



**Diversity
Embraced
Here**



The Festival of Homiletics 2018 and Reclaiming Jesus

Washington, DC

Rev. Michelle Robinson

L TO R : REV. DR. SHARON WATKINS, FR. RICHARD ROHR, BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY, REV. JIM WALLIS, DR. BARBARA WILLIAMS-SKINNER, BISHOP CAROLL A. BALTIMORE, REV. DR. WALTER BRUEGGEMANN

This past month I was able to attend The Festival of Homiletics which took place in Washington, DC from May 21 to 25. The theme of the week, appropriate for the location, was *Preaching and Politics*. It was an inspiring week of incredible worship, preaching and fellowship; a time of reflection and action. Over 1800 preachers, primarily from the United States and Canada but also from around the world, gathered for the weeklong event.

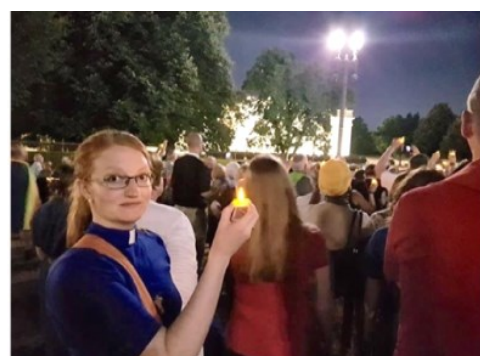
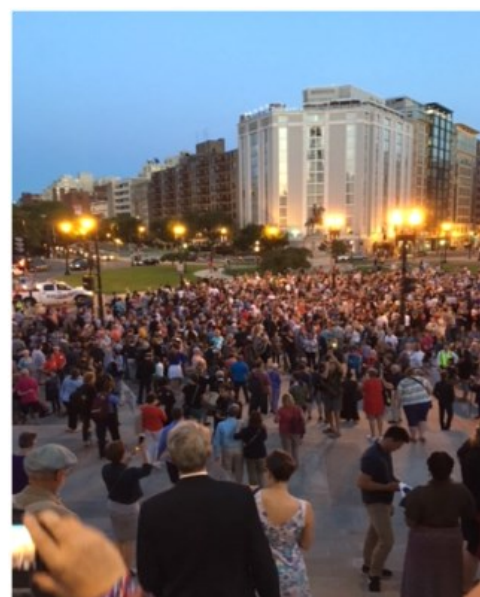
There were many highlights from the week but among them was a "Reclaiming Jesus" vigil held on Thursday May 24 with over 2000 people overflowing out of the church and onto the street. "Reclaiming Jesus" is a movement and a declaration of faith decrying racial bigotry, sexual violence, normalization of lying in political life, xenophobia and ethnic nationalism. It is a movement organized by many highly respected progressive Christian leaders including:

Rev. Jim Wallis, president and founder of Sojourners, The Most Rev. Michael Curry (who recently preached at the royal wedding), Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann, scholar and theologian, Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, Fr. Richard Rohr and others.

The vigil service of prayer, song, and proclamation transitioned into a silent candlelight procession through the streets of Washington to the White House where we shared the declarations of faith and prayed aloud, each in our own language. Surrounded by the rumble of prayer, candle-lights lifted overhead, with people of various backgrounds and denominations calling for right leadership, love of neighbour and justice we found ourselves in a true Pentecost moment.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well!

(For more information on the vigil and declarations of faith visit reclaimingjesus.org)



Top: The vigil spills into the streets for a silent procession to the White House
Bottom: In front of the White House

AWESOME WESTMINSTER EVENTS...

*Inglorious Women
Concert*



Confirmation Sunday



*The Healing Power of
Intentional Prayer
Workshop*

The Inaugural Youth Pride Durham



Why Affirming Is Important to Us

My name is Cheryl and my son is Alex. Alex and I joined the congregation at Westminster United Church in the fall of 2016. Many of you recognize our faces but are unfamiliar with our story. We would like to share our story that was full of challenges and life altering decisions which affected the whole family over many years. Eventually our journey led us here where we are now proud members of this affirming congregation.

Alex always knew he was different from his friends and peers but didn't know why. Throughout his elementary school years, he was a quiet child struggling with social anxiety and personal identity. Every part of his life was affected, and depression set in. Things he used to love participating in, such as dance classes, since the age of two, and swimming lessons, became a weekly battle to get him out the door to get there. His internal battle turned into outward behaviour issues that continued to escalate in the safe environment of home while he put on a brave face at school.

Finally when Alex was about 10 he came to me with a confession that he thought would alter my love for him. "Mom," he said, "I think I might be gay." I hugged him and explained he would figure it out as he aged and matured and that it didn't matter in the least. He was the same child who made us laugh and we would love and support him in every facet of his life.

During the next two years, Alex became more troubled and withdrawn, backing out of all previous interests and extra curricular activities. While in grade eight, Alex again came to me and said, "Mom, I finally know who I am. I know it would be easier for everyone, including myself, if I was gay but I now know the proper term. I'm transgender." Again, I said we all love you and will support you at every step along the way. Alex walked across the stage at his grade eight graduation for the first time sharing his true self. His teachers were proud but we have to say nothing could compare to how proud we were and continue to be of Alex. Over the summer, as a family, our dinner conversations were trying out male names. After many trials Alex settled on his name and we started the long legal process to his true identity.

The Oxford Living Dictionary says transgender means "denoting or relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex." To a transgender person it's so much more than mere words on a page.

To Alex, who cried every time he looked in the mirror and didn't see the body that matched what his brain told him since birth, it meant emotional pain and struggles. Many counsellor and doctor visits ensued as we tried as a family to understand, support and find our way through the journey. Yes, this is truly a family journey.

As we sought out various community agencies, support groups and medical clinics for transgender teens and their families, Alex yearned for something else. He was finally becoming comfortable in his own skin but had, for a long time, been searching within himself for a way to express his Christian beliefs. As a mom, I required a "safe" place where we could worship. I hoped we would find a congregation and church where we felt more than just "safe." We craved a welcoming church.



Continued on the next page

Why Affirming Is Important to Us *(continued)*

Our daily lives had us driving past Westminster a lot where we saw the pride flag hanging in the window of the church. A few years prior Alex had attended the youth group a couple of times with a peer who knew Alex's story. Finally, after much thought, Alex and I decided to attend Sunday worship. When we walked through the doors, unsure of what to expect, we were greeted warmly. We noticed a table with name tags we could put on that actually had a rainbow on them. It may not have been intentional but it was noticed and we felt that even this was a welcome sign. It was the day it was announced that Rev. Michelle had had Opaline.

We were welcomed every week we attended worship. We eventually attended the social time after worship where some people approached us to welcome us to the church. We talked and emailed Cathy with many questions that were warmly answered. After attending church for several weeks Alex and I felt comfortable enough to offer our help during pancake Tuesday. We then decided to ask about how to get more involved in the church community and also about the possibility of Alex being baptized and dedicated into the United Church and the family of Westminster. Every Sunday we read the monitor and bulletin of church committees and activities and asked questions about the Mosaic committee. We attended our first Mosaic committee meeting over a year ago and enjoy working with members to celebrate the diversity of our congregation and community. As the committee takes a summer break from meetings we look forward to continuing to work with the dedicated Mosaic committee members in the fall, bringing forth ideas to share our congregation's diversity.

We thank Rev. Dan who gave us his time while Rev. Michelle bonded with Opaline. He helped us on our journey to be baptized and dedicated into the United Church and the Westminster family. We enjoyed our evenings learning about the church and bible and were given many opportunities to ask questions and discuss our thoughts. During this time of our Christian growth, Alex was also preparing for life altering surgery. Shortly before his baptism he underwent a double mastectomy which was imperative for his physical and emotional well being as a transgender male. We chose to share this because the congregation offered a prayer shawl for Alex to help him with his knowledge that God was with him during this difficult time and that the congregation was also praying for him. Before his surgery Alex had that shawl on his lap and afterwards it covered him offering love and peace which helped him tremendously during his recovery period.

As Alex and I continue on our Christian journey within the Westminster congregation, we continue to grow with the guidance of those around us. Alex felt immediately welcomed when joining the choir, and as health and time allow we are committed to learning more about the work of the church and congregation and how we can play a part.

We thank you as a congregation that recognized the value in becoming an affirming church, and the welcome Alex and I felt as we nervously walked through your doors on that first Sunday morning. Thanks for embracing our diversity and that of others.

Cheryl and Alex



**As SUMMER approaches, the NEED is GREAT...
Please GIVE...
...the LIFE you SAVE may be YOURS!**



**Tuesday, June 5th
4:00pm - 7:00pm
Westminster United Church**

Book online at www.blood.ca or call 1-888-236-6283



The UCW membership has donated \$4000.00 to the General Fund of Westminster United Church and the Yard Sale in April raised \$2227.00.

The Mother's Day Tea fundraiser was a sell-out and a huge success. Thank you to everyone who baked, donated, helped and attended, and our heartfelt gratitude to co-ordinators: Joanne Y., Heather M. and Barbara A.

You Are Needed!

If we are to live out our motto -
Be Welcomed, Be Nourished, Belong
we need your help.

Please sign up to greet and light the candles one Sunday (or more) over the summer months. Having cheerful greeters at the door to welcome people to worship is an important aspect of our ministry.

And there's a personal benefit –
it's a great way to meet people and build relationships!



THE COMMITTEE

CORNER

Trustees

The majority of members of the Board of Trustees must be members of the United Church of Canada and should be members of the congregation served by the Board.

Persons under consideration must be trustworthy, able to work effectively as part of a group, willing to be accountable regularly to the church Council, and should reflect the diversity of the church membership.



The term of service of a Trustee for Westminster United Church is 10 years.

How do you become a Trustee?

The chairperson of the church Council, based on recommendations of the church Council, invites an individual to join the Board of Trustees. The nominee must be accepted at a congregational meeting.

What do Trustees do?

The Board of Trustees holds property for the use and benefit of the congregation as part of The United Church of Canada for such religious, charitable, educational, congregational, or social purposes as the congregation may direct, as for the support and maintenance of public worship and the propagation of Christian knowledge, according to the policies of the United Church. ...which means that the Board of Trustees helps to ensure the integrity of Westminster United Church by supporting the activities of the church Council in areas such as property insurance, fire safety plan, asset management, etc.

The Board of Trustees is also responsible for managing any investments given to Westminster United Church.

The Trustees meet three to four times per year to address issues within its mandate and the Board of Trustees is represented on the Church Council.

The current members are:

Doug MacK. (chair)
Joanne MacP.
Larry M.
Ron M.
Bob N.
Dave P.
Jim W.

We have another weekend scheduled for directory photos –
September 21st and September 22nd.

Please book an appointment for your
FREE portrait at
<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y9n2gv58/>.

There will also be opportunities to sign up
after Sunday worship in the gym.
Please check the weekly bulletin for
those dates.

We completed 79 portraits during the
April sittings which means that we have a
very large number outstanding.

Our goal is to include every person, every
couple, every family -
EVERYONE who worships
at Westminster.

Please ensure that you are included in
this special 60th Anniversary edition
of our Westminster Directory.



**Come one, come all...
It's PICNIC TIME!**



Sunday, June 10th

Immediately after our J.a.M led Worship Service.

There's something for everyone, so gather your family and friends, bring your lawn chair (if you have one), lather on the sunscreen and wear your picnic clothes (don't forget your hat).. and we'll see you on the 10th!

Lunch and Beverages will be provided, but there will be an opportunity to make a free-will offering should you wish to do so.

This is a RAIN or SHINE event, so either way, plan to be part of the FUN! See you there!



Celebrating God's Glorious Creation



Planting the Westminster Gardens with our J.a.M Kids





Summer J.a.M. is a scaled down version of our regular J.a.M Program that runs from Sept.-June.

This program is non-rotational and will be offered every Sunday from **June 17 to August 26** (excluding July 1 and August 5) for children **ages 4-10** (JK - Grade 5). There will also be no J.a.M classes on the Labour Day weekend (Sept. 2).

As this summer program may involve outdoor activities, it is recommended that your child(ren) wear casual, comfortable clothing to church (please no flip-flops or sandals...they are unsafe for running).

Please note that Summer J.a.M does not include programming for our older Just Jammin' class or for our Nursery class, although the Nursery will be open every Sunday for children to use with their caregivers.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our Summer program, please contact: Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation (cshaw@westminster-uc.ca or 905-723-6442)

News from your Nominating Committee

A BIG "THANK-YOU" to everyone who has taken the time to complete our survey that's been strategically placed in your bulletins over the past few Sundays!

We are sure that the rest of you are still analyzing your own skills and working out your available timeframe so that you can share your amazing talents with the rest of us. 😊

Have no fear – you still have the rest of spring and all of summer to think about it so that you can respond when we will, again, 'strategically' place the surveys in your bulletins in August/September.

Seriously, though, I am reaching out to all our congregants to connect with you and to get to know you better. What are your talents? How much time could you spare to help at your church? Is there something you would like to teach/train/speak about? What is your passion? Do you love to read, to play music, to organize and plan events, to decorate and paint or simply to make others feel welcomed? Do environmental issues interest you? Do you have a legal background? Do you love working with numbers and finances?

See, I can go on and on with the many questions, however, at this time, all we're asking is that you complete the survey or even better, speak to any of us on any given Sunday because we would love to answer any questions or address any other concerns that you may have. I have also included my phone number to make it easier for you to connect with me.

Do enjoy your summer and we look forward to welcoming YOU and to learning more about YOU.

Blessings from your Nominating Committee.

Margaret Suepaul (416-756-0636), Paul Pierson, Shane Suepaul, Joan Sanderson and Teena Morrow.



The April 8th Lakeshore Winds Concert was a tremendous success. It was a sold-out performance raising in excess of \$3,000.00 and providing a wonderful evening of musical presentations. We thank those in our congregation who attended and contributed to our ongoing support of our new Canadians.

Sut has now been in Canada over one year and continues to excel in his learning about his new country. He will play soccer again this summer as well as participate in the Oshawa English learning exchange in addition to his Monday to Friday English classes which he will attend through July. If there are odd jobs you need done or you know of someone who does, Sut is a most industrious person and is eager to work as time allows. Similarly, if you are aware of part-time job opportunities, he would be most interested in being made aware.

Freweyni and her children continue to learn about their new country both by their schooling and also through outside activities. Jirom and Frtuna have both been registered for soccer in Oshawa; one is playing Tuesday evenings while the other plays Wednesday evenings. There will also be a practice each week but the day is not known yet. Play will begin in May and volunteer drivers are a key support for them. If you can help, we would gratefully welcome your volunteerism. Joanne can be contacted at 905- 720-2046.

Your Committee has recognized that the support of volunteers has become the # 1 need especially for Freweyni and her children. This is as it applies to soccer, as mentioned previously, and also for July and August when the children are not in school.

We have not finalized specific needs but an example is Monday to Friday playground programs which are being considered. The family is not within walking distance of the parks that have these programs so the need for vehicles again becomes a reality. Joanne can be contacted if you are able to provide some of your time and a car.

It is a wonderful experience to help those from other countries that have not had the benefits of living in Canada. The support of our congregation has been tremendous and is such a strong motivation to continue to help.

God Bless one and all.

WESTMINSTER'S 60th ANNIVERSARY

“Save the Date”

November 17 & 18, 2018

We will be celebrating Westminster's 60th on Saturday November 17th with a family anniversary event at the church. On Sunday November 18th, we will have an anniversary Sunday service. All current and former members and anyone in the community who wishes to participate in these events is most welcome! Mark these dates on your calendar and keep your eyes open for additional details.



Westminster's 60th Anniversary
Commemorative Pens
are available to purchase for only
\$3.00 each.

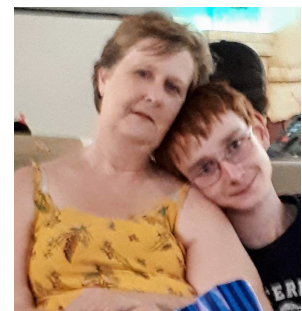
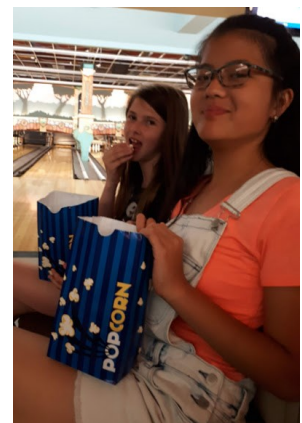
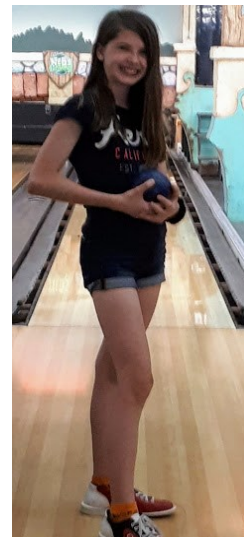
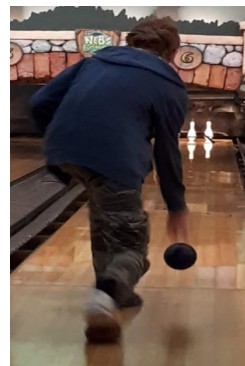
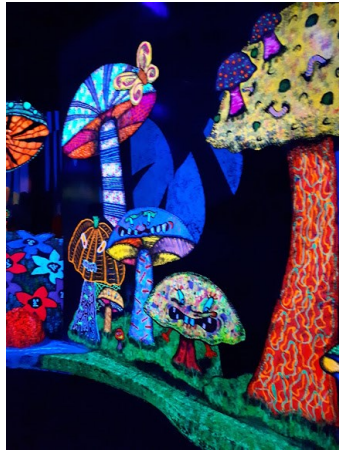
This souvenir will be available in the gym after Worship
and from the Church Office during the week.





YOUTH GROUP SHENANIGANS

Pizza Making
Mini-Golf
Bowling





Festival of Faith: Fun for all ages

The Festival of Faith is infusing fun into the 43rd General Council. This all-ages community event will feature carnival games, bouncy castles for kids of all ages and a super-fun 60-foot inflatable relay course. Challenge your children, friends, family - even The United Church of Canada's Moderator.

Location: The festival kicks off GC43 and takes place Saturday and Sunday, July 21–22, 2018 at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Durham College, Oshawa, ON

Cost: Free! We are thankful for any donations you make to Mission & Service.

Free Workshops that will Inspire and Educate

We are excited to share details of a handful of the dynamic and informative workshops at the Festival of Faith.

Exploring Racial Justice: A Bible Study

Sat. July 21, 2018 (Time to be confirmed)

Does the Bible talk about racial justice? How might we read familiar texts with a racial-justice lens? How might people of various backgrounds differently read biblical passages?

Our understanding of the Word and the Gospel calls us to racial justice. Yet as human beings, we exclude on these grounds all the time. How can we address this? One way is through exploring racial justice in the Bible. This interactive workshop will include time for individual reflection, small-group work and large-group discussion. Participants will be encouraged to deepen their learning outside of the workshop.

The Bible study and reflection are based on the online racial justice training program for ministry personnel. The Bible study, which consistently receives high reviews in workshop evaluations, will also be grounded in our commitment to become an anti-racist, intercultural church.

Speakers: Adele Halliday, Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Alcris Limongi and Philip Vinod Peacock

Taking the Church Out of the Church

Sat. July 21, 2018 (Time to be confirmed)

This workshop explains how to be a vibrant, emerging and modern ministry: a ministry that thinks outside the box but is based on the values of the United Church of Canada; one that does not meet in the physical, traditional church and one that looks toward the future and the needs of its people. Participants will immerse themselves in a dynamic, modern worship experience and discover how to build an intentional community of faith.

Speakers: Nathan Beeler, Mat Whynott, Alicia Walls and Whitney Walls

Disability and the Church: Re-Imagining Being Together

Sat. July 21, 2018 (Time to be confirmed)

This workshop offers a mix of personal presentations and small-group discussions. The goal is to look at efforts to widen the scope of participation in the church, particularly to more fully include people with both visible and invisible disabilities. The presentations share real-life transformational processes. Some are about theologies of disabilities; others are personal experiences. The format of the workshop is: presentation, guided questions and small-group discussions. Participants will have an opportunity to share stories from their own communities of faith. The second part of the workshop features an exploration of an accessibility audit with practical suggestions for communities of faith. Advocacy ideas will be considered.

Speakers: Sharon Aylsworth, Sharon Ballantyne, Adele Halliday, Tom Reynolds, Miriam Spies.

Continued on Next Page

Festival of Faith (Continued)

Iridesce: The Living Apology Project

Sat. July 21, 2018 (Time to be confirmed)

In 1988, the United Church declared that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, are welcome as full members, and all members are eligible to be considered for ministry.

In 2015, General Council approved a motion to partner with Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble to create a Living Apology project. Iridesce: The Living Apology Project was launched in September 2017. The project is gathering personal stories of being trans, bisexual, 2-Spirit, lesbian, gay, queer (or another gender or sexual identity/expression) in our past or present church. We are hearing some clear messages.

The church we are becoming brings brokenness and wounds that linger from 1988, with accompanying grief and anger. LGBTQ2+ people, their family and allies in the United Church are still afraid to share their stories, afraid to come out, afraid of judgment and rejection. The church needs to wrestle with these issues, and this workshop invites participants into the conversations.

Speaker: Aaron Miechkota

Workshop: United Church of Canada Property Resource Group

July 21/22, 2018 (Time to be confirmed)

The United Church's new Property Resource Group is designed to support congregations and regional councils seeking new and innovative forms of ministry. The key element for success is being able to bring best-in-class advice to reimagine how our dilapidated infrastructure can be realigned to better love our neighbours. The impact for the UC is that we are stronger together.

This workshop will show that the church can be a leader with the power to move the needle on massive social voids that are affecting communities across the country, such as affordable housing, community hubs and inclusive communities. As stewards of our land, we are learning how to leverage the assets we are entrusted with to create the biggest impact possible.

A Thank You Letter

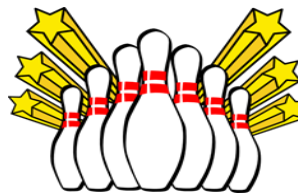
To the wonderful folks who have made and are making the bags for General Council, this letter is for you.

Please accept my deepest appreciation for all the bags that have been made for General Council 43 in July. I had committed Lakeridge Presbyterial to 100 bags and I have 102 in my home. If there are any others in the process of being made or already made, we will take them as well. They will be used, as the total number of delegates expected is 500. Hills & Shores Presbytery are making a large quantity as well, but there wasn't a number available from the meeting I attended.

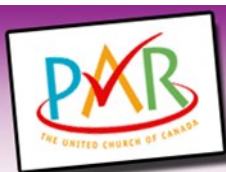
Blessing to all,
Donna Bignell

Lakeridge Presbyterial UCW, General Council 43 Local Arrangements Contact.





With your generous donations, our Westminster Bowling Team raised over \$1000.00 for the new St. Vincent's Kitchen during the 7th Annual Durham Outlook's Bowl-O-Rama!



How is your stewardship **PAR**ticipation?

*With Summer almost upon us,
please don't forget about Westminster while you are away...
...our doors are always open, because God doesn't take a vacation!*



Plan to attend the last **WINE, WOMEN and the WORD** before our summer break.

The next meeting will be held at
27 Kilberry Drive, Whitby on Tuesday, June 12th at 7:00pm

Topic: *The Summer of the Bible*
Please read Luke 21:29-36 and bring your bible and a lawn chair.

Year-End
Ceremonies
for our
Guiding and Scouting
Partners



ALLERGY ALERT - PLEASE READ!

As our J.a.M Sunday School continues to steadily grow, we find ourselves happily experiencing a diverse group of children each week. With Westminster being such an inclusive, accepting and welcoming space, it is important for us to keep all our children safe while they are in our care.



To that end, we have children in our congregation who have severe, life-threatening allergies to Tree Nuts and especially to Peanuts (we probably have some adults as well).

The Christian Education Committee and J.a.M Teaching Team are asking for your help in preventing any serious incidents of anaphylaxis.

How can you help?

- * The best way to help is to choose not to eat peanut butter or any products containing peanuts/nuts (*peanut butter, granola bars, etc*) before heading to church.
- * Should you need to have these products for breakfast then please brush your teeth thoroughly and wash your hands well with soap and warm water...*unfortunately hand sanitizer does not get rid of the residue left from peanuts and other nut products.*

We are doing our very best in J.a.M to offer programming that will keep our children safe and healthy, and we are extending this request to the rest of our congregation, so that together we can make Westminster a place for all to enjoy.

Please consider taking these simple steps on Sunday morning because you never know who's life you may be affecting. Thank you for helping us help others!

NEWS FROM THE PEWS...

Did you know...

...that Melissa Motum, daughter of Margaret and Ron, was recently in Iceland for a 10-day exploration, and that her brother, Robert, is directing one of the plays in the Toronto Fringe Festival?

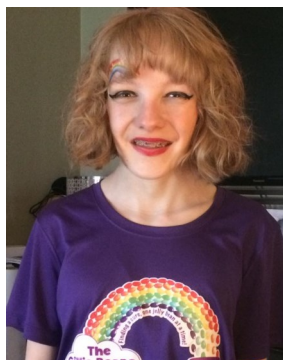
...that Brock Pierson, son of Paul and Jody, has had jaw surgery and is doing well?

...that the Junior Choir sang a special Mother's Day song - wearing sun glasses and snapping their fingers to a Blues tune? WOW!

...that Rev. Janelle Shaw, daughter of Cathy Shaw just celebrated her first year of Ordination as a United Church Minister?

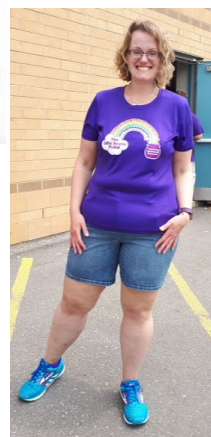
...that the recent performance by the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir was extraordinary? Many thanks to Tom McNown and his team for a wonderful evening.

...that Emilie Rousseau, daughter-in-law of Jolene and Keith Baker will soon begin her PhD in Public Administration at Ecole Nationale d'administration? Her field of study will be linguistic policies. Jolene and Keith are very proud of this young woman who has just completed her second Masters – all while handling a busy life and family.



Hard to imagine that one person could raise \$7,600 for a haircut... but she did it! Congratulations... Well Done!

On May 26th, the 8th Annual Gillie Beans FUN day was held in memory of **Gillian "Gillie Beans" Berthelot** ...and many of our Westminster friends were there to lend a hand. What a spectacular event! All proceeds continue to be dedicated to Rhabdomyosarcoma Research through The SickKids Foundation.



Summer Alert – Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is a bacterial illness that affects people and animals. It spreads by the bite of an infected tick.

Currently only the black-legged tick can spread Lyme disease. Not all black-legged ticks are infected. Black-legged ticks are usually found near wooded or forested areas, in leaf litter or on bushes or tall grass.

Ticks feed on infected wild animals such as rodents, birds or deer. Only then can they spread the infection to humans or pets.

Black-legged ticks are small (the size of a sesame seed) and they often attach to areas of the body where they are hard to see, such as the groin, armpit and scalp.

Ticks cannot fly or jump. Instead they climb onto grasses or bushes and wait for a person or animal to brush by. A tick will quickly attach and then find a suitable place to bite.

Early symptoms of Lyme disease are:

- An expanding rash at the site of a recent tick bite that may look like a “bulls eye”.
This is not always seen!
- Fever
- Feeling of discomfort
- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Neck weakness or stiffness
- Fatigue
- Eye irritation
- Behavioural changes
- Sleep trouble

More severe symptoms may appear if left untreated.

It is important to protect yourself from tick bites:

- ◆ Wear long pants and long sleeves
- ◆ Wear light coloured clothes which makes ticks easier to see
- ◆ Apply insect repellent containing DEET
- ◆ After spending time outdoors check your whole body and head
- ◆ Check your children and pets
- ◆ Shower before ticks have time to attach
- ◆ If you find a tick, remove it ASAP

To remove a tick:

- Remove it gently with fine tipped tweezers
- Do not squeeze it or burn it off or spray it with insect repellent
- Grab the tick as close to the skin as possible
- Pull the tick away from the skin gently but firmly
- Place the tick in a jar and deliver it to one of the Region of Durham Health Department offices for identification and testing

Environmental Help Line in Whitby: 905-723-3818 Toll free: 1-888-777-9613

Source of information: Durham Region Health Department





VBS Volunteers *Needed!*

July 9 – 13

9am - 4pm

Theme: All God's Critters Have a Place

***We need your help –
we are in need of adult and teen helpers –
for a day or two or three or all five days for our camp.***

Our theme this year is All God's Critters Have a Place – celebrating and looking at bible stories from the animal's perspective – Noah's Ark, Rebecca watering the camels, the donkey carrying the beaten man, how the whale and worm changed Jonah's attitude, and the horse's overheard conversation between Philip and the Ethiopian. Thank you for giving this request your prayerful consideration.

VBS Supply List

***Any assistance you might be able to give by purchasing
or donating any of the following items
would be greatly appreciated...***

Empty paper towel rolls
Thick and chunky yarn
Macramé cord
Lots and lots of colored feathers (Dollarama)
Liquid -clear or white glue
A roll of clean white newsprint
Glue sticks
Animal stickers
Flat smooth river stones
Acrylic paint in various colors
Perler beads
Pony beads – various colours
Wooden beads – various colours
Pipe cleaners – various colours/styles
Paper plates – both small and large
Round jingle bells (Dollar store)
Curling ribbon – various colours (Dollar store)

***Please leave in a bag marked VBS in the office. Thank you so much for your help.
If you have concerns or questions or would like to volunteer, please contact
Crystal (905-725-0074) or Susan (905-493-3122).***

Save the Roof!

Why are we doing this?

In the beginning, when the church was being built in 2003ish, one of the shingling products on the market was one called “organic” shingles. Everybody sold them. We in Canada and the US were, and still are, going through an organic revolution. Yes, we the church, need to be environmentally friendly, and we are. However, there is always more we can do.

What are Organic shingles? People are becoming more and more interested in all-natural products. But did you know that organic shingles have been around for centuries? Simply put, they are a basic, pure asphalt shingle. They consist of a felt paper soaked in asphalt and then covered in asphalt granules.

So what's the problem? Well, the good news is that the roof is not leaking...but how long can we afford to wait? Though organic shingles are a good, environmentally friendly option, they have a tendency to lose their granules easily and start curling prematurely. Often times the organic shingle manufacturer would warrant them for 25, 30 years or longer. However, many homeowners and



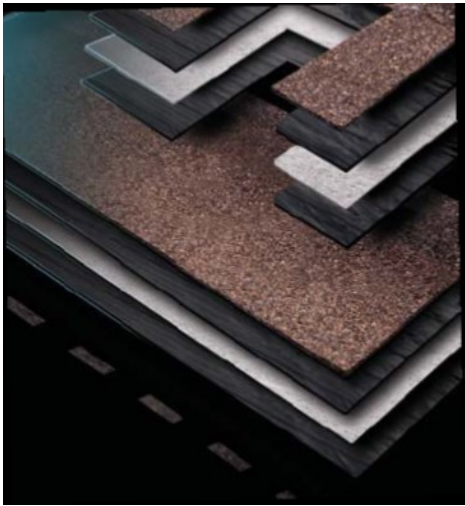
businesses with organic shingles noticed the shingles they had purchased started to curl up or crumble after only a few years from the time they were installed. The premature failure of organic shingles is particularly prevalent in northern and western parts of the United States and Canada where rain, snow, sleet, hail, high-winds and extreme temperature variations occur. The bottom line - manufacturers oversold their warranty with these “superior” shingles having a lifetime of 12 years less than the composite (asphalt and fiberglass mix) shingles available in this market.

What about our warranty? While class action lawsuits have been settled with several manufacturers, we are not able to benefit from this legal action due to the age of the roof and the lack of records identifying our roofing material and contractor.

Is the roof important? Well, maybe that's a rhetorical question! Having a physical presence in the community has provided us not only a place of worship but it has also fostered a very diverse outreach program. Just to name some activities: a local daycare centre; a place to celebrate music (in the sanctuary); a community meeting centre for Vacation Bible School, Brownies, senior exercise classes and karate classes; and community services such as Canadian Blood Services blood donor clinics, food bank and election polling centre.

Save the Roof! (continued)

So, what are we doing about it? A Request for Proposal (RFP) stating our needs was issued in February. Several companies, large and small, local and GTA-based responded. Your Property Committee is now reviewing all the proposals and talking to the companies to better understand what our choices are. The shingles being proposed are laminated, fiberglass core/asphalt/granular coated and are part of the overall roofing system, which includes ice/water shield, complete roof coverage with a membrane, and proper ventilation. The warranty - now that is a challenge to understand. If you are asking us to be environmentally friendly, the fiberglass is actually better on the environment and easier to recycle than 'organic' shingles. Our committee hopes to provide a recommendation to the Council in mid-May.



...and what is it going to cost, you ask? At Westminster, we are very fortunate. We have a very generous congregation. We have some reserve funds and we are part of a resourceful larger presbytery. Our Stewardship Committee will be trying to make the most of those options to develop their recommendations to Council for paying the bill. In the interim, we did start the "Save the Roof" campaign. Please consider supporting this initiative as best you can. All bundles of shingles count!

So...stayed tuned. We will be getting back to you with what we hope will be a solution that is acceptable to the congregation.

Bob Neil, Chair, Property Committee

Let's Make a Change

You will notice that in each public washroom there are now Compostable Green Bins.

Please put only compostable hand towels and tissues in these Green Bins.

This will greatly reduce garbage placed at the curb for regular pick-up.

All other trash needs to be put in the trash can in the Hall or the Kitchen OR taken home for disposal.

Feminine waste should be placed in the designated receptacles.

It is certainly about time we make this change to take one more small step to **protect the environment** and to **reduce our cost** for garbage pick-up.



Each garbage bag over the four allowed costs an additional \$2.50 a tag.

Small changes add up...Thank you from The Property Committee

January 1st – April 30th, 2018 Financial Status

	April 30, 2018 Actual	2018 To Date Actual	2017 To Date Actual
Monthly Offerings (Local & Bldg. Funds)	\$21,944	\$89,332	\$85,830
Total Revenue	\$37,290	\$136,830	\$140,881
Total Expenses	\$35,678	\$148,802	\$152,416
Net Position	\$1,612	-\$11,972	-\$11,535

For the month of April 2018, Westminster realized a surplus of \$1,612. Through the first four months of 2018, Westminster reported a deficit of \$11,972. This deficit is in line with last year's. Based on historical trends, we continue to be positive that we will have a positive 2018.

As we approach the summer months, we encourage you to give prayerful thought to your contributions and consider signing up for PAR.

Thank you for your continued generosity of time, talent and resources.

**Fragrance
Free
Please**

**LET'S KEEP EVERYONE
BREATHING WELL!**

**FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY
AND WELL-BEING OF ALL ,
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING SCENTED
PRODUCTS WHILE AT WESTMINSTER!**

THANK YOU!

Pray, Praise, Ponder

May God bless
every step we take
every word we speak
every hand we shake
every truth we seek
every prayer we make.

Amen.

You're invited...

Blood Donor Clinic - URGENT NEED - PLEASE GIVE! 4:00pm - 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 5
Worship Service 10:30am Year-End J.a.M Celebration and Church Picnic	Sunday, June 10
Wine, Women and the Word Bible Study 7:00pm– Offsite	Tuesday, June 12
Worship Service 10:30am Summer J.a.M Begins <i>Happy Father's Day!</i>	Sunday, June 17
Worship Service - Baptism 10:30am	Sunday, June 24
Worship Service 10:30am Led by Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation	Sunday, July 1, 8 and 15
Vacation Bible School (VBS) 9:00am - 4:00pm	Monday, July 9 - Friday, July 13
Festival of Faith Location: UOIT/Durham College	Saturday, July 21 Sunday, July 22
General Council 43 (GC43) Location: UOIT/Durham College	Saturday, July 21 - Friday, July 27
Welcome Sunday	Sunday, September 9

Summer Blessings!

