

### Moderator's Letter

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NRSV)

*Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,*

*I am writing today as Moderator to say thank you to the many thousands of volunteers who are part of our United Church family.*

*Volunteers are the heart, soul, and backbone of The United Church of Canada from coast to coast to coast. It's impossible to calculate the number of volunteer hours offered each day, week, month, and year in congregations and communities throughout Canada and around the world; the positive impact of that work is equally immeasurable. But when you stop to think about it, even within your own congregation, it is truly impressive.*

*In my travels as Moderator, I have met many hundreds of faithful volunteers, all of whom have offered countless hours in service to others. And United Church people don't limit their volunteering to church activities—you will find them involved in projects that benefit the whole community, assisting individuals in need, and contributing their time and talents in ways that help to make this a better world.*

*Whether it's working at a food bank, being a volunteer driver, organizing a fundraiser, or visiting a patient in hospital, there is always much to do. And you do it, faithfully, generously, and with a smile.*

*Thank you,  
The Right Rev. Gary Paterson, Moderator  
The United Church of Canada*

### Easter Bunnies





# The Vine Online

## St. John's United Church Newsletter

June 2014

### A Confirmation Story

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name”. At one time, the Lord’s Prayer was the start of every student’s morning. Now, for the most part, it is only heard in Churches and religious schools. When I began my Confirmation journey to become a member of the United Church this year, I learned many things about my faith that I had never understood before. I realized how much I appreciated having a safe space where I was free to talk about my beliefs. As I was discovering how important the Church is to me, it struck me; organized religion within the Christian faith is not a priority in today’s society. With this discovery, it saddens me to conclude that others have limited exposure to such an amazing environment. To understand the changing role of the Church, I interviewed the seniors of the Church today, Christian families of the present, and the Christians of tomorrow.

Two generations ago, participation in Church services was a weekly ritual that was widely recognized as a priority by society. My grandparents attended Church regularly, and Sunday was observed as the Sabbath. For my grandfather, “Part of my allowance had to be my Church offering” (Joyn). My grandfather, Terrance Clark, did not have strong religious influences as a child, but when he joined the Navy in 1956, the attendance of Church was compulsory. Over the years, however, as demands on people’s time increased, the priority placed on Church by society was lessened greatly. During an interview with my minister Craig Donnelly, he inadvertently attested to this by providing an example. My church, Eglinton St. George’s United Church was established after the amalgamation of two churches: Eglinton United Church and St. George’s United Church. In the 1950s,

the attendance at the predecessor churches was 2000 people and 1000 people respectively. Today, however, only 200 people attend a typical Sunday morning service at Eglinton St. George’s. This dip in attendance represents a 93% decline in the number of people who attend Sunday morning services over the past 63 years. These numbers show how Church was a major part of society two generations ago, but has swiftly lost its priority status in today’s world.

My minister, Heather Power, expressed the view that this trend picked up momentum at the start of the following generation when she pointed out that “...one of the major shifts was when our society permitted Sunday shopping (mid-1980s)” (Power). When I questioned my parents and other people of their generation and discussed their attendance at Church services, the answers were consistent. Almost every person I interviewed was expected to go to Church on Sundays when they were younger, however, when I asked about their Sundays today, few maintain this custom, even on major holidays. Although many have attempted to keep Sundays as a day of rest, it has often been turned into another day of the week to get things done. Throughout my discussions, a clear trend developed. Families that had two parents with strong religious backgrounds tended to continue to practise their faith, even if only on major holidays. If one parent did not have any religious background, however, it seemed that only the major religious holidays were recognized, and often in a commercialized way. One particular response ‘hit the nail on the head’. My uncle, Jim Clark, reflected that he found religion to be an important part of building community, despite the fact that he no longer attends Church. “...too many people

of my generation replace ‘not going to Church’ with just working more. And that doesn’t make sense either” (Clark). My uncle was expressing what has become a common view; the world is a busy place, and when there is a chance to get things done, people jump at it, even if this opportunity comes on a Sunday.

The shift in priorities can also be seen in the Christian youth of today. While some adolescents do attend Church, it is not the first thing on their list, and often they participate for different reasons. When I questioned my youth group leader, James Clark, who holds Friday night events, he observed that “The difference between Friday and Sunday events is roughly 4 [to one] in favour of Friday events” (Clark). This suggests that many youth are more interested in socializing and having fun than actually seeking God and practising their faith. At Queen’s University, “...Dean Susan Mumm conveyed her decision to suspended temporarily new admissions to the theology programs Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and Bachelor of Theology at Queen’s University as of January 1, 2014” (Dean of Arts & Science Suspends New Theology Enrollments). The reason behind this seems clear, as “In 2006, there were 25 students enrolled and in 2012 only 15. The most dramatic decrease in new students occurred this year with only one admission” (Communications Staff, 1). These statistics clearly display the decreased interest in theological study and the pursuit of God, and further demonstrate the loss in priority that Church holds in society today.

After drawing on the experiences of seniors, parents, youth, and considering trends in the pursuit of theological study, it is clear that organized religion

within the Christian Faith is no longer a priority in today's society. My neighbour Stacey Callahan compared Christianity to a chain, and I understand the metaphor. Every generation is a link in the chain, and they build off of one another. When parents take their children to Church, a new link is established, and they influence their children to carry on the tradition, thus constructing more links. If, however, children are not encouraged to construct a link, the chain will become weaker and weaker, and it is a challenge to re-establish something when it is no longer there.



For some families, Church is still important. I have many cherished memories of my Church, and it saddens me to think that others may not be exposed to the amazing experiences offered by a faith community. Church provides people with a fun, lively, and dynamic community; a network in which you can find solace in times of trouble. Organized religion in the Christian faith has lost its importance in today's society, and I worry that the chain has fallen apart, and something wonderful has been lost.

*~ submitted by Alyssa, a grade nine assignment on the topic of her confirmation (grand-daughter of Elvera and Terry Clark)*



### Ev's Kitchen

Evelyn McCallum started up Ev's Kitchen in September 2011. She began with 3-5 volunteers and one lady showed up on the first day. Today she is so proud of this outreach program to people in our community. Eight volunteers come each month and we are now serving over 35 people. Their bodies are being fed with home-cooked meals. Their minds are being filled with conversation. Their souls are being supported by the St. John's spirit in the air. Thank you Ev, and all the volunteers who set up chairs and tables, bake, cook, serve and clean-up. The last Friday of each month (excluding July and August) we are here with Open Doors, Open Hearts and Open Minds.

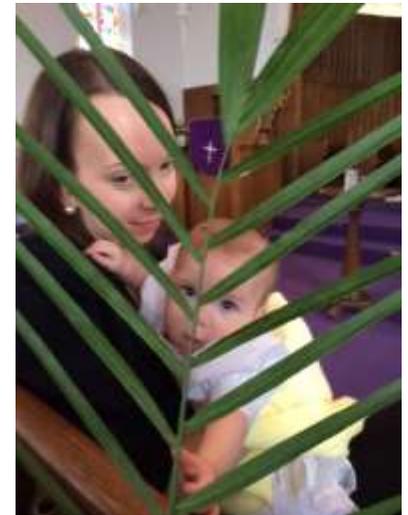
*~ submitted by Katharine Krul*



### Spring Baptisms



Dylan and Thea Poulstrup



Eva Varley



Adrien Kern

### Welcome Adelyne!

Kathy and Don Burt welcome their first grandchild, Adelyne Claire Burt, daughter of David Burt & Nadia Salaytah. She was born April 25th and weighed 8 lbs 11 oz.

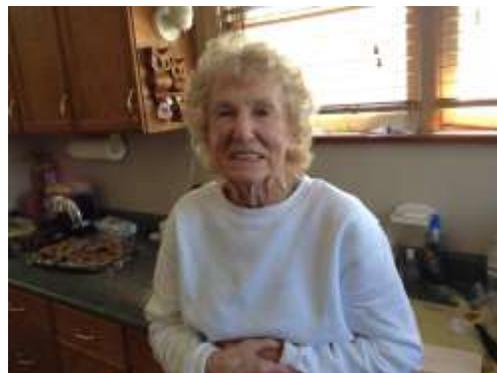


### The Vine Online – December 1987



Here it is – the winning entry submitted to our logo contest by joint designers Gail Collett, Sybil Ewing and Marion Hogan. Entries were to be designed around the theme this year “renewing our covenant”. The design reflects our growth as Christian individuals seeking God and as members of a Christian community, says Sybil. Notice the cross at the top of the tree, and the dove which carried the olive branch to Noah, signifying God’s covenant with us.

### Eleanor and Donald Hurren say “hello”



Eleanor and Donald are living just down the street from our church. Their children were baptized here and they now have seven grand-children. Although you may not see them at church, they continue to hold a soft spot for St. John’s.

### Tears

“There is a sacredness in tears. They are not a mark of weakness, but of power.

They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues.

They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition and of unspeakable love.” ~ Washington Irving

~ submitted by Janice Campbell

### Defying Stereotypes: HGTV Star finds her calling in carpentry



Even though she excelled academically and had been accepted to several universities, Kate Campbell struggled with which path to take after high school. That is, until her parents gave her a graduation gift: They told her they didn't care whether she went to university. They just wanted her to do whatever would make her happy.

Fast-forward by nearly a decade, and Ms. Campbell, a carpenter, one of the stars of the HGTV home improvement shows *Decked Out* and *Disaster Decks*, and a popular speaker at home shows and schools, appears to have found her calling. And she encourages other young women to do the same.

But getting from high school to her dream job was not without a few hurdles. First, she had to overcome the societal bias against pursuing the trades as a career choice.

"We've over time developed a stereotype about the trades that they are a consolation prize in terms of success," Ms. Campbell said. She is hopeful that that's changing. "I think the more that people express that they love the trades, and that it's lucrative and challenging, and that they're passionate about it, the more there will be a paradigm shift."

Then she had to find her way into a field overwhelmingly dominated by men. Statistics from Toronto's Centennial College show that only 3 per cent of the students in its traditional trades programs are women, and 97 per cent are men. Ms. Campbell got her start almost a decade ago by enrolling in the Ontario government-funded Women In Skilled Trades (WIST) program, a pre-apprenticeship training program that introduced her to carpentry, electrical work,

and plumbing, and educated her on building codes and safety. From there, she completed 400 hours of apprenticeship as a carpenter with the home improvement show *Holmes on Homes*.

Finally, she had to contend with the sometimes less-than-subtle bias against women in the trades. While Ms. Campbell said she has been lucky to have mostly supportive co-workers, occasionally, it bubbles to the surface. She recalls the time a roofer tapped her on the shoulder when she was using a jackhammer and told her: "You don't belong here. You're taking a man's job."

She was so taken aback she laughed, thinking he was joking. "That was the wrong reaction because he was not happy," Ms. Campbell said. But she also knew she had support.



# The Vine Online

## St. John's United Church Newsletter

June 2014

“Having a great network of guys that I work with behind me, I went to my supervisor and said ‘I don’t appreciate that happening.’ And my supervisor stuck up for me. He said to the man, ‘If you feel the need to make those comments, you don’t need to be on our site. Because we don’t think that way, and we don’t accept people who think that way.’”

That attitude is shared by Ms. Campbell’s current supervisor, Paul Lafrance of Decker Out. Although Ms. Campbell got her start on Holmes on Homes, it wasn’t until Decker Out that Ms. Campbell was given a voice.

“I walked on site the first day with Paul, and the sound guy came up and put a mike on me. I’d never been miked before, and they were looking at me like I was someone who something had to say. I felt like I was important and valued,” Ms. Campbell said.

While she acknowledges that working on a TV show is a somewhat protected environment, Ms. Campbell said she faces many challenges typical of being on a

regular construction site. Most relate to having confidence in your skills.

“If I was talking to [young women] looking to get into the trades, I would say don’t be afraid to make mistakes. I was really nervous on site because there’s pressure to be perfect. I felt it was magnified 100 per cent more than if a guy was making a mistake,” Ms. Campbell said.

Confidence also means getting in there. “Learn to take chances and pick up that power tool and not be afraid to jump in with the guys and ask questions,” Ms. Campbell said. “A lot of the time I didn’t want to give anyone a chance to scrutinize me, so I would almost take myself out of game by not jumping in.”

For Mr. Lafrance, who regards Ms. Campbell as a role model for his own four young daughters, encouraging a jump-in attitude became a priority.

“My challenge to her over the past four years is to kick her butt to not back down. If you sit back quietly, you end up not getting to do the

stuff that you want to do,” Mr. Lafrance said.

He said he still sees a double standard rooted in gender. “If you push hard and you’re a guy, it’s ambitious; but if you’re a girl, you’re trying to prove a point or have some ulterior motive. And I think that’s nonsense. That does not happen on my job site. I want Kate to be a face for promoting women in the trades. She’s highly skilled, highly creative, and we need more people out there like her to tell other women ‘Don’t sit back, get out there and do what you want to do. Don’t let the culture decide what you can and cannot do.’”

Ms. Campbell agrees. “I’m proud of where I’m at right now, because I don’t look like I’m the girl in the background, or like I’m there because of TV. I’m building, using the power tools, giving input on design ideas – it’s empowering. It’s leading by example.”

*reprinted from the Globe and Mail*

*April 23, 2014*

*~ submitted by Janice Campbell*

December 1987 Flashback...What do you like most about coming to church during Advent?

It is a preparation time for the birth of baby Jesus... *Phyllis Livingstone*

“The songs. And sitting beside Nancy in story time. She’s funny... *Brian Lipp*

The songs and the decorations – the reindeer, potluck dinners... *Christy Michalak*



### creating Inspiring Spaces Field Trips

Fourteen members of the St. John's congregation attended the April 30<sup>th</sup> field trip to Trinity St. Paul's United Church and Eglinton St. George's United Church in Toronto. The Trinity St. Paul's United Church project with its Tafelmusik objective made this beautiful new space feel more like a concert hall than a sanctuary. Their font, table and lectern were stored under the stage. The Eglinton St. George's space allowed us to see how modern flexible chairs could be tastefully done in a traditional sanctuary. They place their chairs in arched rows, but also arrange them "in the round" for special worship events throughout the church year. Their unique font, table and lectern were present on the platform, but can be moved to a central floor location when they worship "in the round". We enjoyed the insight and comments of the project leader about both the project and worship. Our group of "happy visitors" felt that ESG and St. John's shared a similar goal to build an inspiring flexible space for worship that could then also be shared with others for performance.

Nine members of the St. John's congregation attended the May 12<sup>th</sup> field trip to Three Willows United Church in Guelph. Three Willows is an example of a newer church sanctuary with flexible chair seating. Their large sanctuary is used for a variety of events. In discussion with our hosts, it would appear that the flexibility provided by moveable furniture is used more for other activities, than for different planned worship experiences. The room's large floor footprint meant that rows weren't placed close together, so the ability to use the chair in front as a handrail was lost. Currently the table and lectern were on the floor in front of the chancel and the font was stored.

Our goal for the St. John's sanctuary renovation project is to create an *inspiring space* that lives out the "open" and "welcoming" goals of our Mission Statement. We are striving for a design and décor approach that emphasizes the grandeur of the sanctuary's white curved ceiling architecture and the beauty of its stained glass windows. We are designing for flexibility in our worship experience. Our chancel furniture representing the worship elements of "water, table and word", the choir chairs and the instruments will be moveable. Our seating, whether on the chancel or on the floor, will be arranged and left in place to reflect that one is standing in a sanctuary. The quality of the furnishings will create a modern, clean, unified look inside a traditional space.

~ submitted by Drew Leverette

Ev met Frankie Flowers from *Breakfast Television*, April 26, 2014, at the Georgetown Marketplace during the grand opening of the new section of the shopping mall.

Frank Ferragine AKA "Frankie Flowers" is arguably Canada's most popular and trusted gardening authority and weatherman. He is known for a combination of practical advice with the spice of humour and a huge injection of passion for plants and everything gardening. Frankie's advice has twice earned him Landscape Ontario's Garden Communicator of the Year, he has been named Toronto's Favorite Weather Personality 3 years running (Toronto Sun Readers Award) and in 2010 his Disney inspired Tinker Bell Garden won 3 awards including public choice and best overall garden.

~ submitted by Ev McCallum



### Trousseau Tea



On May 10 St. John's held a *Trousseau Tea and Wedding Gowns Through the Decades* Fashion Show. It was well run and very well received but the story of that few hours started months before the show.

In February Shelley, Jackie, Janice and Wayne met to discuss finances and fundraising for the coming year. One of the ideas that seemed to be in both Jackie and Janice's head was that of a Wedding Dress Show. They soon agreed to include a tea with the show and the planning started.

The date decided upon was the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend and before too long, appeals to borrow wedding gowns and memorabilia began to circulate. Marilyn Willis was asked to

help out as emcee for the event and jumped into planning with both feet. A couple of weeks before the show, sign up lists appeared requesting help and goodies for the tea and a search was on for a few gowns from the 1990s decade.

As usual, the St. John's congregation came through with flying colours. By the weekend of the show, we had 42 gowns covering every decade from the 1930s (with one special 'even older' gown) to 2012. We had 12 women – some who were young and some who were young-at-heart - volunteer to model the gowns. There were plenty of ladies signed up to provide set-up and serving help, sandwiches and sweets.

The dress rehearsal on the Thursday evening before the show proved the old adage – bad dress rehearsal, good show. Without all of the models in attendance or all of the dressers, things were pretty chaotic and seemed to take forever.

Our escorts for the brides (Rob and Dom) were probably wondering what they had got themselves into. Despite all of this, Marilyn led a rehearsal that ironed out many of the bugs and laid out the structure for the real deal.

Friday morning saw Janice, Jackie and Marilyn assisting Gloria in decorating the sanctuary with pew bows, candelabra, flowers, tulle and crepe paper petals.

The morning of the show there was furious activity in the kitchen and in Celebration Hall – including Mike Boyd and Don Burt hanging wedding bells and crepe streamers from the (very high) ceiling in Celebration Hall. The tables and memorabilia were set up in Heritage

Hall and final dress fittings were happening in the Nook. At last all of the models were there to run through the finale together.

There were five dressers (Marcia, Dianne, Shelley, Jenny and Janice) downstairs to help the 12 models, Sue Taylor at the back door of the sanctuary to pace them and keep them in order and Bett Leverette taking photos of the whole event. Rob and Dom were standing by looking handsome in their tuxedos. Drew was ready with the PowerPoint of original wedding photos and appropriate music for each decade and Marilyn was at the podium with all of her information about the gowns, the weddings and the models. Downstairs each model

was wearing their first gown for the show and – it was time to go!

It's too bad for the dressers that they were too busy downstairs to see the show but it was also too bad for the folks upstairs that they couldn't see the controlled chaos downstairs. Wedding gowns were flying in every direction. When there was a tight turnaround for one of the models, someone might be helping pull a gown off over her head while another was pulling one on from the bottom – or vice versa! Every once in a while Sue would come running down from her traffic directing station at the back door to find a missing model.

Some of the most difficult changes involved the dresses that had many (many) buttons. It was amazing to see these young women sprinting into place in the sometimes heavy gowns. We referred to it as the One Hundred Yard Wedding Gown Dash. All of the models carried on under quite a bit of pressure with grace, aplomb and laughter. Upstairs all went smoothly and when Marilyn could see that the next model was not quite in place yet – she did an amazing job of filling the empty space with information and anecdotes.

One highlight of the show was two year old Sadie in her flower girl dress, twirling on the platform at the front of the church. The other was Ken escorting his bride Susan up the aisle once again. She and Janet were the only brides who wore their own original wedding dresses in the show.

The tea was the cherry on top of the day - lovely table settings, delicious goodies and friendly faces serving, sitting and chatting.

This was certainly a great fundraiser for the church but the best part of the day was not the money that was collected. It was a sparkle in peoples' eyes, and laughter on their lips and sharing of old and new joys and stories.

You might never have the chance to attend an event like this again. Wasn't it fun?!

*~submitted by Janice Campbell*

## Confirmation at St. John's – Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014



Back Row: Olivia Krul, Sean Vander Glas, Thomas Charrett, Cameron Charrett, Gabrielle Pelchat, Caleb Ijzerman  
Front Row: Kendra Vander Glas, Hannah Krul, Gabriel Braun, Moira Ijzerman  
With leaders: Rev. Susan Garrod-Schuster, Rev. Kelly Thomson, Sue Taylor

### Katharine is going to Sri Lanka

My husband Jeff and I met each other almost 30 years ago while attending the same high school. We dated for five years and one December afternoon in 1993, Jeff proposed on the Bruce Trail. A few months prior to our engagement, Jeff had asked my Dad for my hand in marriage and he was thrilled to have Jeff for a son-in-law. This year we will be celebrating 20 years of marriage...always in love and always in friendship. We have come a long way over the past 20 years...for better or for worse, in sickness and in health – we have stuck by one another through it all. We are very fortunate to love our jobs and to work so close to home.

To bring in our 21st year of marriage, we thought it would be very fitting to travel abroad and provide assistance to a village in need. We will be heading to Kandy, Sri Lanka (population 110,000) to work with local residents in the building/renovation/restoration of a **Buddhist Temple**. What an exciting opportunity to learn and grow ~ to paint and work without the use of modern equipment. We will be staying with a local family in their home, learning their way of life and eating home cooked meals. We will also be spending some time visiting with locals to learn the importance and significance of their temple. This aligns so wonderfully with the love that Jeff and I have of St. John's.

There are significant expenses associated with volunteering overseas – flights, visas, travel insurance and volunteer program fees. In order to help fund this volunteer project we have created a *GoFundMe* page where you can assist us in reaching our goal. Please visit our web page [www.krulfamily.ca](http://www.krulfamily.ca) for more information on our journey. You will find the GoFundMe link at the right hand side of the home page to make a donation.

We are looking forward to traveling abroad, hand in hand; and heart to heart...bridging our part of the world to another that seems so far away. We will travel over 14,000km, bringing with us the love of family and friends and the importance of a sacred “worship space”, just as our own church undergoes a renovation. Suddenly the world doesn't seem so large. We are all connected.

We will be updating our family blog over the course of the summer and while we are away, so please check back to read what's going on. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

~ submitted by Katharine Krul

### Edible Auction

Our St. John's fun(d)raising Edible Auction will return again in late November. Although we all now know that our auction is about all edible food items, not just pickles and jams, please remember this event as you do your pickling and canning over the summer. Additional details will appear later in the fall.

~ submitted by Jackie MacFarlane

### Gravesite Found



While on their travels overseas, Susan Tupling and Ken Thorn found the burial location of my Great Uncle Reverend Charles Wand Mitchell. He is buried at Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery in Arras. The plot site number is 4E28. They left a Canadian pin on top of the stone and

signed the visitor's book with a reference to my family. It is all appreciated so very much, and is a very heartfelt and spiritual discovery.

~ submitted by Dee Butwell

“The focus of prayer is not the self. It is the momentary disregard of our personal concerns, the absence of self-centered thoughts, which constitute the art of prayer. Feeling becomes prayer in the moment in which we forget ourselves and become aware of God..... Thus, in beseeching Him for bread, there is one instant, at least, in which our mind is directed neither to our hunger nor to food, but to His mercy. This instant is prayer. We start with a personal concern and live to feel the utmost.”

~ by Abraham Joshua Heschel

St. John's United Church of Georgetown and Glen Williams  
11 Guelph Street, Georgetown, ON, L7G 3Z1

Tel: 905-877-2531

Email: [office@stjohnsuc.ca](mailto:office@stjohnsuc.ca) [www.stjohnsuc.ca](http://www.stjohnsuc.ca)