

# Stewardship + Mission and Service = US!

## Montreal and Ottawa Conference ~ Fall Newsletter 2013

Welcome to the first copy of the combined Stewardship/ Mission and Service Newsletter for Montreal and Ottawa Conference. Just as I have blended my two hats (Chair of Conference Stewardship, and Mission and Service Support for the Conference,) together because I only have one head, so have the two newsletters become one. I believe that Mission and Service is just an extension of our stewardship, as individuals, and as a church, you can not hold up one with out the other.

Through this newsletter I hope to open new doors of communication and introduce you to the various ministries of Stewardship and Mission and Service that you may not be aware of in Montreal and Ottawa Conference. I pray that it will be a vehicle through which you are kept informed, and you are encouraged to become more actively involved in Conference life. I know that I do not have all the stewardship answers so feed back is encouraged, and I look forward to hearing about your Stewardship and Mission and Service stories that in turn can be shared with everyone.

### Eileen Lavigne

A big **“Thank You”** to our past Chair of Conference Stewardship, Eileen Lavigne. She was instrumental in keeping our focus in the conference on the importance of stewardship. Eileen we thank you for dedication to stewardship and the conference.



On Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> , we were reminded how God knows us inside out through Psalm 139, and we visited along with Jeremiah the potter’s house. Stewardship means knowing and accepting that God knows all about us, and in spite of all of our cracks and flaws can turn us into beautiful vessels worthy of His craftsmanship. Could it be that God the Potter has a design to remold you, your church, your presbytery, or Montreal and Ottawa Conference. Are we willing to be clay in His hands, and willing to go through the process to find out.

General Council 40 chose for its theme “Going Down to the Potter’s House.” One of the prayers from the worship resource for that gathering in Kelowna was:

Today, O God, your vessel – the church – brings to you, in humility the clay of its life and mission: its love for you, its people, its projects, its aspirations, and vision. We ask that you accept these gifts, O God, and rework them as you will – fashioning a new creation which seems good to you to your further glory and the love of humankind. Amen

Every morning God gives us the choice to once again become clay in His hands. What can be more awesome than that?

## What Do We Mean When We Say Stewardship

When the topic of stewardship comes up, most people think of only one area: money. But from a biblical and our creeds point of view, stewardship is all-inclusive. When the Stewardship Committee of the Conference talks about stewardship we mean all life stewardship that touches every area of life, this includes:

**Treasure:** When we invite people to participate in the church's mission with their financial resources we are giving them an opportunity to make a difference in ways they could never do alone. And I've never met a person who, having once caught on to the sheer abundant joy of giving, ever regretted making a difference.  
*Rev. Barbara Blaisdell – First Christian Church, Portland, Oregon*

**Time:** Ecclesiastes chapter 3 tells us there is a time for everything. One of the most precious gifts we have received from God is time. How we use that time is our gift back to God. Time not just in helping others, in any way we can, but our well spent time should also be in: prayer, reading the scriptures, worship, fellowship, work and taking care of ourselves.

**Terrain:** To share the journey with those we share the planet is not a matter of choice we are already thoroughly coupled together. We share the same atoms, the same air and water, the same earth. If one species is thrown off track can we be sure we won't all be derailed, and the journey ended?  
*The United Church of Canada publication, Gifts of Worship*

**Talent:** "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'" *Erma Bombeck*

**Tissue:** Have you looked after yourself today? Wellness means taking care of your social, emotional, physical, and spiritual self. If you feel good socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually, then it is easier to deal with the things that come up in your life. The stress of life is more easily managed if you maintain balance in your life. These components are all integrated and influence each other.

You have the power to save lives! Registering to be an organ donor is a charitable act that costs nothing. It allows a donor to save up to eight lives through organ donation, and to save or improve the lives of up to 50 recipients through tissue and eye donation. On any given day, thousands of patients are waiting for critical organ transplants across Canada. Sadly, hundreds die each year waiting.

**Tell:** As Christians we sometimes act like we belong to a secret club. We don't want to tell anyone about why we belong to a church, or what we do there. The Great Commission at the end of the gospel of Matthew is our summons into action as Christians. Sharing our faith with our neighbours, families, and friends can be a life changing experience, not only for those with whom we share our story but also ourselves.

As the cover on Rick Warren's book the "Purpose Driven Life" says, "What on earth am I here for?"

If you do not already have a Stewardship Committee in your pastoral charge that looks at whole life stewardship, and you wish to know how to start; the Montreal and Ottawa Conference Stewardship Committee is here to help you.

Orleans United Church, Ottawa Presbytery instead of having a Stewardship Committee has *Stewardship Conversation*. The Conference Stewardship Committee is in discussions with Orleans minister the Rev. Dr. Glen Stoudt, so that they may share with others in the Conference their stewardship journey.

# Syria Refugee Emergency Appeal

More than 2 million Syrians have fled the violence in their country. More than 4 million Syrians—mainly women, children and the elderly—are displaced within their own country. **The refugee crisis in Syria and beyond is being called one of the worst ever.**

The United Church of Canada is launching an immediate **Emergency Appeal for gifts to support Syrians uprooted by civil war.** The United Church has already distributed \$90,000 for humanitarian relief. Far more, however, is needed to deal with this crisis and so we now turn to You!

We are asking all people for their generous support of this emergency appeal. Working with the United Church partner \*ACT Alliance, **your gifts will be used to provide refugees with:**

- **Counselling and support for the traumatized**
- **Clean water and sanitation**
- **Shelter**
- **Food**
- **Blankets and toiletries**

You may give in the following ways:

**On Line:** [www.united-church.ca/syria](http://www.united-church.ca/syria)

We will process your gift immediately and you will receive your tax receipt right away.

**By Mail:** The United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor St. W., Suite 300, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4  
Please note "Emergency Response – Syria Relief" on the face of your cheque or money order.

**By Phone:** 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 3050 and use your Visa or MasterCard.

**Through your Local United Church Congregations:** Please indicate your gift is for Syria Relief. All gifts will be forwarded to the church's General Council office.

**\*Please note** that the United Church will not deduct any administration fee from your gift. Regular support of the Mission and Service Fund enables our church to provide staffing and cover administration costs of emergency response work.

A three-year civil war has left the Syrian economy in shambles. Inflation has left the poor in an extremely precarious position. Most attempting to escape the hostilities have had to leave their possessions behind. Host communities in Lebanon and Jordan cannot cope with the volume of refugees and tensions are building.

The situation is dire. The need for our financial gifts is urgent. Thank you for your generosity.

Gary Paterson  
Moderator United Church of Canada

\*ACT Alliance is a coalition of more than 130 churches and affiliated organizations working together in 140 countries to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of poor and marginalized people.

## **Your Values, Your Money: Two Sides of the Same Coin**

A \*Nathan Dungan event  
sponsored by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa  
will be taking place  
Friday June 6th and Saturday June 7th, 2014  
at Kemptville campus of the University of Guelph  
Workshops and Events for all ages  
Eileen Lavigne is sitting on the organizing committee to represent our conference.

There will be more news to share shortly.

\*Nathan Dungan, founder and president of Share Save Spend, is an industry thought-leader on helping youth and adults link their money decisions to their values. He speaks and consults nationally with churches organizations and families on the topic of money and the effects of the consumer culture on money habits.



### **Mission and Service Packages to Pastoral Charges**

Early in September your pastoral charge should have received a large package filled with new Mission and Service Resources and a letter addressed to the person who promotes Mission and Service.

The package included:

- Mandate Mission and Service Special Edition 2013
- Copies of Mission and Service at a Glance 2013
- Super Friends and Super Friends 2 comic style resources for children and youth, featuring how we as a church response to emergencies volume 1, and food insecurity volume 2
- Mission and Service Enthusiasts description
- Resources to help you promote Mission and Service.

Please take time to look at all the resources that have been sent to help promote Mission and Service in your pastoral charge.

### **Ideas for Promoting or Supporting Mission and Service**

This promotion idea comes from a worship service that the Rev. Brian Nicholson, Kleinburg, Nobleton Pastoral Charge, wrote back in 2009.

Have a map of the world on which you have stuck Band-Aids in countries where we have Mission and Service partners. These represent that through Mission and Service we help to heal a broken world. The United Church does not simply throw money at a problem; rather, through Mission and Service, we enter into partnerships with people in Canada, and overseas, that have a clearer understanding of ways to face the challenges of the people who come to them for help.

This idea comes from my church of Knox-St. Paul's in Cornwall, they are having a Mini Market on September 14<sup>th</sup> and asked me for Mission and Service resources, to put on the Outreach Table. How many events do you have in your church that members of other United Churches or the public are invited. Why not have a Mission and Service Resource table so that others can see what is happening in the United Church.

Many of our churches have jars of banks in the shape of churches to collect money on a Sunday morning when someone has a birthday, anniversary, birth etc. It is a good way to share a happy occasion with people who could use some happy occasions through our gifts to Mission and Service.

At the upcoming Quebec/Sherbrooke Presbytery two day meeting people are being asked to bring any books (including novels) that they would like to recycle, and take someone else's books home. Donations for Mission and Service will be appreciated.

### **Mission and Service Logo**

There are many meanings that have been given to the Mission and Service logo, here are just six. How does the Mission and Service logo speak to you?

1. The Mission and Service logo represents fire, a symbol of life, bringing hope and heat for all to come and share together. The flame in the lamp shows us the way to live and to share in God's world.
2. The Mission and Service logo symbolizes different races, for our mission is shared with others. The colours symbolize different nationalities and race, but different people united as one – starting from one place but fanning out in different directions.
3. The Mission and Service logo, has open hands giving freely and lovingly to others.
4. Our Mission and Service logo is a flowerpot, reminding us of the need to care for creation, and to have our lives rooted in the healthy, nurturing soil of God's Word.
5. Our Mission and Service logo has a table for a base filled with holy food. This is the wealth we share in common as a country, community, and church. The table is bending in on itself due to the weight of the abundant possessions we have in Canada. Yet in bending, the table moves toward being a circle, reminding us of the need for balance and completeness in life.
6. This is my favourite meaning for the Mission and Service logo. The story of Noah seeing the rainbow, a sign of God's love for us; a sign of hope. The rainbow colours on the logo are a sign of the hope and love that we can give to others. The colours say to those who need us, "We remember you, we are trying to help you make your life better, we love you, and God loves you." Mission and Service is our rainbow in the world.

### **"Each One, Ask One"**

A description of the new Mission and Service Campaign "Each One, Ask One," was included in the Mission and Service Package. General Council is inviting every pastoral charge to increase their givers by at least one person while maintaining, or ideally increasing what they are giving as a pastoral charge.



Let us think of the ways we can make the **"Each One, Ask One," Mission and Service Campaign** have great results in your church and our Conference.

**Mission and Service Sunday**  
**September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**  
**“We Are Family”**

I hope that all of you have received the Mission and Service Sunday worship resources that I sent out. If not please let me know. We realize that it is not always possible for a church to celebrate Mission and Service on the date set aside by Montreal and Ottawa Conference, if this is the case please hold on to this resource to use at a more convenient date on your church calendar this year.

I also realize that some of you may have heard the story of Harrington Harbour, Quebec, or Bella Coola, British Columbia, that was used in the message part of the worship service, therefore here is another pastoral charge at the end of the highway that is supported by Mission and Service. This story arrived after the worship service was sent out.

The scenery is breathtaking, the lakes pristine and the people friendly, Snow Lake population 800 in Northern Manitoba is 684 kilometers from Winnipeg. Although it is at the end of the highway there is a road that goes into Snow Lake. The closest cities are Flin Flon, The Pas and Thompson, two ½ hours away offer enhanced shopping, medical services and entertainment. There are also float planes and helicopters to get you into Snow Lake, the airport owned and operated by Snow Lake has a gravel runway only suited for small planes.

The town of Snow Lake was built as a Hudson Bay Company outpost, and for the mining industry. Though mining companies have come and gone mining is still the major employer in this town. Transient workers and families arrive and leave on a regular basis, according to the industrial needs at any given time. The first church in Snow Lake was Anglican holding services in an old Hudson's Bay store. The United Church members as well as members from other denominations had been meeting in the Community Hall, officially becoming the United Church in 1959. The Snow Lake Anglican - United Church came together in shared ministry when the United Church was without a minister. At that point there was a need for a bigger church and St Henri's Catholic Church in the abandoned mining town of Herb Lake was moved over nine miles of ice and slush and winding road to where it sits now. Anglicans and United church members shared in the expenses of materials and labour to rebuild the church which was dedicated in 1969.

Over the years the Anglican – United congregation has enjoyed full time, part time, interim ministry and congregational lay leaders. Lay leaders play a very active part in the current life and work of the church. They have guest pulpit supply on an average of once a month; sometimes Anglican, and sometimes United. Two of the worship committee members have been trained as sacraments elders, and are available to serve shut-ins in the community as well as in Sunday services.

The congregation may be small, but they still a very big part of the community. They have, for the past several years, taken on the recycling program in Snow Lake, using the money realized they have been able to purchase new windows, doors and siding, which were installed with volunteer labour.

They are very thankful to the Mission and Service support they receive. It provides payment for visiting pulpit supply, funding for various workshops, and training for their much needed worship committee and lay worship leaders. It also pays for travel out of the area for training of those willing to become licensed sacraments elders to serve communion, and baptize. When you live where the highway ends travel to remain a part of the United Church larger community puts a strain on church budgets. More than ever it is important for us to make sure that our churches at the end of the highway know that we care and we are there to support them.

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If you have any questions or concerns about Mission and Service or Stewardship please contact me.

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