

Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge

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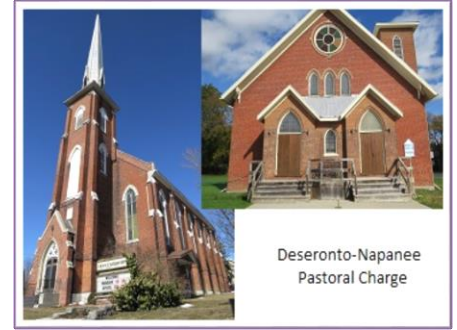
It has been a busy autumn at Grace and Deseronto United Churches.

On Sunday, October 22th, Deseronto United Church held its Anniversary worship service. This year, instead of welcoming a guest preacher, various members of the congregation shared their memories of their involvement in the church. It was a meaningful worship service, with very thoughtful comments made. It was followed by a great pot luck lunch.

The high-light of Grace's 175th Anniversary year was the reunion of the youth singers, from the group of enthusiastic young people from the 1970's and 80's. We were able to welcome 19 former members of the youth singers to Grace Church on October 28th and 29th. Some people had not seen each other in 30 or more years, so there was a lot of delightful reminiscing going on. I heard some people say that they didn't know if they could remember the songs they sang so many years ago, but once they started rehearsing it all came back to them. The Youth Singers sang some of their songs during worship on Sunday morning, including "Joy Is Like the Rain," "The Lord's Prayer," and "Pass It on." We were also honoured to have Joe Ramsay sing one of his original songs, and to have Mark Powney offer a solo as well. Rev Joe Ramsay and Rev Grant Dillenbeck, who were alumni of the Grace Youth Singers, offered words of encouragement and wisdom to the congregation. We were also pleased to welcome back Rev Frank Hamper as former minister of Grace Church. It was a wonderful, spirit-filled weekend, and emphasized the value of youth ministry for having a life-long impact.

Thank you to the members of Grace Church who put a lot of work into organizing the weekend, and planning for and preparing the Saturday night 'welcome back' meal, and the Sunday noon meal.

The following weekend, the Grace United Church cooks and organizers were again busy, as we welcomed the Bay of Quinte Conference Fall Youth Retreat. This event is held every year in a different location, and we were privileged to be able to support youth ministry by welcoming them to Napanee for 2017. The youth and their adult leaders took over the whole building for the weekend, with their theme focusing on mental health. The most popular session was when the therapy dogs and their handlers made a visit, and the youth learned about all kinds of ways that therapy dogs are used to calm people down, and brighten someone's day. On Sunday morning, November 5th, the youth led Grace



Upcoming Events

December 4

1st Napanee Valley Group Committee Meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. in the Sunday School Room.

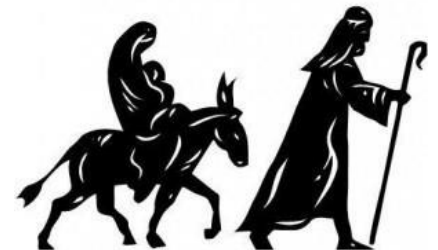
December 6

Grace Board Meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

December 7

Grace UCW Turkey Dinner and Festivities beginning at 12:00 p.m. The meal will be catered by Diana Lloyd. Tickets are available after church or in the office for \$17.00. Everyone is invited to attend.

Grace Worship, Music, and Sacraments Committee Meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room.



United Church in worship, in a worship which commemorated Remembrance Day, as well as sharing some of their insights from the weekend.

Deseronto UCW held their annual bazaar on November 4th, where members' talents for baking and handiwork were on display.

On Sunday, November 12th, both churches held their annual Memorial Service to honour people who have passed away in the past year.

Now that we are entering the Advent-Christmas season, there are the activities of this holy season which we are keenly anticipating.

By the time you read this, the Napanee Christmas parade will be over, but I hope you notice the float from Grace United Church – thank you, John Sonneveld and almost-centenarian Ross Long!

On Sunday, December 10th, the Sunday School children (assisted by a few used-to-be children) will be presenting a short Nativity Play during Grace's worship service.

On Sunday, December 17th, the combined choirs of Deseronto and Grace Churches will be presenting a short cantata, "Born a Saviour, Born a King," at both worship services.

On Thursday, December 21st, at 2:00 p.m., Grace Church will be hosting a simple "Blue Christmas" worship, a service for those who find the Christmas season to be difficult. It can be difficult for many reasons, you may have lost someone dear to you, or you are far from your families, or you have financial difficulties, or seasonal depression, or for other causes, this is for you. There will be refreshments following the service.

On Sunday, December 24th, there will be **no morning worship at Deseronto Church**, but will gather at 5:00 p.m. for a Christmas Eve worship and communion service.

At Grace Church, we will be holding our usual 10:30 a.m. worship service on December 24th, and then will gather again at 7:00 p.m. for our Christmas Eve worship and communion service.

As I write all of the above, I confess to feeling somewhat uneasy. The season for welcoming the birth of the Holy Child is not supposed to be all about busy-ness, but about adoration, not about seeing how much activity we can cram in, but about opening our heart to the holy.

With that in mind, no matter how you find yourself spending your time over the coming days, please make space for quietness, for contemplation of the holy mystery that is God with us. Lose yourself in the beautiful music of the season, enjoy time with grandchildren, and participate in their spontaneous delight, re-read the nativity story from Luke's gospel, sit by your fireplace for a spell. Remember that the holy miracle of long ago is still with us. Thanks be to God.

Rev. Elaine



Upcoming Events

December 8

Poinsettia Pick Up – Poinsettias will be available for pick-up from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Sunday School Room. If you are unable to pick them up at this time, they will be available on Sunday, December 10.

December 10

Grace Sunday School Pageant during our regular Worship Service.

Come and join the Christmas Celebration after the morning service at Grace as we "party" with a **Soup and Sandwich Luncheon**, a time of fun and fellowship sponsored by the Grace Christian Education Committee.

December 12

Worship Service in the chapel at the J. M. Parrott Centre beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Hi-C Reunion

On August 12, 2017, a reunion was held for the 1965-1971 Grace Church Hi-C baseball team. The reunion was held at Phil and Ruth Paul's strawberry farm at Switzerville. There were 24 people who attended the potluck lunch. The potluck was organized by Linda Richardson (Polson) and Yvonne Gilbert. The meal location as surrounded by sunflower fields.

The farthest person was in attendance was Deb Hay from Houston, Texas. The second farthest was Edwin Long from Cincinnati, Ohio. Also, two people who contributed a lot to our group in the 60s who attended was Lorraine Boomhour from Brampton and Charlie Gordon of Madoc.

There was lots of reminiscing about the church team and that Grace Church is now 175 years old.

Kindly submitted by the Hi-C Committee

Grace Ball Team Reunion

As part of Grace's 175th Anniversary celebrations, Rick Sweet organized a reunion of the Grace United Church Baseball Teams. Representatives from teams in the 70s, early 90s, and late 90s were in attendance. Memorabilia on display included an album of photographs, samples of team shirts, and trophies. We joined in a delicious potluck lunch following our worship service to 'catch' up on old times. A good time was had by all!!!

Deseronto United Church's 149th Anniversary

Deseronto United Church's 149th Anniversary held on Sunday, October 22nd was a celebration of earlier times and events of our church.

A history of the church from its Methodist roots to the formation of the United Church of Canada was presented. We remembered the many dedicated ministers who served our congregations for 149 years.

Several members of the congregation shared personal memories of their involvement in Sunday School, Junior and Senior Choirs, CGIT, and the numerous suppers and social activities that were held.

We celebrated and remembered the dedication given to our church by many of our past women and men.

The service was followed by sharing a meal and looking at photos and memorabilia from the past.

Submitted by Marilyn Cole



Upcoming Events

December 17

"Born a Saviour, Born a King" Cantata at both churches during our regular worship services. Both Deseronto and Grace Choirs will combine to perform this beautiful arrangement of music. Everyone is invited!!

December 21

Worship for the Weary Service beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Grace.

December 24

Grace will be having both a **Morning Worship Service** beginning at 10:30 a.m. as well as a **Christmas Eve Worship Service** with Communion beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Deseronto will **not** be having a Morning Worship Service, but **will be** having a **Christmas Eve Worship Service** with Communion beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Grace United Church's 175th Anniversary and Youth Singers Reunion

WOW! What a weekend! What a Blessing! Nineteen former Grace Youth Singers gathered to sing, dine, reminisce, worship and celebrate Grace United Church's 175th Anniversary. The rain did not dampen our spirits. We all recognized each other...with some helpful clues in some instances and more like a time warp in others. But the music and the voices came together so quickly it was like we had never been away. Sunday's service was a special blessing as we sang lots of songs that we sang back in the 70s and heard a great message on trust, belonging and permission to try something new as the Church moves forward into the future by Joe Ramsay and Grant Dillenbeck. Lots of "catching up" with each other during supper Saturday night and the pot luck lunch Sunday after worship occurred between Singers and the congregation alike. I want to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who came and to everyone who helped out in so many ways to make this Anniversary weekend the special celebration it definitely was. It surely was a WOW time filled with love, fellowship, praise and the Holy Spirit! Awesome!

Submitted by Diane Remington

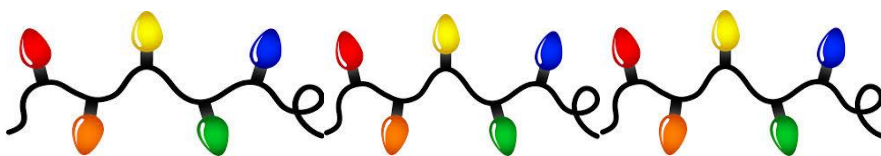


Announcements

It is that time of year again! Time to start thinking about Annual Reports and our Annual General Meetings. If you are the Chair of a Committee at one of our churches. Please forward your year-end report to Leslie at graceuc@mycando.ca **no later** than Thursday, January 4th. If you have any questions or concerns about your report, please do not hesitate to contact her.



Keep your eyes open! The 2018 edition of the Grace United Church Calendar will be in just before Christmas. As before, it will feature some of the faces and events of our church family, as well as the seasons of our church year. Forget when Pentecost is?! You won't forget with a Grace United Church Calendar on the wall! Watch the bulletins to see when they are in so that you can get yours!



UCW Presbyterial Fall Rally

The ladies of the Grace UCW hosted this year's UCW Presbyterial Fall Rally on September 27th with the theme, "Caring for ALL God's People". The guest speaker for the day was Gloria M. Alcock-Hunter, author of "Nurse at the Top of the World". Gloria spent many years working in health care. Highlights of her career included opening the first Nursing Station in Resolute Bay, Nunavut; providing care to 8 Indian Reservations near Kenora, On; and being the Director of Public Health Nurses for Northwestern Health Unit for 22 years. Pam Hart also presented on and displayed The Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Support Group Quilt. The quilt was created to acknowledge the pain and suffering inflicted on indigenous peoples, and to promote the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. Approximately 80 ladies from across the Presbytery attended. Thank you to all of the ladies of the UCW, the ladies of the Deseronto UCW, Nancy Strugnell and Dominique Van der Linden for all of their time and hard work!



175th Anniversary Pewter Ornaments

To commemorate Grace's 175th Anniversary, the Anniversary Committee has worked with Muskoka Pewter in Bracebridge, Ontario to design and craft a beautiful pewter ornament depicting our church building. It is a lovely keepsake, and would make an excellent Christmas gift for a friend or loved one. The ornaments are available after church during our coffee time, and throughout the week in the office. The cost is \$20 for one; \$30 for two; \$45 for three; and \$60 for four. Hurry in and get yours before they are gone!



Ongoing Programs

Mondays

Beavers – 6:00 p.m.

Deseronto Choir – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays

Scouts – 6:30 p.m.

Grace Ringers – 7:00 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous – 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays

The United Sound – 6:00 p.m.

Cubs – 6:30 p.m.

Men-of-the-Steeple – 7:00 p.m.

Grace Choir – 7:30 p.m.

Important Announcements!!

A Note From the Grace Finance and Stewardship Committee

The finance committee would like to thank everyone for their continued financial support. We hope you have found the little quiz questions in the bulletin to be informative and interesting. Our aim is to keep everyone informed as to the cost of operating the church. We would also like to thank all those who help out year after year with our roast pork dinners. It is only through your support that we are able to host these dinners. Every task is important, whether it be making desserts or salads, helping with set up and clean up, or simply buying a ticket. No matter what your contribution, we **THANK YOU!**

Office Holiday Hours

The office will be closed for Christmas on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th, and will reopen on Wednesday, December 27th. The office will be closed on Monday, January 1st, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Newsletter and Bulletin Sponsorship

We are currently looking for sponsors to help cover the cost of our newsletters. We will have a special section in each newsletter listing our generous contributors. Our goal is to make sure that everyone is informed of our activities while keeping costs low. If you would like to be a sponsor or to sponsor a specific newsletter in memory of a loved one, please contact Leslie in the office, 613-354-4373 ext. 1 for more details.

If you would like to sponsor our Sunday worship bulletin at any time in memory or in honour of a loved one for \$10, please contact Leslie in the office.

Help Wanted!!!

As always we are looking for volunteers to help with committees and random jobs around our churches. Some 'jobs' require very little time commitment, (e.g. our Observer subscription renewal) and some may include attending a meeting or two every other month (e.g. 1st Napanee Valley Scouting liaison). If you have any amount of time that you would be willing to help us with a 'big' or 'little' job, please contact Leslie in the church office, 613-354-4373, ext. 1.

Thank You

