

*with God*

all things

ARE

possible

Matthew 19:26



## **Westminster's 1<sup>st</sup> "Season of Service"**

### **New Opportunities to Shine the Light of Christ into Our Wider Community**

Part of our congregation's Mission & Vision work together has been to listen for where God may be leading us as a faith community. One direction we've discerned is a calling to further extend Westminster's outreach ministry into our wider community, finding even more ways to be present and to serve in response to changing needs.

With Council's blessing, your Outreach and Stewardship Committees are pleased to let you know that Westminster's first "Season of Service" is a new opportunity for members of our congregation to both lead and participate in some new community outreach projects during the month of September 2021, traditionally, the start of our new church season.

#### ***Here's what you need to know:***

- There will be 3 service activities happening on each of 3 Saturdays in September: September 11, 18, 25
- The 3 activities provide for an activity indoors, one outdoors and one wherever you may be that day, allowing our congregation's members to participate in the way they feel most comfortable
- The "Season of Service" Saturdays Schedule:

#### **Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

##### **Neighbourhood Flyer Drop for Food Drive Donations (in support of The Pantry)**

- Activity Idea: The team will create a simple food drive promotional flyer and hand-deliver it to some surrounding neighbourhoods in Whitby and Oshawa
- Time Involved: Planning and 2-3 hours (morning or afternoon)

##### **Back to School Backpack Donations (in support of The Refuge and The Pantry clients)**

- Activity Idea: The team will determine most needed items, create a simple promotion for the congregation and hold either a backpack drop-off time or a backpack assembly time at the church.
- Time Involved: Planning and 2-3 hours (morning or afternoon)

##### **Prayer Team (in support of our Saturday Service Teams and community)**

- Activity Idea: The team will create a prayer circle, virtually and/or in person, to pray for the communities being supported and our service teams
- Time Involved: Planning and 1-2 hours (morning or afternoon)

*(Continued on Next Page)*

## SEASON OF SERVICE (Continued)

### Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

#### **Frontline Workers Thank -You**

(in support of Community Care Durham Personal Support Workers)

- Activity Idea: The team will write thank-you cards and assemble small tokens of appreciation to be delivered to the agency's personal support workers
- Time Involved: Planning and 2-3 hours (morning or afternoon)

#### **Helping Hands Small Jobs (in support of Manning Mews Non-Profit Housing Complex)**

- Activity Idea: The team will assist with small jobs needed in the common areas of the complex (painting, planting, etc.) and have a chance to safely connect with Manning Mews residents
- Time Involved: Planning and 2-3 hours (morning or afternoon)

#### **Prayer Team (in support of our Saturday Service Teams and community)**

- Activity Idea: The team will create a prayer circle, virtually and/or in person, to pray for the communities being supported and our service teams
- Time Involved: Planning and 1-2 hours (morning or afternoon)

### Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

#### **Neighbourhood Food Drive Donations Pickup (in support of The Pantry)**

- Activity Idea: The team will collect the food drive items donated by neighbourhood residents (from the flyer delivery) and/or help sort items dropped at the church gym
- Time Involved: Planning and 2-3 hours (morning or afternoon)

#### **Green Spaces Clean-Up Day (Whitby Waterfront or other location)**

- Activity Idea: The team will organize a waste pickup event at one or more green space locations in Whitby or Oshawa
- Time Involved: Planning and 2-3 hours (morning or afternoon)

#### **Prayer Team (in support of our Saturday Service Teams and community)**

- Activity Idea: The team will create a prayer circle, virtually and/or in person, to pray for the communities being supported and our service teams
- Time Involved: Planning and 1-2 hours (morning or afternoon)

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## SEASON OF SERVICE (Continued)

- Our service activities will be rewarding, allowing us to connect with new people in our community and provide a time of safe fellowship with our Westminster friends.
- For all of our September service initiatives, we are looking for *both team leaders and team participants from Westminster's congregation! Team leaders will plan the service activity, assemble the team, and carry out the activity on the day.*
- Your Outreach & Stewardship Committees will provide our team leaders and teams with support to help make the Saturdays successful for all!

### *Here's what you need to do:*

Please go to the link below to sign up for one (or more) of our September Service Saturdays.

**Sign up Link:** <https://forms.gle/Py6AqSDLLzAgPgDe6>

Service teams, activity details and activity times will be finalized for early September.

Should you have any questions about Westminster's "Season of Service," please contact Cathy Cherwinka, Chair, Outreach Committee through our church office at [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca)

We wish you a safe and peace-filled summer as we look forward to September!

Blessings to all,

*Westminster's Outreach & Stewardship Committees*





# Happy Anniversary



**Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Arthur and Crystal Smith**  
*July 13<sup>th</sup>*



**Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Shane and Margaret Suepaul**  
*August 8<sup>th</sup>*

# Happy Anniversary



**Happy 30th Anniversary**  
**Jim and Carolyn Hay**  
*August 10<sup>th</sup>*



**Happy 28th Anniversary**  
**Mark Clarke and Carol O'Neil**  
*August 14<sup>th</sup>*



## CLIMATE EMERGENCY

By: Lora Veenstra (age: 11 years)

The climate disaster cannot be fixed by One person, One family, One town, One province, One country. But **EVERYONE** needs to do their part. And it won't be easy or fast. But we can't just wait for others to take action; we each need to take action now. For me, it is a hard thing to talk about but it is an important thing to do. We need to learn what climate change is, take action in helping the climate, tell people what climate change is and encourage them to take action, too. When we take action, it encourages others to do the same.

I know that I am just a kid, but I also know we all can make a difference, no matter our age. Climate change concerns me a lot because it doesn't just affect this generation but the generations to come. What we do today will affect our future. And right now our world, let alone our country, isn't really doing a good job of making a bright future. But we can't just blame one person or activity because we all contribute to it in some way. We really need to change the way we live so that it is more sustainable, but that is easier said than done.

I want to be part of making a difference but I'm still not quite sure how to. I already help by doing small things like helping hang the laundry to dry outside instead of using the dryer, helping in the vegetable garden and other small things like that. But I want to make a bigger difference. I want to start a group at school next year that would do different things to help the environment and talk about climate change even though I don't really like talking to people unless I know them well. I want to make a difference even if that means stepping out of my comfort zone.

I already said that I want to do something big to make a difference, but of course we need to start small. Every family could let some of their yard go wild or participate in the "No Mow May" in future years if you aren't already doing this. You can also plant some flowers which will help the insects get the nutrients they need.

We all know that plastic is not good for our planet. It isn't good the way we make it or the way we throw it out. Even if you put it in the recycling, most of it will likely end up in a landfill or end up in lakes and oceans either on purpose or by accident. We can't just stop using plastic in one day; we need to slowly get there. Try to think of ways to reduce how much plastic your family uses. Your family can estimate how much plastic it uses on a regular basis and then decide on a goal as to how much to reduce plastic use. For a month, your family could record how much plastic it used and see if your family met its goal.

Those are just two ideas, but there are so many more ways we can help the environment. Please join me in taking steps to save our planet so that current and future generations can enjoy a healthy life on God's beautiful Earth.



*(Photo Credit: USGS and Robert Ritchie, Unsplash)*

## **ACKNOWLEDGING INDIGENOUS LAND**



### **What is the significance of acknowledging the Indigenous land we stand on?**

Westminster United Church is part of a growing public acknowledgement of Indigenous territorial land we all live, work and play on here in Durham Region. We are already stating this acknowledgement as part of our Sunday morning services, as well as during several other church meetings and gatherings. Later this year, we plan to install an official recognition on our church property that will involve a stone & metal plaque. As part of the Parish Mosaic sub-committee's mandate, you will see more public education and awareness of this initiative as an ongoing element of Westminster's inclusion and diversity outreach.

We have all been horrified by the stark news first out of BC, then Saskatchewan over the last few months about the mass and unmarked graves of hundreds (and undoubtedly eventually thousands) of Indigenous children -so far a small representation of hundreds of such residential schools at one time in Canada. So, acknowledging the land we stand on involves living and immediate relevance for all of us, not just historical events from the past.

Acknowledging the territory shows recognition of and respect for Indigenous Peoples. It is recognition of their presence both in the past and the present. Recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations.

It is a tradition that has dated back centuries for Indigenous people, but for many non-Indigenous Canadians, officially recognizing the territory or lands we stand on is a fairly new concept.

However, it is one that many Indigenous people say marks a small but essential step towards reconciliation.

*(Continued on Next Page)*





*(Photo Credit: Callum Parker, Unsplash)*

*[The following is an edited version of an article that first appeared on the CBC News website --- written by Ramna Shahzad  
CBC News · Posted: Jul 15, 2017 / Last Updated: July 17, 2017]*

### **What is a territorial or land acknowledgement?**

A territorial or land acknowledgement is an act of reconciliation that involves making a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who called the land home before the arrival of settlers, and in many cases still do call it home.

For example, at the beginning of the city of Toronto's city council meeting, the speaker acknowledges the meeting space as "the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat and home to many diverse Indigenous peoples."

The acknowledgement is increasingly being used at other civic events, as well as part of corporate-community events --- and, of course, part of many church services and gatherings.

Karyn Recollet is an urban Cree woman and an associate professor at the University of Toronto's Women and Gender Studies Institute. She says it is important to see the territorial acknowledgement as an activation of Indigenous culture.

"To think about land activation and land acknowledgement is to remember that there are these rich Indigenous governances that still exist, that are ongoing and that will go into the future," she said.

### **What is its purpose?**

"Its purpose is to recognize that we, as settlers and as people who are not part of First Nations or Indigenous groups, are here on their land," said Alison Norman, a research adviser in the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and a researcher at Trent University.

Norman says land acknowledgements have become increasingly common in non-Indigenous spaces in the last few years, especially since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on residential schools released its 94 calls to action in 2015.

"Many organizations, libraries, governments and school boards are all thinking about what we need to do to respond to the TRC," she said. "It's about thinking about what happened in the past and what changes can be made going forward in order to further the reconciliation process."

"A lot of people are unaware of Canada's actual history, and this gets people talking and conversations starting," he said. "Personally, I feel like I can have a conversation about who I am, where I'm from and what I'm doing in the city."

*(Continued on Next Page)*

### **How long have territorial acknowledgements existed?**

Territorial acknowledgements have existed for hundreds of years as part of many Indigenous cultures.

"When we talk about the newness of territorial acknowledgements, these aren't new. Acknowledging relationships to space and place is an ancient Indigenous practice that flows into the future," said Recollet.

"What we see as concrete, what we see as the CN tower, as buildings, these are all places that have been prayed for, that have been gathering places for ceremonies and I think it is important to remember that."

### **How is it determined who is acknowledged?**

The city of Toronto's acknowledgement was decided on by the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee in 2013-14 and finalized in March 2014.

The city consulted with all three of the communities recognized in the acknowledgement — the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations or Iroquois Confederacy) and the Huron-Wendat.

"It's complicated history, which makes it difficult and important to get it right," said Norman, who also acted as a researcher for the TRC. "In Toronto we've had many Indigenous people who have lived here, called this territory home and passed through here."

For those organizing a community event or wanting to get the acknowledgement right, Norman recommends looking at what bigger organizations, universities and governments, that have consulted heavily with an Indigenous advisory panel, have done.

### **What does the acknowledgement mean to Indigenous people and communities?**

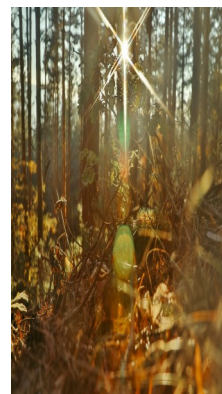
"It reminds us we are accountable to these relationships and to remind us every day, for example in school systems, of the accountability that everybody has to listen to the concerns of the community and how we can align to our [Indigenous] community," said Recollet.

"It shows that people are willing to hear you out as an Indigenous person, and they recognize that your culture and your past really means a lot," said Waboose.

### **What does the acknowledgement mean to non-Indigenous communities?**

"It certainly isn't enough, but it is a necessary first step," said Norman. "It needs to be the beginning of a learning process." Norman said for people who want to take steps to reconciliation, the acknowledgement should lead to more questions about who the people listed in the acknowledgement are and how their land came to be possessed by settlers. "It also needs to be personal," she said. "We have to ask, 'How am I benefitting by living on this land that is a traditional territory of Indigenous people?'"

*In the September issue of Westminster World, we will explore in more detail the reasons we word the acknowledgement used here at Westminster the way we do --- Including a bit of history about Indigenous Peoples within Durham Region.*



(Photo Credit:  
Mladen Borisov, Unsplash)

*Submitted by Paul Kneebone*

*(member of WUC's Outreach Committee and Parish Mosaic sub-Committee)*



*I Thee Wed...*

*Cassandra  
and  
Gideon*



*Hilary  
and  
Vlad*







### **A Community Concern**

There is a new hospital to be built in Durham Region. This article provides information and an opportunity to support building the new hospital in Brooklin, on Halls Road north of Hwy 7, west of Ashburn and south of Hwy 407. (A site map is included in the survey.)

Oshawa has been fighting for years to have this new hospital located in Oshawa, but they already have a large hospital with a Cancer Clinic. However, Whitby has NO hospital at all. Lakeridge Health already has a huge area to service: Oshawa, Courtice, Bowmanville, Newcastle and also Whitby and beyond.

If a new full General Hospital were to be built in Whitby, it would service Whitby/Brooklin, Ajax and Pickering - areas which are experiencing rapid growth in population..

**Please watch the 2 minute video and fill out the 5 minute survey to support the new hospital site to be located in Brooklin/Whitby.**

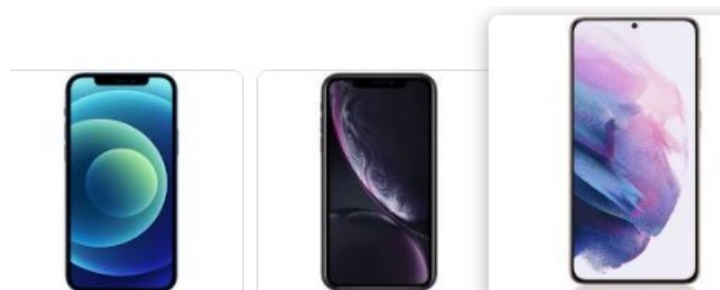
<https://www.whitby.ca/en/town-hall/a-new-hospital-in-whitby.aspx>

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### ***Urgent UCW Request***



Have you purchased a new cell phone?  
Do you have an older model cell phone gathering dust in the junk drawer?

If so, would you consider donating your  
unused cell phone to the UCW Catering Committee?

We are in IMMEDIATE need of a cell phone and its charger  
that will make and accept phone calls, texts and messages.

For more information or to donate,  
please contact

Shirley Penny (905-430-8122) or  
Susan Pleasance (905-493-3122).

*Thank you so much for your help.*



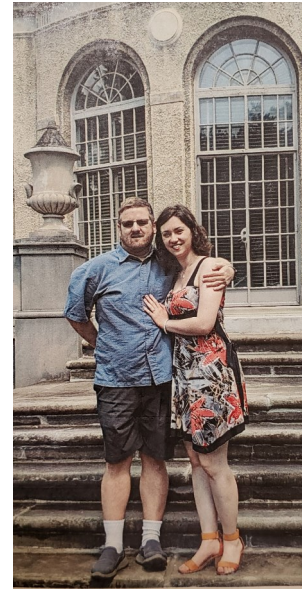


### **BABY NEWS:**

Shirley and Gord Wallis have a great-granddaughter, Covur, born this past January. They were delighted to see her, finally, on Father's Day. Congratulations to the Wallis Clan on their new addition!

### **UPCOMING WEDDING NEWS:**

Kyle Cowan, son of Crystal and Arthur Smith, will be marrying Melissa Rizzo at Kedron United Church in September. May God be with them as they start this new journey together.



### **WEDDING (Part 2) NEWS:**

Melissa (Edwards) and Jason Moreau have celebrated their marriage twice in the last year, and although the pandemic altered many things, it could not stop their love for one another. Many Blessings!

### **GRADUATION NEWS:**

Emma Cullen has graduated from York University and this Fall will be heading to England to pursue her Masters of Science Degree in Sport Bio-mechanics. We wish you well Emma!



## DISCIPLESHIP IS STEWARDSHIP: GIVING WITH INTENTION & LOVE

Over the last few months, our Stewardship/Finance Committee has been exploring the theme of “Discipleship IS Stewardship”. We first reviewed the spiritual practice of GRATITUDE (creating a ‘gratitude’ jar) and giving with a thankful heart. This was followed up with the idea that once we plant our seeds/deeds, we must COMMIT to hard work, attention and patience before reaping a bountiful harvest. Even though we may not see immediate results (recalling the story of the gentleman who attended the Soup Kitchen in Courtenay, BC. hundreds of times until he was finally able to turn his life around and then paid it forward with a cheque), being great disciples of Jesus takes sustained commitment.

Now as we continue our exploration of giving as a spiritual practice, we ask ourselves, as disciples of Jesus, how do we seek individually and as a community to share God’s abundance and love with each other and the world?

There is a direct relationship between the abundance and sparsity of a harvest based on the quantity sown. If we scatter seed sparingly in a field, it will produce a meager crop. If we scatter seeds generously, we will reap an abundant crop and our garden will reflect the love that we showed while tending it. This principle seems obvious to a farmer or a gardener.

Yet, most of us, too often, give/sow out of a sense of scarcity rather than a sense of bounty. Too often we give from a heart that fears that we do not have enough. Too often we give from a heart that forgets that all we have comes from God, the provider and sustainer.

While it is our responsibility, Christian giving should be a product of thoughtful discipleship. We should give because we want to give, and what we give should be a conscious decision based on the depth of the need and the extent of our resources.

This is the point: [there is a difference between the ACT of giving and the ATTITUDE of giving.](#) Give generously, give intentionally, give with love in mind, for God loves a cheerful giver. A cheerful giver is one who gives on purpose and not under compulsion.

Let us examine ourselves the next time we commit the ACT of Giving and ask whether our ATTITUDE is one of intention and love, and matches our act. Do we feel enriched? Are we sowing with a cheerful heart? Do we see the “abundance” of our act or are we only focused on the scarcity and the value?

May we suggest that we live and act as a response to God’s many blessings and that we acknowledge that our lives are enriched in every way by God - so giving back with intention and love is one way of enriching the life of others while also enriching our own harvests.

*Gratefully submitted by Stewardship/Finance*



***Many thanks to our Incredible Summer Students...***



**Toni-Marie**  
Social Media Manager



**Fadi**  
Videographer/Film Editor

# Pray, Praise, Ponder

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
bless God's holy name...**

**Remember the kindness of our God,  
who showers us with  
blessing all our days.**

**Remember the justice of our God,  
who stands with those  
forgotten and confused.**

**Remember the healing love of God,  
who calls us to be whole  
and to be free.**

*(Adapted from More Voices #46)*



## ***Our Prayer Team is here for you!***

Just as you would place your prayers of concern and gratitude in the Prayer Basket during Sunday morning worship, you are invited to put your prayers into our Electronic Prayer Basket and our Prayer Team and Ministry Team will gladly add you to our Prayer List.

Please email or call Cathy Shaw with any Prayer Requests you might have:  
westminster.cathy@gmail.com or  
905-723-6442.

*May you feel God's love and know God's grace  
as you experience the beauty of God's world each day.*



**Stay Connected**  
Stay Safe  
Stay Well



Promoting Wholistic Care for the Westminster Congregation

WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The Health and Wellness Committee has been kept busy in recent months supporting ways for Westminster's congregation to stay connected, stay safe and stay well during the COVID-19 shutdown. It prepared a number of awareness messages that were posted in the weekly email update, worship service announcements, newsletter and faith walk forum. The committee supported periodic telephone check-ins and streaming of worship services and video conferencing as ways to keep connected. During the shutdown of in-person services, the committee monitored safety protocols for use of the church building and maintenance of safety equipment. They also posted articles and videos including Carol O'Neil's Spiritual Wellness video series, COVID safety practices, Loss and Grief during the COVID pandemic, anxiety disorders for children and adults, and a faith-based initiative for climate justice.

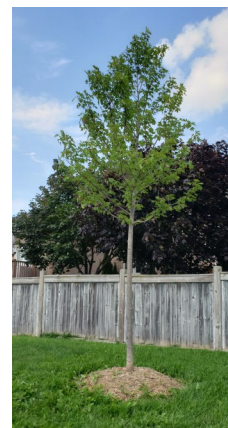
The committee is currently planning several events to explore ways the congregation can support those living with mental health challenges. It organized a small group series on Faith, Grief and COVID-19 that explores our understanding of grief, a Christian perspective on how congregations can support those who are grieving and processing loss in this season. It is also planning an eight week small group series in the Fall called Sanctuary Course that will explore mental health from the psychological, social and theological perspective and ways the congregation can provide support.

## A Tree Grows at Westminster

You may notice the new tree at the north entrance to Westminster's parking lot. She's called Autumn Blaze.

Joan and Jim Ward and Sue and Bob Neil joined resources to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversaries (2020, 2021) and to donate this maple tree. They are sharing the regular watering as instructed by the friendly tree specialist, Pat Cluthe.

We praise God for the blessings we receive and especially for the beauty of the Tree.



## HELP, please!

The J.a.M Birthday Card Coordinator is in need of new, unused cards with envelopes—

In particular  
**birthday cards** or **blank cards with pictures**  
(kid friendly photos...animals, food, etc.)

Contact Susan at 905-493-3122  
or email [auntx2@gmail.com](mailto:auntx2@gmail.com)  
if you have cards to donate  
or for further information.





Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to  
**Teena and Larry Morrow**  
 who have for 35 years,  
 served on practically  
 every committee  
 at Westminster.

We sent them off  
 with Prayers, Blessings  
 and a Westminster "Ambush",  
 to continue their journey in  
 London, Ontario.

*May God continue to richly bless you,  
 as you have so richly blessed others!*



## Monday Mayhem Trivia!

If you're looking for something to do that will connect you with others, make you laugh and maybe give you some fun facts to share at your next party, then give our Trivia Night a try.

Join us on **August 30 at 8:00pm**  
 No skills are required!

Watch the email Blasts for Zoom Link information or  
 contact Cathy Shaw at [westminster.cathy@gmail.com](mailto:westminster.cathy@gmail.com)



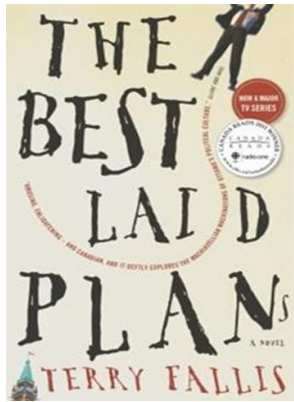
## PIES! PIES! PIES!

Coming this September – The Pie Project.

The UCW will be selling ready-to-bake frozen apple pies.  
 Watch upcoming Friday email blasts for details on this  
 yummy fundraiser!



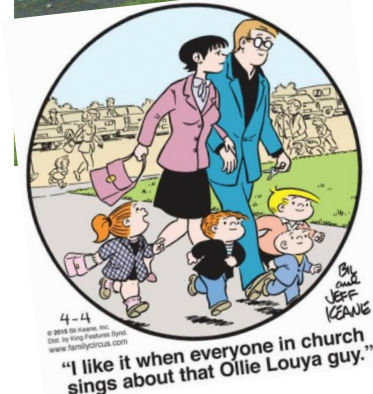
The next gathering of the Book Club is Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 1 pm by Zoom (through the internet or via phone hook up) from the comfort of your home to discuss the book: **The Best Laid Plans** by Terry Fallis.



WINNER OF CBC CANADA READS. A burnt-out political aide quits just before an election--but is forced to run a hopeless campaign on the way out. He makes a deal with a crusty old Scot, Angus McLintock, an engineering professor who will do anything, anything, to avoid teaching English to engineers, to let his name stand in the election. No need to campaign, certain to lose, and so on. Then a great scandal blows away his opponent, and to their horror, Angus is elected. He decides to see what good an honest M.P. who doesn't care about being re-elected can do in Parliament. The results are hilarious--and with chess, a hovercraft, and the love of a good woman thrown in, this very funny book has something for everyone.

All are welcome. To borrow the book or for more information, please call Susan @ 905-493-3122. If you have not attended a previous book club gathering, please let Susan know that you are interested so that she can email you the Zoom link information.

LET'S  
LAUGH...



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



**Saturday, September 11**  
Season of Service (Week 1)

**Saturday, September 18**  
Season of Service (Week 2)  
Westminster's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

**Monday, September 20 - Friday, September 24**  
Annual Stewardship Program Packages mailed

**Saturday, September 25**  
Season of Service (Week 3)

**Sunday, October 17**  
Return Date for Annual Stewardship Program Packages

**Sunday Oct. 31**  
Celebratory Stewardship Potluck lunch  
(Covid restrictions pending)

**Saturday, Nov. 20**  
Westminster's Bazaar!  
(More details to come)

**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
A Christmas Concert,  
featuring a return engagement by  
"BROADSWAY"



Many of you have been asking about this ... and here it is!

**YES, GOLF IS ON!**  
**Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021**

Tee off will be a Shotgun 9:00 am start.  
We will keep you posted with further details.  
Feel free to register yourself or your 4some with Margaret, ASAP.  
Should you have any questions, please direct those to Margaret also:  
**[margaretsuepaul@gmail.com](mailto:margaretsuepaul@gmail.com)**

Thank you!  
Stewardship/Finance.



## Environmental Stewardship at Westminster

We hear a lot of conversation about renewable energy these days. Solar power generation is one method that we have been investigating to provide Westminster's energy needs.

The following is an assessment of this option.

There are many good websites which explain solar energy generation. I have used the formula presented at Solar Power Ontario (Complete Guide 2021) ([energyhub.org](http://energyhub.org)) to calculate the cost of a solar panel system that we would require.

### ***The first calculation is to determine the size of system required.***

The formula is:

Size of system needed = yearly energy use (kWh) / annual equivalent full sunlight hours (hr).

(In Ontario, this averages 1,166 hours per the website)

Our yearly consumption in 2019 was approximately 90,000kWh.

The calculation is:  $90,000\text{kWh} / 1,166\text{hr} = 77.19$ . This is the size of the solar panel system required.

### ***Next, we would calculate the surface area required to produce this requirement.***

The formula is:

Physical space required = size of system needed (in kWh) / size of panel (in kWh) \* physical size of panel (in ft<sup>2</sup>). The average size of a solar panel is 18 ft<sup>2</sup> which produces 0.3 kWh. There are probably many other sizes available but we can use the known average published cost of this size panel.

The calculation is:  $77.19\text{kWh} / 0.3\text{ kWh} \times 18\text{ sq. ft.} = 4,631\text{ ft}^2$

### ***The final calculation is the cost of this system.***

The formula is:

System cost = Size of the system needed x cost per installed watt.

In Ontario, this cost averages \$2.46 per watt.

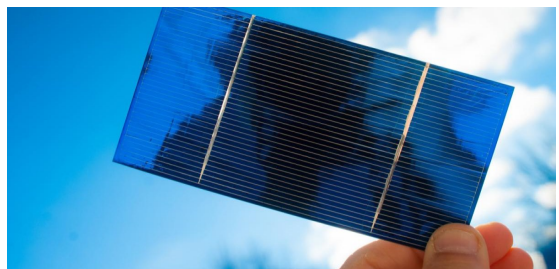
The calculation is:  $77,190\text{ watts} \times \$2.46\text{ per watt} = \mathbf{\$189,887}$

### ***The number of panels required.***

The calculation is:  $4,631\text{ sq. ft.} / 18\text{ sq. ft. (average size panel)} = \mathbf{257\text{ panels}}$

At this time there are no government programs to assist in the cost of installing this kind of a system. While we recognize that environmental stewardship is not all about our building, we think it is a good place to start.

Our annual cost for electricity is about \$13,000. At current costs for electricity, the above system cost is then equivalent to 14.5 years of operation at Westminster.



*(Continued on Next Page)*



## **Environmental Stewardship at Westminster (*continued*)**

It is estimated that solar panels have a life expectancy of 30 years. At this time, solar panels are not indestructible. Broken glass, malfunctioning modules and parts may need to be repaired at some point. The present design of panels requires specialized disposal methods and recycling of the panels is still in its infancy, and present components may actually add to landfill problems.

We would have to decide where to install these panels. We could install the panels on our roof but cost of installation might be higher. To allow for ease of access for maintenance of the panels, it would seem reasonable to erect them at ground level. We could install the panels on the grassy area on the west side of the church property. The approximate size of that area is 200 ft. x 70 ft. or approximately 14,000 sq. ft. Using 3 feet wide panels, we would need 4 rows of 65 panels side by side for the entire length of the grassy area covering approximately half of that area. Doing this, we would lose most of our overflow parking area for large special events.

We might be able to erect them along the fence on the north side of the property but we would have to investigate if our neighbours would be impacted in any way.

In the past, solar power generators could supply the power to the energy grid and they would be paid \$0.288 per kWh. However, all these programs have been cancelled and the only program now available is the Ontario Net Metering program. Through net metering, you may be able to save money by generating power with renewable energy, like wind or solar.

To become a net-metered customer and before you buy or install a renewable energy system, you must apply and be approved to connect your energy source to the electricity grid. After your application is approved and once your renewable energy system is installed and connected to the grid, the electricity company will read your meter and calculate your bill by subtracting the value of electricity you supplied from what you used. This calculation gives you a credit if you supplied more electricity than you used. Credits can be carried over to future bills for up to 12 months. There is an ongoing discussion to amend this program and it is uncertain what the new program would look like.

At this time, it does not seem to be a viable undertaking for the church but if funding programs become available it may become an attractive environmental option.

This is my interpretation of the current information available on the internet and I am by no means an expert. If anyone has more expertise in this field, I would be glad to discuss the available options with you.

Enjoy your summer; stay well everyone. We look forward to being together in the near future.

King Whitney  
*Co-chair Property Committee*

# You're invited...

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*...to join us for Worship online or in-person*

*Registration Information can be found on our  
Website ([www.westminster-uc.ca](http://www.westminster-uc.ca))  
or by phoning the Church Office (905-723-6442).*

*Watch for Email Updates*



*Many Blessings!*