

Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge

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Hello All!

It's a hot, sunny day as I write this. Summer has come suddenly. I hope you can find someplace cool to hang out. For those who are working out in the hot sun, make sure to stop once in a while for a cold drink.

We are still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, although things are loosening up somewhat. I have not yet gotten my post-shut-down haircut, but very soon I will.

Grace United Church and Deseronto United Church are not going to be worshipping in the building for the summer. The East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church recommends that no churches reopen for public worship before Labour Day weekend. We have taken their advice to heart. At the beginning of August, a small team consisting of Patti Sweet, Ron Murray and myself will listen to what the public health authorities are saying, and we will develop our re-opening plan accordingly.

There will be many details to work out to ensure that we can worship in a way that is safe, but also that is worshipful. For example, health experts are advising that there be no singing, because the act of singing spreads water droplets farther than talking, and could present a risk for spreading the virus. The thought of worshipping without singing presents some challenges.

Other things to consider – how can we ensure people stay physically distant from one another? How do we clean and sanitize between uses of the church facility? Do we celebrate communion, and if so, how? These are the kinds of questions the re-opening team will be discussing.

In the meantime, there will continue to be worship videos posted every week. These are about half an hour long, and consist of prayers, scripture, a message, and a solo. Thank you to the worship team who makes these videos possible – Chris Ingersoll, Steven Lindsay-Maracle, Rick Sweet, Rita Steel, Dominique Van der Linden and Sarah Daignault.



The Grace Carillon Bells

Since the end of April or early May, I have had the opportunity to play the Grace carillon bells each Sunday for the enjoyment of not just myself, but that of the greater community. They have always piqued my interest, but even more now that I have had the chance to play them.

As a result, I decided to do a little research on the bells, and thought that I would share some of what I learned.

Let's begin with what the term "carillon" means. According to britannica.com, the term carillon refers to "a musical instrument consisting of at least 23 cast bronze bells in fixed suspension, tuned in chromatic order (i. e. in half steps) and capable of concordant harmony when sounded together." That being said, Grace U. C. does not actually have carillon bells like the Peace Tower in Ottawa. Grace has Schulmerich Carillons.

Schulmerich Carillons was established in 1935 by electrical engineer,

You can watch them on the Cogeco cable TV channel, or access them through the church's website (www.graceuc.ca) and Facebook page (Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge). If you want to be on the church email list, which gets an automatic link to the worship service every week, please let me know. If you don't have access to any of these, and would like a printed copy of the worship service, let me know.

I have been only one of many people who have been keeping in touch by using the telephone. Thank you to the pastoral care team for their phone ministry – Rita Steel, Rick Sweet, Yvonne MacDonald and Jan Newton. If you would like to be a phone volunteer, please let me know, or if you would like to be receiving phone calls, just for a quick check-in, let us know as well.

As we all know, this is an unusual time. We are all doing the best we can, learning as we go what we need to be doing, and making decisions as circumstances arise. I am grateful for the power of prayer in this time, which connects us to one another, even though we may be far apart in distance. As I said recently during worship, "the church is not closed; the church is deployed."

As the apostle Paul says at the end of his second letter to the Corinthians, "Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."

Rev. Elaine

Important Deseronto Update

The Deseronto United Church Board met on June 11th, 2020, and made a momentous decision. The Board passed a motion to authorize the trustees to put the building up for sale, with the consent of the South East Ontario Regional Council of the United Church.

This was a decision that has been a long time in the making. The consensus was that although no one wants to lose our treasured church building, there seems to be no option. The church has no financial reserves, the building needs a lot of maintenance, and the congregation is too small and tired to take on the tasks needed. There was a sense of sadness about this decision, but also the sense that this was a necessary decision.

At the meeting it was also decided to remain as a congregation, with the shape of that still to be worked out. There are still a lot of steps before anything is final, but it is our hope that if and when a buyer is found, we will be able to hold a decommissioning worship service in the building, in appreciation for the many years of witness and ministry this building represents.

Rev. Elaine

George J. Schulmerich, "a pioneer of beautiful bell sounds". He discovered that tiny rods made of cast bronze and struck with miniature hammers produced pure bell tones that could be amplified electronically, thus creating the "electro-mechanical" carillon.

Schulmerich bells can be played manually from an organ-like console, such as the ones at Grace, or they can be programmed to play automatically. They are known to have the most realistic sounds of any manufacturer in the world, providing the beautiful tones of cast bells at a fraction of the cost and weight.

Schulmerich bells are manufactured in Pennsylvania, U. S. A., and the company remained in the Schulmerich family until 2014 when it was acquired by The Verdin Company.

In 1955, the Grace Schulmerich "bells" were installed and presented in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Vine (family of the late Ann Lamb) by their daughter, Mrs. Douglas McNevin on June 26th of that year.

I hope that all of you enjoyed these tidbits of information as much as I did!

Leslie Sweet

**Information was obtained from www.brittanica.com, www.schulmerichcarillons.com, and the Grace U. C. history booklets.



Second Annual Grace Garden Market

It all started with a meeting of Grace Growers Group in November 2019, when we committed to holding a second Garden Market fundraiser for our church. We brainstormed about plants, birdhouses, food sales, used books, and who would do what. We decided that we would start collecting containers and seeds, and meet again in the new year!

By March we had increased our members, had strong plans in place, seedlings started, and labels inscribed with gardening-inspired scripture. Lois Sexsmith did a beautiful painting that symbolizes our initiative, and Dave Sexsmith suggested, "Growing with Grace" as our tagline. We set a date, surveyed the congregation about perennials available to be dug, and communicated with everyone (congregation and beyond) using the new bulletin board, notes in the weekly service insert, and social media. It was looking good!!

Then, on 17 March 2020, the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health asked all churches to close because of Covid-19, and we wondered how our garden market would unfold. We decided to continue with planting seeds and making cuttings because "you can't go back"!

Well, we did indeed hold our garden market, albeit a week later than originally planned, and in a different format than last year according to Covid-19 restrictions. We assembled a detailed plant list (over 80 choices!) and Lois took orders by telephone, followed by lots of running, digging, and discussions about filling them. Our first order was for 100 pepper and tomato plants, from John and Mary-Lou Sonneveld's daughter! Ron and Marilyn Murray came through with dozens of healthy pepper plants, and Elwood and Marg Hughes saved the day with several trays of homegrown cherry tomatoes. Mary Rossborough sent lavender, parsley, and thyme. We gratefully added excess plants from the community garden; the Sexsmith and Black households would no longer look like greenhouses! Some orders were filled and delivered during the week prior to the official pick-up, then Lois and Dave Sexsmith, Ron and Marilyn Murray, Diane Remington, Terry and Kathy Black assembled the remaining orders in the church basement on Friday.

Saturday, 23 May 2020, dawned sunny and the hottest day of the year to date. The group gathered early, masks and hand sanitizer ready, to finish the job. It all went very smoothly ... Marilyn and Kathy prepped orders in the church basement, Shannon McKinney and Ella Rickard climbed the stairs to bring each tray outside at the scheduled time, and Lois did a final check before they were loaded into the customer's car or van in the parking lot. Ron and Terry directed traffic and answered questions. Beth McKinney did an awesome job selling the extra seedlings and perennials. Fred and Jan Newton, and Elwood and Marg Hughes arrived to clean up.

The proceeds from the sale totalled \$1,852.50 – approximately \$607 more than plant sales at the market last year! This money will be



divided, with half going to Grace's operating fund, and half used for Mission & Service/Outreach initiatives.

The Grace Growers Group would like to thank everyone who helped with the sale, and those who purchased our plants. We hope you enjoy your gardens and the food they produce – especially this year when our group activities are restricted. We will meet again.

Keep Growing with Grace!

Kathy Black and Lois Sexsmith



A Witness For Justice and Peace

Sunday, June 7, 2020

It was a beautiful, sunny day as 25-30 people gathered between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to post signs in support of Black Lives Matter and the family of George Floyd who was brutally murdered by a Minneapolis police officer on May 25th. People arrived one by one or two by two, bringing their sign, most wearing masks and observing physical distancing protocols. Many signs quoted various scriptures largely on the theme of love for one another. Others expressed support for the Black Community, or bold statements opposing this long standing, systemic injustice.

All attending stood proudly as our own, Leslie Sweet, played, "O Canada" on the carillon, and then continued to play many lovely hymns/songs for the next hour. Thank you so much Leslie! Everyone loved it!

Twenty-one signs were erected over the 2 hours and many of the congregation lingered, reading over the signs and the messages they portrayed. We were pleasantly surprised when 2 families from the community arrived asking if they could post signs they had made, and thanked us for the opportunity to take part and show their support. Many passersby "honked" their support as they drove past the Church property which was also very encouraging.

For me, this was an opportunity to step outside my comfort zone and respond to a call to action. Thank you, Rev. Elaine, for your support and encouraging words. Thank you to the Board members who responded to my request. Thank you to all who made and posted signs or just came by to see and support. I believe it was a successful event in showing support and promoting brotherly love. It was also so nice to see some of our congregation for the first time in 3 months. I am hopeful that we will be able to worship together again soon. Until then, stay safe and stay well.

Thank you all again, and God Bless!

Diane Remington



Summer Camping at Quin-Mo-Lac

I know I have said this before, but I will say it again, our summer camps are the biggest and most significant children's and youth ministry we are involved in.

This year, like many other programs everywhere, the summer season has been shut down by the Ontario government due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For Camp Quin-Mo-Lac, this has meant a huge shift from the summer it was hoping to have. Not only are hundreds of youth and children not spending their summer singing silly songs by the campfire, sleeping in cabins, making new friends, learning more about God and their spiritual selves, but there were great plans in the works to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Quin-Mo-Lac this year.

Camp Director, Trevor White, is doing a fantastic job keeping in touch by zoom, Facebook and other electronic means with the young people who would have been the staff and volunteers this year. Administrative assistant, Beth McKinney, has looked after the monumental job of contacting every family who had registered their child for camp to give them a refund for the registration fee. Some families have generously given the registration fee to the camp as a donation this year, since the camp is taking a big hit with loss of summer income.

To honour the roots of this camp, and the celebration we had hoped to have, here is a brief history of Quin-Mo-Lac, written by Trevor White:

"Quin-Mo-Lac's roots began in Stirling, Ontario at a camp called Oak Lake. In the late 1940's after many years of world war strife, the need for Christian camping became very necessary, to spread a message of peace, love and unity. A group at Oak Lake realized their site wasn't big enough for their vision, and a quest to find a new property began. Lloyd Shorten and Don Williams ventured out on Moira Lake to do some scouting, the weather got rough, and when their canoe overturned near Crystal Beach, they could see their dream property from across the lake. When they offered to buy the farm land, Mr. Brown said that he would sell it to be used for a good purpose.

Groups of volunteers began to build up our site, starting with the Dining Hall and some cabins. In 1950, we were declared "Quin-Mo-Lac" and a community began to grow. In the beginning, each week was coordinated by a different director, with a different staff to lead their own group of campers.

In the late 1960's, a full time Director team, Loretta and Vern Zufelt, were introduced to bring all the puzzle pieces together and our new, cohesive program began to take shape. Buildings continued to be built, programs were introduced, but more importantly, a sensibility was carried forward that made QML a distinctly special place. We developed a collective sense of humour, a duty of care, an ability to connect with each other in a meaningful way, and an introduction to faith in a setting where we couldn't help but appreciate God's creation. We gained momentum, our sensibilities evolved, and Quin-Mo-Lac became famous for the energy we achieved. Each year, we would build upon the last, and each year, we would train another generation to take the lead with confidence.

The Quin-Mo-Lac legacy continues to be strong, perpetuated by the people who know how special it is. Our space has always been important to us, but it is the people who make it unique. If we can channel the QML spirit and continue to share our values, we will surely thrive and build upon our legacy with the dedication of our current and future leadership teams. Thank you for joining us as we navigate a QML season from home. Keep spreading the message of love and peace that brought us together in the first place. Our founders would certainly be proud of how strong this little program has become!"

If anyone feels inspired to donate to Quin-Mo-Lac, you can donate through canadahelps.org or send a cheque to Quin-Mo-Lac, 336 Franks Road, Tweed, On K0K 3J0.

