



# ESUC Newsletter October 2018

## Erie Street United Church

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### Upcoming Services

**November 11**—we will be worshipping at Mt. Zion for the community Remembrance Day service

**Christmas Eve**—Mt. Zion will be joining us at Erie Street United

**December 30**—we will be joining Mt Zion for worship at their church

### From the Minister:

Hello Friends.

On the United Church calendar, the picture for October is a small, white country church in New Brunswick. It is surrounded by trees glowing with their autumn colours—orange, red, and gold. Right outside our church doors, I can see trees dressed in their fall splendour. For many people, this is a favourite time of year.

And no wonder—the air gets a little fresher, yet still pleasant; the earth is bursting with food; there are family gatherings and feasts for Thanksgiving; the sky has a kind of clarity and depth to it; and the trees sing and dance with beauty, even as their leaves flutter to ground. And there is that special sound of feet swish-swishing through rustling leaves.

There's a verse of scripture along with the calendar picture: "Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendour, doing wonders?" (Exodus 15: 11) At this time of year, we are surrounded with splendour and wonders, reminders of the abundance of God's grace.

Sometimes abundance seems like a joke, grace like an empty promise. There are times of challenge and heartbreak, of despair and discouragement. There are, perhaps more often, simply the times we are so caught up in all the things of day to day, the demands, the routines, the things we have to do, that the last thing we think of is splendour.

And yet, there it is, all around us. I encourage you to take some time simply to breathe in, take in, let yourself be immersed, in the splendour of this season, of the beauty and grace of God's creation. In those moments, you might catch a glimpse of holiness, of hope, of light, enough to take another step and another, enough to feel the lightening of the load, to feel the loving presence of God.

The earth is bursting with a song of joy. Listen to it for awhile. Listen to the song of God's grace.

*Rev. Judith*

## From the Chair

You may wonder about the 'business cards' that your pew neighbours put in the collection plate on Sunday morning instead of an envelope.

Actually, they aren't business cards. They are part of PAR, a component of our life as a congregation that we probably talk about too rarely.

Everything about PAR is easy. If you haven't known about it in past, or if you just didn't quite get around to enrolling, perhaps now is a good time to re-consider.

When you sign up for PAR – as 25 families and individuals at ESUC already have – your regular plate contributions are deducted once a month from your bank account instead of your having to write a cheque once a week.

Make no mistake. PAR does help the church. It helps you decide how much to give, and it then delivers this amount via monthly instalments all through the year. This smooth, predictable cash flow is a real benefit for our programs, and it may clarify your budgeting too.

PAR is easy to start, and it is easy to change once in place. Sign-up forms are in a folder near the Scrip materials in the church foyer, or you can talk to treasurer Stephanie Hayes, finance chair Martha Gammage or myself.

Wouldn't you feel awkward not putting anything in the plate? Well, that's where those free PAR business cards come in.

Also don't forget the fall canvass is underway with a target of \$12,000. This pattern of giving through the year plus an additional sum in the autumn is as old as Erie Street itself, and is vital to our ongoing operation.

Like most ESUC members, I'm not always comfortable talking about money. But I am comfortable talking about money in connection with our church. Serving on the board is a lesson in effective and open financial stewardship. If you have any questions or would like to see the numbers, just ask.

Tom Button

## Missions

The Missions, Christian Education Committees and United Way wish to thank everyone for their generous support of the Backpack program. The GAP kids packed the backpacks on June 24<sup>th</sup>. On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 36 backpacks filled with supplies for Grade 1 students were delivered to United Way. Mary doesn't have a final count but over 1400 backpacks were distributed in Chatham-Kent.

Eleanor Stevenson will be organizing our Christmas Pack-a-Bag donations for the Salvation Army. The bags will be available on November 18<sup>th</sup>. They can be filled with toys (without batteries), food items, snack items, feminine hygiene products, toiletries and paper products.

Marilyn Snary

## UCW Update

Erie Street UCW was off to a good start after our summer break. In September Janice Coatsworth and Elizabeth Terriault shared their Mission: Days for Girls. In October Sharon Davidson did a presentation about March of Dimes: its evolution over the years, and how needed services can be accessed.

In November we are hosting a travelogue as a mini fundraiser. For a free will donation, you may join us for a South American cruise. Please see coming events on page 3 and watch the church bulletin for details.

## Christian Education Report

The beginning of the school year marks another year of fun for the kids in God's Awesome Place at Erie St. United Church. We are blessed to have 4 enthusiastic leaders: Anita Brown, Marianne Fenton, Susan Litwin & Lynn Van Maanen who organize fun ways to learn bible stories and how to live sharing God's love. The GAP leaders also welcome other members of the congregation to share their talents with the kids. For instance, the kids were amazed at the video Melanie Button shared with the kids of a butterfly emerging from a cocoon. That wonderful story was followed by a fun butterfly craft. At Thanksgiving, the GAP kids had more crafting fun when they made "We are Thankful for..." trees. There were lots of games to be played in September when the kids learned the story "Who is the Greatest?". Hopefully they know what we know: the GAP kids are the greatest!

Lynn VanMaanen



On August 26th Erie Street said farewell to Hugh and Kay McVittie and wished them well on their move to London.

## Archives Committee

The archives committee met recently. We cleaned and revamped the display case in the foyer. Marilyn and Wayne Snary have joined our committee and Marilyn has taken over the secretarial duties from Hugh McVittie. More early records were reviewed and referred to the Official Board to decide on their future placement. Pauline Todd is now in charge of the banners. A new memorial banner is in the works.

## Stained Glass Look Art

Janice Warne (the woman in the wheelchair), creates handmade Stained Glass Look Art. She has on display in her home a variety of hanging framed pictures, vases, and various glassware. A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of any art will be donated to Erie Street United Church. Special requests and ideas are welcome. Makes a great gift idea. Janice is at 31 Tecumseh St., (519) 674-1645, janbuddy@bell.net

## Coming Events

**October 27th—Chicken Dinner/Auction.** \$16 Adult, Children \$8. Auction starts at 5:15 p.m., Dinner at 6:00.

**November 6th—**The U. C. W. invite you on an armchair trip with Wayne and Marion Cole as guides at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. We'll travel through the Panama Canal and along the west coast of South America. Refreshments to follow. There will be a free will offering for U. C. W. missions. All are welcome.

## THANKS FOR THE MUSIC!

In the year 2000, Bev Fuller became our full time music director at Erie St. United Church. During her years in this position she co-ordinated the music for Sunday morning worship services, directed the choir and loved playing the organ. Bev was very good at choosing special music and special guests to enrich Erie Street's worship services. In the fall of 2013 Bev organized a choir which consisted of members from each of the churches in Ridgetown and called it the United Voices of Ridgetown. This choir held a concert once a year at the Presbyterian Church.

Bev has been in the music business for as long as she can remember, playing for worship services at Morpeth and Highgate United churches as well as our own. She also taught piano lessons, played for Ridge Players, the McKinlay Funeral Home, and at the Village. In June of every year the choir took their music out to the Village for our end of year practice. The best treat for that practice was ice cream and fresh strawberries!

Bev, we cannot thank you enough for your time and the music that you have given to Erie St. United Church. We look forward to having you join the choir because with all your other talents you also have a beautiful singing voice.



### Erie St. United Church is Looking for a Music and Choir Director

This is a part time position of 8 to 10 hours per week. The successful candidate would be working every Sunday from 10:00 to noon for the worship service. They would be required to run a choir practice once a week for 1 hour, choose music for the choir to sing and work in conjunction with the music and worship committee.

Interested candidates please send your resume to the Erie St. United Church Office at 7 Erie St. North, Ridgetown, ON. N0P2C0 or email: [eriestreetunited@live.com](mailto:eriestreetunited@live.com)

Office hours are: Mon. Wed. Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.