A New Chapter in Charlie’s Life Story

What a delightful story unfolded before our eyes as we witnessed Charlie Phillip Spademan’s baptism this past Sunday!!!!

For those of you who were not with us, Charlie is a 14 month little tyke who is just beginning to “motor” around! He was so very full of quiet curiosity, especially with all things that move like walkers and big electric wheelchairs!!!

Charlie absolutely lit up when he discovered the warm water in the baptism font just inviting a good splashing as only he could enjoy. Within a couple of moments, it seemed that he was ready to be fully participating in his own baptism!!!

Cont’d page 2
“And who could keep from grinning from ear to ear and poking one another with “look” when Charlie took hold of Martha’s walker and walked down through the congregation as Gary introduced him to his faith family who had promised to share in his life story as it will unfold.

In Brian McLaren’s book, WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING, he writes that “our lives are comprised of the stories that shape us….because the meaning we shape from the stories we interpret, will, in turn, shape us.”

Charlie began the road of his faith by his baptism and his walk with Gary…He may not remember this day, but my trust and hope is that his family will keep Charlie’s “beginning steps in faith” story alive over the years….The question it invites is, “How will Charlie’s walk on Sunday shape him?” The words of our United Church Creed we spoke on Sunday, “We are not alone, God is with us”… assures us that God will always be walking the road with Charlie and his family, just as God walks our road with us.

As we each begin our walk through Advent may we step with hope, joy, peace and love. May we take some time from our business to ponder the road we are making by walking, one step at a time; during the longest of nights and the delights and meaning of this time in our faith story. May we be like Charlie, full of curiosity for all things that move, both internally and externally, humanly and spiritually. May we be ever vigilant for every sign of the Christ light shining …even in the most unexpected ways and places.

May this Christmas be a meaningful one for you, rich with blessings of peace and joy on your walk,

Rev Ellen
We Make the Road by Walking

When: Wednesday evenings beginning January 14,
Time: 7:14-8:44 pm
Where: Fireside Room

Everyone is invited into a conversation circle using the material in Brian McLaren’s book, We Make The Road By Walking. Each will want their own copy of this book as it is a year-long quest for spiritual formation, reorientation and activation….Fear not…you will not be committing to meeting for a whole year!!!!

From critically acclaimed author Brian McLaren comes a brilliant retelling of the biblical story and a thrilling reintroduction to Christian faith. This book offers everything you need to explore what a difference an honest living and growing faith can make in our life walk.

Each weekly chapter is independent so the reader can do it independently or as a group. I do believe it is a rich “next spirit circle” walk! It is a great integration of our Biblical story and our own contemporary living story.

The book is available at Indigo. Please let Rev Ellen know if you plan to attend.

Chandler Mowat Food Drive for
November & December =

Chandler Mowat Food Drive for
November & December =
October Time.

Farewell my faithful summer
I'll n'eer forget your scent
Though these leafless trees of autumn
With chilly winds are bent
Oft in my thoughts I'll see your face
As in some mystic glen
And I cannot wait with patience
To feel your warmth again.

Bob Johnston 2018

Would you consider submitting something for our Guest Editorial? Is there something you would like to share - A new learning, easy recipe for 1 or 2 people, a book you enjoyed, the upcoming holidays, an opinion?

Please submit your editorial to Tanya at foresthilluc@bellnet.ca. Let’s make this newsletter really reflect Forest Hill.

As of November 1: In the event of inclement weather, call the church and a message will be on the answering machine by 8 am if the church is closed.
PERSONALS

Emily Schmaus was baptized Nov. 4; Presented by her parents, Melanie and Philip.

Charlie Spademan was baptized Nov. 25; Presented by his parents, Emily and Phillip.

Welcome, Emily and Charlie!

Many thanks for all the cards and wishes received for my birthday. They were all appreciated.
Joyce Harding
Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Blessings Box at the road. I am continually pleased to see the supply cupboard filled with food items.

In light of the colder temperatures we need to adjust what we can put into this outdoor Blessings Box.

Please consider dry products for the winter months and nothing canned or bottled that can freeze. Also consider: powdered baby formula, diapers, hygiene products.

Other examples are boxes of cereal, oatmeal, pasta, rice, dry beans and lentils, crackers, cookies, dry soups, sugar, flour and juice boxes are safe to freeze and thaw as well as cheese.

Blessings

Shelley

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The FREE Fundraiser ?!!

Yup. It is free for you. Just order gift cards for your everyday spending from many different retailers through FUNDSCRIP and a percentage of your purchase is donated to our fundraising account. That’s it. Costs YOU nothing.

Next order date is Dec. 9th

For more information, please contact Bob Elliott, JoAnne Willison or Glenna Murray.
November Council Update

The Council met on Tuesday, November 20.

We participated in the kaleidoscope study.

The rest of the meeting was spent on financial items to form a budget. Each committee presented the amounts for the work they do and the finance committee will form a budget for 2019 to be presented at the next Council meeting on December 18.

Submitted by Diane Dunseith

An open invitation for all to join

our Longest Night service on Friday December 21st

Come as you are….perhaps beginning to look forward to Christmas once again, or perhaps not so much this year!

Come for some quietness and calming of the soul amidst the hustle and bustle of the season.

Come to be with remembrances and memories, to rekindle hope amidst the grief and sorrow, to draw courage and strength from accompanying one another knowing that the inner Light of the Christ child shines brightly within, even on those longest of nights.

Hot cider and goodies will be ready at 6:14 in the Fireside Room and at 7:00 we will gather for a time of candle lighting, quiet music, contemplation and reflection.
A Special Invitation to ALL Women of the Church

Mark your calendars to join us
TUESDAY DECEMBER 11 @ 7 PM

CHRISTMAS DESSERT POTLUCK
Ladies with surnames starting with A-M bring desserts.

If you wish to be involved in our gift exchange,
bring a wrapped gift - $5.00 value.

AND A NON PERISHABLE ITEM FOR THE FOOD BANK.

Look forward to seeing you as we continue our
2018 Advent/Christmas journey.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS

This letter to the editor was published in the November 21 issue of the Cornwall Sea- way News. I was writing in response to a column in the previous edition of this weekly newspaper, mentioning the case of the Rev. Gretta Vosper and the settlement of the review of her fitness for ministry in The United Church of Canada. Columnist Claude McIntosh wrote:

In Toronto, a United Church minister who says the Bible is a fairy tale and God doesn’t exist, will continue to deliver her non-Christian message from the pulpit with the blessing of the folks who call the shots in Canada’s second largest Christian denomination, the United Church of Canada. Instead of giving her the heave-ho, the United Church moderator (aka big cheese) has asked members to pray for the atheistic pastor and her congregation. Sounds like we should be praying for the United Church...

So I responded:

November 16, 2018

To the editor:

I always enjoy reading Claude McIntosh’s column, and he fits a lot of material onto the page. His November 14 discussion of a United Church of Canada minister did not include important parts of the context which are necessary for readers to understand what is happening in this case.

People who attend United churches are at many different points on their faith journey, but clergy are held to a standard of being found to be in essential agreement with the Church’s statements of faith before they can be ordained or commissioned. As Claude noted, a minister in Toronto who professes to be an atheist was placed under review. He says that she will continue to serve “with the blessing of the folks who call the shots,” but this is not the case. In the United Church, discipline of ministers is the responsibility of local jurisdictions, just as in Canada the federal government and the provinces have different areas of responsibility. Toronto Conference of the United Church was conducting the formal hearing into her ministry and then settled the case with her and her congregation, which does allow her to continue in ministry. Legal actions often end in settlement, so this hardly represents a “blessing” by any part of the Church; this resolution was not made by the national Church, does not affect any other minister or any other jurisdiction in the Church, and does not imply any acceptance of atheist beliefs as being in agreement with what the Church believes.

Continued on page 11
Claude mentions that the Moderator of the United Church (as he puts it, “the big cheese,” which is a good way to explain this position) asked for prayer for this minister and her congregation, which I believe is entirely appropriate. Claude omits that this call for prayer came at the end of the Moderator’s letter which states explicitly that as a Christian church, we continue to expect that our ministers will offer their leadership in accordance with our statements of faith. This follows a statement by The United Church of Canada that the resolution of this case does not alter in any way the Church’s belief in a God must fully revealed to us as Christians in and through Jesus Christ. The Church’s statements of faith have all been grounded in this understanding.

Claude says that we should be praying for the United Church, which I appreciate. Please pray for us as we try to be faithful and loving followers of Jesus, and for all of the churches and faith traditions ministering to the people of the Seaway Valley.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Daniel Hayward UE
Minister, South Stormont Pastoral Charge
(Ingleside-Newington United Church and St. Andrew’s-St. Mark’s United Church, Long Sault)
The United Church of Canada
GIFTS WITH VISION

The United Church of Canada provides Mission & Service support to partners all year long for their ongoing work in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and right here in Canada. With ‘GwV’, you give a gift to friends or family to support specific partner activities. With your gifts, we help create healthy places to live, promote justice, provide social services, and enliven worship.

Please note: None of the monies raised in this project support the United Church’s annual Mission & Service funding, except for gifts to the Mission & Service fund itself.

THE WAY KIDS SEE THE EVENT:

A friend’s two little girls were looking at a picture of the Virgin Mary holding Baby Jesus. "That's Mary," said the older girl, "and that's her baby Jesus in her arms." "Where's Jesus's dad then?" asked her little sister. "Oh he is the one taking the picture," replied her sister.

I asked my young grandson what he would like Santa to bring him. He produced a rather long list. When I commented on the length of it, he replied: "It's just in case this is the last year I believe in him."

At my grandson’s nativity play, the third wise man was hilarious when he marched up to the manger and bellowed: "Frank sent this!"

My daughter was playing Mary and forgot her lines so she adlibbed, telling Joseph: 'I'm having a baby - oh, and it's not yours...'

When I went to stay with my daughter for Christmas, I heard my grandson praying at the top of his voice for a new bike. His big sister told him: "God's not deaf, you know!" He replied: "No, but Nan is."

At my grandson’s school Nativity play, when the innkeeper opened the curtain to show Mary and Joseph in the stable, a little voice in the audience shouted: "Where's the TV, Mum?"
Lunch Bunch December 13

Ho Ho Ho!
Don’t miss out on Lunch Bunch’s Christmas Special!

It’s that time again! Time for succulent turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce and much more. Chartwell is once again catering the delicious repast on Thursday, December 13 at 12 noon in the Fireside Room. You won’t want to miss it. As in past years, Dave Mitchell will add to the joyous spirit with music, carol singing and some nifty challenges. So, circle the special date - December 13 - corral your friends, call Tanya in the office, 519-7443481, to reserve your place and come and enjoy!

IT’S EASIER THAN IT LOOKS

Ever wonder what they are doing at the back of the church on a Sunday?

Ted Jacobs would like to share that info with 2 new people. There is a need for volunteers.

It comes with free training from an experienced teacher. Just ask what is involved.. After all, you’re here anyway. Might as well have the best seat in the house!

You can reach Ted on Sundays in church.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOPE</td>
<td>December 2</td>
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<td>PEACE</td>
<td>December 9</td>
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<td>JOY</td>
<td>December 16</td>
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<td>Longest Nite</td>
<td>December 21</td>
<td>6:14 pm</td>
<td>Cider and Cookies - fellowship</td>
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<td>December 21</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>A Service in Remembrance of Those Lost</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOVE</td>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>6:30-7:14 pm</td>
<td>Family Service with Tony Toucan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOVE</td>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>Candle Lighting Service</td>
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DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MISS??
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I REALLY MISS??

I miss not having to cook Monday nights! I miss

- the aroma of Berlin 95's schnitzel
- Wildboar's hamburger & fries
- BBB's stack of onion rings
- Café Du Monde's delicious crepes
- Fo Cheezies grilled cheese....mmmm makes your mouth water doesn't it!?!

BUT - ITS NOT JUST ABOUT FOOD ---IT'S ABOUT FHU COMMUNITY!!

We need more members on our team, PLEASE.

We will be planning our 5th Season in 2019
of FOOD and FUN COMMUNITY activities.

Call Donna Dechert at 519-743-9038

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Handbags for Hope is an organization that helps women who live at local shelters. I am collecting gently used handbags and also personal hygiene, feminine and beauty products to add to the purses.

Items needed are: soap, body lotion, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, feminine products, hairbrushes and elastic, perfumes, manicure sets and new, unused makeup.

If you wish to donate any of these items, please contact Edna Bryce at 519-885-1540 or ebryce03@gmail.com. These items should be received by December 16th.
Saturday November 10, 2018 arrived with snow flakes in the air. Perfect timing for our Winter Wonderland Bazaar. Even the weather got it right!

On Sunday, I started this report by asking all folks to stand who had helped in any way at our bazaar – baking, making crafts, preserving, volunteering for one of the duties on the multiple sign up sheets which appeared in the foyer at the beginning of October.

Next the folks who came to shop and see what the bazaar was all about, stood and then our members who had rented a table, stood. It was amazing to look around and see that **about 75% of the congregation was standing**. "Thank you to all for your help."

When I closed the door behind the 3 of us, at 2:30 pm on the 10th, I had this feeling that even my heart must be smiling. It was such a great day. I don’t know what it is. I get this feeling that I call “Bazaar Buzz or Bazaar Hm-m-m”. I love it and I need it. I didn’t say “Yehhh, it’s over”, this year. No, not at all.

People wanted to be there. They were happy and were chatting. Before the bazaar started, ladies were introducing themselves or they were being introduced – something that this event does – building community and a day of enjoyment for anyone taking part.

It’s wonderful to see all the work that others and ourselves have done – getting a sense of self satisfaction because we were a part of baking something for the 250 trays of cookies that lined the Cookie Tables. Or, we might have contributed to the five 6 foot tables laden with baking or the Preserves or the Craft Tables.

I want to thank the shoppers because if it wasn’t for you I wouldn’t be as happy! We needed everyone. There were members who contributed but were not able to attend. I thank you for your part as well. Thank you, to the folks who arrived at 8 am to help the Vendors move in and they returned again at 1 pm to help move them out. Oh yes, the clean up -- thank you to those helping to do that.

Cont’d on page 15
The date is set for the Winter Wonderland Bazaar 2019,

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2019.**

**Mark your calendars.** If you join in, I’m sure you will not be disappointed.

Thank you to my Table Convenors who made up the Bazaar Committee along with Bette Clemens who created the beautiful tree décor in the foyer.

Thank you to Donna Dechert who started her Vendor Rental duties in September, choosing a great variety of Vendors.

Thank you to Denise Ontonovich & Edna Bryce who looked after the pricing and the selling of all the baking.

Thank you to Fran Hallman who had the responsibility of selling all the cookies and shortbread packaged on trays.

Thank you to Marian Cooper for pricing and selling the Preserves.

Thank you to Lynne Couperus & Kelly Zuk for organizing, pricing and selling our crafts.

Thank you to Ann Furlotte & Sheila Lakeman for purchasing and preparing the delicious "meal deals" for us in the cafe.

Ladies “Thank you” for your support. I would not have been able to stand back and watch all the planning, working well. It was great.

I especially want to thank the Property Committee for working so hard at getting McIntyre Hall ready for the Vendor tables. It looks great and is much healthier.

A special thank you to the Shamrose Arabic School for donating baking to our Bake Table. They were eager to help and contribute.

**NOW FOR THE RESULTS**

The Final tally of this amazing day, going to the Mold expense is -

$ 5,430.02

Lastly, I want us to reflect on this day. This event’s results can not be measured only by the dollars BUT also how it develops and bonds the best Church Community ever.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, EVERYONE.

Betty Kocher, Bazaar Convenor.