



# The W.U.C. Uniter

Woodroffe United Church  
613-722-9250  
woodroffeunited.org



**Creation and renewal**

*To every thing there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose  
under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

**Fall 2013**

## Happy Fall, Everyone!

- Matt Gallinger



I know some of you are still traveling, and there is a number of good fishing weeks left at the cottage, but fall is here. And with it, the return to Congregational life!

We start this fall, as I'm sure many of you will have already heard, with the season of Creation. The five weeks leading up to Thanksgiving are a time to focus intentionally on our relationship with God's creation, and how that relationship affects, or doesn't, our day to day lives. Environment Sunday is on September 22, right in the middle of the season, and that will help to anchor us in these questions.

There are always lots of activities to look forward to at this time of year! Sunday School, catching up on the social life of the Congregation, the triumphant return of the choir (they have room for more – you know you want to!), preparing for the Bazaar, and all the firing up again of the routine, but essential, work of the many volunteers who work together in a myriad of different ways around here.

I am particularly looking forward to seeing what this next chapter in the life of the Congregation will bring. How will the opening of the new senior's complex next door affect us this winter? How will we address some of the medium term challenges that we are facing in the evolution of this community? What new faces have we yet to meet? What familiar faces will we come to know better? What does it mean to be God's people in this time, in this place?

Another year's journey has begun. We may not know what lies in store for us, but we know it will be interesting! I look forward to reconnecting with all of you as we travel together through whatever surprises the year has in store for us.

## Greetings

- Jan Lougheed



Thank you for allowing me the time for a three month sabbatical followed by a summer holiday. I travelled in Rome for three weeks, spent one week in Florence and two weeks in Spain. I walked part of the Portuguese Camino trail from northern Portugal to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. This pilgrimage was an exciting adventure. I am preparing a slideshow to share with you all this fall.

It is good to be back in your midst and once again share in the community life at Woodroffe. The summer seemed short, as usual, but the programs at the church draw us back together again.

I trust you have had a break and time of renewal these last couple of months and will also be returning to share in Woodroffe activities.

Shalom

## Creation and Creativity

- Iain McGilveray, Uniter Editor

Creation is the theme of this fall's spiritual journey (5 Sundays in September-October). I've been impressed with the creativity of the congregation in their submissions from milk bag bed mats, to missions in Africa. I keep this editorial brief and mention that I visited *Glendalough*, a beautiful valley in the Wicklow Mountains National Park, Ireland with a monastic settlement founded in the 6th century by St. Kevin, a hermit priest. Even among the many tourists, there is a spiritual experience & sense of peace within the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century buildings. Such monks worked very creatively on the famous *Book of Kells*, now in Dublin. In our own congregation, Diane Baird has been creative with her quilting banners, the new choir scarves, paraments on the communion table and pulpit, as well as Jan's stole. The orange of the fabric, amongst many other things, represents a time of harvest and fruitfulness, and the strength of autumn.

## Financials for 2013

- Joe Smarkala, Treasurer

The table shows our financial standing to the end of August, 2013, in comparison to August, 2012:

There are a couple of important areas to note in the financial table. First, our deficit for 2013 is close to \$29,000. Typically, our Bazaar revenue and Christmas season givings reduce this deficit to a more favourable number by year end. On the revenue side, you can see that the downward trend of envelope givings continues, similarly with Outreach and M&S givings. Our congregation's diminishing attendance could contribute to this decline. Fortunately, we have had parking income (\$20,000) from the construction companies who are building next door. This income source will gradually disappear as they complete their project.

	End Aug 2012	End Aug 2013
<b>Revenue</b>		
- Envelope Givings	\$120,035	\$113,116
- Use of Building	\$56,657	\$87,499
- Fundraising & Other	\$15,536	\$18,762
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$195,658</b>	<b>\$219,377</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
- Personnel Costs	\$151,794	\$180,286
- Property Costs etc	\$67,583	\$66,595
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$219,377</b>	<b>\$246,881</b>
Yearly Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$23,719)	(\$28,884)
Mission & Service Givings	\$23,655	\$21,045
Outreach Givings	\$22,190	\$20,586
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>\$41,661</b>	<b>\$17,493</b>

The available funds figure represents our cash balance as of the end of August. It takes into account that we still owe \$58,000 from the \$100,000 loan we took out last year. Not included in the expenses above are costs for renovations we have made this year. Close to \$29,000 has been spent on the Sanctuary air conditioning, Sanctuary sound system, and repairs to leakage in the Lower Hall. The result is a cash balance of \$17,493. This is our reserve to manage the church. It should grow during the remainder of the year because of the Bazaar and Christmas, but it is dangerously low. Your treasurer would prefer a reserve of \$40,000, at a minimum. Stay tuned for announcements of new fund raising programs to start soon.

### What can you do?

- Tell people about our improved facilities for community activities.
- Consider your givings in light of these numbers. And participate financially, as well as with your time and talents to make the fund raising program successful.

Finally, as always, many thanks to all who have contributed so generously of their time, talents and dollars, so far in 2013.

## So what's happening on the Christian Education Committee?

- Ray Cuthbert, Chair CE committee

It's the start of another busy year! It looks to be another exciting year in scouting with a super team of leaders with lots of children registered in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers! Check out the articles below. The library is full of great books to borrow and read! Church School has started and, once again, we are blessed with a great group of teachers and children. Don't forget – children too young for Church School, are welcome in the Nursery! This year the Church School will be following a new curriculum (see below in *Sandra Smith's* article). Be sure to drop by the Church School open house on September 29 to meet the teachers and see what goes on (and there are usually some goodies to eat too!). On November 24 we will be holding the ever popular Babies and Friends luncheon (more goodies!) and at about that time the Church School children start preparing for the Christmas Pageant. Planning for the annual Ski Trip has started and it is tentatively scheduled for early February, but more on that a little later in the year! All in all, the Christian Education Committee will have another exciting year ahead of it, so if you are interested in helping out let one of us know – we would be glad to have you!



## Youth, Children, and Faith in Action

- Sandra Smith, CDA

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.*

1 Thess. 5:11

The youth of Woodroffe United are actively involved in the life of the church in a variety of ways throughout the year. Whether reading Scripture, greeting newcomers, leading in prayer, singing in the choir, or serving on a committee, our young people of all ages are a vital part of this community. This fall our youth and children will continue to grow in their faith, develop and use their gifts to serve one another in love, and encourage and build up the people around them.



Gathering on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. our Church School participants from Nursery age to Grade 12 meet weekly to worship, learn, serve and lead through an assortment of creative, fun activities based on the Whole People of God curriculum. Our first unit of the fall season is titled, Real World, Real Faith. An information leaflet describing Unit 1 is available in the Narthex.

In addition to this educational program, our youth have the opportunity to participate in a variety of congregational events, and enjoy activities with the Youth Group, which will meet later this month. For more information, contact Sandra Smith at [san.smith@rogers.com](mailto:san.smith@rogers.com) or 613-843-7558.



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## 96th Ottawa Venturers

- Peter Morrison, Advisor

This spring, the Venturer Company spent a great day spring skiing at *Vorlage*, where we snow-shoed off-trail to Pink Lake in Gatineau Park. We joined with the senior Scouts for an evening of mini-golf, and kept our rock-climbing skills current by visiting the climbing gym. A week after ice-out, we hit the Ottawa River for an evening of paddling. In mid-May, we got the bikes out and did a tour of several monument sites between Woodroffe and Downtown, with each person researching a particular monument and doing a little spiel about it as we reached that particular spot. In early June, we celebrated the end of our program year with our traditional all-section BBQ-in-the-park.



The highlight of our previous Scouting year came in mid-August, when we planned and executed a 4-day canoe trip through eastern Algonquin Park, together with the senior Scouts who were moving up to Venturers in September. We paddled between 27 and 30 km (depending on how straight a line your boat followed), and traipsed over 8 portages. We spent the better part of one day totally in the water - on the natural water slide, cliff jumping, and swimming at the base of High Falls. We explored some of the areas around our campsites, the old rail line and trestles that used to carry tourists and lumber through the park, the big Algonquin Radio Observatory dish at Lake Travers, and Ottawa lumber baron J.R. Booth's old fishing camp ruins. Along our travels, we found an amazing blueberry patch (fortunately before the bears did), sat and admired the view over Grand Lake and Carcajou Bay where Tom Thomson painted his famous *Jack Pine* painting, and finished off our trip with a hike on the spectacular Barron Canyon trail, at the top of the 100 metre cliffs overlooking canoes paddling the river below. As food was getting poor and in short supply by day four, we stopped for a celebration dinner in Cobden on our way home.

For the 2013-2014 program year, we have had a big increase in membership, thanks to the addition of 5 more youths who moved up from the Scout section, along with an additional advisor, bringing our group to 8 youth and 3 advisors.

## Scouts

- *Candice Armstrong*, Troop Scouter

The 96<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Scouts are ready for a fun-filled year of camping, Laser Quest, geocache hunting, and so many other fun activities it would take too long to write it all down! We can offer new boys or girls two meeting nights to come and check us out (no strings attached)!

Our Algonquin Park camp was a hike in camp for the scouts and most leaders, but Scouter Peter was kind enough to canoe in much of our gear, including the bacon! After a 5 km hike, the scouts set up camp and then went on different excursions to High Falls and Barron Canyon.

A geocaching hike started at the church, we all bussed to Lebreton Flats and then hiked our way back to Westboro station stopping along the way to find a bunch of geocaches and to eat lunch. For some of the scouts this was new to them, for others they had done it before and wanted to add to their total finds. Our lunch break was in the shade of the old train bridge watching the various people that use the bike path and the water just across from us. We will be doing another geo-hike this year too!

The bike excursion was a day to get out and have some fun! Biking down to the park, then playing Frisbee and manhunt for a little while, and finishing the day with the return trip to the church.

If you or your youth are interested in checking out our program, please stop by!

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## Worship Committee

- *Cathy Seaborn*, Chair

### Wanted - Lay Reader Volunteers

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Reader on a Sunday morning in church service please e-mail Cathy Seaborn at [cathyseaborn@outlook.com](mailto:cathyseaborn@outlook.com) or telephone at (613)692-5449. New faces and new voices welcome of all ages.

If you are already on last year's list you need not re-apply. If you want your name removed from the list also please advise Cathy Seaborn.

### Worship Committee - Seeking New Members

The Worship Committee welcomes new members interested in joining their team this year. We meet every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Friendship Room. Feel free to sit in on a meeting and take a test drive. Learn about communion preparation, church service plans, changes to the chancel updates, music, being a greeter/offering volunteer and even give your thoughts on how you think we are doing. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about your church and get to know Matt and Jan. Please contact Cathy Seaborn (Chair of Worship) with any questions and find out how you can become a member.

## Your Church Library

- *Don Mutch*, church librarian

It will be 50 years in October since Woodroffe United Church Library was established. The library was set up as a resource for church school teachers, mid-week group leaders and people in the congregation who wished to enhance their knowledge of Christianity and related topics on religion and family life.

The late Grace Shennan was the first librarian who started to assemble the books needed to fulfil the library's mandate. Today the church library contains more than 800 books for your use. During the fall of 2013 the Library Committee will display items of interest about the library and books of interest. Current members of the committee are Lyle Campbell, chairperson, Marilyn Sloan, secretary and Don Mutch, librarian. We encourage and invite you to watch the display corner of "Suggested Reading" and look for displays at coffee time in the banquet room. Borrow books and enjoy!



## Gardening God's Way

- Cathy Seaborn

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind  
Peace of heart  
Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip  
Squash indifference  
Squash grumbling  
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful  
Lettuce be kind  
Lettuce be obedient  
Lettuce really love one another

No garden without turnips:

Turnip for meetings  
Turnip for service  
Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden  
Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

Thyme for God  
Thyme for study  
Thyme for prayer

Bill Ennis 2002, modified by Ally Maddox & Teddi Treybig

## WUC Gardening Group

- Sue Smarkala

It's been a glorious summer for gardens! The weather has been sunny enough and damp enough to make everything grow really well. And, since only God is watering the WUC gardens, our hostas, canna lilies, coleus, geraniums, etc. are living proof of God's watering prowess. For gardeners, the great weather creates a good news/bad news situation: the plants grow really well – as do the weeds!!



At various times you may have seen Trish Curtis, Carolyn Williams, Steve Mairs or me out edging, planting, trimming or weeding. It is hot work often, and everything is at foot level, mostly, so it can cause back twinges – but we all love to make a difference in the look of our church. Thank you to all who have observed a difference and have mentioned it to us. Thanks for noticing!

Willie's Wise Words up on the board this week say: "The purpose of life is to live a life of purpose." We gardeners see our purpose to care for Woodroffe United's gardens - presenting a well-loved building to all who drive by, reflecting the loving community of Christians within.

If you are ever drawn to contribute to this **ongoing** project, please let me know. Even a few minutes of weeding is always much appreciated.

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## Woodroffe's Pastoral Care Team

- John Patton, Coordinator

The following passage from the Book of Micah (6:8) neatly summarizes what God expects of us as faithful followers. *...what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?*

Jesus echoed this when he said: love God and your neighbour. Sounds simple doesn't it? And yet, we often struggle with it—especially the part about loving our neighbour. What does it mean to "love kindness?" Who is our "neighbour?"

I like to think that it means, at least in part, to care for and about others, to want the best for them and to reach out to them when they are hurting. In both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, the image of the "good shepherd" is often used to express this. It is from that "pastoral" image that we get the term "pastoral care." Often, the term is capitalized—Pastoral Care—and thus acquires a formal connotation that implies special calling or training. And, indeed, some kinds of pastoral care do benefit from professional training—but by no means all.

At Woodroffe, pastoral care occurs on a daily basis and in a variety of ways. At one end of the continuum is what happens every Sunday (though not only then) when members of the congregation reach out to each other in caring and supportive ways, be it a cheerful "good morning" as we arrive or a quiet chat in the pew before or after the service. The weekly bulletin reminds us of this when it notes "we are all called to

ministry.” At the other end, is the care provided usually by the ministerial staff to those in situations of acute need—typically surrounding a death or serious illness. In between are those circumstances which call for an ongoing commitment—long or short-term—by a member of the congregation to take on responsibility for caring for another. One example is members who are largely confined to their homes and are unable to attend church regularly. A group of regular visitors ensures that these members of our family remain connected in a very personal way. In other cases, from time to time, members find themselves in a particularly difficult or crisis situation that may call for someone with special skills or training to assist or augment the support provided by the Ministers. This is where the Pastoral Care Team comes in.

Woodroffe’s team is currently composed of ten lay members (Judy Chaplin, Wes Dearham, Lynn Hampton, Mary-Lynne Harvey, Deb Lester, Margaret MacLeod, Jeannette Montgomery, John Patton, David Watson and Cathy Ziai), all of whom have completed a ten-week training program to develop their listening skills and their ability to respond pastorally and confidentially when a crisis arises. These skills are maintained and enhanced through continuing education programs provided by the Pastoral Care Training Program and community agencies. The team meets monthly from September to June for mutual support, sharing and learning and, each fall, covenants with the congregation to care for one another.

If you have or are aware of a pastoral care need or would like more information about the work of the Pastoral Care Team, please contact Revs. Matt Gallinger or Jan Lougheed, John Patton (613-729-4139) or any member of the team. All such communication is kept strictly confidential.

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## Outreach Committee - A Graduation tale!

- Sandi Bain Forsyth

The *Pathways to Education Program*<sup>®</sup> is an innovative, community-based program that helps young people living in low-income neighbourhoods to succeed in and graduate from high school and move on to post-secondary education and meaningful employment. It involves partnership with schools and the local community to provide a comprehensive set of academic, financial and social supports to youth, starting in Grade 9 and continuing on until high school graduation. Founded in Toronto’s Regent Park community in 2001, it now operates in 12 centres across Canada, including Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre (PQCHC) in Ottawa. As of May 5, 2013, 422 students are currently registered – 96% of eligible Grade 9 (33 high schools from the 4 School boards.).

When the Outreach Committee heard that PQCHC had financial difficulty in providing food for the graduation event, it was decided to help: 4 committee members baked a total of 16 dozen cupcakes and 2 provided vegetable tray. Some members had a fun night in the church kitchen frosting & decorating the cakes, which were delivered the next day to the Ron Kolbus Centre by Sandi Bain Forsyth who also attended the moving

graduation ceremony. It was a gala celebration with many parents, families, mentors and staff present in a neatly decorated room. Proud graduates were beaming and some shared their stories of fleeing war-torn countries, learning English & French, adjusting to life in Canada, while struggling to study and graduate. This was a stepping stone to College or University and eventually to meaningful employment.



This is a very successful program. Some statistics:

- When *Pathways* program started in 2006 only 51% of youth living in the Ottawa catchment area graduated from high school.
- Among the first two cohorts of *Pathways* students, the graduation rate is now 78% to date (more in the PQCHC group) and higher rates are projected in future for the total program.
- There is a 300% increase in university or college attendance by the group.
- An estimated 1:24 dollar return on investment.

## New Outreach Project

- *Bob Walkington*, Chair of Outreach

The **Michele Heights Homework Club** was established in 2003 to serve the growing need for academic support for children in the community aged 6 to 14 years. The club was supported by a grant from the United Way for many years; but that grant expired, and the club was in danger of folding. W.U.C. has agreed to become a partner with the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and St. Stephen's Anglican Church to keep the club alive. The diocese gives \$5666, St. Stephen's gives \$200, and we give \$500 a year.

Michele Heights, a social housing community located in the west-end of Ottawa, is bounded by Bayshore Drive, the Ottawa River, Pinecrest Road, and Richmond Road. There are around 130 family units with approximately 500 people. Many are children and youth, single parents, and new immigrants. The community was built in the 1970's to serve the growing need for affordable housing in Ottawa.

Over 40% of Michele Heights Residents are new Canadians; 75% are in single-parent households; 80% of the families receive some form of social assistance benefit and over 72% are children and youth.

The Michele Heights homework club operates 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from 5pm-7pm. Hour 1 is dedicated strictly to homework while hour 2 is spent enriching the program through other activities such as arts and crafts, healthy cooking advice, quiet reading, playing educational board games, and learning from the many guest speakers.

The club offers much more than just homework support. Children learn how to cook and prepare simple low-cost healthy meals and snacks. Research sponsored by Active Healthy Kids Canada shows that healthy decisions about nutrition and physical activity made early in life often result in a lifetime of healthy decision-making.

The objectives of the Michele Heights Community Homework program are to:

- provide a safe and caring environment where children can get support with their homework;
- teach children to develop good health and nutrition habits through health information provided by the staff and volunteers including advice on how to prepare simple, healthy low-cost meals and snacks;
- foster the joy of learning through academic support by provided volunteers, tutors and staff;
- enhance community involvement through community events and social gatherings

The Michele Heights homework club is a valuable project, and we are happy to be able to support it.

## Milk bags to bed mats

- *Jeannette Montgomery*

With scissors, crochet hook and willing hands, we can transform our garbage into these washable, quick-dry bed mats which provide an alternative to sleeping on the damp, hard ground. Medical teams in Haiti found them invaluable.

Since September 2013 a group of industrious workers at Woodroffe have produced 53 bed mats and 32 tote bags for use by needy people in Haiti and Mexico. We meet once a month for a workshop, where we see a demonstration of the techniques for cutting and crocheting these much-needed items. Some people come every month and enjoy the company while working and others just come once to learn the technique and then work on the creation of bed mats and tote bags at home. Our raw materials are the colourful non-biodegradable milk bags, which we cut into plarn (plastic yarn) and use to crochet the items. It takes over 300 milk bags to make one bed mat, so you can see there is a lot of time and effort goes into this endeavour.

The finished mats and bags are collected in the special cupboard in the narthex and then taken to Bell's Corners United Church, the central depot for this area. They are then packed and sent to Canadian Food for Children (CFFC) depot in Mississauga and forwarded to their missions in the recipient countries. Each shipment is very gratefully received by the poorest of the poor. The CFFC Missions cannot keep up with the demand. Other bed mats go to Northwest Haiti Christian Mission Canada.

If you would like to donate milk bags, please ensure that they are rinsed out and dry. Please contact Jeanette Montgomery (613-729-9401) if you would like to help but cannot make it out to the workshops. The times and dates of the workshops are published in the bulletin each month.

## A summer visit down memory lane

- Patricia Curtis

This summer, Ralph and I went on a journey across Canada to the west coast, taking five weeks to properly appreciate the size and grandeur of our country. The trip had three main purposes: to attend a wedding in Campbell River, BC, to visit many of my relatives, especially those of my parents' generation, and to attend the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the town I lived in during those important, formative years of 8 to 13. I think of Pinawa, Manitoba as my home town. Living there as the town grew from a population of 0 to about 2000 five years later was a wonderful, unique experience which helped make me who I am today.

During the fun-filled weekend of fiftieth anniversary activities we attended a very special church service. The Pinawa Christian Fellowship was also celebrating 50 years of existence. This was the church I attended when I was a child, and it still meets every Sunday in the elementary school gymnasium. There are a few new things – screens and projectors, backdrops that roll down from the ceiling, choir stalls that can be wheeled in and more comfortable chairs than then old wooden stacking chairs – but it felt like home.

Pinawa Christian Fellowship (PCF) was conceived when a new atomic research site in. With so few residents in its first years, planners realized that there wouldn't be enough people in individual protestant churches to be able to maintain separate churches. The nearest town was 20 miles away. If people in the new small town wanted to worship together, new ideas would have to be tried. So it was decided that Roman Catholics would worship at the high school and the Protestants would combine their worship at the elementary school.

For the first few months, ministers from various Protestant churches took turns coming to Pinawa to lead the worship services. By late autumn of 1963, one minister, from the United Church, was called to minister to the PCF. The church is now officially affiliated with the Anglicans, Presbyterians, United Church and the Mennonite Church of Manitoba, but worshippers include Lutherans, Baptists and others.

As described in an article in the Winnipeg Free Press: "Structures are worked out by a general committee, which has representatives from each denomination. Baptisms are administered according to denominational practices, but worship is unique to the PCF. The group takes communion following the Anglican tradition, sings from the United Church hymnal and follows the lectionary reading each Sunday." And the current minister is a Presbyterian.

It was wonderful to sit in the old gym, beside people I hadn't seen since 1968, worshipping together again. It was a highly emotional time, and I found tears flowing from time to time. And then, after service was over, the church ladies had provided all sorts of baking to go with our coffee, conversation and reminiscing. What could be better than that?

## Fall choir notes

- Patricia Curtis, Katarina Jovic

September has come again and the choir's summer break is over. It is time to get back in the choir loft and sing our hearts out.

The choir needs new members. We're starting out the year without a few familiar voices, due to surgery and other health issues. Can you help us out? Do you love to sing? Can you offer two hours of your time on Thursday evenings (7:30 to 9:30) and get to church for 9:30 on Sunday morning? That's all that is required – you don't have to be able to read music or play an instrument. You'll be welcomed and will soon learn why we love to be together in the choir.

This fall we will be working on music for a Christmas concert, which will be a joint venture with our choir, the choir of The Church of St John the Evangelist and the Strings of St John's. The concert will be presented twice: Saturday, Dec. 7, at Woodroffe, following the annual Christmas congregational dinner; and at St John's Church on Sunday, Dec. 15. There will be a variety of Christmas music with selections presented by each of the choirs, a piece by the orchestra, some carols sung by the audience, and a cantata, *Bethlehem's Child*, which will be performed by both choirs with the orchestra. It will be a very enjoyable concert, so please put a note in your calendars now and save the date.

If you are interested in trying out being in the choir, but are not sure about the full time commitment, consider being part of the choir for the Christmas concert. Let Katarina know if you'd like to be part of this fun activity.

We are also always interested in providing a variety of music for church services. If you have some musical skills that you would like to share with the congregation, or if you play an instrument and would like to offer your help in accompanying the choir, Katarina would like to hear from you.

'Come, let us sing....' – together!



## Zambia 2013

- *Trish Hassard with Virginia Reebes and Christine Miles*

I start with the idea of pilgrimage, for that is what our trip to Zambia was. A journey to a faraway place, in body, mind and spirit.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
Fellow travellers on the road;  
We are here to help each other,  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

*(Richard Gillard, 1977)*

In March 2013, three of us from Woodroffe joined with a group of fellow travellers, led by Emmanuel United Church (UC), in east Ottawa. This visit was a partnership among the UC of Canada and the UC of Zambia, Emmanuel UC and the Chipembi Congregation to promote social justice and sustainable development.

Zambia is a land-locked country of 14 million people, in the middle of southern Africa. It has been a Republic since 1964, when then-Prime Minister Kenneth Kaunda declared independence from the United Kingdom, under the banner "One Zambia, One Nation".

There are 72 different ethnic groups in Zambia, although English is the official language. About 75% of Zambians are Christians. The population is very young, with 50% under the age of 14 and a life expectancy of 52. The average number of children born to each woman is 6. In 2009, 980 000 people were living with HIV/AIDS. Zambia is resource rich, and mining for copper drives the economy. The main agricultural products are maize and sugar cane. While real GDP growth has been more than 6% per year, Zambia has stubbornly high poverty rates.

Part 1 of our visit was to a rural area near Mazabuka, where Emmanuel, working with the Ottawa legal community, the UC of Zambia, and the People's Action Forum (PAF) has built a two-room schoolhouse, and is now building an outdoor kitchen, 2 outdoor toilets and a teacher's house. The whole community, children, parents, and villagers, came to greet us. Commenting on why this project was successful, Ms. Janet Nyoni of PAF remarked that "The key to sustainable development is community support."

Part 2 of our visit was to the Chipembi Mission. Our host was Ms. Omega Bula. She worked for many years at the national office of the UCC in Toronto and was extremely generous in letting us stay with her at Makumba Farm, where we spent almost all of our time and ate all of our meals on the open air verandah. To thank Omega for her hospitality, Woodroffe gave her a power drill, which we hope will be useful in conjunction with her generator.

The mosquitoes in Zambia are relentless, but primarily at dusk and dawn. Every day at 5, we had to close all the windows and spray our rooms. We also used mosquito nets for sleeping, and applied mosquito repellent during the day since malaria is always a worry.

One night, we turned out all the lights to look at the sky. With absolutely no light pollution in rural Africa, it was simply extraordinary. The stars were so visible and brilliant, and the Milky Way so well defined that it felt as if we were among them. Dazzling, is what I thought.

The welcome we received from the Chipembi Congregation was overwhelming. The choir met us at the Church door, and sang us in, in perfect harmony. The music was so omnipresent and moving that it was almost impossible to keep still. No wonder they dance when they sing.

The Minister at Chipembi is Reverend Hastings Mwenifumbo. He and his wife Violet, who is a Grade 2 teacher at the Basic School, invited us to fellowship in Sunday worship. What a delight to take part in such a lively event. The sermon was entitled "Who is your Neighbour?" and in keeping with that theme I read the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Every day we took the half hour walk from Makumba Farm to the village. We helped the Congregation paint the ceiling of the church, which was no small feat, considering that the ceiling was very high, and there was no scaffolding. We used 15 foot bamboo poles with a paintbrush on the end, and I think we got more paint on the floor than on the ceiling!

We were more successful helping to build an Ablution building, for washing and toilets at the Church. I learned the recipe for concrete-river sand, small rocks, cement, and water (mix well). Our part was hammering medium-sized rocks into small rocks.

We visited several schools – Basic schools for grades 1 to 7, and Chipembi Secondary School for Girls. At all of them, we were struck by the sheer number of children and the lack of school teaching aids. Woodroffe donated enough soccer equipment for two teams to the Basic school in Chipembi. We were also struck by the remarkable dedication of the teachers.

The Chipembi Girls Secondary School is a case in point. It is a residential school for 600 girls, from all over Zambia. The girls live and study there, and run their own farm. The tuition is \$600 a year from Grade 8 to 12. The school has been extremely successful; over 98% of the girls graduate, and many of the graduates have gone on to leadership roles in Zambia.

There is also an Agricultural College at Chipembi where Mr. Paul Samba is the Principal. The College is very effective, offering practical training to young Zambians in the business of sustainable farming. Paul practises what he preaches. He showed us his home garden, the productivity of which he attributes to his secret ingredient, goat manure.

For me, the highlights of the visit and the most enduring memories are of the children and the singing. I do believe that the United Church is making a positive difference in the world through its partnerships in Zambia. For this reason, I am happy to say that Woodroffe has recently agreed to support a scholarship for a Chipembi girl to attend high school at the Chipembi Girls Secondary School. We will also have the opportunity to welcome Violet Mwenifumbo and Paul Samba to Ottawa when they come to visit Ottawa from mid-September until mid-October.

### Upcoming services and events

Covenanting Service	Sun 15 Sept 10:00
Funeral for Beulah Bothwell	Fri 20 Sept 11:00
Environment Sunday	Sun 22 Sept 10:00
Worship Service	Sun 29 Sept 10:00
Church School open house	Sun 29 Sept 11:00
Seniors & Friends Lunch	Sun 29 Sept 11:45
New Members Breakfast	Sun 6 Oct 8:00
World-wide Communion	Sun 6 Oct 10:00
Stewardship campaign kick-off and Thanksgiving	Sun 13 Oct 10:00
Church Closed - Thanksgiving Day	Mon 14 Oct
Worship Service	Sun 20 Oct 10:00
Sorting Sunday Lunch	Sun 20 Oct 12:30
Bazaar Prep	21-25 Oct
Bazaar	Sat 26 Oct 9:00-1:00
Bazaar cleanup	Sat 26 Oct 1:00
Worship Service	Sun 27 Oct 10:00
WUC Retreat	Fri 1 Nov 6:00 pm
WUC Retreat	Sat 2 Nov 9:00
Worship Service	Sun 3 Nov 10:00
Remembrance Sunday	Sun 10 Nov 10:00
Stewardship Sunday	Sun 17 Nov 10:00
Babies & Friends Lunch	Sun 24 Nov 11:00

You can see the whole calendar on the church website.

### Passages

There were no marriages of congregants; there was one baptism on March 24: Noel Hogg (father Dylan, mother Kate Partridge); and the following deaths:  
 Stuart Douglas (April 5)  
 Ethel McRory (April 13)  
 Bessie MacDonald (April 27)  
 Myrtle MacCready (May 4)  
 Dorris Sudds (May 4)  
 Ellen Toll (May 8)  
 Genevieve Thomson (May 29)  
 Clifford Rounding (July 7)  
 Beulah Bothwell (August 24)  
 Betty Porteous (September 4)

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 Advisory committee: Shannon Avery, Matt Gallinger, Allison Hockin, Jamie Hockin, Sue Smarkala