

S U M M E R 2 0 1 8

The (Moderately Well Done)
King City United Church
NEWSLETTER

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pictures, or other contributions
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FELLOWSHIP HOUR

The July 1st fellowship hour after church with many sporting red. We had new Canadians join us, their children were all dressed in red as well!



Something to Read

Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get!



TEA & TALK

I had the pleasure of attending my first Tea & Talk, and although not much tea was at our table, some lovely conversation was shared. As mentioned one Sunday morning by Rev. Bruce the Tea & Talk group should be renamed *Coffee & Conversation* or my personal favourite *The Bacon Bunch*, as I seem to recall a plate of crispy bacon being passed around. Tea and Talk meets every Friday at Sunset Grill in King City at 10:00 a.m where you're guaranteed fellowship and cheerful conversation, OR at the very least a coffee!

Annual Church Clean Up

Quite the large group of volunteers gathered at King City United Church to begin the annual spring-cleaning! With lots of yard work to complete everyone seemed to have their hands full (mostly with large sticks!). The pews were polished, the plants repotted, the yard tidied, the parking lot straightened up, the garden weeded, and the roof was climbed and all this before noon! With only a short refreshment break to return some of the energy that was burned off outside in the sun, everyone eventually called it a day and went home feeling good about what they accomplished (and probably with a little more dirt under their nails than expected). The men who were looking after the parking lot even grouped together once they finished their tasks to compare the dates on the pile of pennies they had found!



Minister's Thoughts by Rev. Bruce Roffey

The English novelist Aldous Huxley, in an introduction to the Hindu sacred book, *the Bhagavad-Gita*, wrote that there are four common doctrines to the religions of the world. One of these is that we are capable of knowing God by intuition not just by reason. We can experience God in a way of knowing that is more profound than reason, a kind of knowledge that unites the knower with the known, the human spirit with the divine. Indeed, this is the purpose of life.

But how? Each religion answers that differently but common to all is an understanding that you have to get out of the way of the knowing. You have to transcend yourself, to focus outside of yourself, to be and not just do.

In 1973, Peter Matthiessen and biologist George Schaller went into the Himalayas on a 250-mile trek. Schaller went to study Himalayan blue sheep. Matthiessen hoped for something more, to catch a glimpse of the rarest, most beautiful and most elusive of the world's great cats, the snow leopard. Often, even when you look right at it, you can't see it so perfectly does it blend with nature, the extraordinary within the ordinary.

The snow leopard is a kind of metaphor of ultimate reality, the fleeting beauty we see only in occasional snatches, the truth that whispers in the wind, the touch that brushes by the cheek, the

movement you only detect in your peripheral vision and then it is gone. The snow leopard is a metaphor for divine mystery, the experience of God. It cannot be seen on demand and paradoxically is often, though not always, seen by those who are not seeking it but are open to it.

Matthiessen left disappointed. Two weeks later while studying sheep, Schaller looked up from what he was doing and there she was, the majestic snow leopard. The secret was being open and receptive to the experience.

One of the ways to contribute to our openness is to escape using our rational brains all the time for a little while, to be like children playing with a sense of abandon, a sense of wonder and creativity. Play can open us to the divine.

We are now slowing down for summer with folks off at cottages or on vacation. It's a time for relaxation, refreshment and play. I hope you remember how. I how you can remember back to the time when play had no purpose outside of itself, when play was mindless and how without earning it you felt joy, and you experienced the divine mystery. You experienced God.

May God bless you all with a profoundly divine summer break.

P(EARLE) of the CHURCH

I hope you all find this title as clever as I did. Earle (the past author of the KCUC newsletter and thusly my predecessor) is long overdue for a HUGE thank you from all of us at KCUC. Not only did Earle spearhead the newsletter but he has also been a big part of the inner workings of KCUC. He has helped out with everything from the annual church clean up to coffee hour to being on the property committee to singing in the choir! AND he even performed at the annual men's dinner! What else did he do you may ask? EVERYTHING! In the words of Sheryl Sinka "there's a big hole in the church, we love Earle!" So thank you Earle you have been a wonderful person to get to know over the past years and we hope you visit us all soon!

(Pictured to the Right is Earle giving blood (2015) which is the first picture to pop up when I googled him in search of a picture to use for this article

(L: Rev. Evelyn, R: The Amazing Earle)





Keeping Us Posted

(L to R): Rev. Evelyn McLachlan,
Eleanor Fry and Earle Laycock

Former minister Rev. Evelyn McLachlan and Earle Laycock were invited to a friend's 60th wedding anniversary in Huntsville. Evelyn met this couple when she was a student minister with Trinity UC as well as being part-time chaplain at the hospital and a nursing home. Doris was on her lay training committee and she and Bob have remained good friends with Evelyn ever since. (side note: John and Jean Kell also know Bob and Doris Monahan... small world!!).

A bonus of attending was that they got to catch up with Eleanor Fry who now lives in Huntsville and is quite active at Trinity United Church, especially with the UCW. Eleanor invited Evelyn and Earle back to her home. It was a wonderful visit, catching up on all of Eleanor's news and updates of her great-grandchildren. She would love to hear from folk at King City. Call Kristen to get her address.



The Aslan Family

Here is the Aslan family pictured at a BBQ in honour of them hosted by the All Saints Anglican Church in King City. Bishop George Elliot has kindly written a few words for this article; the link to his letter is attached.



UCW Meeting

The UCW enjoyed their last meeting of the season on June 28th, with a lovely luncheon hosted by the Beaton's. Rev. Bruce and Rosemary were special guests. Potluck was provided by some of the members with the Beaton's providing the beverages and main courses, including a delicious seafood pie from Nova Scotia. Rev. Bruce gave the blessing of the food and fellowship. Fun and laughter made the day special. Fred and Betty regaled us with stories of their honeymoon and other adventures, which left us holding our sides we laughed so hard. Alma led a devotion time focused on the gifts of the Four Directions using a litany based on Indigenous wisdom with the lighting of coloured candles representing each of the directions. This year was a very successful one, and everyone looks forward to next year with anticipation of good friendships nurtured, time to worship and reflect, and opportunities to learn.

New Bench

Here is Deana, Alma and Rev. Bruce on a glorious Sunday morning, enjoying the view from our new park bench under the shade tree at the front entrance of the church.

Hilda's Ever 'Growing' Generosity

For all of you who know Hilda, you have most likely gotten to know her love for plants! Not only does her garden flourish in the warm weathers that come with spring but she also warms the hearts of all those around her! The little things she does like bringing in dozens of bouquets of bright yellow daffodils for the congregation, giving tours of her garden, or keeping a few propagations aside for the Sinka household, bring smiles to so many faces!

Thank you Hilda!



Ode to Mom's

Yet another stunning display has been spotted on the podium in the sanctuary. With several vases of colourful flowers, a beautiful purple orchid, and a few items that we all associate with moms (i.e. a sun hat and 2 china tea cups), this display was truly an ode to all moms on this past mothers day. A big thank you to Betty Beaton for never disappointing us with whatever you create!

"They Sing Like Angels"



Ring-a-Ding-Ding!



Our Estate Children in the hill country of Sri Lanka

The culture and lives of those in the estates have not changed since the British transferred the tea gardens to the local entrepreneurs. Our family tea estate “Rosewood” is located in the hill country. The workers are South Indians whose forefathers immigrated in the 20th century. The workers pluck the tea and maintain the tea gardens as if it were their own flowerbed. The workers live in small 2 room townhouses quite a distance from the Superintendent’s quarters, which is usually a replica of an English higher-class bungalow with about 5 bedrooms. Their living conditions have not improved much over the years.

A few years back when Konrad & I first visited the estate I was sitting in the porch reading when I heard disquieting sounds of children in the morning of a nice working day. Then I called my “Appu”, the term usually designated to the butler, and inquired as to what the kids are up to. To my horror, he stated that the parents of the kids are working in the garden and kids have nothing else to do other than to play since none of the estate workers children are sent to normal schools. The aim of the tea planters has been to let the children grow to become adults so they become the next generation of laborers for the tea gardens.

Immediately, I conveyed to Konrad my displeasure of the lack of education to the children and summoned the kids and their parents to come over to the Estate Office. On the following day, 8 kids showed up with their parents and explained the situation in their native Tamil, which the Appu had to translate to me. The eldest kid was 8 and never seen the boundary of a school before. This kid was performing the duties of a caregiver for her younger siblings while the parents were occupied with their work in the tea garden.

I was extremely upset about the plight of the children and worked hard to ensure that the 5 years and above gain admission to the local government school. The only grandma in the estate was encouraged to stay home in the townhouses and take care of the tiny 4 kids for which I offered a salary. The parents of the pre-school kids were asked to bring lunch and a change of clothes for the children.

I visit their school annually to ensure that the kids are treated fairly and discuss their progress with the teachers. The kids see me every year and sing English songs and perform various dances. Not only do they know Tamil, now they are able to speak, read and write in Sinhala and English. The parents are delighted that their next generation has a brighter future.

I treat them with gifts of books and clothing from Canada and make sure that they have pocket money.



Discernment and Visioning

On Sunday May 6, the congregation met to come to agreement on how we will proceed and to set some goals for the upcoming year. There was agreement that the Consensus Document was a reflection of our conversations over the past year. Goals to move forward were as follows.

1. We will explore the avenue of partnering with other churches in the area. Primarily the interest was for
 - a) Collaborative Ministry with a secondary preference towards
 - b) 2-point charge and
 - c) Amalgamation
 Sheryl Sinka has agreed to continue these conversations with interested churches. This has begun and will continue over the summer.

2. That we put in place a team to look at available partnerships within our community around the resource of our building
 Walter Jurczak has agreed to facilitate a first meeting to create this team

3. A physical and financial plan be put in place to address our accessibility needs.
 Lloyd Wait, Sheryl Sinka, Maria Ongaro and Fred Beaton are willing to be part of this team.

4. We will initiate communication to the project teams with regard to the remaining intentions, allowing for flexibility on how those smaller projects can move forward to enhance our faith experience at KCUC and become more involved with the community.



Our #1 Ticket Seller

Here is a familiar face manning the ticket booth for the fish fry.



Clustering Conversations

The churches in our surrounding area of Living Waters Presbytery have been meeting to discuss possibilities that are open to us to work together. Many options for being in partnership are being explored including, Staff Models, Events, Youth Programming, communication etc. We have had two meeting to date and have set dates for 3 additional meetings in the fall starting in October. The churches represented thus far are: King City UC, York Pines UC, Teperenceville UC, Woodbridge UC, New Hope UC. These conversations are open to all who are interested. The next meeting will be at New Hope UC on Monday October 1 at 7:00.

Summer Hours

Rev Bruce will be taking vacation from Monday July 16 – Sunday August 29th. He will resume regular hours on Monday August 30th. In consideration of this we have arranged to worship in alternating months with York Pines this summer. We will be having regular summer worship at King City in the month of July and in the month of August, we will join York Pines for worship at York Pines United.

2018 Manitoullin Style Fish-Fry

196 PLATES SERVED with a PROFIT of \$2961.37



How to Wash a Cat

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may need to stand on the lid.
4. At this point the cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this!
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a "Power-Wash" and "Rinse."
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand well back, behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift the lid.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.
9. Both the toilet and the cat will be sparkling clean.

Yours sincerely,
The Dog

