

The Mini Voice

Summer 2017

Message from the Editor

This, likely my last issue of the Voice after 17 years, will be short and sweet. I will miss this little job, especially the contact with readers and people who have submitted articles to me. Thanks to you all for your sometimes touching, sometimes funny but always interesting items. In recent years, the internet has been a godsend; In fact, I have a hard time restraining myself from including too many cartoons!

Henry James Quote: “Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.”

If you, like everyone else in the world, sometimes feels lonely or depressed, there are ways to cheer yourself up. For instance, look at the following images.



Why do we serve our snacks in plastic bags when we could serve them fit for a queen (I admit, my afternoon snacks generally do not fulfill these high standards!). Or how about the beautiful lady on the bench; no Canadian Tire plastic here! We can enjoy these romantic pictures in a book or on the internet.

Have a wonderful summer, with peace and beauty and the love of God permeating your world.

As you know Jennifer is now on study leave and below are two brief notes on her ministerial replacements. Also there is a brief note on the new council and another on redevelopment.

Jill Reeve
Editor

Ministerial Replacements

The Donway Covenant congregation is blessed again with two excellent ministers to fill in while Jennifer is away for her study leave. The first is Rev. John White, whom we have had for a number of summers, and we have embraced him and his wife Frances as our own. A more formal introduction to his life and career has appeared a couple of times in the weekly bulletin. Marian Childerhose delivered a more personal account as to how the Donway Covenant Church was acquainted with John - below is her introduction.

I spent some time on the phone with John, asking about his connections to the United Church of India. His wife Frances, a nurse, had a prominent role in that challenging environment. There is too much to include in this article. I suggest you try to corner John or Frances at coffee or lemonade time after church and ask them personally about them. Or maybe someone could organise a brief, informal chat after coffee where people could ask questions of this interesting couple.

Introduction to Rev. John White

Good morning. It is my privilege to welcome Rev. John White to our pulpit and to say a few words about him. John is a retired Methodist minister from Cornwall England. He and his wife Frances spent most of their working lives as missionaries in India and then Hong Kong. When they retired they moved to Toronto to be close to their children Janet & Barry.

In 2011 when Jennifer was planning an extended Medical leave Norm and a few others were given the task of finding a temporary replacement for her. They were very fortunate to find John. He has shared his gift of Ministry with us for several extended periods over the past 7 years. He supports many of our activities here and gives wonderful Pastoral Care. When Norm was in Sunnybrook Hospital 3 years ago with emergency Carotid surgery John kept in touch including travelling by TTC from St. Clair and Bathurst to visit him.

When John attends our Ladies' Fellowship Group luncheons he chats with almost everyone attending. At our past December luncheon someone commented that John certainly knows how to work the room.

John & Frances are active members of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church on St. Clair Avenue where Frances is a valuable member of the choir. We are always happy when Timothy's choir has a day off and Frances shares her wonderful gift of music with our congregation.

John, we are thrilled to have you with us again for the next 2 months. Welcome back.

Marian Childerhose

Introduction to Rev. Vivian Yarwood

Rev. Vivian Yarwood is a United Church Minister, recently retired after 30 years in ministry. Many of you will recognize Vivian who is a member of the DCUC, along with her husband Ron. Vivian has served Parkwoods, Humbervale and Riverside (Ottawa) United Church's as Diaconal Minister.

After her ordination in 1998, she served Newtonbrook United Church and Forest Grove. She then returned to Newtonbrook to lead them into the amalgamated congregation of Cummer Avenue United Church in 2013.

New Church Council

The congregation voted in the new slate of volunteers for the 2017/2018 year on June 11.

Some highlights:

- We have four people retiring from positions they have held for a very long time, some for over 40 years! Our thanks go to Don & Barb Messaros for Badminton, Marian Childerhose for Hospitality and Bonnie Kennedy for Fellowship. We know they will continue to be very active participants in The Donway Covenant in other ways.
- We have added the "Affirm Representative" position to Council, to be filled by Lynotte Cruikshank. Just like we have representatives to Presbytery to connect us with the larger church, we are also required to have a representative to Affirm United because we are an Affirming congregation. We are delighted that Lynotte has agreed to take this on.
- You'll see a good mix of new faces and returning veterans. Of the volunteer positions we vote on, we have 4 new people and 16 returning. We also have 4 new people filling committee roles that we don't vote on. What a committed congregation!
- Our three new Council members from this past year are continuing – Andrea Sloan, Jeff Hall and Rob Heaton, we are happy to have your continued leadership!

Maureen J. Hall - Past Chair of Council



Church Redevelopment Update

Thank you to the congregation! We've had great participation in the three Field Trips we organized this spring, and a terrific turnout with our Affinity Groups for a debriefing on those trips after worship on June 11. We are still in the 'gathering information' stage of the process, and learned a lot from the field trips about co-housing, about ecological/theological design, and about getting the most use of a church building for the congregation and the community it's part of.

We have had an initial meeting with the two parties who had originally brought forward ideas for us to consider for our property. To ensure that we are in line with the congregation as we proceed with our explorations, we have created a set of priorities or criteria that we will discuss with Council in June, and will share with the congregation in September after the summer break.

Maureen J. Hall
Chair Redevelopment Committee

Summer Church Office Hours

July 4 - July 28th: Monday to Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. to 12 noon

July 30 - Aug. 26th: Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Patty Snowdon will be the Church Temp. Administrator while Jaren McLeod is on vacation.

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1st: Monday to Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Sept. 4th, Labour Day: Office Closed

September 5th onward: Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**“Wireless communication is nothing new.
I’ve been praying for 75 years!”**

The Donway Covenant United Church
230 The Donway West, Toronto, Ontario M3B 2V8, 416-444-8444
www.donwaycovenant.com, donwaycovenant@msn.com