

Local Woman Honoured for her Long-time Seniors' Health Advocacy



Georgetown's Eunice McGowan was recently honoured by the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) for her role as one of the founding members of this organization. The OCSA, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2012, is recognized as the voice of home and community support. In the late 1980s, McGowan headed a provincial organization that provided support to over 400 agencies helping seniors and those with disabilities. Recognizing that overlapping

services were being offered by multiple agencies, she teamed up with two other provincial organizations to streamline those services.

Armed with less than \$2,000 in grant money from the provincial government and the assurance that "it couldn't be done", the desire by McGowan and others to create a better system won out and the OCSA was born. Today it represents hundreds of community support agencies with over 25,000 staff and 100,000 volunteers across Ontario. Coming from a background as both a psychiatric nurse and a social worker, McGowan was always motivated by a desire to help others but her passion for helping to improve the lives of seniors came from what she faced on a day-to-day basis in her work. She witnessed the separation of many patients from their spouses, families and communities when they were moved into long-term care facilities outside their own community. This fuelled her passion to develop better services and options for seniors in Halton Hills, currently recognized as an underserved area in Halton Region.

For the past 20 years McGowan has concentrated her efforts on helping to facilitate change at the local level. Working with the Bennett Health Care Centre where she is a board member, and with the local grassroots organization CARE (Care, Advocacy, Research for Elders,) she has presented her vision to all levels of government. Her goal is to help develop the Bennett Village - a totally integrated continuum of care which will offer independent seniors living, supportive housing, (also known as assisted living), long-term care, adult day programs, and health clinics. It would also serve as a hub for the Supports for Daily Living program, (SDL), which the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network currently funds in other parts of Halton.

SDL is available to seniors whether they are in individual houses, apartments, or supportive housing. It enables seniors to live independently for longer, which research has shown enhances their quality of life. SDL and supportive housing lower health care costs by reducing admissions to hospital and long term care.

McGowan says that locating all of these options in close proximity under one administration has been proven to save money and provide improved quality of care. It makes flexible, seamless transitions possible between different levels of care, including movement out of long term care back home after successful rehabilitation, restoration or respite. The Bennett Village Project would fill existing gaps in services in Halton Hills as well as being a model for other communities.

As a country, we are poorly prepared to deal with our aging population. In less than 20 years seniors will form more than 25% of our population. McGowan wants to ensure that here in Halton Hills, we are ready to provide the services needed for this expanding population.

~ reprinted with permission from the Georgetown Independent & Free Press

Weddings



Paula Taylor and Jamie Mitchell were married on June 8, 2013



Amy Wood and John Burt were married on July 19, 2013

Graduation



Scott Baker Allison "Called to The Bar" on June 21, 2013

Birthday



Celebrating Reed's 3rd birthday on July 1st with Gramma K

The Price is Right



This past April I was given a gift of a flight to Los Angeles to visit my daughter Mary Lynn (on the right). This was to celebrate a special birthday with my two daughters. Brenda is on the left. They knew I was a faithful watcher of "The Price is Right", and Brenda had secured tickets for us to see the show.

When we arrived in Hollywood about five hundred people were lined up to see the show. Three hundred were allowed to go in, but when we got to the gate you had to show identification with a picture. Sorry to say I had left all that at home on the dresser, but luck had it that I could show a signature which I had and we were let in, only I had a big X through my name indicating I was not eligible for a prize.

What a happy place to be...everyone was laughing, cheering and smiling. It sure made me feel good. We came away with a smile on our faces. I had a wonderful time that week.

California was beautiful with the bougainvillea in full bloom. One other trip was to visit a small town where one of John Wayne's movies were filmed. It was called "Old Town" and was very interesting to visit. Sitting in the old saloon which still runs, with food and entertainment. Great trip!!

~ submitted by Jo Morrow

Growing One Amazing Life

We are excited to invite our youth ages 12-16 (Grade 7-10) to our GOAL program beginning this Fall! We are creating a safe space for our youth to connect, and talk about what it means to be accepted and welcomed for who we are.

We will be exploring our own questions and thoughts about life, and wonder with others about what you believe, even if you aren't sure what you believe yet! We will be sharing in hands-on experiences, learning together some practices from ours and wider faith traditions, that connect us to compassion, and to God in our daily lives. And we will also be learning about other faith traditions, and doing 'field trips' to Sunday services at other churches.

Our kick off Sunday is October 6 after church, continuing to meet every other week until Confirmation on Easter Sunday, April 20th. The sessions will alternate between Field trips to other church experiences, and discussion/activity sessions held after the church.

We will be encouraging those who are interested in participating to indicate their commitment and availability for all 8 sessions, with the expectation that they will not miss more than 2 sessions. This provides a stronger foundation for our planning and helps us to foster community.

We are thankful to Sue Taylor for offering her time to help coordinate the program, and to Monique Pelchat who will facilitate communication with participants and parents.

- October 6 Meet and Greet
- October 20 Field trip 1
- November 10 Session 1
- November 24 Field trip 2
- January 12 Session 2
- January 26 Field trip 3
- February 9 Session 3
- February 23 Field trip 4
- March 30 Session 4
- April 6 Session 5

~ submitted by Kelly Thomson





The Vine Online

St. John's United Church Newsletter

September 2013

How I Spent my Summer Vacation

When Jonathan was one, we adopted him from Romania. Our friends, Heather and Dave Bedgood (also members of St. John's) adopted a little girl, Cristina, at the same time and she was two. The six of us went back to Romania in July to show the kids (now 18 and 19) where they came from.

Jon is from a large city and we did not have the names of his birth parents to try and contact them, but Jonathan was able to visit the hospital where he was born and re-visit the orphanage that we got him from. He also got to enter the soccer park and stand on the city's soccer pitch, which was fun for him. He enjoyed getting lots of Romanian soccer team shirts and shorts, etc. Now that Jon is 18, he can apply for information about his parents. We filled out the forms when we were in his city, Arad. If they are still in the area, are able to be contacted and are willing to meet us, we will get in touch with them in future. The process has been started.

On the other hand, Cristina Bedgood was from a small village and we had details on her grandmother and uncle and photos of them from 17 years ago. We were able to locate her family (it was a miracle!) and she met her birth mother, her half-sister, three of her uncles and some cousins. It was an emotional reunion for everyone! The whole village came out to greet her and we spent 3 hours at the town hall rejoicing. Thankfully, we had our driver as an interpreter. Everyone was crying.

It turns out that her birth mother was only 18 and was single when Cristina was born. She did not have the means to support her, so she gave her up for adoption. She knew that Cristina had gone to Canada, and had tried to search for her, but did not know her last name. The Adoption agencies will not give out information, of course, unless both sides are looking. Her birth mother told Cristina that she had thought of her every single day for 19 years. In the middle of all this, two of the teenage girls (who spoke little or no English), said to Cristina "Facebook?" to which she nodded. They have all been in touch and the internet can do translation for them.

All in all, we felt like we were in the middle of a movie....six Canadians, an interpreter, the town hall official and about 30 Romanians...all ages, some of whom were old gypsy ladies who were toothless....everyone was crying for joy and hugging each other. Now THAT's a great summer vacation!

~ submitted by Lois Fraser

God Said No

I asked God to take away my pride,
And God said, "No."
He said it was not for Him to take away,
But for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped
child whole,
And God said, "No."
He said her spirit is whole.
Her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience,
And God said, "No."
He said patience is a by-product of
tribulation.
It isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness,
And God said, "No."
He said He gives blessings,
Happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain,
And God said, "No."
He said, "Suffering draws you apart from
Worldly cares and brings you closer to
Me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow,
And God said, "No."
He said I must grow on my own,
But he will prune me to make it fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me,
And God said, "Yes."
He gave me His only son, who died for
me.
And I will be in Heaven someday
Because... I believe.

I asked God to help me love others
As much as He loves me,
And God said,
"Ah finally, you have the idea."

~ submitted by Janice Campbell

Message from our Minister



CLEAN SLATE COFFEE HOUSE

An evening of music and art celebrating life's second chances

Friday, September 13, 7-10pm, St. John's United Church, Glen Williams

The Clean Slate Coffeeshouse is an evening celebrating experiences of forgiveness and compassion through music and the arts. We will be gathering in the cozy, intimate setting of the Glen church, taking in the heartwarming music of local musicians Jim Broughton, Bob Gee, Peter Perko, Shari Tangalia, and Wendi Hunter, Stephen Lippa, and new friends Kimberly O' Connor who will be sharing their voices, and their lives with us. Local artists from the Williams Mill will be displaying their inspiring work, opening up new ways of seeing forgiveness. And the java and desserts will be flowing!

Forgiveness and compassion have become lofty and loaded words for many of us. This night will get us in touch with everyday moments of grace in the nitty gritty heart of our lives. When our five or fifteen year old pushes our buttons in a way that brings us to our knees. When we see someone we know in the supermarket aisle and entertain the instinct to duck in the other direction. When a marathon golf game has us listening to the little voices in our head. These are the moments when we come face to face with everyday forgiveness and it suddenly falls upon us like a blanket over our shoulders.

The hope is that this evening will have us forming community around the potential we all have for being a source of acceptance and transformation, and we will create waves of love rippling into the world through our relationships. What inspires me most about this project is the St. John's community and the courage you have to seek out forgiveness with integrity and authenticity every day.

Please contact Kelly for tickets...all proceeds will go towards Free the Children (Me to We). And bring along friends and family who have made a difference in your life. Also, check out our Clean Slate Coffeeshouse Facebook page where we will be gearing up for the event by sharing everyday moments of grace.

~ submitted by Kelly Thomson

Stewardship

November has traditionally been Stewardship month for our St. John's family. Please give some thought as to how you can contribute to the life of St. John's. Keep an eye on the fall bulletins to find out more about the financial workings of our church.

~ submitted by Jackie MacFarlane



The Vine Online

St. John's United Church Newsletter

September 2013

Inukshuk

I am on a clear path, yet there is so much fog. I am praying more deeply than ever and sometimes I am overwhelmed with a feeling of God at my side, God on my side, and God inside. ~ and sometimes the little voice in my head says "don't believe, and God isn't there at all." I don't like that little voice. There are people in my corner reminding me, showing me, and trusting in me. Thank you.

When the little voice gets pushed aside, God is right there waiting for me, gifting me with a "God moment". Recently I was on a family holiday in Alaska and I was called to step into a local shop where I hoped to find an Inukshuk. I don't know why I have been drawn to them...perhaps it is their stance, or the strength of each piece supporting the next one; I am not sure. So, in a store filled with totems, I couldn't find the Inukshuks at first, but then my daughter called me across the store and she had found some, all different sizes. As I stepped closer to the display case, there was a song playing on the CD player just underneath where I stood. This is the song...

"How Great is Our God" by Chris Tomlin

The splendor of a King,
clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice

He wraps himself in Light,
and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
Trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names
Worthy of our praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

~ deep sigh ~ how great is our God.... This song was a sign from God, and the Inukshuk took my breath away. After having a rough couple of months, I was enveloped in Light and filled with hope once again. I felt my Dad's presence and I began to weep. The tears spilled out of me. I had no words. It was heaven-sent.

You may call them coincidences, but I call them "God moments". We are called to a place or a space or to someone or to somewhere...and when we pause, what we need is right there in front of us. That moment, in that store, on that street, on that shelf, called me closer and closer and God's love came pouring from my soul and enveloped me. And what still gets me to this day? My Inukshuk needs me as much as I need it...it's just that I didn't know it yet.

I decided to look up the traditional meaning of the Inukshuk, and here is what I found: "you are on the right path."

~ another deep sigh ~

©kekrul 2013 ~ reprinted with permission from the St. John's website

~ submitted by Katharine Krul

Message from the Co-Chairs

We are hoping that everyone has had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer. Although you may think of summer as a quiet time at St. John's – that really isn't the case. Let us give you a short tour of events at our church over the summer months.

First of all there was a little confusion regarding which church we were worshipping in this summer. The plan was to move down to the little church in the Glen, as usual, until we heard that the whole street in front would be torn up for most of the summer. A plethora of emails later, it was decided to move our services back to the big church for this summer to make sure everyone would have access. Then they tore up the streets around the Georgetown Church! For some reason it seemed the town works department had St. John's on its radar this summer!

Early in the summer a number of St. John's folk joined with members of the Christian Reform Church to plant our community garden on Earl Burt's farm. We have tomatoes, cabbage, swiss chard, onions, (the radish failed), beans, peas, peppers, cabbage and on and on... The harvest has been gathered on Monday evening and taken to our church kitchen for dispersal the next day at Food for Life – and on Friday evening the crop was picked to take to the Food Basket on Saturday. Many people have had access to freshly picked, wholesome vegetables because of this summer project. Our thanks go to all who planted, weeded, watered or harvested.

July 7 and 8 saw the ladies of St. John's enjoying a leisurely gathering at Don and Kathy Burt's cottage on the shores of Georgian Bay. There was swimming, walking, eating, cherry pit spitting and lots and lots of talking. It's a wonderful way to get to know people a little better and we want to thank Kathy for being so generous each year in making the cottage available so this event can continue.



Male Bonding (ie golf) took place on July 13. We don't have much to report on that event because, apparently, what happens at Male Bonding, stays at Male Bonding! (but I'm pretty sure they all had a lot of fun)

Our Men with Hammers – the Property Committee – have overseen the renewal of two roofs on the Georgetown church. One was over the Music Room upstairs and the other was over the kitchen and Celebration Hall. Unfortunately, they were both flat roofs that had come to an untimely end and had to be dealt with. The repair cost of approximately \$20,000 came out of our Capital Fund.

We also drew on the Capital Fund to affect repairs to the boiler – to the tune of \$7,000 - and to paint the Georgetown Sanctuary for another \$7,000. We were very lucky to have Bill Hoekstra do the painting for us. He did a wonderful job at a very fair price.

For the last two years, Barry Butwell has been researching the requirements for an elevator to be installed at the Glen Church. This summer he has been negotiating with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and we are ready for the next stage. It looks like the cost will be around \$30,000 so we will be looking into various methods of funding this project. The Glen Church sanctuary will finally be easily accessible.

A subsidiary group of the 175th Anniversary Committee has held a couple of meetings this summer to look at the finances for the two projects that our congregation has taken on. We are very close to completing the Me to We Haiti Project (see information about that in another location in The Vine). Once that is complete we will be able to focus solely on the Chancel Renovation with the hope that it could be completed next summer in time for the Georgetown 175th Anniversary Celebration in November.

A group has also been organized this summer to assist in looking after Pastoral Care by working with our ministers and providing them with support.

And on top of all of this busyness, we have had wonderful worship services with both Kelly and Susan at the pulpit and music provided by Dee. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to sing a couple of oldies before the service began and our ministers truly did try to keep the services short!

As you can see, even in the summer, St. John's is a happening spot. We hope you will join us as we gear up for fall and all of the regular groups, gatherings and services – and a few new ones - swing into action again.

Blessings, Janice and Shelley

Baby News - 2013

Grayson John born on April 21st. Parents: Topher and Kirsten Baker



~submitted by Joan & John Murphy

Nathaniel David Duval was born in Beijing on May 17th, weighing 9 pounds. Parents: Jay Duval and wife Sandra. Little brother to Dominic and Mikayla



~ submitted by Janet and Paul Duval

Taylor Ann born on June 3rd, weighing 7lb 6oz. Parents: Jenny and James Henderson



~submitted by Sue Taylor and Garry Kirkpatrick

Isaac Nelson McKenzie born on July 17th. Parents: Kendra and husband Steve



~ submitted by Jim and Susan Garrod-Schuster

Nathan David born three weeks early on July 24th, weighing 10 pounds. Parents: Susan MacFarlane and Robin Kellow. Little brother to Sadie Kellow



~ submitted by David and Jackie MacFarlane

Hall of Fame



Halton Hills Sports Museum inducted five people into the Hall of Fame in a Gala Ceremony at the John Elliott Theatre (June 2013)...including Gloria Sinclair.

~ reprinted with the permission of the Independent & Free Press

Thoughts and Prayers

Ray and Dawn Hammond whose daughter, Terri, passed away on June 19th

Diane Murray-Charrett whose dad, Thom, passed away on June 24th and whose mom, Marilyn, passed away on July 9th

TV stars Ann and Ken Harris

Did you see "Maclean's Great Canadian Countdown" on TV this summer? One topic it covered was "where is the best place to live in Canada?" Ken Harris was interviewed for his opinion. Guess what town he picked! If you catch the show on repeat, watch for Ken and Ann talking to the reporter in pretty green parkland. "Ann stood by me wishing the earth would open up and swallow her," says Ken. "She hates being photographed." Both of them looked to us like they were born for the camera!

~ submitted by Janet Duval

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds

On Sunday, December 16, on the morning of the cantata, I was blessed to be joined by my mother, my sister, my sister's partner, and my step-niece. My own sons, Nathan and Spencer, were to be singing in the choir with their dad, Stephen, and were going to be under many watchful eyes. They had been coached on the good behaviour that the service required.

Mikaelle, my step-niece, however, had not had the opportunity to be coached about appropriate behaviour in church. In fact, this was her first-ever visit to a church. I want to share with all of you why I am especially impressed with St John's today, and with Cathie Fuller in particular.

Mikaelle showed squirminess even in the minutes before the service started, and so I took her over to introduce her to Cathie. I explained to Mikaelle that Cathie would be a person with whom she could make a craft and have some fun.

Upon introducing Mikaelle to Cathie, I thought I had better set everyone up for success, so I told Cathie it was Mikaelle's first time at church... because she's Jewish. This, of course, was no problem. And when Cathie shared with Mikaelle that she could make a craft for her mommy and daddy, and I had to explain that Mikaelle has not a daddy but two mommies and a step-mom, that was not an issue, either. Without missing a beat, without it be anything at all, Cathie carried on in the remarkable manner she has with children, and I sent Mikaelle off in her loving care. Such is the trust I have in all of St. John's, that when Jessie, Mikaelle's mom, stopped me from sitting back in the pew and handed me Mikaelle's Epi-Puppy, I darted back to Mikaelle, slung it over her arm, dropped a kiss on her forehead, and let her carry on. I knew without a word that Cathie saw everything, understood everything, and that Mikaelle would be more than safe and happy. And she was.

She had a wonderful time. She loved it. She had been looking forward to this special event so much that when I went to wake her this morning (she and her mommies slept over), I found her already clothed in her sparkly red dress all the way to her sparkly red shoes.

St. John's, and especially Cathie, demonstrated in the most practical, applicable terms today, our motto of Open Doors, Open Hearts, and Open Minds. My sister and her lesbian Jewish girlfriend were touched and inspired by everything we did today and the welcome we gave them and their daughter. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. It is the true spirit of the season, and the spirit of our community all year long.

~ submitted by Janel Bascom

Ours was a summer of hosting Janet's UK family!! Cottage time was requested, with the Regatta giving the extended family a great opportunity to play together!! August saw Janet's cousin Nick, also enjoying time at the cottage, Centreville, a Blue Jays Game, the CNE and Abba-mania to boot!!



~ submitted by Janet Mathiasen

Message from our Minister

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

There is no doubt in my mind that St. John's people are cheerful givers in multitudes of ways, with the emphasis on cheerful!

It's just six months since I joined Kelly to be part of a leadership team in ministry with all of you at St. John's. I feel as though you have embraced both of us with so much care and compassion. Just as you have cheerfully given to Kelly and her family, you have opened your arms to Jim and me as well. We are proud and excited to be here.

I hope to offer the kind of leadership that inspires and renews. I have a passion for preaching and education, and feel excited by the promise of worship in a sanctuary that has welcomed hundreds of faithful souls for 175 years. This is the place that we gather as one body to be together in our joys as well as our sorrows. This is the place that we can pray, be supported by others, sing our hearts out and open our doors every week to the community of Georgetown and beyond. We welcome all who feel drawn by the Spirit to attend. This is the place that reflects our collective commitment to our faith in God. The sanctuary is the heartbeat of our church.

And so it came as a wonderful surprise to me that you had decided to renovate the chancel in honour of 175 years of worshipping together. How wonderful to bring new sparkle to the memory of those who went before us, with some rejuvenated surroundings in 2014. And finally what a tribute to God, as we bring to the sanctuary, the first and the best of all that we have been blessed with. It is here that we will gain the strength to live our best lives.

~ submitted by Susan Garrod-Schuster

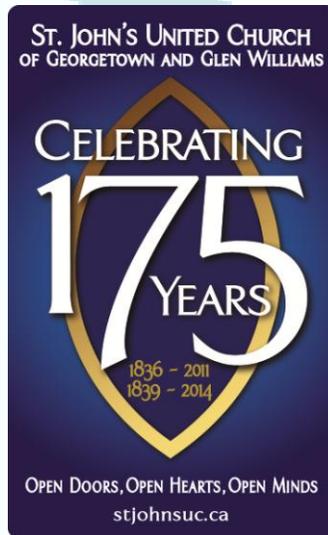




The Vine Online

St. John's United Church Newsletter

September 2013



Well done St. John's! We set a goal of raising enough money to "Adopt a Village" and through personal donations and lots of Fun(d)raising we are almost there! So close, in fact, to our \$25,000 objective that we are planning the party now. On Sunday November 24th (giving us a few months to raise the remaining \$2,000) we will celebrate our accomplishment with representatives from the "Me to We" Foundation. It will be a joyous and informative service. You can be a part of the final surge of donations and certainly be a participant in celebrating this 175th Anniversary Legacy. Special Anniversary envelopes are at the back of the sanctuary or you can add a line to your weekly envelope specifying your wishes. If donating online works best for you, please see the Canada Helps connection on our web site www.stjohnsuc.ca

Thank you to everyone for making this dream a reality!

~ submitted by Shelley Allison and Janice Campbell

11 Guelph Street, Georgetown, ON, L7G 3Z1

Tel: 905-877-2531

Email: office@stjohnsuc.ca

Web: www.stjohnsuc.ca