

Minister's Musings

Finances

As Bill Medland, Chair of the Transitional Council, mentioned during Life & Work of the Church a few weeks ago, at the end of August our Offering Income is down 20% from where we had budgeted for the year. We will have more up-to-date information (to the end of October) for when the Council meets at the end of November.

Even though we are anticipating income from the Sussex Development Project, that money is not to be used for daily operation of the church. It is set aside and gaining interest to help us fund the outfitting of the church and future ministry goals for our congregation. Even though we have those funds, they are a nest egg for the future.

When the congregation approved the Ministry Profile Search in January and extended the call to Lead Minister to me, there was a second job description detailed, with the provision and reminder that the Lead Minister is not to do the work of that 2nd ministry position before *or* after that second position was hired. We do not find ourselves in a strong enough financial position at this time to consider hiring that position. While I support the ministries that fall under that position in some basic ways, I am trying to remain true to the decision of the congregation in the spring. Therefore the Core Ministry Groups for Service and Learning have not met, though ministry under both Service and Learning continue.

Children in Worship

Members of the Transitional Council have received some comments regarding the noise level of children during worship. It is exciting to have our children with us in worship, and we recognize that this can offer some distraction. Typically when there is Communion, children will come back and join the congregation for the meal, on most other Sundays children are invited to leave for Sunday School after the Discovery Time.

However, some children are not yet old enough to go, and sometimes they do not want to. Further, sometimes our children's leaders are not available and on those Sundays the children stay in the space for the duration of the service.

We do not have many adult leaders for this ministry, and we recognize that it is important for children to be comfortable in worship, otherwise, they will leave church and not return.

The Council agreed that one of the important things for all of us to learn and remember is that it is up to adults to help children learn how to be in worship. This might require that an adult from the congregation go and spend some time in the space provided at the front and help the parents who are there model and communicate with children some expectations about their presence in worship - but please do it gently!

Upcoming Dates:

Nov 15 - 20	Rev. Graham @ General Council
Nov 19	Rev. Brian Burke
Nov 26 - 4	Justin on Holidays
Nov 29 - Dec 1	Rev. Graham @ General Council
December 7	ChristmasSong
December 9	Christmas Event @ Grace
December 10	Breakfast with Santa
December 17	Cantata
December 24	Advent IV Service 10:30 am Christmas Eve 7:00 pm
Dec 25 - Jan 2	Office closed
December 31	Rev. Dorothy Jeffrey
January 17 - 21	Rev. Graham on Study Leave
January 21	Rev. Brian Burke
January 27	Burns Supper
February 2 - 12	Rev. Graham holidays
February 13	Shrove Tuesday
February 14	Ash Wednesday
	Lenten Lunches Begin
February 17	CMG: Belonging
February 20	CMG: Worship

CMG: Belonging

The Core Ministry Group: Belonging met a few weeks ago and there are a few items that would be helpful to outline for members of the congregation:

1. Styrofoam - please do not donate nor purchase styrofoam for use in the kitchen. Styrofoam is not an environmentally friendly material for us to use, and so we encourage the use of the dishes or biodegradable materials if they are required for use.
2. The United Church of Canada has both a Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy and a workplace Harassment Policy. The Belonging Group took some time to review these policies and want to ensure that members of the congregation know they are available. There is a poster on the bulletin board outside of Kathy's office and Rev. Graham's office with information on these policies, as well as a copy of the Sexual Misconduct Policy, itself.
3. Fellowship (Coffee Time) - A reminder that the groups who have volunteered to offer this fellowship time are volunteers! There is not to be any competition between teams to see who "can do it best" and a reminder to keep it simple, this is not intended to be a lunch or a meal. It would be helpful if each of the fellowship teams could take turns cleaning out one of the urns at least once a year (take a look and see which one needs to be cleaned!)

CMG: Worship

Thank you to Christina Burge for taking on the task of scheduling all of the lay participation during worship. This includes those:

- ▶ who will read
- ▶ who will pray
- ▶ who will greet (and at which door!)
- ▶ who will take up offering
- ▶ who will serve communion
- ▶ who will light the candle(s)
- ▶ who will count the offering (this one is done in conjunction with Nancy Baird)

Having all of these schedules in one place will help in planning for members of the congregation, and for the leadership. Dorothy Jeffrey and Barb Tunnicliffe are working on some "Helpful Hints" for most of these volunteer positions.

The intention with having a schedule is that if you are unavailable for the day for which you're scheduled, you will find a replacement for yourself, and let Christina and the office know that you have switched.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

You've probably noticed a few changes to the way in which we are incorporating music in the worship service. Under Marcus' suggestion, we are trying to have two 'marked' Sundays a month: the 2nd Sunday will be more traditional music with organ, and the last Sunday will have more contemporary music - from More Voices and from other sources. You might also see a small group of people offering a different type of leadership on those Sundays (i.e., a small group leading the hymns, with the aid of microphones). This last Sunday of the month is also the Sunday in which we will have a hymn sing for 15 minutes before the worship service begins.

