

Anniversary Newsletter 2019



Faith Centennial United Church

28 Main St. W., Selkirk Ontario NOA 1P0

Office: 905-776-2584

Amadeus Cell: 905-347-4490

Email: faithcenten@kwic.com

Website: www.fcuc.ca

built on faith by God's grace

From the Minister's Desk

I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles, in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 2 Corinthians 11:26-28

In just a few short weeks, your (student) minister will be in wonderful Halifax, Nova Scotia. Where the ocean meets the Canadian shores, and where seafood is commonplace as well as seeing massive cruise liners or hearing bagpipes on a lazy Saturday afternoon. It may sound picturesque, like a well-planned holiday even! However, this is no vacation.

When I go to Halifax, I go to attend classes required for me to attain a Masters Degree in Divinity. Each summer, for five years as my program dictates, I find myself on the campus of the Atlantic School of Theology (formerly Pine Hill Divinity Hall) for three two-week intensive courses. This means that I do in two weeks what normal students do in four months. Then I do it again... and then one more time (for good measure) before returning in early August. In my third year, I learned Biblical Greek in two weeks. Alas, little has stuck – the adage is true: if you don't use it, you lose it.

Summer 2019 marks my final summer of doing this. My final summer of "roughing it" six weeks away from home. I've come to know some amazing people who have graduated already, and some who have yet to graduate or who will graduate after I do. It has been an altogether life changing experience. Filled with fright, panic, laughter, joy, pain, and redemption. In many ways, I feel like this has been my exodus

experience. We hear a lot about the “Damascus experience”, but I prefer the original: Exodus. For this journey to begin I had to leave all that was safe, all that was known and easy. That meant a lot of sacrifice, I am an introvert so safety nets are a big thing for me. In the wild, I came to lean on God just a little bit more each day. I cannot tell you how many times I thought about quitting, and how many times I looked back at my Egypt, my Pharaoh, and thought “Was it really THAT bad?” – I can relate to the Israelites as they complained to Moses. Courage and perseverance paid off and little victories led to larger transformations. This exodus experience taught me how to identify God’s handiwork and lessons. Those victories and transformations were all really lessons I needed to learn, footprints in the sand along the desert journey. It has not always been easy, nor has it always been crushingly difficult, and Jesus had to carry me through a few storms. As June approaches, I feel like I stand at the top of a tall dune and can see, wavering in the distance, the border of the Promised Land.

All of you here at Faith Centennial United Church have contributed to this journey. You’ve joined me while walking on your own exodus experience, life walk, spiritual adventure – whatever you wish to call it. We’ve traded stories or passed along advice, perhaps even learned a thing or two as we walked together all on the shared singular path of walking closer to God. I may be two provinces away from June to August, but our shared connection through our faith remains one that will strengthen me when that essay needs 500 more words and I’m ready to throw in the towel. Press on, dear traveller. Keep a weather eye out for the Saviour. One foot in front of the other, blessed follower of Jesus. Our paths will meet again soon.

In His Service,
Amadeus Pyralis

Official Board Report

Official Board held their regular meeting in March.

- There is a shortage of funds for the Audio/Visual upgrade, a suggestion was made to open up donations to the congregation to make memorials or honour donations in someone's name, then have a dedication service with names listed. **Motion** made to pass this idea on to the Stewards.
- **Motion** made for the Manse Committee to get quotes to repair the back deck and fix the sump pump drainage problems.
- At the Annual Meeting there was discussion of paving the parking lot. **Motion** made to move this item to the Fall Official Board Meeting and revisit the topic then after the Audio/Visual upgrades are finished.

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 4, 2019. 7:30pm, Gladys Dennis Room.



Session

Session members meet with Amadeus once a month to discuss and plan Worship Services and keep abreast of the well-being of our shut-ins, along with others in need of encouragement or assistance.

Our focus since January has been:

- Organizing ourselves for the “Opening” of Worship Service (ie. Welcome, Call to Worship)
- Communion Service Liturgy
- Planning Maunday Thursday Prayer Vigil, Easter Sunrise service and breakfast
- Arranging special music for Easter Service (Greg and Kierstin Ruston and Amelia Lindsay)
- Visiting shut-ins
- Planning for **Kierstin Rushton’s Confirmation** on May 26, 2019. A class made up of Kierstin Rushton, Kris Kerfont, Joel Berestecki and Lorna Williams have been meeting with Amadeus Pyralis (student minister) Sundays from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. They are using the Youth Alpha Series. An invitation was extended to the congregation to participate in the final Confirmation Class following the Worship Service on May 19, 2019. Lunch included.
- Arranging for Pulpit supply while Amadeus is away at the Atlantic School of Theology in NS.

Amadeus will be leaving for school on June 13th and will be away 7 Sundays.

Pulpit Supply:

June 16 – Mike Lessard

June 23 – UCW

June 30 – Linda Sault

July 7 & 14 – Mike Lessard

July 21 – Sue Webb

July 28 – Linda Sault

While Amadeus is away, **Peggy Bartlett is “on call”**. In case of emergency, Peggy’s # is 905-317-5275 (c) Or feel free to contact any Session member for help:

- (Chair) Lorna Williams 519-587-2549 (h) or 289-244-6216 (c)
- Sue Webb 905-776-3082 (h) or 905-906-3082 (c)
- Robert Kerfont 905-516-2694 (c)
- Diane Marr 905-921-5311 (c)

Amadeus will be training some volunteers to help with the power point on Sunday mornings.

Planning our **54th Anniversary Service - June 9th**. Amadeus will speak. Special Music - The Faith Centennial Tenors. We’ll use the long-handled offering plates and communion sets from EUB churches.

****Decided to keep the worship service at 11 am throughout the summer. So NO TIME CHANGE this summer.****

Baptism: Sunday June 2, 2019 - **Colton Carl Forrest**, son of Becky and Carl Forrest

Weddings:

August 24, 2019 - Trevor Sheppard and Rebecca Stallwood – Amadeus Pyralis officiating

August ?2019 - at Faith Centennial, David Glidden and Diane Bakker - Amadeus Pyralis officiating

Joyfully in His service

Sue Webb

Secretary



FAITH CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH

Selkirk, Ont.

54th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Sunday June 9, 2019

11:00 am

Speaker: **Amadeus Pyralis**

Special Music: **Selkirk Tenors**

Dedication: of **audio/visual equipment**

Lunch following the service

All welcome



United Church Women Report

The UCW met at the home of Dana Stavinga in January to set the budget and plan the programs for the year. It looked like a very busy year ahead!

Our February meeting was led by Kris and Ruth with a program on the Women's Inter Church Council (WICC) and the history of World Day of Prayer. We purchased a lightweight ladder for the church.

In March some of our ladies attended and took part in the World Day of Prayer service. Our program was led by Dana & Lorraine and we learned about the many symbols of Easter. We also made Easter cards for our shut ins.

Cheapside UCW joined us in April as we heard from Liz DeVries as our guest speaker on her trips to the Philippines. She thanked us for our donations as a congregation for their last trip and brought along some photos to share.

We are once again planning our Ladies Lift Your Spirits Day on Saturday June 1st with Rev. Dr. Diane Walker as our guest speaker and Gayle Hare and the Ryerse Singers entertaining us in the afternoon. A wonderful day of faith, food, fun and fellowship. Tickets only \$20. See any UCW member.

Thanks to everyone who came out to help with church cleaning. God Bless!

Catering has kept us busy this year. A big thank you to all of you who have taken the time to come and help in any way. It is greatly appreciated. Since January we have catered to the Fisherville Lions, the Daffodil Luncheon, Celebration of Life for

Diane Everets, and Beef on a Bun for the Time & Talent Auction. Our last soup lunch for the spring season is June 3rd.


Donations of personal care items have been made to the Women's Shelter, United Church Mission and Service Fund, and the Haldimand Pregnancy Care and Family Centre. Once again this year we are participating in the Baby Bottle Campaign. They are available in the Gladys Dennis Room. Please return them by Father's Day.

In early April, six of our ladies attended the last Presbyterian Annual Meeting in Caledonia. It was a lovely day filled with music and great fellowship. Each of the past presidents (one of whom was my Mom) were invited to share a few words. As I sat and listened to these great ladies share, I reflected on how many of the UCW ladies here at Faith Centennial have shaped me in to who I am today. Their great commitment and deep rooted faith have paved the way, and my prayer is that the work of the UCW will continue on long into the future. As stated in the closing service "They are unsung heroes, the guiding light with the United Church of Canada".

May God richly bless every member of our United Church Women.

Blessings to all;
Kris Kerfont, President

*For some people
Volunteering is about giving
But for the likes of you
It is a way of living...
Thank You*



Sunday School News

The Adult Class continues to meet at 10am Sunday mornings under the leadership of Amadeus. We have concluded our study of two of the United Church's faith statements; the "20 Articles of the Basis of Union" and the "Song of Faith". We are now studying the book of Amos. The children are invited to attend a Sunday School class during the worship service. The teaching responsibilities are shared by Sue Cockcroft (aided by Amelia Cockcroft), Dana Stavinga, Liz & Joel Berestecki and Sue Webb. Occasionally we recruit the Nursery Supervisor for assistance. The children are invited to participate in the Lord's Supper on Communion Sundays. Sunday School will take a break in July and August.

The KFC Fundraiser Lunch and Silent Auction was a wonderful success, raising \$505. We are now looking ahead to the indoor yard sale coming up on June 15th. Place your donations in the "yardsale" collection room at the church. While you are there you "might" see something you want to buy. Please see Sue to discuss a suitable price. All proceeds send kids to Ryerson United Church Camp. We also need lots of help setting up (pricing items) beginning June 10th as well as help on June 15th, Yard Sale Day.

"Blessed to be a Blessing"

Sue Webb



Canadian Food Grains Committee News

Spring is here, May flowers are in bloom, umbrella plants are growing. The lawns are decorated with dandelions and purple flowers.

Our **13th year** for this project began with a “Kick Off Luncheon” following the church service on April 14th.

The soybeans are in the bag waiting to be planted. We have had wet weather, but we look around and see new growth and know God is in control because we have seen all this growth take place one year ago, have FAITH, there is a time to plant and a time to harvest.

This year we are very grateful to have 4 land parcels for crop growing. Thanks to Dave for his continued land donation and we welcome Glenn, John & Tom with their land to the project.

We thank you for your continued support thru the year, be sure to pick up your canisters for your donations. To date we have raised, \$480.

Our next event, HALDIMAND/NORFOLK CONCERT BAND, May 30th, 7:30pm. We are very thankful for their help raising funds for the Food Grains Bank.

God Bless, Marilyn, Mary, Becky, Paul, Amadeus, Lloyd



Lay Supervision Team

Our final report was submitted in March to Amadeus' school (AtlanticSchool of Theology) so we have fulfilled our commitment as the Lay Supervision Team. We enjoyed meeting with Amadeus and continue to be available for further meetings if the need arises. The committee will be formally disbanded during a future worship service.

LST members:

Diane Marr, Sue Webb, Debbie Sheppard, Lloyd Drehmer



Manse Report

The committee met at the manse in early May. Amadeus gave us his feedback on how everything was going so far.

- Been approved to get a quote to repair the back deck and the sump pump hose.
- Grant will continue to mow the yard.

Debbie Sheppard, Manse Chair



COMING EVENTS

Soup & Sandwich Lunches: Join us for a warm bowl of soup, a handmade sandwich, delicious dessert with a beverage! \$10./per person. Dates for the lunches are as follows...Monday June 3, September 16, October 7, October 21, November 4, November 18. Doors open at 11:30a.m., and close at 1:00p.m.

Haldimand/Norfolk Concert Band: Thursday May 30th, 7:30pm. Free Will offering in support of Canadian Food Grains Bank. Refreshments provided.

Ladies Lift Your Spirits Day: Saturday June 1st, 10:30 -3pm. \$20. Morning Speaker – Rev. Dr. Diane Walker. Afternoon – The Ryerse Singers. Hot Lunch included. For tickets- Kris Kerfont 905-779-0553.

Faith Centennial 54th Anniversary Service: Sunday June 9th, 11:00a.m. **Speaker:** (our own) Amadeus Pyralis. **Special Music:** Selkirk Tenors. **Dedication:** to new audio/visual equipment. **Lunch:** following the service.

Annual Giant Indoor Yard Sale: Saturday June 15th, 8:00am. Help support (KFC- Kids For Camp) sending children in area to Ryerson Camp. Hotdogs & drinks for sale. All donations can be dropped off at church week prior to the sale. Contact Sue Webb 905-776-3082.

Weekly Events:

Prayer Meeting – Wednesdays 10:00a.m.

Adult Bible Study – Sundays 10:00a.m.

Sit to be Fit – Wednesdays & Fridays 11:00a.m.

**check the website – www.fcuc.ca for new updates

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Y Z Y A H Y Q Z X Q U D K L F
T M R F T H O T E H O E U V N
F G M N I K A L N C T U X P T
R K A U A T B D T E V T Z Y I
E E S J F A C G R D P E Z G L
D C H U R C H N Y Q C R O U A
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M E H E L H T E B F M O S E S
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C M W G L A S T S U P P E R C
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FAITH

GALILEE

CHURCH

GOLIATH

GOOD FRIDAY

BETHLEHEM

GRACE

PAUL

REDEEM

MOSES

LAST SUPPER

SANCTIFY

SERPENT

GALATIANS

PSALMS

DEUTERONOMY

ETERNAL LIFE

PARABLE