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Westworth News

May 2017

Greetings from the Chair of the Board

Spring has arrived! For our family, the arrival of spring is typically marked by our "April Birthdays Celebration" and, of course Easter. I hope that all of you are enjoying the coming of spring. Jennifer and I look forward to the Easter season, and this year did not disappoint. The Church is busy at this time of year – from our Lenten study through a Maundy Thursday service and culminating with our beautiful Easter Sunday service. For me, I feel like it continues through to Mother's Day Sunday. I am looking forward to the Sacrament of Baptism that we will participate in that day. How fitting.

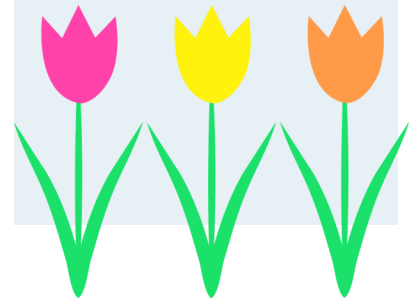
What I have really come to appreciate this spring, is how blessed our Congregation is to have so many people who generously share their gifts with all the members of our community of faith. Those gifts can come in many

forms. Some of us volunteer to help with Church governance and other ministries while others volunteer their time in other creative ways. This spring I have been reminded (yet again) of the many gifts we receive from the musicians in our midst. It is easy to recall all the wonderful music and singing that we have the joy and privilege of experiencing at Westworth– not just this spring, but week in and week out through the life of Westworth. Each week we get to enjoy the gifts of our choirs – both seniors and cherubs I am always moved by the amazing voices of our choral scholars, and whether on a Sunday or at events like Samedi Gras, we receive the gifts of the Westworth Winds, as well as others. But it is more than just enjoying the gifts of their music. I appreciate the time and effort I know that they put into this, and more than anything, I am struck by the joy with which they deliver their gifts to us. That was clearly evident on Easter Sunday.

Music has always been a big part of Westworth, and we are lucky to have amazing music leaders, from Debbie McLeod and Dorcas Windsor to Jewel Casselman and Ray McClelland. I remember years ago hearing that people had joined Westworth, just to participate in one of our many choirs or bands. I imagine that is still true. I was amazed to see the number of cherub singers recently, and the Westworth Winds completely fill the Chapel when they play. There is another critical aspect to these gifts that we receive. I see it occur time and again, not just in our music ministry but in our many other ministries. I think, for instance, of the volunteers at events like the recent rummage sale. When people enjoy giving to others, it becomes contagious; it is fun to be around them, to feel their energy; and it makes us happier. So, I encourage everyone to follow their lead, and the lead of so many others in our congregation, and share your own unique gifts. Whether that involves giving of your time, your talent, your wealth or your creativity matters not. What does matter is that you give in a way that brings you joy, because if it does, then we will all see that joy and share in it, as we did with our many singers and musicians during that wonderful Easter Sunday service.

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With warm regards,
Norm Snyder

Minister's Message

We are an Easter people, who must be emphatic about our message of resurrected hope in a world that knows so little of it. We know that love's risen body can carry us through suffering and tragedy, bearing death-defying blossoms that insist on bursting through frozen fear to weave a purple thread of mending hope.

*From Lorraine's
April 16 sermon
(Easter Sunday)*

With God's grace, we are moving well into spring. Since our annual meeting, we now have a full leadership slate. Barb Gwyer and Nancy Doern-White are co-Team Leaders of the Pastoral Care Team, Shirley Watts is Team Leader of the Membership Team and Spencer Newton is Team Leader of the newly constructed Property Team. Welcome on board!

On Sunday, April 30, we had a Leadership Team orientation session with the newly configured 8-person Council, all of the Team Leaders, the Chair of Trustees, and our Presbytery reps. We discussed our trial governance structure and how it might best operate. Communication will be key.

As part of this orientation session, we made a verbal commitment to the values of Westworth:

- nurture a safe and welcoming community
- honour each other's inherent worth
- assume good will on the part of each other
- listen to each other with care
- speak to and about each other with respect
- be honest with each other
- talk directly to each other even when differences exist
- ask for help when conflict is too difficult to handle alone

These values echo a beautiful passage from Colossians 3:12-15:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive

each other; just as God has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

I am thankful for the generosity of time and talent that I see time and again in this congregation. I'm grateful for the many who step up and offer their helping hands, whether that be to paint walls, bake dainties, help at the rummage sale, knit, sing, visit, or offer leadership. Each one of you plays an important part in the life and ministry of this congregation.

I'm even more grateful for how we minister together. There is a generosity of grace here that values respectful interactions and resists the temptation to speak ill of others. We will slip from time to time, but if we climb back on the horse of valour and are able to apologize, forgive and receive forgiveness, we will find our church strengthened in its mission to be the hands and feet of Christ.

It matters that we enjoy each other and work well together, for our future depends upon this. As we live out the values of Christ, we will be the servant leaders in our church and beyond.

*Christ
is
Risen!*

Upcoming Events



Save the Date...

WorthyKids Creation
Vacation will be
Aug. 21-25, 2017.

9:00-1:00 pm
Vacation Fun
Program;

1:00-4:00 pm
childcare upon
request.

Registration forms
are available in the
narthex or the office.

Looking Ahead

Service time change for the summer:

June 4-Sept 3 Sunday worship services will begin at 10:30 am
June 4 worship will celebrate Pentecost and Canada's 150th. We'll have Alma's Canada cookies at 10:00 am and the service will highlight our Canadian diversity.

June 11 worship will welcome 5 new members.

Summer services will be led by various United Church ministers when Loraine is on holiday. She will be taking two extra weeks of unpaid leave so that she and Nancy can go to Iceland. Emergency pastoral care will also be provided when Loraine is away. She will be working July 18-27 and will return to work August 21.

Baseball!

"It's like deja vu all over again", according to Yogi Berra. As it is for the Westworth group baseball event. The game will be on **Friday, June 2nd, at 7:00 pm**. Sign-up sheet is on the board. Cost is \$14.00.



Please plan to attend our
**UCW Spring Dessert Party
and Thankoffering**
On **Monday, June 5 at 7PM**

This evening will provide a chance for our Westworth women to worship, celebrate 55 years of UCW across Canada, and share time with one another.

There will be a short **worship service** in the sanctuary, and we will have an opportunity to donate our **Thankoffering** for **Mission and Service**. This will be followed by a short **Fashion Show** of wedding dresses over the past decades. If you have a dress you would like featured, please contact Nancy Doern-White by **May 8**. We have people willing to model the dresses, or you can wear your own! Bring a wedding photo or album to look at while we enjoy dessert in the Parlour. The photo can be from your parents' wedding, your own wedding or a wedding you have attended. This event is for all women at Westworth, not just members of UCW.

Tickets are \$5.00, and are available from Nancy Doern-White or the Church Office.

Church News

Christian Education Committee

Your CE committee thanks Danielle Cadieux and Julia Shayna for providing uninterrupted and stimulating programming for our Worthy Kids programme on Sunday mornings! Bravo, you two.

Our Worthy Kids will combine a wind-up party with planting flowers on May 28th. Please send your children with any gardening tools, such as trowels, hand rakes, watering cans, even pint sized gardening gloves, anything you think will help your child have a fun gardening experience. Blue Jean Sunday School will follow through June.

Julia Shayna and Maggie Barnett are taking registrations for Vacation Bible School, now renamed Worthy Kids Day Camp. Camp will happen at Westworth from August 21st through August 25th. They are also taking applications for Leaders in Training. This internship programme for young people 12 and older is a golden opportunity to develop organizational skills, creative thinking, problem solving, interpersonal communication, and leadership skills all in a fun environment, while providing volunteer hours to their church community. These Leaders in Training benefit greatly from the inspiring, gentle and genuinely fun role modelling provided by Julia and Maggie.

Bell Tower

Several of our youth and some friends enjoyed the trips to the Bell Tower taken earlier this year to help put together food boxes for folk needing them.

In the absence of a staff member dedicated to our youth, Jenny Jeffers has kindly agreed to lead this programme for May and June. She will arrange an evening for this fun service opportunity open to youth, their friends and their parents. (Expect one Friday evening a month.) Stay tuned for bulletin notices, or call Jenny at 204.229.7541.

We anticipate staff will be hired in time to resume this activity in September.

Stay tuned for Worthy Kids and Worthy Youth programming in the Fall beginning with a September kick off with Outreach and 1Just City.



Church News

West Broadway Community Ministry's Healthy Baby Program



Westworth's UCW Unit 94 has taken over from Unit 7 a supporting role in "The Healthy Baby Program" at West Broadway Community Ministry. Beautiful Layette Gift Bags are packed for new and expectant Moms in the program. Each bag is filled with an assortment of baby needs. Beautiful hand knitted and hand sewn blankets and receiving blankets, newborn hats, bibs, burp clothes, and receiving blankets are added with sleepers, outfits, toiletries and books. Each bag is filled with love and creativity by our talented ladies. Special thanks must be given to Marian Windatt, Yvonne Heinrich, and Joan Herman for sharing their time and knitting and sewing talents. You are our unsung angels in the program! You help make a special gift for a baby and a new Mom who will know they are loved and treasured.

****If by chance we have any sewing folks in the congregation that have remnants of flannelette or children's knit fabrics, or terry towel, we would appreciate their being donated for burp clothes, receiving blankets and bibs. They can be given to Dorothy Reid.**



I am updating the list of folk interested in ushering.

If you would like to be included on the mailing list or are currently on the list and would like to be removed, please get in touch with Andrea Firth at afirth485@gmail.com or 204.489.2284.

Whether you are available most Sundays or only occasionally, your participation is both welcome and needed.

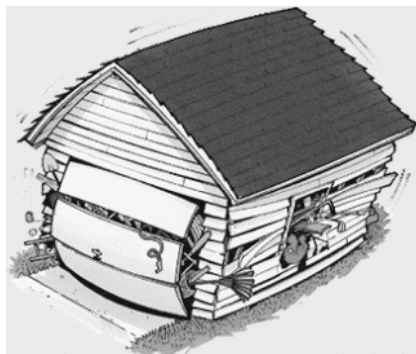
Instructions will be provided. Sign-up is usually via a Doodle email poll - I will help you learn how to use it if this system is new to you.

Andrea Firth



Church News

Rummage Sale News



The Great Westworth Rummage Sale on April 28th and 29th was a huge success. We made a profit of \$4407.00. None of it would have been possible without the donations of rummage, and the time and efforts of many. The call for volunteers was answered by staff, congregation, choir, friends, and young people, who brought strength and enthusiasm to the tasks. The Friday night sale was a big success. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all. Leftover items were donated to a variety of places including: The Salvation Army, Main Street Project, St. Boniface Hospital (clothing for patients without clothing to go home), and Arts Junktion. Special thanks to Heather.

Don't forget the next Rummage Sale on **April 27-28, 2018**.

Due to storage limitations, we ask that rummage for the 2018 sale not be placed in the unlocked rummage closet until January 2018. We would be grateful if you are able to store your rummage items until that time.

From now until January, church storage space is needed and used for donations to the fall **Bazaar and Luncheon** sale tables. Donations of good and "like new" books are welcomed for the **General Store** at this event, as are re-gifted and new condition items of all types suitable for gift giving. Jewelry, small toys, smaller housewares, Christmas decorations, ornaments, puzzles, stationery, etc. can be donated to the **Treasure Table** for pricing throughout the summer. Better quality and vintage/antique items (fine china, crystal, silver, collectibles, etc) are sold at the **China Cabinet**. If you are unsure where your items to be donated belong, don't fret – we'll make sure they end up in the right area.

Many thanks to all of those who donate, volunteer and cheer on these various activities which build community within and outside the church, as well as providing helpful funds.



Outreach Update

Update on our Syrian Newcomer Families

Update for REFUGE – April 2017

It has been 18 months since the three (3) al Diab families arrived in Winnipeg on October 5, 2015, to settle in Winnipeg. As you can well imagine, there are many things to learn and to accept when one arrives as a refugee/newcomer to Canada. The Steering Committee, members of REFUGE, neighbours and friends have guided them in their settlement – navigating the bus system, shopping, rental responsibilities, banking and taxes, computer and telephone agreements, school registration and reports card, sports and recreation, the medical, dental and optometrist systems, and so on. Kamal and Fatima, Fadel and Huda, and Jalal and Taghrid and their 18 children have worked through the challenges and in most respects are settled and flourishing.

Soccer remains a highlight for the adults and children alike. Several of the children played indoor soccer all winter, and are eager to play in spring and summer games. Jalal is playing in the Men's Senior Soccer League. Everyone watches world soccer on the television. Sledge hockey has given Omar an opportunity to excel. He is a member of the Manitoba team that will compete in the Canadian Championships in Montreal in May. Several of the children have shown talent and interest in the arts. A few are regular participants in the Arts City programming; others participate in school band and choral programs.

The children are healthy and growing rapidly. This is making space in their homes a little tight. Jalal and Taghrid found and moved to a townhouse in St. Vital, which provides more bedroom and living space. The other couples are also considering moves, but have not yet

found a suitable place. Four of the adults have their learner driving license; the other two adults and Khaled (the oldest boy) are currently preparing to take the learner's test.

REFUGE was financially responsible for the families for one year, ending October 5, 2016; settlement support has continued when needed.

Although the adults have been attending English classes, their facility with English is not sufficient for work, as yet. While they continue taking English classes and workshops regarding workplace safety and workplace basic skills/culture, their income support is through Employment and Income Assistance. One financial challenge that all three families have is the repayment of their flight loans to the Federal Government. The monthly payments are spread over several years.



We have applied to sponsor two more families of Syrian refugees currently living in Beirut, Lebanon. Like the previously sponsored families, these families are relatives of Fadila al Diab, long-time resident of Winnipeg. The new applications are for Fadila's brother Talal, his wife Ahlam, and their two daughters Najah (age 1 year) and Deema (born in Feb 2017), as well as Fadila's mother Wadha, her sister Jalila, and Jalila's son Alaudin (age 4 years). As members of REFUGE, Debby Lake and the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg are taking the settlement lead on these sponsorships. At this point, REFUGE feels we have sufficient funds to support these applications. We are, however, still accepting donations in case of unexpected additional expenses with these families. As planned, any funds remaining after the settlement will go to support other refugees.

Outreach Update

The new applications were submitted by REFUGE as a Community Group to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) in July 2016. In January 2017, CIC opened files for all the applicants. We are waiting to hear from CIC about dates for interviews, medical and security checks in Beirut. Both families continue to live in precarious circumstances in Beirut, where they are not permitted to work. The monthly financial support they receive from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) has been cut back to a very small amount, and they receive some additional financial and emotional support from their family members in Canada. We look forward to welcoming these 7 people to Winnipeg, where they will reunite with their extended family and start a new life in safety and security.

The al Diab families have often expressed their gratitude for all the people who have supported them over the past year and a half—financial and material donations, time and hospitality. The REFUGE Steering Committee also thanks you for your generosity.

In peace and harmony,
The REFUGE Steering Committee:

Barbara Wynes (Chair) – Westworth United Church
Debby Lake (Recorder) – First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg
Sue Bernjak – St. Mary's Road United Church
Laila Chebib – Manitoba Islamic Association
Ezzy Ibrahim – Manitoba Islamic Association
Kevan Bowkett – Community member
Mahmoud Alzaibaq – Syrian Assembly of Manitoba
Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd – Minister, Westworth United Church