

Lent
2015

The Uniter



The Easter Lilly has become the traditional flower of Easter, symbolizing the resurrection.

Happy Easter, Everyone!

As I write this, all the weather reports are telling us to prepare for a late, and cold, spring. That kind of sums up this winter, doesn't it? I hope we'll have flowers for Easter, but it does seem to be a bit distant right at this moment.

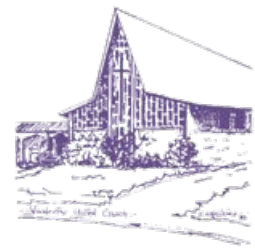
But whether Spring is here or not, Easter is! The central Christian holiday, Easter marks the climax of Jesus' life, and the most important event of our year. Our preparation for Easter starts on Shrove Tuesday, and has carried through the season of Lent. We have celebrated our Anniversary in that time, been led in worship by scouts and guides, celebrated Communion, and welcomed new members. All while engaging in the prayer and reflection that Lent encourages upon us.

I love the movement of Holy Week and the events of Easter weekend. We start with the high of celebration on Palm Sunday and move through the days of the last week of Jesus' life. Most of the Gospels agree that Jesus visiting the temple and throwing over the tables took place on the Monday of Holy Week. On each of the following days, Jesus would return to the city to teach and to speak to the crowds, before slipping back out ahead of the police looking to arrest him. On Thursday, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples, a tradition that we remember in our own Seder Meal. Then on Friday, he was tried, found not guilty and executed. That is not the end of the story. But without all those events, Easter morning just doesn't make sense. The early rising sun on Easter morning is so much more powerful because of the darkness that has gone before it.

This is the season not only of resurrection, but also of rebirth and renewal. All those "re-" words! This is a time for starting again, for finding new ideas, and new ways of living our lives, both in the Congregation, and at home. I wish for you a joyous Easter, and a new life full of excitement and challenge.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Matt Gallinger

Seen at the Stone Soup Lunch



Woodroffe United Church
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The Flowers of Easter

- Iain McGilveray, Editor

Elsewhere in this issue, George Neville explains that in Cuba the **poinsettia** is an Easter flower, though it is associated with Christmas elsewhere in North America. However, this is just one flower of several seen at Easter, with **the lily** foremost.

As Easter occurs in spring, the time of rebirth of plants in Northern climes, it is not surprising that many pagan festivals celebrated the time with flowers and that, as with Christmas trees in that season, Christianity has absorbed their culture.

Since ancient times, **lilies** have played significant roles in allegorical tales concerning the sacrament of motherhood. Roman mythology links it to Juno, the queen of the gods. The story goes that while Juno was nursing her son Hercules, excess milk fell from the sky. Although part of it remained above the earth (thus creating the group of stars known as the Milky Way), the remainder fell to the earth, creating lilies. Another tradition has it that the lily sprang from the repentant tears of Eve as she went forth from Paradise.

This poem reflects on the place of lilies in our celebrations of Easter.

Easter morn with lilies fair
Fills the church with perfumes rare,
As their clouds of incense rise,
Sweetest offerings to the skies.
Stately lilies pure and white
Flooding darkness with their light,
Bloom and sorrow drifts away,
On this holy hallow'd day.
Easter Lilies bending low
in the golden afterglow,
Bear a message from the sod
To the heavenly towers of God.

- Louise Lewin Matthews

In Christian tradition, the mythology is that lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by banking their altars and surrounding their

crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

The pure white lily has long been associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is pictured presenting white lilies to the Virgin Mary, announcing that she is to be the mother of the Christ Child. In other paintings, saints are shown bringing vases full of white lilies to Mary and the infant Jesus. St. Joseph is depicted holding a lily-branch in his hand, indicating that his wife Mary was a virgin.

The **crocus** is an early harbinger of spring and is even associated with Valentine's day. A legend tells of the Roman physician Valentinus, who was sentenced to death for practicing Christianity. The blind daughter of his jailer was a patient of the physician. Just before his execution (Feb 14, 250), Valentinus handed the girl a note. Knowing the healing properties of the flower, he wrapped a bright yellow crocus in the message. When the girl opened the note her sight was restored.

The belief in eternal life is symbolized by the **daffodil**, or **narcissus**, another flower that blooms in early spring during the Easter season. Daffodils are perennials, or flowers that return each year, and Christian legend holds that

daffodils bloomed profusely during the time of Christ's resurrection.

White **tulips** stand for forgiveness, while the purple represent royalty. Both meanings fit well with the religious themes of Easter, as do the meanings of love, belief and passion associated with the blooms.

The five petals of single **roses** are legendary symbols of the wounds of Jesus before and during his crucifixion. The red color represents the blood Christians believe Jesus shed for the forgiveness of sins, while white roses stand for purity and innocence.

Perhaps we should remember the sacrifice of millions of blooms for Easter and note George Bernard Shaw's bon mot: *I like flowers. I also like children, but I do not chop their heads off and keep them in bowls of water around the house.*



Flor de Pascua

- George Neville

The greenhouse, cultivated poinsettia plants with their characteristic flaming red bracts and lower dark green dentate leaves are pervasive as Christmas decorations in North America. The poinsettia name for the botanical binomial, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, resulted from the surname of Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first American Minister to Mexico, who introduced the plant to the United States in 1825. In its natural settings in Mexico, Central America and Cuba, the plant grows as a shrub or small tree from 2 to 13 feet in height.



In Spain and Cuba, the poinsettia plant is known as Flor de Pascua, or the flower of Easter, whose bright red colour represents the blood of sacrifice through the crucifixion of Jesus. In many ways the red poinsettia bracts are more appropriate symbols of the events of that first Good Friday, when Jesus' abdomen was pierced by a Roman lance. The sight of blood oozing forth was taken as indication of death, thus sparing Jesus' legs from being broken.

The story of the crucifixion is oft read, told, and acted out (e.g., in the Philippines), but rarely examined for its detail. Jesus was crucified between two robbers, he having been substituted for the insurrectionist, Barabbas.

After languishing hours on a cross, a body tires of holding itself up by exerting force against the foot brace (suppedaneum) and progressively slumps. The customary act of breaking the legs or knees of the crucified with an iron club (the act called *crurifragium*), deprives the body of its support mechanism such that nearly the full weight and internal stress of the body compresses in on the lungs essentially asphyxiating the individual. From the descriptions that we have, such final trauma did not happen to Jesus; it would appear that he was in a death-like coma when taken down from the cross, then wrapped in a shroud and laid in the nearby tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. To my mind, Jesus did not die on the cross, although he was crucified unjustly. His resurrection is described in varied forms, and to this day there are claims to his descendants living in remote central France. None of this detracts from the merit and example of his teaching and healing.

Music

Although the size of the choir changes week to week because of illness and vacations, Katerina has found anthems that suit our numbers. This is what we have been or will be singing:

- Feb 22: *I wonder as I wander*, Appalachian carol, arranged by John Rutter
- Mar 1: *Hold on to the Rock*, Pepper Choplin; *Deep in our Hearts*, words, John Oldham, music, Ron Klusmeier
- Mar 8: Remembering Sunday *Love Divine*, Howard Goodall
- Mar 15: *The Rose of Sharon*, Matthew Armstrong
- Mar 22: *Sure on this shining light*, Morten Lauridsen
- Mar 29: Palm Sunday, *Hosanna in the Highest*, David W. Music
- Apr 3: Good Friday, *The Love that clothes itself in light*, words, Alan Gaunt and music, Jim Strathdee
- Apr 5: Easter Sunday, *And The Father Will Dance*, Mark Hayes
- Apr 19: *Gloria*, Vivaldi.

The choir knows the *Gloria* well, and will be happy to welcome anyone from the congregation who can put in a few short practices on this piece. Come and get a view from behind the organ!

Watch the web site and posters around the church for other musical events. There are a number of choruses who will be performing in the Sanctuary in the coming months. These include:

- St. Cecilia Singers, Mon, 25 May 19:30
- Shout Sister, Sun, 31 May 19:00
- Ottawa Carleton Choristers, Sat, 6 June 19:30
- Savoy Society, Sun, 14 June 13:30

Thank You Pathways

- Delena Jean-Baptiste

Going to Pathways is great
I get to be surrounded by diversity
With teens who are like me
Look like me
Which is unusual
Since I do not go to a diverse school

Going to Pathways after school
Reminds me that there are people like me

Pathways a safe place
Where I can express my thoughts
Be acknowledged
Be challenged

Without Pathways I would hate school
Because I would not meet as many people like me
I would not express my thoughts as much as I do
And I express my thoughts a lot
Which would mean I would never
Be the writer I am today

Without Pathways I would not be as independent
I would have to rely on my mother
For money to buy a lunch
For money to buy school supplies

With Pathways I have the ability to be independent
And not stress my mother on supporting me

There are so many things
I can say
So many fancy words I can use
To explain how great Pathways is
But it is still never enough
To explain my gratitude
Towards a program
That has helped me in so many ways to
Become the person I am now
And I am not sure
I would ever want to know
What life without Pathways would be like

Thank you to the Congregation of Woodroffe
United Church and The Outreach Committee for
providing support to Pathways students, which is
very appreciated.

*Delena Jean-Baptiste is a Grade 12 Student at
Nepean High School in the Pathways to Education
Program. You can read more about the program
here: www.pathwaystoeducation.ca/en/ottawa
(submitted by Bob Walkington)*

Making a difference through Mission & Service

- Allison Hockin & Bev McKee

The Mission and Service and Christian
Education Committees would like to thank the
congregation for their contributions to the
Chipembi Girls' Secondary School bursary, a
mission accomplished! Both the Presbytery
Dinner on February 10 & the Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper on February 17, helped us
reach our goal of raising more than \$3,000 to
send a girl in Zambia to school for five years.
The Presbytery Dinner raised about \$600 and
the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper raised
another \$235.



Thank you, from the bottom of
our hearts, to all of those who
helped us to feed the
multitudes at these dinners and the Stone Soup
lunch. Thanks to your help we were able to
prepare and serve Stone Soup to 70
congregants, a spaghetti dinner to 75 attendees
of the Presbytery Dinner, and over 75 friends,
family, and congregants at Shrove Tuesday's
pancake supper. We could not have done it
without your help and we tip our hats to
everyone who pitched in either physically or
monetarily: Steve Mairs, Sally Falkner, Peter
Morrison; Pat, Brent Cuthbert & team, Doug
McKee, Joe & Sue Smarkala, Carolyn Williams,
Cathy & John Seaborn, Ralph & Trisha Curtis,
Shirley Hockin, George Neville, Ray Cuthbert,
Joe Holmes, Lynn Crocker, Dave Watson, and
Pat Pearson (and we apologise if we have
missed anyone.) Woodroffe United Church
parishioners make a great team!

Joint Search Committee

- Judy Chaplin, Corresponding Secretary

We have not received many applications for the
quarter-time position, the Ordained or Diaconal
Minister of Pastoral Care. If you know of
anyone you believe might be a good candidate
please direct them to the church website and to
the ministry vacancy link. Thank you.

Christian Education

- Ray Cuthbert, Chair, CE Committee

After surviving the coldest February in at least the last 35 years, if not ever, it was a joy to welcome the much warmer first days of March. Hopefully, Old Cold Man Winter will go out with a whimper and not a bang as we celebrate Lent and the lengthening days of spring. Our Christian Education Committee continues to be busy supporting different groups of our congregation as well as those who use our church for their gatherings. We would like to share in a review of recent activities and those to come in the next few months.

Our Church has been the sponsor of the 96th Ottawa Scouts for many years and as a member of the group committee, I can say it is a fabulous group that is thriving. The recent Scout Guide Service on February 22nd (Baden-Powell's actual birthday!), was a joy to watch as each beaver, cub and scout told jokes, sang songs or did a skit. Remember, at campfires, we do cheers - some would say that they are grrrrrrrr-ate!



The Library Sub-committee ensures our library is stocked with interesting and insightful books for children and adults alike. I encourage you to check on a regular basis to see if there is something that catches your attention. Elsewhere in this issue librarian [Don Mutch](#) notes [2 new books](#).

As Lent is a time for reflection, the children are currently learning about this season in the Church School. A Lenten Reflection Group for adults meets every Friday morning until Easter.

Speaking of Easter, as the children learn about its significance, I am sure many of them are also thinking of the impending visit by the Easter Bunny! As a parent I always marvel at the hiding places the Easter Bunny chooses to hide goodies. Easter is not just one day (but the Easter Bunny

Happy Easter from Eileen

- Eileen Lavigne

Through the Uniter, I would like to wish all my friends at WUC a very Happy and blessed Easter. I am enjoying seeing the trees bursting forth with beautiful flowers in February, here in Victoria. There have been pansies at the front door of my apartment building since I arrived just before Christmas.

There is a shopping centre near where I live and I walk there several times a week. Some items are more expensive here than in Ottawa, but like always, I watch for the sales and stock up when an item I use is on sale.

Right now, I'm attending First Metropolitan United Church. Perhaps in the future I'll want to consider moving my membership, but for the time being, I'm content to remain an adherent.

Health wise, I am feeling a lot better, which is a good thing. Several of you might have seen this picture of me in my Tilley hat on Facebook. I look forward to hearing from you all and send you my best wishes.



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only comes once!) but a season of celebration that extends 50 days until Pentecost, which will bring us very close to the end of the Church School year.

It is hard to imagine at this time, but we are already thinking about the end of the Church School year. As a celebration of its end, the Christian Education Committee will be planning games for the school's year-end barbecue.

Like many committees, it takes a lot of dedicated people and volunteers to make things happen. These people include the committee and sub-committee members, those leading morning reflection groups, the Church School teachers, the Toddler Room volunteers, a dedicated Church School Coordinator, and, of course, the children. We are blessed to have them all!

Stewardship at Woodroffe

- Tricia Curtis

We are in the middle of another busy year at Woodroffe. Fundraisers and other activities are continuing as in other years, despite our major reduction in ministerial hours, with the help of volunteers stepping up to help when asked. Here is an update on Stewardship activities, completed, underway, and planned, since the last *Uniter*.

As you can see from Joe's article, we are in better financial shape now than we have been in some time, and are truly **Building for the Future**. We have no current special fund raising campaigns, since our washrooms have been refurbished and fully paid for. However, the building fund also covers unexpected expenses, such as leaking roofs. Also, Admin and Finance would love to be able to give the Scout Hall a long overdue facelift, so any donations to the building fund will help us to be good stewards of our church building.

Poinsettias were once again popular before Christmas, and sales added about \$250 to our coffers. The recent **frozen berries** sales netted almost \$300 for the church, and will be enjoyed by many. The **HST Auction** will be taking place on **March 29** after church. We are planning to serve lasagna and salad, with baked goodies for dessert, as a change from the hamburgers and sausages of the last few years. Tickets for the lunch will be sold throughout the month of March. Please offer

your treasures, your talent and your time and come bid on the many items which will be auctioned off by a professional auctioneer.

Believe it or not, spring will come, flowers will bloom, and this winter will someday be over! **On Saturday, May 23**, we are holding the second **Baking, Books and Blooms** sale. We will focus again on things that are very popular with our congregation, tied to the spring and planting season: plants/gardening items, baked good and books (for your summer reading pleasure). You may again see back bacon on a bun this year! We will be asking for support from the congregation: for baked goods; for books that suit the spring or summer activities; and perennials, annuals, house plants, plant pots or gardening tools. Note that this is not the long weekend, but the weekend following the long weekend in May.

Also, sometime in June or early July, strawberries will be ready and it will be time for the **Strawberry Social**, the final fun- and fund-raiser of the church year.

If you have any ideas for fundraising that would be fun and could benefit your church, please let anyone on the Stewardship Committee know. We can always use new ideas and energy to put them into action. Current members are Tricia Curtis, Shirley Hockin, Sue and Joe Smarkala, Matt Gallinger and Bob Walkington.

Congregational Meeting Notice

A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, March 22, 2015, for the purpose of issuing a call to fill our full time pastoral vacancy and seek the congregation's acceptance of the Joint Search Committee's recommendation and report. All are welcome, but only members of Woodroffe United Church may vote.

Passages

There were two deaths since the previous issue:

Dorrien McLean (née Gummer) January 4

Gloria May Smith, January 14

There were two baptisms:

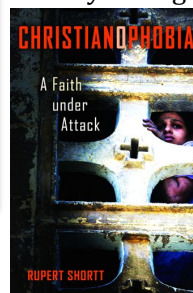
Ameriah, daughter of Kevin & Renee Naukatsik

Caelan, son of Paul & Laura Hodson

The Church Library

- Don Mutch, Librarian

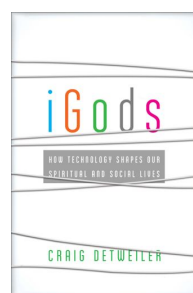
Here are a couple of newer books in the library that you might like to read:



272.9 c2012

Christianophobia by Rupert Shortt

In a faith under attack this book "exposes the widespread violent persecution of Christians around the world."



261.5 DET c2013

iGods by Craig Detweiler

This readable book reveals how technology shapes our spiritual and social lives.

Through the Eyes of a Child

- John Patton

Fall was a very busy and disturbing time, both personally and as a community. For me, it came into sharp focus during Bazaar week and I would like to share one brief vignette from that turbulent week with you.

The week started with a funeral of a long-time member. It was a beautiful service and the Pastoral Care Team was privileged to attend. However, it delayed the sorting of the books for the Bazaar—which begins in the sanctuary—until Monday evening. For some reason, we received the largest collection of donated books, music and puzzles in recent memory. While that was good news for the bottom line (and the books table, as the Bazaar itself, did a record business), my plan to limit myself to a daily morning or afternoon or evening went out the window in a hurry. As of Tuesday, I was sorting right through until the end of the bazaar on Saturday.

Mid-morning on Wednesday, Marlene Patrick came in with the shocking news of the shootings on Parliament Hill. The church and the public school, were both briefly in lockdown. The sorting continued but the mood was far less cheery—and it is the customary cheeriness and chatter that makes the donkey work of sorting bearable. As more details emerged the sense of unease grew stronger.

I arrived back home that evening already feeling emotionally fragile only to receive the news that a former colleague and dear friend had suffered a devastating stroke. No visiting was allowed so I spent the next 36 hours anxiously checking my email for updates. He died at noon on Friday.

We were also very concerned about a young niece in Vancouver who was hospitalized with a serious but as yet undiagnosed neurological illness. So, by the time the doors opened for the Bazaar on Saturday morning I was physically and emotionally exhausted.

Mid-morning, a young girl, about ten probably, approached me with her mother. She wanted to know if we had a copy of Anne Frank's diary which she very much wanted to read. Many years ago, we were privileged to be able to visit the Anne Frank house in Amsterdam where the family hid from the Nazis for two years. The profound experience of walking through those three small upstairs rooms—in absolute silence—has stayed with me ever since. So, I was happy to be able to

Prayer Request – Please Ask!

- Sue Smarkala

For the 2014 annual report, I spoke with May Allen so that I could report on the use of Prayer Requests at Woodroffe United Church. For a number of years now, May and her helpers have offered prayers for anyone who asks. It could be for self, a loved one or perhaps a world situation. Many of us are often touched by disease, pain, the unknown or world conflicts; times in life when good thoughts and the help of God are much needed. Very few of us are requesting prayers from these committed Woodroffe United folks. I wonder why that is?

I recommend the three articles about prayer in *The United Church Observer* - January 2015. By those accounts, prayer is very good for our brains, along with being gently soothing in difficult times. Please do consider asking for prayerful support in times of stress. You may not think to pray amidst the bustle of your challenging days; although that is when prayer requests may be helpful. May Allen and her helpers are very pleased to provide prayer support in a loving, thoughtful and confidential manner. Complete a request and place it in the Prayer Request wooden church box, found on the desk at the Woodroffe Ave. end of the Narthex.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door shall be opened to you”
(Matthew 7:7)

tell her that indeed there was a copy but, given the fact that we had more than three times as many books as we could display on the tables, it was buried in the rat's nest of books on the floor beneath. The best I could do was point her to the approximate place. I helped her paw through the piles for about 15 minutes but then had to get back up to re-sorting the tables, and to stretch my aching back. However, I promised her that, when we were packing up at the end, I would find the book and it would be waiting for her in the church office on Monday. (I resolved to buy a copy if need be.) About half an hour later, I felt a tap on my back. I turned around to see my young friend proudly holding the book. No words exchanged but her delighted eyes said it all. My soul may not have soared but it certainly began to get off the floor. Through the eyes of a child....

(This was written for the Advent 2014 Uniter but was 'lost in transit' by the editor.)

2014 Financials

- Joe Smarkala, Treasurer

	2014	2013
Revenue		
- Envelope Givings	\$193,545	\$183,762
- Use of Building	\$111,590	\$140,889
- Fundraising & Other	\$54,860	\$49,460
Total Revenue	\$359,995	\$374,111
Expenses		
- Personnel Costs	\$227,293	\$271,524
- Property Costs & Other	\$100,341	\$101,551
Total Expense	\$328,134	\$373,075
Operating Surplus	\$31,861	\$1,036
Mission & Service Givings	\$38,082	\$38,034
Outreach Givings	\$35,602	\$33,473

These results were discussed in our recent Annual Congregational meeting. In case you couldn't attend, I'd like summarize results for 2014. You can see that 2014 was a good financial year for Woodroffe United. We had an operational surplus of \$31,861 in 2014, much better than our surplus of only \$1,036 in 2013. The main reason for this is the reduction in personnel costs due to Jan Lougheed's retirement in June of 2014. These costs dropped by \$44,000. With our new restructuring of ministerial staff for Woodroffe (1.25 ministers versus 1.75 ministers), our revenues will continue to be in line with our expenses ensuring a more healthy financial future for Woodroffe.

I'd like to highlight two other items. The envelope givings by the congregation grew this year by almost \$10,000, even though we had less members contributing. I'd like to thank the congregation for their wonderful financial support of Woodroffe in 2014 and hope it continues into 2015. Also, givings to Mission and Service and to the Local Outreach were higher than the previous year. I extend the thanks of those committees to you the congregation for your continue support.

Finally, our reserves grew from \$53,500 to \$76,776. This includes all our designated fund balances. With our reduced ministerial staff continuing for the first half of the year, this reserve should increase again in 2015. These reserves will help us to pay for new renovations required at the church.

Thank you again for your financial support of Woodroffe and may it continue into 2015.

Ellen Stephens Toll, 1916 - 2013

A Gentle Benefactress to Woodroffe United Church
- George Neville

Ellen grew up on a mixed operational farm in East Templeton, QC. During WW II, she worked with Secret Operations of the Department of Defence, living then in a bungalow on Scott St. She later moved to her bungalow of choice at 898 Iroquois Rd. (at that time known as Chenier Ave.) between Carling Ave. and Strathmore Blvd., with the bathroom on the main floor. At the time she moved into the Redwoods Retirement Home, she had lived on Iroquois Rd. for 42 yrs. In her earlier years, Ellen had been a founding member of the Ottawa Ski Club, helping cut ski trails, doing winter camping and horseback riding.

When Iris and I arrived on Iroquois Rd. in 1967, one house removed from hers and also on the west side, Ellen was retired, but still rode her bicycle and pursued cross-country skiing. She travelled extensively with other single women friends.

Ellen was a wise, frugal, but very generous person in all respects. She left a bequest of \$5,000 to Woodroffe and a

\$1,000 bequest to the Woodwark Student Bursary Fund. She was interred at Templeton United Church Cemetery (now part of Gatineau city) on 11 May 2013.

She became very much part of our family by mutual informal adoption.



WUC Uinter March 5, 2015

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

The Uinter is also available, with some additional content, on the church web site. While you are there, have a look at other news and the most current calendar of events. Point your browser to woodroffeunited.org