

Connections *newsletter*

MILL WOODS UNITED CHURCH

June 2017

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“Summertime, and the living is easy”

When Ira Gershwin wrote "Summertime" for the 1934 folk opera "Porgy and Bess" he voiced the hopes of many of us.

Like many other groups in the city, things slow down at Mill Woods United over the summer. Not as many people come on Sunday mornings. Choir and church school take well-earned rests. There are fewer committee meetings. And, phone and email messages don't pile up so quickly.

The church's Annual General Meeting on May 28 felt like the beginning of summer to me. After several months of worry about financial and leadership deficits, a revised 2017 budget was passed with a smaller deficit than had been proposed in February, and a new Council was elected.

I am especially pleased that Lindy Mair, Carla Janzen and Kathy Poechman have agreed to take on the role of Chairperson together. I look forward to working with them, and with past Chairperson Brian Sampson, who got a well-

deserved round of applause on May 28 for being in the role for two years instead of the expected one.

Financial Rep Randy Round gave us some better than expected news about local givings in April and we heard that Nancy Siever is going to work with me on a five-week Stewardship Campaign in the Fall.

The discussions and decisions at the AGM made me feel confident that, when life returns to normal in the Fall, we will continue further down a path of hope and love with enthusiasm and joy.

May everyone have a safe and blessed summer.

Ian

P.S. Although things are not as busy at the church during July and August, the office will be open through the summer. Please feel free to drop by anytime!

Financial Update, May 31, 2017

More than 40 people stayed after Sunday worship on May 28, 2017 to participate in our Annual General Meeting. A revised Budget for 2017 was presented and approved. It includes a forecast deficit of \$16,300 for 2017 and, using the same assumptions in future years as for 2017, cash reserves being extended to mid-year 2020. This compares to the budget proposed and not approved in February that indicated a \$29,900 deficit and cash reserves running out in early 2019. It was recognized that the changes to arrive at the new budget were short-term solutions to “buy time” to develop more sustainable approaches. Risks inherent in assumptions for local offerings, building rentals and fundraising were noted.

I felt that we left the May 28 meeting with more positive feelings than we felt after the February meeting. May results, however, have done little to support any momentum gained as offerings took a step back and some unfavourable operating expense trends have become apparent. Financial results are always volatile and we hope that in the next several months we will see favourable volatility to buoy our enthusiasm for future financial stability.

Randy Round
Finance Representative

Food/Clothing Banks

HELP! NEW COORDINATOR(S) NEEDED NOW!

After more than 10 years as coordinator of our Food Bank and Clothing Bank programs, it is now time for me to step down and make room for one or more new folks to take over. I have now assumed the role of Council Co-chairperson with Carla Janzen and Lindy Mair. I'm very excited about this new position but very concerned that we have yet to find someone to coordinate these important aspects of our outreach. I'm not sure what will happen if there is no replacement for me by August 1st.

Bev Thompson has agreed to become the new volunteer monthly schedule coordinator which is wonderful. THANK YOU BEV!! This is a very important job but not the only one. We also urgently need a coordinator to organize the volunteers who help unload the boxes on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. We have a roster of 6/7 folks willing to help with this but who need a regular phone call to come in.

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Both the Food Bank and Clothing Bank are very important to me and I would be heartbroken if they began to fail or fall apart completely after I step down.

For many years we have been a vital link between the Food Bank and the Mill Woods community and must continue to do so for as long as possible. We will be closed for the month of July so there is lots of time to learn the ropes and get acquainted with the programs.

I am asking anyone who has ever considered joining the Food Bank to please come forward. There is lots of support, your volunteers are wonderful and the folks we serve are very grateful we are here.

It has been a privilege for me to work with this amazing group of volunteers who bring help and hope to all our clients every Tuesday and Thursday and I know every single one of them would be thrilled to know that our programs will be in good hands going forward.

Thank you all for considering this request.

Kathy Poechman

Worship Notes

Summer 2017

Ian be leading worship this summer with the exceptions of July 2nd, when Paul and Lesley Verdin will be leading worship, and September 1st. Although the choir won't sing again until early September, Bryan LeGrow will be on the piano bench most Sundays.

Bev is off after the June 18 service, but has prepared materials for children who come to our Sunday gatherings in the summer.

As in the past, worship in the summer will give us a chance to try some participatory elements.

We hope to see you on many of the Sundays between now and September.

Below are some dates of note:

- June 18: Sunday: for Aboriginal Day
- June 21: Wednesday: the labyrinth will be unfurled in the sanctuary all day to mark the summer solstice and to allow those who want a time to walk it and meditate
- July 16: Sunday: we may have a picnic service on the grounds of the church -- stay tuned!
- July 22: Saturday: the third annual picnic of the Intercultural Ministry Committee of Edmonton Presbytery will be in Rundle Park
- August 6: Communion Sunday
- September 10: Welcome Back Sunday!

Church Council

approved at the May 28, 2017 Annual General Meeting

Chairpersons	Carla Janzen	(780)461-6123	carlajj@shaw.ca
	Lindy Mair	(780)951-3914	lindy.mair@gmail.com
	Kathy Poechman	(780)463-7750	poechman@telusplanet.net
Chair Elect	Vacant		
Past Chairperson	Brian Sampson	(780)462-5239	bricloud48@icloud.com
Finance	Randy Round	(780)462-1922	rauround@telus.net
Member at Large	Laine Pickle	(780)461-9202	ldpickle@shaw.ca
Member at Large	Diane Nash	(780)461-0668	borynec@telus.net
Minister	Rev. Ian Kellogg	(780)463-2202	iankellogg@hotmail.com
Ministry & Personnel	Francisco Rico	(780)463-9083	frajorib@gmail.com
Presbytery Rep	Dave Elliot	(780)918-4933	dave13elliot@gmail.com
Recorder	Elfrieda Penner	(780)463-0238	elpenner@shaw.ca
Stewardship	Vacant		
Worship	Cathy Bayly	(780)462-1101	cathy.bayly@gmail.com
	Ethel Ray	(780)462-0474	ethel.wellspring@gmail.com

If you have any questions, concerns, kudos or comments please feel free to contact a Council member.

Your Holidays and Your Offering

As we head into the summer holiday months we encourage all our supporters to ensure that arrangements are made for your continued financial support while you are away. This can be done by:

- signing up for PAR (contact the church office for details);
- providing post-dated cheques for while you are away;
- making up the offerings you missed upon your return;
- give your offering for the time you will be away before you leave.

Thank you for your faithful attention to these matters.