bonnet and new clothes on Easter symbolize the end of the dreary winter and the beginning of the fresh, new spring. At the turn of the century, it was popular for families to stroll to church and home again to show off their "Sunday best."

The Easter basket has its roots in a Catholic custom. Baskets filled with breads, cheeses, hams, and other foods for Easter dinner were taken to mass Easter morning to be blessed. This evolved into baskets filled with chocolate eggs, jellybeans, toys, and stuffed bunnies for children left behind by the Easter Bunny.

--Excerpted from "Bonnets and Bunnies-The Origin of Easter" by Holly Ruggiero at www.Web-Holidays.com, used with permission.

Want to Shine with Others? Try These Tips!

If you want to treat others with a classiness that is rare in the world, follow these tips from Alan Weiss in the newsletter *Balancing Act*:

Listen to others without judgment. Often people aren't really looking for an opinion; they just want to be heard. Look at it as a rare opportunity to give someone what he or she really wants in life.

If someone is boring you with a long rendition about a trip or some other dull subject, show patience and ask how he or she enjoyed the weather or the food. Be kind and considerate. The individual is trying to share something with you, even if he or she isn't doing a very good job of it. Try to keep in mind that you've probably done your share of the same thing at some point in your life. Treat the other person as you wish you had been treated at the time.

If you are angry about the service you are receiving (or not receiving) while with others, don't ruin everyone's experience by making a scene. If you must say something, say it in private. Remember that others in your group may not care about the same things or to the same degree that you do.

Try not to take things personally. Not everything in the world is about your self-worth.

Paying an unexpected compliment is worlds better than giving an expected gift. Give it a try and you'll understand.

When you want the other person to believe that it's really his or her choice and opinion that matter, don't rush to give your opinion or make your choice first.

If you make a commitment, follow through. An unfulfilled commitment is far worse than no commitment at all. Don't opt for immediate perceived relief that will only turn to disappointment later.

If you need someone's help, offer him or her something that serves his or her interest in return. Don't create an obligation or establish guilt when you do this. Give what you offer free and clear.

News and Notes

On December 18th, we welcomed *Rebecca Boussemart-Kuhar* into the Christian family through the sacrament of baptism.

In January, *Iris Percy* and *Nancy Harvey* celebrated their 95th birthday. Congratulations ladies!

In February, some Summerlea families lost a loved one. Our sympathy is extended to Suzanne and Wayne Armstrong upon the death of Suzanne's mother, *Annie Ingram*; to Linda, Roy, Robert, Caroline and Elizabeth Rodd upon the recent death of Linda's mother; and to Robert Jeffreys upon the death of his wife *Irene Jeffreys*. Irene and Robert had relocated to Ottawa after many years in Lachine. Please continue to keep in your prayers Mary & Lewis Guynan, Sarah McCall, and Bernard & Rev. Jeff, as well as those in our Prayer Circle in the Sunday bulletins.

If you would like more information on Summerlea's monthly activities, or would like to view Sunday's service along with current news, please visit us at www.summerlea.ca. You might even recognize some of the smiles of many Summerlea folks posted on the website.

Until the next time.

Susan Ippersiel

